Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT the Tour De France is the world's biggest annual sports event, overshadowed only by the Olympics and the World Cup. The Tour is a French obsession, with every region having its favourite. About a third of the population turns out to see a whirr of bicycle wheels flash past, while the rest watch it on television.

For three weeks every Summer the French go mad over the sight of one hundred and twenty tough-muscled young men racing on bicycles for 3000 miles. Normal life is suspended, while the heroic exhibition of human will power and endurance passes by.

Annual damage to the French economy (through absenteeism, drunkenness, closing of roads, etc.) is calculated in millions of pounds sterling!

Judging by our behaviour, we have hartals and New Year's celebration mixed up with Tour De France.

SPORTS TALK

Sir Donald Bradman
(Australian cricket legend)
"It's popular and we must provide entertaining cricket to help the game survive."
On one-day cricket.

Sports WHiZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

The rules are published every Saturday.

Sports WHiZZ KID competition-21

√ Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Jan 12, 1996)

1.	Which country has won the greatest number of Olympic medals?		
	USA	USSR	Germany
2.	What is the maximum break in snooker?		
	125	136	147
3.	In international gymnastics, how many events are there in men's contests?		
	Six	Eight	Ten
4.	How long is a marathon?		
	51.33km	40.21km	42.95km
5.	A super-heavyweight boxer must weigh more than		
	91kg	101kg	105kg

Name : .....

Class : ..... **Roll No** : .....

School Address: .....

Phone: (if any) .....

Radcliffe, Kariuki win

BELFAST, Jan 7: Kenya's James Kariuki pulled away from the field two-thirds into the race to win an 8-kilometre cross country competition at Mallusk Saturday while Britain's Paula Radcliffe won a women's event over 4.8 km, reports AP.

Kariuki held off a late spurt from British runner Chris Sweeney to clock 24 minutes 2 seconds. Sweeney had 24:04 and third place finisher Cormac Finnerty of Ireland crossed the line in 24:06 ahead of Belgium's Rudy Wale, who timed 24:08.

Radcliffe gained her second triumph in a row after her victory at Durham last week. This time she pulled away from Kenya's Rose Cheruiyot 800 metres from the end and crossed the line in 16 minutes 2 seconds.

Cheruiyot clocked 16:06 ahead of Romania's Elena Fidatov who was well back in 16:19.

Indianapolis to bid for '99 World Gymnastics

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Jan 7: USA Gymnastics selected Indianapolis, host of the 1991 World Gymnastics Championships, as the United States candidate to host the 1999 edition of the global event, reports AFP.

Abahani surge ahead

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

ABAHANI KC: 196 in 48.1 overs (Pilot 55, Liton 34, Partho 32; Golla 2/13)
GMCC: 154 in 45.4 overs (Kamal Merchant 52, Babul 37; Rahat 3/20)

DHAKA WANDERERS: 143 in 45.1 overs (Monirul Haque 80; Manna 4/27)
BANGLADESH BIMAN: 144 for 3 in 40.3 overs (Nasir Khan 54, Rupom 31; Rafique 2/22)

Joint holders Abahani Krira Chakra ambled their way to solo lead in the ongoing Premier Division cricket league when they comfortably defeated Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) by 42 runs at the Dhaka Stadium on Saturday.

Winning the toss, Khaled Masud Pilot's third half-century in four innings was needed by Abahani to score a disappointing 196 before they were bundled out by GMCC bowlers in 48.1 overs. But, let down by their unstable opening pair yet again, GMCC slumped to 154 all out in 45.4 overs.

However impressive the victory may seem, Abahani's batting display was way below the expectations that surrounded their batsmen. Even though all their top order batsmen got a reasonable start, none had the tenacity to take the team score to a more respectable total.

Both openers, Imran Hamid Partho and Harunur Rashid Liton looked promising to start with but fell to the none-so-impressive GMCC attack scoring 32 and 34 respectably. One-down Anup Kumar Biswas carried on the trend leaving for 24.

Pilot, the national 'keeper who had made two half-tons against Gulshan Youth and Agrani Bank in previous league engagements, was the only one to show some temperament hitting four fours on his way to a 88-ball 55.

But at the other end it was the success story of GMCC bowlers all the way with none of the remaining batsmen, albeit no. 10 Jahangir Alam Dulu (17), reaching double figures. And, as if adding salt to the wound, skipper Akram Khan was out for a duck.

In reply, the GMCC batsmen fared no better, paying for their irresponsibility (or was it duncery?) in being all out for such a paltry total.

PILOT . . . 55

The Mymensingh outfit started off on the wrong foot when both their openers, Bangladesh international Javed Omar Belim Golla and rookie Faiyaz Ferdousi, losing their wickets to uncalled for run outs.

After such a disastrous start, only Pakistani Kamal Merchant (52) and gangly skipper Mizanur Rahman Babul (37) could resist the stingless Abahani attack.

Ashfaque Ali Rahat continued his impressive form in this year's league returning with figures of three for 20 in 7.4 overs. Rahat now has 11 OBwickets from five games.

With this victory, Abahani have ten points from five games taking solo lead in the table. But Kalabagan Krira Chakra, the only other unbeaten outfit in the league with four wins in as many games, could claim a slice of the cake if they win their next encounter on January 10.

GMCC, on the other hand, have secured four points from five games thanks to their two previous victories, one against Bijoy Dibosh champions Bangladesh Biman.

BIMAN WIN

In the other match played on Saturday, Bangladesh Biman recorded their fourth league victory with a thumping seven-wicket victory over Dhaka Wanderers at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Chasing a paltry 144 to win in 50 overs, the national flag bearers prevailed in the 41st over with six wickets in hand.

Biman's Pakistani opener Nasir Khan, who earlier scored two half-centuries against Gulshan Youth and Wari Club in the league, was the highest scorer for the winners with 54 off 77 balls which included seven boundaries.

Among others, skipper Ziaur Rashid Rupom was not out on 31 while national opener Athar Ali Khan scored 28 runs.

Earlier, put in to bat, Dhaka Wanderers were booked in 45.1 overs with only 143 runs on the board.

Middle order Monirul Haque fired 80 off 123 balls while Momin added 22 runs to Wanderers' account.

Biman's new ball bowler Nazimuddin Manna grabbed four wickets conceding 27 runs in 9.1 overs while his partner left arm pacer Anisur Rahman earned two wickets giving away 22 runs.

With yesterday's two wickets, Anis, the national opening bowler, now leads the wicket-takers' list in the league taking 14 wickets in five matches while Manna has collected eleven wickets so far in five encounters.

The win raised Biman's tally to eight points from five matches while Wanderers are yet to record a victory in the league in as many matches.

Nazar in marauding mood

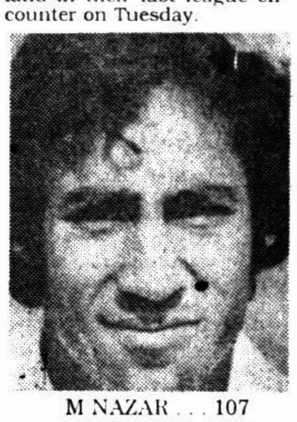
SHARJAH, Jan 7: Old warhorse Mudassar Nazar played a well placed, unbeaten innings of 107 to guide Pakistan to seven-wicket victory over arch-rivals India with eight balls to spare in the NEPC World Masters cricket series here today, report agencies.

The Pakistani veteran opener hit only five fours in his 140-ball essay and ran the singles well, belying his age in his superb opening-wicket stand off 113 with left-hander Sadiq Mohammad to help Pakistan notch four points and be in the reckoning for the January 12 final.

Pakistan made 216 for three wickets off 43.2 overs.

Earlier, India — put into bat-made 215 for five wickets in 45 overs with skipper Sunil Gavaskar (43), Mohinder Amarnath (62), Madan Lal (33 not out off 29 balls) and Syed Kirmani (27 not out off 24 balls) doing the bulk of the work.

The defeat put India virtually out of contention for a place in the final following their narrow seven-run loss to West Indies yesterday. India who have a single point to their credit, will play England in their last league encounter on Tuesday.



M NAZAR . . . 107

For Pakistan, it was their first win in two ties. They were comprehensively outplayed by England on January 5. India's run rate of 4.55 is also the worst among the four competing teams.

Meanwhile in the earlier match, Alwin Kallicharan of West Indies took the wickets of Sunil Gavaskar, Mohinder Amarnath and Sandeep Patil in six overs, halting India's momentum and helping the West Indies to a seven-run victory.

The West Indies were held to a modest 202 all out in their 45 overs, yet led by Kallicharan, restricted the Indians to 195 for six in reply.

Kallicharan and all-rounder Collis King rallied the West Indies innings with a 72-run fifth-wicket partnership, rescuing the side after it was 93 for four.

Kallicharan made 35 from 57 deliveries while Gordon Greenidge and Vivian Richards added 32 and 28 runs.

Gavaskar led India with 67 runs off 101 balls with two sixes and two boundaries. Amarnath slammed 57 runs off 75 balls with three boundaries and a six.

The West Indies join England, 65-run victors over Pakistan in Friday's opener, as the teams with two points each in this round Robin tournament.

Blood lust lures Brandes

WHANGAREI, New Zealand, Jan 6: Injury robbed veteran Zimbabwe cricketer Eddo Brandes of one of his biggest ambitions — a Test victory, reports AP.

But the 32-year-old fast bowler is back as an integral part of the team's line-up on their two-Test New Zealand tour and is hoping that time is on his side.

When Zimbabwe won their first and only Test — against Pakistan last year — the 32-year-old fast bowler was sidelined with a long-term achilles tendon injury.

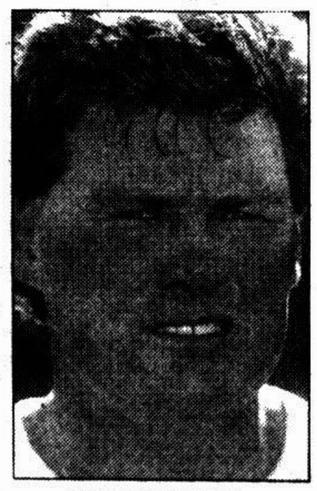
That cost him any chance of selection for Zimbabwe's past three international engagements, against Sri Lanka, Pakistan and South Africa.

It would be a memorable way for the burly Brandes to wind down a career which has taken in two World Cups but only six Tests.

"For me, the win over Pakistan was a big incentive to get back into the side," he said Saturday. "It was very sad not to be involved so I want to be in the side for the next one.

"Obviously you like to play as long as you can. Once you're past it there's no way you can pull it back.

"But I'm running my own business, I've got married and have a little girl and all those things make it a bit more difficult."



EDDO BRANDES

Brandes can claim a place in World Cup folklore.

He was responsible for one of the biggest upsets in one-day cricket when he spearheaded Zimbabwe to victory over England in the 1992 tournament.

He grabbed four for 21 as England was rolled for 125.

That gave British newspaper headline writers a field day; the pride of English cricket being plucked by an unknown chicken farmer.

"They did go to town," Brandes said. "It was quite hilarious.

"That does stand out as a very special game but generally the World Cup was a happy trip."

Brandes took 14 wickets in the tournament, finished it as the fifth-best bowler and was set to carry the bowling hopes of his country into Test cricket.

He played in his country's maiden Test against India later that year, but broke down after two overs with an ankle injury and since then he has been restricted to only six Tests, which have produced 17 wickets.

Brandes said the Zimbabwe team of 1996 is a different proposition to the fledgling side of four years ago.

Russian spikers outclass Germany

BREMEN, Germany, Jan 7: Russia beat Germany in three sets Saturday in a meaningless semifinal at the women's European Olympic volleyball qualifying tournament, reports AP.

Germany, playing largely with their substitute players, were overpowered by the strong Russians 15-9, 15-4, 15-5.

The two teams entered the match with 2-0 records, and will meet again Sunday in the final.

Croatia and the reigning European champions, the Netherlands, were both without a win going into Saturday's play and already relegated to third and fourth for the tournament.

Acme Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

ORIENT SC: 213 for 9 in 40 overs (Tuhin 44, R Khan 32, A Kumar 3/37)
SHANTINAGAR 'B': 82 in 28.1 overs (Antu 3/18, Shaheen 2/20)
Result: Orient SC won by 131 runs.

UTTARA SC: 201 in 38.4 overs (Moon 59, Mridul 44, Pijush 25)
DHANMONDI PROGOTI: 101 in 27 overs (Dipu 32, Pappa 4/19, Pijush 3/13)
Result: Uttara SC won By 100 runs.

Orient Sporting Club and Uttara Sporting Club won their respective Acme Second Division Cricket league matches on Saturday.

At the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Orient registered a huge 131-run victory over Shantinagar 'B' while Uttara defeated Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha by 100 runs at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Yamaha Div I cricket

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Boys Club posted a win in the Yamaha First Division cricket league when they beat Ajax Sporting Club by four wickets at the City Club ground on Saturday.

Batting first, Ajax were restricted to 155 for nine in their stipulated 45 overs. In reply, The Gopibagh outfit reached home in 43.4 overs losing six wickets.

Imran Ahmed (29) and Nasim Ahmed were the leading Boys scorers while opener Gausul Haque collected 20 runs.

Ajax bowler Sadek Ahmed Bipul earned three wickets conceding 34 runs.

Earlier, in the morning, wicketkeeper Morshed Alam scored 20 runs for Ajax while Boys' skipper Nasim Ahmed grabbed three wickets for 24 runs.

BRIEF SCORES

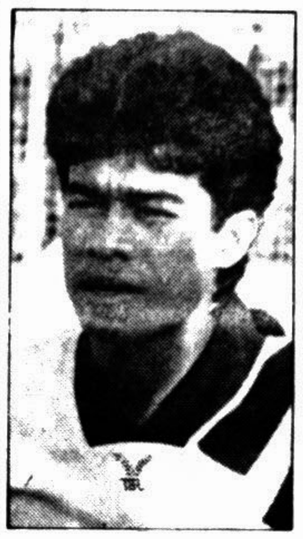
AJAX SC: 155 for 9 in 45 overs (Morshed 20; Nasim 3/24)

BANGLADESH BOYS CLUB: 159 for 6 in 43.4 overs (Imran 29, Nasim 24; Bipul 3/34)

Shabbir to play again?

Sports Reporter

Syed Rumman-bin-Wali, popular as Shabbir the mercurial playmaker of local soccer, may return home next month. Shabbir is now in New York under the treatment of Dr. Norman Scott.



Shabbir of Mohammedans was grievously injured in a clash with PWD's goal tender Shohan while going for a common ball in a match in the 1994 football league.

In September last year, Shabbir underwent an operation in his injured leg and since then he is under the care of physio-therapy. This slow build-up is expected to end this month.

Earlier, his initial treatment was done at Singapore. The National Sports Council, Bangladesh Football Federation, Dhaka Metropolis Football Association and others contributed about Taka six lakh towards Shabbir's treatment in Singapore, which was 80 per cent of the costs. The Taka twelve lakh being spent in the USA for the treatment has been arranged by Shabbir from his own resources.

Shabbir and his wife have been blessed with a daughter, their second, in November last year in New York.

According to friends, Shabbir may start practice in Dhaka sometime in March-April.

The belated breakthrough

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 7: Brazil will take part in the CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer tournament after all.

Consular official, hamstrung by the US government partial shutdown, had been unable to issue visas but were reported on Saturday as saying they would be granted, reports Reuter.

Brazilian coach Mario Zagalo was quoted as saying the team would leave for Los Angeles on Sunday to take part in the tournament which begins next weeks.

On Thursday, Brazilian Football Confederation president Ricardo Texixiera said, Brazil would pull out if visas were not issued by Friday.

Although the gold cup is for full national teams, Brazil, who have been drawn in group B with Honduras and Canada are sending only an under-23 squad, in preparation for a pre-Olympic playoff competition in Argentina in February and March.

Carlos sings Diego's praises

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 7: Argentine President Carlos Monem on Friday praised football star Diego Maradona's sincerity and bravery in publicly admitting his drugs problem in a magazine interview earlier this week, reports AFP.

Describing Maradona's confession as a "valiant gesture," Monem told a Buenos Aires radio station, he believed that it would do good for the young people.

The 35-year-old player is now featuring prominently at Monem's own request in a government campaign — Sun Without Drugs — to stamp out drugs in sport.

IF LOOKS COULD KILL! Steve White (R) of Hereford United and Tottenham Hotspur's Justin Edinburgh glare at each other following an on-field brawl during their FA Cup match in Hereford on Dec 11. Like the two booters the match went neck to neck to end in a draw.
— AFP/UNB photo

Juergen on top of the world

BONN, Jan 7: Germany's Juergen Klinsmann was on Friday named the world's top scorer of 1995 by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics, reports AFP.

Bayern Munich's Klinsmann, with 17 goals in all international competitions for both Club and country during the year, beat out Jardel of Brazilian side Gremio into second place with 16 goals, and Uruguay's Enzo Francescoll of Argentina's River Plate into third spot with 14.

An emotional meeting

LONDON, Jan 7: Liverpool and Juventus are planning to meet for the first time since the 1985 Hesel Stadium disaster, Liverpool manager Roy Evans said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

More than 10 years after the disaster, when 39 fans died during rioting before the European Cup final, the two Clubs are negotiating to meet in a friendly in front of a sell-out 60,000 crowd at Boston's Foxboro Stadium on August 11.

Liverpool and Juventus considered playing against each other as part of the Rush transfer in the mid-1980s, but shelved the idea because a meeting was considered too sensitive at the time.

Rochdale feel Liverpool's wrath

Exit Law, enter Rush

LONDON, Jan 7: Ian Rush finally beat Dennis Law's modern-day FA Cup scoring record of 41 goals on Saturday and then said: "I want to go on and hit 50 and reach a level no-one will beat."

Rush, awarded the MBE in the New Year's honour's list, scored Liverpool's fifth in their 7-0 defeat of Third Division Rochdale to take his career cup scoring record to 42 goals.

Now he is aiming to beat the all-time record of 48 goals scored by Henry Cursham of Notts County in the 1990s.

Rush was set up for the goal by Robbie Fowler, three minutes after coming on as substitute for his first game since November 18 following a cartilage operation.

"It's been a tremendous week for me," he said. "To get the goal at the Kop end was something special.

"Robbie thought about shooting himself but he gave it to me. I've had the record in my sights for a few seasons now and it is great to have broken it at last."

Liverpool manager Roy Evans said: "It is a fantastic achievement by Rushie. Nothing surprises you about him. I bet he's just as pleased as he was when he won his MBE."

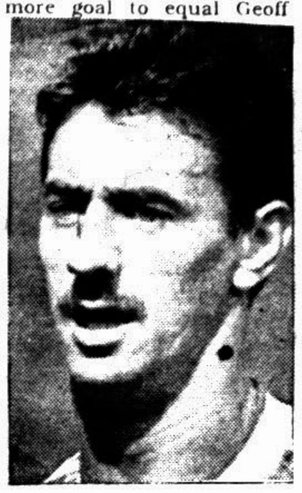
Rochdale manager Mick Docherty said: "It couldn't happen to a better pro. He is a shining light in the profession because of his-work-rate, dedication and his great scoring record."

Rush has smashed records throughout his Liverpool career, including scoring more goals in Merseyside derbies against Everton than any other player in history, including the great Dixie Dean.

Having beaten Roger Hunt's club scoring record for Liverpool, he is now chasing Hunt's league scoring record of 245 goals. Rush's total is currently 227.

As well as scoring more FA Cup goals than anyone else this century, he has also scored five goals in Cup finals - two in 1986, two in 1989 and one in 1992 - more than any other player in history.

He also needs only one more goal to equal Geoff Hurst's all-time record of 49 League Cup goals, but will have to wait until next season to try and break that mark as Liverpool are already out of this season's competition.



IAN RUSH

But it is the all-time FA Cup record that is his real target.

Rush scored his first Cup goal for Chester against Workington in a 5-1 first round win in November 1979. He scored three Cup goals for Chester in the early years of his career before his move to Liverpool in 1980.

And even if he was to leave Liverpool at the end of this season, as has been rumoured in some circles, there is no hint at 34 of him retiring. If he doesn't score for Liverpool, there will be plenty of other clubs queuing up for his services.

While it was a memorable day for Rush, it was also a day Stan Collymore will long remember as he scored his first hattrick for Liverpool since his 8.5 million pound (13.17 million dollars) transfer from Nottingham Forest.

Evans said: "It was a fine achievement by Stan and his confidence is increasing by the week.

"Rochdale held on for the first 25 minutes but once we got the first goal you could tell it was going to be our day."

Docherty said: "We were mesmerised and they gave us a lesson in football, the telling factor was five minutes either side of half-time when we went from 1-0 down to 4-0 down."

'Super Eagles' hit the roof

LAGOS, Jan 7: Nigeria's 'Super Eagles' soccer team, enraged over the government's boycott of the African Cup championship, will refuse to play for Nigeria in the next World Cup, a newspaper reported Sunday, reports AP.

In addition, professional clubs across the country have reportedly threatened to boycott the 1996 soccer season to protest missing the African Cup.

The independent Concord newspaper said Super Eagles team members passed a resolution Saturday calling the government move the "gravest disappointment in our career" and vowing not to wear Nigeria's colours at the 1998 World Cup.

The government-owned Sunday Times said the 1996 soccer season might not be able to take place due to anger from teams nationwide.

The Super Eagles won the last bi-annual African Cup, played in 1994, and were eager to defend the title when the 16-nation tournament opens Jan 13 in South Africa.

Nigeria's military ruler, Gen Sani Abacha, decided to boycott the event and cited concerns about player security for the move. His real motive was seen as political, however, because of the South African government's criticism of Nigeria's human rights situation.

South African President Nelson Mandela denounced Abacha after the Nov. 10 hangings of nine Nigerian dissidents, and he has led calls for international sanctions against Abacha's military regime. Abacha in turn accuses Mandela of meddling in his country's internal affairs.

Super Eagles captain Augustine Eguovoen, assistant coach Stephen Keshi, and goalkeeper Peter Rufai presented their decision regarding the World Cup to the team's technical adviser, Bonfrere Jo, on Saturday.

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS
1 Succumbs to gravity
5 Albanian money
8 Hairstyle
12 Rival of Jimmy and Bjorn
13 Exist
14 Info
15 Wrong
17 Whimper
18 Moor
19 Gloomy
21 Padlocked fastener
24 "Holy mackerel!"
25 Warhol's 15 minutes worth
28 Cad
30 Chip topper
33 Kimono accessory
34 Rot
35 Dos Passos trilogy
36 Absolutely
37 Famous name?
38 Practice pugilism
39 Sawyer or Seaver
41 Big rig
43 Wants real bad
46 Accumulate
50 Perry of "...90210"
51 Wrong
54 PC operator
55 Blackbird of puzzledom
56 Battle cry?
57 Predilection
58 Lapidary's item
59 Near-black

DOWN
1 Long, audible breath
2 Hand lotion additive
3 Actress Lollobrigida
4 Boil
5 Mason's field
6 Mess up
7 Jailer's janglers
8 Tell target
9 Wrong
10 Audition goal
11 Tournament format
16 Discoverer's cry
20 Unattractive, and then some
22 Son of Noah
23 Rio Grande feeder
25 Vaudevillian Eddie
26 Mt. Rushmore member
27 Wrong
29 Some people get ill at it
31 "This — stick-up!"
32 Strange statistic?
34 Woman of the knight?
38 Ape
40 Out in the open
42 Ruin the veneer
43 Organization
44 Stratagem
45 Unseen difficulty
47 Taj Mahal city
48 Switchblade
49 Command to Fido
52 Indivisible
53 Allen or Robbins

Solution time: 21 mins.

F	I	G	S		J	A	W		Q	U	O	D	
L	A	I	C		E	R	E		U	R	D	U	
A	N	G	R	I	E	S	T		A	G	O	N	
			I	M	P		L	A	K	E	R	S	
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S	L	O		B	R	I	D	E		D	A	H	
T	A	N	G	I	E	R	S		P	O	S	E	
			O	B	E	Y		F	I	L	E	D	
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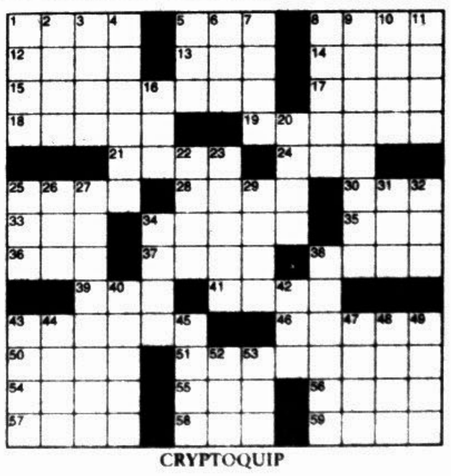

CRYPTOQUIP

Z N H T V S J N T J J C G C M T J H F T J N J K J C V U P C K U Z F D G P D G T M H T S S U.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ARE MESSY BABY CATS MORE LIKELY TO BECOME KITTY LITTERERS?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: S 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.