



BRIMFUL OF ASHA: Armin Asha (C), who broke her own national record in the 10m air pistol event of National Shooting Championship at the Gulshan Shooting Complex yesterday, smiles alongside silver medal winner Miti Dewan (R) and bronze medalist Sinthia Naznin.

PHOTO: STAR

Evans a hero at home

Cycling

AFP, Sydney

Cadel Evans's historic Tour de France win was hailed Monday as one of Australia's finest ever sporting achievements, ranked alongside Rod Laver's tennis exploits and their America's Cup yachting triumph.

The 34-year-old fulfilled his lifelong quest by securing the title, 30 years after pioneering compatriot Phil Anderson paved the way for dozens of young Australians by becoming the first non-European to pull on the yellow jersey.

"What can I say? I've been dreaming of winning the Tour de France for the past 20 years, ever since I was a 14-year-old," he said, having finished runner-up twice before, in 2007 and 2008.

All the country's major newspapers carried his victory on their front pages, with some comparing the enormity of his feat to Australia's 1983 America's Cup shock, which ended the New York Yacht Club's 132-year winning streak.

The Sydney Morning Herald celebrated him conquering "one of Australian sport's last frontiers", with its cycling correspondent Rupert Guinness, who has covered the Tour since 1987, calling it a huge achievement.

"To watch Evans in a near-perfect tour has been an absolute pleasure. He didn't miss a beat for the entire three weeks," he said.

The Australian broadsheet compared Evans to other Australian cycling icons such as Anderson, as well as Stuart O'Grady and Robbie McEwen, but said he was "undoubtedly the greatest of them all".

Debate over where his win sits among Australian sporting achievements was a theme taken up by Sydney's Daily Telegraph, which ranked it above the America's Cup upset.

But it considered the cycling triumph to be outranked by the feats of Laver -- who won all four of tennis' Grand Slams in the same year, twice, and was the world number one player for seven consecutive years from 1964 to 1970.

When Australia famously clinched the America's Cup 28 years ago, then prime minister Bob Hawke declared that "any boss who sacks a worker for not turning up today is a bum".

And growing legions of cycling fans, encouraged by Evans' wife Chiara Passerini, urged a public holiday Monday in his honour.

But Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who called to congratulate the country's new hero, ruled it out.

While a public holiday is not on the cards, Evans could have a bridge named after him at Barwon Heads in Victoria state, where he lives, while there are suggestions that a new cycling event could be created in his name.

Cycling Australia boss Graham Fredericks said that Evans' achievement would consolidate Australia's status as a major player in world cycling.

Matty making a comeback

AFP, Sydney

Former Australian Test opener Matthew Hayden will come out of retirement to play for Brisbane Heat in the Twenty20 Big Bash next summer, the team said Monday.

The 39-year-old, who retired from international cricket in 2009 after a 103-Test career, last played in the 2010 Indian Premier League with Chennai.

But Heat coach Darren Lehmann, a former Test teammate of Hayden, said he was ready to return.

"He's been training for a few months now so we're excited to have that knowledge around the place," Lehmann told reporters.

Hayden's return means he has to relinquish directorships of the Cricket Australia and Queensland Cricket boards, as current players are not allowed to have both roles.

"We're just excited to have his playing ability first and foremost and obviously his entertainment value, what he brings to the table for the Heat," added Lehmann.

Hayden will play alongside former New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori and compatriot Brendon McCullum in the Heat team, in the new-look domestic competition from December 30-February 5.

Several overseas players have signed up with the eight franchises that will contest the tournament, including South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs, Paul Collingwood of England, and Pakistani Shahid Afridi.

England

FROM PAGE 16

37 four years ago, contemplating the possibility his glittering career will not include a Test century at the 'home of cricket'.

India had started the day on 80 for one, with Rahul Dravid 34 not out and Venkatsai Laxman 32 not out after Prior's unbeaten 103 on Sunday had rescued England from the depths of 62 for five.

The series continues with the second Test at Trent Bridge starting Friday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First innings 474-8 declared (Pietersen 202 not out, Prior 71, Trott 70; Praveen 5-106)

INDIA: First innings 286 (Dravid 103 not out; Broad 4-37, Tremlett 3-80)

ENGLAND: Second innings 269-6 declared (Prior 103 not out, Broad 74 not out; Sharma 4-59)

INDIA: Second innings 261 (Raina 78, Laxman 56; Anderson 5-65, Broad 3-57)

Result: England won by 196 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Kevin Pietersen.

Ishant thanks Zaheer

Cricket

AFP, London

Zaheer Khan may have spent most of the first Test against England off the field with a hamstring injury but fellow India seamer Ishant Sharma credited him with a key role in his own Lord's revival.

The 22-year-old Sharma, a fast-medium bowler, looked decidedly unthreatening during a return of none for 128 in 32 overs as England piled up 474 for eight declared in their first innings.

But the tall paceman was a bowler transformed in the second innings as, with left-arter Zaheer still sidelined, he took four for 59 in 22 overs.

That included a dramatic spell before lunch Sunday of three for one in 16 balls that featured a double-wicket maiden.

Kevin Pietersen, who made a double century in the first innings, was caught behind for one and Ian Bell went for a duck after also nicking to India captain and wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Sharma, asked to explain his personal turnaround, said he'd struggled initially with the eight foot slope that runs across the ground.

But he added Zaheer's suggestion of switching to the Nursery End, which

helps take the ball down the slope and away from right-handed batsmen, had been the key to his success.

"I am playing my first match at Lord's so I was not used to the slope and how to use it," Sharma told reporters.

"My natural ball is in the inswinger but the odd ball was holding its line and I did not know much how it was happening.

"Before the second innings I spoke to Zak, who helped me with some ideas, including bowling from the Nursery End."

However, Sharma added: "I would have been more happy if I bowled similar lines and with the same energy in the first innings as then we could have been in a different position in the match."

Thanks mainly to Sharma, England collapsed to 62 for five on Sunday.

But they ended up making 269 for six declared on the back of Matt Prior's 103 not out and an unbeaten 74 from Stuart Broad, with the duo's unbroken seventh-wicket stand worth 162 at nearly a run-a-ball.

That enabled England to set India 458 for victory -- and no side in what is now the 2,000 match history of Test cricket has made more to win in the fourth innings than the 418 for seven posted by the West Indies against Australia in Antigua in 2002/03.

India, at Sunday's close, were 80 for

one needing a further 378 runs to win in a minimum 98 overs on Monday's final day.

Rahul Dravid, who made a first innings century, was 34 not out and Venkatsai Laxman unbeaten on 32.

Prior, whose hundred was his second in as many Tests at Lord's following his 126 against Sri Lanka last month, said: "I think we're probably just ahead."

The wicketkeeper, playing his natural game, faced just 120 balls, including a six and five fours.

It was Prior's sixth century in 44 Tests and third in all at Lord's where he made 126 not out on debut against the West Indies in 2007.

"I wasn't really expecting to be batting before lunch," said Prior who bats at number seven.

"I was looking at the menu and thinking 'I'll have the rack of lamb, that'll be nice' and there I was taking guard."

The likes of India's Sachin Tendulkar and Australia's Ricky Ponting have yet to make a Test hundred at Lord's but Prior now has three of them to his credit.

"What's not to love about it?," said the 29-year-old Sussex gloveman.

"It's a flat deck, a quick outfield, the sun shines whenever I walk out to bat here," Prior added.

"It's a special place. I made my debut here and started pretty well, I always love coming back."

Cielo triumphs in tears

Swimming

AFP, Shanghai

Brazilian sprint star Cesar Cielo defied a storm of criticism to win an emotional World Championships gold Monday, as a 15-year-old prodigy claimed a thrilling win for hosts China.

Cesar, controversially cleared to swim despite failing a drugs test, sobbed uncontrollably on the victory podium after his 50m butterfly victory, and was comforted by fellow medalists Matthew Targett and Geoff Huegill of Australia.

"I feel like I've been blessed by God... It's a page turned

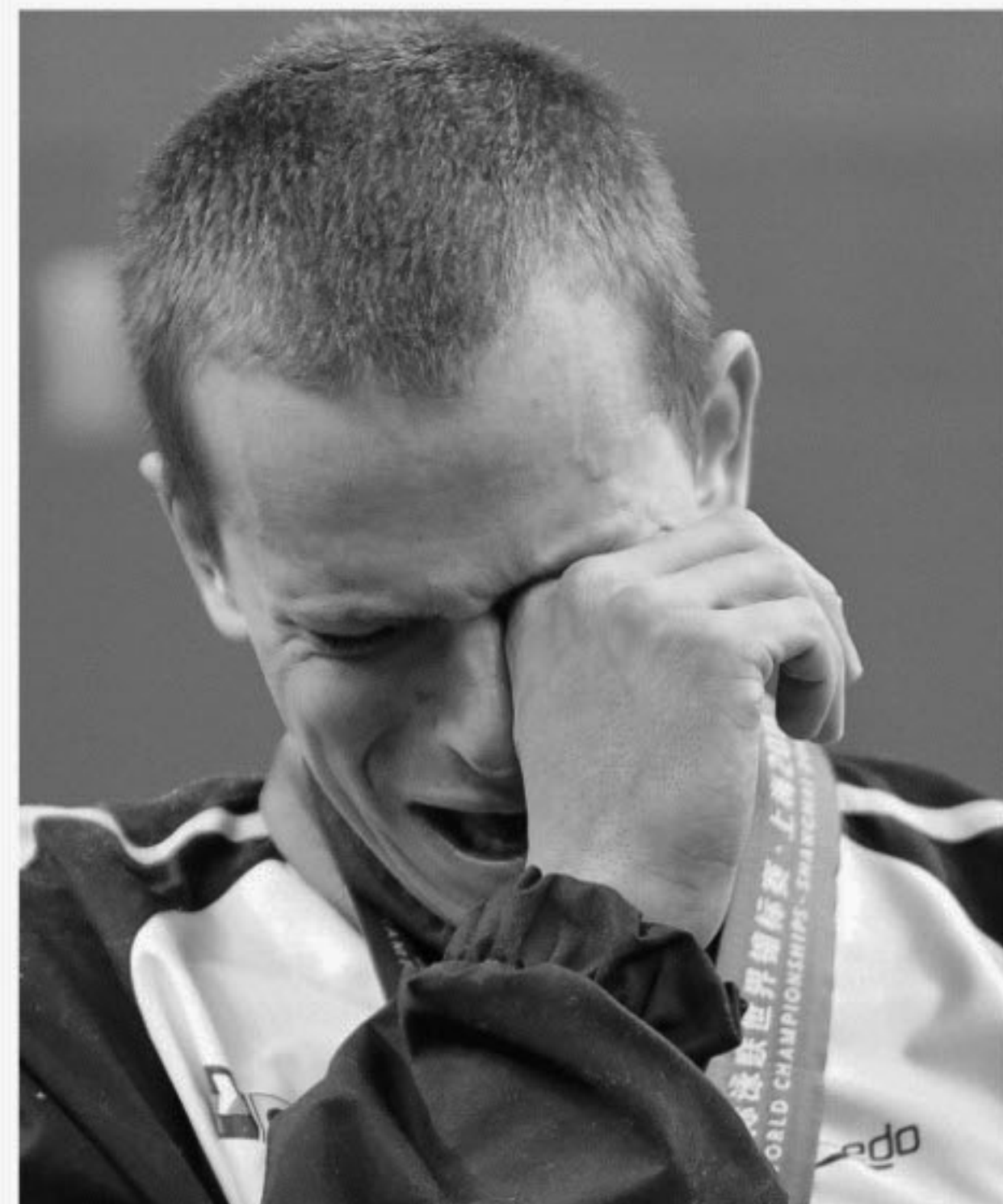


PHOTO: AFP

Gold medalist Brazilian Cesar Cielo cries on the podium during the award ceremony of the men's 50-metre butterfly event in the FINA World Championships in Shanghai yesterday.

already. Now I'm just going to look to the future," said Cielo, whose 23.10sec, was just 0.18 ahead of second-placed Targett.

"This gold medal has a different feel from the other ones. This one was the hardest of my life."

Cielo, 24, has been in the firing line with superstar Michael Phelps and US team-mate Jason Lezak both voicing unhappiness after the Brazilian last week escaped a drugs ban.

The Olympic 50m freestyle champion, who won both the 50m and 100m world titles at Rome 2009, was let off with a warning for testing positive for a banned diuretic, which can be used to mask performance-enhancing drugs.

Cielo denies wrongdoing and blames a contaminated caffeine supplement for the result at Brazil's national championships in May. Three team-mates also tested positive for furosemide.

"It was a tough time. Time to test not only my talent in swimming but how much I could take," Cielo said.

In other action, Asian Games champion Ye Shiwen, 15, recorded host China's first swimming gold in a pulsating 200m individual medley that was met with deafening roars at Shanghai's Sea Crown stadium.

Ye put in a lightning final lap to pip Australia's Alicia Coutts, who won her second silver of the night, by one-tenth of a second in 2:08.90, with defending champion Ariana Kukors of the United States in third.

Australia's Olympic title-holder Stephanie Rice finished fourth.

Elsewhere Olympic silver-medallist Alexander Dale Oen of Norway won the men's 100m breaststroke ahead of Italy's Fabio Scozzoli with South African Cameron van der Burgh third.

Japan's four-time Olympic breaststroke champion, Kosuke Kitajima, was just outside the medals in fourth.

Earlier, American Dana Vollmer, 23, won her first individual title at a world championships in the 100m butterfly ahead of Coutts and China's Lu Ying.

World record holder Sarah Sjoestroem, the defending champion, finished fourth while Australia's "Madame Butterfly" Jessica Schipper was seventh.

Vollmer's victory was attained by virtue of an unusual training regime in the ocean off Australia's Tasmania, and follows a career beset by injury as well as a serious heart problem which required surgery in 2003.

America's 14-time Olympic champion Phelps qualified for Tuesday's 200m freestyle final alongside teammate Ryan Phelps.

Tigers excited about

FROM PAGE 16

fitness training in the last couple of months.

The recent record against Zimbabwe is definitely in favour of the Tigers but still Shakib showed respect to his opponents considering the fact that the weather and conditions will favour the home team.

Zimbabwe have also done well in their preparation games against South Africa A and Australia A to mark their return into Test cricket after a five year self-exiled break.

"I think we are the favourites but I won't say that we are too far ahead since we're playing in their weather and conditions and playing after a good gap, but

still, I think we're the favourites," said a confident Shakib.

In recent times, the Bangladesh bowling has mainly depended on the slow bowlers but it's unlikely that they will get any favours in Zimbabwe, so the absence of front line bowlers like Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Shahadat Hossain is cause for much concern for the Bangladesh captain.

But Shakib still retained his faith in his young pace attack.

"I think (Shahadat Hossain) Rajib is a huge loss. He's been our best Test bowler for quite a while. But those who are in the team, they're bowling well. I think

they've the ability to take wickets," said Shakib, who also rated left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak highly for his last year performance.

The under pressure Bangladesh skipper, who came under scrutiny after criticizing selectors which was followed by his non attendance in training without permission, also said that this tour has created an opportunity for him to prove himself off the field.

"Definitely opportunities come all the time. It depends on you when you want to change your attitude and the way you go about your work. I think it's a great opportunity to prove myself," said Shakib.

Fish retains Atlanta title

AFP, Atlanta

Mardy Fish won the ATP Atlanta Championships for the second straight year on Sunday as he rallied to beat John Isner 3-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-2 in a repeat of last year's final.

After losing the opening set Fish rallied from 1-5 down in the second set tie-breaker, saving two match points to level at a set each.

He then claimed victory through an early break in the third of Isner as the big man began to fade in brutal heat.

Number nine Fish improved to 3-1 overall against Isner and denied his compatriot and good friend a second straight title this month after his grasscourt victory at Newport the week after Wimbledon.

Booters resigned

FROM PAGE 16

Sujan believes they have a chance to move into the qualifying round. "Nothing is impossible but we need a bit of favour as the opponents are a good side."

Badal Roy, chairman of the national team management committee, was quite disappointed with the performance of the national team and raised questions about the booters' commitment.

"Lebanon played superb football and the goals they scored were also beautiful. To be frank, Lebanon are ahead of us in all departments," said Roy who travelled with the players in a bid

to inspire the national team.

"Our footballers have no strength and ability to play with responsibility. They have also no commitment, even they could not play their natural game what they showed in the domestic competitions. To be truthful, Bangladeshi booters are not capable of playing in international matches," said a disappointed BFF vice president.

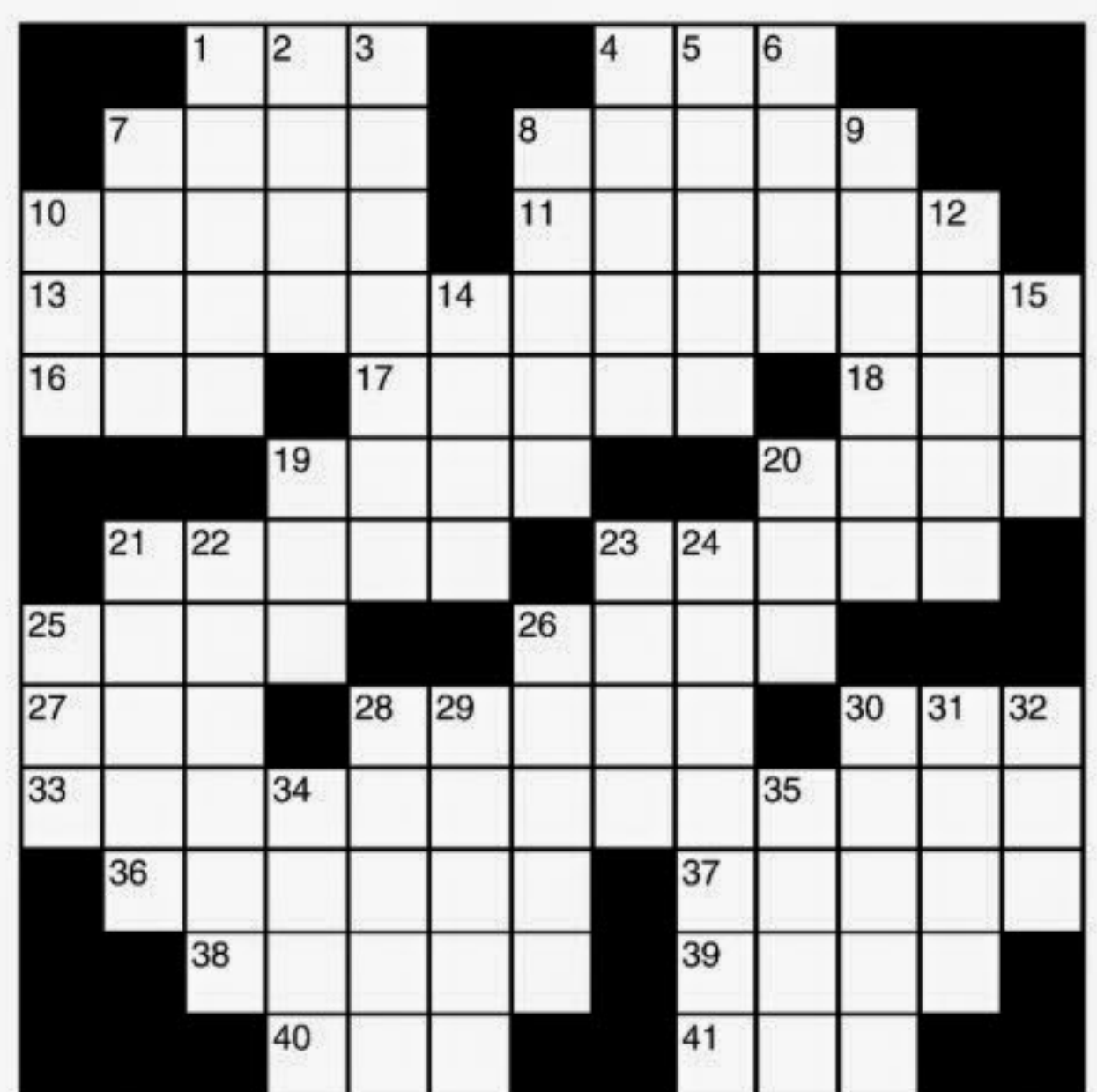
Roy also emphasized the need of improving the club-level training and facilities but avoided questions about the lack of preparation of the national team before the Lebanon ties.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 "— the season ..."
 - 4 Perched
 - 7 Under-stand, slangily
 - 8 Tennis player's sore spot
 - 10 Dish
 - 11 Illinois city
 - 13 Events of 7/29/81 and 4/29/11
 - 16 Type squares
 - 17 "— Foolish Things"
 - 18 401(k) alternative
 - 19 Old World deer
 - 20 Singles
 - 21 Dracula, e.g.
 - 23 Mirror's offering
 - 25 Use the oven
 - 26 Use a teaspoon
 - 27 Geological period
 - 28 Weeps loudly
 - 30 Lawyers' org.
 - 33 No traitor
 - 36 Smoothly, in music
 - 37 Battery terminal
 - 38 Twelve for duels
 - 39 Sorts
 - 40 Teut. Easter-egg preparation
 - 41 Easter-egg preparation
- DOWN**
- 9 — and dining
 - 10 Opposite of post-
 - 12 Coincide
 - 14 Sharpen
 - 15 Airline to Stockholm
 - 19 Regret
 - 20 Rowing need
 - 21 Christmas
 - 22 Accepted
 - 23 "— have to do"
 - 24 Lost
 - 25 — canto
 - 26 Faint
 - 28 Fire
 - 29 Subsequently
 - 30 Heard the alarm
 - 31 Foundations
 - 32 Exist
 - 34 Enthusiastic, plus
 - 35 Sans siblings

Solution time: 21 mins.

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



CRYPTOQUIP

T A R H U B K Z S D N L B W N I F

P B K B H J N I , H G V F D N A O N S

W A L U V D T B K Z R B D V O D V R V I H J F

H G V J D H D B P V W - W N F R .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FOR YOUR HONEYCOMB

INSECTS TO STAY HEALTHY, BE VERY SURE THEY

HAVE ALL OF THEIR BEE VITAMINS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals F