



Share The Passion



Sacchi busy with rebuilding

MARTINSVILLE, N.J. June 26: Arrigo Sacchi is busy with restoration work these days, reports AP.

The Italian coach is trying to rebuild Roberto Baggio's damaged pride and reshuffle an injury-crippled squad be-



ARRIGO SACCHI

fore for Tuesday's decisive World Cup match against Mexico.

Italy, struggling with a four-way tie with Mexico, Ireland and Norway in Group E, needs a victory at Washington's Robert F Kennedy Stadium to get a second-round berth.

A draw could eliminate the "Azzurri," who started the month-long competition as a favourite for a record fourth world title.

Italy's defense, moulded from the back line of AC Milan, will have to do without captain-sweep Franco Baresi and left back Paolo Maldini while veteran right back Mauro Tassotti is a questionable starter because of a lightly strained right thigh.

No. 1 keeper Gianluca Pagliuca will miss the match with Mexico, and the second round if Italy qualifies. Pagliuca was suspended for two games following his red card for an intentional handball in the 1-0 victory over Norway.

Baresi, 34, underwent arthroscopic surgery Friday to remove cartilage in his right knee, damaged in a tackle in the Norway game, and may be sidelined for the rest of the competition.

Italian doctors said Saturday

that his rehabilitation would take two weeks to two months. Maldini is nursing a right ankle sprain and doctors said it is doubtful he could recover by Tuesday.

Sacchi was expected to start Parma's Luigi Apolloni and Antonio Benarrivo, and possibly Roberto Mussi, in a new defensive line that includes only one player from European Champions Cup titlist AC Milan — Alessandro Costacurta.

AC Milan players long have been used to employ the zone defence and the offside tactic of Sacchi, who coached Milan for four years before taking over the Azzurri in 1991.

"Franco's (Baresi) absence is a very bad blow for the team, because we will miss his charisma and his tactical skills. But we must be resigned to do without him," Costacurta said. "We will have to engage harder to make up with his absence."

The AC Milan centrehalf suggested the Italy will not have to give up the offside trap "although some newcomers are not used to it."

"It's the best way for keeping rival forwards away from our penalty area, and give better support to our midfield. We must not give up a long-tested tactic, although we may face some risks," Costacurta added. Benarrivo's unfamiliarity and hesitation in joining the offside trap allowed Norwegian forwards several chances, including Oyvind Leonhardsen's breakaway that led to Pagliuca's red card.

While having to create a new defence for Mexico, Sacchi will leave his midfield and front line untouched from the Norway game, staying with Dino Baggio, Demetrio Albertini and Nicola Bertini supporting Giuseppe Signori, Roberto Baggio and Pierluigi Casiraghi.

"It will be important to score the first goal, and reach the second round," forward Daniele Massaro said. "Underdog teams are sometimes more difficult than the big ones. I'm confident and certain that the organization of our team will prevail, at last."

Sacchi also has to contend with a sulking Roberto Baggio, who was upset at being substituted when Pagliuca was ejected. Baggio, who has been

bothered by an inflamed Achilles' tendon, was technically changed to goalkeeper and then replaced by backup keeper Luca Marchegiani.

Sacchi said he made the change because of Baggio's injury and added strain of playing 11 on 10 would cause.

"He's an extraordinary



ROBERTO BAGGIO

player, who reacted as all removed players would do," Costacurta said. "His relations with Sacchi are not tense. The Baggio case has been magnified by media. It does not exist. Roberto will give us a decisive support in the next games."

Massaro said Sacchi's choice was a tactical one, and all players understand that. "Two years ago I was removed after only five minutes when Baresi was red-carded. It was a tactical choice, as it was during the game with Norway," said Massaro, who often is fielded as a substitute.

Baggio did not speak to the media Saturday but teammates said he was unhappy with the emphasis given to his substitution and his reaction.

"Every player would react when he's removed during a World Cup match. But I suspect that (Diego) Maradona would not have been substituted in the same situation," Baggio said Friday.

Meanwhile, Dino Baggio, who scored Italy's winner against Norway, reportedly has agreed to transfer to Parma.

from Juventus of Turin, negotiating a four-year contract worth 1.2 billion lire (dhs 800,000) a year.

Americans adore Lalas

MISSION VIEJO, Calif. June 26: If any evidence were needed that Alexi Lalas is America's new folk hero — fan mail pouring into the US World Cup training centre is proof enough, reports Reuter.

While talking to reporters Friday about today's clash with Romania, Lalas was going through a pile of some 50 letters — mostly from children, and many on Mickey Mouse stationery.

One was addressed to "Alexi, US soccer, California," while another started out "Dear Big Red" — a reference to the tall defender's distinctive appearance.

Some US fans arrived at the games against Switzerland and Colombia wearing red wigs and long stick-on goatees — just like their hero.

It's their answer to the Colombian fans who sport wigs that look like exploding root vegetables in honour of their idol Carlos Valderrama's hair-do.

One of Lalas' most touching letters came from a girl in Indiana, who said she had written "Because I play soccer and also because I am a girl."

She complained that she was "harassed at school because the other kids say soccer is a boy's game."

Another fan wrote: "I hope you don't think I'm sucking up, but can you send me your autograph?"

Lalas said he would respond to all the letters by hand — all that is, except the one he opened to find was a chain letter.

"That kid, I'll get him," joked Lalas, looking at the return address.

Dino Baggio signs for Parma

PARMA, June 26: Juventus midfielder Dino Baggio, who put Italy's World Cup squad back on track with the winning goal against Norway, has signed a four-year contract with First Division Parma, the club said on Saturday, reports Reuter.



DINO BAGGIO

A Parma statement said the contract, signed in New York on Friday night, was worth 1.2 billion lire (about 760,000 dollars).

Baggio had already agreed in principle at the end of the last season to move to Parma.

The financial details had been left outstanding, but it was not expected they would be completed during the World Cup finals.

Baggio powered home a second half header to give 10-man Italy a dramatic 1-0 win over Norway on Thursday.

Ivanisevic blazes with aces

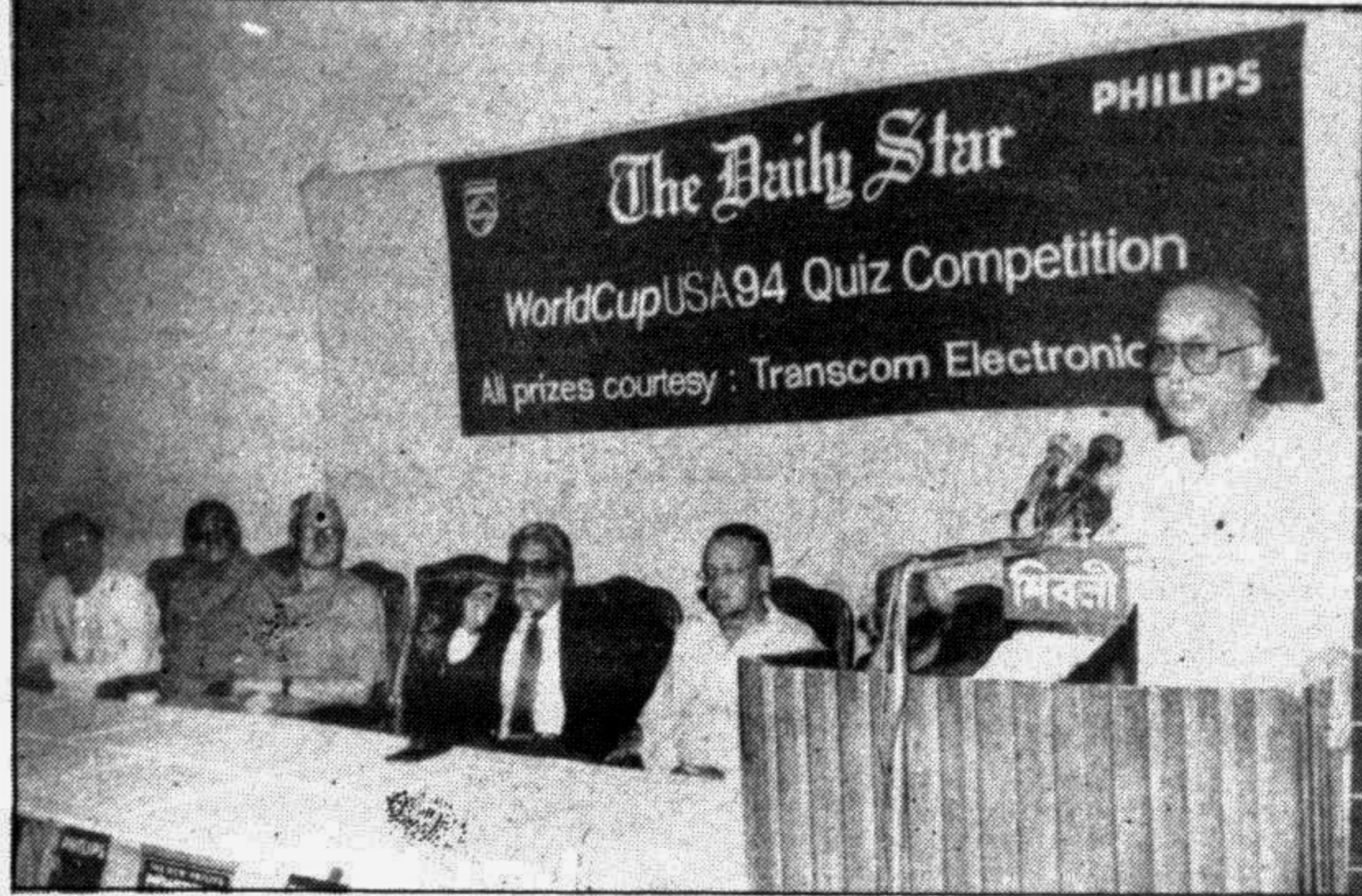
LONDON, June 26: Goran Ivanisevic led the charge of the favourites into the second week of Wimbledon on Saturday and organisers and ticket touts breathed a sigh of relief, reports AFP.

After a first week in which three former champions and 12 other seeds were eliminated, anxious eyes watched Saturday's matches. More big names going out would have had a big impact on ticket prices for the tournament's closing week.

Fourth-seed Goran Ivanisevic thumped down 25 aces and lost only six points on serve as he blasted Amos Mansdorf off the Centre Court 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

Martina Navratilova survived an unscheduled early morning alarm call by an "irresponsible" press photographer to brush aside last weekend's Eastbourne final Linda Harvey-Wild 6-3, 6-2.

Boris Becker took another step down the road to a fourth title, and although he dropped his first set of the tournament, looked remarkably comfortable in a 7-6 (7-4), 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, victory over Javier Frana of Argentina.



Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, the chief guest on the occasion of the lucky draw for The Daily Star Bumper World Cup Quiz, addressing the audience at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Zia regains nat'l chess title

Sports Reporter International Master Ziaur Rahman became unbeaten champion in the 20th national chess championship with a win against Arif Hossain of Dhaka Metropolis in the last round at the chess room of National Sports Council yesterday.

Zia, a first year student of Dhaka University, needing a draw to clinch the championship for the second time since he won it in 1990, cornered his opponent Arif Hossain in the 27th move to collect highest 14 points in the fifteen round Swiss League meet.

With this win, Zia dethroned three times champion Reefat bin Sattar who held the coveted title since 1991.

Reefat, who earlier lost to Zia, finished runner-up with thirteen points. He beat Maruf Ahmed in this round.

MSC in Fed Cup semis

Sports Reporter Mohammedan Sporting Club ensured their semifinal berth in the BEXIMCO 12th Federation Cup football tournament when they edged past Sadharan Bima by the odd goal in three in one of the two matches played at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Sadharan Bima, who held their superior opponents in a goalless draw during the first part of the play, got a stunning lead in the 57th minute when their Maung Bathui headed home a rightside cross from Sakhawati.

However, striker Riaz of Mohammedan restored parity five minutes later when he nodded a ball home which came by his way after a couple of headers in a goalmouth melee.

Riaz, the well built Mohammedan striker, then struck the match winger in the 66th minute with a cool header to score his second goal of the match.

In the other match of the day, defending champions Brothers Union and sensational Muktiyoddha Sangsad KC ended their encounter in a 1-1 draw.

Muktiyoddha's star striker Mizan put his side into the lead in the seventh minute heading home a Mamun Joarder cross from right flank while Biplob struck the equaliser two minutes before the breather by a neat placing shot.

Army in hockey final

Bangladesh Army edged past Dhaka University 4-1 in the tie-breaker to move into the final of the Ragib Ali Gold Cup hockey tournament at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The second semifinal of the meet forced into the tie-breaker after both sides failed to score any during the 70-minute encounter with Dhaka University partly dominating the match.

ANSWERS TO The Daily Star WORLD CUP '94 QUIZ 6

- Who is the oldest player to have scored in the WC finals? **R. Milla Tunisia**
- Which African team first won a game in the WC finals? **Passarella 12 Eusebio**
- Who was the last winning captain to lift the World Cup in his own club stadium? **Bilek Didi**
- How many players did Brazil use to win the 1962 World Cup? **Ireland 7**
- Who was the top scorer in the 1966 World Cup? **Pele**
- In 1990 which Czech player scored one penalty and missed another in his team's game against the USA?
- Which ex-Brazilian star managed Peru in 1970?
- In the 1990 World Cup, which of these teams reached the quarter-final stage without winning a match?
- Which one of these players has scored in 4 successive W Cups?
- How many goals did Polish striker Lato score in the 1974 WC?

Americans have point to prove

PASADENA, Calif. June 26: The Americans have nice uniforms, Romanian coach Cornel Dinu had said. And maybe in 100 years or so, they might be able to field a competitive soccer team.

That was 17 months ago, after the United States had played Romania to a 1-1 tie in an exhibition match at Santa Barbara.

Although the controversial Dinu later was deposed as the coach by more diplomatic Anghel Iordanescu, the Americans have an opportunity to prove his timetable was off by 98 years or so, reports AP.

The United States, which already has established itself in this World Cup by beating Colombia 2-1, faces Romania, a 3-1 winner over Colombia, in a first-round finale Sunday afternoon at the Rose Bowl.

At a press conference Saturday, Romanian officials were still trying to explain away Dinu's remarks.

"It's just the way he is," Adalbert Kassai, general secretary of the Romanian team, said. "He is just a little bit more explosive."

Kassai, speaking through an interpreter, added: "But the US team over the last two years has grown up a lot, and we appreciate this. We believe the relationship between our teams is very good."

Cristian Bivolava, Kassai's deputy, added that Dinu's comments in Santa Barbara were "not isolated for him," explaining that other comments the coach made after a game in Mexico "brought us to the brink of a diplomatic scandal."

The Americans and Romanians are both virtually assured of advancing to the second round, but the winner of Sunday's game will finish either first or second in the group.

Although the former Romanian coach had a low opinion of American soccer, the present coach and players apparently don't, in part because they watched the United States-Colombia game on TV in the airport in Detroit. They were preparing to fly back

from a 4-1 loss to Switzerland, which had tied the United States 1-1 in their opener.

"We already knew the United States in terms of competitiveness and aggressiveness," Kassai said of the Americans' upset of Colombia. "We were surprised by the frequency of the attacks by the US and the degree of danger they created."

"May be one of our problems will be to deal with the heat (expected to be in the 90s) during the game. One of the other things is that we must look to stop their attack along the sidelines, but of course that will be up to the technical (coaching) staff."

There were no players or coaches at the Romanian press conference, bringing protests from reporters.

Goran Havik, a FIFA press officer, said that international governing body of soccer has made it clear that coaches and at least one player should be available for interviews, and that FIFA might consider disciplinary action against the Romanian federation.

Like mentor like disciple

DALLAS, June 26: Irish striker John Aldridge was fined 2,500 Swiss francs (1,850 dollars) for swearing at FIFA officials which trying to go onto the pitch as a substitute during Mexico's 2-1 victory over Ireland on Friday in Orlando, reports Reuter.

FIFA banned coach Jack Charlton from sitting on the bench in Ireland's next World Cup match and fined him almost 15,000 dollar for abusing a referee and linesmen.

The disciplinary committee of soccer's governing body ordered Charlton to pay 20,000 Swiss francs (14,900 dollar) for his "unsporting conduct" and fined the Irish Football Association the same amount for their "ill-mannered behaviour."

"FIFA's disciplinary committee banned Charlton from sitting on the bench for the next game as a result of his constant misbehaviour," FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said.

FIFA decided that Charlton had been shouting too much abuse at the referee and linesmen during the match against Mexico from the team's touchline bench.

Charlton, the Englishman who has led Ireland to two successive World Cup finals, will have to sit in the stands for their critical final first round match against Norway in



JOHN ALDRIDGE

East Rutherford on Tuesday. They need at least a point to be sure of qualifying for the second round from Group E.

"Charlton threatened and insulted the referee and the fourth official sitting on the touchline," said Tognoni. "Aldridge and the other people on the Irish bench

were fined for the same reason.

"FIFA can not tolerate officials being insulted. But there is no reason to make war between FIFA and the Irish FA," he added.

"This is not a retaliation. It has nothing to do with Jack Charlton's complaints to us about players drinking during matches."

But Charlton, who has complained several times to FIFA about the hot conditions and asked for water breaks during matches, believes he is being punished for it.

"Really, I am paying the penalty for having a go about the water situation," Charlton told Britain's ITV.

"I have been yelling at players rather than referees during matches, attempting to get things sorted out on the pitch."

"The only time I have had a big argument with an official is over a throw-in which should have been taken opposite the penalty area but ended up being taken practically on the halfway line."

Tognoni, FIFA's chief press officer, said Saturday's fine and ban was a result of reports from the referee and the match co-ordinator.



Fuad Amin of Saudi Arabia is being greeted by teammates after scoring the decisive goal in his side's 2-1 victory, maiden World Cup win, during a Group F match against Morocco at the Giants Stadium, New Jersey on June 25.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Urge to attack
- Rope fiber
- Dennis the Menace, e.g.
- "Kitchy—"
- Chihuahua chum
- Postal Creed word
- Explain
- Place-kicker's pride
- Reason to say alas
- Subtle point
- Customer
- Sightsee
- Sweetie
- Eviscerate
- When to say die
- First chip
- Ms. Piggy
- Missile shelter
- Golfer Calvin
- Absolutely

DOWN

- Schuss
- Charged bit
- Barracks bed
- Lamour's wrap
- Driving force
- Round Table address
- Spy product
- Skin-care
- Mountain lakes
- Academic
- Quarry
- Farm female
- Props in "The Color of Money"
- Bloke
- Un-escorted
- Middle
- Doll or kite
- Model Mac-pherson
- Kuralt's beat
- Needle case
- Oater
- Sign up
- By the — of Gitchie Gumees...
- Actress Berger
- Scully need
- Floppy follower
- Daredevil of note
- Pitch
- Coffee maker
- "Ulalume" poet
- AAA job

Solution time: 27 min.

Saturday's answer 10-25

CRYPTOQUIP

HO XDIKFPO OLZWJKDI
ZHXLDW GTD IJA SFIW
GFF OFFX TD AFGDW,
"FT, STPGD!"

Saturday's Cryptoquip: CAGEY STUDENT WHO OFTEN CUT HIS ILLUSTRATION CLASS WAS THE ARTFUL DODGER.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: S equals C

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.