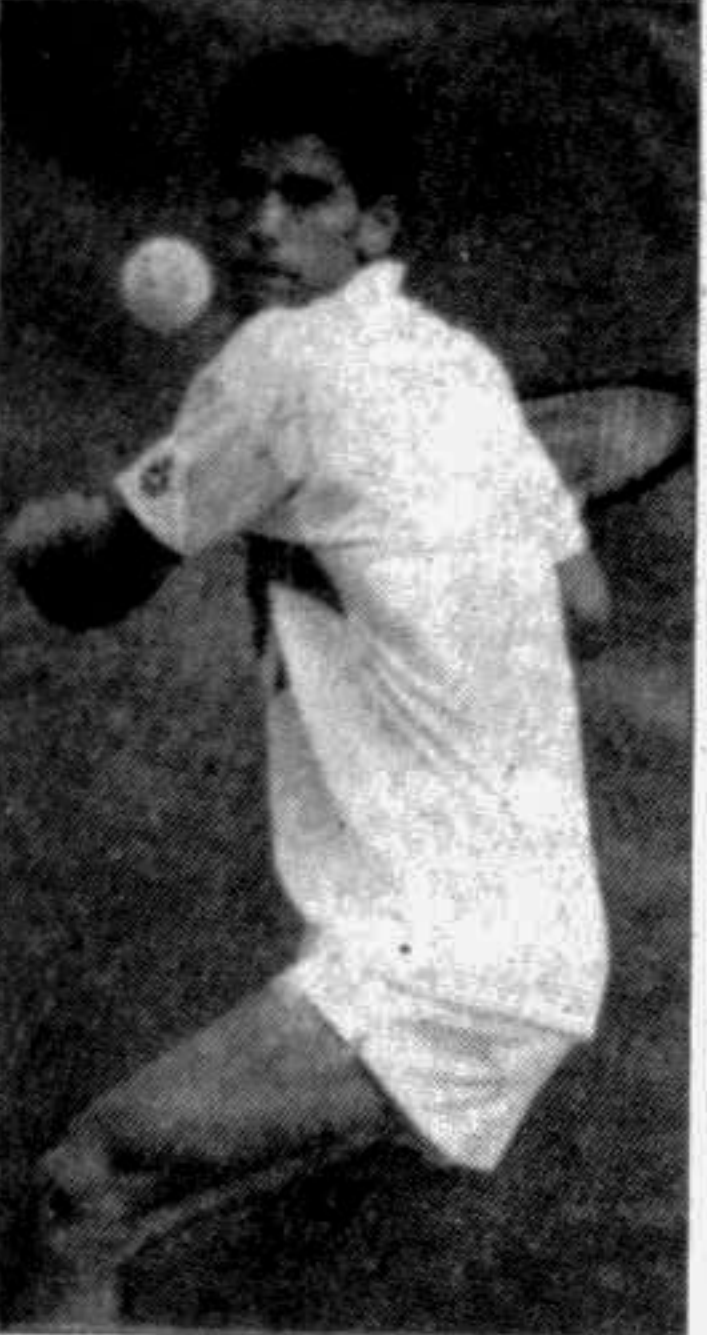


Sampras in semis at Stich's cost

WIMBLEDON, England, July 1: Pete Sampras became the first man to reach the Wimbledon semifinals Wednesday, eliminating defending champion Michael Stich in straight sets, reports AP.

Sampras, who had never gone past the second round in



PETE SAMPRAS

three previous Wimbledon appearances, put on a dominant serve-and-volley performance for a 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 victory.

Sampras looked comfortable from the outset, while Stich was upset at line calls and the slippery conditions on Centre Court and the line calls.

Goran Ivanisevic served 33

aces to oust two-time champion Stefan Edberg 6-7 (12-10), 7-5, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

Two other former champions, Boris Becker and John McEnroe, were also playing quarterfinal matches Wednesday. Becker faced Andre Agassi, while McEnroe was up against Guy Forget.

It took two minutes for third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini



GORAN IVANISEVIC

to finish off Jennifer Capriati in a women's quarterfinal match suspended by darkness Tuesday evening.

Sabatini, leading 6-1, 3-6, 5-3, held serve to love to complete the victory. On match point, Capriati hit a forehand serve return into the net.

"She played good points," said Capriati, the sixth seed.

"It was exactly the way the match was going the night before."

The players waited more than 17 hours to play the final four points. "It was kind of weird," Capriati said. "It was a real bumper."

Sabatini will face defending champion Steffi Graf in one semifinal Thursday, with Monica Seles playing Martina Navratilova in the other.

The Ivanisevic-Edberg match was a chance for the eighth-seeded Croatian to show off his mighty left-handed serve. His 33 aces brought his total for the tournament to 133.

Ivanisevic, who was broken only once by Edberg, said, "Edberg didn't know what to do, stay close or stay back. When I'm serving good, my confidence is much higher."

Edberg, the No 2 seed, said there was nothing he could do to stop the serving onslaught.

"My serve is so far behind (his)," he said. "He hits it with so much power. If he stays that way it's going to be difficult to beat him."

Women's doubles, third round:

Lori McNeil, United States, and Rennae Stubbs (7), Australia, def. Isabelle Demongeot and Nathalie Tauziat (13), France, 6-4, 6-4.

Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver (4), United States, def. Anke Huber and Claudia Kohde-Kilsch (14), Germany, 6-1, 6-2.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Spain, and Helena Sukova (3), Czechoslovakia, def. Katerina Maleeva, Bulgaria, and Barbara Rittner (15), Germany, 6-4, 6-2.

he is taking antibiotics to treat the infection.

"I'm not going to get down on it and say it was a bad situation," Lewis said. "I'm just going to look at it as something I had to deal with. I'm on the team, and now I have a chance to go to the Olympics in one event, which is rare for me. I think it's going to mean the difference in me jumping very far."

Lewis, with Andre Cason, Leroy Burrell and Dennis Mitchell, set the world record of 37.50 seconds in the 400 relay at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo.

Lewis has anchored the three fastest 400 relay teams in history and nine of the top 11. But only Dennis Mitchell and Burrell qualified for the US team headed for Spain July 31. The team also will include Mark Witherspoon and Mike Marsh.

"It's been a bizarre week for the entire team," Lewis said. "It's been a tough year, but it's a good year because I'm on the Olympic team and I look at all things in a positive way. I could

Sinus infection hampered Lewis

HOUSTON, July 1: Carl Lewis said Tuesday he has a sinus infection which may have affected his performance in the US Olympic Trials in New Orleans, reports AP.

"I knew something was wrong all week, so I went to the doctor" upon returning to Houston, Lewis told KRUV-TV. "Basically what I found is that I had a sinus infection. I now have allergies I have to watch. It's bizarre for me, because I've never had allergies. I've never had sinus problems in my life."

Lewis, 30, who's won six Olympic gold medals and is the world record holder in the 100-metre dash, failed to qualify for either the 100 or 200 at the Barcelona Olympics. He will compete in the long jump, and is an alternate for the 200 and the 400-metre relay team, a spot he has declined.

"When I got there, I felt I'm in the best shape of my life," but then I just didn't feel good," Lewis recalled, adding

sit back and say, 'I didn't make it in those events.' But I'm happy I'm on the team.

"If you look at someone else who was a huge favourite like a Dan O'Brien, who I still think should be put on the team, isn't even able to go," Lewis said. "So I'm thankful I'm going, and I'm going to take advantage of the situation and try to jump farther than I've ever jumped before."

"I told the doctor I'd never had a sinus problem in my life. He told me 'Welcome to the club,'" Lewis told reporters.

The Houston doctor prescribed antibiotics and an antihistamine for the condition and Lewis said he will take the rest of the week off from training and see his physician again on Monday.

"The trials are over. I was sick but that's the way it goes," he said.

Lewis said he expects to run either 100 metres or 200 at a meeting in Sestriere, Italy on July 21. He also said he plans to long jump at one meeting before the Olympics, which begin on July 25.

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But the big German, a past master of five-set victories, looked at his most devastating on Tuesday, when play started after a rain delay of nearly three hours.

He gave 14th seed Ferreira little chance, breaking him to

Bees in the bonnets of all the would-be Queen Bees

LONDON, July 1: Three of the top four seeds charged into the semi-finals of the women's singles at Wimbledon yesterday and the fourth was poised to join them on Wednesday, reports agencies.

World number one and top seed Monica Seles put out French opponent Nathalie Tauziat, Martina Navratilova, the number four, defeated Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria and Steffi Graf, outplayed Natalia Zvereva of the Ukraine.

None of them conceded a set to their opponents — but all came off court with bees in their bonnets.

Fading light enabled American teenager Jennifer Capriati to live to fight another day. She was 3-5 down in the final set and the third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini was about to serve for the match when play was halted.

It had been a classic encounter which enthralled all who saw it and compensated to a large extent the thousands of fans who had sat stoically through three hours of rain — the first serious stoppage of the Championships.

Now one step away from the final, Graf, Seles and Navratilova all appeared on edge. And in Graf's case not without cause.

The 23-year-old defending champion attacked the tabloid press for not giving her a fair chance to retain her title by preventing her from sleeping.

"I always answer questions after my matches but I had journalists coming to my house and knocking on my door until eleven o'clock last night," she said.

"Already I think it is very bad that my address of the house was published. Since then people have been calling,

walking around the garden, sleeping in the garden."

Graf, photographed yesterday with what one newspaper called her "new boyfriend" emphatically denied the story.

"He's a friend. He's not staying with me at Wimbledon. He was over here to watch the tennis for one day. That is all. I don't know what the fuss is about."

Seles was equally unhappy with the media when they asked her to confirm whether or not the umpire had told her to tone down her grunting after a complaint from opponent Tauziat.

"It's between me and the umpire. I'm not going to answer that question any more," she snapped.

Tauziat later confirmed that she had indeed complained about the noise, saying that the grunting was getting so loud, she couldn't hear the ball being hit.

"I think all the players agree" that Seles makes too much noise, Tauziat said. "I think everybody has to say something. Maybe the WTA should say something to her."

Seles said grunting is part of her game.

"I'm not doing it on purpose," she said. "I'm really trying to get rid of it. You don't know how hard I'm trying. I'm not doing it to hurt anybody, but I don't think I'm going to win a match because I'm grunting."

Navratilova made it clear that she was fed up with newspapers writing about her in the past tense.

"I'm the one who will decide when I stop playing," she said, adding: "I'm fitter than most players are in their twenties, so you can talk to me about being too old" ... But if you want to do a competition on athletic ability, I think I would be right up there.

love in only the second game, before completing the victory 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 6-1.

Becker, in the last eight here for the seventh time in the last eight years, will meet American Andre Agassi, the 12th seed, in Wednesday's quarter-finals.

Tuesday is traditionally the women's quarter-final day and Becker's was the only men's fourth-round match carried over.

Organisers, fearing a weather forecast of thunderstorms and more rain later on, put the men's match on first.

Thompson to try for Olympic berth at Trondheim meet

LONDON, July 1: British world decathlon record holder Daley Thompson, 33, will attempt to qualify for a record fifth Olympics in Norway this weekend, reports Reuters.

Chief coach Frank Dick arranged for Thompson to compete in the event at Trondheim. It will be his last attempt to amass the 7,850 points needed to qualify.

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'Ancient' Navratilova in semis

WIMBLEDON, July 1: Back in the Wimbledon semifinals for the 15th time, Martina Navratilova is defying the laws of ageing, reports AP.

"Some people are burned out at 25; I'm alive at 35," Navratilova said Tuesday after

and No. 2 Steffi Graf. Seles downed Nathalie Tauziat 6-1, 6-3, while Graf downed Natalia Zvereva 6-3, 6-1.

Navratilova is ancient compared to the rest of the remaining women. Graf is 23, Sabatini 22, Seles 18 and Capriati 16.

"Age is a state of mind and I'm defying it as well as I pos-

she is at the end of her career.

"Not to compare myself to any great artist, but should Van Gogh stop painting at a certain age?" she said. "While I can still play, why not? I mean people play golf until they are in their 50s at the top level."

"If you want to do a competition on athletic ability, I think I would be right up there. Because I can still do it physically, that enables me to still be up there."

Navratilova, who has a record nine Wimbledon singles titles, will face Seles in the semifinals. Seles has won five of the last six Grand Slam tournaments she entered and is halfway to a Grand Slam sweep this year. The only Grand Slam event she hasn't won is Wimbledon, which she skipped last year at the last minute blaming an injury.

"I have nothing to lose," Navratilova said. "I'm the underdog here... if you go on the last 15 years, I'm the favourite. (But) if you go on the last year, then she's the favourite."

Navratilova said she doesn't fear Seles' punishing groundstrokes.

"It's not like you're going to be boxing or anything where you may get your head knocked off," she said. "She hits a ball. I don't play Monica. I play the ball. I have absolutely nothing to be afraid of."

Navratilova will have to cope with Seles' grunting, though.

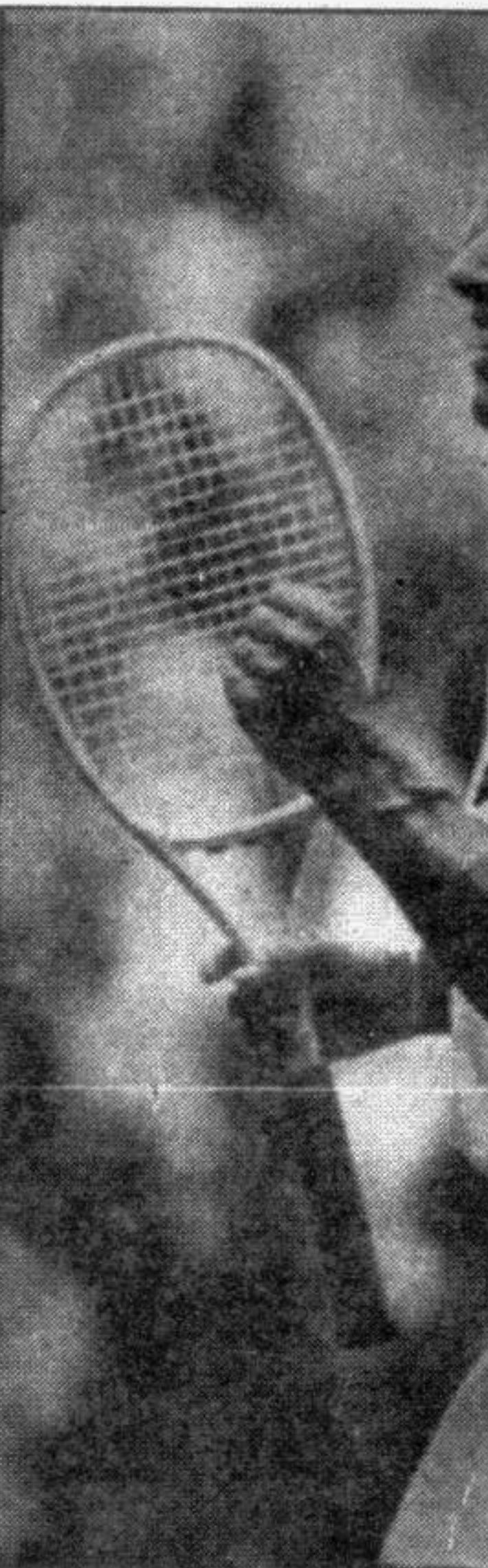
Tauziat complained Tuesday to chair umpire David Cymbale that the high-pitched "scream" was keeping her from hearing the ball come off Seles' racket. Cymbale told Seles to quiet down.

Navratilova has had fitness problems in recent years but surgery corrected a problem with her knees and she is determined to keep on playing.

"The body still lets me do what I want to do for the most part. I can't play 19 tournaments (a year) like I used to but that's the concession I have to make to being older."

Over the years, rumours that the former world number one, who has earned more than 18 million dollars in her long career, was about to retire have surfaced countless times.

"Age is not a good enough reason," Navratilova said firmly. "I will quit when I feel like it."



America's Martina Navratilova enjoys her quarterfinal victory over Bulgaria's Katerina Maleeva on Court 1 at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in England on Tuesday.



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Becker blasts Ferreira

LONDON, July 1: Three times champion Boris Becker, refreshed by a night's sleep, needed only 29 minutes on Tuesday to finish off Wayne Ferreira and become the last man into the Wimbledon quarter-finals, reports Reuters.

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But the big German, a past master of five-set victories, looked at his most devastating on Tuesday, when play started after a rain delay of nearly three hours.

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love in only the second game, before completing the victory 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 6-1.

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Montjuic Stadium: A monument steeped in history

BARCELONA, July 1: Perched on a hillside beneath a mediaeval Mediterranean fortress, the centre-piece of the Barcelona Olympics inspires comparisons to the slope in Greece where the ancient Games were born, reports Reuters.

But if Montjuic Hill is hailed as latter-day Olympus when the Games open next month, credit must go to its majestic sandstone Olympic Stadium, the survivor of many decidedly unintended reincarnations.

Since it opened more than 60 years ago, the stadium has been used as a war bunker, boxing venue and shelter for the homeless.

But almost from the start, politics steered the stadium's fate.

In 1931, a week before the 67-member International Olympic Committee met in Barcelona to choose its 1936 host city, Spain's King Alfonso XIII was exiled from Madrid.

Spain's IOC representative happened to be a monarchist and is said to have taken out his political anger by persuading IOC voters to deny his hometown the 1936 nomination.

Berlin won the bid, but that did not close the chapter.

With the rise of Hitler, dozens of countries joined to boycott Berlin and chose Barcelona as the site for an alternative, anti-Fascist Games.

fascist, Francisco Franco, initiated his 40-year domination of Spain.

After years of neglect, the stadium too would figure in Franco's plans. The staunchly Roman Catholic dictator permitted it to be refurbished for an International Eucharistic congress that he hoped would lend credence to his ostracised regime.

The early 1950s proved to be the stadium's heyday. The city's two great soccer clubs, Barcelona and Espanol, played there for the National Cup, named after Franco. And in 1950, the second edition of the Mediterranean Games attracted 12 national sports teams to the stadium.

"There was a big opening

For 25 years up to 1960, Barcelona's vibrant economy was a magnet for 350,000 people migrating from poorer parts of Spain. Those who couldn't find homes in Europe's most densely populated city erected shanty towns, the largest collection on Montjuic.

When heavy rains washed away their shacks, the government moved hundreds of the homeless into the stadium. They built brick and wood shelters in the grandstands and arches, brought a proliferation of cats, and for years to come called the stadium home.

During the occasional soccer match still played in the stadium, the squatters were shunted behind the stands.

The stadium might have rebounded with Barcelona's bid for the 1972 Olympics, but Franco decided a split-bid between Madrid and Barcelona would be better. The IOC thought otherwise, and the nomination went to Munich, Germany.

In the early 1970s the stadium was closed officially and remained in its dilapidated state until 1979, when Barcelona's first democratically elected mayor, Narcis Serra, revived the city's Olympic aspirations once more.

His successor Pascual Maragall, as head of the Barcelona Olympic Committee, decided to renovate the stadium and in 1985, a year before the IOC nomination vote, it was gutted and work began.

Almost five years, a divisive labour strike and 500 million after, it reopened for the 1992 Olympics World Cup.

Olympic officials say it would have been cheaper and quicker to raze the old stadium and build one more spacious, but doing so would have negated the history that echoes within its walls.

It stands beside Palau Sant Jordi, the electrifying architectural statement of the new Barcelona.

Together, they may serve as a reminder of an Olympic dream that wouldn't die until it was finally realised.



Montjuic Stadium ... the main venue of the Barcelona Summer Olympics beginning July 25.

Ultimately, the stadium came to symbolise both the city's craving for international recognition through the Olympics and the repeated frustration of that aspiration.

Built to anchor a bid for the 1926 Olympics, the 55,000-seat neo-classical oval, its sandstone quarried from the hill topped by Montjuic castle, opened for the 1929 Universal Exposition as the largest stadium in continental Europe.

On the day the so-called Popular Olympics were to begin, July 19, 1936, the Spanish civil war broke out. The visiting athletes, advised not to leave the Hotel Olympic, never made the short walk uphill to the stadium, which soon became a wartime battleground.

Opening day of the anti-Fascist Games would go down in history as the date on which the century's longest-standing

ceremony with a parade of athletes, just as the stadium was meant to be used," said Ignacio Macaya, a member of Spain's hockey team that year.

"It was very important for those of us who were athletes because we knew at that time that Spain was going to boycott the 1936 Olympics in Australia. But a few years after that, the stadium was left in a bad state again."



Mrs Gabriela Bannemann, Second Secretary of the Embassy of the Federal Republic Germany handed over sportsgoods worth Tk 2 lakh donated to the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) in Savar on June 18.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Word with sister or story

4 King topper

7 Be thrifty

8 Unrefined

10 Took part in a drama

11 Like a gull

13 Seafood specialties

16 New England cape

17 Reason

18 Narrow inlet

19 Comic theatrical sketch

20 Like some cheeses

21 Pie-baker's pride

23 Martin and Astor

25 Ark passenger

26 Two Years Before the ...

27 River

DOWN

1 Rich fabric

2 Cook's need

3 Adorns

4 Spirited steeds

5 "The — of the Mummy's Tomb"

6 Blue-pencil the copy

7 Scrutinize

8 Political power

9 Potential forces

10 "I — Camera"

12 Iroquois Indians

14 Cafe au —

15 Woeful

19 Aggregate

20 Painting, sculpture, etc.

21 Reprove mildly

22 Jerusalem thorn

23 Trading center

24 Made an attempt

25 Cebine monkey

26 Largest deer

28 Boat or bike lead-in

29 Unwraps

30 Not hollow

31 Soccer great

32 Beast of burden

34 Ending for pigeon or button

35 Membrane

Solution time: 22 mins.

CLAD DAP EONS
RARE ENA FRIT
OMIT PALEFACE
PALETTOT VALET
COT TIC
CASTE PALERMO
OTO JAM OAR
PALFREY MOTTO
LET KID
ASSET PALETTE
PALESTRA NORN
ALEC ROB SPOT
RAYE AMA ESTE

CRYPTOQUIP

Y E G K V H X S - E G L V B A M P K A -
D G A Q P H E Y X P A G H P T V H Q
E H V L G A O Y T , Y A O P
D G X X P S G M G M D O V H ?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals S

The Cryptoquip 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.