

# District roundup

## RANGPUR

### Schoolboy killed in road mishap

June 27: A school boy was killed and 40 others were injured, 10 seriously, in two separate road accidents on Friday in the district, reports UNB.

Police said Ismail Hossain (8), a student of class two while riding a bicycle was knocked down by a speeding truck from behind at Gupta-para area of the town. He died on the spot.

Forty people were injured, 10 seriously, in another bus mishap near Teesta bridge on Rangpur-Kurigram Road on the same day. The accident occurred when a Patgram bound minibus overturned while giving side to a loaded truck.

## BARISAL

### Ashura observed

June 27: The holy Ashura, the tenth of Muharram was observed Tuesday by the Muslims of this district as elsewhere of the country with due solemnity, reports BSS.

Various socio-cultural and religious organisations drew up elaborate programmes to mark the day. The programmes included milad mahfil, Qurankh-wani, feeding the destitutes, special prayers, discussions, seminars and tazia processions.

The local dailies also published special supplements highlighting the significance of the day.

The Muslims observed the day to commemorate the supreme sacrifice made by Imam Hossain (RA) and his followers in the Karbala for establishing truth and justice.

## CHANDPUR

### Workshop on use of iodine-salt

June 27: A day long workshop on the use of iodine-salt was held at Chandpur Pura-bazar recently, reports BSS.

About 35 salt mills owners participated in the workshop. The workshop was organised by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation in cooperation with UNICEF.

The workshop was addressed by Md Jahangir Akhand Selim, President Chandpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Md Golam Kibria, Deputy Commissioner Chandpur, Md Sayed Ahmed DGM BSCIC, Md Baker UNICEF representative and GM Faruque of BSCIC.

The speakers urged the people to take iodized salt to prevent goitre.

## CHITTAGONG

### CMP begins tree plantation programme

June 27: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) began a tree plantation programme, reports BSS.

CMP Commissioner Osman Ali Khan inaugurated the tree plantation programme by planting a sapling at Dampara Police Line.

Speaking on the occasion the CMP commissioner said that 12,000 saplings of different trees would be planted in the CMP area during the current season.

## RAJSHAHI

### Discussion on drug abuse

June 27: International day against abuse and illicit trafficking of drugs was observed here, reports BSS.

Narcotics Department organised a discussion at a local school to mark the day. Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu, Divisional Commissioner Aminul Islam and Metropolitan Police Commissioner M H Chowdhury among others spoke on the occasion.

## KISHOREGANJ

### Scheme to bring 1300 hectares of land for banana cultivation

June 27: A scheme has taken up to bring 1300 hectares of land under banana cultivation in seven districts of Comilla Agricultural Zone during the current season, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department, 100 hectares each will be brought in Comilla and Brahmanbaria, 150 hectares each in Chandpur and Sylhet, 400 hectares in Moulvibazar, 200 hectares each in Habiganj and Sunamganj.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will supply necessary agri-inputs to the growers to make the scheme a success.

Bangladesh Krishi and other commercial banks will also provide loan facilities to the growers, the sources added.

A total of 52,000 metric tons of banana are expected to be produced after the completion of the scheme.

Another scheme has been taken up to bring about 500 hectares of land under Papaya cultivation in the same zone during the time.

According to official sources, of the total, 50 hectares each will be brought in Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Sylhet, Habiganj and Sunamganj districts and 200 hectares in Moulvibazar district.

Regional Director of Agriculture Extension Department said the production target has been fixed at 20,000 metric tons after the successful completion of the scheme.

## SYLHET

### 3 killed as bus collides with truck

June 27: Three people, including a medical student, were killed and five injured when a truck collided head on with a bus near Lalabazar in sadar thana on Dhaka-Sylhet highway recently, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Ferdous Ahmed (24), a student of Dhaka Medical College (DMC), bus driver Shaheen (25) and another unidentified man aged about 30 died on the spot. The bodies were brought to Osmany Memorial Hospital for autopsy.

Of the injured, DMC students Suman and Nur Mia were rushed to the Osmany Hospital in critical condition.

Witnesses said the accident took place as the truck driver lost control over the steering.

# Kuwaiti returnees demand UN compensation money

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, June 27: The Bangladeshi nationals, who returned from Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion have sought for the Prime Ministers personal move for realisation of compensation money from the United Nations. They also expressed their grief concern due to the absence of the names of Bangladeshi nationals in the list of affected peoples prepared by the UN authorities.

The Kuwait Returnee Bangladesh Samity staged a day-long sit in at the office of the Labour and Manpower in Sylhet on Wednesday last. A meeting was also held there with president of the organisation in the chair. The speakers said that, the distribution of the compensation money had already begun by the UN authorities since June 12 this year. But 36 thousand

Bangladeshis had been deprived of the legitimate dues only for the negligence of the bureaucrats. Of the total number of affected people at least 30 thousand would be from the greater Sylhet region, they added. The speakers called upon the government for taking necessary measures for realisation of the compensation money from the UN.

They also announced that, a grand conference of the Kuwait returnees would be held in August. Fresh action programmes would be declared from the conference, they added.

Ex MP and secretary, Greater Sylhet Ganadabi Parishad Md Ashraf Ali, President District Sramik League, Syed Mostafa Kamal, President District JSD (Rab) Abdul Quaiyum, and Nurul Islam.



SYLHET: The returnees from Kuwait staged a sit-in programme in the district man power office to press home their demand. — Star photo

# 'Govt firm to implement programmes of edn for all'

SHIBPUR (Narsingdi), June 27: Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the represent democratic government is determined to implement programmes of education for all by the year 2000, reports BSS.

He was addressing a gathering on the occasion of the foundation laying ceremony of the three-storied new bhavan of Sabuj Pahar College at Kamartek under Shibpur thana in Narsingdi.

President of the college managing committee Sultanuddin Molla presided over the meeting.

Among others, Abdul Ali Mridah MP, Principal of the college Md Sirajul Islam, vice president of BNP Narsingdi District Towhidul Islam and convener of BNP Shibpur Thana Abul Haris Prikab spoke in the function.

The labour minister said, education is the pre-requisite of national development and no nation can prosper without education.

Mannan said, the government has made highest budgetary allocation for the education sector. Primary education has made compulsory to eradicate illiteracy from the society.

# Number of drug addicts on rise in Sherpur

SHERPUR, June 27: Anti-social activities have been vitiating the social environment of the district headquarters due to alarming rise in number of drug addicts causing great concern among the town dwellers, reports UNB.

People from all walks of life are more or less addicted to different types of drugs. Most of them are rickshawpullers, sweepers, transport workers and students. Mostly they use rectified spirit and phenisidyl syrup with impunity as these are available in medical stores and stationary shops, local people alleged.

To meet the cost of their drugs the addicts are also engaged in various anti-social ac-

tivities including illegal trade, smuggling, theft and hijacking, they added.

Dwellers said it is difficult to come out their residences after sundown as drug addict mastans become active and whenever they get chance loot their belongings.

Lack of social awareness, family control and shortage of employment opportunities are the main reasons for increasing drug addiction, doctors and social workers said.

Local elite complained that the addicts use drugs freely as nobody dares to protest them. Members of the law enforcing agencies are found reluctant to take action against them, they alleged.



SYLHET: Many parts of the town area are submerged by knee-deep water after a slight rainfall. Picture shows Subidbazar area of the town after three hours of rainfall. — Star photo

# Drop out rate high

# Primary education in rural areas faces serious setback

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, June 27: A total of 30,550 children in four thanas of Chuadanga district do not go to schools due to poverty, shortage of primary schools, want of educational environment and appliances etc.

According to Chuadanga District Primary Education Office source, about 146, 152 children have reached school going age in the district. About 115, 602 students have been enrolled in the primary schools of the district and the rest of the 30,550 boys and girls remain out of school due to shortage of schools, want of proper environment, ignorance by the guardians and their poverty and non introduction of Food for Education Programme in all the schools etc.

Every year a large number of students drop out from the schools. The guardians are taking away their children from the schools and engage them in some other profession for earning money.

There are 257 government, 85 registered and 15 unregistered primary schools in the district, which are quite inadequate to meet the demand. The non-government primary schools in the district are functioning without adequate number of teachers and other educational facilities.

A total of 38 posts of teachers in the government primary schools of the district have been lying vacant for a long time.

The accommodation problems in all the government and non-government primary schools of the district are acute for which implementation of Compulsory Primary Education Programme (CPEP) in the district is suffering a serious setback.

## Kushtia

The number of primary school going children is decreasing in remote areas of the district day by day due to abject poverty resulting in continued drop out for quite a long time.

A large number of children of remote areas aged between 8 and 12 years are engaged in different petty jobs instead of going to schools to maintain their livelihood.

Poverty stricken farmers are preferring to engage their kids in income, generating works like cattle grazing, rickshaw pulling and hotel body. The children are compelled to take up odd jobs at poor remuneration.

Most of the marginal or landless farmers in the district have four or more children and are suffering from financial stringency. As a result, they

cannot afford educational expenses of their children. Finding no other alternative they are forced to encourage their children to take up any jobs.

During harvesting season a large number of farm labourers along with their kids migrate to distant districts in search of work.

Due to this primary schools in the remote areas of the district have been facing acute shortage of students and the problem is being intensified day by day. The Universal Primary Education Programme (UPEP) has been facing a serious setback in the district.

According to Primary Education Department, there are 569 primary schools in the district. About one lakh children are being imparted primary education in these schools run by government or private initiative.

It is reported that most of the schools are dilapidated, inadequate furniture and shortage of teachers are the main causes hampering education in these schools. High

prices of paper and other educational appliances, financial crisis and social problems are also hindering the progress.

Moreover, the schools damaged by floods, storm and cyclone over the last few years have not yet been repaired. Shortage of teachers and accommodation problem have further aggravated the situation.

Cracks have developed on the roof of most of the school buildings for which the students cannot attend classes during rainy seasons. Very often classes are taken under open sky.

Most of the schools have no tubewell due to which the students are to take water from the nearby ponds and canals.

## Netrakona

Universal Primary Education Programme in the district is being hampered to a great extent due to shortage of teachers and other appliances in the primary schools, reports UNB.

Most of the government primary schools in all the 10 thanas of the district are beset with manifold problems which include, dilapidated condition of the school building, inadequate furniture, shortage of accommodation and teachers and lack of drinking water supply.

There are 626 government, 171 registered and more than 200 non-registered primary schools in the district where over three lakh students are attending facing enormous difficulties.

Most of the non-government primary schools established at the local initiative have not yet received government recognition. Being disappointed, the teachers of these institutions are leaving and the children are being deprived of education.

Besides, the government primary schools do not have necessary furniture and appliances. Finding no other alternative, the students are compelled to sit on the mat or bricks to carry on their studies.

Meanwhile, many school houses damaged by different calamities in the last few years are in the dire need of reconstruction. But authorities concerned have not yet taken adequate programme in this regard, local people alleged. Classes of these schools are being held under the open.

The poor children are also being discouraged to continue their studies due to the price hikes of necessary ingredients.

Local elite urged the authorities concerned to come forward and take necessary steps as early as possible to mitigate the sufferings of the primary school children.

# Intrusion by Indian BSF men, panic in border areas of Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, June 27: A Stone Quarry labourer was now under treatment in a hospital after being kidnapped and beaten by the Indian Boarder Security Force (BSF) personnel in Sripur border of Jaintapur thana.

An official source informed that, the BSF personnel intruded into the Bangladesh territory and caught Kauser Ahmed, 30, a labourer of the Sripur Stone Quarry on June 20 this year. They tied him up and kidnapped him into the Indian territory forcibly. He was badly injured by the BSF men and later was handed over to the Dauki police station in India.

The BDR on the next day, lodged a complain with the BSF in this regard. The BSF released him at 8 PM Wednesday. He was now undergoing treatment in the Jaintapur thana health complex. He hails from village Baurbhag of Jaintapur. A panic has been created among the labourers of stone quarries in the border areas. There are allegations of frequent harassment of Bangladeshi labourers by the BSF for long time.

# Jute worth Tk 4 cr gutted in Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, June 27: About Tk 4 crore worth of jute was burnt by a big fire on Monday at a jute mill at Char Mugaria in Madaripur poua area.

Sources said, about 77 thousand maunds of jute were damaged by the fire in two godowns of the mill.

Two labourers of the mill were injured when they tried to bring the fire under control. Of them (35) was admitted to the local hospital.

The cause of the fire is not yet known. But it is suspected the fire originated from an electric circuit.

Fire service men and local police were engaged to bring the blaze under control.

Abdus Satter Mia, DC, Police Super Abdur Rahim and local poua chairman Khalifur Rahman visited the spot.

# Protest against anti-Islamic activities

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, June 27: Thousands at Muslim devotees paraded Islampur thana town streets demanding immediate stoppages of all anti-Islamic activities in the country.

They also demanded severe punishment to those blasphemous elements and urged the people to forge unity and build resistance against these anti-national conspiracies.

Earlier a big rally was held at Islampur maidan here with Moulana Obaidul Islam in the chair. The meeting was addressed among others by Samiul Haque, Moulana Abul Bashar, Moulana Motiur Rahman and others.

# Large scale irregularities in road protection works

From Our Correspondent

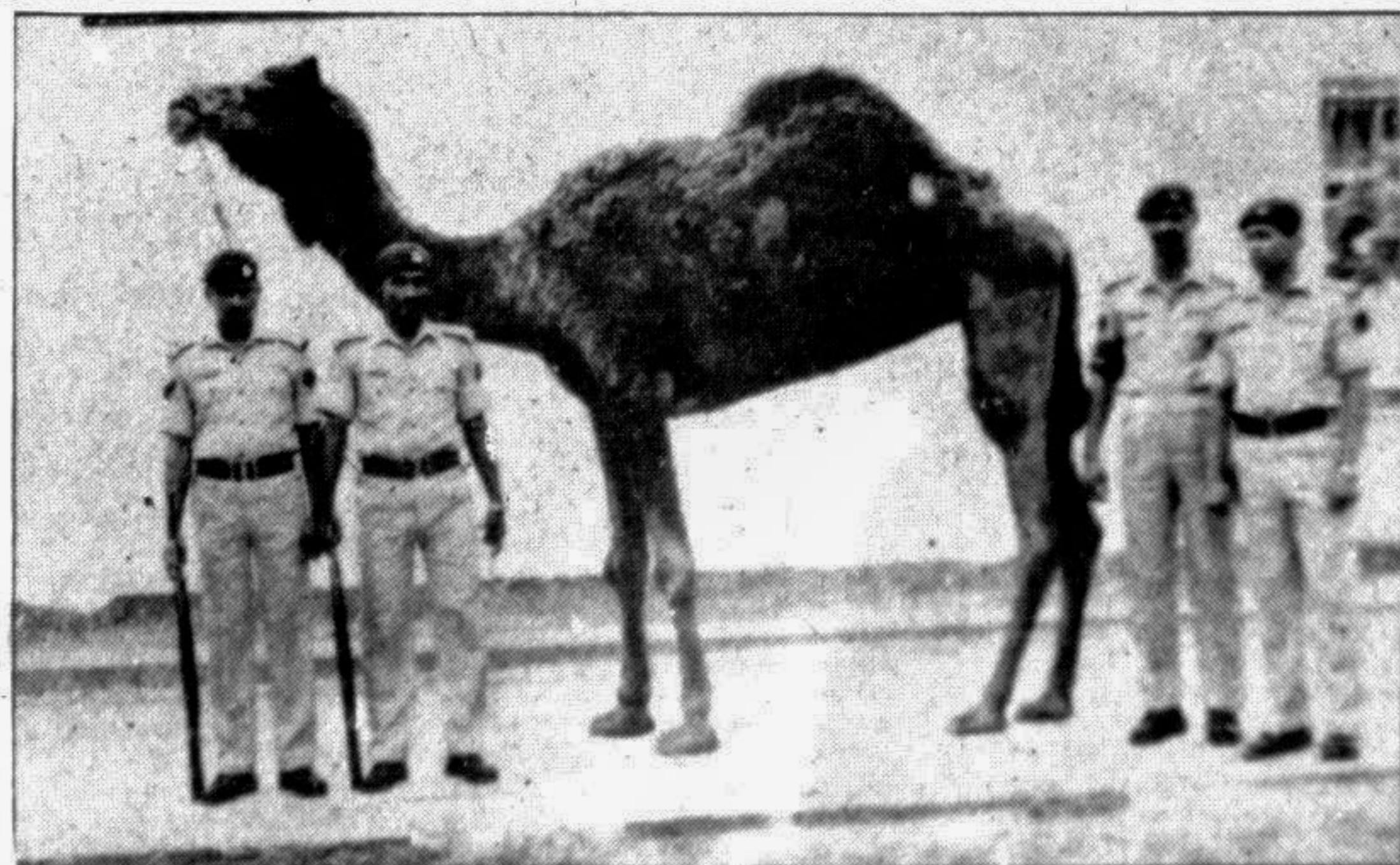
SYLHET, June 27: Large-scale irregularities have been going on in the protection works of the Sylhet-Fenchuganj Road, it is alleged.

The road was seriously damaged by the heavy pressure of flood waters during the last few years. The Road and Highways (R&H) Department arranged for the protection of the road by placing RCC blocks on one side of the road.

When contacted, an official source informed this correspondent that an estimated expenditure of Taka 49 lakh 68 thousand has been sanctioned for eight groups. Six contractors have been engaged for the protection works on 2.8 kilometre long road. The contractors were supposed to use RCC blocks on the project area. However, it was found that the contractors had been using inferior quality materials while making the RCC blocks, it is alleged.

Due to the violation of the prescribed proportion of the materials, huge number of RCC blocks were found damaged after a slight rainfall.

The matter had been brought to the notice of the concerned officials. Meanwhile, the local people have urged upon the authorities to take punitive measures against the contractors engaged with the works and the concerned officials. They also called for early completion of the project before the monsoon starts.



RAJSHAHI: An Indian camel, worth Taka one lakh, was recently seized by BDR men from Kishorpur border area of the district. The camel was later handed over to Rajshahi City Park Zoo. — Star photo

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Catcall?
  - 5 Expert
  - 8 Was philanthropic
  - 12 "Puppy Love" singer
  - 13 "Sister Act" extra
  - 14 Notion
  - 15 Traveler's need
  - 17 Teri of "Mr. Mom"
  - 18 Put a strain on
  - 19 AEC weaponry
  - 21 Prank
  - 24 Oil or gas
  - 25 Saharan
  - 26 Seder time
  - 30 Chaps
  - 31 Has a go at it
  - 32 Dander
  - 33 Old TV game show
  - 35 Soft drink
  - 36 Mrs. Herman Munster
  - 37 Propelled a gondola
- DOWN**
- 2 Spanish queen
  - 3 Sanctions
  - 4 Spent foolishly
  - 5 Strong as —
  - 6 Scoundrel
  - 7 Showed interest
  - 8 Kept man
  - 9 One of Ben Cartwright's sons
  - 10 Predicate
  - 11 Dumbo's wings
  - 16 Average
  - 20 Gershwin heroine
  - 21 So bad it's
  - 22 Vicinity
  - 23 Kegler's targets
  - 24 Mythical wand-waver
  - 26 Fall out of place
  - 27 String instrument
  - 28 — Stanley Gardner
  - 29 Patronize the library
  - 31 Clone
  - 34 Play-ground equipment
  - 35 Warfare
  - 37 Greek consonants
  - 38 Body of laws
  - 39 Acknowledge
  - 40 Ready for the picking
  - 41 Nick's dog
  - 44 Football fill
  - 45 Hockey great
  - 46 "A Chorus Line" song
  - 47 Crucial

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16					17		
21	22	23			24					
25				26				27	28	29
30				31				32		
33				34				35		
38	39	40						41		
42				43	44			45	46	47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

## CRYPTOQUIP

T W H H N S H H M N U S B J C F  
 U S H O U S Y W R W F P A G  
 P W F H W F U S Y O M T U S B F  
 C R O T M O A R J W U P W U  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS NERVOUS SKYDIVER YANKED THE RIP CORD TOO SOON; HE POUTED, "OH, CHUTE!"

Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals B

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.

Solution time: 24 mins.

SIC	SISAL	IMP
KOO	AMIGO	NOR
INTERPRET	TOE	
WOE	NICETY	
CLIENT	TOUR	
HON	GUT	NEVER
ANTE	SOW	SILLO
PEETE	YES	ELIA
RUNS	SHOWED	
DEFILE	TOA	
LIVE	INTERRUPT	
SER	STARE	ROO
CLE	TARNS	NEW