

**Bairstow hits ton**

AFP, Mumbai  
Jonny Bairstow hit a century to spare England's blushes on Saturday, after a dramatic collapse on the opening day of the three-day tour match against Mumbai A.  
The tourists slipped to 66-4 in the first session after electing to bat, before Bairstow's rescue act steered them to 338 for six by stumps at the DY Patil stadium on the outskirts of Mumbai.  
The 23-year-old made 118 with the aid of 14 boundaries to put himself in contention for the first Test against India starting in Ahmedabad on November 15.

Bairstow put on 156 for the fifth wicket with Eoin Morgan (76) and 107 for the sixth with Samit Patel, who followed his century in the tour opener against India A with an unbeaten 59.

England's search for an opening partner for skipper Alastair Cook after the retirement of Andrew Strauss did not make any headway as both Nick Compton and Joe Root fell cheaply.

Compton, grandson of former Test batsman Denis Compton, scored zero and one in the two innings he has played so far on the tour, while Root fell for 28 on Saturday.

The tourists rested Cook and star batsman Kevin Pietersen for the match against a makeshift Mumbai team comprising players not selected for the ongoing Ranji Trophy first-class match.

**Booters fly to Nepal**

SPORTS REPORTER

A 20-member squad of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Junior XI, along with officials, reached Nepal yesterday morning to take part in the 2nd Safal Pokhara Gold Cup tournament. The team is staying at the Moon Light Resort in Pokhara.

Bangladesh will play directly in the second round against the winners of the match between McDowells RCT and Yeti Himalayan Sherpa Club on Tuesday.

Mohammad Linkon is leading the side. National coach Saiful Bari Titu has been given the duty to guide the young booters in the tournament.

**Control**

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"My team will be tactically different from the current one. But the aim will be the same - winning. Nevertheless, that will be a hard job," said Ardesher who has worked as assistant coach of different clubs in the Iranian First Division before turning an AFC instructor in 2007.

Ardesher also said that he knows Sheikh Jamal Dhanmundi Club and Sheikh Russel KC will be the two main challengers to the title and he has respect for Mohammedan as well, a club once coached by his friend and countryman, the late Nasser Hejazi.

The 63-year old coach arrived in Dhaka on Friday night and is expected to stay with Abahani till the AFC President's Cup.

Ardesher will get little time to prepare Abahani as the sixth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League is scheduled to get underway from November 13.

Ardesher is Abahani's second Iranian coach after Ali Akbar, who guided the club to the professional league triumph last season.



England batsman Jonny Bairstow nudges the ball away on the leg-side on way to scoring a century during the first day of a three-day practice match against Mumbai A and at the DY Patil Stadium in Mumbai yesterday.

**Barcelona shoot to record start**

AFP, Madrid



LFP

Barcelona beat Celta Vigo 3-1 at Camp Nou yesterday to set a new club record start to the season and go eleven points clear of bitter rivals Real Madrid, who play later against Zaragoza.

Adriano Correia put the Catalan side ahead after 21 minutes and while Mario Bermejo momentarily brought Celta level minutes later, David Villa quickly restored the lead while Jordi Alba secured the win in the second half.

Barca have now nine wins and a draw so far which beats the previous best start by Louis van Gaal's 1997-98 side.

Correia put Barca ahead when Pedro Rodriguez got in front of full-back Roberto

lago on the right and crossed for the Brazilian to knock the ball home from close range.

The celebrations had barely finished though before Celta were level. The Barca defence was split wide open by a pass for Alex Lopez who exposed Busquets lack of pace and, although Valdes saved his shot, Bermejo was on hand to slot in the rebound.

Barca restored their advantage with a delightful move as Villa back-heeled the ball to Iniesta who got to the deadball line and pulled it back for Villa once again to score.

Right after the restart Aspas had a shot which went inches wide from a tight angle but Alba increased Barca's lead after 60 minutes. Villa flicked on an Iniesta pass to the full-back who did well to round the keeper and finish but replays showed he was clearly off-side.

**Rajib rules**

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Ziaur Rahman became 10th with 8 points, GM Niaz Mursheed finished 22nd, FM Debaraj Chatterjee secured the 29th place and IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagor became 31st, all of them collecting 7 points each.

GM Abdullah Al Rakib finished 34th with 6.5 points, WIM Shamima Akter Liza became 61st and FM Nasir Ahmed became 67th with 6 points, IM Abu Sufian Shakil became 75th, FM Taibur Rahman 76th and FM Mehdi Hasan Parag became 78th with 5.5 points each.

**Proteas toil in Sydney**



REUTERS, Sydney

Alex Doolan stroked his highest first class score as Australia A's middle-order coped comfortably with South Africa's pace attack and moved into a 352-run first innings lead by the close of the second day of their match on Saturday.

Doolan was on 161 not out when captain Andrew McDonald declared Australia A's first innings closed at 480 for seven after lunch, as the visitors toiled on the slow-paced wicket at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The visitors were 128 for one at the close of play, with Hashim Amla (27) and JP Duminy (two) together after Alviro Petersen was the only South African wicket to fall.

Petersen went after mistiming a sweep shot from spinner Glenn Maxwell and Nathan Coulter-Nile took the catch, dismissing the opener for a patient 38 from 108 balls.

South Africa captain Graeme Smith had retired on 60 to give other players in the side some valuable time in the middle as his side build up for their first Test match against Australia at the Gabba on November 9.

Doolan and several other of the second-tier Australian side's middle order made a mockery of reputedly the best

pace attack in world cricket with the Tasmanian 26-year-old combining with Maxwell (64) and wicketkeeper Tim Paine (60) for 133 and 152-run partnerships respectively.

Australia A had begun the day on 325 for seven, with Doolan on 76 and Paine on one and proceeded to keep the South Africans in the field until well into the fifth session of the match as Doolan scored his fifth first-class century and surpassed his previous high score of 149.

Opening batsman Rob Quiney (85) and Steve Smith (67) had both scored half centuries on the first day.

The world's top ranked bowler Dale Steyn was the pick of the South African attack, finishing with three for 54 from 22 overs as he continually troubled the Australian A batsmen.

Steyn's fellow fast bowler Vernon Philander finished with a poor return of none for 88 for 21 overs, while leg-spinner Imran Tahir was expensive in finishing with two for 157 from 40 overs.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**AUSTRALIA A:** First innings 480 for 7 declared in 135 overs (Doolan 161 not out, Quiney 85, Smith 67, Maxwell 64; Steyn 3-54, Kleinveldt 2-60)

**SOUTH AFRICANS:** First innings 128 for 1 in 44 overs (Smith 60 retired hurt, Petersen 38; Maxwell 1-35)

**Mixed day for national**

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third day with his score on 40, to reduce Chittagong's lead, which stood at 179 runs at close of play.

**RANGPURVS KHULNA**

Rangpur, resuming the day on 284 for 7, managed to reach 388 courtesy of some late-order hitting by Ariful Haque. The tail-ender smacked seven sixes and four boundaries to help his side post a formidable total. In reply, Khulna lost four wickets with youngster Anamul Haque anchoring the innings. He remained not out on 41 as Khulna reached 112 for four at stumps, trailing Rangpur by 276 runs.

**RAJSHAHIVS BARISAL**

Only two wickets fell on the day, both taken by Barisal's Sohag Gazi, as Rajshahi continued to pile on the runs. The game, which has already witnessed two centuries, might see another on the third day with Jahurul Islam just 12 runs away from the three-figure mark.

**DHAKAVS DHAKA METRO**

The pitch at the SBNC continued to support the bowlers as the capital witnessed another low-scoring affair. Dhaka were bowled out after adding 42 runs to their overnight total of 123 for seven. An entertaining half-century by Nurul Hasan was the only bright spot in an otherwise dreadful batting innings. In reply, the Dhaka Metro batsmen almost replicated their first innings performance as they ended the day on 128 for 6 with a lead of 168.

**Nadir goes**

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channel India TV. "We are trying to submit our findings to the board as soon as possible but we desperately need Nadir Shah to complete the job," added Alamgir without elaborating on their findings.

Shah, the well-known Bangladesh ICC panel umpire was plunged into controversy last month following India TV's sting operation which claimed to have exposed six umpires from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka willing to give wrong decisions in lieu of money.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has provisionally suspended the six umpires who allegedly agreed to spot-fix matches when approached by undercover India TV reporters.

**Blues lose top spot after Swansea draw**

AFP, Swansea



Barclays Premier League

Chelsea endured a frustrating end to a controversial week as they failed to reclaim top spot in the Premier League after

Pablo Hernandez earned Swansea a 1-1 draw with an 88th-minute equaliser.

Victor Moses's first league goal for the Blues had looked set to secure an away victory at the Liberty Stadium on Saturday before Hernandez continued the Swans' recent resurgence under Michael Laudrup with a superb strike.

Chelsea have claimed just a point from their last two league matches after defeat by Manchester United last weekend.

They now trail new leaders United by a point following the Red Devils' 2-1 win against Arsenal at Old Trafford earlier on Saturday.

Although clear-cut chances had been at a premium, it had been an even and entertaining first half, yet the European champions, who replaced Oriol Romeu with Ramires upon resumption, then increased their grip on proceedings.

Tremmel excelled by tipping a Hazard free-kick around his post but, from the resulting corner, Chelsea got their goal.

Oscar's pinpoint set-piece was headed goalwards by Gary Cahill and Moses, inside the six-yard area, executed a sublime headed flick which flew in off the underside of the crossbar in the 61st minute.

It looked as though the Blues had done enough to escape with all three points, yet Hernandez had other ideas as he exchanged passes with substitute Itay Schechter before driving a low shot into the bottom-right corner which escaped Cech's reach.

**Simon on, Tsonga off**



AFP, Paris

Gilles Simon thrilled home fans by reaching the semifinals of the Paris Masters on Friday as he beat Czech fifth seed Tomas Berdych 6-4, 6-4 -- only to find himself next facing the surprise packet of the week.

There was disappointment for fellow Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga as he lost to Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer 6-2, 7-5.

Tsonga went down after saving two match points as Ferrer, winner of his sixth title of the season last week in Valencia, advanced in 80 minutes.

France put a second man into the last four as unseeded Michael Llodra defeated American Sam Querrey 7-6 (7/4) 6-3 to next play Ferrer.

Simon will attempt on Saturday to

end the dream run of lanky Polish qualifier Jerzy Janowicz, who reached the final four as eighth seed Janko Tipsarevic quit with illness (sudden fatigue) after being seen on court by the doctor, 3-6, 6-1, 4-1.

Simon has been making his own luck all week after starting out by beating former Australian Open finalist Marcos Baghdatis and then putting out lucky loser Victor Hanesec, who replaced absent top seed Roger Federer in the draw.

Simon had a free pass into the quarters as Japan's Kei Nishikori pulled out before their third-round match with an ankle injury.

He said he was satisfied with his performance and was happy to play well at a tournament that he loves in front of a home crowd, including his young son.

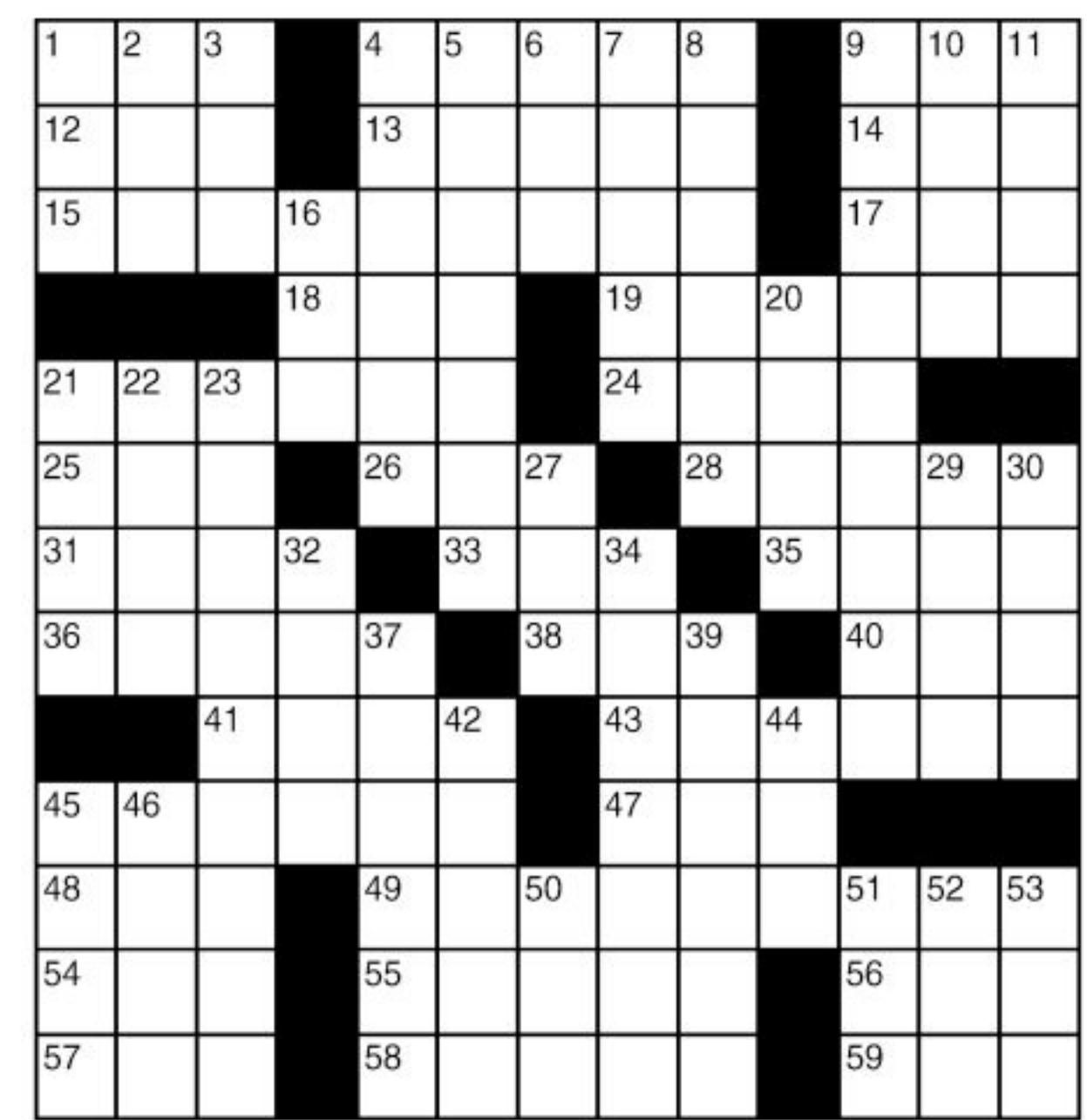


Spanish tennis player David Ferrer stretches to hit a forehand during his Paris Tennis Masters Series quarterfinal victory over France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga on Friday.

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

- ACROSS**  
1 Binge  
4 San —, Calif.  
9 Write in the margins  
12 Time of your life?  
13 — -Saxon  
14 Raw rock  
15 India's movie industry  
17 Meadow  
18 "The — Daba Honey-moon"  
19 Zigzag on skis  
21 Agile  
24 Alluring  
25 Commotion  
26 Banned bug spray  
28 Not intoxicated  
31 — podrida  
33 Knight's address  
35 Protuberance  
36 Alabamacy
- DOWN**  
1 Poke  
2 Past  
3 Tooth-paste type  
4 Convertible couch  
5 To the center  
6 Id counterpart  
7 Lip cosmetic  
8 A bunch  
9 Dinghy's cousin  
10 Cream-filled treat  
11 Squad  
16 Science workshop  
20 Nerve  
21 Neighbor of Cambodia  
22 Not working type  
23 Model who co-starred in "Las Vegas"  
27 Gratuity  
29 Writer Ferber  
30 Authentic  
32 You love (Lat.)  
34 Party animal  
37 In the thick of  
39 Confirm a password, perhaps  
42 Laziness  
44 Bando of baseball  
45 Craze  
46 Hodge-podge  
50 Shelter  
51 Sprite  
52 By way of  
53 Hostel

**Solution time: 24 mins.**



**CRYPTOQUIP**

S G A P W P V U X A T P V T W B ' S  
M Q P S H V P Q V X Y V X P U B I W W I .  
S G W N ' T W Y T V H S U H V X X N  
M A U B W I V S S G W P G U Y .

**Saturday's Cryptoquip:** BECAUSE THE BANK HAD A CLAIM ON THAT MAN'S SIMPLE SHACK, COULD YOU SAY IT HAD A LEAN-TO LIEN?  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals R