

Shah Alam retires Rifles nat'l kabaddi champs

Sports Reporter
Skipper Shah Alam ended his distinguished career on a high as Bangladesh Rifles clinched the 21st national kabaddi title by defeating Bangladesh Ansars 11-6 in the final at the kabaddi court of the Outer Stadium yesterday.

It was the 14th national crown for the Rifles since the championships inception in 1973. It also proved to be a fitting farewell for the Rifles and national team captain Alam, who decided to call 16 a day so ending a colourful career spanning 18 years.

Bangladesh Rifles qualified for the final outplaying Magura 49-15 while Ansars eliminated last years champions Bangladesh Police 18-8.

Abdul Jalil of Dhaka was adjudged the best player and Magura was named the best disciplined team of the championship. The "Ali Sports" player-of-final award went to Tariqul Islam of Bangladesh rifles.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain witnessed the final match as the chief guest and distributed prizes. Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation president M Azizul Haq was also present on the occasion.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1973	Dinajpur and Faridpur (Joint champions)	
1974	Comilla	Khulna
1975	Tangail	Jessore
1976	Comilla	Tangail
1977	BDR	Tangail
1978	Tangail	BDR
1979	BDR	Khulna
1980	BDR	Dhaka Metropolitan
1981	BDR and Tangail (Joint champions)	
1982	Police AC	Comilla
1983	BDR	Police
1984	BDR	Police
1985	BDR	Dhaka Metropolitan
1986	BDR	Police
1987	BDR	Ansars
1988	BDR	Ansars
1989	BDR	Ansars
1990	BDR	Ansars
1991	Fire Service	Ansars
1992	BDR	Police
1993	Police	BDR
1994	BDR	Ansars
1995	BDR	Ansars

Records tumble

MANAUS, Brazil, May 27: Brazil's Cleide Amaral set a new women's record Friday for the 100-metre dash in the South American Athletic Championship, reports AP.

Amaral finished with a meet record of 11.8 seconds, qualifying her for the World Track and Field Championships in Göteborg, Sweden later this year.

Jose Luiz Barbosa of Brazil broke his own 1990 track record in the men's 800-metre run with a time of 1 minute 46.16 seconds. Barbosa has already gained a spot in the World Championships.

In the 400-metre men's hurdle, Brazil's Eronilde Araujo snapped his own South American record with a time of 48.63 seconds, besting his 1994 time. He has also qualified for the championships in Sweden.

Sampras suffers setback

ROUEN, France, May 27: Pete Sampras, the world number two, was beaten by Frenchman Thierry Guadriola in an invitational tournament here on Friday, just days before the French Open, reports AFP.

But the American, beaten 6-7 (8/10), 6-3, 2-6 on clay, was not too worried.

"I was not too disappointed with the result," he said. "It's more important for me to go for my shots and I'm very happy to be 100 per cent physically fit after my injury."

Sampras, who suffered an ankle injury at the recent Monte Carlo Open, has never won the French Open, which gets underway next week.

He said: "I tried to be aggressive but it's clear that this surface is not ideal for me. Even though my game at the moment is not very good, I'm still hopeful for the French Open."

Guadriola, who sent down 22 aces, faces Andre Agassi, who defeated fellow American Jim Courier, in today's final.

Daorung defends WBA crown

BANGKOK, May 27: Daorung MP Petroleum of Thailand retained his World Boxing Association bantamweight title Saturday by salvaging a draw against challenger Lakhin CP Gym, reports AP.

Judge Anselmo Bonfanti of Venezuela scored the 12-round bout in the southern city of Nakhon Si Thammarat 116-114 in Daorung's favour, while Hiroyuki Makisumi of Japan favoured Lakhin. Daorung's countryman, 115-114.

Moo Hong Moon of South Korea rated the fighters even at 115-115.

Daorung takes his boxing name from one of his sponsors, while Lakhin's ring moniker comes from the gym where he trains.



Players and officials of Bangladesh Rifles who clinched the 21st national kabaddi title beating Bangladesh Ansars by 11-6 points, in the final at the court of the Outer Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

Croatia cruise to finals Sweden ride on Edberg



DUESSELDORF, Germany, May 27: Stefan Edberg rolled past Germany's Karsten Braasch in straight sets Saturday, leaving Sweden on the verge of clinching a berth in the World Team Cup finals, reports AP.

Edberg, the former world No 1, needed just one hour and 18 minutes to beat Braasch 7-5, 6-3, as Sweden took a 1-0 lead against Germany at the 1.8 million dollars tournament.

Germany, the defending champions, sent former Wimbledon winner Michael Stich against Larsson in the second singles Thursday.

Australia also took a 1-0 lead over the United States in the second Red Group match. Jason Stoltenberg took advantage of Todd Martin's forehead errors to upset the world No 14, 6-4, 6-3.

In the second singles, MaliVai Washington faced Patrick Rafter.

The United States, four-time title winners, have already been eliminated with their 0-2 record, but can play the role of the spoiler if they beat Australia.

Sweden are in command in Red Group play with a 2-0 record, winning all seven of its

matches behind the one-two punch of Edberg and world No 10 Magnus Larsson.

But Germany and Australia, both 1-1, still nursed outside hopes of reaching Sunday's finals against Blue Group winners Croatia.

Edberg appeared to coast at times against Braasch, ranked 90th in the world. But afterwards the Swede said his lackluster play resulted from his opponent's awkward lunging style.

"He plays differently, doesn't allow you to find a rhythm," Edberg said. "I think you have to understand, he's not an easy person to play against."

Braasch, who lost all his singles, was the hero when Germany stunned the Americans in its opening match.

Braasch teamed up with Patrik Kuhnen in doubles as the unsung Germans upset Australian Open winners Jared Palmer and Richey Reneberg in the deciding doubles.

On Friday Goran Ivanisevic beat Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-4, 7-6 (7-4), helping send Croatia into finals.

He beat his racket against the court so often that the last outburst led to a penalty point, setting up a match point the Croatian exploited.

But it was Sasa Hirszon who

led Croatia's upset over Russia in the Red Group match, staging an amazing comeback against Andrei Chesnokov.

Hirszon, the world No 280 and winless at the tournament, was down 4-6, 1-5 and faced four match points against Chesnokov, an experienced Davis Cup player.

But when Chesnokov doublefaulted away two of those points, Hirszon roared back to win 4-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 against the world No 44.

Croatia and Russia both finished at 2-1, but Croatia won the head-to-head matchup and will face the Blue Group winner Sunday.

Sergi Bruguera beat Richard Krajicek, 6-1, 6-4, in his last tuneup for the French Open as Spain swept both singles against the Netherlands to grab a Red Group win. Both teams finished at 1-2.

Spain's Alberto Berasategui also beat Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-4, while Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis combined to win the doubles against Berasategui and Carlos Costa, 6-1, 6-2.

Bruguera has used the event as a springboard to win the last two titles at the French Open, which begins Monday. He is 13-2 in singles in his World Team Cup appearances.

Draw does Agassi a favour



PARIS, May 27: If the luck of the draw is any guide, Andre Agassi may be writing tennis history at the French Open where he could become the first male player to win Grand Slam titles on four different surfaces, reports Reuter.

"The American world number one was given every chance of reaching the semifinals without working up too much of a sweat when the

draw was made on Friday for the two-week event starting on Monday.

Agassi may never have heard of former French Rugby Union captain Jean-Pierre Rives but he has every reason to be grateful drew the numbers out of the bowl at Roland Garros.

Agassi, who is trying to add the French Open title to the Wimbledon, Australian and US Open crowns he has already won in his career, will play German Karsten Braasch in the

first round.

Should the draw work out, Agassi would meet no other leading contender for the title until a last-four meeting with Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia.

His scheduled fourth round opponent is Dutch 15th seed Richard Krajicek and his quarter-final rival should be either South African Wayne Ferreira or Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia.

On the basis of present clay court form, arch-rival and fellow-American Pete Sampras has an altogether tougher looking field to face in the bottom half of the draw.

Sampras starts against a tricky clay court player in Gilbert Schaller of Austria, ranked just outside the top 20, and is likely to meet another daunting slow court expert in Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden in the next round.

Swiss Olympic champion Marc Rosset is his scheduled fourth round opponent and, worse still, reigning champion Sergi Bruguera of Spain is lurking as a prospective last-eight rival.

Bruguera, gunning for a third consecutive French Open title, has yet another meeting with Australian Patrick Rafter, this time in the first round.

The two met at Roland Garros last year, with Bruguera a comfortable three-set winner, and were paired again at Wimbledon where the Spaniard won a classic encounter 13-11 in the fifth set of a riveting match.

The scheduled quarter-final line-up in the men's singles is Agassi v Ferreira, Ivanisevic v Thomas Muster, Michael Chang v Boris Becker and Sampras v Bruguera.

Fifth seed Muster, looking to extend an amazing run of five tournaments and 28 matches without defeat on clay, plays a qualifier in the first round as do Ivanisevic and Chang. But Becker has a tough game against Javier Frana of Argentina. Unseeded Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, feared by all the seeds, ended up harmlessly in the middle of the draw but could be a third round opponent of last year's losing finalist Alberto Berasategui of Spain.

Another dangerous unseeded player, Stefan Edberg of Sweden, was drawn against Fabrice Santoro of France, who beat him in the Monte Carlo Open last month.

Liverpool's belated reverence!

LIVERPOOL, May 27: Liverpool revealed here on Saturday they are to erect a memorial to the victims of the 1985 Heysel Stadium disaster, reports AFP.

The monument in the New Kop Stand at Anfield will be a replica of a sculpture in Juventus Stadium in Turin.

It depicts a soccer terrace and commemorates the death of 39 Italian fans amid crowd trouble before the European Cup final between the two clubs in Brussels on May 29, 1985.

"Heysel is something that will remain with Liverpool for a lifetime," said Liverpool chief executive Peter Robinson.

The relationship between the two clubs is fantastic and we will be inviting officials over from Juventus along with their supporters' groups to unveil the memorial," he added.

Monday is the 10th anniversary of the disaster but the sculpture will not be ready for about 14 months.

A number of Liverpool fans were convicted of involuntary manslaughter for their part in the Heysel riot but none served any further time in jail beyond that spent on remand.

Aussie hockey squad gets Atlanta ticket

AUCKLAND, May 27: The Australian men's hockey team booked their passage to the Atlanta Olympics here Saturday when they beat New Zealand 2-0 in an Oceania Group tournament, reports AFP.

The victory gives the Australians direct entry to the Olympics.

They had been fancied to win the crucial match, but did not make it safe until the 56th minute when Paul Lewis scored the second goal, getting behind the New Zealand defence and shooting into the net with a reverse stick shot.

The Australians led 1-0 at half time through a long corner which was only partially cleared by the New Zealand defence, leaving Stephen Davies able to crack home a goal the edge of the circle.

New Zealand were consistently beaten by the slick Australians and struggled to match the pace at which they played.

Although mounting some promising attacks, the Kiwis were thwarted by a solid Australian defence led by fullbacks Ken Wark and Michael York.

The penalty corner count was reasonably even at 9-7 in favour of Australia.

Australian captain Mark Hager happily accepted the win but said there were aspects of the game his team had still to work on.

He said he was not pleased with the failure to make use of penalty corners.

"It is something we will have to work on between now and Atlanta but at least we can now focus on that," he said.

Hager said the New Zealanders had put in a brave effort but he did not think they had sufficient build up games.

Australia played a six-match series against England earlier this year while New Zealand only played Fiji before Saturday.

New Zealand coach Murray Connor agreed and said his team had not had sufficient preparation for the match against the Australians, who are ranked third in the world.

"I'm sure we needed more games — but the bottom line is that we lost and that is disappointing," Connor said.

Susanti, Bango bid 'bye



LAUSANNE, Switzerland, May 27: China caused a double upset at the World Badminton Championships here Friday when both Olympic champion Susi Susanti and world number two Bango Soo-Hyun crashed out in the semifinals, reports AFP.

World number six, Ye Zhaoying, created the first sensation by beating Indonesia's Susanti 5-11, 11-8, 11-2, her teammate and 5/8 seed Han Jingna defeated South Korea's Bango 11-6, 11-4.

The presence in the men's semifinals between European and Asia is split as Indonesia's world number one Heryanto Arbi, South Korea's Park Sung Woo, and Denmark's Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen and Poul Erik Hoyer Larsen won through.

But the major shocks were in the women's event as China assured another gold medal. China had beaten Indonesia in the final of the Sudirman Cup, the world mixed team championships, on Sunday.

Ye, the 1995 Swedish Open winner, varied her shots and took advantage as Susanti

wilted in the final two sets.

In the last week, Ye has beaten Susanti twice, world number two Bango Soo-Hyun of South Korea and world number four Camilla Martin of Denmark.

In the men's event, Olympic bronze medalist Stuer-Lauridsen beat Malaysia's twice Commonwealth champion Rashid Sidek 15-10, 15-1.

Sidek, who beat second seed Ardy B Wiranata of Indonesia on Thursday, was beaten by the Dane's metro-nomic-like consistency.

Park Sung-Woo, who downed reigning Olympic champion Allan Budi Kusuma of Indonesia 18-15, 15-9, meets Stuer-Lauridsen in the semifinal.

World number one Heryanto Arbi had few problems beating teammate and defending world champion Joko Suprianto 15-8, 15-7.

Suprianto, who netted a backhand facing his third match point, conceded youth had won the day.

Arbi, the sole surviving Indonesian in the semifinals, meets All-England champion

Hoyer Larsen.

Larsen won an epic battle against 1993 world silver medalist Hermawan Susanto 15-18, 15-12, 15-13.

Larsen surged back from 9-3 down in the decider to win on his second match point when Susanto hit the shuttle just wide.

The 29-year-old student fell on to his knees before applauding the many Danes in the crowd who had lifted him over the final points.

Mixed doubles top seed Thomas Lund and Marlene Thomsen of Denmark saved a match point before beating Jan-Eric Antonsson and Astrid Crabo of Sweden 12-15, 17-14, 15-9 to reach the final.

Crabo netted a backhand on match point as the Swedes led 14-13 in the second set. Antonsson said afterwards: "That was the final. We were beaten by the champions."

Lund and Thomsen meet unseeded compatriots Jens Eriksen and Helen Kirkegaard for the title. Eriksen and Kirkegaard beat Asian champions Liu Jianjun and Ge Fei of China 15-5, 15-3.



Eva Serrano of Calais performs her routine during the French Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships in Calais yesterday. Serrano won the national individual title.

— AFP/UNB photo

Moravcova makes her mark



FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida, May 27: Martina Moravcova, Slovakia's top swimmer and best shot at a medal at the 1996 Olympics, won the 200-metre freestyle on Friday at the Alamo Challenge, reports Reuter.

Moravcova won in 2 minutes 32.5 seconds, ahead of 23-year-old American veteran Janet Evans, world record holder in the 400, 800 and 1,500-metre freestyle events. Evans was second in 2:03.84, knocking three seconds off her morning preliminary time.

Moravcova, 19, is training in the United States because of the poor pool conditions back home. She has been training in a 60-year-old pool full of sulphur and water in her tiny hometown of Piestany.

"It is not bad, it is like swimming in a sea but it does smell," Moravcova said. "It's very good for the shoulders

and knees. There is something in the sulphur that seems to help prevent injuries."

Moravcova expected to return to Europe next week for a string of European meetings ending with the European Championships in August in Vienna.

Bulgaria's top swimmer, Denislav Kalchev won the

Russian natant gets 2-yr ban for doping

MOSCOW, May 27: Russian swimmer Svetlana Denisova faces a two-year ban after testing positive for testosterone. It was announced on Friday, reports AFP.

Gennady Aleshin, president of the All-Russian Swimming Federation, said the 18-year-old had failed a test at the Russian Winter Championships in February, where she was a silver medalist in 200m and 400m medley.

200-metre butterfly in 2:03.09.

Canada's Nancy Sweetnam won the 400-metre individual medley in 4:55.32 ahead of American favourite Cristina Teuscher.

American Jon Olsen and Brazil's Gustavo Borges tied in the 200-metre freestyle in 1:53.64.

Eric Namesnik, 1992 Olympic silver medalist in the 400-metre individual medley, won the event in 4:24.67.

The first of five Grand Prix meets throughout the United States serves as an early-season tune-up for many swimmers.

World record holder Tom Jager finished sixth in his specialty event, the 50-metre freestyle in 23.79.

"My body is pretty broken down from training, I'm just getting back into it after a break," Jager said. "I still have some time to get ready for the Olympics. I'm not panicking."

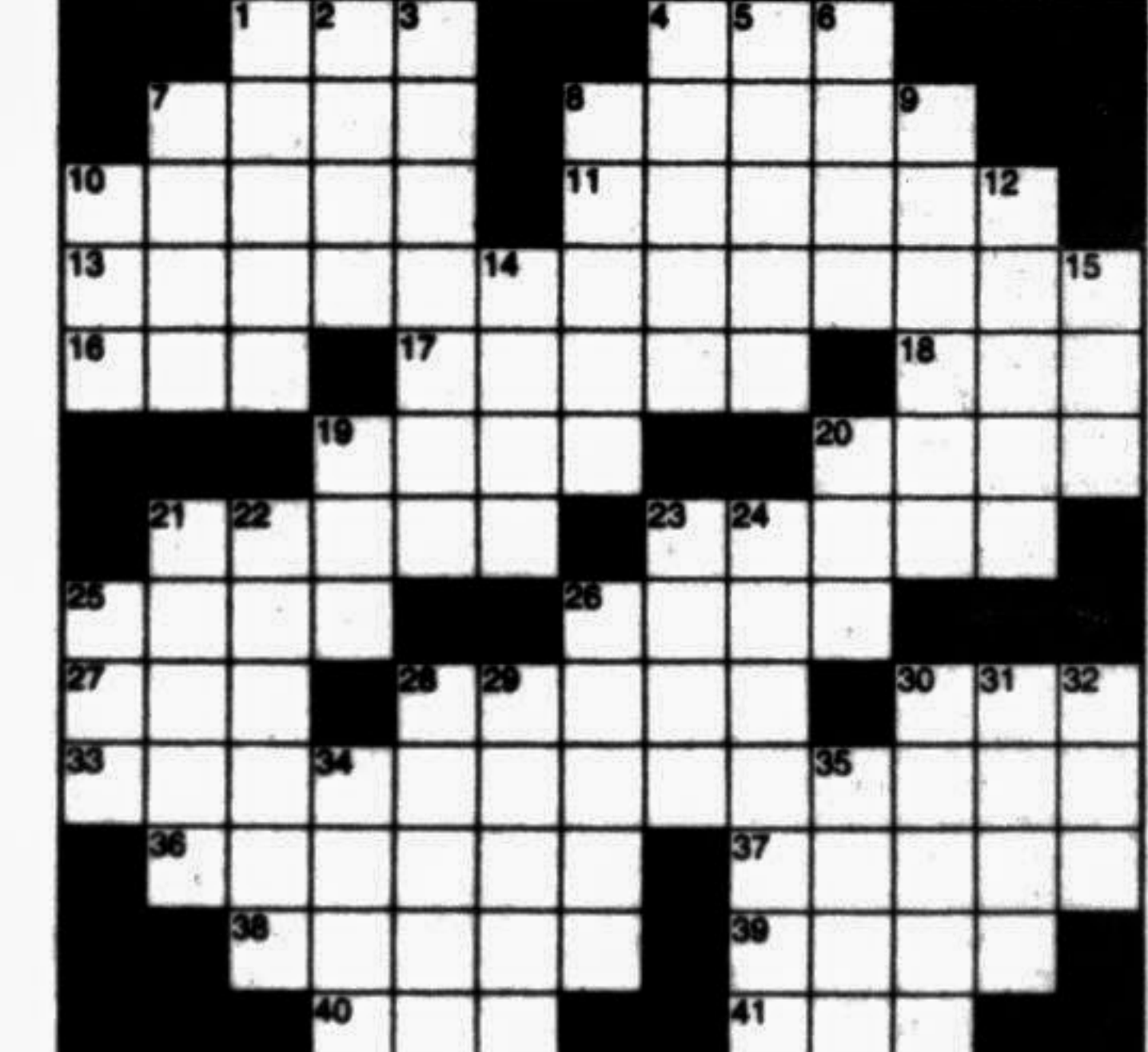
American David Fox won the 50 in a meet record 22.84.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	28 Lots of shots	Moore	12 Killmanjaro forecast?
1 Hosp. personnel	30 Bottom line	3 Turntable center	14 Alum
4 Nebr. neighbor	33 Gym fixture	4 Muslims' text	15 One billion years
7 Profound	36 James Roosevelt's wife Sara	5 By surprise	19 To and —
8 David Souter's closest	37 Protection abbr.	6 North Sea nation	20 Shade
10 Finland's native name	38 Croupier's props	7 Muskeeters' battle	21 Clutch
11 Spouts from the soapbox	39 Fender bender	8 Word with nose or candle	22 Solution
13 Howe's invention	40 Evergreen	9 Musketeers' battle	23 Stromboli spillover
16 They loop the loop	41 Harvest goddess	10 Away from NNW	24 Guacamole base
17 Filled up with water?	DOWN		25 Aachen article
18 Wildlife conservation park	1 Catcalls		26 St. — fire
19 Custardlike dessert	2 Actress		28 Plumber's tool
20 Chopped			29 Ford's forerunner
21 Exposed			30 Burma
23 Praises to the skies			Shave trademarks
25 007 foe			31 Condominium, e.g.
26 Kicle's hold			32 French possessive
27 Dawn goddess			34 "Now — me down..."
			35 "David Copperfield" baddie

Solution time: 22 mins.

SWAB	CAW	LOFT
LIMA	OLE	AJAR
ALOT	UPTODATE	
PERHAPS	PLIES	
ODE	FEE	
ABYSS	MANDATE	
BOO	SOX	HAL
CAUDADE	SPARK	
ICY	CUE	
ABOVE	SHERMAN	
VALIATE	MENU	
ISIN	GAS	IRON
SHOE	ABS	TENS



CRYPTOQUIP

TLRZZJ RIVX-ZXPJ KXLEGL
SQEGC KRVTQYM "VFG
JXIYM RYP VFG LICVSGCC."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PLENTY OF FEVERISH TODDLERS HAVE TEMPERATURE TANTRUMS.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: L equals R

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.