

BTMC gymnasts reign supreme

The two-day 11th national junior gymnastics championship concluded yesterday at the National Sports Council (NSC) gymnasium with Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) establishing their absolute supremacy, reports UNB.

The BTMC team, a major force in the country's gymnastics, grabbed 25 of the 26 medals at stake including all the eight golds to clinch the top slot.

Dinajpur DSA bagged the remaining medal, a bronze, from the eight-event meet.

M Zahidul Islam Rumi and Sharmila Sultana Sumi, both from BTMC, emerged individual champions from boys and girls groups. Teammates Akhter Hossain and Morsheeda Akhter finished runners-up.

President of the Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation M Nurul Huda MP and Commerce Secretary Mofazzal Karim distributed prize among the winners.

Honours even for BU, Boys

Believe it or not — Brothers Union, the traditional third force in the local football circuit, twice came from behind before settling for a 4-4 draw with relegation-threatened Bangladesh Boys in the only Star Premier Division football league match at the football Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The footballers in orange, who are virtually out of the title race, played with little motivation against their lowly Gopibagha neighbours and only flashed when they were under threat of an embarrassing defeat.

Brothers Union, who also shared points with Boys in their first leg engagement in a 1-1 draw, took a 2-1 first half lead after conceding the first goal in the 17th minute.

In a somewhat see-saw second half, Brothers found themselves on the verge of an embarrassing defeat, but thanks to Shahjada, who kept his cool when converting a penalty four minutes from time, they got away with a face-saving point.

Shahjada apart, Ranjan struck twice and Ripon got one for Brothers while Sana netted two and Ameer Khan and Bayazid notched up one apiece for Bangladesh Boys.

Ranjan's two goal took him to the top of the individual scorers' list along with Kazakov of Mohammedans and had his keeper allowed him to take the spot-kick he would have over-taken the Russian with 10 goals.

Yesterday's outcome left Brothers at 20 points and Bangladesh Boys at 9, both playing 15 matches each.

In the other match of the day, Victoria's promotion hopes simply evaporated when they drew goalless with East End in a Star First Division football league match.

The highlight of the match, however, involved two officials who were ordered off the field for their undesired sideline conduct.

Away at the Mirpur Stadium, Sadharan Bima and Shantinagar also shared points in a goalless deadlock.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka Wanderers vs Eskaton SS 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Mohammedan SC vs Muktijoddha Sangsad 6:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Mudassar Eleven clinch Ekota soccer title

Sports Reporter

Mudassar Eleven clinched the Ekota football tournament title with a 2-1 tie-break win over Saathi Eleven at the Handball court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The regulation period of the final ended goalless.

Kamruzzaman, sports editor of the Bengali daily Dainik Bangla, gave away prizes among the winners.

Pavin receives first round bye

ENGLAND, Oct 11: Defending champion Corey Pavin was made the top seed and given a first-round bye in the draw Tuesday for the 1994 World Match Play Championship, which starts Thursday at Wentworth, reports AP.

Pavin, ranked No. 9 in the world, will play the winner of Thursday's first-round match between No. 8 seed Vijay Singh of Fiji and Sweden's Jesper Parnevik.

Coming off a victory last weekend at the Tokai Classic in Japan, Pavin travels to Wentworth's West Course attempting to become the first player to win the richest top prize in European golf in back-to-back years since Seve Ballesteros in 1984-85.



Members of the BTMC gymnastics team who emerged champions on the concluding day of the 11th national championships at the NSC gymnasium yesterday. — Star photo

S Koreans edge out hosts

HIROSHIMA, Oct 11: Ace marksman Hwang Sun-Hong scored from the penalty spot in injury

time Tuesday night as South Korea defeated archrivals Japan 3-2 to advance to the semifinals of the Asian Games soccer tournament, reports AP.

It was Hwang's second goal of the game, and his 11th in only four games in the tournament.

South Korea, a three-time Asian Games champions, now face Uzbekistan, who crushed Turkmenistan 3-0 in a match between two tournament rookies.

China got two second-half goals to down Saudi Arabia 2-0, while Kuwait edged the United Arab Emirates 2-1 after 30 minutes of extra time. The Middle East rivals were level 1-1 after regulation time.

South Korea trailed Japan 1-0 at halftime despite dominating possession, and the match looked like heading for extra time after a drama-filled second half.

Kazu Miura, Japan's Italian-based striker, put the home team ahead in the 31st minute with a sharp piece of close-range finishing, but the Koreans equalized in the 52nd minute on the opportunism of Yoo Sang-Chul.

Hwang, a World Cup veteran, put the Koreans in front with a 78th minute header

after a smart build-up involving Han Jung-Kook and speedy substitute Choe Dae-Shik.

Defender Masami Ihara was both the hero and villain for Japan in a dramatic finish.

First he unleashed a swerving long-range drive to equalize with four minutes remaining; and then he pulled back Ha Seok-Ju in the penalty area to concede the decisive kick.

Hwang, a consummate professional, kept his nerve despite the noise of the baying crowd and slotted the spot kick into the net, sending goalkeeper Kikuchi Shinkichi the wrong way.

It was a win the Koreans richly deserved. They were quicker and more positive for the majority of the game.

"The Koreans were very strong and very physical," said Japanese captain Tetsuji Hashiratani. The Japanese players were unhappy with the venom in some of the Korean tackles, he said.

The future of Japan's Brazilian coach Paulo Roberto Falcão was in doubt after the loss.

Asked if he expected his contract to be renewed, Falcão responded: "You should not ask me. You should ask the Japanese Soccer Federation."

Japan and South Korea both are bidding to be named host for the World Cup finals in 2002 and victory has certainly boosted the Koreans' morale, if not their case.

Prolific striker Igor Shkryrin was on target in the

13th and 32nd minutes as Uzbekistan scored their fifth successive victory of the tournament.

Azamat Abduraimov was the other Uzbekistan marksman — from the penalty spot in the 19th minute — as the fast-moving and crisp-passing Uzbekistan had the match wrapped up before halftime and survived some pressure in the second period.

Shkryrin now has netted seven times in five games in Hiroshima.

China, aiming for their first Asian Games soccer title since 1954, got their goals from Cao Xiangdong from close to goal in the 77th minute and from Li Xiao two minutes from the end with a shot from 20 meters.

Saudi coach Ivo Wortmann had predicted his team would win if it was level at halftime, but it didn't work out that way.

Kuwait took a 50th minute lead when Khaled Alhusaini scored from close range, but the Emiratis forced extra time when Adnan Altayani scored from 18 metres (yards) out in the 89th minute.

Kuwait was not deflated by the equalizer, however, and Wail Alhabbashi connected with a free kick from Obaid Al Shennari to score the decider just five minutes into extra time. It was Alhabbashi's fifth strike of the tournament.

Both semifinals will be played on Thursday, with the final scheduled for Sunday before the closing ceremony.

Denmark's time to deliver

LONDON, Oct 11: Champions Denmark, already under pressure for dropping points

against newcomers Macedonia, face a critical European Championship qualifying game against Belgium on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Coach Richard Moeller Nielsen, who failed to take the Danes to the World Cup, came in for massive media criticism after last month's opening 1-1 draw and knows the clamour for his head will increase if they fail to beat their Group Two rivals in Copenhagen.

Injuries have not helped his cause and the Danish coach gambles on inexperienced home-based players — debutant Jens Risager, and Brodny teammate Mark Strudal, who will earn his sixth cap. Olis Peter Rasmussen of Salzburg,

who has made only one international appearance.

They were brought in to replace injured Borussia Dortmund striker Fleming Povlsen and midfielder Henrik Larsen and Morten Wieghorst.

With Povlsen and Larsen out, only five of the team which won the 1992 title remain.

But the Belgians, who head the group with Spain, also had injury problems.

Benfica goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme is doubtful, Anderlecht's Georges Grun is injured and veteran defender Michel de Wolf is ruled out because Marseille refused to release him in time. Influential midfielder Enzo Scifo is also still missing with an ankle injury.

Spanish coach Javier Clemente is not underestimating Macedonia as his World

Cup quarter-finalists become the second visitors to one of Europe's newest capitals, Skopje, in the former Yugoslavia.

Clemente, whose side escaped from Cyprus with a somewhat fortunate 2-1 win last month, has made it clear he regards Macedonia as one of the danger sides in the group, and even potential qualifiers.

The Spanish squad contains one new name — Italian-born forward Pier Luigi Cherubino of Sporting Gijon, who is 23 next Saturday.

Pier has been one of the main figures of a lively and very youthful Sporting side, whose successes include a victory over champions Barcelona at the start of the season.

World Cup semifinalists Sweden have the chance to extend their lead at the top of Group Three when they take on Switzerland in Bern while second-placed Hungary play a friendly against Germany.

The Swedes are weakened by the loss through injury of leading goal scorer Adrian Knap and FC Zurich's seasoned defender Juerg Studer.

Kubilay Turkylmaz, the Galatasaray striker dropped for the World Cup but now in outstanding form for his Turkish club, looks a definite starter after changing his mind about never to play for the national side again.

Swedish coach Tommy Svensson reckons the clash with the Swiss will be his team's toughest away qualifier.

The Netherlands travel to Norway for a Group Five clash determined to erase some bad memories after opening their World Cup qualifying campaign in Oslo with a 2-1 defeat.

Dutch coach Dick Advocaat is expected to give a debut to rising new star Michael Reiziger, a 21-year-old Ajax defender who played himself into the picture with excellent performances against AC Milan and AEK Athens in the Champions' League.

The Dutch attack is expected to be led by Inter Milan striker Dennis Bergkamp, recovered from an injury, with Bryan Roy given the same free role he has found success with at England's Nottingham Forest.

Maradona always a hero

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 11: Diego Maradona may be in the bad books of world soccer governing body FIFA but his popularity is undiminished in his native Argentina, where his appearance in a low-key charity match on Monday drew a crowd of 30,000, reports Reuters.

Thousands of Maradona fans invaded the pitch, forcing the match to be suspended for 40 minutes while they tried to get close to their idol, who has been banned by FIFA for 15 months for failing a drugs test at the World Cup finals.

At the final whistle, Maradona's light blue team lost 6-4 to the red and whites — both sides being made up of sporting and showbusiness personalities.

Maradona, who led Argentina to the World Cup title in 1986, made an unimpressive debut on Sunday as coach of struggling club Deportivo Mandiyu, who lost 2-1 at home to Rosario Central. The match was watched by a crowd of only 8,000.

A Sialkot success

ISLAMABAD, Oct 11: Sialkot-made footballs for the World Cup in the United States in June-July proved a great success for the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) of Pakistan, giving a big boost to the sport industry in Sialkot, reports APP.

The increase in exports was the result of a large number of publications and videos launched for the promotion of various products, including footballs for the World Cup.

According to the EPB statistics available here, the other Pakistani merchandise to register a steep rise in export during the last one year included textile items, carpets, leather products and surgical items.

Paes poised for a treble

HIROSHIMA, Oct 11: Leander Paes of India stayed on course for a unique hat-trick of Asian Games tennis golds Tuesday, reaching the singles and men's doubles semifinals, reports AFP.

The 21-year-old former Wimbledon and US Open junior champion, who lifted India to the men's team title last week, dropped just four games on his way to easy victories in both events.

He routed Indonesia's Suwandi Suwandi 6-1, 6-0 in just 50 minutes in matches held over from Monday when rain washed out play.

The 18-year-old Suwandi, who lost to India's number two Asif Ismail in the team final, held his nerve just once against the in-form top seed.

Paes returned to court an hour later with Davis Cup partner Gaurav Natekar to brush aside Thailand's Narathorn Srichaphan and Vittaya Samrej 6-2, 6-1.

Paes, who will play both semifinals on Wednesday, said Monday's break had been invaluable.

"It helped me get some rest. But if I continue to win my singles matches as quickly as I did today, the doubles will not be a problem, because Gaurav is a great partner," he said.

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Diego Maradona takes the ball past Argentine actor Dario Grandinetti(L) during charity match in Buenos Aires on Oct 10. Maradona's side lost 4-6. — AFP photo

Real Madrid prove a point

LONDON, Oct 11: Real Madrid, entertaining 3-1 weekend winners over Racing Santander, took special satisfaction from an emphatic Spanish league victory achieved without Danish midfielder Michael Laudrup, called to international duty in Copenhagen, reports Reuters.

The Dane, newly signed from Barcelona, has quickly become the inspiration of Argentine coach Jorge Valdano's new-look side and his absence had sown unease in the squad.

"We showed we are not dependent on any star figures. I was worried about the Laudrup syndrome but we overcame it and that is a very healthy sign," Valdano said.

Highlight of the match was a piece of vintage one-two magic between veteran striker Emilio Butragueno and midfielder Michel Gonzalez which ended with Butragueno setting the third goal.

"Whenever I get on the pitch, I try to do things well. I always feel the same enthusiasm," said Butragueno, when

came on in the second half when Ivan Zamorano was injured. Butragueno has been restricted to substitute appearances this season.

Real Madrid are now within a point of leaders Deportivo Coruna who are thanking the opportunism of substitute striker Claudio Barragan for their 3-3 draw at home to Real Zaragoza after being 3-1 down with 12 minutes left.

Claudio scored with a subtle backheader in the 78th minute and whipped home the equaliser from an acute angle five minutes from time after the Zaragoza goalkeeper could only parry a Bebeto header.

Coach Arsenio Iglesias had mixed emotions: "The entry of Claudio was what the play demanded, but we should have achieved the same with the starting line-up. Substitution is a patching up operation which this time worked."

In Germany, Werder Bremen kept up the pressure on Borussia Dortmund with a 2-1 victory over struggling 1860 Munich.

Breme and Dortmund, who beat Schalke 3-2 on Saturday, are level on 13 points at the top, one point ahead of third-placed Hamburg who beat

Bochum 3-1.

French and Italian leagues took a break with international sides in European championship action. Italy beat Estonia 2-0 while France drew 0-0 with Romania.

French trainer Aime Jacquet was happy with the performance of his experimental team and said he would retain the four young Nantes players — strikers Nicolas Quebec and Patrice Loko, midfielder Christian Karembeu and winger Reynald Pedros — for next month's visit to Poland.

Isquet went as far as comparing Pedros with George Best and hinted he might continue to leave out more experienced attackers Jean-pierre Papin and David Ginola.

"Loko and Quebec were magnificent," he said. "I have confidence in them and I want to assure them they will be with the French team in Poland."

Jacquet said Papin and Ginola would have to show him by their performances with Bayern Munich and Paris at German that they deserved to be recalled and that they were still committed to the national team.

Ivanisevic, Martin prevail

TOKYO, Oct 11: All three top seeds in action pulled through Tuesday at the one million dollar Seiko Super tennis tournament but not without a struggle for two of them: top-seed Goran Ivanisevic and fourth seed Todd Martin, reports AP.

Ivanisevic, who has had a sometimes disappointing year despite his No 2 ranking, found himself in a surprisingly hard-fought first set against unheralded qualifier Joshua Eagle of Australia.

But the Croatian went up a mini-break to 5-4 in the tiebreak, then boomed a serve Eagle couldn't handle to take it 7-4. He cruised through the second set, allowing Eagle just one game.

"I started reading the ball from the back of the court, playing more aggressive," said Ivanisevic, who lost in the first round last week as the top

seed in a tournament in Sydney.

Martin, whose mobility has been limited since a groin injury in July, sprayed shots long and wide in the first set, letting world No. 86 Nicklas Kulti of Sweden take it 6-3.

"I tried to make things a little bit too good, and made a few errors because of it," he said. "He's playing much better than he has in the past."

But the American came roaring back in the second set despite complaining to the umpire that he'd hurt his ankle, breaking Kulti two times in each set and firing 10 aces in the second for a 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 win.

Stefan Edberg, seeded third, used his patented serve and volley to easily overcome Germany's Alexander Mronz, 6-1, 7-5 on the fast Supreme carpet.

There are places that you play better," he said of his often good results in his country. "I know that I'm very

popular here in Japan, probably because I'm blond and because I play good tennis."

Two seeds did fall in the day's second-round action.

Canada's Greg Rusedski, ranked 57th, overcame the 15th seed, world No. 52 Richard Fromberg of Australia, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-5), the second match in two days he won solely on tiebreaks.

American David Wheaton, the No. 11 seed, fell 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 to Australian doubles specialist Todd Woodbridge, who beat local favourite Shuzo Matsuoka on Monday.

Woodbridge's doubles partner, Mark Woodforde, the 13th seed, easily overcame Ukrainian Dimitri Poliakov, 6-1, 6-2. Woodforde next face Edberg, and Rusedski faces Ivanisevic.

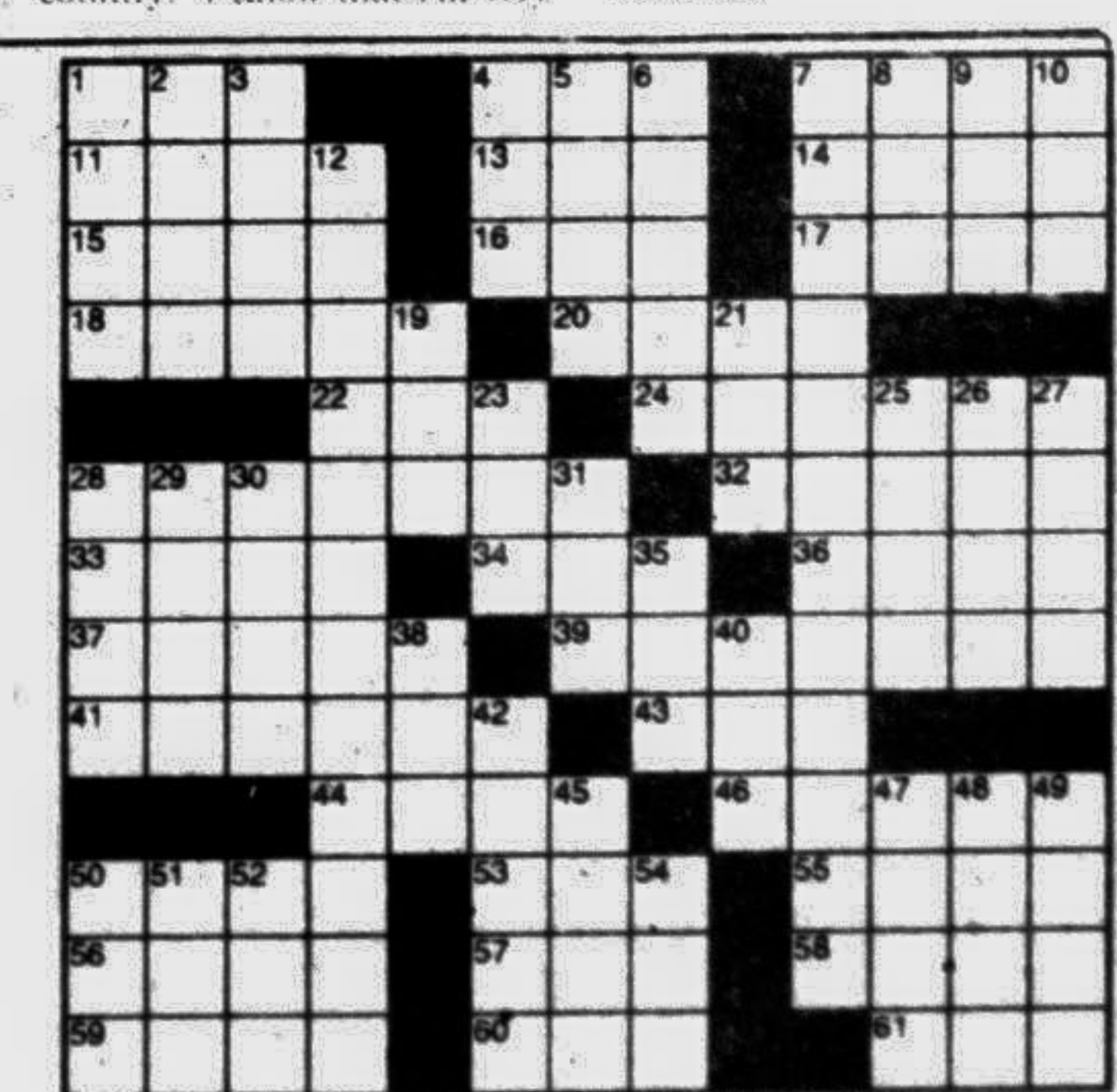
In second-round action Wednesday, fifth seed Boris Becker, sixth seed Michael Chang, and No. 9 seed Richard Krajicek all play their first matches.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		DOWN	
1 Wire measure	37 Political publication	61 "L.A. Law" alumna	19 Author
4 Write in the margins	39 One-piece swimsuit	21 Microne island	23 Rubber-tree-plant mover
7 Urn "— 18"	41 Worse off	1 Rasputin or Mendel	25 MP's prey
11 Of lyric verse	43 Rock concert need, for short	2 Notion	26 Attorney General
13 Hail, to Caesar!	44 Had the desired effect	4 Predicament	27 Mine entrance
14 State	46 Shopping center	5 Roman poet	28 Cut short
15 Single-minded seaman	50 "Star Wars" knights	6 Largest of the 48	29 Melo-drama role
16 Tobacco's offering	53 Enlisted soldiers: abbr.	7 European Recovery Program	30 Shake-spearan baddie
17 Landlord's due	55 Swear	8 "— Got a Secret"	31 Bottom line
18 Afghanistan's capital	56 Mel melody	9 Spy author	35 Sheepish remark
20 Doris and Dennis	57 Cantab's competitor	10 Museum fill	38 Recent addition?
22 "The Crying Game" star	58 Totenberg of NPR	12 Private ceremony?	40 Little scalawag
24 Large sandpile?	59 False god		42 Hillary's brother-in-law
28 Unisex wear of old Greece			45 Narc's unit
32 Man-handled			47 Eager
33 Paper quantity			48 Region
34 Run-down boat			49 Vacationing
36 TV's Anderson			50 Tactic for Holyfield
			51 Important time
			52 Day, to Jose
			54 Bro or sis

Solution time: 20 min.

LIGHT RAMIS
BANNER AGENTS
ENDURE VESTAL
SCI OASES EGO
EERO TON CREW
TRACK SECONDS
TIL DOR
SEVERAL PAPAS
ALIT WON LAVA
IDO FLOYD VIS
NELLIE MARLAS
TREADS PRIORY
STYES HEAVY



CRYPTOQUIP

WG QXTOHJ, B DMXRVO, OHXJBY DHE RBMWVM, EMVK HJQMVB OHJEYG FHOEMTJC YVF.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: ACCORDING TO THE COOK, THE CHICKENS ARE COMING HOME TO ROAST.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals G

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.