

**V-Day hockey**

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Air Force, Bangladesh Army and BHF Eleven won their respective matches in the Southeast Bank Victory Day Hockey Tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh Air Force handed a 5-2 defeat to Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Army defeated Bangladesh Navy 4-2 and BHF Eleven thrashed BKSP 7-3.

**Malik, Hafeez**

**FROM PAGE 16** Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Off the last ball of the same over, Kumar produced a gigantic inswinger to sneak between the defences of Umar Akmal.

Kumar bowled an exceptional spell of three for nine from his four overs, but once he finished his quota at the start of the innings, Hafeez and Malik took full toll on the other Indian bowlers.

Hafeez started cautiously but soon found his groove, targeting the India spinners on the unresponsive pitch. The assault started from the eleventh over as the pair punished India's part-time bowlers Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh and Ravindu Jadeja. At the end of the fifteenth over which produced 16 runs courtesy of a six each by Malik and Hafeez, Pakistan had reached 99 for three and the game was all but in the bag.

Earlier, India wasted an excellent start by openers Gautam Gambhir and Ajinkya Rahane, who took them to 77 for the first wicket. Rahane fell in the eleventh over for a 31-ball 42 when he was caught by Umar Gul at deep extra cover off Afridi.

It was Gambhir's dismissal, trying an ill-advised second run to be found short of the crease in the thirteenth over, which started the disintegration. The feared middle order trio of Kohli, Singh and captain Dhoni were all dismissed through a combination of tight bowling and rash shots. Kohli was caught behind off the third consecutive wild swing in the fifteenth over by newcomer Mohammad Irfan.

Ajmal found just enough turn to sneak past Dhoni's flailing bat and disturb the off bail while Yuvraj tried to hit a slower off-cutter from Gul out of the park but only mistimed it to deep midwicket. Yuvraj's wicket left India at 115 for five in the 17th over, and a score nearing 150 was still possible.

But India then twice lost a pair of wickets in successive deliveries - Suresh Raina's and Rohit Sharma's in the eighteenth over by Ajmal, and Jadeja's and Sharma's in the 19th by Gul -- to be left floundering at 124 for nine. Tailenders Kumar and Dinda then took nine off the last ten deliveries to take India to 133 for nine.

**Tariquul sets**

**FROM PAGE 16** representing BJMC, won the silver medal.

BJMC also dominated in the women's 1000 metre category with Sonia Yeamin Ovi winning gold at a time of 17.80 seconds while her teammate Nabila Islam Mala finished second at a time of 18.08 seconds. Fatema Akhter Shila won bronze medal timing 18.10 seconds.

The Bangladesh Ansar team however beat BJMC in the 1200m team time trial as veteran Akashi Sultana led the way along with Parul Akhter, Sharifa Akhter and Fatema Khaun.

**Yes-no over Clarke**

**Aus-SL second Test starts today**



REUTERS, Melbourne

Australia will wait until the very last minute to decide if Michael Clarke has recovered sufficiently from a hamstring injury to lead the side out for the second Test against Sri Lanka at Melbourne Cricket Ground on Boxing Day.

Clarke was forced to retire hurt while batting on the fourth day of the opening match of the series in Hobart and while Australia is reluctant to risk aggravating the injury further, the 31-year-old has shown improvement over the last few days.

The leading Test run scorer this year put himself through batting and fielding practice on Tuesday and sounded confident he would be fit to start the match.

"I'm still pretty positive I'll be right for tomorrow," he told a media

conference. "I haven't run at 100 per cent but I've certainly built up over the last three days."

Clarke said he was "improving every day" but would have to wait until the morning of the match to see if there was any reaction to Tuesday's practice.

"I did a fair bit of running today in the indoor nets. A decision can't be made today," he added. "I really need to wait and see how I pull up tomorrow morning."

Waiting in the wings should Clarke not make the Test is top-order batsman Usman Khawaja, though coach Mickey Arthur was leaning towards the skipper taking the field in front of a huge crowd at the MCG.

"If I was a betting man I'd bet on Michael Clarke leading the team out on Boxing Day," he said.

"We've got to be mindful as well, much like the Mitchell Starc decision, as to the amount of important cricket we've got coming up."

Australia have opted to rest 22-year-old pacesman Starc as part of a controversial rotation policy after a swathe of injuries decimated their pace bowling stocks.

Front-line seamer Ben Hilfenhaus has been ruled out with a side strain, joining James Pattinson and Pat Cummins on the sidelines.

Mitchell Johnson, who was dropped following the third Test against South Africa, has been recalled to the side while Jackson Bird, the leading wicket-taker in the domestic Sheffield Shield, has been called up for his first Test.

Only Peter Siddle, who took nine wickets in a player-of-the-match performance at Hobart, has been retained in the pace attack while off-spinner Nathan Lyon has also kept his place.

Australia lead the three-match series 1-0, with the third Test scheduled to begin in Sydney on January 3.



PHOTO: INTERNET  
Sri Lanka's Nuwan Kulasekara (L) and Lasith Malinga chat during a practice session in Melbourne yesterday. The second Test between Australia and Sri Lanka starts at the Melbourne Cricket Ground today.

**Security at its peak**

AFP, Bangalore



Police were out in full force in Bangalore on Tuesday as part of a massive security operation ahead of Pakistan's first cricket tour of India for five years.

The tour, the first by Pakistan since 2007, begins with a Twenty20 international which would be played under lights at Bangalore's Chinnaswamy Stadium later Tuesday.

Iron barricades were lined up and riot control vehicles on duty as security men patrolled the stadium in the heart of Bangalore, the capital of the south-eastern state of Karnataka.

"We have completely sanitised and secured the stadium. We are confident that the match will be played without any disruptions," a security officer on duty told AFP.

Police were seen carrying out heavy frisking at the imposing stadium gates with as many as 200 surveillance cameras mounted on masts for constant monitoring of all activity in and around the ground.

A crack police force, including Indian army commandos, were guarding the luxury ITC Gardenia hotel, where both teams are staying.

The teams are set to play another Twenty20 match in the western city of Ahmedabad followed by three one-day matches during the short series, which is

the first since the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

The Islamist attacks which killed 166 people led to a complete breakdown in relations between the two countries before efforts were renewed last year to bring their fragile peace process back on track.

Hardline Indian nationalist organisations including Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Shiv Sena have both threatened to hold protests outside all the venues, slamming the Indian government's decision to host Pakistan.

New Delhi has defended the move by stressing the need to move the "clock forward".

Crickets has been used in the past to mend diplomatic ties between the two nations, which have fought three wars since they gained independence in 1947.

In a show of diplomatic bonhomie, the prime ministers of both nations symbolically shook hands as they watched their teams in the semifinal of last year's World Cup in the northern Indian city of Mohali.

But the prospects of a diplomatic dividend this time round appear slim and there has been no announcement of a visit by a Pakistani leader for any match.

The local press on Tuesday lamented the lack of buzz that usually marks the build-up to India-Pakistan encounters.

The Indian Express newspaper noted that the series had been put together more as a "neighbourly gesture than anything else, leaving the tour in many ways fighting for context".

**Div I football**

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Wanderers Club recorded an emphatic 4-0 win over Sun Rise Sporting Club in the Popular Life Insurance Senior Division Football League at the Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Opu struck twice while Khoka Babu and Rubel netted one goal apiece for Wanderers Club, who led the first half 3-0.

Mamun of BGB won individual gold beating Osman Gani of Bangladesh Army Archery Association in 7-1 sets while Ashiquil Islam of Dhaka Army Archery Club won bronze medal beating Tariquul Islam of BKSP in 7-5 sets.

**Archery with**

**FROM PAGE 16**

Nishit said there are some talented archers among both men and women from whom they would pick 18 archers each for further training and take them to recurve bow and Compound event.

Kaniz Fatema Nipa won women's individual gold beating her teammate Momtaz Akhter Mim in 6-2 sets while Nandita Khan won bronze medal beating Roksana of Bangla College in 6-4 sets.

Dhaka Army Archery Club beat BKSP by 214-207 points to win gold medal in the men's team event while BKSP beat Bangla College by 213-148 points to win women's gold medal in team event.

**Sachin overwhelmed by fans' love and support**



PTI, New Delhi

Overwhelmed by the tributes that have poured in ever since he announced his retirement from one-day cricket, senior Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar on Tuesday said the "love and support" brought tears to his eyes.

The 39-year-old, who quit ODIs on Sunday, has been holidaying in Mussoorie after announcing his decision.

Opening up on his Twitter page after the decision which left quite a few surprised, Tendulkar said the emotional reaction to his retirement left him overwhelmed.

"Words are not enough to express my thanks to each of you for all the love & support I have received over the years...& especially now in the last couple of days.

Your expressions have brought joy to my heart...& at times a tear to my eye!" Tendulkar wrote.

"... Those magical moments of our ODI journey will stay with me for the rest of my life. Thank you so much :-), he said.

Tendulkar retired from the ODI format at the top of the run-getters' list with 18,426 runs which included 49 hundreds and 96 half-centuries.

The diminutive right-hander, who played six World Cups, was also the first batsman to score a double hundred in the 50-over format.

Considered the most complete batsman in modern cricket, Tendulkar celebrated the biggest moment of his ODI career last year when the Indian team won the World Cup for only the second time in its history.

Tendulkar remains active in the Test arena where he has 15,645 runs in 194 matches, including 51 hundreds.

**Rafa not coming to Abu Dhabi**



AFP, Madrid

Former men's tennis world number one Rafael Nadal's long-awaited return after an agonising six-month knee injury battle has been put off because of a stomach infection he revealed on his Twitter and Facebook sites on Tuesday. The 26-year-old Spaniard - who hasn't played since his shock second round exit to 100th-ranked Lukas Rosol at Wimbledon in June - had been due to play in a six player exhibition tournament in Abu Dhabi this week ahead of his return to the ATP circuit at Doha from December 31.

He was due to join world number one Novak Djokovic and US Open champion Andy Murray among others at the three day event.

"I am really sorry but I cannot compete this year in Abu Dhabi," wrote the seven-time French Open champion and presently ranked number four in the world.

"Everything was ready and I was really eager to return to competition, but the doctors have forbidden me to participate in Abu Dhabi because of a viral infection of the stomach

which has provoked a fever." Nadal, an 11-time Grand Slam title winner, has been plagued by knee injuries throughout his career, a legacy of his all-action style.

But earlier this week he shrugged off any fears that despite falling to number four in the world rankings, he is no longer a threat to Djokovic, Murray and world number two Roger Federer.

"I haven't forgotten how to play. I have played over 600 ATP matches and I have spent two years without playing. My feeling is good. I won Roland Garros and those emotions are still me," he said.

**Asif's first**

**FROM PAGE 16** with shooting throughout the year helped him regain his form a bit.

"I am happy to win the gold medal after three years but I am not satisfied with the scores I achieved," said Asif adding that the score could have been better if he could have trained with others, but he had to do it alone at BKSP.

"However I am trying to return afresh and winning a gold medal will inspire me to reach my goal," said Asif.

**Div I cricket**

**FROM PAGE 16**

Tasin Hasin Cricket Academy won by 100 runs. **BARIDHARA DAZZLERS:** 163 all out (Mosharaf Hossain 49, Zahid Javed 38; Ali Akbar 4-35, Mostafizur 2-13, Raihan Anas 2-26)

**MAGNUM CRICKETERS:** 164-6 in 46.5 overs (Mostafizur Rahman 47, Sohail Rana 25, Salauddin Ahmed 25; Shukran 2-22, Zahid Javed 2-26)

**SURJO TORUN CLUB:** 162-9 in 50 overs (Habibur Rahman 47; Newaz 3-16)

**KATHALBAGAN GREEN CRESCENT CLUB:** 163-9 in 48.3 overs (Islam 37, Newaz 27; Sharif 3-17)

**Result:** Kathalbagan Green Crescent Club won by one wicket.

**ORIENT SPORTING CLUB:** 135 all out in 44.1 overs (Hafizur Rahman 51, Ikhtedar Nazem 50; Abu Bakkar Siddiq 4-22, Mustafizur Rahman 4-14)

**ESKATON SABUJ SANGHA:** 139-1 in 25.1 overs (Jony Talukder 56 not out, Hasanuzzaman 36, Waliul Karim 32 not out; Hosain Hasu 1-21).

**Result:** Eskaton Sabuj Sangha won by nine wickets.

**Dhaka**

**FROM PAGE 16**

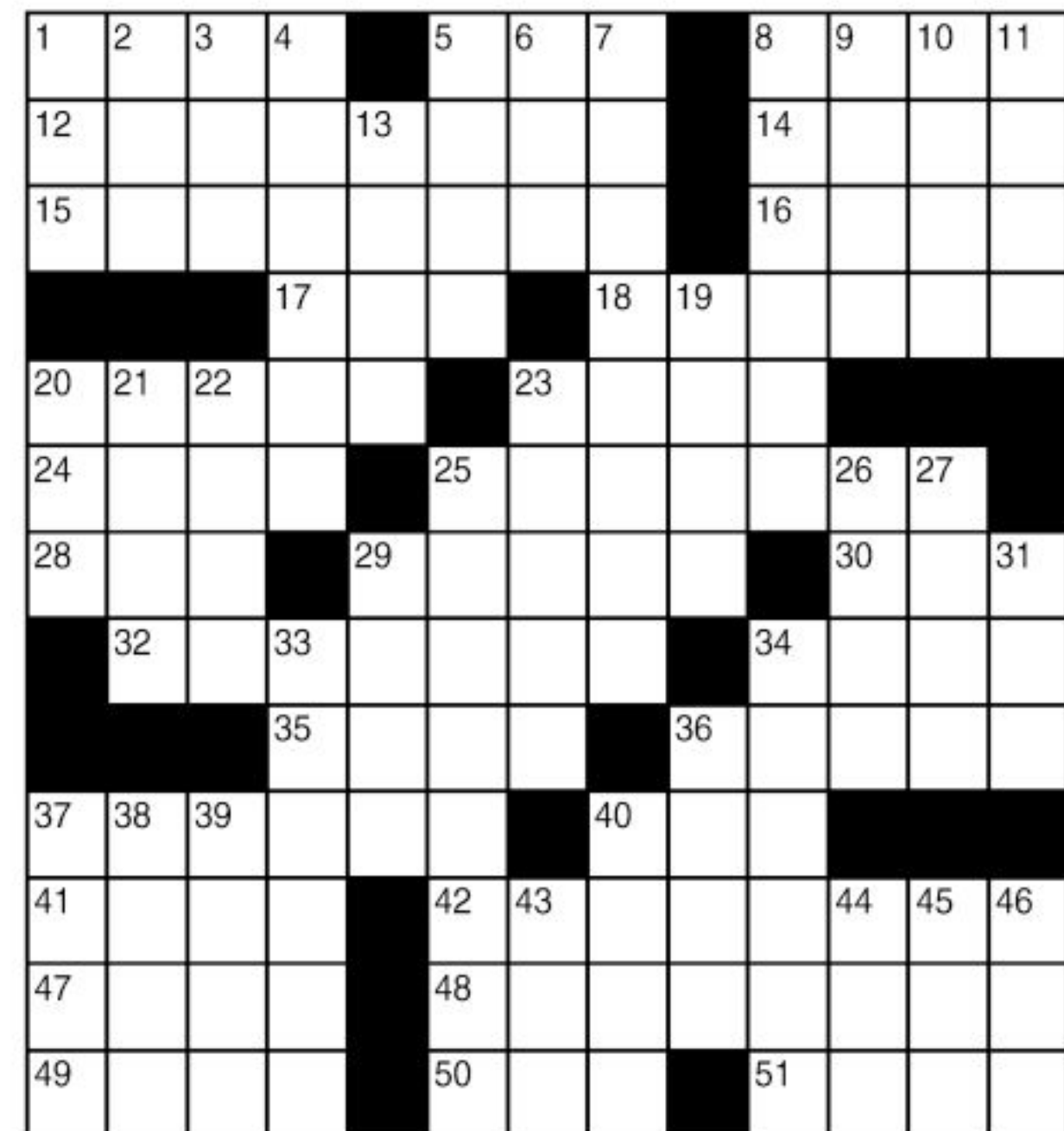
Tikkanen Hans and GM Carlsson Pontus. However, IM Abu Sufian Shakil lost against IM Smith.

Dhaka were scheduled to play against Saratov City of Russia yesterday night in the knockout phase.

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Innocent one
  - 5 Unhappy
  - 8 Lovers' quarrel
  - 12 Nautical hanger-on
  - 14 Not pizzicato
  - 15 Barbecue fuel
  - 16 Tarzan's transportation
  - 17 Qty.
  - 18 Pictures
  - 20 Chunk of cheese
  - 23 Read bar codes
  - 24 A Great Lake
  - 25 Hire, as a boat
  - 28 — the season to be jolly
  - 29 Word with mouth or training
  - 30 Solemn promise
  - 32 Brown or Sheen
  - 34 Darling
  - 35 Swindle
  - 36 Chicago, the — City
  - 37 Dig up
  - 40 Trigonometry ratio (Abbr.)
  - 41 Cons' opponents
  - 42 Entrancing
  - 47 Relaxation
  - 48 Coffee liqueur
  - 49 Sight organs
  - 50 Obama, before he became pres.
  - 51 Shriill bark
- DOWN**
- 1 Eng. channel
  - 2 "That feels so good!"
  - 3 Lingerie item
  - 4 Anger
  - 5 Highlander
  - 6 — carte
  - 7 Fragile
  - 8 Learned one
  - 9 Overly proper one
  - 10 Dermatologist's case
  - 11 "Piggies"
  - 13 Pinnacle
  - 19 Little lamb's owner
  - 20 Sopping
  - 21 Guitarist
  - 22 Plate
  - 23 Comic bit (Var.)
  - 25 Gathers
  - 26 Divisible by two
  - 27 Highway
  - 29 — and proper
  - 31 Kind of wit
  - 33 Mistreats
  - 34 Unnerve
  - 36 Apple invader
  - 37 Duel tool
  - 38 MRI fore-runner
  - 39 Firetruck necessity
  - 40 James of "Brian's Song"
  - 43 Hasten
  - 44 Rage
  - 45 Zero
  - 46 Space

Solution time: 24 mins.



**CRYPTOQUIP**

T M H W Z M L D J P M A Q Q F K Z  
I K Z K M L J B C V J L G F M K Z  
W L M G L T M B P N K L D I N B C  
M P N R K N L Q: "RAQKTAH RBNJVNB."

**Saturday's Cryptquip:** THAT FELLOW COMPLETELY LIED WHEN HE SAID HE WOULD DO ALL THOSE REPAIRS FOR ME. HOW MEND-ACIOUS!  
Today's Cryptquip Clue: G equals W