

Column One SPORTS TALK



Sonji Ali

(Wife of Muhammad Ali, 1967)

"I am the only one to beat him. He'll remember that for the next 10 years — while he's making the payments."

After winning a \$182,000 divorce settlement.

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT the world's first motor competition was held on July 22, 1894 when the Paris newspaper 'Petit Journal' organized a 74-mile race from Paris to Rouen.

But De Dion was given the second prize. The event was not a race as such, the first prize being jointly shared by a couple of gentlemen named Panhard and Peugeot for having the car which was "without danger, easily handled and not too expensive to run."

The first proper car race was also held in France. On June 11 1885, twenty-two cars left Paris on a three-day race over 732 miles to Bordeaux and back. On 13 June, nine finishers returned to Paris. The winner was a 1.2 litre, two-cylinder vehicle driven by Emile Levassor, who had averaged 15 mph over the distance, completing the race in forty-eight hours, forty-seven minutes. Today, motor cars reach speeds of over 200 mph.

Some drivers on the Dhaka streets pretend to drive like racing drivers with knuckle-white grip on the steering wheel, head stopped low and projected forward, eyebrows twitched; when all they are achieving is 45 mph and some nervous pedestrians.

Sports WHIZZ KID-3

Winners of the competition



1. Latifa Haque

Maple Leaf Int'l



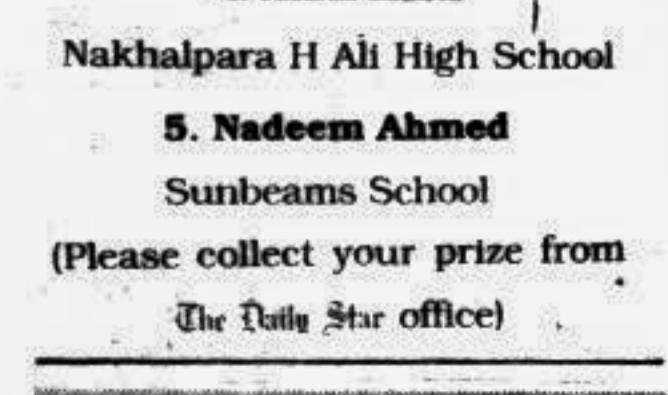
2. Rida Rahman

Green Gems Int'l



3. Yemen Hafiz

Universal Tutorial



4. Ataul Kabir

Nakhalpara H Ali High School



5. Nadeem Ahmed

Sunbeams School

(Please collect your prize from The Daily Star office)

Sports WHIZZ KID-3

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID-3 correct answer

1. Where was the 1992 Olympics held? Ans: Barcelona

2. The national game of Bangladesh is Ans: Kabaddi

3. In cricket the distance between the wickets is Ans: 22 yards

4. How many players play in a basketball team? Ans: 5

5. Bangladesh youths are better than Great Britain in Ans: Handball

MSC at par with AKC

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club exacted a sweet revenge against their first leg conquerors Brothers Union when they beat the Gopibagh outfit by the odd goal in three in the lone Lifebuoy Premier league encounter at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

With this crucial victory the DMFA and Federation Cup champions not only joined their arch-rivals and defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra on the top of the table but also crossed a big hurdle on their way for a possible clean sweep of domestic titles this season.

In the lively encounter all the three goals came in the first half with Manik and Kazakov scoring one each for the winners while Nigerian Chibujor pulled on goal back for Brothers Union.

Mohammedans, who had earlier suffered their only defeat at the hands of their last night's opponents by an identical margin during their first leg engagement, rode on their captain Nurul Huq Manik and Russian Andre Kazakov for a squeaky win.

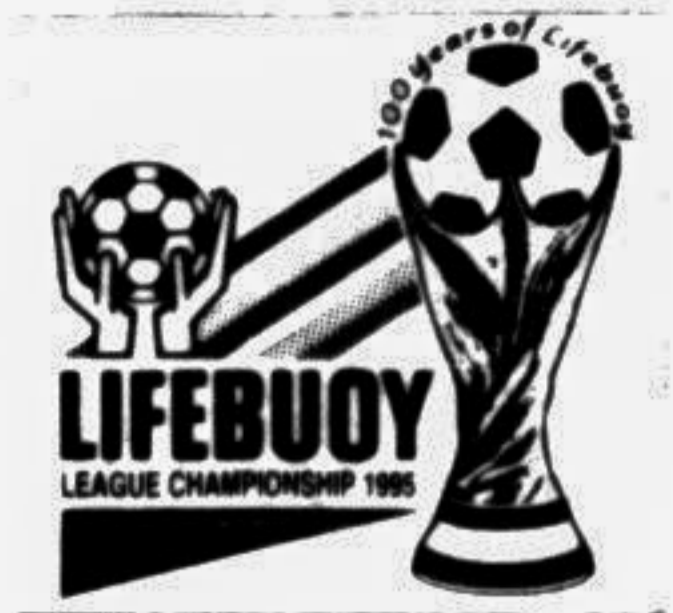
But on a heavy pitch and in front of a surprisingly small turn-out at the big bowl Mohammedans began their crusade with a bang.

With Ranjan Enjoying his recently-found form and an workman-like Bode Baba along with Arman operating from the middle, Mohammedans exposed the Brothers defence in the seventh minute.

Ranjan, the speedy winger with a lethal left-foot, galloped down the flank and provided Kazakov with a neat cross from the right. But the Russian striker spoiled the easy sitter by shooting straight into the hands of Brothers' custodian Kawsar.

Three minutes later, Ranjan, who with his sudden bursts of speed tore apart the Gopibagh defence throughout the proceedings, set Kazakov up with yet another cross. But this time the robust Russian's scorching drive was denied by the wood-work.

Hardly frustrated by the early failures, Mohammedans continued their assault and eventually took the lead in the 25th minute with Manik



stabbing the ball home from a goalmouth melee.

Nine minutes later Mohammedans doubled the margin from a penalty when the Malaysian referee gave the benefit of doubt in Mohammedans' favour following a tussle in the forbidden zone between Ranjan and Brothers' defender Mizan. But perhaps the call could have been avoided as the ball was way out of Ranjan's reach.

Brothers recorded their protest but the referee stood his ground and Kazakov stepped up to convert the 12-yarder with great aplomb. It was Kazakov's sixth goal from five matches.

But, undaunted by the setback, Brothers Union showed signs of bouncing back into the game when Chibujor, capitalising on an error from Mohammedans' defender Munna, made it 1-2 with a neat placing shot in the 44th minute.

During injury time of the first half, Mohammedans were denied their third goal

when Kazakov with all the time in the world, failed to score past an helpless custodian Kawsar.

In the second half, Mohammedans ran out of gas and Brothers Union, taking full advantage of the situation, gradually took complete command of the midfield.

But most of the Gopibagh attempts fizzled against the stubborn Mohammedans defence that included a brilliant save by custodian Ponir.

In the 67th minute, Brothers' diminutive striker Don, after being set free by medio Bernard on the top of the box, hammered a gem of a right-footer. But his pile driver was tipped over by a diving Ponir with acrobatic agility.

One minute later, when Jewel Rana parried off a blistering shot from a shaven-headed Christopher, Brothers' hopes of an equaliser was evaporated. Mohammedans heaved a momentary sigh of relief but were compelled to pass anxious moments till the final whistle.

It was Mohammedans' ninth win in the league enabling them to earn 33 points on completion of their 15 league engagements. Brothers Union, who are already out of the title race, remained stuck to their previous tally of 15 from as many outings.

Yellow card: Manik and Arman (Mohammedan SC), Aamer Khan and Bakhtiar (Brothers Union).

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Ponir, Ruhul Amin, Jewel Rana, Munna, Parvez, Manik, Arman, Ladi Baba, Bode Baba, Kazakov and Ranjan.

BROTHERS UNION: Kawser, Shimu, Bishu, Mizan, Ripon (Anwar), Aamer Khan, Christopher, Bakhtiar, Bernard, Don and Chibujor.

Referee: Amir Sharif (Malaysia).



Brothers Union keeper Kawser clears an MSC right side floater before Bode Baba (12) and Andrei Kazakov could respond during yesterday's Lifebuoy Premier Division football league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Badda win, Boys stumble

Bangladesh Boys Club were forced to share points with Shantinagar Club in the Lifebuoy First Division football league as the match lacked 1-1 at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Kamal put Shantinagar Club ahead in the very second minute while Tuhin of Bangladesh Boys levelled the margin just one minute before the final whistle.

In day's other match, Badda Jagorani Sangsad defeated Eskaton Sabuj Sangha by 2-1 goals at the same venue.

With this victory, Badda Jagorani Sangsad have secured 24 points from 14 matches to reach the second position in the league table ahead of Bangladesh Boys, who collected 23 points playing also 14 matches.

League leaders East End Club clearly dominated the league table with 27 points from 14 matches.

Shantinagar Club and Eskaton SS collected 11 points each from 14 matches.

Symonds yet to opine

LONDON, Sept 9: Andrew Symonds said he will announce his decision on Monday whether to tour with the England A squad this winter, reports AFP.

The 20-year-old Anglo-Aussie has told his county Gloucestershire he still needs the weekend to finalise his thoughts, but that speculation about his future will be ended in three days' time.

Symonds has been agonising over his decision since sensationally being picked on Tuesday for the A team trip to Pakistan which starts on October 26.

Originally, Gloucestershire told the highly talented player to make up his mind by Thursday but then agreed to let him have at least another 48 hours.

On Friday, Gloucestershire chief executive Philip August confirmed Symonds — born in Birmingham but adopted in Australia since the age of 18 months — had finally agreed to tell the England selectors by Monday whether he would accept their invitation.

Futile fury by BCCB Eleven

Sports Reporter



A brilliant half-century by skipper Akram Khan earned Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) XI a victory bearing only academic interest in the Moin-ud-Dowla Invitational tournament played in the Indian city of Hyderabad yesterday.

In a group match which had no effect on deciding the eventual semifinalists, the virtual Bangladesh national team defeated the local Public Sector team by five wickets.

The triumph puts the visitors win-lose ratio in balance with two victories from four matches. The star-studded India Cement team, who squeezed past the Bangladeshi boys in a nail-biting encounter on Friday, are most likely to make it to the last four from the group with their impeccable current record of three straight victories.

According to a fax transmission received at the BCCB

office yesterday evening, the high profile local team, which included two one-day international players and a host of reputed Ranji Trophy veterans, won the toss and elected to bat in yesterday's match played at the Lal Bahadur Stadium.

Under a moderate morning sunshine the Public Sector team scored steadily, taking very few risks, and eventually mustered a respectable total of 180 for five in their allotted quota of 50 overs.

Middle-order batsman Gautam scored a quickfire 55 off 54 balls. Other than him, the locals showed no sign of urgency in their batting with Yadav scoring 15 off 45 and his opening partner Kala 46 off 90. Renowned Ranji Trophy player Rizwan ran a painstaking 11 off 57 deliveries.

For the fielding side left-arm spinner Enamul Huq Moni took two wickets for 34 in his ten overs while Anis, Rafique and Sujon took one each. Athar Ali, although

wicketless, bowled magnificently giving only 27 runs in his ten overs.

In reply the BCCB XI reached their target with seven balls to spare ultimately scoring 183 for five.

Skipper Akram scored a typically rapid 55 off 58 balls after opener Jahangir helped to set up a solid base with his steady 26. Sujon and Moni wrapped up the match playing fluently towards the end and scoring 30 and 16 respectively.

Indian Test spinner Rajesh Chauhan opened the bowling for Public Sector and, although fruitless in his effort to notch up a wicket, returned with spectacular figures of 10-4-18-0. Sharma and Akash took two wickets each while Jain picked up the other.

Although their stint in the ongoing tournament is over, the BCCB XI will remain in India to take part in the Buchi Babu tournament scheduled to be held from September 16 in the southern city of Madras.

Havelange defends FIFA



ZURICH, Sept 9: World soccer boss Joao Havelange said on Friday that FIFA was truly democratic and denied there was a power struggle between himself and UEFA president Lennart Johansson, reports Reuter.

"Obviously there is fair play between FIFA and UEFA," said Havelange at the end of a meeting of FIFA's emergency committee called to discuss radical reform plans proposed by Johansson.

"FIFA is true democracy," added the Brazilian president of FIFA, whose leadership and organisation have been criticised as undemocratic in recent remarks by Johansson. "FIFA is always open to discussion. This is not my house, it belongs to the soccer world."

Some of UEFA's proposals, meant to shift the balance of power in the world's number one sport from FIFA to the six regional confederations,

will be submitted to FIFA's executive committee meeting in Paris on December 11, Havelange said.

The points to be discussed in the French capital cover the rotation of the organisation of the World Cup finals between the different continents, the composition of FIFA's executive committee and the role of the continental confederations in world football, FIFA said in a statement.

Plans to merge smaller confederations and for the FIFA presidency to be rotated every four years between the confederation heads, which had in fact already been dropped by Johansson, were rejected straight away, Havelange said.

Johansson's plans, widely seen as an attempt to lessen FIFA's political power, were included in two strategy documents unveiled last month and dubbed 'Vision I' — dealing with the sport's structure — and 'Vision II' — dealing with its finances.

The FIFA president hinted that discussions on 'Vision II' comprising a call for a more professional marketing of the World Cup finals, might be tense.

Johansson left FIFA headquarters after the talks, which lasted 90 minutes, without waiting for the official news conference.

"All I can say is that I'm satisfied with my own situation," he merely said. The talks were hailed as positive by African confederation official Slim Aloulou of Tunisia.

"There was a real consensus and we're moving towards the right direction," he said. "What UEFA is proposing now, particularly regarding the role of the confederations, is what Africa has been asking for years. Everybody rejected it, including UEFA but now there seems to be some change."

The principle of a rotation of the World Cup finals, Havelange said would not be an easy one to follow.

Army, Rajshahi in qtrs

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Army and Rajshahi District Sports Association hockey teams completed the quarterfinal line up of 17th national championship when they recorded big wins against Bangladesh Police (7-0) and BUET teams (9-0) respectively in the pre-quarters held at the BKSP ground, Savar yesterday.

Both winners will take on each other in the fourth quarterfinal tomorrow afternoon.

BSKP, Faridpur DSA, Dhaka DSA, Bangladesh Air Force, Bangladesh Navy and Dhaka University are the other six teams who confirmed their quarterfinal berths earlier.

In the day's first outing, Army enjoyed a clear superiority over the poor police side leading the first session by four field goals.

National team striker Rahaj opened the floodgate 12 minutes into the first half (1-0) while Jahangir doubled the margin after six minutes

(2-0). Siraj increased the margin (3-0) in the 29th minute and Rahaj scored his second goal of the afternoon to practically seal the match three minutes before the half time (4-0).

After the break Army remained firm on course as they opened their second half account as early as in the very second minute when Sujon blasted house with a field effort which extended the lead to 5-0.

Siraj made it 6-0 after six minutes while Kader drove the last nail in the police's coffin 15 minutes into the second half with yet another field goal (7-0).

TEAMS

BANGLADESH ARMY: Reaz, Jahangir (jr), Kader, Ramiz, Rahaz, Maksud, Jahed, Hasan, Jahangir (sr), Siraj and Amin.

BANGLADESH POLICE: Maksud, Nazir, Shahid, Najimuddin, Jahangir, Nazrul, Nurul Islam, Nabi, Swapan, Ayub, Nasiruddin and Shamsul.

Umpires: Aslam Belim and Monwar Ali.

In the day's second match Rajshahi DSA showed no mercy for the BUET boys with a 5-0 lead in the first half which included a brilliant hat-trick by Rajshahi forward Shameem who netted the first three goals of his side in the 5th, 14th and 16th minutes through field efforts.

It was the second hat-trick of the tournament after Dhaka University's striker Alamgir scored the first hat-trick on Monday during their 11-0 thrashing of Rangpur DSA.

Mobarak of Rajshahi scored the fourth in the 22nd minute while Shameem, with his fourth goal of the match, closed the first half account six minutes later.

After the breather, Mubarak and Kuddus took the lead to 7-0 with one goal apiece in the 15th and 21st minutes while Mujibur put the victory beyond doubt scoring the remaining two goals in the 28th and 31st minutes to make it embarrassing for BUET.

Vialli sick of Sacchi



TURIN, Italy, Sept 9: Gianluca Vialli, upset by recent remarks by Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi, said on Friday that he had decided not to play for his country again, reports Reuter.

"I think I will never play again in the national team," Vialli, speaking softly and wearing dark glasses, told reporters after a Juventus training session in Turin.

Sacchi, who has had numerous disagreements with the outspoken and sometimes eccentric striker, said last week he had spoken to Vialli about his return to the national team and had discussed his recall with other Italy players.

He said Vialli would have been called up for last Wednesday's European Championship qualifier against Slovenia had he been fit and



GIANLUCA VIALLI

was likely to play against Croatia on October 8.

The Gazzetta Dellos Sport quoted the coach on Friday as saying Italian players had the past spoken out against Vialli but recently the squad had changed its opinion.

"Before the match against Estonia last March I discussed Vialli's return with some players and they were against the idea," Sacchi was quoted as saying.

"Recently the same players told me they were in favour of Vialli coming back," added Sacchi, who has previously accused the striker of disrupting the cohesion of the team.

Vialli was upset to hear that playing for Italy was dependent on his teammates' approval.

Sacchi said in a later statement that he was "genuinely saddened and surprised by Gianluca's declaration. Vialli, who last played for Italy in December 1992, said

he was also "confused and saddened" by recent events.

Former Italian coach Azeglio Vicini, who gave Vialli his first cap, said that "in the light of what has happened, Vialli has done well... it would have been too heavy a burden for the player, what kind of enthusiasm would he have had?"

Vialli, a lethal finisher in his early international career, helped Juventus win the Italian title in 1995.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Lifebuoy Premier Division football league Muktiyodha Sangsad vs Wari Club 5:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Lifebuoy First Division football league Victoria SC vs Badda Jagarani 4:30 pm (Mirpur Stadium)

PWD SC vs Sadharan Bima KS 6:30 pm (Mirpur Stadium)

17th National Hockey Championship (Quarterfinals) BKSP vs Faridpur DSA 2:30 pm (BKSP)

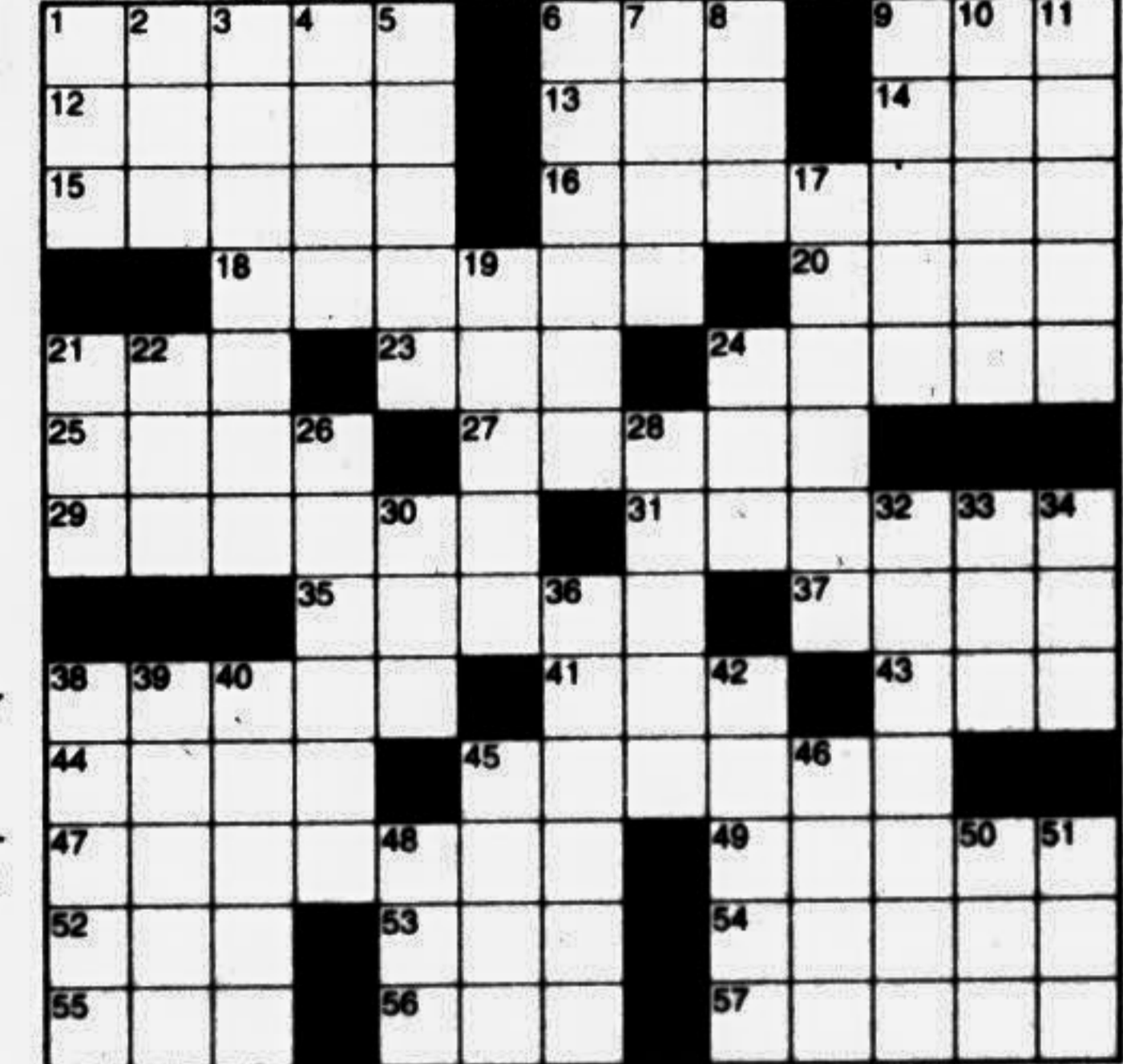
Bangladesh Air Force vs Dhaka DSA 3:45 pm (BKSP)

18th National Basketball Championship venue: Dhanomdi Gymnasium Dhaka DSA vs Bangladesh Police 8 am

Brahmanbaria DSA vs Chandpur DSA 9 am

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Lacking in boldness 6 Hole-making tool 9 Anecdote assortment 12 Duck 13 Novelist 14 State of matter 15 Senior 16 Headache 18 Prelude to Proverbs 20 Take on 21 Wrap-around reptile 23 Bill 24 Sharpened 25 "The Vampire Lestat" author 27 Fare, often 29 Acid neutralizer 31 Fine 35 Echolocation method 37 Writer Bellow 38 "— in Toyland" 43 Josephine of who-



CRYPTOQUIP

IRVY YVIJZURIUY YRVFE HRFXUF, RHKUF OWVOQUIPUIORJUY: "KWU EGZQ'IGP XU."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LIZZIE BORDEN'S HOME WAY BACK WAS RECENTLY TURNED INTO A WHACKS MUSEUM.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y equals D

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.