

Dhaka Sports Carnival

SPORTS REPORTER

The four-day Prime Bank Dhaka Sports Carnival, organised by Dhaka Club, in association with Kurmitola Golf Club, Cadet College Club, Gulshan Club and Uttara Club, is concluding today.

It was the fifth edition of the carnival after its initiation in 2004. This year eight clubs from India apart from six local clubs participated in the meet. A total of 341 participants took part in seven disciplines over the four days. The disciplines are bridge, golf, six-a-side cricket, tennis, snooker, squash and swimming.

Apart from the sporting events, the host clubs will also organise social events in honour of the participants.

O'Brien to retire

CRICINFO, undated

Iain O'Brien, the New Zealand fast bowler, will retire from international cricket at the end of the Test series against Pakistan to move to the UK to be with his wife and play for Middlesex.

O'Brien said the decision had been a tough one to make but that his personal circumstances were such that he could no longer keep his national commitments. "My wife lives and works in the UK and my immediate future is there," O'Brien said. "Since we married, two and a half years ago, we have spent only nine months together. I am 33 years old and my main focus now is becoming a 'proper' husband, starting a family, settling down and securing my future in that country. Cricket has been my number one; I've placed it in front of everything else. It's now time to put Rosie first and start a family. I intend to keep playing the game I love in the UK, and have an opportunity to finish my career with Middlesex county."

"I would like to thank New Zealand Cricket for supporting me in this decision. I would also like to acknowledge Dan Vettori for his support and confidence in me in recent years, plus the boys I've been on the park with and trained with for whom it has been a pleasure to represent my country with. I have had an opportunity to play with some New Zealand greats and I will only look back with fondness on my time spent with them on and off the park."

"This has been one very tough decision and I walk away with a heavy heart but I know, for certain, that I have made the right decision for me, my wife and my future."

Telegraph

FROM PAGE 17

Saturday. In this round, Saif beat Arutra Acharyya, Siam beat Rahul Kumar, Tani beat Raghu, Protiva drew with Ambarish Manna and Tisha lost against Saswant Khuntia.



Did U Know?

AC Milan goalkeeper Sebastian Rossi holds the Serie A record for the longest consecutive run without conceding a goal - 929 minutes in the 1993-94 season.



David Beckham

(England soccer super star) "Football is in our culture, in our DNA, it's in us from the moment we are brought into this world, from when we are born and that's something we will always have."



Australia opener Shane Watson drives one straight during his unbeaten knock of 96 on the second day of the Adelaide Test on Saturday.

Kiwis stare at defeat

CRICINFO, undated

Two reasons emerged from the Basin Reserve for Test cricket to live long and live fruitful. Mohammad Yousuf first reminded, in this age of Virender Sehwag and Tillakaratne Dilshan, that there was once another way to bat in Test cricket, his patient, educated 83 enabling Pakistan to set New Zealand 405 for victory. And when the chase began, the genius of Mohammad Asif torpedoed it, in a typically cunning and persevering ten-over new-ball spell of Test virtues. At the end of it all, Pakistan stood on the brink of their first Test win in 12 matches and nearly three years, New Zealand staggering at 70 for 3.

The fall of 11 wickets in prime conditions suggests another day of mediocre batting, hurtling the Test towards a swift conclusion. Perhaps it was, as Grant Elliott sparked a Pakistan collapse that saw them go from 197 for 3 to 239 all out and the New Zealand top order was ruthlessly shredded apart by Asif. But for nearly two full sessions, it was also an opportunity to see some old school Test batting, from the one solid rock in Pakistan's order, possibly on either side.

Daniel Vettori immediately settled into bowling maidens like he was Errol Flynn but Yousuf was unrushed, biding his time. A run of four scoreless overs was broken by a fine sweep for two, a skipped beat essentially, in the normal tempo of things. Misbahul Haq was a sturdy foil, as laidback and content to build run by run, minute by minute. Gradually, over the course of a sleepy hour and a half, he established a nice rhythm, picking off runs adroitly.

The real beauty of Yousuf shone through, however, after Misbah's dismissal and the arrival of the young, fearless

and very modern Umar. He watched idly as Umar played a game different to the batsmen around him. In a blaze of daring, he stamped himself all over New Zealand and in the half hour to lunch, a traditional preserve of caution, he twice smote Vettori for massive sixes, cutting and pulling him for afters. Yousuf reached a sedate fifty in the over before lunch, by which time Umar was already on 39 and Test match batting, in all its wonderful shades, was in full bloom.

Soon after lunch, Umar was treating the whole thing like a net session, swinging away at Chris Martin like a scorned wife and bringing up his fifty off 32 balls. Impetuosity got him immediately after, panic crept into Pakistan and breathed life into New Zealand. And as wickets began to fall, Yousuf continued to navigate a way through, picking up only three boundaries in the afternoon session. Elliott was thrown into the mix by Vettori and Shoaib Malik and Kamran Akmal, in successive balls, believed him to be Glenn McGrath; for the former there may not be many more chances. Where Elliott went, others followed taking cue from his fuller lengths. Martin benefitted the most and with new ball in hand, finally trapped Yousuf, ending four hours of solitude. Iain O'Brien, the pick of the bowling, wrapped it up, and four wickets a just reward for bowling more intelligent lengths.

Chasing 405, instead of 500-plus, seemed to buoy up New Zealand, to such an extent that their openers even lasted the entire first over. Not the second, however; bluntly put, Asif has worked over better batsmen than New Zealand's top order. He was over them like a rash from the very start, working his way methodically through their chinks, with changes in length and the usual minimal cut, shining as brightly as the afternoon sun. Had Yousuf not dropped an

absolute sitter to reward a fierce, fast spell from Umar Gul and Misbah not done likewise off Danish Kaneria, New Zealand would've been in greater strife; some old-school traits are clearly better than others.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second Test between New Zealand and Pakistan at Basin Reserve in Wellington on Saturday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 264 (Kamran 70, Umar 46, Farhat 32, Gul 31; Vettori 4-58, Tuffey 4-64, O'Brien 2-78)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 99 (Taylor 30, Flynn 29; Asif 4-40, Kaneria 3-6, Gul 2-21)

PAKISTAN: Second innings (overnight 64-2)

Farhat c Fulton b O'Brien 35
Butt c Taylor b O'Brien 18
Yousuf lbw b Martin 83
Misbah c McCullum b O'Brien 33
Umar c Vettori b Martin 52
Malik c McCullum b Elliott 3
Kamran c McCullum b Elliott 0
Aamer c Guptill b Martin 9
Gul c Fulton b O'Brien 1
Kaneria c Taylor b Martin 0
Asif not out 0
Extras: (b-4, lb-1) 5
Total: (All out in 86.3 overs) 239
Fall of wickets: 1-49, 2-54, 3-131, 4-197, 5-210, 6-210, 7-230, 8-239, 9-239

Bowler O M R W
Martin 19 4 52 4
Tuffey 16 3 45 0
Vettori 25 11 63 0
O'Brien 21.3 4 66 4
Elliott 5 1 8 2

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings

Guptill b Asif 15
McIntosh lbw b Asif 2
Flynn c Kamran b Asif 20
Taylor not out 15
Fulton not out 12
Extras: (b-5, lb-1) 6
Total: (For 3 wks in 33 overs) 70
To bat: Elliott, McCullum, Vettori, Tuffey, O'Brien, Martin

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-36, 3-37
Bowler O M R W
Aamer 6 1 19 0
Asif 11 5 19 3
Kaneria 9 3 8 0
Gul 7 2 18 0

Victoria

FROM PAGE 17

Faruque 4-13). Result: CCS won by three wickets.

BKSP v PARTEX

Venue: FATULLAH

BKSP: 182 all out in 49.4 overs (Ashiqul 29, Tanvir 74, extras 16; Niyamul 2-28, Azim 4-47, Rezaul 2-35).

PARTEX: 179 all out in 47.5 overs (Hanif 59, Tariq 31, Rezaul 38, extras 9; Mubarat 2-39, Masud 4-27).

Result: BKSP won by three runs.

Div I chess

FROM PAGE 17

Pritam-Prism Chess Club, Leonine Chess Club, Titas Club, Air Destiny Limited, Dhaka Metropolitan Chess Club, I2 Soft Solution Ltd. Overseas School of Chess, Farashgonj Sporting Club, Sultana Kamal Smirity Pathagar, Dhaka University Chess Club, Faith Chess Club, Mohakhalil Pradiip Sangah, Basir Memorial Chess Club and Jobs Vender. Seedings of the teams will be held today evening.

Watson leads Aussie reply

CRICINFO, undated

Shane Watson and Brendan Nash were teammates at Queensland three seasons ago. Now Test opponents, their contrasting ninety-somethings on the second day kept the century-old scoreboard at the Adelaide Oval whirring as both Australia and West Indies racked up hefty numbers that ensured both teams were still in the contest with three days to play.

Watson will have a restless night after finishing unbeaten on 96, an innings that he hopes will prove he has the ability to be a long-term Test opener. Nash nudged and ground his way to 92 and guided West Indies to an impressive 451, which was their highest total in a Test innings since the tail-end of their glory years 17 seasons ago.

It was a frustration for Australia as the final four West Indies partnerships added 178 but the hosts soon discovered that their own batsmen could use the flat surface to their advantage just as easily. Watson and Simon Katich combined for their first century stand as a Test opening pair and at stumps were 0 for 174.

Katich had reached 71 by the close, having played back-up to Watson's centre-stage performance, although he did take the spotlight on one occasion when he slog-swept Suleiman Benn for six. There was no doubt that the second half of the day belonged to Watson, who struck 16 boundaries to Katich's five.

Watson entered the match

having made a duck in his only innings at the Gabba and keen to prove to his doubters that he can handle the new ball in five-day cricket. He concentrated hard to avoid falling victim to his perceived weakness, the delivery angling in to his pads, and he reached fifty for the fourth time as a Test opener with a safe late-cut for four off Dwayne Bravo.

There were moments of discomfort, like when he tried to hook a Ravi Rampaul bouncer and suffered a painful blow to the midriff, but he didn't lose confidence. The next ball after the thump from Rampaul he stepped across and crunched a drive through cover-point to the boundary, giving the bowler no time to assert any authority.

Technically, Watson is a sound batsman and has the ability to stay at the crease for long periods. But he proved himself first as a one-day opener and the attacking mindset remained as he found the boundary regularly, including three fours from five deliveries in the over before tea from Darren Sammy.

Watson has a certain flair that his former Queensland colleague Nash doesn't quite possess, but that should by no means detract from Nash's efforts in Adelaide. His one-time flat-mate Mitchell Johnson forced Nash to retire hurt on the opening day with a nasty strike to the forearm and Johnson provided another blow to the same spot before lunch on the second day.

But Nash fought through the challenges in a circumspect manner and continued West Indies' theme of redemption after Brisbane, where he had

been scratchy. He ticked the score over with singles and cut Johnson confidently for a pair of fours, never becoming too bogged down as had been the case at the Gabba.

Just as Watson needed this innings to show himself to be a quality Test opener, Nash required a significant contribution to prove that he deserved his place ahead of Travis Dowlin, who was unlucky to be dropped. Eventually Nash was the last man out for 92, disappointed at missing the chance for a second Test hundred when he misjudged a ball from Johnson that nipped back in and rattled his stumps.

By then, he had overseen a lower-order resistance that added 115 to the visitors' overnight total and gave them their highest Test innings against Australia since Brian Lara's unforgettable 277 at the SCG in 1992-93 set up a score of 606. He also combined in a West Indies Test record 68-run partnership for the tenth wicket with Rampaul, whose entertaining 40 not out featured one monstrous six over long-on off Watson.

The Australians had earlier been frustrated by a 44-run stand from Nash and Suleiman Benn, who scuppered Australia's hopes of a quick kill after they claimed a wicket with the first ball of the day. The TV official Bruce Oxenford was in the action immediately having taken over from Asad Raul, who was forced onto the field to replace the unwell Mark Benson.

Sammy was lbw to Peter Siddle for 44 to start the morning and Oxenford was asked to

review the decision. It was one of only four wickets to fall throughout the day, which will almost certainly mean a five-day Test after the three-day affair in Brisbane.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second Test between Australia and West Indies at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday:

WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 336-6)
Gayle c Haddin b Bollinger 26
Barath c Hussey b Bollinger 3
Sarwan c Clarke b Johnson 28
Chanderpaul c Haddin b Watson 62
Nash b Johnson 92
Bravo b Hauritz 104
Ramdin b Watson 4
Sammy lbw b Siddle 44
Benn lbw b Hauritz 17
Roach c Haddin b Johnson 2
Rampaul not out 40
Extras: (b-5, lb-14, w-5, nb-5) 29
Total: (All out in 124.1 overs) 451
Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-39, 3-84, 3-119, 4-235, 5-239, 6-273, 7-336, 8-380, 9-383

Bowler O M R W
Bollinger 25 3 67 2
Siddle 25 6 92 1
Johnson 26.1 3 105 3
Hauritz 36 5 111 2
Watson 12 2 57 2

AUSTRALIA: First innings
Watson not out 96
Katich not out 71
Extras: (lb-1, nb-6) 7
Total: (For no loss in 48 overs) 174
To bat: Ponting, Hussey, Clarke, North, Haddin, Johnson, Hauritz, Siddle, Bollinger

Bowler O M R W
Roach 7 1 25 0
Rampaul 9 1 32 0
Bravo 9 1 30 0
Sammy 7 1 35 0
Benn 16 3 51 0

DAVIS CUP FINAL

Spain take charge

Tennis

APP, Barcelona

Spain were on course to claim their second consecutive Davis Cup title after David Ferrer came back from two sets down to beat Radek Stepanek and leave the hosts 2-0 up here on Friday.

Earlier, world number two Rafael Nadal cruised past Tomas Berdych 7-5, 6-0, 6-2 in the opening singles match.

Ferrer, by contrast, did it the hard way.

Stepanek, ranked 12 in the world, comfortably claimed the first two sets, before the Spanish world number 18 clawed his way back to take the next three in a heroic performance that lasted four hours and 17 minutes.

Ferrer eventually came out the winner 1-6, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, 8-6 in the third consecutive five-set meeting between the two.

"It was one of the most tense matches of my career," said the 27-year-old Ferrer.

The Czechs faced a must-win doubles on Saturday in which Jan Hajek and Lukas Dlouhy were to face Feliciano Lopez and Fernando Verdasco. The reverse singles rubbers on Sunday pitch Nadal against Stepanek and Ferrer against Berdych.

After an awkward start to his match, world number two Nadal compensated for a tense

exchange of service breaks in the first few games of the match by winning 13 straight games from 5-5 in the first set.

Berdych, ranked 20th in the world, faded badly and was powerless to stop the match deteriorating rapidly during the 2 hour 29 minute encounter.

"I was a bit nervous at the start," said Nadal. "I played shorter than I normally do on clay."

"The first set was the key, and afterwards everything changed. I found more depth... I made fewer mistakes and I think Tomas was more tired than me."

"Personally, I think he lost his way because I was playing better from the end of the first set. With the public behind me, I was confident and I started to play the tennis I normally play on clay."

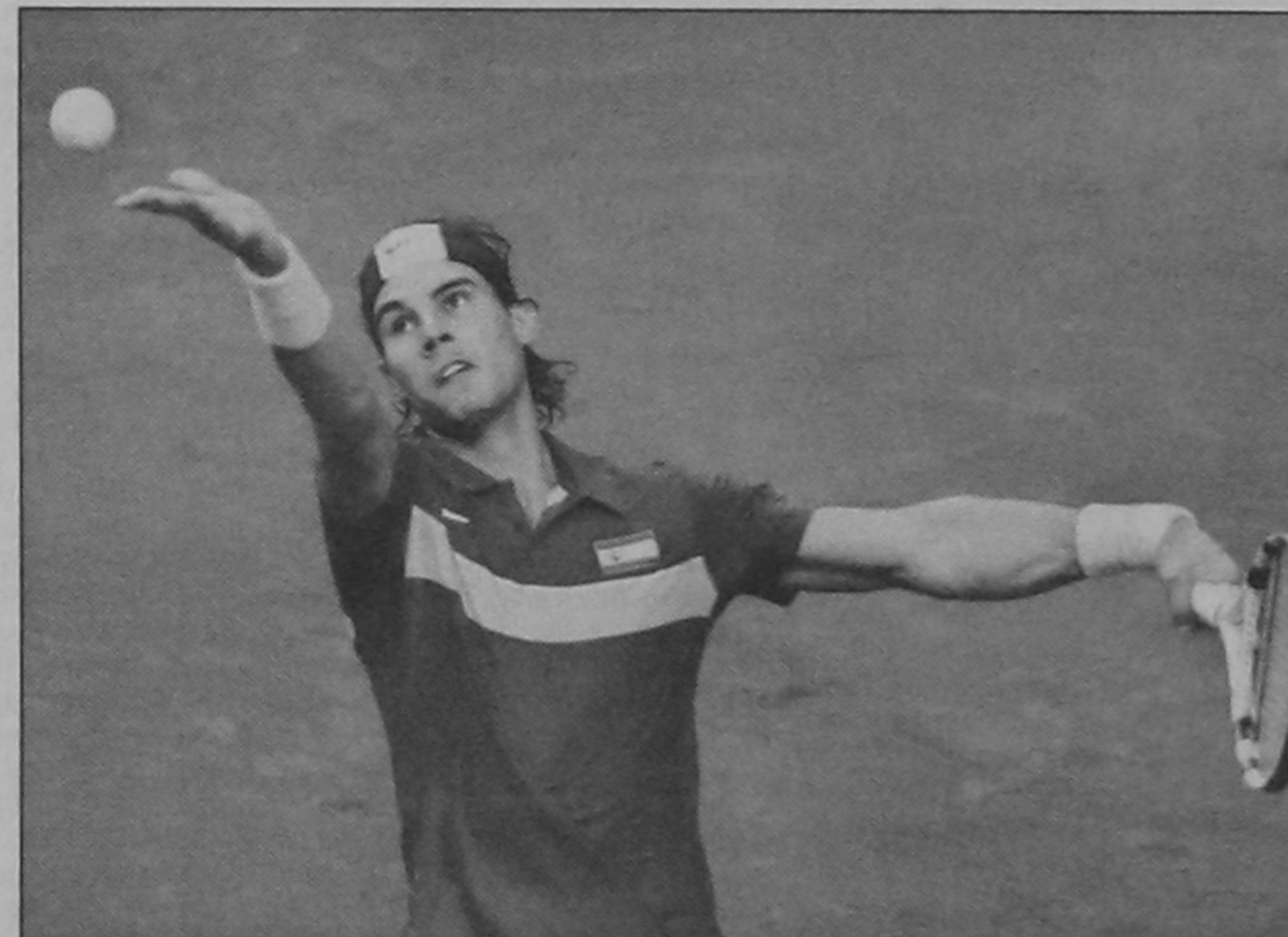
Berdych lamented his

missed chances in the first set.

"At 5-5 there was a very long game when I didn't serve well. There were only long exchanges," he said.

"But you have to congratulate Rafa. The way in which he played those last two sets was simply incredible."

"It's tough to lose 13 games on the trot. I tried to find some answers to come into the net a little more but nothing really worked."



Spain's number one Rafael Nadal serves against Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic during the first match of the Davis Cup Final at the Palau Sant Jordi Court in Barcelona Friday. Nadal won 7-5; 6-0; 6-2.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

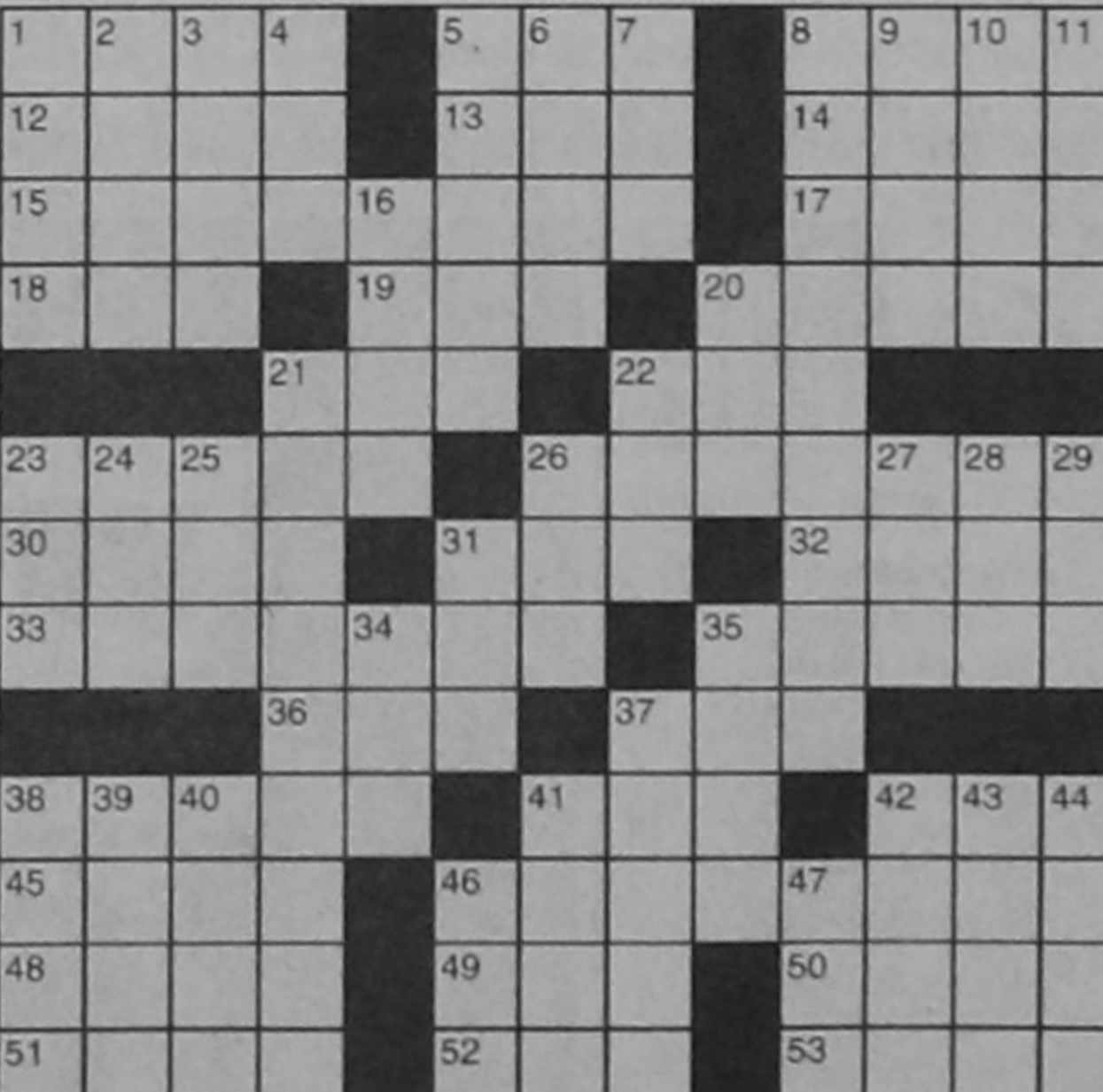
1 Call a halt to
5 Bashful
8 Barrel
12 End of a melody
13 Caustic solution
14 Lotion additive
15 Comic-strip pub habitue
17 Undraped
18 Wrong (Pref.)
19 Inseparable
20 Madison Avenue worker
21 Droop
22 Distort
23 Dazzling display
26 Let the air out
30 Hoodlum
31 Scarlet
32 Met melody
33 Legend-ary clarinetist
35 Go in
36 Sweet potato
37 See 3-Down

DOWN

1 Swindle
2 Morrison or Collette
3 With 37-Across and 44-Down, miscel-lany
4 Remuner-ation
5 Word on the street?
6 Advertise bombasti-cally
7 "Uh-huh"
8 Game played with "ginger-bread pawns"
9 Astrigent
10 Pop
11 Acute
16 Outer layer
20 Pop
21 Acute
22 Outer layer
23 Dazzling display
26 Let the air out
30 Hoodlum
31 Scarlet
32 Met melody
33 Legend-ary clarinetist
35 Go in
36 Sweet potato
37 See 3-Down

Solution time: 21 mins.

REF APT MAMA
AVOW LEI ORES
NICE LAM NIGH
GLINT LIME
TAR DRYROT
PALMARS STOVE
ICON NET OPEN
ERASE DISSENT
DENTAL NAP
ROUTIN WAGON
DELI MOB ROLIE
AMOK BUY ERIE
DUPE ONE END



CRYPTOQUIP

C I K B S L N S Q N R Q O X
M G Q T C N E C P C S J C S G O Q G N O C S J
D Q N E R D I B E I K K L M R D N R
T N E E M C R M Q E I N S K - I O X P K S Q

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I AM A MASTER AT DESCRIBING FLAT STRIPS OF PASTA, COULD I BE A LINGUINE LINGUIST?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals N