

Giants' crucial tie today



The stakes are high for both Mohammedan Sporting Club and Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra when they lock horns in a crucial LIFEBUOY Premier football league tie at the Dhaka Stadium today.

The match kicks-off at 6.30 pm with Radio Bangladesh airing the running commentary from the big bowl.

For Mohammedans, there are no options left but to win the match to regain their position in the top flight.

The black and whites, who after wandering in the wilderness last year began their campaign with a bang early this season winning both the DMFA Cup and the Federation Cup.

But after winning their first two league matches Mohammedans suddenly lost their usual rhythm against Arambagh from where they never recovered. And at the end of their six league engagements they lost seven points slipping to the fourth position behind Fakirerpool, the minnows in the elite group.

Mohammedans, who have so far earned 11 points from the six league engagements, are now trailing the table leaders Abahani Krira Chakra and Muktiyoddha by five points.

Sports Reporter

"It is a very crucial match for us", said the most successful coach of Mohammedans Abu Yousuf. "It's a 'do or die' situation for us and we are thinking nothing but a win at any cost", added Yousuf, who hung up his boots last year.

"We are planning to field our three foreign recruits in the match", said a confident Yousuf which means that Mohammedans are expected to roll in their Russian striker Andre Kazakov along with their two Nigerians - the Baba duo.

was barred from playing the next two matches.

Although he was sidelined against Abahani last year, Kazakov has still a one-match suspension to pass.

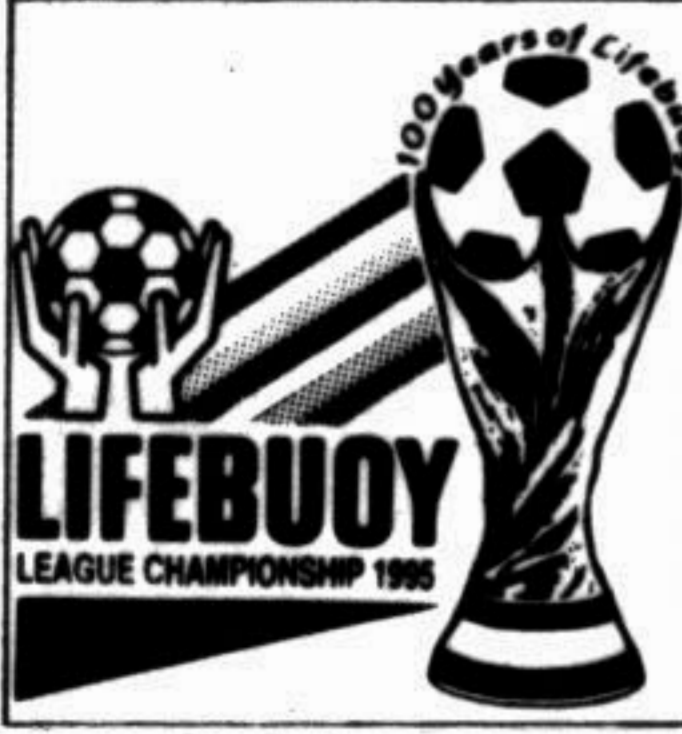
But what maybe the fate of Kazakov, Mohammedans certainly will have to rely on their local strength with midfielder Arman remaining at the helm of the black and whites' charge.

On the other hand, last year's runners-up Muktiyoddha will be looking for their first victory against Mohammedans in the league in their bid to cross a major hurdle for their maiden league title.

The new-look Muktiyoddha, who roped in most of the national booters in a sensational players' transfer last year, although proved their worth against the middlings but miserably failed when it mattered most and eventually finished behind Abahani.

The emerging power in the Dhaka football, who not only lost against Mohammedans in last year's league, but also has a poor credential with only one win of their last five meetings, Mohammedans won the rest.

But the confident Muktiyoddha booters expressed their pronounced intention of coming out from the languorous rally.



But Yousuf expressed his ignorance whether Kazakov, who was the highest scorer for Mohammedans last year, will be permitted to play in today's match.

Kazakov, who got the marching order in Mohammedans' penultimate league engagement last year,

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter
Digonta Majlish registered an easy 3-1 win over Manikdi Provati Sangha in one of the four Pioneer Division Football League matches at the Banani ground yesterday. Israfeel opened the winners' account in the very first minute while Nurul Islam doubled the margin eight minutes later. Shakhawat scored in the 17th minute to give the winners a 3-0 lead at the breather.

Kamrul Hasan reduced the margin 12 minutes into the second half.

Meanwhile, Railway Blues recorded a facile 2-0 victory over Islampur Uttarari KC in another match held at the Dhupkhola Metropolitan ground. Barhan and Liton shared one goal apiece for the victors.

The two other matches between Dragon KC and Nababganj KC and Kamal Young Society and Badda Jagorani Sangsad (Junior) produced goalless draws at the Mirpur Outer Stadium and Mohakhali T&T ground respectively.

Six other matches were postponed due to the inclement weather conditions prevailing in the city yesterday.



Chelsea's new Dutch signing Ruud Gullit shields the ball from Gillingham's Leo Fortune-West during a pre-season match at Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium on July 25. —AFP/UNB photo

Hungary to face Iraq in Merdeka Cup final

KUALA LUMPUR, July 26: Tibor Fodor scored the only goal Hungary needed in the 36th minute Wednesday, pacing his side to a 2-0 victory over Malaysia and sending them to a meeting with Iraq in the final of Merdeka Cup, reports AP.

Pal Fischer added a second goal in the 68th, setting up Saturday's championship match in the 35th anniversary tournament celebrating Malaysia's independence.

Iraq defeated Bulgaria 1-0 on Tuesday in the other semifinal.

More trouble for Grobbelaar

HARARE, July 26: Goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, charged in Britain over alleged match-fixing, stepped into more trouble when he arrived for training with the Zimbabwe soccer squad Wednesday, reports AP.

Immigration officials said they were investigating whether the Southampton and Zimbabwe player breached local immigration regulations on dual nationality.

If Grobbelaar used a British passport recently, he will forfeit his Zimbabwean nationality, chief immigration officer Elasto Mugwadi said.

"He would no longer be a Zimbabwean," Mugwadi said.

Concern over Grobbelaar's nationality stemmed from reports that British police seized two passports, one British and the other Zimbabwean, at his home in southern England.

Zimbabweans lost the right to hold dual citizenship in 1986 under laws that said although it was not an offense to possess the valid passport of a second nation, the active use of second citizenship was illegal.

Grobbelaar would be entitled to live in Britain with residency there stamped in a Zimbabwean passport. If he is resident in Britain on the strength of having British citizenship and a British passport, he could lose his Zimbabwean passport and be fined or imprisoned under Zimbabwe law.

When Grobbelaar arrived in Harare from London earlier Wednesday, he was hurried through immigration formalities to join a training session with the national squad at the main Harare stadium.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Lifebuoy Premier Division football league:
Muktiyoddha Sangsad vs Mohammedan Sporting Club (6:30 pm Dhaka Stadium)

Lifebuoy First Division football league:
Dhanmondi Club vs Police AC (5 pm Mirpur Stadium)
Bangladesh Boys Club vs Sadharan Bima KS (4:30 pm Dhaka Stadium)

Pioneer Division football league:
Paradogar Krira and Samaj Kalyan Parishad vs Jatrabari KC (2:30 pm Jagannath College and University ground)
Nababpur SC vs Redson KC (4 pm Jagannath College and University ground)
Monsoor SC vs Diba Sangsad (2:30 pm Dhupkhola Metropolitan ground)
Sutrapur SC vs Abokash Tarun Sangha (4 pm Dhupkhola Metropolitan ground)
Kalindi KC vs Dogair Chan Tara Club (2:30 pm Dhanmondi Club ground)
Sawdesh Somaj Kalyan Sangha vs Suryosheha SC (4 pm Dhanmondi Club ground).

FIFA wants a tough FA

LONDON, July 26: The Football Association has come under pressure from the game's ruling body (FIFA) to take action against Bruce Grobbelaar, Hans Segers and John Fashanu, who stand accused of match-fixing, reports AP.

The three players, together with Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim and Fashanu's wife, Melissa Kassanaps, between them face a total of 11 charges of corruption.

Goalkeeper Grobbelaar, 37, and Segers, 33, who insist they are innocent, have been told by their respective clubs, Southampton and Wimbledon, that they will continue to be considered for selection next season.

Fashanu's career has been in the balance at Aston Villa following a serious knee injury and at the age of 31 the striker has reportedly been advised to retire.

However, the game's world governing body has reportedly set up a five-man task-force to investigate widespread claims of match-fixing and want their member associations to get tough.

FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper is quoted in The Daily Mail as saying: "We feel it's important for the FA to take some immediate measures. We have to protect the image of the game. We have to be pro-active rather than reactive."

They do have the precedent set in France in 1994 when Marseille were under investigation for match-fixing. The players involved there were suspended during the inquiry.

Grobbelaar is already facing an FA disrepute charge over the corruption allegations but there is so far no action pending against Segers or Fashanu.

FIFA believe they are not pre-judging the players, with Cooper reportedly insisting, "They are all innocent until proven guilty."

If the three of them are proved innocent, it will be a triumph for them and they will be exonerated. We will all sigh with relief.

If the three are found guilty, we will have the proof that the police and football authorities can work successfully together and root out the problem.

Irrespective of the English case, that is what we're trying to prove around the world.



BRUCE GROBBELAAR

FIFA rankings

- ZURICH, July 26 (AFP): FIFA world football rankings after Copa America published here on Tuesday:
1. Brazil 68.00 pts
 2. Norway 60.32
 3. Spain 58.53
 4. Germany 58.40
 5. Argentina 57.94
 6. Italy 56.65
 7. Denmark 56.29
 8. Mexico 55.06
 9. Russia 54.73
 10. Portugal 53.96
 11. Bulgaria 53.89
 12. Colombia 53.56
 13. Romania 53.40
 14. Switzerland 52.14
 15. Sweden 51.72
 16. Ireland 51.68
 17. Netherlands 51.26
 18. France 50.71
 19. Uruguay 50.33
 20. USA 50.14

Schools chess from today

The tenth schools chess tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) begins at the NSC chess room today, reports BSS.

President of the federation and Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the meet at 4 pm. The competition will begin from Friday.

Speaking at a news conference at the federation office here yesterday, BCF general secretary Mujibur Rahman said a record 302 chess players from 78 schools across the country will take part in night-round Swiss-League system tournament.

Two hundred and seventy eight players from 55 schools participated in the last tournament last year, he said.

The federation official said the tournament has been playing a pioneering role in promoting the game in the country.

The rise of participation in the meet is very significant, he said adding that national players like Ziaur Rahman, defending champion Abdullah Al-Rakib, Enamul Hossain Rajib, Shakil, Kayesh, Sabrina have emerged from it.

Nations' Cup to heat up

JOHANNESBURG, July 26: The 1996 African Nations' Cup qualifying competition reaches a climax this weekend after an 11-month programme which has already produced 10 finalists, reports AP.

Hosts South Africa and holders Nigeria qualified automatically and have been joined by Burkina Faso, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Zaire and Zambia.

Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Mozambique and Tunisia look set to complete the 16-nation line-up for the continental showpiece, which will be staged from January 13 to February 3.

But after the surprise success of Burkina Faso and Liberia at the probable expense of seeded countries Morocco and Senegal, further upsets cannot be ruled out.

Zimbabwe take a new coach and an old team to Cameroon for a showdown they must win to prevent the revitalised Indomitable Lions advancing from Group 1 with Zaire.

Marc Duveillard, assistant coach of Switzerland at the 1994 World Cup finals, was put in temporary charge only three weeks ago and when a training camp began last Friday, the European-based professionals were absent.

The players, who refused to visit Zaire because they feared contracting the deadly ebola virus, have been forgiven and will replace the young squad humiliated in Kinshasa.

Among those set to make the journey to central Africa

is goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, charged by British police on Monday with conspiracy related to corruption in football and match-fixing.

Within hours of Grobbelaar being released on bail ahead of an October 11 court appearance, leading Zimbabwe soccer official Leo Mugabe, pledged support for the ex-convict Southampton player.

Mugabe, a relative of president Robert Mugabe, said his association believes Grobbelaar, born in South Africa but a long-time resident of Zimbabwe, is innocent until found guilty in court.

Cameroon, whose chances of qualification appeared to have vanished following defeats in Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Zaire, roared back into contention with a shock 3-1 triumph in Malawi.

Bankers' second win



Agrani Bank recorded their second win in the Lifebuoy Premier football league when they beat promotes Farashganj Sporting Club by the odd goal in three in one of the two matches billed for the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the first match of the day, the Bankers took a 2-0 lead even before Farashganj settled into a groove.

After midfielder Sentu shot Agrani Bank into the lead in the very second minute with a scorching drive, striker Tutul, who played for Abahani last year, doubled the margin three minutes later, completing a 2-0 lead.

slotted the ball home from close.

The win now left Agrani Bank to raise their collection to seven from as many league engagements while Farashganj, who are yet to win a match, remained stuck on their paltry collection of three after completion of their seven matches.

Yellow card: Manu and Tutul (Agrani Bank), Santosh (Farashganj).

draw with Wari Club.

After a barren first half, Rahmatganj with their two Russian recruits took the lead in the 54th minute through Alexander Ninaski.

Ninaski, after receiving a neat cross from compatriot Vladimir Kobzev, found the opponents' net with a powerful volley.

In the 86th minute Ninaski's goal-bound shot was brilliantly saved by Razzak. And one minute later midfielder Badal was denied by the woodwork when his fierce right-footer from inside the box rebounded off the cross-piece.

Wari after surviving those close calls neutralised the margin four minutes from the

TEAMS
AGRANI BANK: Manu, Raju, Rafique, Kala, Ponash, Rajoni, Munna, Sentu, Jahangir, Tipu (Akhtar) (Nayan) and Tutul.
FARASHGANJ SC: Bijoy, Rauf Babul, Sufian, Nazrul, ...



Action from yesterday's Lifebuoy Premier Division league encounter between Farashganj SC and Agrani Bank at the Dhaka Stadium. Agrani won 2-1. —Star photo

solo dash down the middle. Undaunted by the early setback Farashganj pressed hard to bounce back into the game but could manage only one goal 17 minutes into the second half through their striker Asaduzzaman Rinku, who capitalising on an error by Bank custodian Manu

Santosh, Selim, Pappu (Riazuddin), Liaquat, Munna, Rinku and Alamgir.

Referee: A Raquib.

RAHMATGANJ HELD
In the other match of the day, Rahmatganj found the lady luck against them and had to be satisfied with a 1-1

final whistle, thanks to striker Shankar, who sent the ball into the far corner of the net with a powerful shot from the edge of the box.

With this draw both Rahmatganj and Wari collected four points each on completion of their seven league engagements.

Heavyweight Day Nov 4

LAS VEGAS, July 26: Nov 4 could be a heavyweight day on the Las Vegas Strip.

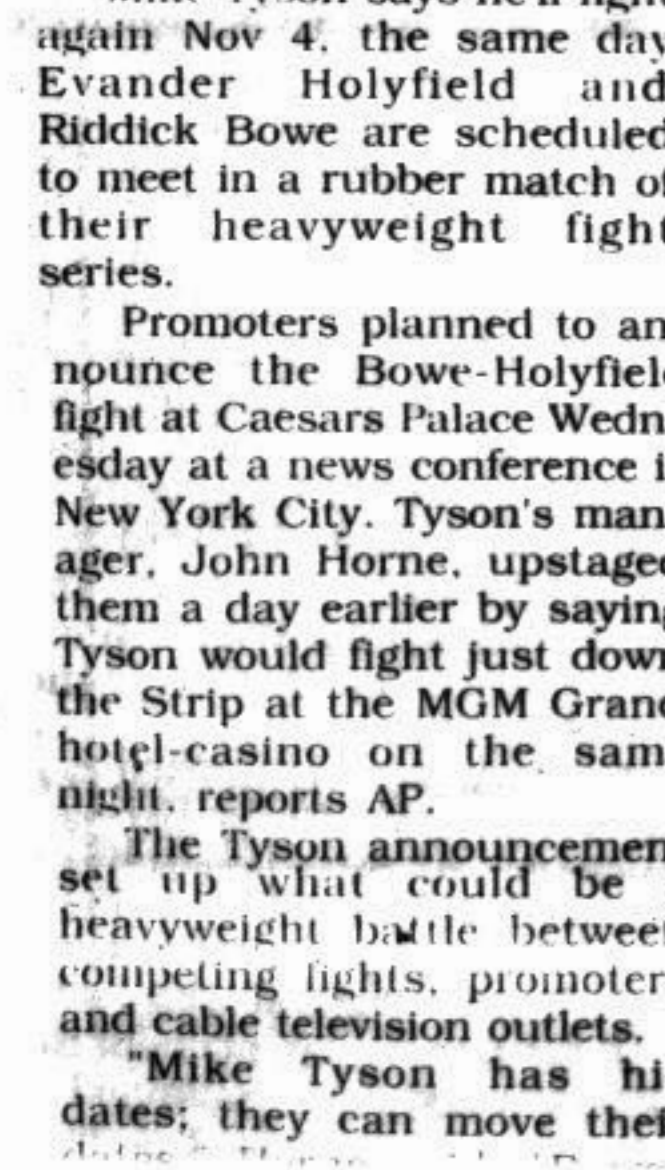
Mike Tyson says he'll fight again Nov 4, the same day Evander Holyfield and Riddick Bowe are scheduled to meet in a rubber match of their heavyweight fight series.

Holyfield is a good attraction, but right now the biggest attraction is what Mike Tyson does.

Bowe's manager, Rock Newman, however, said there

was no comparison between the two fights.

"They're attempting to serve the people dog biscuits," Newman said. "We're serving filet mignon on Nov 4."



Newman charged promoter Don King and Horne with trying to bluff their way into the date, with no opponent and no assurance that Tyson will win his Aug 19 fight against Peter McNeely.

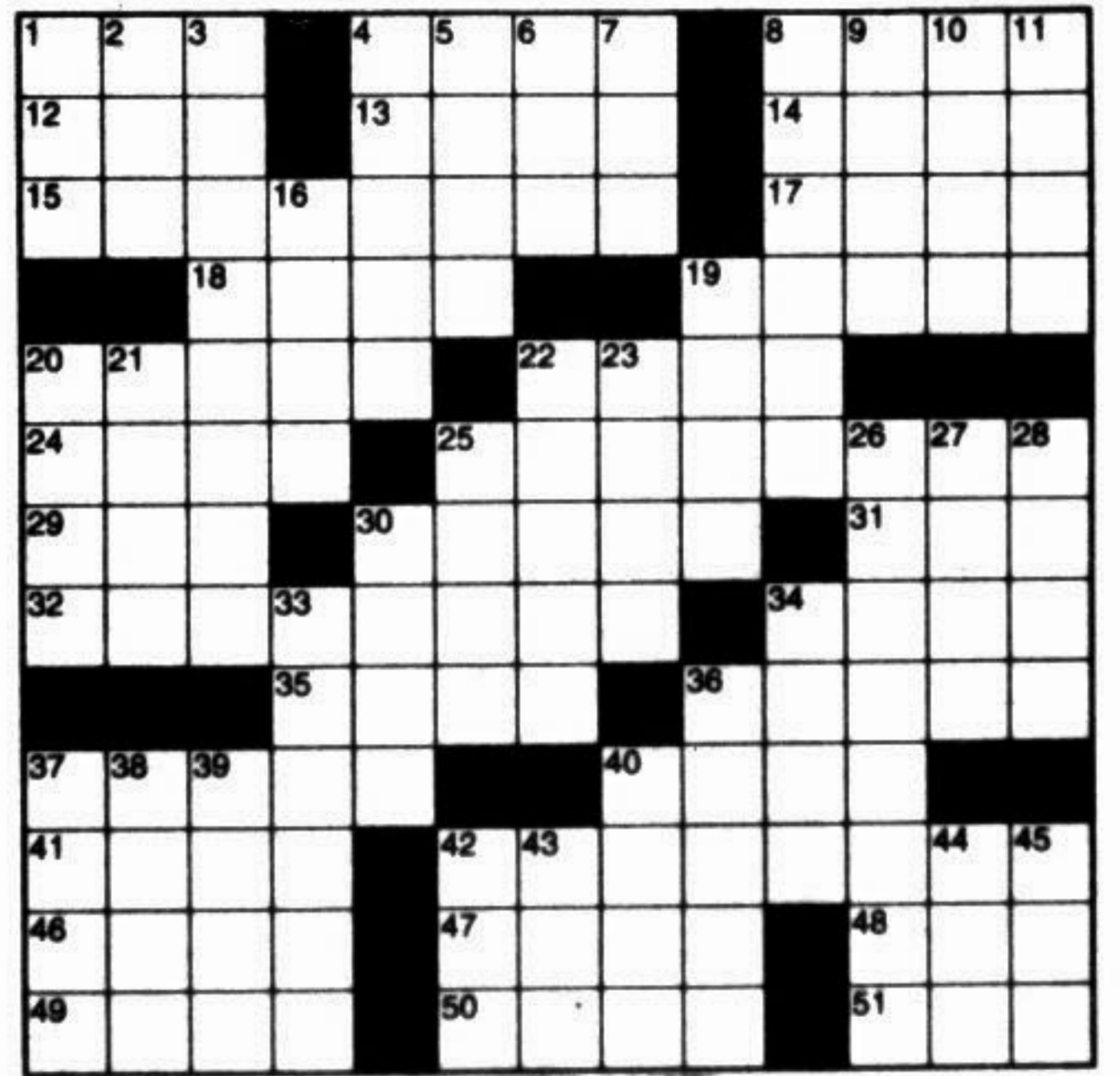
"This is another pimp, hustler move by the King-Horne camp," Newman said. "On one hand they want you to spend 50 dollars to watch on pay-per-view and 1,500 dollars in person to see Tyson fight what is reported to be a competitive match against McNeely."

Horne refused to identify Tyson's opponent, but possibilities include former champion Michael Dokes and Lou Savarese.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Small quantity
4 Morose
8 Afflictions
12 Ostrich's kin
13 Soprano
14 Academic
15 "A Little Bitty Tear" singer
17 Lawyer's aide, for short
18 Assessment
19 Sweet tooth satisfier
20 Packs away
22 Jester
24 Cornfield commentary
25 Subject to combustion
29 Honest politician
30 Make a name for oneself?
31 Abbr. on old African maps
32 Cause for alarm?
34 Paid players

35 Indolent
36 Step between "lather" and "repeat"
37 Alphabetized list, maybe
40 Large knife
41 Check
42 Flourishes
46 Weld
47 Wings
48 Old French coin
49 Vicinity
50 Hardly the pick of the litter
51 Ram's ma'am
DOWN
1 Newcomer
2 — Darya (Asian river)
3 Mole, e.g.
4 Southern side dish
5 Lyricist's subject
6 Put to work
7 More, in Madrid
8 African antelope
9 Bank transaction
10 "Hawaii Five-O" star
11 Command to Fido
16 Congressional output
19 Ice cream
21 Verboten
22 Hirsute, in a way
23 Roman revelry
25 Ruth's husband
26 Hooded mantle
27 Cambodia's neighbor
28 Gaelic
30 Linseed source
33 Actress Jackson
34 Nuclear reactor
36 Man of many words?
37 Cookbook author
38 — do-well at a banquet
40 Roughage source
42 Preventor
43 Director Grobnerd
44 Without further ado
45 Seek restitution



CRYPTOQUIP
MF DNKNBMW ENF-FVENFLNBD,
NUEWODL WOFNBMF CBN
RWMDD JVCWI IMURN
FLN VWOKNB FJODF
Yesterday's Cryptquip: EACH YEAR, KENNEL EMPLOYEES GET TICKETS TO THE POPULAR "MUTTCRACKER SUITE."
Today's Cryptquip clue: W equals L
The Cryptquip 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.