

## Shaheed Jewel win Victory Day cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mominul Haque hit unbeaten 75 as Shaheed Jewel XI posted a comfortable four-wicket victory over Shaheed Mushtaque XI in the traditional Victory Day cricket match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

It was virtually a battle between the Bangladesh A and Academy teams with the latter upsetting the seniors thanks to a 109-run sixth wicket partnership between Mominul and Nasir Hossain.

Mominul struck eight boundaries during his 88-ball 75 while Nasir added 49 in 70 balls with four boundaries as Shaheed Jewel XI recovered from 59 for five to reach the target of 173 for the loss of one more wicket in 33.3 overs.

Captain Mohammad Mithun was the other notable scorer with a 21-ball 22.

Left-arm pacesman Syed Rasel took two wickets conceding 25 runs in 5 overs.

Earlier, a strong Shaheed Mushtaque XI failed to put up a fighting score.

Captain Shahriar Nafees and Fazle Rabbi got off to confident starts before Shuvashis broke the 37-run partnership by removing Rabbi for 25 runs while Kamrul Islam dismissed Nafees for 19.

Shamsur Rahman looked good but could manage only 30 while Jahurul Islam also made a confident start, but was run out for 35.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SHAHEED MUSHTAQUE XI:** 172 all out in 37.5 overs (Rabbi 25, Nafees 19, Shamsur 30, Nazimuddin 15, Jahurul 35, Kapali 0, Sahagir 5, Marshal 16 not out, Sunny 12, Shuvashis 1-24, Kamrul 1-18, Nazmul 1-32, Nur 2-36, Shabbir 1-25, Nasir 1-10).

**SHAHEED JEWEL XI:** 173 for six in 33.3 overs (Anamul 4, Rony 4, Mithun 22, Hom 1, Mominul 75 not out, Asif 10, Nasir 49, Shabbir 0 not out; Rasel 2-25, Kamrul 1-28, Shaker 1-28).

**Result:** Shaheed Jewel XI won by four wickets.



South Africa speedster Dale Steyn (L) celebrates with captain Graeme Smith after snaring India opener Virender Sehwag for a duck during the first day of the first Test at SuperSport Park in Centurion yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## India caught in pace

Cricket

STAR SPORT DESK

South Africa's fast bowlers ripped out Indian batsmen cheaply when the first Test got under way after a rain delay at SuperSport Park here on Thursday.

Dale Steyn had Virender Sehwag caught at third man for nought before Morne Morkel struck twice within five balls to dismiss Gautam Gambhir (5) and Rahul Dravid (14).

Gambhir was caught at first slip when he pushed away from his body and Dravid was trapped leg before wicket by a delivery which cut back sharply to provide Morkel with his 100th wicket in his 29th Test. Morkel took two wickets for four runs in seven overs, with two of the runs conceded through no-balls.

Heavy overnight rain and more during the morning delayed the start by more than four hours and South African captain Graeme Smith had no hesitation about sending India in on a green, damp pitch.

Morne Morkel was the wrecker-in-chief, picking up four wickets, while fast and furious Steyn picked up three.

Sehwag, who scored only 89 runs at an average of 14.83 in three Tests on his previous tour of South Africa four seasons ago, fell to third ball he faced, slashing at a delivery from Steyn which seamed away from him and presenting Hashim Amla with a comfortable catch at third man.

Sachin Tendulkar stroked his way to 36 and was the only batsman able to score boundaries in front of the wicket, twice pulling Lonwabo Tsotsobe to the fence and driving the same bowler through the covers for another four. His wicket, trapped in front by paceman Dale Steyn, opened the floodgates with bowlers Harbhajan Singh, Shantakumaran Sreesanth and Ishant Sharma all part of a procession of incoming and outgoing batsmen. Indian captain MS Dhoni was a mere spectator and was batting on 32 with last batsman, debutant Jaidev Unadkat.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**INDIA:** First innings 117 for 9 in 35 overs (Tendulkar 36, Dhoni not out 15, Dravid 14; Morkel 4-14, Steyn 3-34)

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Smith, Petersen, Amla, Kallis, De Villiers, Prince, Boucher, Steyn, Harris, Morkel, Tsotsobe.

**Umpires:** Steve Davis and Ian Gould.

## Top trio targets title

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"We are very serious about our target and that's why we have acquired the services of Khaled Mahmud as our coach. He will instil professionalism among the players," added the former national cricketer.

Abahani filled Shakib's gap by pulling Mahmudullah Riyad and also has the likes of Tapash Baisya, Farhad Hossain, Hannan Sarkar, Saqlain Sajib, Alauddin Babu, Abul Hasan, Marshall Ayub and wicketkeeper Anamul Haque, in addition to the previous season's Mohammad Rafique, Sahagir Hossain, Imrul Kayes and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

"We have also brought in the Australian Lee Carseldine and Yashpal Singh from India," informed Jalal.

Biman is probably the only other team in the Premier League with title hopes, though CCS and Kalabagan will have something to say about that as they have acquired the services of Mohammad Ashraf for the season.

But the national airliner has some handy players in Jahurul Islam, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shafiqul Islam, Elias Sunny as well as foreign recruits Jehan Mubarak and Pakistani all-rounder Jisan Butt.

"We will go for the title. We have a good enough team with some good batsmen and four all-rounders," said Biman coach Ahmed

Faiyaz Shahin.

Victoria, the other team that qualified for the Super League last season, are also targeting a similar situation this year. The club's joint secretary Mohammad Hasibuddin Siddiquee said that they would bank on a youthful side to bring them success. "We would like to reach the Super League and take it from there. We have a good, young side and our fielding is one of our strengths," said Hasibuddin, who also informed that Pakistani all-rounder Arsalan Mir and batsman Mohammad Sami are their foreign recruits.

Underachievers Gazi Tank are also pursuing a place in the top six, though their coach Mohammad Salahuddin wants the players to do well under pressure. "I think it will be very important to do well when the chips are down. That will be our strength," he said.

"We are practicing at the BKSP and we have very good team spirit. But we are lacking in the pace bowling department," added Salahuddin.

Alok Kapali, Shahriar Nafees and Syed Rasel would add experience to an otherwise young side that has the likes of Nasir Hossain, Mithun Ali and Sanzammul Islam, among others.

Former champions Old DOHS will bank on the experience of Aftab Ahmed, Mehrab Hossain, Nabil Samad and their Pakistani all-rounder Rashed Hanif. Tanvir Haider would add to the team's spin bowling department.

## Irony tinged Pak win

ATIQUÉ ANAM from Cox's Bazar



One cannot escape the crooks of irony, even if it is least desired. Call it irony, call it fate, or call it lack of luck--the fact remains that after 40 years of our victory over Pakistan in war, their national anthem was sung on our land as their women's football team coasted to a 3-0 victory over Afghanistan.

The question though is: could it have been avoided?

"No," said the local organizing committee chairman of SAFF Women's Football Championship Manzur Hasan Malu, "Once the draw was made and the fixtures prepared by AFC and BFF, there was no chance to rescind. It was not in our hands and any attempt to change the schedule would have meant monetary punishment for us," he said.

However, Professor Jasimuddin, secretary of District Sports Association and a freedom fighter, bemoaned the fact.

"Mentally I cannot support this, but I am not in a position to change the schedule," said Jasimuddin.

However, the captain and coach of the

Pakistan team at the press conference diplomatically put the matter of politics aside.

Sana Mahmood, the victorious captain observed: "We knew that we would play on this day and, in most likelihood, we would win. And we are happy to share this victory with the Victory Day of Bangladesh, who are like brothers to us."

"Sports is like a bridge, we are here to build that bridge as well as to compete," said Sana echoing the words of her coach.

The match itself was one of those that one would not remember for long, between two of the lesser teams in this region who are at the inception stage of international football.

The two neighbours fought for 20 minutes aimlessly before Malika Noor gave Pakistan the lead with a whirling corner that ended inside the Afghan net, leaving the keeper a bemused spectator.

The goal brought a stifled cheer from the near-full crowd who availed the national holiday to witness the game from close counters. One such spectator was Mohammad Hasan, a student at a local college, cheering on his favourite side for their lead.

"We are like brothers, just being sepa-

rated for a turn of events in history. Afghanistan are also like brothers."

In the meantime, Pakistan had extended their lead, when Shahliya Balooch poked in on the 40th minute from a goalmouth melee. The partisan crowd found more fervor in their voice.

The Afghan girls made a couple of attacks too and they found moderate backing from the crowd as well. Sajib Islam, a trader from Kalatali said he was supporting the Afghans, since they are a war-torn nation and also for their underdog status.

However, the Afghan efforts failed to materialise due to the fragility of the inexperienced strikers. Sahar Arghandiwal, the lone striker in particular, might have done better from the couple of chances she got, and that would have won a few more hearts as well.

While Afghans were trying to make an impression, Pakistan sealed the match with a third goal on the 74th minute. Humera Nazir chipped the ball cleverly into the net catching the goalkeeper out of position. The full-time whistle went, and the Pakistan women elated on their second international victory while the Afghans put a brave face in the resolve of brighter days.

"We are like brothers, just being sepa-

## Pressure on Ponting

Cricket

AFP, Perth

England turned the screws on Australia's embattled leadership on Thursday with Ricky Ponting's dismal run of form in the Ashes continuing on the opening day of the third Test in Perth.

The Australian captain and his deputy Michael Clarke both fell cheaply as England's pace attack capitalised on a grassy pitch to have the home side floundering at 36-4 before they fought back to 268 all-out.

Ponting, who had said on Wednesday it was time for him to lead the way with the bat, got off the mark fortuitously with an edge through a vacant fourth slip from the bowling of the recalled Chris Tremlett for a boundary.

He tried to capitalise on his good fortune, hitting two more boundaries to signal his intent, but was brilliantly caught by Paul Collingwood at third slip off the bowling of James Anderson for 12, having survived just 10 balls.

The ball struck high on Ponting's bat and appeared to be flying wide of Collingwood, but he leapt high to his right to pull down a marvellous one-handed catch.

It meant Ponting, who has refused to drop down the order from No.3, has just 82 runs for the series at 20.50 and he went into the match without a century in his previous eight Tests.

Including Thursday's innings, he is averaging 31.53 in his last nine Tests, more than 20 down on his career mark of 54.08.

Ponting himself admitted this week his future as captain was uncertain, with the Tasmanian facing the potential ignominy of becoming the first Australian skipper to lose three Ashes series, and his batting slump is only adding to the pressure.

However, veteran Mike Hussey, himself on the verge of being axed before the series, but now revelling in a remarkable run of rejuvenated form, backed his skipper to rebound in similar fashion.

"It is a fine line and Ricky was unlucky to be caught out by an amazing catch," he said.

"If people count against such a champion, they generally come back and show the critics to be wrong.

"I have no doubt it will be the same on this occasion.

"Ricky is such a champion batsman, champion bloke and champion captain that I am sure he will be fine."

Ponting's long-time heir apparent, Clarke, is faring even worse.

He made just four before limply hanging his bat outside off-stump and being caught behind off Tremlett.

The 29-year-old has reached doubles figures just once in the series, and his last eight Test innings have yielded just 130 runs at 16.25, including his 80 in the second innings of the second Test in Adelaide.

## Tigers' first

FROM PAGE 16

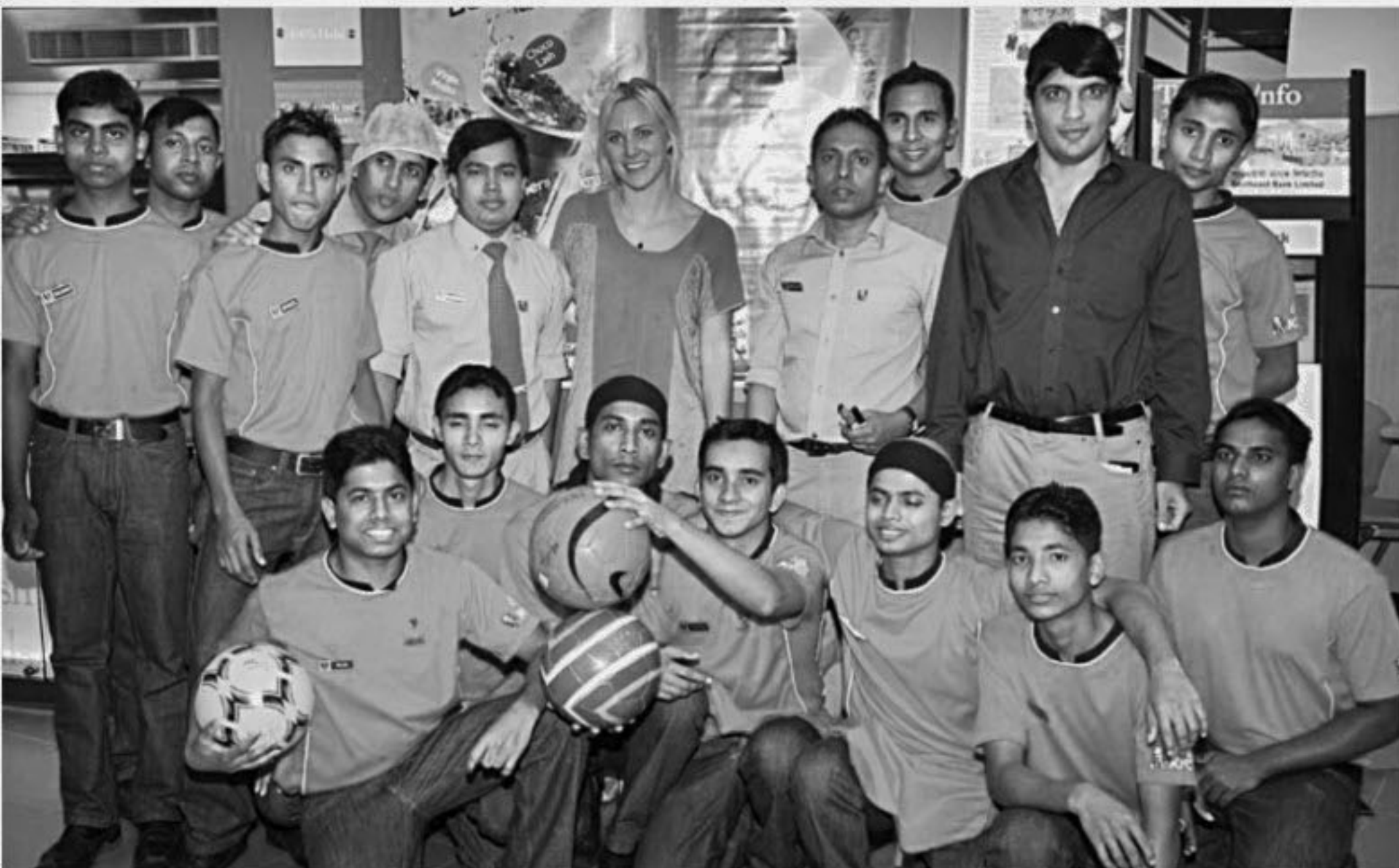
a duck off the last ball of the second over and then disaster struck. Saeed Anwar was sold the dummy by Inzamamul Haq, resulting in a run-out.

Then man-of-the-match Mahmud struck a twin blow, getting rid of the vastly experienced pair of Inzamam and Salim Malik, both trapped in front.

And when Saqlain Mushtaq was brilliantly run out by keeper Khaled Masud, the scenes at Northampton turned chaotic. The whole of Bangladesh celebrated a win that was as unlikely as it was sweet.



SAFF Women's Football Championship  
Sri Lanka v Bhutan  
Time: 11:05am  
India v Bangladesh  
Time: 2:30pm  
Venue: Cox's Bazar Stadium



Swedish women's football superstar Johanna Frisk (C) poses with the KFC team members at its Gulshan outlet on December 14. The defender came to Bangladesh as a FIFA representative to promote the inaugural SAFF Women's Football Championship which is now taking place in Cox's Bazar.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Tremlett seizes chance

Cricket

AFP, Perth

Towering fast bowler Chris Tremlett answered England's call in emphatic fashion on the opening day of the crucial third Ashes Test at the WACA ground on Thursday.

Tremlett was recalled to play just his fourth Test, and first in more than three years, because of a tour-ending injury to Stuart Broad, and grasped his opportunity

with both hands.

Preferred over Tim Bresnan because of the bounce he was likely to extract from the wicket, the 29-year-old admitted to pre-match nerves, but blew them away when he clean bowled another player returning to Test cricket, Australian opener Phil Hughes, with the last ball of his first over of the match.

He then went on to claim the prized wicket of Michael Clarke, as well as youngster Steven Smith, both caught behind the wicket, in claiming 3-63 from 23 impressive overs as England closed in

on retaining the Ashes.

Tremlett, whose temperament is often questioned, said the recall was the reward for hard work and a switch to Surrey in county cricket.

He said he was a much-improved bowler than when he last played for England in June 2007, against India.

"I'm fitter than ever and stronger than ever," he said.

"I'm very happy with my action, it is as repetitive as it has ever been and I'm just a lot more consistent than I used to be."

"I think I have grown up a bit.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Make art with acid  
5 Tackle the slopes  
8 Volcano output  
12 Horse's halter?  
13 Melody  
14 Not "fer"  
15 Forever and ever  
16 Green banana-like fruit  
18 Keep up  
20 Spooky  
21 Conclusion  
22 Sunbathe  
23 Mix together  
26 It's near the prosce-nium  
30 Aries  
31 Transmit quickly  
32 — minute  
33 Teetotal, e.g.  
36 Smooth  
38 "La Cage — Folles"  
39 Sermon subject  
40 With full force  
43 Be relevant (to)  
47 Peak  
49 Gawk at  
50 Shed  
51 "Of course"  
52 Opposite of blanc  
53 Probability  
54 Before  
55 "Zounds!"  
4 Waste no time  
5 Flavorful  
6 Potter's oven  
7 401(k) alternative  
8 Potential supply  
9 Culture medium  
10 Henry —  
11-Down  
11 See  
10-Down  
17 Approach  
19 Moreover  
22 "Monkey suit"  
23 Support at the top?  
24 Retriever type, for short  
25 Type squares  
26 Metal container  
27 Have a bug  
28 Tattoo-ist's  
29 48-Down under  
31 Repair  
34 Poisons  
35 Family member  
36 Round Table address  
37 Chant  
39 Just know  
40 Bullets and such  
41 Disposition  
42 "— Lang Syne"  
43 Harbor structure  
44 Wide-eyed  
45 Pelvic bones  
46 Target of taunts  
48 See  
29-Down

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

G	R	A	M	S	A	C	O	M	E	N
L	I	R	A	U	R	I	C	O	V	E
U	S	E	D	B	R	A	C	E	L	E
T	E	A	C	U	P	O	I	L	E	R
A	G	O	G	D	O	H				
P	A	M	P	H	L	E	T	T	I	N
A	N	A	S	A	T	E	D	L	E	A
T	Y	K	E	R	O	N	D	E	L	E
E	G	O	N	A	A	N				
A	N	O	R	A	K	N	Y	L	O	N
C	O	V	E	R	L	E	T	I	D	O
H	I	E	S	U	K	E	S	O	S	O
E	R	R	S	M	E	D	T	R	E	E

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16			17			
18				19			20			
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23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30				31				32		
33		34	35				36	37		
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47				48				49		
50				51				52		
53				54				55		

## CRYPTOQUIP

G W E C S F B Q G F Y E B T F  
Z H E L O Q B G Y L R G K D R F B M F M,  
K C H Q M L R B L S B D F W C Q D E  
C Y Z H O G L F T E L H O G M F T ?

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** SINCE A YOUNG GIRL UPDATED THOSE PEOPLE ON THEIR FACTS, I WOULD SAY THEY WERE MISS-INFORMED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T