

Gregs to pay heavy price

Sports Reporter

The untoward incident at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium Tuesday which marred the Five Star versus The Greys Club Group A final of the fifth Rahimafrooz Federation Cup basketball tournament led to the scheduled semifinal between Angels Club and Greys yesterday afternoon falling through, thereby causing an unwelcome but perhaps unavoidable interruption in the ten-team meet.

The Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation (BABF) which met at an emergency meeting at its Dhaka Stadium office yesterday evening, took a serious view of the whole incident and adopted a series of stern decisions.

Putting the blame for the cocktail or cracker throwing incident squarely on the shoulders of The Greys Club, the federation scratched the guilty team from tournament, thereby giving Angels Club, their semifinal opponents, a free passage into the final of the competition. Besides, The Greys will also have to pay a fine of Taka 5000 to the federation for its unruly behaviour which also cost four of their players — Anup Kumar Biswas, Iqbal Hossain, Mahmudur Rahman and Kazi Mahub Hassan — dear. These four, along with the assistant coach Imran and player Tanveer of Five Star, have been banned

from taking part in any basketball competition organised or sanctioned by the BAAB. In addition, in a welcome show of resolution, the federation issued strongly worded censure against both the Greys and Five Star clubs for bringing the game into disrepute.

So far so good. Now it remains to be seen whether the federation can get on with the remainder of the ill-fated Federation Cup meet. According to the schedule, Five Star will take on defending champions Dhaka Winners Club in the only semifinal of the meet at 5:30 this afternoon to earn the right to play Angels Club in Saturday's final.

Botham picked for one-dayers

Sports Reporter

LONDON, May 13: In-form allrounder Ian Botham will be on England's lineup for the first two one-day international cricket games against Pakistan, team selectors decided Wednesday, reports AP.

Now playing for Durham, the latest county to join the English league, Botham has produced some fast scoring with the bat and taken plenty of wickets in the opening days of the season.

The 36-year-old former Somerset and Worcestershire player was also one of England's most consistent players in the World Cup competition in March, helping the team to the runner up position behind Pakistan.

England plays Pakistan at Lords May 20 at The Oval May 22.

The 13-man squad is: Graham Gooch, Ian Botham, Robin Smith, Alec Stewart, Neil Fairbrother, Graeme Hick, Mark Ramprakash, Richard Lamb, Chris Lewis, Derek Pringle, Phillip DeFreitas, Richard Illingworth, Gladstone Small.

IR in DU cricket final

Sports Reporter

Department of International Relations have moved into the final of the Dhaka University inter-department cricket competition.

They recorded an exciting solitary wicket victory over Department of Marketing in the first semifinal at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Winners International Relations will take on the victors of the today's semi final between Management and Finance Departments on May 17.

Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University and the Chairman of the Sportsboard Professor Waqil Ahmed will attend the occasion as the chief guest.

In yesterday's semifinal, Marketing made the first use of the pitch and collected a reasonable 175 runs for the loss of five wickets in 33 overs, sent down by the beleaguered international relations bowlers.

Mamun top scored with 86 while Sadrul and Asif made 37 and 19 respectively for Marketing.

Atiq with three for 51 was the pick of international relations bowlers while Abid took one for 18.

International Relations cruised past Marketing's total making 176 for nine wickets in 30.0 overs.

Atiq, who has been in excellent touch this year, top scored with 86 while Ruhul and Suman made 12 respectively.

Abu took three wickets for 34 and Mamun got one for 30 for Marketing.

Abu took three wickets for 34 and Mamun got one for 30 for Marketing.

Abu took three wickets for 34 and Mamun got one for 30 for Marketing.

Abu took three wickets for 34 and Mamun got one for 30 for Marketing.

Abu took three wickets for 34 and Mamun got one for 30 for Marketing.

BJMC punchers to the fore

Sports Reporter



Action from yesterday's 11th national junior championships at the Muhammad Ali Boxing Stadium. —Star photo

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) punchers reigned supreme in the ring yesterday, the second day of the five-day 11th national junior and second intermediate boxing championships at the Muhammad Ali Boxing Stadium.

All five BJMC boxers won their respective quarter-final bouts yesterday.

Md Faisal Alam made the good start for BJMC by beating Kafizul Hossain of Mcherpur on points in the junior under 35 kg mosquito weight event for below 15 years of age.

Others who won their bouts in this weight category were Md Ali Hossain of Kushtia and Md Hyder Ali of Jessore Education Board.

In the junior under-38.5 kg gnat-weight division, Falzur Rahman of BJMC was declared

the winner against Md Wasul Islam of Dinajpur when the referee stopped the contest to spare Wasul further punishment.

Shadul Islam of Bagerhat won against Md Mustafizur Rahman of Thakurgaon in similar fashion while Abdus Satter of Kushtia outpointed, Md Shahidul Islam of Mcherpur in the last bout of the weight division.

Md Tipu Sultan of BJMC won against Md Abu Zafar Alamgir of Rajshahi in the fly-weight (under-42 kg) quarter-final when the referee stopped the contest after Alamgir had taken too much of a beating.

Md Masum of Sathkira won on points against Shahajahan of Dinajpur in another flyweight quarterfinal.

In the under-45 kg bantam-weight division, Md Iftekhar Alam of BJMC knocked out Md Anwar Hossain of Jessore Education Board in the second round of their three-round contest.

Md Motalab Hossain of Khulna beat Abu Noor Md Abdul Mannan of Rajshahi on points while Md Redwan Hossain of Rangpur won against Naitai Das of Dinajpur when the referee stopped the contest in the other bantam-weight bout of the day.

Both the bouts of the featherweight (under-48 kg) division were stopped by the referees.

Ashrafal Islam of Jessore Education Board won against Rafiqul Islam of Khulna while Md Akhtarul Alam of BJMC won against Malay Dutta of Sathkira, providing a fitting finale to the earlier good work done by BJMC pugilists.

Thirteen more quarterfinals will be held today while the semi-finals and the finals of the championships are scheduled for tomorrow and Saturday respectively.

Organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Boxing Federation, 98 boxers representing 14 teams are taking part in the two meets which are scheduled to run until May 16.

Venetian desire

VENICE, Italy, May 13: Venice will bid for a share of events in the 2000 Olympics if Milan is picked as host city, the Mayor of the lagoon city said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"We want to host the city's traditional sports which have no impact on the environment," Ugo Bergamo told reporters.

The northern city of Milan is Italy's candidate for the Olympics. Bergamo said Venice would bid for sailing, canoeing, swimming and gymnastics.

"Our choice is for events which bring few athletes — altogether some 2,000 — and which at the same time allow us to use and recover the assets which Venice already has," he said.

Environmentalists have regularly campaigned against events which would increase the amount of visitors to the fragile sinking city. An average 86,000 tourists and commuters flock into Venice every day.

98 boxers to take part in Seoul Cup

SEOUL, May 13: Ninety-eight boxers from 14 countries will take part in the biennial third Seoul Cup international amateur boxing tournament starting on Friday, reports AFP.

Participating countries are Australia with seven boxers, China (Five), Chinese Taipei (Four), CIS (12), Indonesia (Three), Japan (Seven), Kazakhstan (Two), Mongolia (Nine), Morocco (Nine), New Zealand (Six), Philippines (Six), South Korea (12), Thailand (Seven), Uzbekistan (Nine).

At the second Seoul Cup tournament two years ago, hosts South Korea took six gold medals, the then Soviet Union four, Thailand and Mongolia one each.

Course for volleyball refs

A week-long orientation course for the volleyball referees under the aegis of the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation (BVF) will be held in the city next month.

Referees who have not taken part in any similar course and who are under 35 years of age and capable of bearing expenses have been asked to apply through their respective district sports association or organisations in the prescribed form available at the BVF office by June 15.

Army soccer

COMILLA, May 13: The Rangpur Area team defeated hosts Comilla Area team by a solitary goal in a robin league match of the Army football championship at the Comilla Cantonment today, an ISPR press release said.

In another match of the day, Dhaka Engineers team draw goalless with Dhaka Infantry team.

Jessore Area team trounced Anti-Aircraft Artillery team by a wide margin of 7-0 goals while Dhaka Signals team defeated Bogra Area team by 3-0 goals in two other matches on Tuesday.

Stich retires from Italian Open

ROME, May 13: Wimbledon champion Michael Stich was forced to retire from his first round tie in the Italian Open on Tuesday with an injured Achilles' heels, reports Reuter.

Stich, seeded four, took the first set 7-5 against French Davis Cup player Fabrice Santoro but defaulted early in the second set.

The German said he had picked up the injury in Monday's final of the ATP tournament in Hamburg when he lost to Stefan Edberg.

"I really tried to play but felt it was dangerous to push it with the French Open coming up soon," he said.

Stich said he would return to Germany to rest for five days but hoped to play in a tournament in Duesseldorf next week.

Stich's compatriot Boris Becker, seeded three, withdrew shortly before the tournament with a thigh strain.

"I tried to do the tournament director a favour by playing as a lot of people were

here to see a night match but it just wasn't possible," Stich said.

Stich criticised ATP rules which state a player withdrawing at short notice from an event, as Becker did, must be examined by a tournament director or be penalised in the rankings.

"I would much rather have stayed home and rested my injury rather than travel for four hours to get here only to go straight home."

Injuries and upsets meant only eight of the original 16 seeds have made it through to the second round.

Top seeded Americans Jim Courier and Pete Sampras cruised through their first round matches on Tuesday.

World number one Courier beat Austrian Thomas Muster 7-6, 6-4 and Sampras, seeded two, toppled Italian wild card entrant Paolo Canè 6-4, 6-4.



MICHAEL STICH

Courier sails comfortably

ROME, May 13: World number one Jim Courier made light work of Spaniard Francisco Clavet to reach the last 16 of the Italian Open with a 6-2, 6-2 victory on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Clavet, ranked 23 in the world, broke Courier in the third game of the first set. But his joy was short-lived, the American winning the next five games to take the set.

The second set went with service until Clavet was broken in the sixth game. Courier then pulled away to complete an easy win.

Courier looks in prime form for the defence of his French Open title in two weeks.

"I hit the ball cleanly and I'm moving well. It's early in the clay season but it's going pretty well," the 21-year-old American said.

Defending champion Emilio Sanchez of Spain, seeded 11, also went into the third round with a 6-4, 7-6 win over Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland.

The tournament has been hit by the withdrawals of injured Germans Michael Stich and Boris Becker.

In addition, Stefan Edberg decided not to come to Rome, leaving Courier and compatriot Pete Sampras the only two of the world's top five players still competing here.

Six seeds were beaten in the first round, prompting the feeling that many of the top players already have one eye fixed on the Paris Grand Slam event.

But Courier, who has never been past the third round in Rome, said he was concentrating hard on this tournament.

"I always go out and try to give off my best," he said.

Marchers close ranks to speed up Olympic parade

BARCELONA, Spain, May 13: Olympic organizers have ordered athletes to close ranks in order to save time during the July 25 opening ceremonies, reports AP.

A record number of athletes at this Summer's Barcelona Games threatened to slow the opening parade to a crawl, extending the ceremonies beyond their three-hour time limit.

Josep Miquel Abad, chief executive officer of the Barcelona Olympic Organizing Committee, said that problem will be tackled by reducing the gap between nations, cutting the parade distance and tightening the formations of the marchers.

In the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and the 1988 Seoul Games, each delegation was led by a person carrying a sign with the nation's name, followed by the country's flag, then a few team leaders and finally the rest of the delegation.

In Barcelona, the first line will include the sign and the flag, with athletes following close behind. That system will make a minor difference with big teams such as the United States, but will greatly speed small squads that used to spread out to several lines but now can be reduced to two or three lines.

"Ten lines of one person takes the same amount of time as 10 lines of eight people. Each line takes three minutes to go around," Abad said. "You might not believe this, but our system does save a great deal of time."

Marchers will not make a full circle around the stadium, as in previous Olympics, but will parade from an entrance at one end of the stadium to their seats on the other side.

The parade still will last about 95 to 100 minutes — about half the opening ceremonies. Suggestions to speed up the march tempo were rejected.

It will be quick, but not too quick," Abad said. "We don't want people to be almost running. The parade is supposed to be joyful."

Hundreds of multilingual tour guides will be offering free help to athletes, journalists and other visitors during the Summer Olympics.

The city of Barcelona is hiring an additional 100 guides during the Olympics, adding to its normal summer total of 75, to help direct tourists to landmarks, answer questions about the city and give information about public transport.

The city guides, who will be 20-30 years old, will patrol tourist areas such as the Rambias shopping district and

the Sagrada Familia cathedral — but not Olympic venues. They will all speak English and at least one other foreign language.

Olympic venues will have their own guides. Organizers are providing hundreds of guides to athletes and other members of the Olympic family.

Barcelona and surrounding communities will be draped with tens of thousands of banners, flags and signs that organizers hope will capture the excitement of the Summer Games and the flavour of the Mediterranean region.

There will be 45,000 multi-colored pennants, 22,000 signs, 4,567 flags of the 172 participating nations and 16 kilometers (10 miles) of fences wrapped in canvas. Workers also are installing 1,400 kiosks in and around the city.

Olympic symbols and themes will be featured in the banners, which will reflect the work of regional artists such as the early 20th century architect Antoni Gaudi.

The signs will rely mostly on pictograms, with simple words and proper names of venues that visitors from any culture should be able to understand. All signs also will be in the four official languages of these Games — English, French, Spanish and Catalan.

Robson seems prepared to cut his 11-year link with Manchester United to take charge of fellow Premier league side Norwich, reports Reuter.

Norwich chairman Robert Chase confirmed on Tuesday Robson was on the short-list for the job, probably as player-manager, following Dave Stringer's resignation.

Chase said: "Bryan Robson has done a magnificent job for soccer in Manchester and throughout the country. He would be an exciting prospect for thousands of fans and must be carefully considered."

Ray Harford, Kenny Dalglish's right-hand man at Blackburn, is also on the Norwich short-list, along with Luton boss David Pleat, former Southend manager David Webb, former Chelsea boss Bobby Campbell and the club's former midfielder stars Martin O'Neill and Martin Peters.

An announcement is expected early next week.

Robson, 35, scored 26 goals in 90 appearances for his country from 1980-91. He joined Manchester United from West Brom in 1981. His successes include helping United lift the 1991 European Cup Winners' Cup.

Biba faces ban

BONN, May 13: Marathon runner Irish Biba faces a four-year suspension after she tested positive for doping, sources close to the German Athletics Federation said today, reports AFP.

Biba, 27, who finished eighth at the 1991 Tokyo World Championships, was tested positive after a urine test during a training session in Portugal.

Reynolds to take legal action

LONDON, May 13: World 400 meters record holder Butch Reynolds is considering further action.

"We are certainly going to consider further administrative remedies," Peter Alkalay, a special legal counsel to TAC, said.

TAC decided to let Reynolds compete in the United States because of what they saw as irregularities in the testing procedures.

But the arbitration panel dismissed any suggestion that the tests by the Paris laboratory, had not been conducted properly.

The laboratory, under director Jean-Pierre Lefarge, tested all samples from this year's Winter Olympics and Tarasti said.

"To say that one test was unreliable would have been to say that all were," Alkalay said Lefarge had not

provided all the documents required in such cases by the International Olympic Committee's radical committee.

There was sufficient doubt cast on the reliability of the testing to support what TAC has done," he said.

"They (the arbitration panel) argued that there was no doubt and I don't just think the evidence bears that out."

If Reynolds is to have any chance of running in Barcelona he must move quickly to have the panel's decision overturned in court so he can take part in the US Olympic trials next month.

However, the only legal precedent is not encouraging. Four years ago Swiss middle distance runner Sandra Gasser took the IAAF to the High Court in London after the arbitration panel supported the federation's two-year ban for a doping offence. The High Court rejected Gasser's appeal.

Reynolds estimates he has lost 500,000 in the past 20 months, half in legal fees and half in earnings.

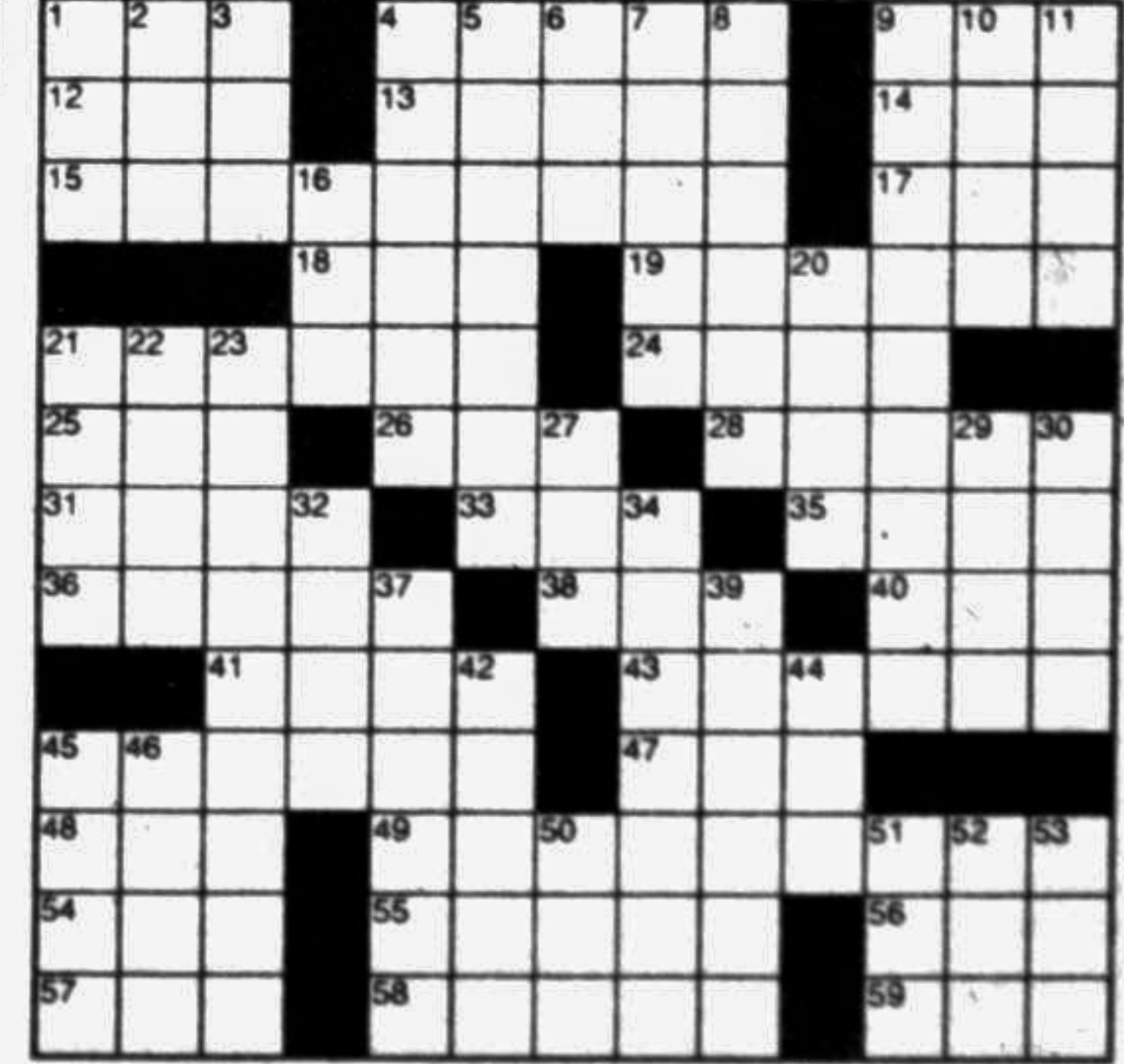
"I thought the world was fair," he said. "But know I can see it's not like that."

Umpires' AGM

The annual general meeting and election of the Bangladesh Cricket Umpires' Association (BCUA) will be held tomorrow, (Friday) at the National Sports Council conference room, says a BCUA press release.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 American educator
- 4 Plumed bird
- 9 Lepidopterist's trap?
- 12 Wrath
- 13 Watered silk
- 14 Tokyo, once
- 15 The Daily Planet, for one
- 17 Come in first
- 18 River island
- 19 Bad-tempered
- 21 Poe's maiden
- 24 Non-sense in London
- 25 Primate
- 26 It might be electric
- 28 Interprets
- 31 Refreshing (poetic)
- 33 Turf
- 35 Anti-terrorist team, for short
- 36 Affirma-
- tive votes
- 59 Strong urge
- DOWN
- 1 "Ich — ein Berliner"
- 2 Miner's quest
- 3 Suburb of London
- 4 "The — Strikes Back" (movie)
- 5 Small beards
- 6 Fictional sleeper
- 7 Upright
- 8 Intense fear
- 9 They work for
- 15 Across
- 10 Remove the errata
- 11 Danza or Curtis
- 16 — Paulo
- 20 Purposes
- 21 Disney dog
- 22 Fencing sword
- 23 Offices for 9
- 27 Born or boy lead-in
- 29 History's Virginia
- 30 Corset support
- 32 Calendar's duration
- 34 Region or domain
- 37 Exhausts
- 39 Fred Astaire, for one
- 42 Anagram of sleet
- 44 Red or Coral
- 45 Eastern nanny
- 46 Naomi's chosen name
- 50 One — street
- 51 Timid
- 52 Even the score
- 53 Capitol VIP



CRYPTOQUIP

O Y E R T J W D H P J Q H B S J L I R Q P Y Q E W D O R E J L A B S R Q J T T C R T G J B A I Q Y S C R E H.

Today's Cryptiquip clue: Q equals R

The Cryptiquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.