

### Chinese-Taipei badminton live on Star TV

Star TV returns to the badminton courts with live coverage from the Chinese Taipei Open from Taipei, Taiwan. Live action from Asia's most loved sport begins on Saturday, January 13th at 2:00 pm (BST) with coverage of the semifinal rounds. This event marks the first time the Chinese national team will be competing in Taiwan for valuable Grand Prix points. A record 23 countries will enter the tournament competing for US\$125,000 in prize money, says a press release.

On-site Mandarin commentary will be presented by Star TV badminton anchorwomen Irene Chui, accompanied by Chinese national team coaches Li Yong Bo and Lin Shi Quan. Toto Dharmadji and Gillian Clarke will supply Asia's badminton viewers with the English commentary.

Star TV's badminton coverage intensifies throughout 1996 with live broadcasts of the Thomas & Uber Cup, the Yonex All England Badminton Championships, Asia Cup, Indonesian and Malaysian Opens, culminating with the World Grand Prix Finals at the end of the year.

### Nagpur gets green signal

NEW DELHI, Jan 12: A cricket stadium in the Indian city of Nagpur, where a wall collapse killing 10 fans during an international in November, was confirmed on Wednesday as a venue for next month's World Cup.

A senior World Cup official told AFP the Australia-Zimbabwe match on March 1 would be held at Nagpur, near Bombay, as scheduled after local authorities declared the stadium to be safe.

The Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA) stadium in Nagpur has been given the go-ahead, the official said, but added that "certain precautions" were being taken for the World Cup match.

"We have instructed the people in charge of the match in Nagpur to prevent over-crowding in the stands," he said.

A newly-constructed wall in the renovated 40,000-capacity VCA stadium gave way on November 26 during a one-day match between India and New Zealand, killing 10 fans and injuring 70.

### Bayern won't let Papin go

MUNICH, Germany, Jan 12: Bayern Munich said on Thursday they had turned down an approach by English league leaders Newcastle for their French international striker Jean-Pierre Papin, reports Reuter.

"Papin is staying with us until the end of the season," a Bayern spokesman said.

The French daily L'Equipe reported earlier Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan had contacted the German club last week through an agent but had not yet made a concrete offer.

It said Papin, the 1991 European Player-of-the-Year, was unhappy at Bayern where he has been unable to claim a regular first team place this season.

However, Papin will be available at the end of the season for nothing, as Bayern supremo Franz Beckenbauer has told him that his contract, which expires then, will not be renewed.

### Beware of Atlanta!

WASHINGTON, Jan 12: Atlanta, the site of this year's Olympic Games, was ranked the most dangerous city in terms of violent crime such as murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, a private survey reported on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The Morgan Quitno survey, based on FBI crime statistics from 1994, found Atlanta the least safe of the 100 largest US cities or cities with more than 100,000 people.

The Miami area was judged the most dangerous of the country's metropolitan areas, core cities and their suburbs.

Such perennial crime capitals as New York City and Washington, DC did not make the 10 worst list, the survey showed. Out of 195 cities listed in order of safety, number one being the safest, New York ranked 132nd and Washington was 173rd. By contrast, Atlanta was 195th.

After Atlanta the most dangerous cities were Flint, Michigan, St. Louis, Missouri, Tampa, Florida, Detroit, Kansas City, Missouri, New York, New Jersey, Little Rock, Arkansas, Baltimore, Maryland and Birmingham, Alabama.

Atlanta was also the most dangerous city in last year's survey and many of this year's worst were among the bottom 10 last year.



American Michael Chang fires a blistering forehand against compatriot Jim Courier in a Colonial Classic exhibition game at Kooyong, Melbourne on January 11. Chang romped past Courier 6-4, 6-0.

## Kafelnikov stuns Agassi



MELBOURNE, Jan 12: Add Yevgeny Kafelnikov to the list of contenders for the Australian Open tennis championship.

The fast-rising Russian surprised defending Australian champion Andre Agassi in a third set tiebreaker on Friday and advanced to the final of the Colonial Classic tennis tournament at Kooyong, reports AP.

Kafelnikov downed Agassi 2-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-2) and the American said he believes Kafelnikov could be a serious contender at the National Tennis Centre when the first Grand Slam tournament of the year begins on Monday.

Kafelnikov faces defending champion Michael Chang in Saturday's final of the eight-man event. Chang trounced fellow American Jim Courier 6-4, 6-0 in 67 minutes in the first semifinal on Thursday.

Kafelnikov, the winner of eight career titles, made two Grand Slam quarterfinals last year and reached the semis at the French Open.

"He's certainly a factor to be dealt with and he's talented enough to take the next step," Agassi said. "He's a threat to beat anybody on a good day."

Agassi was warned for verbal abuse and queried line calls as he struggled to cope with Kafelnikov's pace and power.

Kafelnikov, seeded third in the exhibition and now ranked sixth in the world, scored his seventh straight win since arriving in Australia earlier this month.

The confident 21-year-old, known as AK-47 by some of his rivals — in reference to the Kalashnikov rifle — last week won the Australian Hardcourt title in Adelaide.

"I have a readily good draw to the quarterfinals of the Open, and if I have a couple of easy matches, anything can happen," Kafelnikov said of his prospects.

But the Russian admitted Agassi, who is ranked No 2 in the world, was not at his best at Kooyong.

"Today, no one was pushing himself to the limit," said Kafelnikov, who scored his third win in four matches with Agassi. "His ability is much better than he played today. He can play 100 per cent better."

Agassi said he didn't see the loss as a major setback. "I felt pretty good," he said. "I was hitting the ball real clean, taking it early and hitting it well, but obviously I need to lift my intensity about not letting the other guy into the match."

Agassi said he felt completely recovered from the chest muscle injury that sidelined him from September.

"I'm feeling healthy and just taking it up day by day," he said.

Kafelnikov said the final against Chang, one of the best retrievers in the game, would give him a good guide to his readiness for the Open.

"I'm looking forward to some long rallies," he said. "I want to see whether I'm fit or not."

Wayne Ferreira of South Africa defeated Australian Patrick Rafter 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 in an earlier match to decide 5th and 6th placings in the exhibition event.

## Anxious for a solution

NEW DELHI, Jan 12: Desperate Indian cricket officials said on Thursday they would approach the Sports Ministry to settle a row with state television whose headline stance threatens live broadcast of World Cup matches, reports Reuter.

In a move seen as a tactic to pressure the government, they said Pakistan and Sri Lanka, co-hosts of the competition that starts on February 14, had offered venues to replace Indian grounds if the broadcast plans did not come through.

Doordarshan television approached the Supreme Court this week after the Delhi high court rejected its petition challenging the sale of broadcast rights to media baron Rupert Murdoch's satellite broadcaster Star Television.

"We have already crossed the zero hour. There is no time left. The clearance has to be secured immediately," secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Jagmohan Dalmiya told reporters.

Star acquired its rights from WorldTel, the firm that bought the rights from the World Cup organisers, after WorldTel rescinded deal signed in 1994 with Doordarshan on the grounds that its payments were delayed beyond schedule.

But Doordarshan insists no broadcast can take place without its help, citing an Indian law that bans uplinking of private broadcast signals from the Indian soil without government sanction.

"If India cannot meet the uplinking facilities, the Pakistan and Sri Lanka cricket authorities have offered to step in and split India's matches between them," Dalmiya said.

WorldTel says Star has only exclusive cable broadcast rights and is open to a deal on terrestrial broadcast in India with Doordarshan.

Dalmiya said the Sports Ministry said it would take up the matter after the Supreme Court considers the issue.

The Sports Ministry falls under the Federal Human Resource Minister Madhav Rao Scindia, who is the president of PILCOM, the Pakistan-India-Sri Lanka Organising Committee for the World Cup.

## Ivanisevic, Martin in final



SYDNEY, Jan 12: Top seed Goran Ivanisevic will face Todd Martin in the final of the Peters International tennis tournament after both players came through tightly contested but straight-set victories Friday, reports AP.

The match will be a replay of their Grand Slam Cup final last month.

Ivanisevic defeated Australian Todd Woodbridge 6-3, 7-6 (8-6), while fifth seeded Martin struck 13 aces as he overcame Britain's Greg Rusedski 7-5, 7-6 (7-2).

In women's quarterfinal matches, fifth seed Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands upset third-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 to earn a showdown with top seed Monica Seles.

Second seed Kimiko Date

of Japan overwhelmed sixth seed Chanda Rubin of the United States 6-0, 6-1, and will face fourth seeded American Lindsay Davenport, who defeated Nicole Pietrangeli of Australia 6-3, 6-7 (6-8), 6-3.

Ivanisevic needed a great deal of patience to overcome the steady baseline play of Woodbridge. The Croatian broke in the opening game on his fourth break point, but he failed to convert any of five more break points when leading 2-0 as he was drawn into many long rallies.

Woodbridge, who out-fired Ivanisevic by seven aces to five, still struggled on his serve as he cancelled out his ace count with an equal number of double-faults, and he faced 13 break points in the first set.

But he rallied strongly, slicing the ball to prevent Ivanisevic from finding too much pace, and he worked

his way into the net well before putting away some crisp volleys.

Ivanisevic adapted well and broke serve again to claim the first set. In the second set Woodbridge had several chances to level the match. He broke for 4-3, but allowed Ivanisevic to break back in the next game.

Then, after he had saved two match points at 6-5, he held a set point in the tiebreak but netted a return.

"I had 19 break points but only won three, and that's not good," said Ivanisevic. "But in the end I won the match and that's what counts."

Rusedski took an early lead in the second set, breaking for 2-0 in a game in which Martin hit three aces and two double-faults. But Rusedski double-faulted in the fifth game to allow Martin back into the set, and games then went with serve before Martin dominated the tiebreak.

Schultz-McCarthy broke Fernandez on her third break point to lead the first set 5-4, but two double faults in the next game assisted Fernandez in leveling at 5-5. Fernandez then held set point at 6-5, but Schultz-McCarthy held off the challenge and claimed five straight points in the tiebreak to lead 6-3.

The second set was decided by one break of serve, for 3-1. Date took just 55 minutes to dismiss Rubin, winning the first nine games, although she had to save two break points in the second game. Rubin won just six points on serve in the first set and seven in the second, but she broke Date in the 10th game of the match.

Davenport won the last four games of her 111-minute battle with Bradtko, closing out the match on her third match point.

## BAF volleyball

CHITTAGONG, Jan 12: Air headquarters unit team clinched the title of the inter-base volleyball championship of the Bangladesh Air Force that concluded at the BSF Base Zahurul Haque here Thursday, reports UNB.

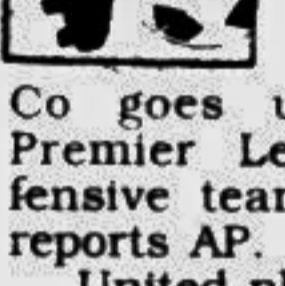
They won the title defeating BAF Base Bashur by three straight sets (15-4, 15-11, 15-10) in the final match.

Corporal Shahid of Air Headquarters unit team was adjudged the best player of the meet.



Hot-headed Croat Goran Ivanisevic is a study of concentration as he hits a double-handed backhand on his way to the finals of the Sydney International on January 12. Ivanisevic defeated Australia's Todd Woodbridge 6-3, 7-6.

## Clash of contrainess



LONDON, Jan 12: Manchester United's high-powered attack of Eric Cantona, Ryan Giggs and

Co goes up against the Premier League's top defensive team this weekend, reports AP.

United play Aston Villa at Old Trafford on Saturday in a top-level matchup of two clubs hoping to close the gap on league leader Newcastle, who play Sunday against lowly Coventry.

Villa are coming off Wednesday night's 1-0 win over First Division Wolverhampton Wanderers in the quarterfinals of the League Cup. That set up a marquee semifinal clash against Arsenal later this month.

While Villa's offensive performance against Wolves was lackluster, the club maintained their defensive superiority. Villa have conceded just 16 goals in 26 games this season, including 15 goals in 20 league contests.

That record figures to be put to the test by United, which has scored 41 goals in the league — second only to Newcastle's 42.

Villa's defence is anchored by Paul McGrath, the 36-year-old Ireland international. He gives ample credit to his supporting cast of Ugo Ehiogu, Gareth Southgate and Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich.

"With the age I am, Ugo and Gareth give me a lot of protection," McGrath said. "They do a lot of the hard graft and, if I'm honest, I think that's what I need at this stage of my career."

"While they're doing the work, I'm trying to read things and clean up. Fortunately, very little seems to go wrong these days and they've been playing like that all season."

McGrath won the FA Cup with Manchester United in 1985 and helped Villa capture the League Cup against the Reds in 1994. Now he dreams of returning to Wembley for another Cup final.

"It would be fantastic to have maybe one last game at Wembley, something that would be great for me," he said. "We've had such a good season so far. It would be a nice way to cap things. I won't say it's my last season, but..."

Villa are in fifth place in the league standings with 35 points from 20 games, 13 behind Newcastle. Manchester United are in second with 41, seven points adrift.

Liverpool, lying in third place with 38 points, play at Sheffield Wednesday.

Fourth-place Tottenham host Manchester City amid speculation that manager Gerry Francis is the favourite to succeed Terry Venables as

England coach after this summer's European Championships.

Arsenal, who knocked Newcastle out of the League Cup 2-0 on Wednesday night, play at Middlesbrough — whose manager Bryan Robson is also a leading contender for the England post.

Arsenal manager Bruce Rioch, meanwhile, is the focus of an inquiry by the Football Association following his touchline fracas Wednesday with Newcastle assistant Terry McDermott.

In other Premier League games Saturday, it's bottom-of-the-table Bolton vs Wimbledon, Everton vs Chelsea, Leeds vs West Ham, Nottingham Forest vs Southampton, and Queens Park Rangers vs Blackburn.

In Division One, Derby — seven points clear of Charlton — is home against Reading.

In Scotland, Rangers host Raith with a chance to widen their five-point lead over Celtic, which has a game in hand.

The Scottish First Division Club Dunfermline have decided to go ahead with Saturday's game against Clydebank despite the tragic death this week of captain Norrie McCathie.

The bodies of 34-year-old McCathie and 26-year-old Amanda Burns were found at the player's cottage on Monday. Police said they died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The club postponed their game against Dumbarton the following evening as a mark of respect.

## Romario's resurrection

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 12: Brazilian striker Romario admitted he did not train enough last year and promised to work harder in 1996, reports Reuter.

"I trained less than I should have done and I had a lot of injury problems," said Romario who has a reputation for loathing training.

"This year I will do more training and I will leave the rest in the hands of God."

Romario, signed from Spanish club Barcelona a year ago, missed a number of club sessions last year amid reports that he was being given privileges by the club board.

He suffered a loss of form after his return to Brazil and was outscored throughout the year by Botafogo forward Tulio who took over his mantle as Brazil's most deadly marksman.

Romario managed 26 goals in the Rio de Janeiro championship compared to Tulio's 27 and a modest nine in the Brazilian championship during which Tulio hit the net 23 times.

Romario did not make any appearances for his country last year but has said that he wanted to be included as an over-age player in Brazil's squad for the Olympic Games if they qualify.

The Brazilian soccer season begins at the end of January.

## Atletico's enviable state



MADRID, Jan 12: Without a league title since 1977 and nearly run out of the First Division more than once in the last few years, Atletico Madrid's success is causing the earth to quake at other clubs, reports AP.

Self-doubt, resignations and turmoil have erupted like a mid-season plague, with Real Madrid's board considering dumping Argentine coach Jorge Valdano and Barcelona on the verge of doing likewise with Johan Cruyff.

Already this week, Real's Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano announced he likely will leave the 26-time Spanish champions at season's end.

"I've been at this institution four years and always been a sincere professional, delivering my best. At times, the treatment I get doesn't match what I've given this

team," Zamorano told reporters.

Zamorano, last year's scoring champ with 28 goals, has only five in 20 games this season while Real have struggled — by their standards — to a 9-5-6 record, sixth place 16 points behind league-leading Atletico.

Meanwhile, FC Barcelona more than hinted this week that Cruyff, despite winning four of the club's 14 titles in his six years and their only European Champions Cup title, is on tenuous ground.

"They can't get things straight," a defiant Cruyff said Wednesday after club chairman Jose Luis Nunez warned publicly that he was "preparing the case for a very difficult decision."

Barcelona last week fell to 11-5-4 and fourth place, 10 points behind Atletico heading into the Sunday's 21st-round match against Deportivo, who also have struggled this season.

Real are hosting Zaragoza on Sunday, who also see: Compostela vs Espanyol, Real Sociedad vs Racing, Santander, Tenerife vs Sporting Gijon, Salamanca vs Sevilla, Valencia vs Celta, Oviedo vs Merida, Rayo Vallecano vs Athletic Bilbao.

On Saturday, Atletico are at Albacete and Betis are home against Valladolid.

Nunez complains management, read that as Cruyff, is not getting the results expected after last summer's heavy spending to acquire new foreign talent, including Bosnian Meho Kodro and Portugal's Luis Figo.

Cruyff persuaded management to make the purchase

after Barcelona dropped to a fourth-place finish last season. Further isolating the 48-year-old Dutchman is his comments that have placed the fault on the team's trouble on the players.

## Tulio honours fans' entreaty

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 12: Striker Tulio, the leading scorer in Brazilian soccer last year, said on Thursday he had decided to stay with Botafogo despite reports that a Japanese club was prepared to pay him 5 million dollars to sign for them, reports Reuter.

Brazilian news reports, which were not confirmed, said on Wednesday that the unidentified club had offered 7 million dollars to Botafogo and another 5 million dollars to the player himself.

"I have received lots of telegrams asking me to stay, many of them from children, and this moved me," said Tulio. "I'm sure we can win a lot of titles and bring a lot of happiness to Botafogo and repeat the success we had in 1995."

Tulio said, he felt that staying in Brazil would improve his chances of being selected for the Brazil national team and of playing in the 1998 World Cup.

Botafogo president Carlos Augusto Montenegro said that club sponsors Pepsi Cola would help finance Tulio, who reports said would receive 90,000 dollars a month, making him the best-paid player in Brazil.



AND OUT YOU GO... Newcastle's French star David Ginola (14) is given marching orders by the referee after being adjudged to have elbowed Arsenal defender Lee Dixon during a Coca-Cola Cup quarter final tie at Highbury on January 10. The sending-off resulted in a touchline confrontation between Arsenal manager Bruce Rioch and Newcastle assistant manager Jerry McDermott.

## Edmundo charged

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 12: The Rio district attorney's office has filed three charges of manslaughter against all-star forward Edmundo for his role in a car crash last month, reports AP.

District Attorney Leila Polastri filed the charges late Wednesday. A judge now must decide whether to indict the player, who could face up to 12 years in prison if convicted.

Edmundo was leaving a night club at 3 a.m. on Dec 2 when the pickup truck he was driving collided with a car in Rio's upscale Lagoa district. The pickup flipped and the car smashed into a pole.

Three passengers died of injuries. Edmundo was saved by the truck's airbag but received 10 stitches in his forehead.

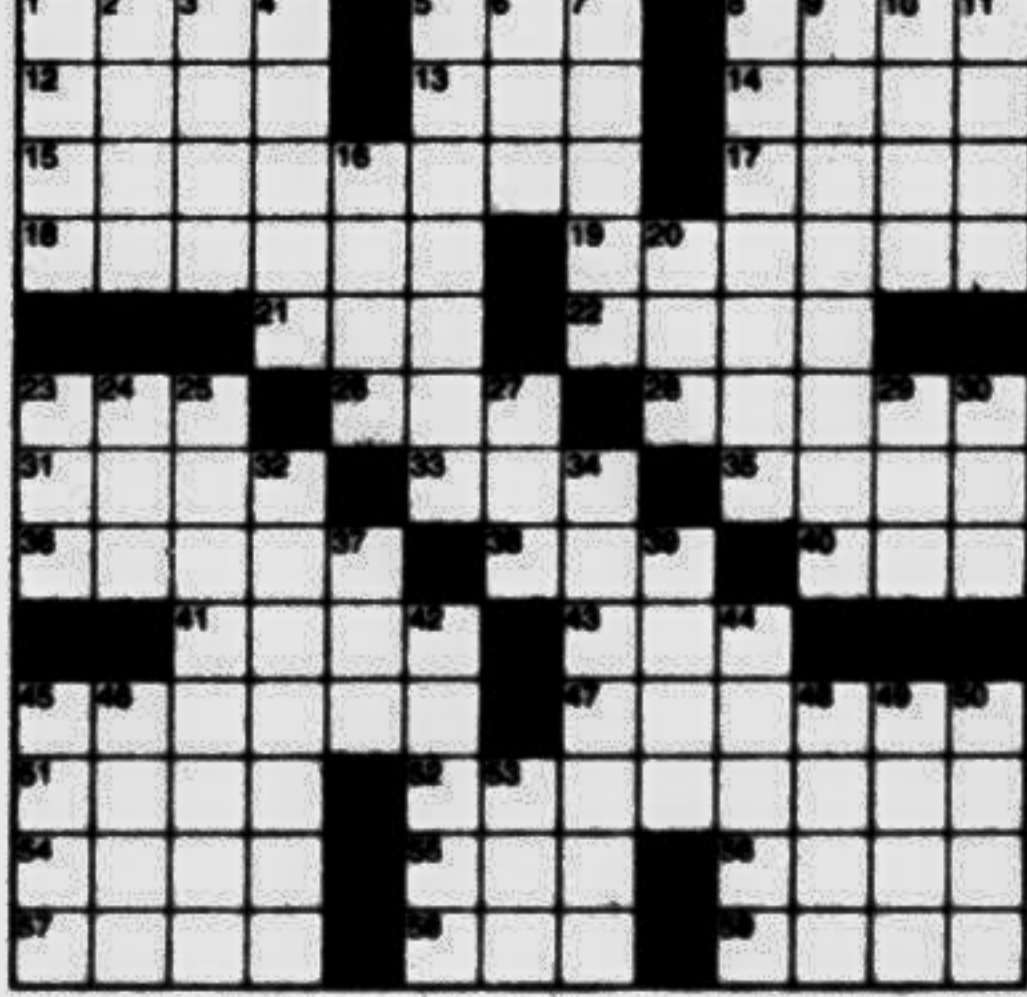
Polastri cited witnesses as saying Edmundo was going at least 95 kph (60 mph) in a 65 kph (40 mph) zone.

The accident capped a disastrous year for the 24-year-old forward. Bought by Flamengo to form the "dream attack" with Romario and Saviio, Edmundo played poorly, broke his toe and was suspended for 40 days for making obscene gestures to fans.

In December Flamengo sold him to Corinthians of Sao Paulo.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Refinery refuse
- 5 Garfield, e.g.
- 8 Striker's sub
- 12 Jolopy, for one
- 13 Hoop/Crosby by "Road"
- 14 Perry's creator
- 16 Close-cropped coils
- 17 Hand in one's palm
- 18 Pat shelter bottles
- 21 Lame
- 22 Off base
- 23 Rudiments
- 25 Kennedy or Koppel
- 28 Farm return
- 31 "Bird thou never—"
- 33 Kinsman: abbr.
- 36 Intermarried
- 38 Drenched
- 40 Quaff for two?
- 41 Post
- 43 Dine
- 45 Pretzels
- 48 Poem
- 51 Put together
- 52 Casino employee
- 54 Addict
- 55 Land unit
- 57 Indiana city
- 58 Evenings
- 59 Some sum-
- 1 Give the!
- 2 Tackle
- 3 "— o'clock
- 4 Grad rags?
- 5 Twisted
- 6 River
- 7 Puccini opera
- 8 National park in California
- 9 How Eliot described
- 10 Hit bottom?
- 11 Puts on mer babies the line
- 16 Small change
- 18 Indiana Jones' first quest
- 19 Baffet garb
- 20 "The Sage of Concord's" monogram
- 23 Hole-making tool
- 24 Actress
- 25 Holy war participant
- 27 It waters the lawn
- 29 Marmite's man
- 30 Explorer Johnson
- 32 Gothic window
- 33 egg
- 34 Landlords
- 37 Indiana Jones' first quest
- 42 Song-writer's org.
- 44 Periodical
- 45 Too confident
- 46 Houston acronym
- 48 Pleasant egg
- 49 Goose
- 50 Misaligned dolly
- 53 Edge



CRYPTOQUIP  
NKNB LNMBI LVJ DVEEZ  
TMOW DOTSWZ EVF  
INWOKNBNIJ OFL  
SVDFMENINJ?  
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: PERFECT DINNER CHOICE FOR A FARMISHED SEA MONSTER: FISH AND SHIPS.  
Today's Cryptiquip clue: E equals G  
The Cryptiquip 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.