

Warriors beat Blue Birds

SPORTS REPORTER

Barguna Warriors beat hosts Patuakhali's Blue Birds by just four runs in the 2nd Inter-District Club Cup cricket tournament yesterday.

They now face Barisal Abahani in the group final today.

In the day's other matches, Bir Bikram Yamin Krira Chakra of Sylhet slammed Moulavibazar's Confidence Club by a whopping 182 runs in Habiganj, Amlapara Sporting Club of hosts Kushtia beat Shaheed Pilot Mukul Smriti Sangsad of Magura by seven wickets and Shariatpur Cricket Academy beat Friends XI of Manikganj by 89 runs in Gopalganj.

In Mymensingh, Pragatishil Swadesi Sangha of Tangail beat Sherpur Young Cricketers Association by six wickets while in Pabna, Rahmatganj Young Association of Sirajganj beat Mitali Sangha of Chapainawabganj by the same margin.

Federer does

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"This is a dream for me. I mean, until now I'm still just following the dream," Li said. "Like last year, I need two more steps. So hopefully this year I can do better."

Li will next face Germany's Andrea Petkovic, who shocked 2008 winner Maria Sharapova 6-2, 6-3 and afterwards celebrated with her distinctive "Petkodance" jig.

Meanwhile Djokovic, the men's winner in 2008, destroyed Spain's Nicolas Pietrangola 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 in 1hr 44min to reach his fourth straight Australian Open quarterfinal.

"That was a higher standard than my previous matches and it's a big positive for me heading into the quarterfinals," Djokovic said. Djokovic will play Tomas Berdych for a place in the semifinals after the Czech was an easy winner 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 against Fernando Verdasco of Spain.

Stanislas Wawrinka shot down American Andy Roddick in straight sets to set up a clash with Federer, the Open era's first all-Swiss Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Fifteen get

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domestic competitions. He also informed that an evaluation would take place after six months and the contracts will be renewed after the evaluation of the athletes' performances.

Unfortunately, the meeting did not discuss about long-term training though Sarkar said that they had a plan for long-term training and they would ask the government to sanction fund.

Dull draws

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by visiting Arambagh Krira Sangha. Feni had in their previous match inflicted a shock 1-0 defeat on star-studded Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club.

It was the second draw for Arambagh who stay at joint fifth position with as many points while Feni are second from bottom with three draws in five matches.

U-15s draw

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with Miraj hitting 51 runs. The home side fought back to score 205 all out in 57.5 overs with Agniivan making 66 and Miraj picking up four wickets.

Condolences

SPORTS REPORTER

The BCB condoled the passing away of former Board Member Mizanur Rahman Sana who breathed his last yesterday morning in Singapore at the age of 73.

The Board also extended condolences to BCB Director Aminul Huq Moni at the death of his sister Halima Afaz. Mrs. Afaz passed away on Saturday evening. She was 66.



Australia batsman David Hussey lines up a pull shot during the third ODI against England at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday.

Hussey lifts Australia

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

David Hussey steered Australia to a four-wicket win over England in the third one-day international at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday.

Australia posted 215-6 to win with four overs to spare, after England scored just 214 from 48 overs -- the third time in as many matches they have failed to last their full allotment of overs.

The home side take a 3-0 lead in the seven-match series, in which England are seeking a sixth consecutive ODI series win.

The English total, which was anchored by Jonathan Trott's unbeaten 84, never looked enough, but Australia's top-order woes again opened the door to the tourists, as they slumped to 100-5 with four of the top five failing to reach double figures.

While Brad Haddin made a half-century before throwing his wicket away to part-time seamer Paul Collingwood (2-25), Australian captain Michael Clarke's poor run continued after he made just nine.

It was left to Hussey to steer the chase, making an unbeaten 68 from 89 balls, with support from Steve Smith (26) and John Hastings (18 not out).

Trott provided England's only innings of substance, as they attempted to avoid a third successive defeat after losses in Melbourne and Hobart.

Trott, who was involved in a disastrous mix-up that saw captain and opener Andrew Strauss run out for 23 when both batsmen ended up at the same end, did his best to hold the innings together, but lacked support.

England started poorly with wicket-keeper Matt Prior dismissed for his second successive duck at the top of the order since being recalled to the side, trapped lbw by Brett Lee.

Eoin Morgan overcame a scratchy start to make 30, but holed out to Clarke at mid-wicket from a loose delivery by part-time spinner Hussey.

Collingwood, recalled to replace the injured Kevin Pietersen (groin) again failed with the bat and was bowled by spinner Xavier Doherty for one.

Doherty bowled impressively to finish with 2-37, and had a third wicket cancelled out on review, while man-of-the-match Lee claimed 3-27 from eight overs.

Both teams were missing key players, with Australia forced to leave out injured duo Nathan Hauritz and Shaun Tait from the team that won by 46 runs on Friday in Hobart.

Hauritz requires surgery on a dislocated shoulder suffered in the field in Hobart and is a doubt for the World Cup, while Tait has a thigh strain.

The home side recalled Doherty to replace Hauritz and promoted all-rounder Hastings.

England were also without all-rounder Tim Bresnan, whose tour has been cut short by a calf strain, but he is expected to be fit for the World Cup.

SCORES IN BRIEF ENGLAND: 214 (Strauss 23, Trott 84 not out, Morgan 30, Wright 32, Woakes 12; Lee 3-27, Doherty 2-37)

AUSTRALIA: 215 for 6 (Haddin 54, Hussey 68 not out, Smith 26, Hastings 18 not out, Tremlett 2-50, Collingwood 2-25)

Result: Australia won by four wickets and lead series 3-0.

Man-of-the-match: Brett Lee.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

MSC FANS FINED

Two Mohammedan SC supporters have been declared persona non-grata for a month at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium following their involvement in harassment of referee Mizanur Rahman earlier this month.

The supporters have been identified as Khokon and Selim both of whom have been fined Tk 10,000 each as they assaulted referee Mizanur on way to the BFF House after conducting the match between Dhaka Mohammedan and Chittagong Mohammedan where the former team's defender Emeku Lucky was sent off.

The disciplinary committee took the decision yesterday and asked Mohammedan to pay the fine to the BFF office by January 29.

The meeting also decided to warn Mohammedan regarding this matter.

PALLIMA SANGSAD

BADMINTON

Four matches of the Prime Bank Pallima Sangsad Badminton tournament were held at the sangsad premises in Khilgaon yesterday.

Rana came from behind to defeat Jitu 14-21, 24-22, 21-7 in the men's singles while Loman-Leon pair beat Anik-Nazrul pair 21-16, 21-15 and Biplob-Ovi pair defeated Reza-Turag pair 21-16, 21-16 in the men's doubles event.

In women's doubles, Dullali-Dola pair outplayed Tania-Bristi pair 21-11, 21-16 to move to the next round.

SHAHEEN COLLEGE SPORTS

Isha Kha House emerged champions in the annual sports of the inter-house BAF Shaheen College held at the college ground yesterday.

Isha Kha House earned 185 points to emerge champions while Sher-e-Bangla House scored 135 points to finish behind the champions.

Air Commodore M Naeem Hasan, also the president of board of directors of the college, distributed prizes among the winners, said a press release yesterday.

PROCESSION FOR MASH

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munsiganj

Cricket-loving public of Sirajdikhan Upazilla under Munsiganj district brought out a procession demanding the inclusion of pacer Mashrafe Bin Mortaza in Bangladesh' squad that would compete in the upcoming ICC World Cup on home soil.

Bangladesh former captain Mashrafe was dropped from the 15-member squad due to his knee injury that broke hearts of many cricket loving people and even the residents of Narail observed a half-day hartal.

After the procession that went through main roads of the Upazilla, the speakers said that match-winning fast bowler as well as a skilled fielder, Mashrafe could have been an important component of the squad and the exclusion of Mashrafe was a self-destructive decision for Bangladesh.

An another move, the students of Dhaka University also formed a human-chain at the foot of the Aparajejo Bangla in protest of dropping Mashrafe.

Armstrong signs off

Cycling

AFP, Adelaide

Tour de France icon Lance Armstrong brought an end to his international cycling career Sunday when he completed the final stage of the Tour Down Under in Adelaide.

Cancer survivor Armstrong won a record seven Tour de France yellow jerseys, but failed to produce fireworks on what was his final professional race outside the United States.

Armstrong won no stages in the six-stage event, finishing 67th overall at 6min 42sec behind 23-year-old race champion Cameron Meyer of Australia.

The 39-year-old American is still contracted to the RadioShack team, for whom he is scheduled to race in a number of multi-sport events.

Armstrong's participation in mountain bike races or triathlons could be determined, however, by the outcome of a federal probe launched following allegations that he doped regularly while racing with US Postal in 1999-2004.

Armstrong said last October that the Tour Down

Under, where he launched his second comeback to the sport in 2009 -- having retired after his seventh Tour de France win in 2005 -- would be his final international race.

Having been forced onto the defensive earlier this week in the wake of further allegations of doping in a website report by Sports Illustrated magazine, Armstrong avoided all media after the race's end and instead made a brief appearance on the podium.

The Texan paid tribute to everyone involved with Australia's premier cycling event, which his presence has helped to boost in his three participations.

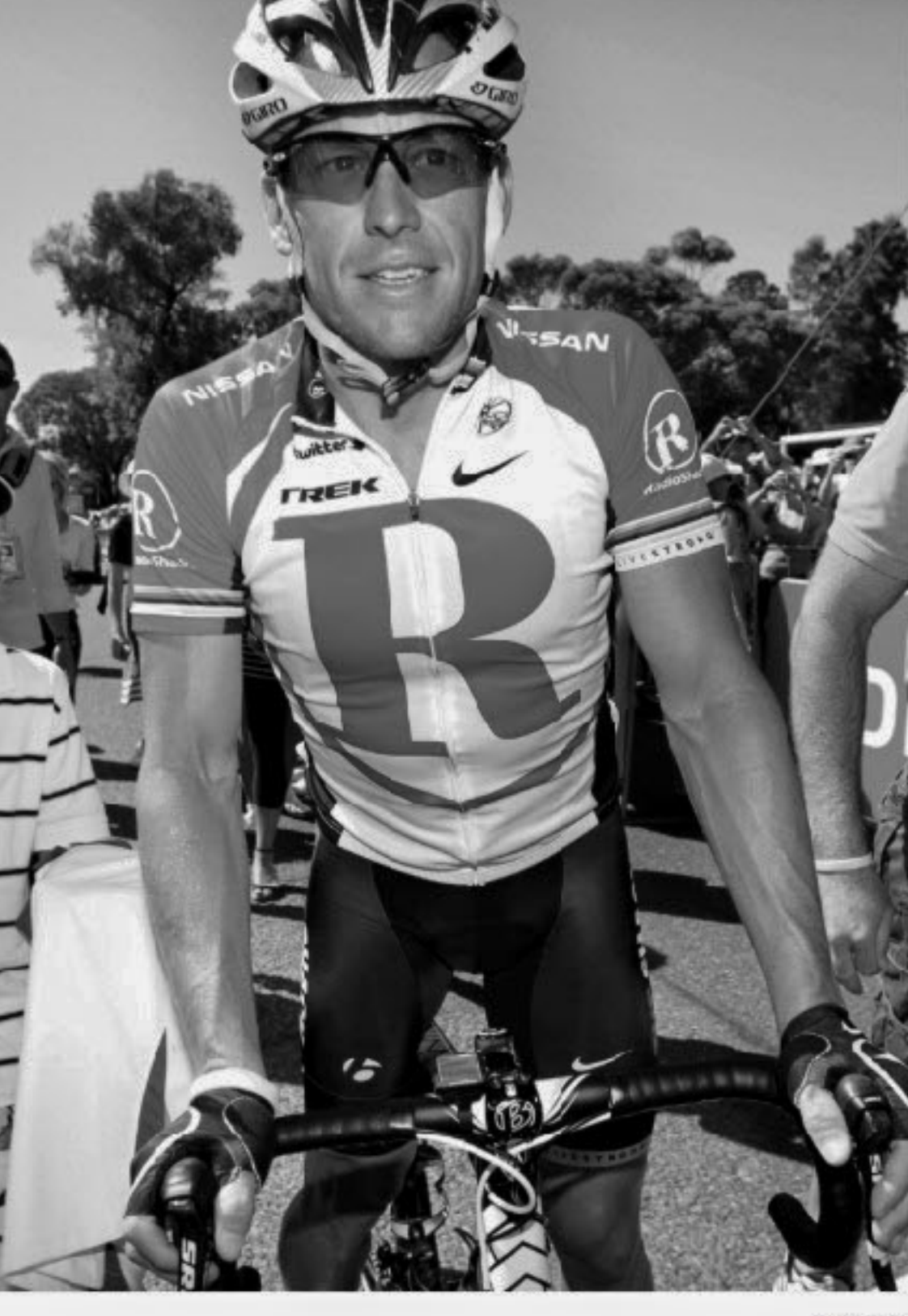
"Thanks for a great couple of years, a great few years. Not just from myself but from all of us in the peloton," he said.

Armstrong will now fly to Brisbane where he has organised a 'Twitter' ride alongside Australian sprint specialist Robbie McEwen, who recently signed for RadioShack.

The 25km event is designed to help raise funds for the Queensland floods fund, and is expected to attract thousands of members of the public on Monday.

"We've had an outstanding response so far and thanks Robbie for getting me on board to help out Queensland in its time of need," Armstrong said in a statement on Sunday.

McEwen said he felt he had to help out his fellow



US cyclist Lance Armstrong talks to the press before the start of Stage 5 of the 2011 Tour Down Under yesterday.

Queenslanders, especially with some of his own family hithard.

"I needed to do my bit to help out. It was lucky we were in Adelaide at the Tour Down Under and the opportunity arose to come up to Brisbane to assist," he said.

SA win series

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Chasing a target of 268 off 46 overs, the Indian top order once again struggled against South African pace, with only Parthiv Patel showing any resistance with a 34-ball

38. Except him, all other top five batsmen fell for single digit scores as Morne Morkel, Dale Steyn and Tsotsobe kept picking regular wickets. Morne Morkel, the Man-of-the-Series, took four wickets while Lonwabo Tsotsobe picked up three.

The victory gave South Africa the five-match series 3-2.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 250 for 9 (Amla 116 not out, Van Wyk 56, De Villiers 11, Duminy 35; Zaheer 2-47, Patel 3-50, Yuvraj Singh 2-45)

INDIA: 234 (Patel 38, Raina 11, Pathan 105, Harbhajan 13, Zaheer 24; Steyn 2-32, Tsotsobe 2-57, Morkel 4-52)

Result: South Africa won by 33 runs (D/L method) and clinched five-match series 3-2.

Man-of-the-match: Hashim Amla.

Man-of-the-series: Morne Morkel.

OPEN SECRETS

AFP, Melbourne

Australian Open

World number one Caroline Wozniacki apologised to media Sunday after making up a story that she had been attacked by a kangaroo during the Australian Open.

Wozniacki, 20, called it a "blonde" moment after she convincingly told journalists she was scratched by the native Australian animal during a visit to a wildlife park.

"It looked so cute but once it started scratching me, I was a coward and I run away," she said.

Wozniacki, who later owned up that she had walked into a treadmill, had a bandaged right leg and gave details about the size of the animal and the treatment she received.

She revealed on Twitter that the story was false, but not before it had appeared on news websites around the world and been broadcast on TV. Wozniacki then called another press conference to apologise.

FUMING DJOKOVIC

Novak Djokovic complained bitterly Sunday over a code violation for coaching as he powered into the Australian Open quarterfinals with a straight-sets demolition of Spain's Nicolas Pietrangola.

The Serbian third seed raised his level to easily get past the Spanish 14th seed, 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 in 1hr 44min on a sweltering day at Hisense Arena.

Djokovic, who won the Australian title three years ago, will now take on Czech sixth seed Tomas Berdych in Tuesday's quarters. Djokovic's scintillating performance was marred by a code violation he received from the French chair umpire Pascal Maria in the third game of the second set, which incensed the Serbian third seed.

"I don't think it was the right call because I missed a forehand and then I turned to my coach," Djokovic said.

"As you always make eye-contact with your team, that's what I did. I didn't ask for any advice because they can't help too much, so I don't understand.

"I just feel that any chair umpire before giving you a violation for coaching, time-wasting or whatever, should give you a warning and just tell you."

Djokovic said it was the first time he had received a code violation for coaching, which usually attracts a fine.

FASHION POLICE ON ALERT

"Nude" underwear and black knee-socks have led a parade of women's fashion disasters at the Australian Open, in a welcome distraction from some humdrum tennis.

Fashion police were alerted when aspiring designer Venus Williams took the court in her "Alice in Wonderland" creation, a yellow criss-cross number showing large amounts of flesh.

The ensemble was completed with a tiny patterned skirt and Venus's famous "nude" shorts, which give the impression she has forgotten to put on knickers.

"The outfit is inspired by Alice in Wonderland. Don't laugh," she said, to guffaws. "It's kind of about a surprise, because when Alice goes down the hole, the rabbit hole, she finds all these things that are so surprising."

Fellow competitors were certainly taken aback, and did not temper their comments about the unusual attire, which one wag said looked like a garden trellis.

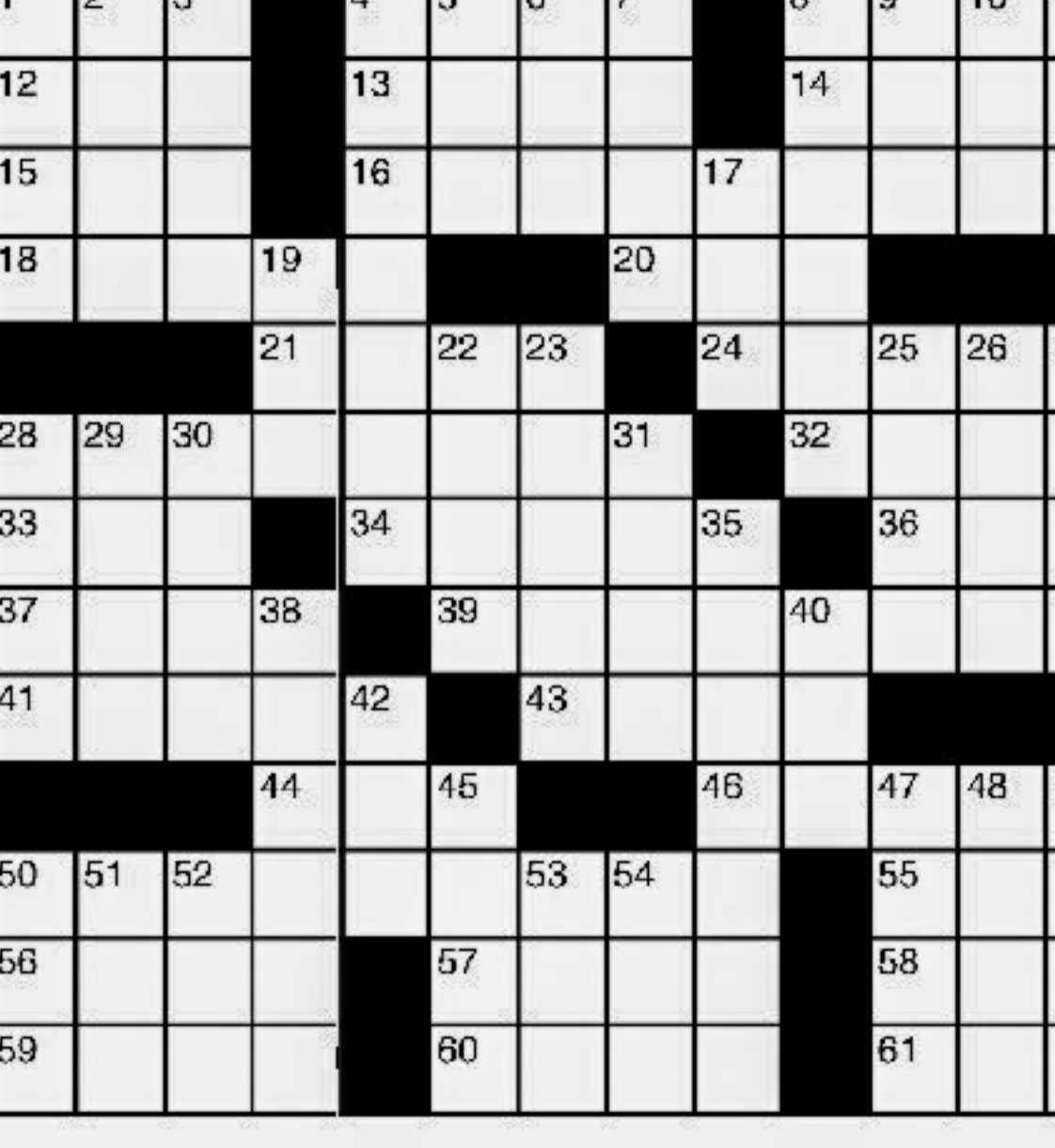
"It looks a little uncomfortable," said Russia's Nadia Petrova. "I hope she doesn't have a tan like a chess board afterwards."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 43 Met 3 Saitor 23 Island 1 Bill melody 4 Shoe-maker's dessert? 25 Bedouin 4 Singer Vikki ailment 26 Easily edited website 8 Prayer ending 46 Travelocity mascot 5 Foreman foe 27 Catch suddenly 12 "Hail!" 50 Boss 6 Tractor-trailer 28 Tournament situations 13 Hedge-podge 55 Edge 7 "That's how I..." 29 Tittle 14 Cougar 57 Appointment 30 Agana's island 15 Meadow 58 Tackle the slopes 8 --- 31 Use a teaspoon 16 High-ranking 18 Bread tidbit 59 Related (to) 9 Make faces for the camera 35 Suppressed laugh 22 Enticement

DOWN 1 Body powder 2 Confirm

Solution time: 21 mins. C A P S L I M P S H E O R E A V E R C O D S C R I M M A G E R U G H O A N T H E R E A T S F A M E I W M A C E F L E X I B L E F R R B R F S T A I R S P A R R O W S F L E A T E A M G I L D S U G A C T I O N A D N A U G H S C R O U N G E D L E E E P I C C A R E L S D D A N K E D F E N



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Yesterday's Cryptogram: WHEN A BABY BEAR IS GETTING READY TO HIBERNATE, DO YOU SUPPOSE IT WILL CREATE A CUBBYHOLE?

Today's Cryptogram Clue: C equals N