



Pakistan's captain Shahbaz Ahmad (R) tries to weave his way past Dutchman Brinkman during the second half of the match of Champions Trophy hockey tournament in Lahore yesterday. Pakistan defeated Netherlands 2-1. — AFP photo

# Pakistan, Germany roll on

LAHORE, Mar 20: Pakistan secured their third successive victory in the Champions' Trophy hockey tournament here Sunday by defeating the Netherlands 2-1 before a crowd of approximately 36,000, reports AFP.

Apart from dictating the pace of the game Pakistan tightened their defence and gave the Dutch attacks little chance to develop. The home side had no short corners in the first half and the Netherlands obtained four, all of which proved abortive mainly because of the vigilance of the Pakistan defenders.

The first threat by Pakistan was a short corner in the 12th minute by Kamran Ashraf who swept the ball over the top from a pass by Muhammad Shabaz. Kamran made amends five minutes later when he put Pakistan ahead after a scramble in front of goal. The chance was set up by Muhammad Shabaz.

An onslaught by the Dutch to level the match was beaten off with shots from short corners either saved by goalkeeper Mansoor Ahmed or deflected by a defender.

Pakistan put the Dutch defence under increasing pressure in the second half, a timely interception by Bastion Portenaar denying Muhammad Shafqat a goal in the 42nd minute.

Floris Bovelandt missed the target from the fifth short corner awarded to the Dutch. Pakistan, however, had better luck with their third short corner when Rana Mujahid scored with a clean hit along the ground to increase the lead.

Four minutes before the end Bovelandt at last landed the ball on the target to encourage the Dutch but they were unable to find an equaliser.

Germany staged a second-half comeback to beat Spain 3-2 to remain tied for the first place.

In Sunday's other match, Australia topped Britain 5-4. Pakistan and Germany are both 3-0 in the six-team tournament.

Germany found themselves trailing 2-1 at halftime. But Sven Meinhardt scored in the 48th minute to even the count and Uli Moissi knocked in the game winner in the final minute of the match.

Australia were also trailing at halftime, down 3-2 against Britain. But second-half scores by Stephan Davies, Mark Hager and Jay Stacy gave Australia the match.

Australia are in third place overall, with a record of 2-0-1. Britain are last with a record of 0-3.

# Graf breaks new ground

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida, Mar 20: Top-seeded Steffi Graf lost her first set of the year, but won the battle 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 over ninth-seeded Natalia Zvereva of Belarus Saturday in the 3.3 million dollars Lipton Championships final, reports Reuters.

The amazing Graf had just set a record when she won the semifinals over American Lindsay Davenport on Thursday — becoming the first player in 10 years to win 27 consecutive matches without dropping a set. Monica Seles held the previous record, having won 26 consecutive matches without losing a set between 1990 Lipton and 1990 French Open.

The top-ranked Graf has won all 28 matches she's played in 1994 and 32 overall matches since losing to Spaniard Conchita Martinez in the finals of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia last November.

Saturday's win makes Graf the first player to win three consecutive titles on tour since Martina Navratilova in 1990.

Graf just won Indian Wells, the Virginia Slims of Florida and the Lipton Championships.

She also won the coveted Australian Open and Pan Pacific event earlier this year to bring her career titles count to 84.

Now all Graf wants is to rest.

Ironically, Graf's match winning streak began with the 14th-ranked Zvereva when she beat the Belarus native in the opening round of the Virginia Slims Championships last November.

Despite the loss, Zvereva will be remembered as the first player to take a set from the unconquerable Graf in 1994. The capacity crowd was well aware of Zvereva's achievement after she won the first set they treated her to a standing ovation.

The two women have played each other 14 times and this was only the third set Zvereva has ever captured over Graf.

Zvereva, who won 75,000 dollars, did not have an easy time en route to winning the first set. She took the edge by breaking Graf's serve at 30-40 in the fifth game with a winning backhand return.

But, Zvereva needed five set points on her serve in the 10th game to accomplish the feat. It was only when a Graf forehand sailed long that Zvereva had the one set lead.

Graf played a rather subpar match, not reaching her normal level of superiority.

Graf tied Zvereva with 35 unforced errors for the match — 17 of Graf's errors were in the first set. She improved her play in the final two sets — having only nine unforced errors in each of the remaining two sets.

Graf had 31 winners in the match, while Zvereva only had 17.

The tide turned in Graf's favour almost from the outset of the second set. Zvereva only held serve once, in the second game, of the middle set.

In the third set, Graf took a 4-1 lead with two service breaks. Zvereva recouped one service break in the sixth game, but Graf won the final two games to remain undefeated in 1994.

# Double defeat for Bentt

LONDON, Mar 20: American boxer Michael Bentt, who collapsed after losing the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title to Herbie Hide, suffered significant injuries to the brain and should never fight again, his doctor said Sunday, reports AP.

Bentt was floored in the third round and again in the seventh when the referee counted him out Saturday night at the New London Stadium.

The 28-year-old British-born New Yorker collapsed in his dressing room shortly afterward and was rushed to the Royal London Hospital.

Sutcliffe said that a CAT scan had revealed some generalised brain swelling and physiological changes to the boxer's brain which may not be considered normal for a man of Bentt's age. The hospital has ordered a previous scan on Bentt's brain for comparison.

Sutcliffe also said Bentt has no memory of the fight nor any event in the four to six hours leading up to the bout.

Bentt's manager, Stan Hoffman, confirmed that Bentt had collapsed in a similar manner after a normal workout during training last month, but had thought at the time that dehydration was to blame. A devout Muslim, Bentt had been fasting during the religion's holy month of Ramadan and was also taking medication for the flu.

Hoffman said this time he could see Bentt was in trouble before the fight started.



British challenger Herbie Hide sends American champion Michael Bentt crashing to the canvas in their WBO heavyweight title bout in London on March 19. — AFP photo

## Better late than never

NEW DELHI, Mar 20: An Indian Olympic hero, once forced to sell his gold medal to buy his next meal, has been awarded a monthly state pension of Rs 2,000 (64.5 dollars), a minister told Parliament on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The government has decided to sanction a monthly pension of Rs 2,000 (64.5 dollars) for Jagjit Singh, former Olympic hockey player, Indian Olympic Sports Minister Mukul Wastnik told an angry Parliament.

Parliament deputies had criticised the government of Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao for not helping one of the country's celebrated sportsmen fallen on bad days.

Jagjit Singh, centre-half in the Indian hockey team that won the gold in 1964 Tokyo Olympics, had recently suffered nervous breakdowns due to poverty and unemployment, newspapers said.

Delhi's Hindustan Times said on Tuesday that Singh's condition was so bad that he had taken to begging.

## Norway assert supremacy

OSLO, March 20: Norway ended top of the medals table on Saturday ahead of Germany and the United States at the Paralympics, the Games for the disabled staged in Lillehammer after the Winter Olympics, reports Reuters.

Norway's Ragnhild Myklebust, 50, won her fifth gold of the Paralympics in the 10 km cross-country on the final day to become the most successful member of the team.

Over her career, Myklebust has 12 Paralympic Golds.

Norway won 29 gold medals at the nine-day games, followed by Germany's 25 golds and the United States with 24 after the 133 events ranging from one-legged downhill skiing to ice hockey for disabled competitors in Sledges.

About 500 competitors from 31 nations took part at the Paralympics, which finished with an artistic festival in Lillehammer on Saturday with good wishes for Nagano, host of the Paralympics in 1998.

At the Winter Olympics last month, Russia edged out Norway as the best nation, with 11 golds to Norway's 10.

## Nazarov outpoints Thobela

PRETORIA, South Africa, Mar 20: Undefeated Orzubek Nazarov pummeled South African Dingaan Thobela over 12 rounds Saturday night to retain his WBA lightweight title on a unanimous decision, reports AP.

It was the second fight between the two, and the result was the same a second time as Nazarov (19-0), a Russian who fights out of Tokyo, outclassed Thobela (29-3-1) in the first defense of the title he won from the South African last year.

Nazarov, a southpaw, knocked Thobela down in the seventh round with a straight right to the head followed by a right hook, and repeatedly scored to the body with left hooks that wilted down the challenger.

His smallest margin of victory on the three scorecards was seven points.

## Coggi retains WBA title

LAS VEGAS, Mar 20: World Boxing Association junior welterweight champion Juan Coggi of Argentina defended his title Friday night with third-round knockout over Eder Gonzalez of Colombia, reports AP.

In another fight, former World Boxing Council junior middleweight champion Terry Norris (37-4) stopped Armando Campas at 2:19 of the fourth round at the MGM Grand Garden.

It was the first fight for Norris since losing his title to Simon Brown in December.

"I just came out and boxed instead of trying to take him out early," Norris said. "I wanted to use my boxing skills. I'm satisfied, but I've got a job to do May 7 and that's my whole life."

That is the date of Norris' rematch with Brown at Las Vegas.

Coggi (66-2-2) retained his 140-pound title despite being vulnerable to Gonzalez hand.

Coggi was knocked down in the first, and staggered again in the second.

A cut opened near Coggi's left eye early in the third, but he put Gonzalez down with a left.

Gonzalez (22-5-1) got up, but Coggi knocked him down again.

Referee Richard Steele stopped the fight at 2:01 of the round.

In a North American Boxing Association title fight, Leavander Johnson (22-0-1) knocked out champion Sharmba Mitchell (31-1) at 1:33 of the eighth.

# Popov sets pool afire again

GELENSKIRCHEN, Germany, Mar 20: Olympic champion Alexander Popov of Russia cracked the men's 100 metres freestyle short-course world record on Saturday for the fourth time this year, reports Reuters.

He shattered the 47-second barrier to clock 46.4 and continue an astonishing run in which he has improved the 100 freestyle world short-course mark in each of the four World Cup meetings he has contested in 1994.

Popov, Olympic 50 and 100 metres freestyle champion, also broke the 100 metres backstroke European short-course record with a time of 52.4 seconds which beat the 53.02 set by fellow Russian Vladimir Selkov here on February 14, 1993. Selkov was second on Saturday in 53.43.

Popov's backstroke feat was quite an achievement on the opening day of the two-day meeting, coming just 20 minutes after the 100 metres freestyle in which he has carved an extraordinary swathe through the record-book this year.

On Saturday he cut 0.38 seconds from the 100 freestyle mark he set in Desenzano, Italy, a week ago and has now slashed a total of 1.20 seconds from the record of 47.94 held by Brazilian Gustavo Borges till the end of 1993.

Popov lowered the mark to 47.83 in Hong Kong on January 1, improved it to 47.82 in Beijing on January 5 and to 47.12 in Desenzano before taking it down to 46.4 in Gelsenkirchen.

Popov, who also set a short-course world record in the 50 metres freestyle in Desenzano last Sunday, was followed home in the 100 by Raimundas Mazulis of Lithuania in 47.54 — a time bettered only by Popov's last two record-breaking swims.

"There is a limit but I don't know where it lies for me," Popov, who missed the mid-week World Cup meeting in Malmö, Sweden, said.

Britain's Mark Foster, who

lost his 50 metres freestyle short-course world mark to Popov last Sunday, equalled the 50 metres butterfly world best short-course time of 23.72 he set in the same Gelsenkirchen pool on February 13 last year.

European sprint champion Carlos Sanchez of Spain was second in 24.09.

Germany's Sandra Voelker lowered her own women's 50 metres backstroke European short-course record. She won the event in 27.94 seconds to beat the 28.26 she clocked at the 1993 European sprint championships in Gateshead, England, last November 13.

Ukrainian Alexander Djaburia also set a European short-course record, swimming the men's 50 metres breaststroke in 27.24 seconds to trim 0.01 seconds from the time set by Russian Vasily Ivanov on

November 22, 1992, at the European sprint championships in Espoo, Finland.

Germany's European long-course champion Le Jingyi shared the women's freestyle honours.

Van Almsick took the 200 metres freestyle in one minute 56.32 seconds — not far outside the 1:55:84 world short-course mark she set in Beijing in January 1993 — with Le Well back in fifth place in 1:59.52.

But Le, fastest in the world at the 50 and 100 distances, turned the tables in the 50 event and celebrated her 19th birthday with a win in 24.92 fifteen-year-old Van Almsick was second in 25.27.

Gelsenkirchen is the fifth of seven venues in the World Cup series. Sheffield, England, is next and Paris stages the finale next weekend.



Russia's Alexander Popov is elated on becoming the first swimmer to break the 47 second barrier in the 100m freestyle short course competition at the World Cup in Gelsenkirchen, Germany on March 19. — AFP photo

# Kowalski upstages Perkins

BRISBANE, Mar 20: Australian teenager Daniel Kowalski became the fifth fastest 1500m freestyle swimmer in history when he beat world record-holder Kieren Perkins for the second time in two days at the Australian Swimming Championships here Sunday night, reports AP.

The 18-year-old, who was so ill five weeks ago that he doubted whether he would be able to make the Commonwealth Games team, clocked 14 minutes 55.72 seconds to become only the sixth swimmer to break the 15-minute barrier.

His time is the fastest internationally since Perkins clocked the world record of 14:43.48 to win gold at the Barcelona Olympics in July 1992.

Perkins, the first to congratulate Kowalski after Sunday's win, clocked 15:13.03 with Barcelona silver medalist Glen Housman third in 15:22.73.

"I didn't think I could do it, but I've had so much support from everyone around me," Kowalski said after the race.

"It's beyond my wildest dreams to become only the sixth swimmer to break 15 minutes."

The others in the select group to have done so are Perkins, Housman, Perth world champion Jorg Hoffmann, Olympic gold medalist Vladimir Salnikov and German Stefan Pfeiffer.

Kowalski sliced about 11 seconds off his previous best time of 15:06.77 which he set when he won silver behind Perkins at last year's Pan Pacific Championships in Kobe, Japan.

His time Sunday would have won him the bronze medal in Barcelona, 0.43 seconds behind Housman, and is all the more remarkable considering he came into the meet after a disrupted training scheduled due to a severe virus earlier this year.

He was so sick doctors at one stage feared he had viral meningitis.

The illness kept him out of the water for two weeks, stripped five kilograms (11 pounds) off his frame and gave him blurred vision and severe headaches.

On Friday night Kowalski also beat Perkins in the 400m freestyle but to be fair to Perkins, he came into the meet on a heavy training schedule and was not expected to go anywhere near his best times.

"It was just one of those swim meets," Perkins said. "I didn't shave. I didn't taper and I paid for it."

"I just have to keep as positive I can after this meet. The larger picture is the Commonwealth Games."

The world record holder failed to win an event this week, but has qualified for the 200m, 400m and 1500m freestyle events.

Meanwhile, Meredith Smith and Elli Overton upstaged the doughty Australian backstrokers, Nicole Stevenson, in the 200m final.

Stevenson, who won silver in the event in Auckland, clocked 2:14.12, to finish almost a second behind 16-year-old Smith (2:13.22).

Overton, 19, who broke the Commonwealth 200m individual medley record on Saturday and is fast developing into a world-class backstroke, clocked 2:13.37 to take silver.

# Crucial second

SEOUL, Mar 20: Portugal's Manuel Matias beat South Korean Kim Wan-Ki by just one second today to win the Dong-A international marathon in two hours, eight minutes and 33 seconds, reports Reuters.

The two had been neck-and-neck for the last 20 km (12.5 miles) of the 25 miles. But Matias, 32, surged ahead to take the lead with only about 300 metres left.

The Portuguese, runner-up in the 1992 Berlin marathon, held on to win by just one second.

Kim, last year's winner of the South Korean event and third in the New York marathon in 1992, cut 13 seconds off South Korea's previous best marathon time.

Mexico's Isidro Rico, runner-up in the 1993 London marathon, finished third in 2:09:14.

The event was worth 50,000 dollars for the winner, 30,000 dollars for the runner-up and 20,000 dollars for the third-placed runner. It was held in South Korea's ancient capital of Kyongju.

Top five runners (South Korean unless stated)

1. Manuel Matias (Portugal)	two hrs eight mins 33 secs
2. Kim Wan-Ki	2:08:34
3. Isidro Rico (Mexico)	2:09:14
4. Kim Je-Ryong	2:09:42
5. Yoo Young-Hoon	2:10:12

# Harding case prompts USOC to consider changes

WASHINGTON, Mar 20: The US Olympic Committee, upset with the Tonya Harding affair, will form a task force to re-examine the federal law that governs amateur athletics, reports AP.

When the USOC considered a disciplinary hearing against the figure skater, Harding filed a \$25 million suit in the Oregon courts. The USOC allowed her to skate rather than allow litigation over a restraining order detract from the Lillehammer Games.

"Never in life again," USOC president LeRoy Walker said Friday as a three-day meeting of the USOC executive council and board of directors began. "We have to have this thing resolved before the Atlanta Games."

Harding 23, finished eighth at Lillehammer, then pleaded guilty Wednesday to conspiracy to hinder prosecution in the investigation of the Jan 6 attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan.

Walker and USOC executive director Harvey Schiller met with Sen Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, the primary author of the 1978 Amateur Sports Act that gives the USOC jurisdiction over US Olympians.

That law, the first comprehensive legislation governing amateur athletics in the United States, was prompted by several incidents at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

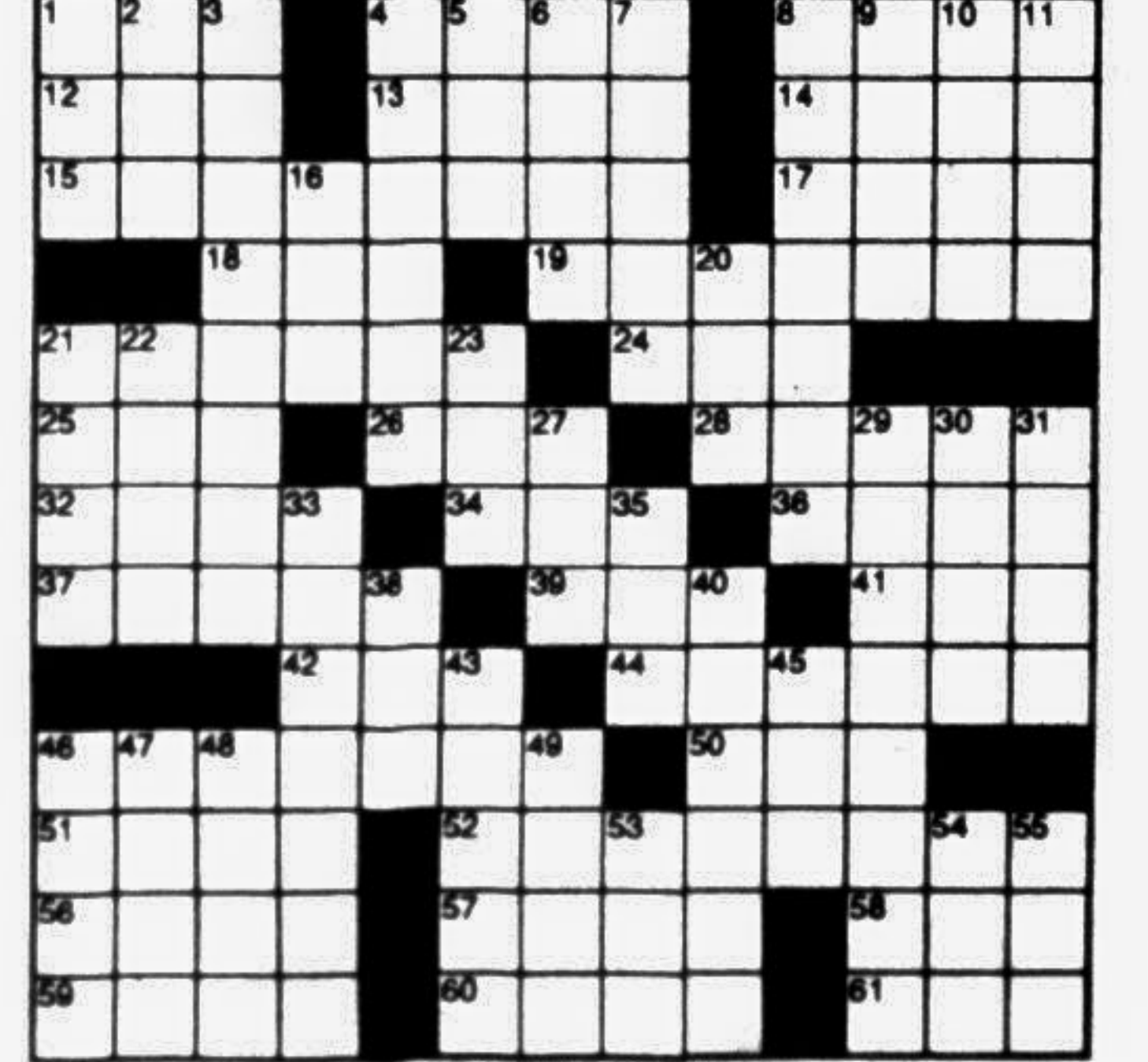
"With the kinds of things that are developing, changes in society, the rise of professional sports, a lot of other things, we are learning now that the generalizations (in the 1978 law) are not enough to rely on," Walker said. "There needs to be some refining of the language."

Walker said the task force would have legal and sports experts look at rising commercialism of athletics, its media saturation and its place in society.

"I don't think anything should be off limits," he said.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	height	DOWN	line
1 Old hand, for short	41 Eve, originally	1 Cistern	27 Fluffy accessory
4 Tar	42 Addition-ally	2 Freudian concept	29 Escamillo, e.g.
8 Aspen equipment	44 Ink stains?	3 Aesopian winner	30 Actor
12 Past	46 Blue Jays' nest?	4 Tap	31 They're coming out
13 Ballet bend	50 Coach Par-seghian	5 The whole enchilada	33 Daze
14 Texas city in recent news	51 "— ben Adhem"	6 Spring melody	35 Under the
15 Griddle-baked cornmeal bread	52 Twisters	7 "Coffee, — milk?"	36 Heavy weight
17 Nays cancelers	56 Complain	8 Traded	38 Props for Ferrante & Teicher
18 Yank	57 Singer Pinza	9 Sammy or Stubby	43 Playful sea animal
19 U-boat missile	58 Inseparable	10 On the rocks	45 Corset-erie's offering
21 Album fill	59 Hang in the balance	11 Passable	46 Pack down
24 Urban music style	60 Cincinnati squad	12 Long lunch?	47 Wind instrument
25 Main-lander's souvenir	61 Fight	16 Egyptian boy king	48 Horse of another color?
26 Beat-up boat	Solution time: 23 mins.	20 Aries	49 Seep
28 Appor-tioned	MAO SPEW ALBA	21 Stopper	53 Disen-cumber
32 Bear in the air	ALL ERMA VOUS	22 Long lunch?	54 Lennon's lady
34 French pronoun	PIE LOUDMOUTH	23 Bottom	55 Wild a needle
36 Cupola	STOOL SOW		
37 "Whither thou —"	WISP WAGON		
39 Heidi's	BLUENOSE LOKI		
	RAP GRASS RAN		
	IDOL BLACKKEYE		
	MANOR MIRE		
	YES UNCLE		
	EAROFCORN LOX		
	EMIL OPEC ADA		
	KONIA WASH WIM		



J P U W D D W G A J H R  
H J Q R B Y P "G A R R C Y P  
P Y Q H X D R," G J C C B A R  
H A Q Y G J D H A R U Y G R C ?  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: THE LARGE NUMBER OF ROBBERIES YOU HEAR ABOUT IS FLATLY ALARM-ING.  
Today's Cryptquip clue: P equals F  
The Cryptquip 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.