

Pollard seals T&T win

CRICINFO, undated

It's said that you can win or lose a Twenty20 game in a blink and Kieron Pollard, batting like a man possessed, proved the adage right by engineering a stunning win against New South Wales, at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad on Friday night.

"It's not over until it's over" is another of those cricketing clichés that is not always held to account but tonight was the night for clichés - in a Hyderabad minute, everything changed.

NSW unleashed their two dynamites, David Warner and Phillip Hughes, who propelled them to 170, which seemed more than enough at one stage but Pollard, with a violent 18-ball 54, crafted a remarkable comeback in Twenty20 history.

The chase never seemed to be going anywhere after the top order had combusted and when Darren Bravo was run out, the equation read: 80 from 42 balls. Game over, surely? But everything changed in stunning fashion as first Denesh Ramdin and then Pollard played out of their skins to turn the game on its head.

It all began in the 14th over, bowled by Stuart Clark. Ramdin pinged the midwicket boundary twice before he lifted the spinner Steven Smith in the next over for a boundary over extra-cover and a slog-swept six over midwicket. However, Ramdin fell in the next over and once again, NSW were the favourites or so one thought.

If it started in the 14th over, the game-breaker was the 17th over in which Pollard simply went berserk against the medium-pace of Moises Henriques and looted 27 runs.

The second ball disappeared to long-off, the third was sliced over point, the fourth, a full toss, was collected by a spectator beyond midwicket boundary, the next, another nervy full toss, was picked up from behind deep square-leg boundary, and the last delivery flew to third man. Game almost over.

If there was any doubt, it

T&T had to switch to plan B and Daren Ganga quickly brought on the spinners and medium-pacers with the ability to take pace off the ball. It worked initially as NSW slowed down from 50 in six overs to 77 in 11. The two spinners in operation at that period were the chinaman bowler Dave Mohammed and the accurate offspinner

one over midwicket. Twenty-four runs were looted in that over and the run-rate had shot up again.

Ganga did the obvious by taking out Badree and bringing back his two best spinners. Mohammed picked up Warner's wicket and teased Hughes with his variations but Hughes knew he had to just wait for the seamers to return. And when they did, he hit them around the ground. Ravi Rampaul, who had given away three boundaries in the first over of the innings, was carted to the point and straight boundaries by Warner while Henriques lofted Lendl Simmons to long-on and to midwicket boundary.

Hughes was as unconventional as ever; those feet never seem to get in line but his bat does as he slashes and carves it around like a sword. There wasn't a single "beautiful" shot in the traditional sense of the word but then there is nothing traditional about Hughes' batting. However, there was, as ever, quite a bit of skill in his violence. A shot that stood out from the general massacre that he was attempting to unleash was as deft and skilful as it gets: Rampaul almost slipped in a yorker on the middle stump in the 19th over, perhaps a touch short of the blockhole. Hughes had opened his stance, waiting to bludgeon it, but on seeing the length, he crouched back, opened the bat-face and guided it deliberately to left of backward point and to the boundary.

Hughes would have thought he had done enough to be the hero for the day but Pollard had decided to seize the day.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Trinidad & Tobago 171 for 6 (Pollard 54, Ramdin 23) beat New South Wales 170 for 4 (Hughes 83, Warner 63) by four wickets.

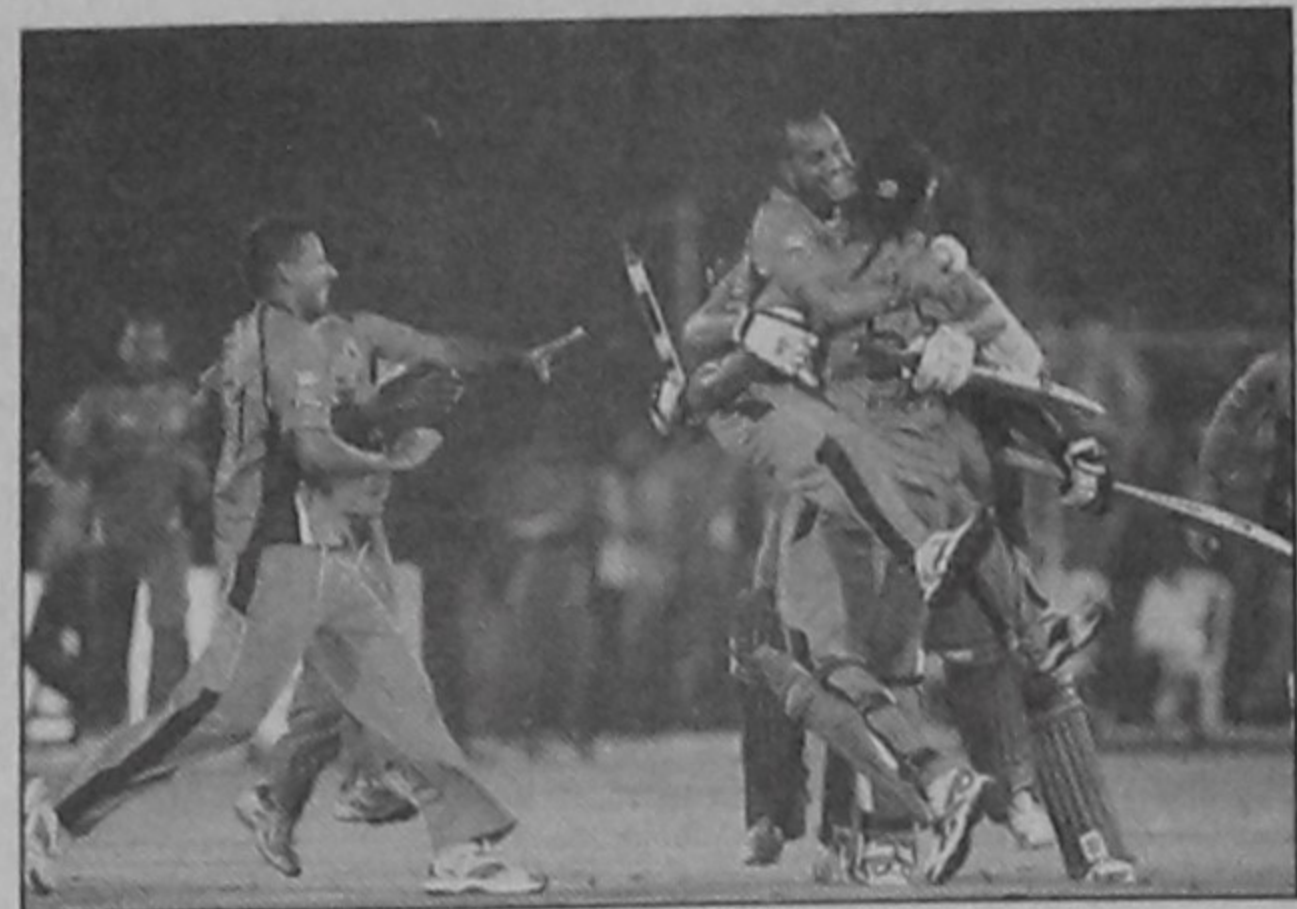


PHOTO: INTERNET

Trinidad and Tobago players celebrate their four-wicket victory over New South Wales Blues in the Champions League Twenty20 in Hyderabad on Friday.

vanished when Simon Katich handed Henriques the responsibility of bowling the 19th over and Pollard finished off the chase with a couple of bludgeoned sixes.

NSW had done everything that they could till Pollard's whirlwind innings. The bowling was disciplined and the batting was led from the front by Warner and Hughes. With only a few deliveries into the contest it was clear that pace on the ball was going to be fodder for both batsmen, especially when T&T didn't possess anyone with real speed. Warner and Hughes stayed adjacent to the line and threaded the off-side with their punches, cuts, and muscled drives.

Sherwin Ganga, who both took the ball away from the left-handed openers. Both batsmen managed to prevent the adrenalin rush from kicking in and played out this period intelligently with dabbled singles and twos.

They knew Ganga had to change his bowlers at some point and the opportunity to break free came in the 12th over against the legspinner Samuel Badree. Unlike Sherwin Ganga and Mohammed, Badree was guilty of overpitching his flighted deliveries and Warner took full toll: Two disappeared over long-on and long-off and as Badree, in trying to adjust his length, slipped in long-hops, Warner crashed them to square-leg and swung the last

Vettori to fill Oram's boots

ANI, Wellington

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori will move up the batting order if required to fill the absence of the now retired all-rounder Jacob Oram in the test cricket team against Pakistan next month.

Oram's retirement from the test cricket this week leaves a gap, but it should enable Vettori to move up to No.7 at least in the lineup, after his batting performance in recent matches.

Vettori has been the most consistent of the Black Caps batsmen despite coming in at No.8 and he again dominated in New Zealand's last test series against Sri Lanka, top scoring in the second innings of both matches with 67 and 140.

Vettori said he was comfortable taking the extra responsibility of batting higher in the order, although he already has plenty as the skipper and chief spin bowler.

Vettori said Pakistan's tour opening match against New Zealand A from November 17-20 could be a crucial one for finalizing positions as just one round of the domestic championship will have been played by then.

None of the New Zealand one-day team will play in that because they will still be playing Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates.

Blazevic

FROM PAGE 20
deserve to be beaten by the French," 2-1 in the semi-finals, with France going on to win the tournament on home soil.

"So I'd like to take revenge on this 11-year-old defeat."

With the likes of Bundesliga stars Edin Dzeko and Vedad Ibisevic in their ranks, Bosnia finished second in Group 5 of European qualifiers behind Spain.

The four teams Bosnia could face in the play-offs are either, France, Greece, Portugal or Russia.

"We can beat any team in the play-offs. I'm sure Bosnia will go to the World Cup," said Blazevic.

Bosnia have taken part in neither the European Cup nor the World Cup, and will discover their play-off opponent on Monday.

Roy linked

FROM PAGE 20
"We are all working hard and getting the best out of the players and doing the best job we can so long may that continue."

"If a new contract offer comes up then I'll consider it. Every week things change, your position is stronger and weaker week by week dependent on whether you have won a game or lost a game."

Vaughan backs Tres

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Michael Vaughan, the former England captain, has said Marcus Trescothick "deserves a huge amount of credit" for going to India to take part in the Champions League Twenty20. Vaughan believes that the recurrence of his stress-related illness, which led to Trescothick flying home midway through the tournament, will not adversely impact the Somerset opener's county form.

"It was a courageous decision for him (Trescothick) even to try and go there to play," Vaughan, who opened with Trescothick for England, was quoted as saying in the Daily Telegraph. "It's obviously not worked out but I spoke to him and he's fine. It's not the first time this has happened but at least he's given it a go."

"I don't think people realise what an effort it took for him even to go out there. But Tres loves his cricket and he'll be back next year, no doubt about it. He will certainly be back next season playing for Somerset and full of runs, just like he was this year."

Trescothick's illness first occurred during England's tour of India in February 2006, then reoccurred at the start of the Ashes campaign in Australia in November. In early 2008 he pulled out of a pre-season tour to Dubai after breaking

down at Heathrow Airport, after which he formally announced his retirement from international cricket in March 2008.

The latest setback occurred on the morning after Somerset's defeat to Trinidad & Tobago in Bangalore and the county's chairman, Andy Nash, said Somerset were "full of admiration" for the courage it took Trescothick to make the trip to India.

"Everyone connected with the club and cricket is aware how brave it was of him and (his wife) Hayley to even travel out there in the first place," Nash said. "This is not a step back for Marcus. It was a victory for him to get there. We are full of admiration for what he has done for us. We are looking forward to him being a highly successful captain for us from next season."

Vikram Solanki, the Professional Cricketers' Association chairman, wished Trescothick a speedy recovery and said the PCA and the county game were there to help if he needed it. "Part of the PCA's intention is for these circumstances - to provide assistance when it is needed," Solanki said. "It's just a question of what sort of help Marcus requires. There is quite clearly a provision for counselling if that is what is needed. Certainly there is always someone on the end of the phone if it is needed. We're a pretty close-knit unit around county cricket and I'm sure there will be no shortage of people on hand to help if he so requires."

Sarfaraz lambastes Younus

ANI, Islamabad

Former Pakistan speedster Sarfaraz Nawaz has lambasted captain Younus Khan for his sudden resignation from the post, saying it was just a smoke screen to disguise his shortcomings in the one-day format of the game.

Nawaz said Younus should retire from one-day cricket and concentrate only on Tests.

"Just like Younus quit Twenty20 format of the game, now it's his time he should forget playing one-day cricket too. It's better he should play only as a team member in test matches," he said.

"Younus wants to gain people's sympathy by resigning from the captaincy and he is trying to hide his faults which he committed during the Champions Trophy. He should realise himself that he does not fit in shorter formats of the game," he added.

Sky Blues

FROM PAGE 17
national winger about their opponents.

Joshi's aspirations though suffered a huge blow as his Guinean midfielder Mohammed Conte Bangura was ruled out of the tie due to suspension and it would be hard for Joshi to fill the vacuum left by Bangura due to shortage of quality players.

Eng U-19

FROM PAGE 17
Alauddin in the 101st over, leaving the team on 182 runs. Azeem's partner Paul Best added eight more runs to his overnight score of 16 before being caught by Anamul off Shaker.

Michel Bates and Calum Haggart were batting on 18 and 6 runs respectively at the stumps on day two.

Shaker Ahmed and Alauddin shared the two wickets to fall on the second day.

Abahani risk

FROM PAGE 17
package of the tournament. Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Samity by 44 runs at Fatullah yesterday.

Tamim Iqbal continued his superb form with 42 runs from 30 deliveries. Skipper Mohammad Ashraf played a brief yet entertaining knock of 15 runs from just seven deliveries and later took three wickets for the defending champions.

In other Group A matches yesterday, Biman won against Victoria by three wickets at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium to keep their hopes of making the semifinals alive, while Partex beat BKSP at Dhamondi in an eliminator over, after both teams had scored 135 runs in their innings.

Biman will be looking to upset Mohammedan in today's crucial match while Khelaghar will look to bounce back against Kalabagan Krira Chakra to book a place in the semifinals.

Cobras ride

FROM PAGE 17
at the venue was detained by the Bangalore police in the afternoon in connection with a suspected presence of explosives before being released. The match was given the go-ahead only after a thorough check of the ground by the police.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Cape Cobras 129 for 2 (Davids 69 not out) beat Victoria 125 for 5 (McDonald 29 not out; Zondeki 2-21) by eight wickets.

Marauding

FROM PAGE 17
happy with the performance of his side and said that all three goals his side conceded were mistakes of the defenders.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN: James Paul, Mamun Mia, Ariful Islam, Hasan Al Mamun (Nasir), Wali Faisal, Arman Aziz, Mamunul Islam, Zahid Hossain (Enamul Haq Sharif), Christian Emeke, Alamu Bukola and Zahid Hasan Emily (Nasiruddin).
FENI SOCCER CLUB: Piaruzzaman Piru (Golam Mostafa Tuhan), Mintu Sheikh, Akramuzzaman Liton, Nurul Amin Shipon, Monayem Khan Raju, Imrul Hasan, Amirul Islam (Pintu Kumar Das), Asif Yousof, Ashrafuol Quader Manju, Tabitha Awal (Ebayed Hossain Komol) and Anwar Hossain.

Yellow cards: Arman Aziz (Mohammedan), Imrul Feni (Feni Soccer).
Referee: Azad Rahman.

Rating chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Eight players jointly lead with maximum 4 points after the 4th round of the Pexatech Limited Open International Rating Chess on Saturday.

Games of the fourth and fifth round were held yesterday at Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room.

In the 4th round games, Malek beat Shah Mahfuzul Karim, Emon beat Anisuzzaman Mallick, Mahub beat Shafiq Ahmed, Robin beat Sirajul Kabir, Jewel beat Gysuddin Mithu, Shahin beat Mokaddesur Rahman Khan, Sharif beat Faisal Hossain and Riad beat Zainal Abedin.

Fifth round games were in progress when reporting. Sixth round games will be held today from 3:30 PM at the same venue.

Under-14 tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP ATF under-14 tennis started yesterday at BKSP Tennis Court, with all the favourites running victorious on the opening day.

In the boys' singles, Bangladesh's Biplob Ram beat Dhankar Shaurya of India 6-3, 6-3 while Ali Rustom beat compatriot Delwar Hossain 6-4, 6-3. Top-seed Duzbionjit Singh of Malaysia dropped a single game against Bangladesh's Wai Mong Marma as the scoreline was 6-0, 6-1.

In the girls' group, Bangladesh's Mobeshwara Firoz beat her compatriot Kazi Sharmin 6-2, 6-2 however Bangladesh's Chakma Jhili went down to Chan Ching of Hong Kong 6-0, 6-1.

Div II chess

SPORTS REPORTER

2nd Division Chess League will start at 3:30 pm on 29th October at the chess federation hall-room.

This will be an open event for all chess teams. Interested teams have been asked to enrol on or before 27th October at Bangladesh Chess Federation office.

The 2nd Division Chess League will be held in Swiss-League system. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three teams and the top two teams will qualify to the 1st Division Chess League in 2010.

Football meet in Panchagarh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Maharaja Nripendra Narayan memorial inter-district football tournament was inaugurated amidst huge festivity at Debigonj Nipendra Narayan High School Ground in Debigonj upazila in Panchagarh yesterday.

Local Lawmaker Advocate Nurul Islam Shujan inaugurated the event that has been organised by Debigonj Public Club. Sixteen teams from different districts including Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Joypurhat, Naugaon, Gaibandha are participating in the tournament.

Dinajpur Players' Welfare Association beat Kurigram District Sports Association team by 2-0 goals in the inaugural match.

The match was watched by a large number of spectators.

Nadal, Davydenko in Shanghai final

Tennis

AFP, Shanghai

Top seed Rafael Nadal profited from the ninth retirement of this week's Shanghai Masters as he advanced into the finals 6-1, 3-0 after fellow Spaniard Feliciano Lopez retired with a right ankle injury.

Nadal, an injury victim himself twice this season, will play Sunday for his fourth Masters 1000 title of the season, facing Nikolay Davydenko.

The Russian, who was out for nearly three months with a foot and ankle problem until the spring, ended a lengthy confrontation in dramatic fashion, racing through a third-set tiebreak to sweep second-seed Novak Djokovic 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/1).

The match was a replay of last year's final here at the Tennis Masters Cup, which Djokovic won. "I played a great match but he was too good. But I've had a great two weeks in China," the Serbian said.

Davydenko said he had gone through a battle.

Massa can't wait

CRICINFO, undated



Ferrari's Felipe Massa is itching to return to Formula One, and admitted frustration at not making his return at the Brazilian Grand Prix.

"I have to say I want to be in the car, driving especially here in Brazil," he said after attending Friday practice on his first visit to the F1 paddock since his crash.

"It would have been fantastic to come back for this race. Unfortunately we need to wait a little bit more."

"It is not very easy to be on the outside just looking and not doing anything, just discussing what's happening on the test, but let's prepare everything for next year to be in a good shape."

Massa has returned to action with a test in a 2007-spec car as he begins his recovery drive ahead of the 2010 season, and insisted that the crash that could have cost him his career hadn't changed him.

"It would be better to be driving the car but I am quite happy that things are going quite well," he said. "The recovery was really great, so I can say I am the same as before."

"In the last three weeks, which was after the second operation, I started to do fitness and I have to say now I am really the same I was before the accident in terms of the physical side. I did the simulator, not really one day, it was 100kms in Fiorano in the 2007 car and it was very good."

"To be honest, I was pushing. I was not really slow, everything was normal. Even the consistency was good. Everything was really normal and I am really, really happy."

"Now I can do everything, like I was doing before. The only big issue is that everything

needs to be 100 per cent ready as our sport is a risk sport. We can have another accident. I hope not, but we can."

"It is better to be 100 per cent ready to recover from another accident. That is why we are waiting a little bit more and it will be better to wait until next year."

Massa has been given the honour of waving the chequered flag on Sunday, but his chances of welcoming his own team to a winning look slim, with the Brazilian stating that he was hopeful that compatriot Rubens Barrichello would be the man to beat instead - even if he felt Barrichello was unlikely to stop Jensen Button lifting the drivers' title.

"For sure it will be a pretty difficult job for me to do the chequered flag," he said.

"We at Ferrari are definitely not in a very great position this year. I hope I can show the chequered flag to our team but I hope that Rubens has a chance to fight for the championship."

"For sure, if I give the chequered flag to Rubens finishing first I will be very happy. It would be very good for Brazil. After that, we want our car to be first in the race."

"To be honest, Jensen has a greater chance in the World Championship. He has a good possibility to score not a lot of points and still be World Champion. I think he has the best possibility to win the championship."

"Rubens's case is very difficult but as I told him before, he doesn't need to think about anything, he just needs to think about winning the race and the result will be what it will be. It doesn't depend anymore on just Rubens, it depends more on Jensen. I think Jensen has a greater chance."

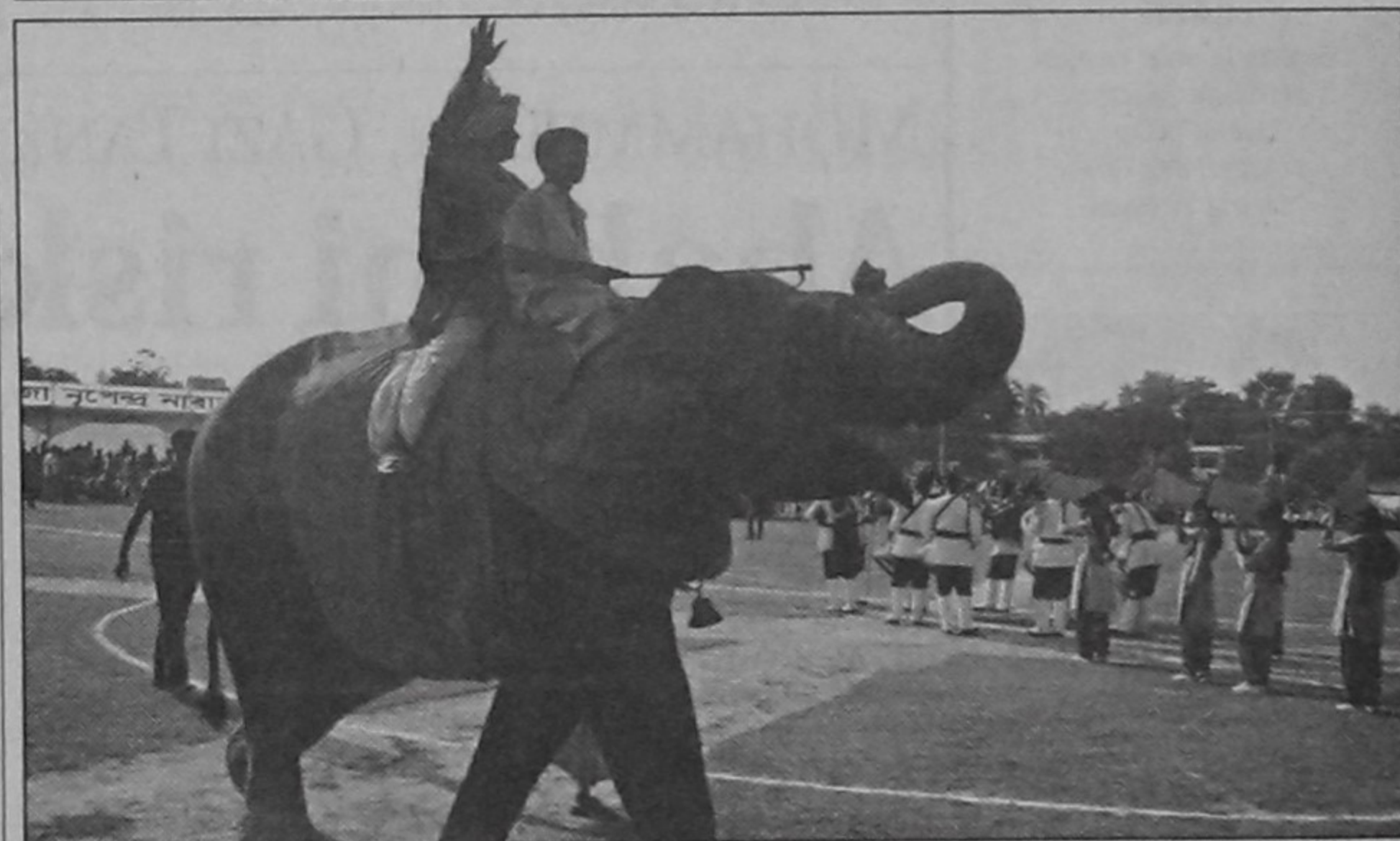


PHOTO: STAR

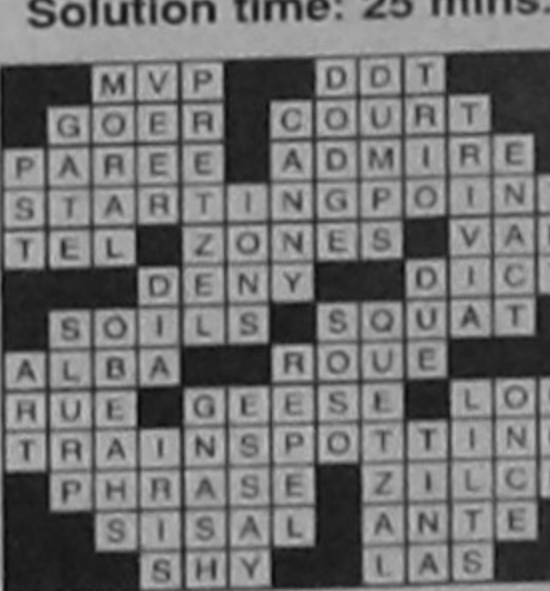
Keeping in line with tradition, an elephant encircles the playground during the colourful opening ceremony of the Maharaja Nripendra Narayan Memorial Inter-District Football Tournament at the Debigonj Nipendra Narayan High School ground in Panchagarh yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Tobacco type
5 Possesses
8 Benedict XVI, e.g.
12 Places
13 Group of scenes
14 Acknowledged
15 Unoriginal one
16 Geese in flight
17 Rose or Townshend
18 Shrew
20 Go sight-seeing
22 Accepts the truth
26 Make one
29 Speck
30 Feedbag morsel
31 Logical
32 Wrestling victory
33 Carvey or Delany
34 Citric drink
35 Pendulum site?
36 Brave

DOWN
1 Balkan native
2 Arizona tribe
3 Big name in desktop PCs
4 He can hold his head high
5 Destruction
6 Black-jack component
7 Cowboy hat
8 — New Guinea
9 Cold-weather gear
10 Cauldron
11 Ram's mate
19 Festive
21 Frequently
23 Archie's wife
24 Catches some
25 Remain
26 Mil branch
27 Zilch
28 Unskilled
32 Eaters' outings
33 Sword-play specialist
35 Man-handle
36 Wilde-beest
38 Mardi Gras "faces"
39 "Peer Gyn" playwright
42 Crazy
43 H H H, in Greece
44 Surveillance
45 Pair
46 Debtor's letters
48 Pair

Solution time: 25 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

MY AGRE VIRSKDL RIDR JO
EGD GJCBD SMXGE FJC
OMYL FJCI PRPF GRKKMQF
KQRFMYX? EGD VIRAQ BKRVD

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A MORTICIAN WERE VERY BUSY, DO YOU RECKON HE WOULD HAVE TO BURY HIMSELF IN HIS WORK?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals B