

# Singapore beat Bangladesh

Bangladesh, beaten by Bahrain Monday, yesterday went down fighting to Singapore 1-2 in their Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group 3 qualifying match in Doha, Qatar, reported agencies.

Singapore, boasting three world ranked players, were to struggle by the determined Bangladeshis.

Mark Choy gave Singapore the lead in the best-of-three contest by beating Shovon Jamaly 3-6, 6-4, 7-5. The top ranked former Bangladesh champion put up a gritty performance before eventually losing the deciding set.

Hira Lal put his country on par by outplaying Singapore's Chce Yen Chen 6-2, 7-5 but in the deciding doubles Wei Pin Choo and Art Hobbs beat

## New course for McEnroe

NEW YORK, Apr 21: John McEnroe switches from tennis to squash this weekend to publicise the tournament of champions which begins in his home city on Saturday, reports Reuters.

McEnroe has agreed to play a charity exhibition match for 100 dollars a point against baseball star Tom Seaver before the likes of Jansher Khan and Chris Dittmar start the tournament in earnest.

Jansher and Dittmar are seeded to meet in the final on April 29, a possible repeat of their showdown in the British Open final on Monday when the Pakistani retained his title.

The pick of the first round matches could be the contest between Australian Rodney Martin and American handball squash star Mark Talbot, given a wild card into the event.

### Sports Reporter

Shovon Jamaly and Faisal Syed Huq 6-4, 6-7 (7-4), 6-4 to clinch the issue for Singapore, one of the favourites for the Group's two qualifying berths.

In other action on the day, Qatar, host for the eight-nation Group meet, had a bad day Tuesday — both on and off the court.

First, the scheduled opening match against Saudi Arabia was delayed by over an hour because the players were declared unfit. Then the Qataris endured their second successive 3-0 whitewash to leave them firmly rooted to the foot of the table.

Their problems began when Mohammed Salem al-Kholalfi had to withdraw from his match against Badear Mohammed al-Megayel because of an ear infection.

Qatar wanted to bring in a substitute player but the request was turned down because al-Kholalfi had not been examined on-site as the rules dictate. Instead, Mohammed Ali Khalifa Shaheen played al-Megayel and was beaten 2-6, 1-6.

Qatar went on to lose the second singles and the doubles.

Bahrain recorded their second successive win when they beat Syria 2-1.

Essam Jaffar Abdul-Aal of Bahrain beat Abed al-Rahman Saleem of Syria 6-2, 6-4; Shafek Diab of Syria defeated Shhab Rashed Shhab of Bahrain 6-0, 6-1 but Essam Jaffar Abdul-Aal and Nader Jaffar Abdul-Aal of Bahrain defeated Ahmed Diab and Kahlan Malki of Syria 6-1, 6-4.

Lebanon beat the United Arab Emirates by 2-1 sets.

Manual Gayon of U A E beat Nicholas Kanaan, Lebanon, 6-1, 6-2; Karim Khoury of Lebanon, beat Salem Dasmal of U A E, 6-3, 6-3. Then Hussein Badre-

ddin and Karim Khoury of Lebanon, defeated Salem Dasmal and Manual Gayon of the U A E 7-6 (3) 7-6 (2).

## Sweet revenge for Muster

MONACO, Apr 21: Thomas Muster avenged his defeat to Andrei Chesnokov in the 1990 Monte Carlo Open final by defeating the Russian in the first set in the second round of this year's tournament on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The Austrian eighth seed, the defending champion in the principality after his victory over American Aaron Krickstein in last year's final, won 6-2, 6-4 in 87 minutes.

Chesnokov, unseeded this time after falling to 57th in the world rankings, found it hard to get into his rhythm in the first set against the hard-hitting left-hander.

But he posed some problems in the second, opening a 2-0 lead before Muster broke back, and levelling at 4-4 after the Austrian had taken a break lead.

The Russian was having trouble on his serve, however, and Muster broke straight back and then held to earn himself a place in the last 16.

Chesnokov beat Muster in straight sets in the 1990 final when he represented the Soviet Union, a victory which brought the bizarre sight of the hammer-and-sickle flying over one of capitalism's great bastions.

Muster now meets either Magnus Larsson of Sweden or Dutchman Paul Haarhuis and has no seeds left in his quarter of the draw after Tuesday's surprise elimination of German second seed Boris Becker.

Third seed Petr Korda of the Czech Republic had a comfortable opening match, beating 21-year-old South African Marcos Ondruska 6-3 6-2 to take his place in the third round.



Big-serving Swiss Davis Cupper Marc Rosset rejoices after beating world number four Boris Becker of Germany in the second round of the Monte Carlo Open on April 20. Rosset won 7-6, 6-3. —AFP photo

# Seeds fall like maple leaves



MONACO, Apr 21: Boris Becker's misery continued on Tuesday as the top seeds took a pounding at the Monte Carlo Open, reports AFP.

Second seed Becker, who has pulled out of five successive tournaments through illness this year, crashed 7-6, 6-3 in the second round to big-serving Marc Rosset of Switzerland — just a week after losing in the second round of the Nice Open.

But he was in good company, as big names Goran Ivanisevic and Guy Forget followed him to the exit — with top attraction Stefan Edberg only squeezing through after a big struggle against an inspired Henri Leconte of France.

Becker began to fade against Rosset after he failed to serve out for the first set at 5-4, then, 3-6 down in the following tie-break, Becker double-faulted to lose the set.

From that moment he struggled and the 28th ranked Rosset began to grow in confidence, catching Becker out with a stream of forehand winners.

Becker said: "I can't be too pleased with my performance but basically I haven't played for seven or eight weeks. For me to start playing on

clay, which is not my favourite surface, makes it harder for me."

He said he would play in Madrid next week, adding: "I hope I start playing better and



BORIS BECKER will build on that. My main goal is the French Open."

Rosset said: "Playing so well on my forehand and just winning was more important to me than beating Becker."

The Swiss Davis Cup star broke serve to lead 4-3 in the second set on his third break

point and then kept Becker at bay to clinch a place in the third round.

But there was some off-court consolation for Becker. He has just signed a four-year deal with Italian clothing company Lotto, believed to be worth four million dollars a year.

Croat Ivanisevic, seeded four here and world-ranked sixth, later went out 6-4, 6-3, to Russia's Andrei Cherkasov in the second round.

And French 12th seed Forget was another surprise victim, blasted to a humiliating 6-1, 6-1, defeat by unseeded qualifier Ulf Stenlund from Sweden.

But top seed Edberg managed to struggle through a two-hour confrontation with Leconte before winning 3-6, 7-5, 6-1.

The Frenchman fought back from 0-5 in the second to stand level at 5-5.

But, despite being urged on by a full house, Leconte was unable to stop Edberg as the Swedish player lifted his game to go through.

Seventh seed Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine swept past Tom Nijssen of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-0.

The tournament's top eight seeds all had byes in the second round.

# Pistons in unfamiliar zone

UNDATED, Apr 21: The visiting Detroit Pistons found themselves on the verge of missing the playoffs for the first time in 10 seasons Tuesday night after dropping a 105-81 decision to the Cleveland Cavaliers, reports AP.

With three games left to play, Detroit has the 10th-best record in the Eastern Conference and is two games back in the battle for the final playoff berth.

Larry Nance led Cleveland with 19 points on 9-of-11 shooting. John Williams scored 16 on 8-of-9 shooting, while Mark Price and Terrell Brandon each had 11 assists. Dennis Rodman had 17 points and 19 rebounds for the Pistons, and Terry Mills scored 15.

Magic 105, Bulls 86.

In Orlando, Fla., Shaquille O'Neal had his seventh game with at least 20 points and 20 rebounds, and the Orlando Magic stayed in contention for its first playoff berth.

O'Neal had 20 points and 25 rebounds and Nick Anderson scored 30 as the Magic never trailed. The victory moved the Magic within one game of Indiana for the last Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Hawks 111, Pacers 102.

In Atlanta, Kevin Willis Matete cleared.

LUSAKA, Apr 21: Zambian star 400 metres hurdler Samuel Matete, banned indefinitely on Monday by the Zambian Amateur Athletics Association (ZAAA) for allegedly receiving illegal payments for taking part in international events, was dramatically cleared on Tuesday, reports AFP.

The United States-based Matete had denied the allegations, threatening to renounce his Zambian citizenship and run for another country.

## Sport is the key

WELLINGTON, Apr 21: Sport and leisure is a major industry contributing more to the New Zealand economy than it costs, according to a report here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The government's financial investment also provides actual savings to the economy, particularly in the area of preventive health care, the report said.

## ETTA refuses to back out

LONDON, Apr 21: English table tennis chiefs on Tuesday refused to withdraw their ban on England players using fast glue to attach rubbers to bats, reports Reuters.

They turned down national captain Donald Parker's plea to relent for the World Championships starting in Gothenburg, Sweden, on May 11.

English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) chairman Alan Ransome said, "We want to maintain our pioneering stance against glue in the hope that it will encourage the rest of the world to back a total ban after Gothenburg."

Random tests will operate during the World Championships, intended to sniff out glues containing either aromatic or chlorinated solvents.

In January, the ITTF outlawed gluing up — the practice of sticking the rubbers of bats with fresh glue before matches to increase the speed of serves — within 24 hours of a contest. It is regarded as a health hazard because of the fumes.

## Y'slav plea to lift ban

PARIS, Apr 21: The Olympic Committee of the ex-Yugoslavia (CNOY) launched an appeal here on Wednesday to lift the international ban on Yugoslavian sportsmen and women, reports AFP.

Aleksandar Bakoevic, CNOY president for Serbia-Montenegro, invited "sports lovers the world over" to challenge the UN resolution banning sporting links with Belgrade.

stricted the Windies to 262 in the first innings and took a lead of 83 runs, thanks to Andrew Hudson's maiden Test century (163 to be exact). But the wicket gradually became unpredictable and by the time the West Indies had struggled to 283 it had become awkward. Even then by the end of the fourth day South Africa did remarkably well to reach 122 for the loss of only two wickets, needing only 79 runs for victory with 8 wickets in hand and a whole day to go. But a high drama was enacted next morning, Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh turned defeat into victory by taking the last 8 wickets for only 26 runs. There have been many great West Indian fast bowling moments, but those 90 minutes of devastating fast bowling (22 overs) were among the finest and fiercest 'tropical storm' of recent years. That great victory turned the new-look West Indian team under Richie Richardson into a winning combination and since then they have continued their run of success.

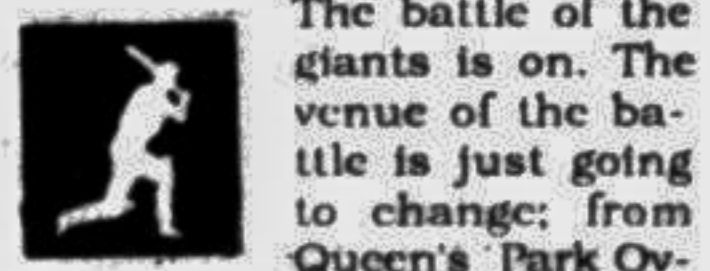
The memory of that win over the South African will reappear in the minds of the Caribbean as they take the field on the Kensington Oval and the task of the visiting team will be all the more difficult. But as shown in the one-day series, Pakistan have great capability of making comebacks from dire situations. Can they do it and break the 57-year record of this ground? They have all the potentiality. They should feel confident from one fact that the strip is helpful to fast bowling and they have the finest pair of fast bowlers in their two W's. In the last Test played on this ground against South Africa 34 wickets fell to fast bowlers. But their batsmen shall have to provide a good score on the board, and here lies the vulnerability of the tourists.

On this ground captains winning the toss have usually employed the ploy of putting in the opponents. This has been done in the last 12 Tests, which indicates expectation of early life. South Africa, by doing this was almost successful, and but for the Ambrosia on the last morning, they would have registered a great victory. South Africa, quite an inexperienced bunch, panicked and succumbed. Pakistan shall have to guard against such panic syndrome.

If Wasim Akram and his young team can show the same determination as they did in the one-day series, the Test series can still be a fascinating affair for cricket lovers. When the two top teams of present day cricket meet in a situation when one will be determined to keep the series alive and their chances open for the rubber and the other to clinch it, it could not be anything but a battle of the giants.

# It's truly a battle of the giants

By A M Chowdhury



The battle of the giants is on. The venue of the battle is just going to change; from Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain, Trinidad, it will now shift to the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, where the second Test of the three-match series is going to be played from Friday, the 23rd April.

The result of the five-match one-day series, which ended on a note of equality with the last match most justly declared a tie by the referee Raman Subba Row, has created tremendous interest in the Test series. The 'mari juana fisaco' may have told upon the mental make-up of the tourists. But they finally appeared with full vigour in the first Test and seeing them performing on the first day of the match it appeared they had successfully got over the set-back. The exciting sight of the Pakistani pace duo of the 'wonderful W's' running up to bowl with three slips, a gully and a forward short-leg set the tempo of the 'royal setting' of a Test match, so different from the instant variety of the game.

What followed during the next three days was a battle of changing fortunes. The Pakistani pacemen ran through the West Indian line-up in only 38.2 overs, allowing them to score a paltry 127. But Pakistan had to face the ferocity of the West Indian pace attack, no less devastating than their own, and could manage only 113 for 7 by the end of the first day. Early next day Pakistan could manage a lead of only 13, having played all of 48.5 overs. The difference between the two teams was hardly decisive at that point of time, up to which pacemen of both sides ran havoc on a wicket which was showing signs of uneven bounce; three Pakistani pacemen took 8, while three of the home team captured all 10 wickets.



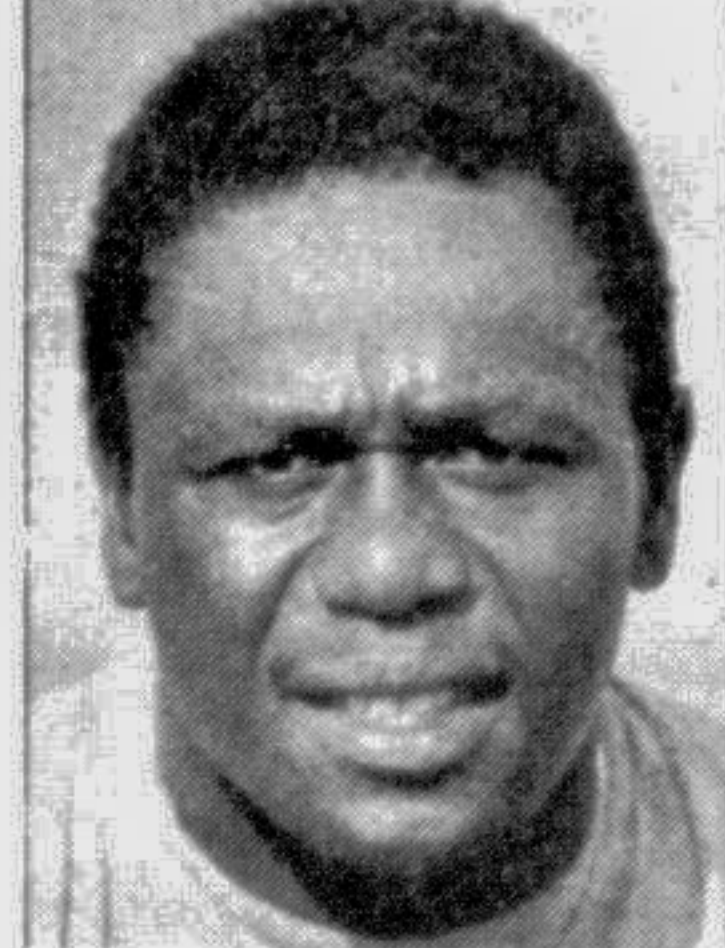
RICHIE RICHARDSON Caribbean batting that afternoon that tilted the balance in their favour? These questions only add to the interest of the followers of cricket and when we ask the questions we really do not anticipate answer nor can we venture some.

On the third morning the venom of the wicket returned; batsmen found it difficult to cope with the balls keeping low. The West Indies lost their last seven wickets for the addition of only 48 runs, five of their batsmen being lbw. The Pakistani batsmen also found life difficult and by the end of the day they had lost all their wickets for 165 and the West Indies were victorious by 204 runs. After the tea-break, taken at 62 for 4, it was not the pacemen but spinner Carl Hooper, who reaped a good harvest (5 for 40), his career best. This clearly proved that the wicket wore off, which was utilised profitably by the spinner.

Conceding the fact that batting was not easy on the

Queen's Park Oval strip it must be said that the Pakistan batting left a lot to be desired. Javed Miandad, the most experienced of them (8569 runs in 119 Tests at an average of 54.23 on the eve of this Test), could manage only 20 and 4 (he was out to a very rash stroke in the second innings) while his team expected him to play the role which Desmond Haynes played so superbly for the home team. Aamir Sohail shaped well; 55 in the first innings and 15 in the second when he was rather unlucky to be adjudged lbw to a short-pitched Welsh delivery. Opinions have been expressed that he should have been favoured with the benefit of the doubt. Basil Ali's 37 in the second innings was a point of encouragement for his team. But one thing was apparent: the Pakistani line-up lacked in experience. In difficult circumstances experience has no substitute.

The first Test would go down in history as having yielded highest number of lbw decisions, 17 to be exact (8 against the West Indies and 9 against Pakistan), beating the



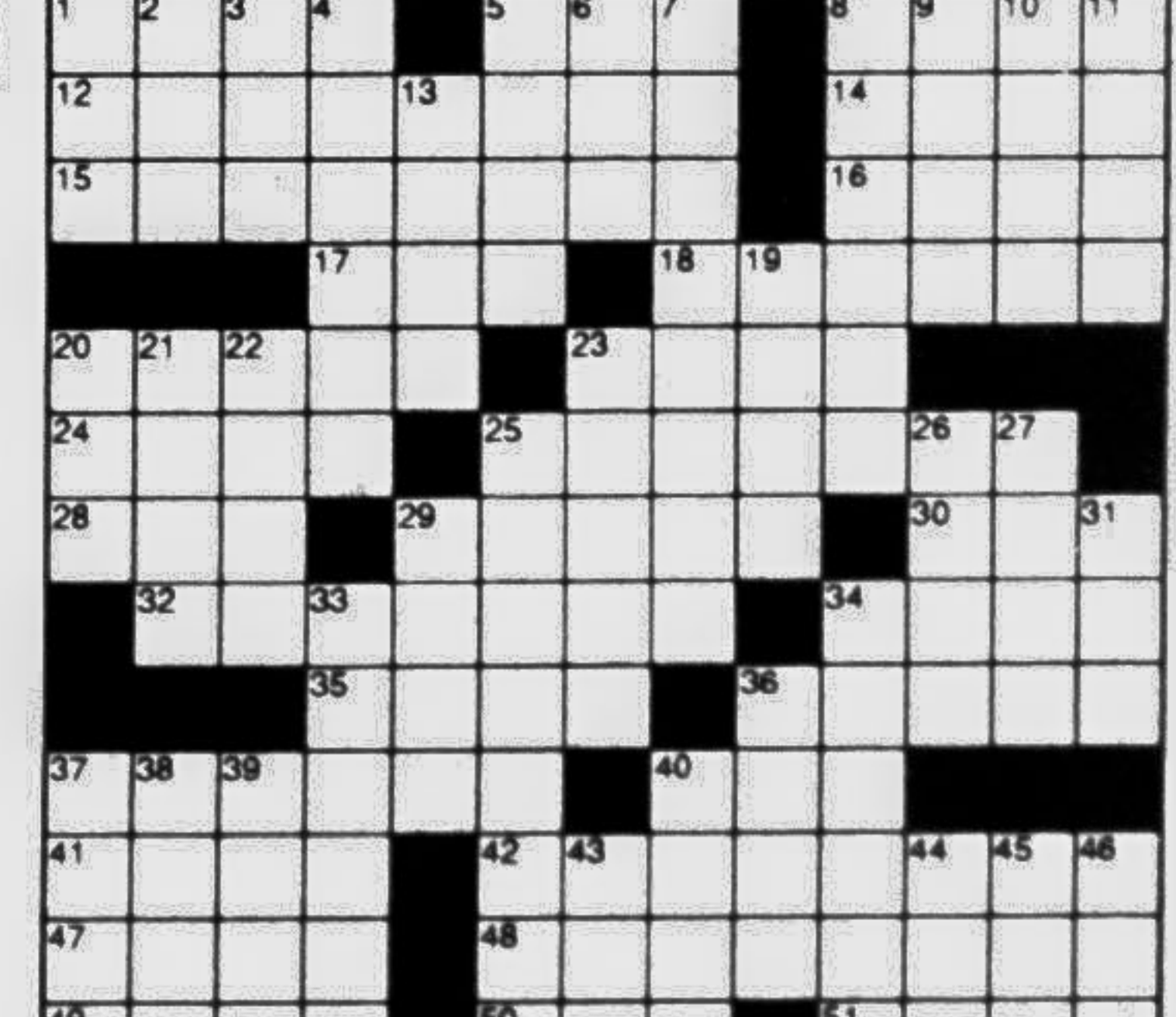
DESMOND HAYNES record of 13. These dismissals do prove one thing: the wicket must have played low and the bowlers pitching short at 120-130 kmh could hardly be tackled easily. Bowlers enjoyed rather an undue advantage over batsmen on such a track. That Richie Richardson, Brian Lara and, of course, Desmond Haynes could flourish even on such a track clearly show their mettle.

It was obvious from the just concluded Test that the bowlers are going to dictate terms in this series; both sides have their strong points in attack. The Caribbean starts as the favourites in the Bridgetown Test, not only because they go there one up in the three-match series but also due to the fact that the Kensington Oval is their most favourite ground. No visiting side has won a Test on this ground since 1935.

Last year, about this time, South Africa, on their maiden tour of the islands, came tantalisingly close to doing that in the one-off Test. They re-

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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## CRYPTOQUIP

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 L D W Z T V W U E Y R V C W  
 Q V E T K W V B Y R N C W U  
 Q R C Q T V V N J Q V R N L D W  
**Saturday's Cryptoquip: DISHONEST FABRIC SALESMAN ADMITTED HE HAD BEEN FLEEING THE BOSS.**  
 Today's Cryptoquip clue: B equals W  
 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.