



Mukhtijodha's Mithun Chowdhury leaves Feni Soccer Club goalkeeper dejected as the striker celebrates the second of his two goals in a Bangladesh League match at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

# Muktis ride on Mithun brace

SPORTS REPORTER

**Grameenphone**  
Bangladesh League 2010

A brace from Mithun Chowdhury guided Mukhtijodha Sangsod to a 2-1 win over visiting Feni Soccer Club in their Grameenphone Bangladesh League match at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

The national team's striker from Chittagong struck either side of the break to take himself top of the scorers' chart with four goals as well as to take his side to second position in table with nine points from four games, one point behind leaders Sheikh Russel KC and two ahead of holders Abahani and giants-killers Rahmatganj MFS.

Title contenders Mukhtijodha brought three changes to the starting eleven from their last match with defenders Yeamin Munna, Mofazzal

Hossain Saikat and midfielder Motiur Munna starting the match.

From the very beginning Muktis kept the visitors under pressure before mustering the first shot on target on the 16th minute.

Mithun, who could not find the target in the last two matches, should have given his side the lead but the diminutive forward struck straight to goalkeeper Piaruzzaman from the six-yard box while a powerful shot from Zahed Hossain Chowdhury was well parried by the Feni goalkeeper on the half-hour mark.

Just before the break, Mithun capitalised on an indecision from defender Shahinoor Alam, who was seemingly in hesitation to clear an Alamu Bukola header inside the danger zone, by darting in to head the ball home and put his side ahead.

Two minutes after resumption, Muktis came close to doubling their lead but once again goalkeeper Piru

denied them blocking a header from Rajani Kanta Barman for a corner but the young keeper could not avert his responsibility to concede the second one.

From a counter-attack in the 57th minute, Munna played Bukola on the right and the Nigerian striker drove a grounder from inside the box that Piru failed to grip properly. The ball went to unmarked Mithun, who tapped it home.

After going two down, Feni brought two changes to the side, which seemingly made an impact on the game as they pulled a goal back in the 72nd minute. Substitute Towhidul Alam headed home a free-kick from Nayan giving no chance to goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee to react.

The former Beanibazar striker came close to leveling the margin nine minutes from time but a timely intervention from goalkeeper Biplob saw Mukhtijodha secure all three points.

# Sachin ruled out of SA one-dayers

AFP, New Delhi

India's Sachin Tendulkar has been ruled out of the ongoing one-day international series against South Africa by a hamstring injury, the cricket board said on Sunday.

Tendulkar, 37, did not field during the South African innings in the second one-day international in Johannesburg on Saturday, which India won by a one-run margin.

"Tendulkar will not take further part in the ongoing ODI series against South Africa due to a hamstring injury," the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said in a press release.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Parthiv Patel will be flown in as his replacement for the rest of the five-match series, currently tied 1-1.

Tendulkar's injury is a worrying development for the team, with the World Cup starting in South Asia on February 19.

Tendulkar is the world's leading scorer in both Tests (14,692) and one-dayers (17,629).

A 15-member Indian squad for the World Cup will be announced in Chennai on Monday.

# Vettori lifts NZ

Cricket

AFP, Wellington

Taufeeq Umar and Azhar Ali overcame an early misfire to lift Pakistan to 134 for two in reply to New Zealand's first innings 356 built on a Daniel Vettori century in the second Test here Sunday.

At stumps on Day Two at Basin Reserve, Pakistan trailed New Zealand by 222 with eight wickets in hand and the placid pitch starting to show signs of turn.

Taufeeq was out on the last ball of the day for 70 and Azhar was undefeated on 62.

The pair came together in the second over of the Pakistan innings after Mohammad Hafeez was given out on a dubious umpire's call, and both put on half-centuries before Vettori captured Taufeeq.

It was just reward for the New Zealand captain who earlier had the opener nick a ball which wicketkeeper Reece Young juggled before he finally secured the catch.

However, the New Zealand players offered a low-key appeal and the umpire turned it down.

It was one of several decisions in the Test where television replays have shown the umpire was wrong. However, there is no provision in the match rules for the captains to appeal to the third official.

Taufeeq added another 36 runs and had three figures in his sights when he became overly defensive, stabbed at a full-length Vettori ball and it went straight to Martin Guptill fielding close in.

Azhar also had a life when on 32 he edged Tim Southee and the ball raced to the boundary between Young and first slip Ross Taylor who were standing abnormally far apart.

Their 132-run stand for the second innings underscored the placid nature of the

wicket as Pakistan look to secure the two-Test series after easily wrapping up the first Test inside three days.

New Zealand, seeking a more committed batting effort in this Test, were again in trouble when they collapsed to be 180 for six before Vettori brought a level of respectability to the score with his sixth Test century.

He put on 138 with Young (57) for the seventh wicket, was the last man out for 110, compiled in nearly four hours at the crease and including 10 fours and a six.

There were nerve-racking moments towards the end for Vettori, who was on 96 when New Zealand's last batsman Chris Martin joined him in the middle.

Martin is recognised as one of the worst batsmen in Test cricket and he received a huge ovation from the crowd for each ball he survived as Vettori worked his way to three figures, bringing up his century with a single to fine leg.

New Zealand had resumed the second day at 246 for six and reached 318 before Young was dismissed just before lunch while Southee (one) and Brent Arnel (one) fell soon after the break.

Paceman Umar Gul finished with the best figures for Pakistan, four for 87 from 32 overs, while Tanvir took three for 93 from 25.

Left-arm spinner Abdur Rehman, who had the difficult task of bowling a marathon spell into the strong northerly wind, ended with two for 96 from 45.1 overs.

Wicketkeeper Adnan Akmal took six catches in the innings, one short of the world record.

# Watto takes care of Eng Doleshwar pick up

**FROM PAGE 16**  
to get off to a flyer, and the visitors were 90-0 after 12 overs.

Haddin later missed another simple stumping when Strauss was on 48 and facing Xavier Doherty.

The New South Welshman made it a hat-trick of missed stumpings when he cost Hussey for a second time, Pietersen the beneficiary when on 37.

The belligerent Englishman made the Aussies pay immediately, lofting the unlucky Hussey for successive sixes to bring up his half-century and his team's 200.

But in the event Watson's superb knock made up for Australia's bowling woes.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
MSC: 93 all out in 22.4 overs (Nazmiuddin 25, Mashud 21; Hasan 4-28).  
ABAHANI: 94-0 in 17 overs (Anamul 54 not out, Imrul 38 not out).  
**Result:** Australia won by 10 wickets.

**FROM PAGE 16**  
couldn't capitalise and were out on 25 and 32 respectively.

But Biman's in-form batsman Mushfiqur Rahim struck 87 off 101 balls as Biman posted a modest total of 237-8 in their 50 overs.

After some early blows by Monwar Hossain, Orient fell behind and only Robiul Islam and Ahsanul Haque scored half centuries. They lost wickets at regular intervals and in the end, fell 12 runs short of the target with three wickets in hand.

Monowar took 3 wickets for 36 runs.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
KALABAGAN: 194 all out in 45 overs (Wajid 89 not out, Sharif 39, Rubel 2-14, Apu 2-24).  
DOLESHWAR: 195-6 in 43.4 overs (Abbas 49 not out, Imran 38, Nadif 31, Shahadat 2-36, Arafat 2-39).  
**Result:** Doleshwar won by 4 wickets.  
BIMAN: 237-8 in 50 overs. (Mushfiqur 87, Mosharaf 38, Khurram 3-52, Maksudul 2-30).  
ORIENT: 225-7 in 50 overs (Robiul 56, Ahsanul 52 not out, Monwar 3-36, Sunny 2-47).  
**Result:** Biman won by 12 runs.

# India win a thriller

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

India made an astonishing recovery to snatch a one-run victory over South Africa in the second one-day international at the Wanderers Stadium on Saturday to level the five-match series at one match each.

Munaf Patel took two wickets in what proved to be the final over to finish with four for 29, with Yuvraj Singh taking a low catch at gully to end the match when Wayne Parnell cut powerfully in an attempt to score the winning runs.

South Africa seemed in control when they made an aggressive start to their innings after Lonwabo Tsotsobe produced career-best bowling figures of four for 22 as India were bowled out for 190 on what is usually a high-scoring ground.

Captain Graeme Smith and JP Duminy took South Africa to within 71 runs of victory with seven wickets in hand and less than half the overs used up.

But Duminy played a rash shot against part-time off-spinner Rohit Sharma and was caught at long-on.

It still looked comfortable for the

hosts as Smith and David Miller added 32.

But as with the Indian innings, the batting powerplay proved disastrous for the batting side.

Smith was out to the first ball of the powerplay, bowled off an inside edge by man-of-the-match Patel for 77 and Miller went in the next over when he top-edged an attempted pull against a slower bouncer by Zaheer Khan.

South Africa lost their last six wickets for 37 runs in what was almost an action replay of the Indian innings.

Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, whose side had lost their last six wickets for 21 runs, said: "It's a big win for us. We were 40 to 45 runs short in our innings but the bowlers bowled in the right areas and put a lot of pressure on the South African batsmen."

Dhoni said the bowling of off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who took one for 32 in ten overs, had changed the game.

"The South African batsmen had momentum when he came on and they lost momentum against him."

Tsotsobe led a superb performance by the South African bowlers and fielders after India won the toss and batted.

Yuvraj Singh made 53 and Dhoni scored 38 but neither batsman was able to dominate during a fourth wicket

stand of 83 off 107 balls.

Singh reached his half-century off 67 balls when he glanced Tsotsobe for his fourth boundary -- but he was out next ball when he pushed a slower delivery from Tsotsobe to mid-off.

Tsotsobe, bowled eight of his ten overs during powerplay overs as he followed up his Man-of-the-Match performance in the first game in Durban, where he took four for 31 and helped South Africa to a 135-run win.

Tsotsobe was entrusted with the first over of the batting powerplay and struck with his first ball when he had Suresh Raina palpably leg before wicket, struck on the back pad by a full delivery.

He then bowled Dhoni off an inside edge as the powerplay proved disastrous for India, who lost four wickets for 14 runs, with Tsotsobe having a hand in another wicket when he took a sliding catch at third man to dismiss Zaheer Khan off Dale Steyn's bowling.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
INDIA: 190 (Yuvraj 53, Dhoni 38, Tendulkar 24; Tsotsobe 4-22, Morkel 2-32, Steyn 2-35)  
SOUTH AFRICA: 189 (Smith 77, Miller 27, Ingram 25; Patel 4-29, Sharma 1-12, Harbhajan 1-32)  
**Result:** India won by 1 run.  
**Man-of-the-match:** Munaf Patel.

# A real Rally for Relief

AFP, Melbourne

Tennis's biggest names thrilled a sell-out crowd of 15,000 on Sunday in an entertaining "Rally for Relief" to raise money for Australia's devastating floods.

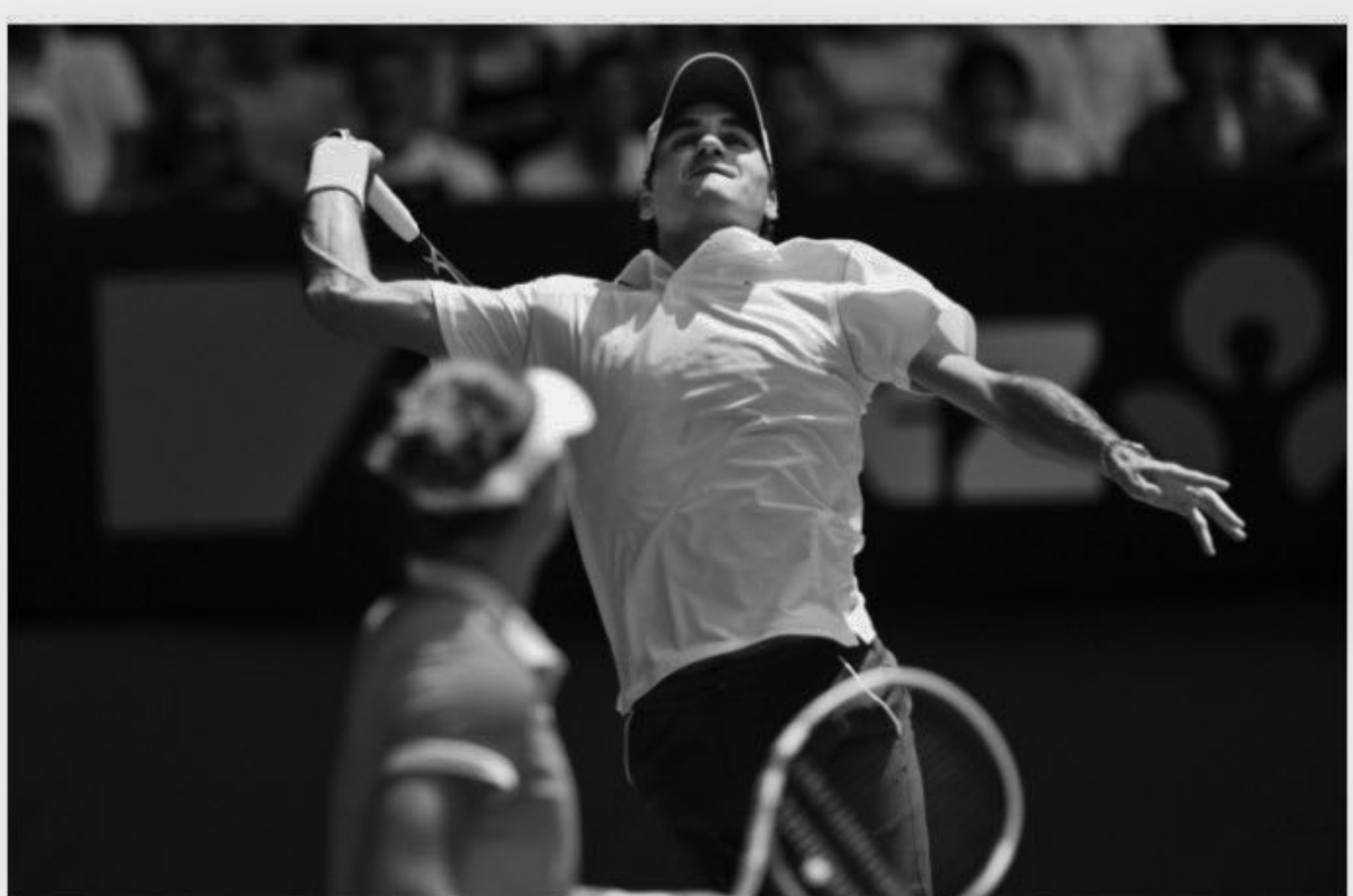
Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal led a parade of leading men's and women's players for the comedy hit-out, in which they mocked other's grunts and played shots between their legs.

Lleyton Hewitt's two-year-old son, Cruz, made a brief and tearful appearance and Novak Djokovic played volleys while sitting down during the crowd-pleasing performance, which precedes the Australian Open here.

Federer was moved to organise the event after learning that Rockhampton, home of his idol Rod Laver, was under water in a disaster which has claimed 17 lives in the past week alone and left vast tracts of Australia under water.

As the disaster shifted to Victoria state, where the Open will start in Melbourne on Monday, Australia's fifth seed Sam Stosur said it was important for professional players to keep a sense of perspective.

The sports world has rallied round victims of the floods disaster with Australian cricket great Shane Warne trying to organise a charity Twenty20 game.



Tennis superstars Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal play together during a charity exhibition match in aid of Queensland flood victims in Melbourne yesterday.

# Aussie Open from today

## Nadal, Federer up against history

Tennis

AFP, Melbourne

Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer have history against them as they strive to win the season's opening major at the Australian Open in Melbourne.

World number one Nadal is bidding to become the first man in 42 years to hold all four Grand Slam titles simultaneously, but the 'Rafa Slam' is the subject of some debate.

Australian legend Rod Laver, who twice accomplished a calendar Grand Slam in 1962 and 1969, contends that what Nadal is pursuing cannot be technically termed a Grand Slam.

The Spaniard strung together the last three majors at the French Open, Wimbledon and US Open to head into the new year poised to continue his dominance of men's tennis.

Nadal became only the seventh man in

history -- and the youngest at 24 in the Open era -- to claim a career Grand Slam of the four major tournaments when he conquered Novak Djokovic in New York last September.

Federer, supplanted by Nadal at the top of the rankings last June, is chasing his 17th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open and has the weight of odds against him.

There have been only nine successful title defences at the Australian Open in the Open Era (post-1968), the least of all four major tournaments.

On the women's side, Belgium's Kim Clijsters is hot favourite to add the Australian Open to her US Open crown after five-time champion Serena Williams' injury withdrawal opened the door to new contenders.

Clijsters, 27, heads the list of challengers with compatriot Justine Henin returning from injury and question marks over world number one Caroline Wozniacki after a string of recent defeats.

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

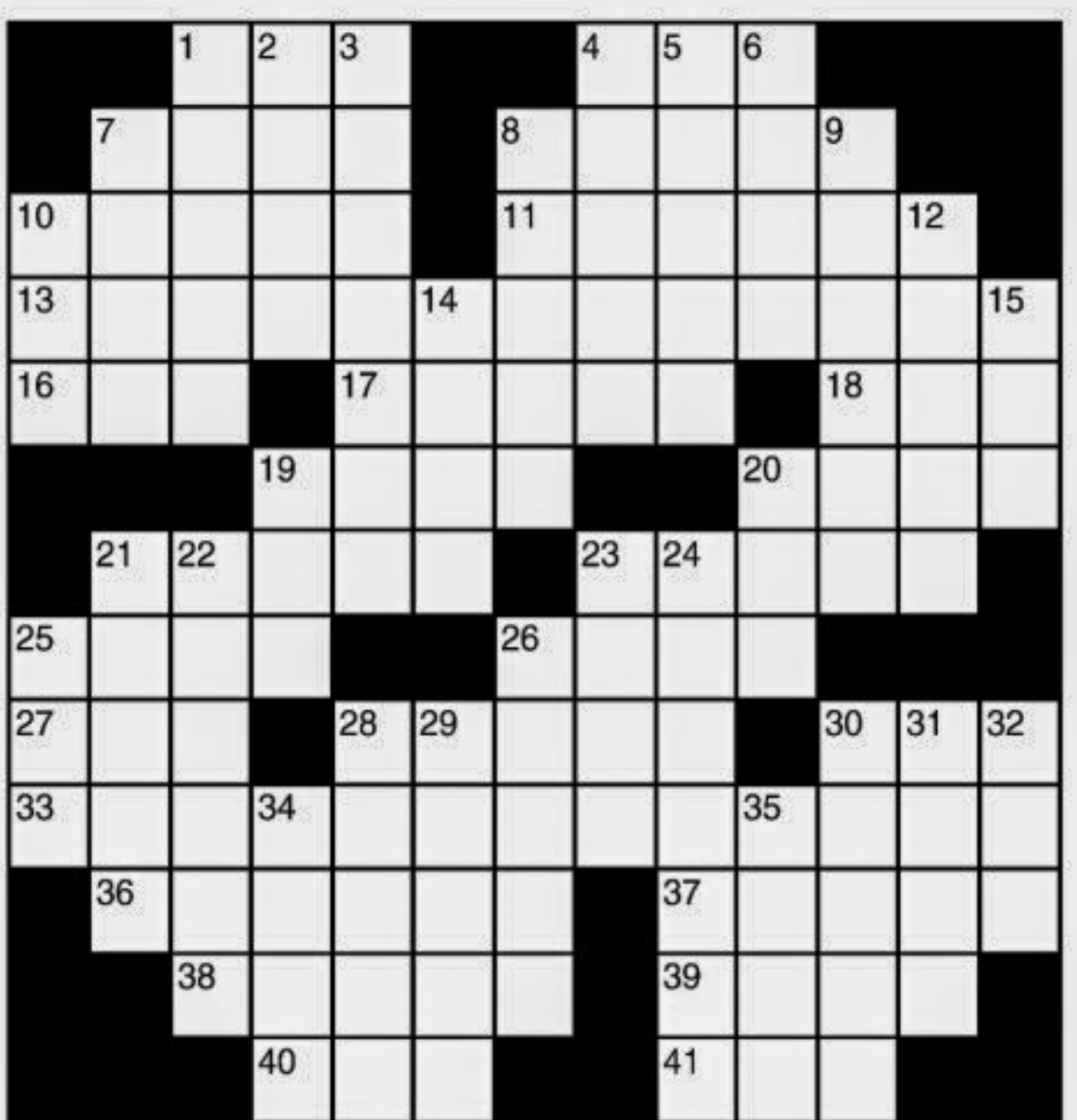
**ACROSS**  
1 Oohs and —  
4 Doctrine  
7 Elliptical  
8 Loosen  
10 Plant life  
11 Howard and Isaac  
13 Show great anxiety  
16 Scoundrel  
17 Bar trayful, maybe  
18 Midafternoon, in a way  
19 Antelope's playmate  
20 Letters for letters?  
21 "Surprise Symphony" composer

**DOWN**  
1 Dodge  
2 Injury  
3 Applied thickly  
4 Bury  
5 Worries  
6 Sorvino of screen  
7 Earthenware pot  
8 Leading man?  
9 Sign up

**10 TV watchdog org.**  
**12 Missteps**  
**14 Adolescent**  
**15 Bro's counterpart**  
**19 Prepare Easter eggs**  
**20 Last (Abbr.)**  
**21 Sticky, weather-wise**  
**22 Playing marbles**  
**23 Apportion (out)**  
**24 Show**  
**25 "Wha'd ya say?"**  
**26 Recess**  
**28 Tear to bits**  
**29 Subway**  
**30 Belong**  
**31 Red army?**  
**32 Candle count**  
**34 "Bye"**  
**35 Tempt**

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

D	I	E	D	U	S	A	S	E	N	D
I	O	T	A	N	I	L	T	R	O	I
S	W	A	N	C	A	L	L	I	O	P
C	A	L	C	I	U	M	O	N	S	E
S	T	E	R	N	C	A	L	L	P	S
E	E	L	F	U	R	E	R	R		
C	A	L	O	R	I	E	A	E	R	I
C	O	X	M	I	X					
A	T	S	E	A	C	A	L	T	E	C
C	A	L	A	M	A	R	I	A	W	R
I	C	O	N	B	O	Z	N	E	E	D
D	O	G	S	A	W	E	T	R	E	E



# CRYPTOQUIP

U A YUSFDN EUVDS KDND

ZBYUSF ABN E ZEUSOUSF, U

NDIVBS OXEO RBL KBLQH

IEQQ XUW WBHDQUSF IQR.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** PLAUSIBLE NAME FOR A DICTIONARY THAT FEATURES SOUTH-OF-THE-BORDER EXPRESSIONS: A MEXICAN.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals Y