

5 GMs united for BCF polls

SPORTS REPORTER

They are supposed to concentrate on the boards but they have been busy electing the leaders of the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) after adopting a single platform ahead of the May 31 polls.

The country's five grandmasters are leading the way after putting aside their differences, though they have never taken part in a single tournament since Enamul Hossain Razib became the country's fifth Grandmaster in the latter part of 2008.

GM Razib and GM Abdullah Al Rakib avoided playing chess in protest of the appointment of the ad-hoc committee since September 15, 2009 but GM Niaz Murshed, GM Ziaur Rahman and GM Reefat Bin Sattar continued to play under general secretary Mokaddesh Hossain.

Ahead of the BCF polls, 111 councillors out of 117 bought nominations to compete in the elections in four different panels.

However, the five Grandmasters separated into two groups to back their respective panels but they finally came under an umbrella to form a consensus panel after Wednesday's series of late-night meetings in an effort to foil the effort of the District and Divisional Organisers' Association, a controversial organisation who generally play a key role in elections of national federations.

"We are united for the sake of chess. The lone goal is to develop the game and we will maintain the unity at any cost and will not allow the persons who are not involved with chess," said Niaz Murshed, who is a candidate for the post of vice president.

The nominations were supposed to be submitted yesterday but the election commissioner extended the time of submission till 3:00pm on Saturday following the country-wide hartal and the requests made by different candidates outside Dhaka.

"We did not show our interest, rather the players who are divided in different groups, asked us to form a common panel for the sake of chess," said District and Divisional Organisers' Association general secretary Ashiqur Rahman Miku yesterday.

"However, we wanted to ensure the representatives of some districts who have made good contributions in chess and we never want to impose anything on them," claimed Miku.

Victoria outclass DNS

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Victoria Club registered their first win in the Colonel Malek Smriti Premier Cricket League when they defeated Dasha Nabajagaran Sangsad (DNS) by four wickets at Shahid Mirza Tapan Stadium yesterday.

Dasha Nabajagaran Sangsad (DNS) were bundled over for 143 runs in 26.5 overs after deciding to bat first. Ismail made 50 off 67 balls while Masud added 29 runs. Sohagh picked up four wickets while Hira, Sony and Rajib took two wickets each.

In reply, Victoria Club scored 146 for the loss of six wickets in 28.1 overs.

Durjoy scored 25 while Rajib was not out on 22. Plaban and Monwar claimed three wickets each for Dasha Nabajagaran Sangsad (DNS).

Djokovic in Rome qtrs

Tennis

AFP, Rome

Holder Novak Djokovic staged a 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 comeback over Argentine Juan Monaco to earn a place in the quarterfinals at a windy Rome Masters on Thursday.

With gusts making life a challenge on the red clay, top seed Djokovic had to smash a racquet into useless bits of composite material to get himself going after losing the opening set to "Pico," best friend of Rafael Nadal on the ATP.

The outburst came after the Argentine had finally converted on a fifth set point in the blustery conditions.

The Serb went down a break in the second set but got it back with one more for insurance as he levelled at a set apiece. It took a break for 5-3 in the final set to put the Serb into position to close out victory on his second match point.

Djokovic finished with 16 winners and 40 unforced errors, a symptom of the windy conditions which have bothered players all week. He now leads Monaco 6-0 as the pair played for the first time on the South American's preferred surface.

Rome is one of the four Masters 1000 titles which Djokovic has won in multiple editions, along with Indian Wells, Miami and Canada.

Spanish sixth seed David Ferrer knocked out French 11th seed Gilles Simon 6-0, 7-6 (7/5), while Madrid finalist Tomas Berdych, seeded seventh, reached the last eight as he put out Spaniard Nicolas Almagro 7-6 (7/3), 6-3.

On the women's side, top seed Victoria Azarenka faces a French Open fitness battle after a right shoulder injury forced her to withdraw before her third-round match.

The Belarus player pulled out prior to her third-round match, handing a walkover win to Slovak Dominika Cibulkova.

With just 10 days until the start of the French Open, the Belarusian will hope for a quick recovery ahead of her bid for a second straight grand slam title.

Wimbledon winner and fourth seed Petra Kvitova battled to overcome Romanian Sorona Cirstea 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 while German 12th seed Angelique Kerber beat German compatriot Julia Goerges 6-4, 6-1.

Italy's Flavia Pennetta continued to thrill home fans, crushing Petra Cetkovska 6-0, 6-1.

Punjab stay in hunt

IANS, Dharamsala



Kings XI Punjab severely dented the chances of Chennai Super Kings qualifying for the playoffs and kept themselves in the reckoning with a convincing six-wicket win in the Indian Premier League (IPL) at the picturesque HPCA Stadium here on Thursday.

Skipper Adam Gilchrist, making a comeback to the Punjab set-up after a hamstring injury kept him out of nine matches, scored an unbeaten 64 of 46 balls to carry his team past the 121-

run target set by Chennai.

Thus, Kings XI, with 16 points, moved into the fifth position behind Chennai, on 17. Punjab have to play table-toppers Delhi Daredevils while Chennai have finished all their 16 games.

Two wickets each by Praveen Kumar, Azhar Mahmood and Parvinder Awana helped Punjab restrict Chennai to a paltry total of 120 for seven and gain two crucial points.

Mandeep Singh (24) and Gilchrist gave their team a sprightly start, scoring 51 in six overs, before the Indian youngster got castled by Albie Morkel. In the absence of Shaun Marsh, Punjab's

batting line-up looked thin in star power. Nitin Saini (1) and David Hussey (9) put their team in a spot of bother by getting out in quick succession.

Gilchrist, however, held his end up, hitting out aggressively. He exploded towards the end, scoring 22 runs of Yo Mahesh's 15th over and that sealed the win for Punjab.

Put in on a pitch with a greenish tinge, defending champions Chennai lost Murali Vijay (10) and Michael Hussey (7) without much on the board. Suresh Raina, who is the only player yet to miss a match in the IPL, smacked Mahmood for two sixes. However, he fell caught behind in the same over while slashing at a wide ball.

Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who promoted himself up the order, again played a lacklustre innings scoring six off 16 balls.

West Indian Dwayne Bravo came to the rescue of Super Kings when his team was reeling at 46 for four in the 11th over. He played a watchful innings of 48 off 43 balls, stringing small partnerships with Ravindra Jadeja (13) and Morkel (14) as Chennai stuttered to a below-par score.

SCORES IN BRIEF CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 120 for 7 (Bravo 48, Awana 2-12, Praveen 2-18). **KINGS XI PUNJAB:** 123 for 4 (Gilchrist 64 not out, Mandeep 24; Bravo 2-18). **Result:** Kings XI Punjab won by 6 wickets. **Man-of-the-match:** Adam Gilchrist.



PHOTO: AFP

Kings XI Punjab captain Adam Gilchrist drives a ball down the ground on way to an unbeaten 64 in the IPL match against Chennai Super Kings at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Stadium in Dharamsala yesterday.

C'paul stands in ruins

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slip Anderson held a sharp catch at the second attempt.

Darren Bravo, missed on 29 by second slip Graeme Swann, was run out for that score after a dreadful mix-up with Chanderpaul.

Anderson, bowling round the wicket to Chanderpaul, then saw South African umpire Marais Erasmus raise his finger in answer to an lbw appeal.

Unsurprisingly, Chanderpaul, on 15, called for a review and tracking technology indicated the ball would have missed off-stump.

SCOREBOARD WEST INDIES: First innings

Barath c Anderson b Broad	42
Powell b Anderson	5
K Edwards lbw b Anderson	1
Bravo run out (Prior/Swann)	29
Chanderpaul not out	87
Samuels c Bairstow b Broad	31
Ramdin c Strauss b Broad	6
Sammy c Bresnan b Broad	17
Roach cand b Broad	6
F Edwards c Prior b Broad	2
Extras: (b-6, lb-8, nb-3)	17
Total: (For 9 wickets in 89.4 overs)	243
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-32, 3-86, 4-100, 5-181, 6-187, 7-219, 8-231, 9-243	

To bat: Gabriel

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	25	8	59	2
Broad	24.4	6	72	6
Bresnan	20	7	39	0
Swann	18	6	52	0
Trott	2	0	7	0

ENGLAND: Strauss, Cook, Trott, Pietersen,

Yuvraj hopes to return in 3-4 months

AFP, New Delhi

India's World Cup hero Yuvraj Singh hopes to return to cricket in "three to four months" after recovering from a cancerous tumour, media reports said on Thursday.

Yuvraj, asked by reporters in Chandigarh whether he could make a comeback in a year's time, said: "One year is too late. I am hoping to make an early comeback, maybe by the next three to four months."

The 30-year-old underwent chemotherapy treatment in the United States earlier this year after being diagnosed with a rare germ-cell tumour between his lungs.

BCB names

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but still we have decided to start the camp because we want to utilise even a day," said Sabbir Khan, cricket operations committee manager.

"But it would not be possible to arrange the practice matches in Khulna as per schedule as we believe that Premier League matches will be more effective than the practice matches," he added.

Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal will not be available for the camp as they are on duty with their respective franchises in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL).

SQUAD Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Jahurul Islam, Nazimuddin, Mahmudullah, Nasir Hossain, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Abdur Razzak, Shafiul Islam, Nazmul Hossain, Elias Sunny, Shahadat Hossain, Mohammad Ashraful, Junaed Siddiqui, Naem Islam, Alok Kapali, Shuvogata Hom, Forhad Reza, Enamul Haque, Anamul Haque, Abul Hasan, Mominul Haque, Al Amin, Alauddin Babu and Ziaur Rahman

Gayle keeps RCB alive

DNA, Delhi

Chris Gayle smashed yet another century as Royal Challengers Bangalore got the better of table-toppers Delhi Daredevils by 21 runs to keep their chances of making the play-offs alive.

Eleven runs came off the first over of the match as Tillakaratne Dilshan hit Irfan Pathan for two fours. But Gayle played out the second over for a maiden, off Umesh Yadav. It seemed that on a flat Ferozeshah Kotla wicket, Gayle might not come good.

But by the time the innings ended, Gayle had reached 128 not out off just 62 balls as RCB raced to 215 for one.

Gayle scored 38 off his first 34 balls. But from the next 28 balls, he smashed 90. Gayle hit 13 sixes, including three off Irfan Pathan in the 14th over, and another three off Pawan Negi in the 16th.

Virat Kohli played a good supporting hand, hitting 73 off 53 balls, the duo sharing 204 unbroken for the second wicket.

Delhi replied with 194 for 9. Ross Taylor scored his first fifty of the tournament in a match that saw Virender Sehwag and Morne Morkel take a break.

SCORES IN BRIEF ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 215 for 1 in 20 overs (Gayle 128 not out, Kohli 73; Aaron 1-38)

DELHI DAREDEVILS: 194 for 9 in 20 overs (Taylor 55, Rao 36, Russell 31, Parameswaran 3-30, Zaheer 3-38) **Result:** Royal Challengers Bangalore won by 21 runs. **Man-of-the-match:** Chris Gayle.

CAB dominant

SPORTS REPORTER

Subhrajit Das continued his good form, making his second hundred as the visiting CAB Under-15 tightened their grip on Bangladesh Under-15 on the second day of the three-day match at Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Opener Subhrajit remained not out on 120 while Kazi Junaid was not out on 66 as the visitors scored 220 for one before stumps were drawn for the day.

Earlier the home side were all out for 215 runs thanks to Riazul Islam, who along with number nine batsman Kazi Anik (49), helped their team cross the two-hundred mark.

Riazul scored 71 off 203 balls with the help of five boundaries. Angshuman was the most successful bowler with three for 68.

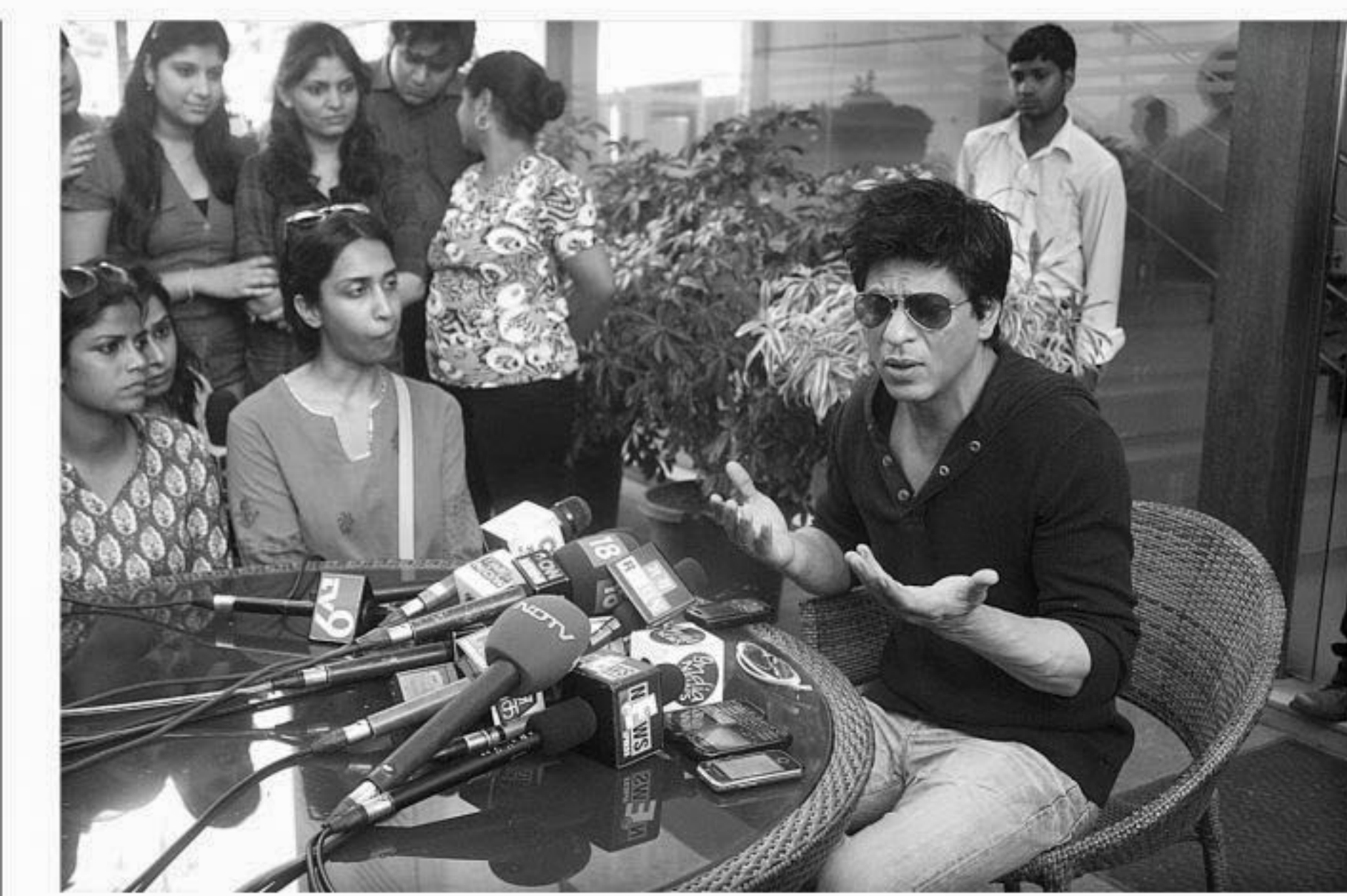


PHOTO: AFP

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan (R), who faces a police probe and a lifetime ban from Mumbai's main cricket stadium following a late-night row with staff, addresses the media at his home in Mumbai yesterday.

SRK faces Wankhede ban

The superstar's late night brawl to be probed

AFP, Mumbai



Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan faced a police probe and a lifetime ban from Mumbai's main cricket stadium on Thursday following a furious late-night row with staff at the ground, officials said.

The actor, who co-owns the Indian Premier League (IPL) team Kolkata Knight Riders, took a group of youngsters including his daughter Suhana onto the pitch of the Wankhede Stadium after a match on Wednesday night.

A security guard tried to stop them from playing, leading the multi-millionaire actor to argue angrily for 10-15 minutes before finally giving up and leaving the stadium, an AFP photographer witnessed.

"Security officials told him to leave, but Shah Rukh Khan started the brawl," Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) secretary Nitin Dalal told NDTV news.

"He entered the ground half an hour after the game. The officers told him that this was not the right time. He misbehaved and he used foul language."

Dalal said the MCA had filed a police complaint and would ban the cricket-crazy star from future attendance at the Wankhede Stadium.

"He'll not be allowed for any match -- Test match, one-day international or any T20 or IPL matches hereafter. That is what we have

decided," said MCA treasurer Ravi Savant. Savant said MCA president Vilasrao Deshmukh was among the officials and security personnel "abused" by Khan, adding that the stadium ban would be "for life".

The sweaty and dishevelled appearance of Khan, one of the most popular stars of the nation's prolific Bollywood film industry, was a far cry from the carefully managed image presented through his advertising and acting roles.

The 46-year-old was embroiled in another ugly row in January after a female director accused him of assaulting her husband at a late-night party.

Khan has also been summoned to appear before a court in Jaipur later this month after he was seen smoking at the city's main cricket stadium, in violation of anti-smoking laws.

Balbir Punj, a senior leader of India's political Bharatiya Janata Party, told NDTV that Khan was an icon and public figure who "should know how to behave in public".

He referred to an incident last month that saw Khan detained by US immigration authorities for questioning on arrival at a New York airport.

"When he was humiliated in America, the entire country stood by him. He should respect others and the law must take its course," Punj said.

Khan's agent was unavailable for comment on Thursday.

Paperboy Pappu's Invasion

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There they had a five-day training camp where he and a fellow left-arm spinner would get selected to come to Dhaka for the screening camp.

His cricketing idol is Daniel Vettori, the former Kiwi captain, and he tries to emulate Vettori's action. "I wasn't always a spinner. I would bowl fast, but my coach advised me to switch to spin and everything turned around for me just like that," Pappu adds.

Life is now better for Pappu because of cricket, making 500-600 taka per

match, playing for a third division qualifying team. But he knows the journey has just started. "I would like to make it to the U-17 national team, and if not at least make it to the Premier Division. And representing the national team is always on my mind," he hopes.

Pappu's story just goes to show that cricket can be a great equaliser, and even though the road may be long and full of obstacles, mixed with some good luck, one can truly look to have a rags-to-riches story.

FROM PAGE 16 South Asian Games. The organisers have occupied those rooms since February after the NSC annual general meeting and they are allegedly pulling strings of polls of different federations. They are allegedly quite active in the Bangladesh Chess Federation polls to accommodate their followers.

"We are getting older and need some comfortable places," said Miku. "If we don't stay in well-decorated places, then how can we accommodate athletes in good places." Without elaborating on any details, NSC director (administration) Athar Hossain told reporters that those rooms were allotted to the organisers.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41 Birdcage attachment	DOWN	21 Derek and Diddley
1 — Wan Kenobi	43 Swab the floors	1 October birth-stone	23 Knock
4 Health resort	44 Way out	2 Skeletal component	25 Gambling game
7 Recording	46 Stretchy candy	3 Tinty amount	26 Ms. Brockovich
11 Swimming venue	50 Pop singer Lady —	4 Weep	27 Agents, for short
13 Lummock	53 To and — to	5 Role	28 Riches
14 Thing	55 Col.	6 In a state of conflict	29 Sheltered
15 Opposed	57 Settled down	7 Ontologists' concerns	30 Tarzan's wife
16 Buddy	58 Into the sunrise	8 Dined	31 Dine
17 Options list	59 Big party	9 Corral	35 Leg, slangily
18 Rife with foliage	60 Storm center	10 Flightless bird	38 Gender
20 Tooth-paste container	61 Next-to-last Greek letter	12 Vitaly important	40 Deterioration
22 Hearing organ		19 Sweet potato	42 Winchester or Springfield
24 Shoe without laces			45 Salver
28 Sleepwear			47 Envelope part
32 Trap			48 Commotion
33 Verve			49 Bigfoot's cousin
34 Wrinkly-faced dog			50 Talk on and on
36 Faucet problem			51 Chicken —
37 Gives temporarily			king
39 "The Big Bang Theory" star Jim			52 Our soldiers
			54 Have bills

Solution time: 24 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Saturday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I