

Mar 15: Diego Maradona annomeed he is quiing as coach of Racing Club, two

day- after a referee expelled the Argentine from a game for

Edmundo learns his lesson

RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar 15: Headstrong Brazilian soccer star Edmundo walked free from an Ecuadorean hotel where he had been confined for nearly four days after smashing a television camera, Brazilian television reported on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Edmundo, whose club Palmeiras of Sao Paulo has agreed to pay a 10,000 dollar fine, told reporters in Guayaquil he had learned a lesson from his ordeal.

"This chapter in the life of Edmundo has ended and it will be as if there's a new player in the Palmeiras team," he said.

Edmundo, who is expected to return to Brazil early Wednesday, was placed under hotel arrest Friday for kicking and smashing a television camera after Palmeiras lost a Liberatadores Cup match against Nacional of Quito earlier in the week.

Edmundo had failed to convert a penalty during the match. Last year, the striker was banned for four games and 30 days for fighting with two players during a derby match versus Sao Paulo.

dousing a linesman with water Tigarts Reuter,

Maradona accusing refer ees of harbouring personal an imosity against him, decided to resign so his team did not suffer from bias.

"This afternoon I'm going to present my resignation to Juan (Destefano, the team's president) so as not to damage Racing and I'm not going to make an excuse today in the



MARADONA

Argentine Football Association for the expulsion ... on top of that, if they want to fine me, I won't pay up," said Argentina's former captain on radio.

Maradona accused Sunday's referee. Juan Bava, of being biin opposing team Independiente's favour, and denied having insulted Bava's "And if I did do it in a rush

us blood. I beg forgiveness on my knees from the lady, but not from him (Bava)." the star of Argentina's 1986 World Cup

triumph said. Sunday's game ended as a

goalless draw. Maradona's other clashes with referees include being kicked off the pitch for throwing a ball at an opposing player in January. Last month, two leading referees said they were considering sueing him for insulting remarks.

The inauspicious end to Maradona's brief reign at Racing Club comes on the heels of last year's coaching disaster with Deportivo Mandiyu, who won only one out of 12 matches under his command

His record at Racing was little better, with one victory out of three games this season. In one of the lower points of his time at Mandiyu, Maradona was accused by a referee of chasing him into the changing rooms and kicking his door after yet another lost match.

The scandal-dogged star, still widely revered in Argentina as a boy from the slums who made good, turned to coaching when he was banned from playing for taking banned substances during last year's World Cup finals.

Maradona vowed he would play again, but last month he said he wanted to don his boots once more when his ban is up, just to show all the "bastards" who are against

Orlando Magic dispelled

UNDATED, Mar 15: For one night at least. Orlando Arena belonged to the Utah Jazz.

The best home court advantage in the National Basketball Association wasn't enough to carry the Magic against the streaking Jazz. who won their ninth straight by, beating Orlando 107-95 Tuesday night. It was only the Magic's second home loss of the season in 34 games.

But for Utah, winning away from the Delta Centre has become routine.

"I think the thing I'm hap piest about is that there wasn't a whole lot of whooping and hollering in the locker room. said Karl Malone, who scored 27 points against Shaquitle in reference with a 116-109 win over Detroit

In other games, it was Houston 136. Philadelphia 107; Chicago 106, Washington 93; New York 94. Denver 74: Milwaukee 99, Charlotte 86: San Antonio 115. Minnesota 100; Portland 121; Miami 114 Seattle 113, Boston 93; and Dallas 91, Sacramento 90. Rockets 136, 76ers 107.

Clyde Drexler scored 26 points to key Houston's biggest offensive output of the season.

The visiting Rockets had eight players score in double figures as they extended their winning streak to three games and overcame a 50-point performance by Philadelphia's Dana Barros.

Barros topped his career high of 41 points and made 21 of 26 field goals, including six of eight from 3-point range. Bulls 106. Bullets 93.

Scottie Pippen scored 30 points and keyed a third quarter surge that cBrried Chicago over Washington.

Pippen made I2 of 17 shots. He also had 10 re bounds and six assists to help the yisiting Bulls notch their fourth win in five games.

Washington's Gheorghe Mureasan scored 21, matching his career high, and grabbed 14 rebounds. Chris Webber had 18 points for the Bullets. Knicks 94. Nuggets 74.

Patrick Ewing played on a sprained ankle and scored 21 points to lead New York over Denver.

Ewing, who sprained his left ankle in the fourth quarter of a weekend loss to Seattle and was questionable until game time, also had five

Becker signs lucrative deal

BONN, Mar 15: Boris Be-

cker signed a three-year contact worth almost seven million dollars here on Tuesday to promote tennis in Germany. reports AFP.

The deal did not commit the world number three to playing Davis Cup for Germany although Becker said he was ready to represent his country if his interests were taken into account.

Becker, who turned down a wild card for Key Biscayne on March 17-23, will play for Germany in their Davis Cup quarter-final against Holland at Utrecht on March 31-April

The German Federation will pay 2.6 million marks of the 3.1 million mark (2.2 million dollars) annual contract. The remaining 500,000 marks will be raised from TV rights.

Becker will be involved in tennis clinics for youngsters as well as promotional work.

Denver, which completed its

Bucks 99, Hornets 86. Glenn Robinson scored 27 points and Vin Baker had 12 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists as Milwaukee beat

six of its last eight, took a 14point lead into the final period, and the closest the visiting Hornets got was 95-83. Spurs 115, Timberwolves

points and 10 rebounds as San

Avery Johnson added 19 points and 10 rebounds for San Antonio. Vinny Del Negro

Elliott 14 for the host Spurs. Tom Gugliotta Minnesota with 23 points, and

Suns 116, Pistons 109. Phoenix snapped a twogame home losing streak and avenged a December loss to

Charles Barkley had 30 points and 10 rebounds, scoring nine points in the first 7:22 of the fourth quarter. Dan Majerle scored 22 for the Suns and Elliot Perry had 17 and 12

Allan Houston scored 35 points for the Pistons, who were without leading scorer Joe Dumars. He sustained a concussion Sunday night in a collision with Seattle's Shawn

Trail Blazers 121 Heat

six-game road swing at 4-2.

Charlotte.

Alonzo Mourning with 18 points and 14 rebounds, and Dell Curry had 17 points.

Milwaukee, which had lost

David Robinson had 24

Antonio shot 61 per cent in a win over Minnesota.

added 17 points and Sean

Darrick Martin added 14.

Detroit.

Rookie Aaron McKie scored a season-high 24 points and Buck Williams added 21 as Portland defeated Miami The Trail Blazers shot 77

per cent from the field in the first quarter, led by as many as The Hornets were led by 21 points and then held off a late Heat rally.

Rod Strickland had 2 points, and Otis Thorpe had 19 off the bench for Portland. Glen Rice led the visiting

Heat with 25 points, and Billy Owens added 19. SuperSonics 113, Celtics

Relegated to the bench for missing a shootaround, Shawn Kemp had 21 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks as Seattle routed Boston.

Detlef Schrempf added 23 points as the Sonics won their third straight game. Sherman Douglas led the

visiting Celtics with 28 points and Dee Brown added 24. Mavericks 91, Kings 90.

Jamal Mashburn scored 27 points, Dallas beat Sacramento when a long jumper by Mitch Richmond was ruled a two-With the visiting Mavericks

leading 91-88, the Kings worked the ball to Richmond whose jumper with four seconds left from the right flank was just inside the 3-point

Brian Grant had 27 points and 14 rebounds for the Kings. Olden Polynice contributed 14 points and tied a season high with 18 rebounds for Sacramento

The Kings have lost 11 of



Denver Nuggets Jalen Rose (R) tries to get past New York Knicks John Starks during their NBA game in New York - AFP/UNB photo on March 14. The Knicks won 94-74.

Sher-e-Bangla Cup final leg begins today

Sports Reporter

Hosts Naogaon will take on Cox's Bazaar in the inaugural match when the final leg of the 19th Sher-e-Bangla national football championship begins at the local stadium today.

Twelve teams - ten zonal champions along with defending champions Khulna and hosts Naogaon — split into two groups will fight it out for the championship in the 13-day meet to be held on knock-out

Khulna will lead one group along with Bhola, Bangladesh Army, Nilphamari Kishoreganj and Sylhet while Naogaon will be pitting in the other group along with Narayangani, Cox's Bazaar. Bogra. Kushtia and Dhaka University.

German soccer coach arrives

German coach Otto Pfister arrived here yesterday to take charge of the local footballers for two years, reports UNB.

Pfister, who played professional soccer in Germany and Switzerland for nearly 16 years (1957-72) will stay here initially for two years under an agreement with the German government, officials said.

After obtaining his professional coaching license from the University of Sports. Cologne in Germany, he trained two Swiss soccer teams — FC St. Gallen and FC Chur — for six years.

He has served as coach, team manager and technical adviser in six countries -Rwanda, Senegal, Zaire. Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Ghana — from 1972 to 1990.

Ghana became the world youth champions during his reign. He was adjudged the African-coach-of-the-year in

Besides, he was an instructor in the Olympic Solidarity programme and a coordinator in the FIFA/Cola-Cola world development programme "Futuro.

Arbi begins well

BIRMINGHAM. England. Mar 15: Title holder Heryanto Arbi sailed through his first match 15 3, 15-7 against a former champion as he began the defence of his All-England badminton crown on Wednesday, reports Reuter. But Indonesian compatriot

and world champion Joko Suprianto met stiff resistance from Danish lefthanded Peter Espersen before pulling out a 17-14, 15-7 victory after trailing 7-1 and 10-3 in the first game. Arbi was up against 1988

champion Ib Frederiksen of Denmark as he began his bid to become the first player to win three singles titles in succession since illustrious compatriot Rudy Hartono more than 20 years ago.

South Korean Kim Hak Kyun, fost 15-11, 17-15 to Henrik Sorensen of Denmark.

Anders Nielsen of England provided the first significant upset with a 15-10, 15-8 triumph over China's top-ranked player Dong Jiong.

ACOG's latest trick

ATLANTA, Mar 15: Organisers for the 1996 Olympics are getting ready to funnel 36.5 million ticket brochures into the American consumer market, each containing a ticket order from and a chance to see the Atlanta Centennial Games for free, reports Reuter.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) said Tuesday that the brochures will appear at Coca-Cola displays in 15,000 grocery stores and at Home Depot Inc's 335 US home centres on May 1, the day that 11 million tickets go on sale.

A corresponding nine-week promotion will be backed by a national advertising campaign including television, print and radio adds, as well as point-ofsale display. Meanwhile, one million

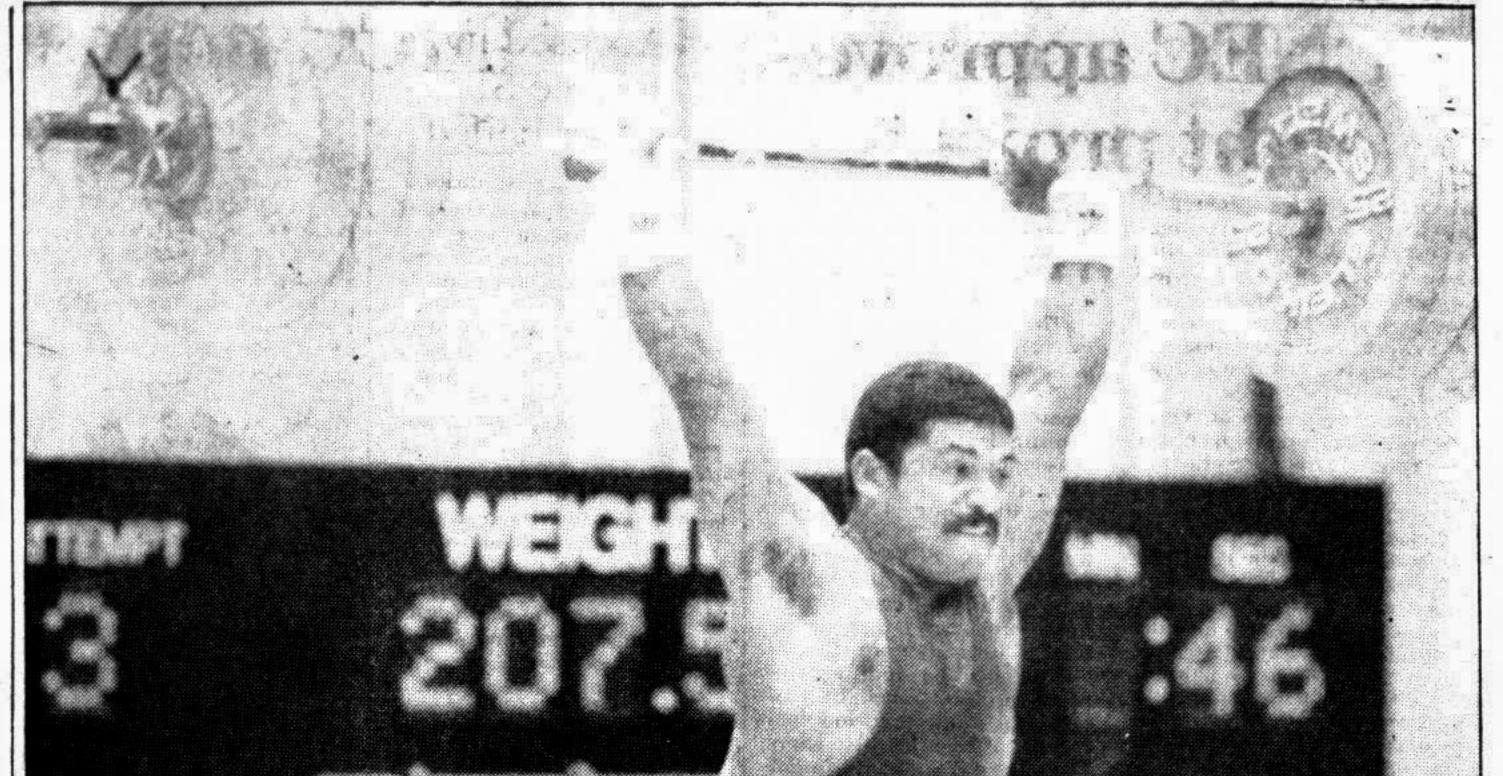
tickets earmarked for allocation overseas will be distributed through the National Olympic Committee of each participating country. The 48-page US brochure

contains a two page ticket request form, information on each sport featured in the 1996 Games and a complete schedule of the 542 sessions available. If post-marked between May 1 and June 30, requests

for the most sought-after sessions will be processed through ACOG's Fairtix computer system, which awards tickets to oversubscribed events on a random basis. Requests for less popular

competition will be handled on a first-come, first served basis. The brochures also offer consumers the chance to win

one of 100 trips for two to the centennial games, including travel on Delta Airlines. The Games run from July 19 through August 4, 1996.



Cuba's Pablo Lara in action during the clean and jerk category for the 76-kg category at the 12th Pan American Games in Mar del Plata. Argentina on Mar 14. Lara created a new world record for the event lifting 207.5 kilograms. His previous mark was 205 kg. - AFP/UNB photo

Pan Am Games

United States surge ahead

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina, Mar 15: Their coach claimed they would outclass the competition. Then the US women gymnasts made him

In the end, the class of Shannon Miller, Amanda Borden and Amy Chow shined through as the Americans swept the all-around event.

Miller, winner of five medals in the last two World Championships, struggled on the balance beam, then won the gold when teammate Chow wobbled on the beam. Borden won the silver and Chow the bronze, report agencies.

The balance beam is a strange animal. US coach Steve Nunno said. "This time it bit us all in the butt.

But not enough to matter, Miller, the only Olympian on the squad, rallied after her problems on the beam, clinching the title on the vault. "You just have to block it out

and get back up," she said of the slip on the beam. "You can never give up." Borden, whose uptempo routines drew cheers from the packed house, nailed a 9.825 on the uneven bars. She fin-

points behind Miller. "That gives me confidence." she said. "Now I may be pushing Shannon for a change."

ished second, just 0.012

Just as Brooke Bennett plans to push Janet Evans in swimming.

The United States won four of the five swimming events Tuesday. Bennett won the 400 freestyle and was joined on the gold-medal stand by the women's 400 freestyle relay team of Cristian Teuscher, Angel Martino, Alison Fealley and Amy Van Dyken; Barbara Bedford, in the women's 100 backstroke: and Brad Bridgewater of the United States in the men's 200 backstroke. Gustavo Borges of Brazil captured the men's 100 freestyle. his second gold of the games. breaking his own Pan Am record.

Bennett, at 14 the voungest member of the US swimming team refuses to be intimidated by the lact she swims the same events as Evans, the

marble

23 Pointed

26 Kittenish

31 Santa's

33 Terrific,

today

monger

35 Peace-

runway

comment

tool

28 Goof

best woman distance swimmer

Bennett's 400 time of a 4 minutes. 11.78 seconds was eight seconds off Evans' record in that event, but Evans has approached the mark since setting it in the 1988 Teuscher has won three

gold medals here. Borges, who

won the 200 freestyle on

Sunday, won the 100 in 49.31 seconds, breaking his 1991 Pan Am record of 49.48. Bedford and Kristin Heydanek of the United States. finished 1-2 in the 100 backstroke. Bridgewater edged

Cuba's Neisser Bent in the 200 backstroke. Through Tuesday, the United States was way ahead in total medals with 91, 35 of them gold. Cuba had 56, 27

gold, while Argentina was

third with 40, eight gold.

While the US baseball team lost its fourth straight, this time 14-4 to Guatemala the men's softball team fared better, moving to 3-0 with two wins on Tuesday. The Americans beat Venezuela 5-1 behind home runs by Shawn Rychcik and Steve Kerian, and in their second game of the day, they edged favoured Canada 1-0 in 10 innings.

Michele Granger pitched a one-hitter as the US women overwhelmed Puerto Rico 6-0. Granger struck out 13 and didn't give up a hit until Clara Vasquez singled in the seventh and final inning. Jose Ramos of the Domini-

can Republic threw the first

perfect game of the competi-

tion, striking out eight in a 3-0 shutout of Aruba. For the second time in four games, the St. John's Red Storm baseball team lost to a country that had never won a Pan Ams game. Argentina was -

0-7 before its victory in the

opener, and Guatemala had

been 0-2 this year in its debut.

And the 10-run mercy rule was invoked after seven in-

Argentina, meanwhile, lost for the first time in three baseball games, getting routed 18-6 by Mexico. Cuba remained undefeated by beating Netherlands Antilles 9-0. Paraguay defeated the US

soccer team 2-0 as sloppy play by goalie Zach Thornton handed away the first goal in the 72nd minute. Paraguay scored again 10 minutes later and advanced to the second round. Tennis opened on a high note for US players, who won

all three of their singles matches. Top-seeded woman Chanda Rubin, and in men's play Don Johnson and J J Jackso, all advanced. The American men defeated Puerto Rico 15-12, 15-

12, 15-5 in volleyball, with

Chris Underwood pacing the team with 23 kills. The US women swept Canada 15-8 15-7, 15-6, A Pan Am record was set at shooting by the US air rifle team of Ken Johnson, Glenn Dubis and Rob Harbison, who

combined for 1,753 points to

win the gold medal. The 25-

meter standard pistol team added to the gold collection. The American women got in on the action as Elizabeth Bourland won the gold in air rifle, while Ann-Marie Pfiffner picked up the bronze. Both combined with Kate Kelemen to win the air rifle team event.

Peter Westbrook routed

Aristedes Faure of Cuba 15-5

for the gold medal in men's sabre. Cuba's Pablo Lara set a world record in weightlifting on his way to three gold medals on Tuesday while Brazil's

Gustavo Borges snatched the

gold medal away from the

United States in the most

prestigious swimming event. Lara broke his world record of 205 kgs in the 76 kg cleanand-jerk event when he lifted 205.5 kgs. Two minutes later. he broke the record again in even more impressive style with a lift of 207.5 kg.

"I'm very happy not only for myself but for the entire Cuban population," he said.

Lara won gold medals in the snatch, clean-and-jerk and total categories, but Venezuelan Julio Luna ended the Cuban domination when he won the three golds at 85 kgs.

Ottey plans to run at Atlanta Games BRIDGETOWN, Barbados,

Mar 15: Sprinter Merlene Ottey, who will be 35 in May, has had a change of heart and now intends to compete at next year's Olympic Games in Atlanta after all, reports Reuter. The Jamaican's Swiss-based manager, Rob Klingensmith,

agency (CANA) on Tuesday: "At this point, she fully intends to compete in 1996, as long as she continues to run at the level that she is performing. "And her fitness level is so

told the Caribbean news

high, that I'm confident she'll run as fast, or even faster in Italian-based Ottey, who

claimed the title as the world's fastest woman indoors last Friday when she won the 60 meters at the World Indoor Championships in Barcelona, is now looking at the possibility of her first ever Olympic gold medal.

Ma to form another army

presty and was former by her want

SHANGHAI. Mar 15: Chinese super coach Ma Junren, whose "Ma Family Army" swept world records but then rebelled against his harsh training regime, is starting again with a new squad, Shanghai's Wen Hui daily reported on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Despite widespread calls for a reconciliation between Ma and his former team of world-beating women distance runners, he sounded unrepentant in an interview with the newspaper.

"I'm going to start again," Ma said, vowing to stick to strict training methods. He said his new team of

eight runners had a better attitude and could make a mark in two or three years. "When it comes to training

they're very self aware. They

are "self starters," not like the former team that had to be forced to train," Ma said. "I've spent all my time exploring how to take the world champions one step further in

their achievements, but in the

end I've failed."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 59 Babe 11 Endure 36 Monks 1 Urban fleet Ruth's 16 Squad hoods 20 Pub 5 Succumb 38 Slot insert sultanate DOWN 40 Polish to gravity potable 8 Oprah's 41 Deposited 1 Eliot-based 23 Curve 24 Court 43 Bottom line musical 12 Carpenter's 45 Author 25 Region of 2 "I smell Scotland calculation Anatole ---13 More, 47 Depends 3 Musical 27 Soaked 29 Future in Milan Bartok 51 Ladder part 14 Wertmul-4 Excursion aves 30 Reed or 52 Timesaver 5 Kindled ler of films Harrison 15 Yarn 54 Shoppe 6 Have a 32 Rims 17 Data in description bug 34 Deceitful some logic 55 Family 7 Surmise 56 One of 8 Picket sign puzzies 37 Thus 18 Not as Hamlet's 9 Superior choices 39 Mason fresh sort 57 Disarray 19 Aromatic 10 Arrow portrayer 58 Spot 42 Classroom poison 21 Run up the Solution time: 21 mins. phone bill 44 AKC 22 Hunk of rejects

> word POLE EVA TOGA 46 Hold the scepter ATLANTIS AVON 48 Garbage TOYOLL THERE boat GRATE PAJAMAS 49 The big brass? I A G O L A X L A C E 50 Undo a SPENCERSPREE ERG BEA dele 53 Waste not CONN MAE ELLE KNIT ORR TEES a moment

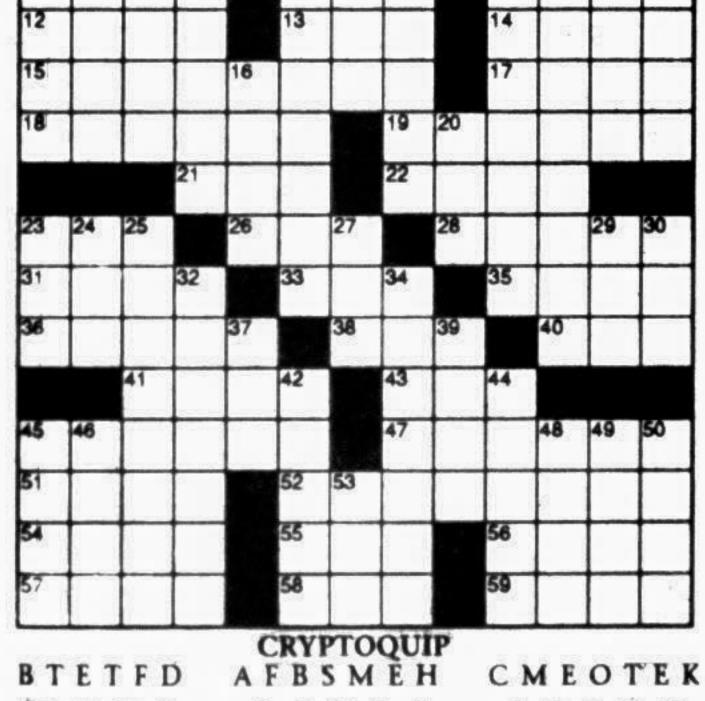
45 Gift-tag

55 BTETFD WKTV

AFBSMEH SZTRE ZFPVK, KRPBT CFPSTV SZTH SM ATTD SZTRE MFSK. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WILD WEST GUN-

Today's Cryptoquip clue: B 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.



SLINGER TURNED MAYOR: NOW HE SHOOTS OFF HIS MOUTH ALL DAY.