

Dhaka Club wins nat'l bridge title

The national Duplicate Bridge championship (team event) concluded at the Officers Club yesterday. Dhaka Club Blue won the national title.

The final was a very keenly contested and close one. Bank Red increased their margin to lead by 14 Imp after first 20 deals while Dhaka Club Blue collated 22 Imp in next twenty boards to take over the lead by eight Imp.

Dhaka Club Blue was represented by A K Feroze Ahmed (captain) Air Cmdr M A Quddus, M/s. Rezaul Haque, Anwaruzzaman, Obaidullah Khan and M Waliul Haque while Bank team comprised M/s. Mazharul Haque (captain), Jahurul Haque, Shamsul Alam, Humayun Kabir and A Wahab.

Jabbar Memorial tennis

Thirty-six matches of the M A Jabbar Memorial tennis tournament were decided on the opening day at the Engineers' Club tennis court yesterday.

Ctg cricket

CHITTAGONG, Feb 4: Rising Star Club registered a six-wicket victory over Patharghata Durbar Ghosti in the inaugural match of the CJKP Ispahani cricket league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Patharghata Durbar batted first and scored 133 for six in the stipulated 40 overs. Mahboob and Morshed scored 48 and 39 respectively for Durbar.

Rasel and Ullash of Rising claimed two wickets each while Subrata and Jamal got one apiece.

In reply, Rising scored 134 for the loss of four wickets in 33.4 overs with Ullash scoring 33, Shahid 31, Naif 21, and Istiak 13.

Ryadh, Dipak and Moim of Durbar claimed one wicket each. Ten clubs are participating in the league.

SCEMRB sports

The annual sports competition of The Society for the Care and Education of the Mentally Retarded, Bangladesh (SCEMRB) was held at the Dhanmondi Club ground here yesterday, reports BSS.

About 100 mentally retarded boys and girls from 27 branches of SCEMRB took part in different events of the meet.

Lecoste sends Becker packing

MARSEILLE, Feb 4: The flamboyant tennis of Frenchman Henri Lecoste overwhelmed third-seeded Boris Becker in three sets in a second-round match at the ATP tournament here late Thursday, reports AFP.

Graf, Martina stay on course

TOKYO, Feb 4: Steffi Graf, playing closer to the net than usual, crushed Canadian amateur player Jan Nedjedly Friday in the quarterfinals of the \$750,000 Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament, reports AP.

Top-seeded Graf of Germany needed 42 minutes in beat Nedjedly, ranked 307th in the world, 6-1, 6-1 on Tokyo Metropolitan Gym's artificial court.

Graf, basically a baseline player, began moving closer to the net in the fourth game of the second set.

"I tried to come in more than usual. Her backhand strokes were good but her weak point was service," said Graf, the world's top-ranked female tennis player.

Also advancing to the semifinals were second-seeded American Martina Navratilova, sixth-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland and Kristie Boogert of the Netherlands.

AFP adds: An outgoing star of the tennis court triumphed over a giant-killing newcomer when Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere beat Marketa Kochta to secure a semifinal berth.



Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere plays a backhand return to Marketa Kochta of Germany in their quarter-final match of the Toray Pan-Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday. Manuela defeated Kochta 6-4, 6-4.

who is going to hang up her racket after playing in Osaka next week, comprehensively beat the 1989 German junior champion 6-4, 6-4.

Kochta, 18, secured the biggest victory of her career Thursday, beating Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini, but could not add another top 10 scalp with Maleeva-Fragniere determined to quit on winning note.

"When I woke up this morning, I really wanted to get over this match. I really wanted to win it, and I was already looking forward to tomorrow's match, especially with Martina (Navratilova)," said Maleeva-Fragniere.

"Because I've beaten her in the last few times we played and I'm playing well and I wish for a better and better finish."

Kochta displayed nimble footwork and hard ground strokes to keep things tight in a baseline battle for the first set, saving a total of seven break points.

But Maleeva-Fragniere, often effectively employing drop shots, finally unleashed an cross-court backhand service return to take the set.

The sixth seed served better in the second set but took a 4-2 lead thanks to a double fault by her opponent, who appeared tired in the sixth game and repeatedly mis-hit her

strokes. The German at once broke back to love to trail 3-4, but a forehand shot went long at 4-5, 15-40 to give the semifinal ticket to Maleeva-Fragniere.

The 26-year-old Swiss said the key was "hitting the ball hard, even harder than here, with less mistakes, not being afraid to hit the ball hard and not falling into a defensive game."

In other action on the artificial indoor court at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium, Kristie Boogert of the Netherlands rallied to a 6-1, 6-4 win over veteran American serve-and-volleyer Pam Shriver.

On Saturday, Boogert will take on either world number one Steffi Graf of Germany or Czech-born Canadian qualifier Jana Jedrejdy.

Defending champion Martina Navratilova gained the chance to avenge her loss to Maleeva-Fragniere at the Zurich Open final in October when she beat Larisa Neiland of Latvia 6-4, 6-4.

It was a repeat performance of last year's final against the Latvian for the veteran Czech-born American, who has also announced 1994 would be her last competitive season in the singles.

Bruguera in Dubai Open qtrs

DUBAI, Feb 4: Top seed Sergi Bruguera struggled to find his rhythm before overcoming a tough challenge from Todd Woodbridge of Australia on Thursday to reach the quarter-finals of the Dubai tennis Open, reports Reuters.

Sixth seed Wayne Ferreira of South Africa stayed off a late rally from another Australian, Mark Woodforde, to enter the last eight with a 6-2, 7-5 victory.

Woodbridge kept Bruguera on his toes early in the game but ran out of ideas in the tie breaker, which he lost 7-2.

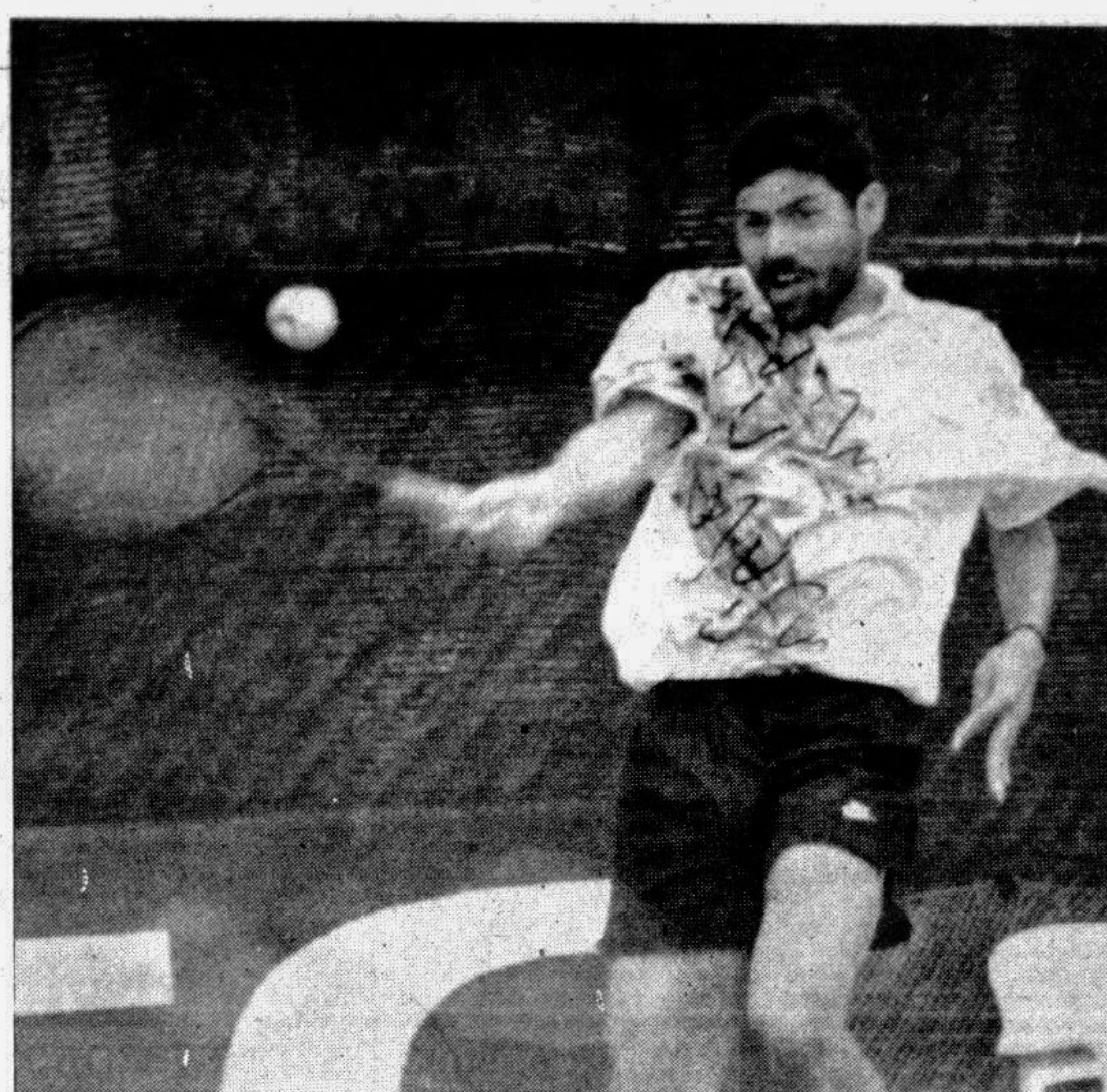
In the second set, he made amends and played a powerful serve and volley game to frustrate the Spaniard but he swiftly lost the final set to give Bruguera a 7-6, 3-6, 6-1 victory.

Todd played a brilliant game in the second set. Bruguera said "I had a chance to take a 3-0 lead but somehow I could not hold on to the advantage of a service break and four break points."

Bruguera at times broke into arguments with the umpire over disputed calls. Defending champion Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic bowed out of the tournament, losing 7-5, 6-3 to Marc Goellner of Germany in the second round.

Novacek struggled throughout with his service and groundstrokes.

In the second set he tried to dominate at the net, but nothing went right for him.



Mohammed Khaliq of Pakistan plays a forehand return to Singaporean Mark Choy in the Asia-Oceania Davis Cup Group Two first round tie in Singapore yesterday. Khaliq won in straight sets 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.

Record tumbles, hosts revel

MADRAS, Feb 4: Jyothirmoy Sikdar of Railways shattered the 11-year-old national mark of Geeta.

Zutshi (Rlys) in winning the women's 1500 in grand style while Bahadur Prasad and Shiny Wilson took the spotlight despite coming close second on the opening day of the 33rd open National Athletic Championships here today.

The day's honours went to the Railway athletes who won seven of the ten finals, reports PTI.

The presence of foreign athletes in the invitation meet held concurrently proved an inspiration for Indian athletes as expected. J Sikdar, the 24-year-old Railway clerk, judged her race to a nicety in the presence of Austrian champion Erica Koning and Bettina Romar-Anderson (Denmark) sprinting away at the finish to clock 4.18.84 secs.

Her effort improved upon Geeta's national record of 4.19.33 secs set in the 1982 Asian Games at Delhi.

Bahadur Prasad, the Asian 5000m champion, was unfazed by the early pace set by Burundi's Venuste Nivogbao and Kenya's Vincent Malakwen in the 1500m.

Venuste just managed to shove off Bahadur's challenge with a strong finish, timing 3.38.70 secs, but Bahadur (3.40.06 secs) bettered his own meet mark set in 1990 at Delhi.

Shiny almost made up for a slow first half in the 400-metre coming up with a scorching last 100 metres to almost pip favourite Pauline Davies (Bhamas) at the finish. Pauline timed 52.27 secs while Shiny was home at 52.41 secs, bettering the joint meet mark (52.9 secs) set in 1989 by her and P T Usha.

With a national record erased and two meet marks also bettered, the Indian athletes shared the limelight with their better-known foreign counterparts, here for the invitational meet held alongside.

China's Li Tong, the Asian high hurdles champion, showed his superiority by winning the 110 hurdles with effortless ease, clocking 13.88 secs.

Similarly top class was performance in javelin, where Dag Wenlung (Sweden) (77.02-metre) and Gavin Lovegrove (New Zealand) 75.82-metre shone, pushing Satbir Singh (pol) to a fine 71.82-metre effort for overall third in winning the open event.

Narsi Ram in 400 metres and his Railway colleague, Chandepat Singh, the national high jump champion, took their events in style while K K Geetha (Railways) and Sushla Behera (ICI) won the women's 100-metre hurdles and the javelin in two events where foreign presence was not there.

The let down was in the women's long jump, where Ukraine's Larissa Bereznyaya, one of the world's best, failed to measure up to expectations despite winning at 6.34 metres. Tapasi Baur (Rlys), the National Games winner, was second overall but best among domestic participants with an effort of 5.86 metres.

Serbs not in war with Games

BELGRADE, Feb 4: The Bosnian Serbs said on Thursday they planned to stage a mini Winter Olympics to mark the 10th anniversary of the Games held in Sarajevo, the city they are currently besieging, reports Reuters.

The Games will be held on Mount Jahorina just outside the Bosnian capital from February 13 to 19, said Ljubomir Zukovic, president of the Bosnian Serbs' National Olympic Committee, a body not recognised by the International Olympic Committee.

Olympic facilities on Jahorina have been kept intact as the area remains under Bosnian Serb control, while many former Alpine skiing, bobsleing and luge venues on the wooded mountains Bristle with Serb artillery and tanks targeting Sarajevo below.

But most of the Olympic facilities in the city of Sarajevo, which has been under attack for nearly 22 months, have been destroyed by the Bosnian Serb gunners in the surrounding hills.

Zukovic said invitations had been sent to 25 national Olympic committees. IOC chairman Juan Antonio Samaranch had been asked to attend the games, which will be held at the same time as the official Olympics in the Norwegian town of Lillehammer.

"We are fully aware we will not have a lot of participants because we are still not recognised as a state," Zukovic told a news conference.

The Holiday Inn hotel in central Sarajevo is the only part of the previous Olympic infrastructure still functioning. It accommodates foreign journalists covering the war and its restaurant still uses cutlery and crockery bearing the symbol of the 1984 Olympics.

He also plans to attend the Cologne Grand Prix on August 21, the Grand Prix final in Paris on September 3 before finishing the season with the World Cup in London from September 8-10.

The volatile Ma threatened to resign last month, claiming Beijing reneged on 152,000 US dollars in subsidies, forcing him to cancel winter altitude training and added that unnamed enemies had conspired to undermine his success and reputation.

After a two-month break, Ma's athletes return to Europe for the Stockholm Grand Prix, followed by the Oslo Golden Four meeting 10 days later.

Ma then plans to bring his team to the remaining three Golden Four meetings in Zurich on August 17, Brussels two days later and Berlin on August 30.

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Ines overcomes injury, Price

AUCKLAND, Feb 4: Argentinian fourth seed Ines Gorrochataguei overcame a painful neck injury to win her 100,000 US dollars Anway Classic women's tennis quarterfinal 6-3, 6-3 over Tessa Price here Friday, reports AFP.

The 20-year-old, who had her serve affected by a strained neck muscle, played intelligently to cover up her handicap against the tenacious

South African. Gorrochataguei, ranked 60th in the world, kept Price moving around the court throughout the match, imparting a lot of top-spin in the bulk of her strokes.

She suffered the injury while playing in a doubles match Thursday when she tripped and hit her head on the floor.

Gorrochataguei made a significant breakthrough to wear down the South African's resistance in the fifth game of the first set.

The pair played out 10 deuce points before the Argentinian finally broke her opponent's serve.

"It was very important at that stage of the game," she said.

The psychological edge gave her extra impetus. Tessa was tentative at the net when I moved her around and after that it worked for me."

In another quarterfinal, which had a delayed start because of intermittent showers early in the afternoon, the tournament's second seed, Patricia Hy of Canada, shrugged off early lethargy to power home against American Joeline Watanabe in three sets.

Hy found herself up against an opponent willing to stay at the baseline and play a slugger's game.

Watanabe took the first set 6-4 but then Hy's first serve heated up and combined with her greater variety of strokes, she comfortably won the next two sets 6-0, 6-1.

Third seeded American Ginger Helgeson was another to cruise home in her quarterfinal over Germany's Voronika Mrtinek 6-1, 6-1.

In doing so Helgeson, 25, secured her first tournament semifinal appearance.

Her game, she said, was starting to come together at the right time as she lifted a notch from her second-round performance and began to string together her first serves.



Germany's Marketa Kochta plays a forehand return to Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina in their second round match of the Toray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo on Feb 3. Kochta defeated Sabatini 7-6 (8/6), 7-5.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution for 'BYE STAYS PREP CHIPS'.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid and clues for words like CKD, VXARE, NBD, etc.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DEDICATED PAPER-DOLL ENTHUSIAST KNOWS THAT SHE HAS HER WORK CUT OUT FOR HER. Today's Cryptoquip clue: G equals L.