

Column One
SPORTS TALK



Asif Iqbal

(Former Pakistani Test cricketer)
You can not have a match today without hearing someone has bought somebody. It appears there is no match which is fair. And those who love to hear all this are the same people who used to first talk of Asians as dull teams. And when they started beating the world, they became teams which cheat with the ball etc.

Expressing his disgust on the allegations targeted towards Asian cricket teams as cheats.

Sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

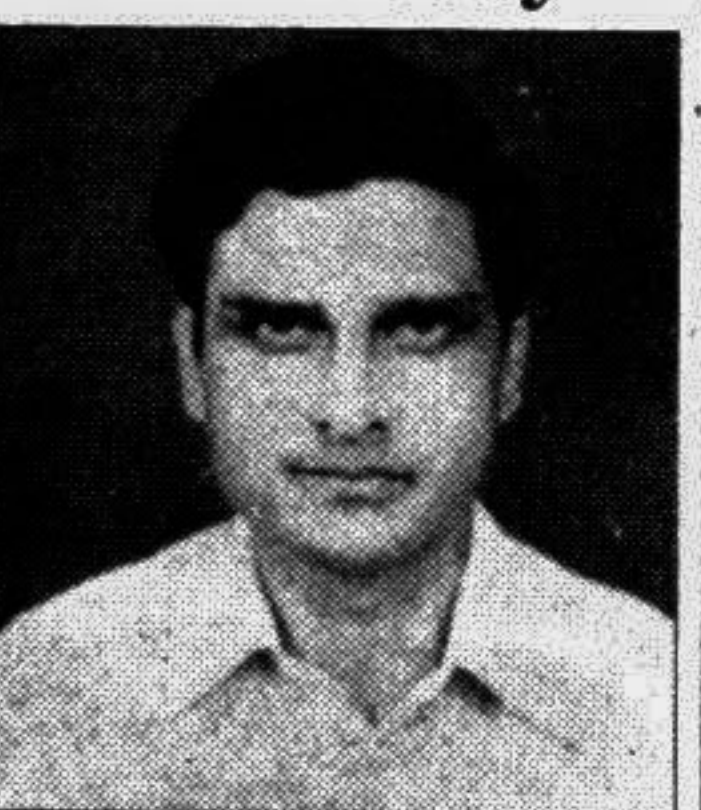
Sports WHIZZ KID competition-36

Tick the Correct Answer
(Competition closes: 8 p.m. May 10, 1996)

1. The 2002 World Cup football will be held in:	South Korea	Japan	Not yet decided
2. If FIDE is for chess, FINA is for:	Billiards	Snooker	Swimming
3. Tennis star Jennifer Capriati is:	Swedish	American	Dutch
4. The fastest one-day hundred by Sri Lankan Sanath Jayasuriya is off:	46 balls	47 balls	48 balls
5. The man-of-the-series in Pepsi Cup was:	Collman	Kirsten	Symcox

Name: _____
Class: _____ Roll No: _____
School Address: _____
Phone: (if any) _____

Makbul Hasan's anniversary of death today



Makbul Hasan Trust will observe the 15th death anniversary today of Makbul Hasan Moni FCA (England & Wales) in a befitting manner. Quankhani and milad mahfil will be held at his family residence (Bakshi Bazar), says a press release.

Members of the family, friends and well wishers will visit his grave at Azampur and offer Fateha during the day.

Arrangements have been made by the Trust to donate Tk 3,000 to the Sir Salmullah Muslim Orphanage on the occasion. The Trust has introduced scholarships in the Commerce Faculty, Dhaka University and will do the same in respect of some other organisations.

Makbul Hasan Moni was a Dhaka University Blue in football and cricket. He was a noted sports organiser of the country. He died in 1981 at the early age of 39. He was a controller of Accounts, Biman at the time of his death.

Ethiopian asylum seekers get the nod
AMSTERDAM, May 6: Six Ethiopian marathon runners have won political asylum in the Netherlands and want full citizenship to allow them to compete for the Dutch in the 2000 Olympics, coach Peter Kortekaas said today, reports Reuter.

Kortekaas, who trains Tekeye Gebresilasie, brother of 5,000 and 10,000 metres world record-holder Haile, said the six had the backing of the Dutch Athletics Federation and hoped to win approval to run for the country by the end of the year.

BAT back in aquatic race

The ten-round 1996 Formula One powerboat World Championship begins in the Italian city of Sardinia on May 12 with at least 50 teams from across the world taking part in it, reports BSS.

Former world champion Jon Jones and his team, sponsored by John Player Gold Leaf, will represent the Great Britain in the championships over ten rounds at different venues of the world, officials of the Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC) Limited said on Monday.

Speaking at a news conference, the BTC marketing director Francois Gillet said the British American Tobacco (BAT) has been involved in the water sports after a break of 25 years. BTC have been sponsoring sporting events like cricket, football, tennis and some other sports during the last few years.

BTC brand group business

manager M J Kabir, brand manager Shafiqul Azam and corporate affairs manager Mahmudur Rahman also spoke.



on the occasion. The BTC officials indicated that the company may back this sport in Bangladesh, if it is organised in Dhaka in future.

The first round of the world championship will take place in Sardinia (Italy), the second in Hungary, third in Russia, fourth in France, fifth in Corfu Town (South Africa), sixth in Shanghai (China), seventh in Chamone (Italy), eighth in Gallipole (Italy), ninth in Qatar and the last and final round in Abu Dhabi (UAE).

The BTC officials said Jon Jones, the world champion for 1986, 1989 and 1991, is expected to regain his glory from the defending champion Guido Cappellini of Italy this year. The Italian won the title in the last three consecutive years.

The winner of every leg will earn 20 points, the runner-up 15 points, third place-winner 12 points and the fourth place holder nine points.

The world champion would be determined after accumulating the points earned from all the ten rounds.



Francois Gillet (L), the marketing director of BTC, briefing the press on the unveiling of John Player Gold Leaf's F-1 power boat racing team in the capital yesterday. — Star photo

Scholastica ride on Ridwan

Scholastica and Mirpur Bangla High School moved into the semifinals of the Dhaka zonal qualifying rounds of the 14th Nirmala schools cricket tournament after winning their respective quarterfinals yesterday in the capital.

At the eastern ground of Residential Model School, Scholastica handed Udayan Bidyalaya a humiliating 181-run defeat while Mirpur Bangla recorded a 49-run win over Pallabi Majedul Islam High School at the western ground of the same venue.

With yesterday's wins both teams have also confirmed their berths in the eight-team final round.

Put into bat, Scholastica piled up a huge 240 for nine in

the stipulated 25 overs with number three bat Ridwan Hassan hammering 80 off 73 balls inclusive of seven fours and three sixes. Nayeem scored 42 off 50 deliveries while skipper Junaid added 19 to BKSP whose second highest runs came from the extras.

Udayan's number seven bowler Monwar captured highest three wickets for his side for 22 runs while Navel took two wickets for 55 runs.

In reply, Udayan boys were shot out for only 59 runs in 12.3 overs.

Scholastica's Tassabur grabbed three wickets for 26 runs while Nayeem and Shaif who captured two wickets each conceding eight and three runs respectively.

Electing to bat first in the day's other match, Mirpur Bangla were all out for 151 in

34.3 overs.

Roman (27), Shuvro (18) and Alamin (17) were the leading scorers for the Mirpurians who earned 26 runs as extras.

Pallabi MI School's Shiplu and Johny captured three wickets apiece while Sajal took two wickets.

In reply, Pallabi MI High School were booked in 31 overs with the scoreboard on 102.

Mirpur's Roman, who scored highest 27 runs in the first session, also shone with the ball as he took three wickets for 16 runs bowling seven overs. He was equally supported by Liton and Right who captured two wickets each.

Both yesterday's winners will face each other in the first semifinal tomorrow at the same venue.

India start tour in style

ARUNDEL, England, May 6: A superlative unbeaten 108 from Sachin Tendulkar helped India to a crushing victory in their tour's curtain-raiser over the Duchess of Norfolk's XI on Sunday, reports AFP.

The brilliant 23-year-old Indian batsman did virtually as he pleased with a friendly attack on a placid pitch, guiding his side home with 13 overs to spare after the Duchess XI made 168 for nine.

One over from Essex's veteran left-arm spinner John Childs cost 23 — Tendulkar hitting the last five balls for 6,4,6,2,4.

He and Navjot Sidhu (47) put on 139 in 28 overs for the first wicket, the match having been reduced to 48 overs per side after rain had interrupted the Duchess XI's innings at 148 for four.

Javagal Srinath and Anil Kumble, India's two world class bowlers, also used the



TENDULKAR... 108 N.O.

traditional gentle tour opener to good advantage.

In all, Tendulkar faced 99 balls, sixes — one of them off Duchess XI captain Mark Nicholas, to finish the match in style.

Earlier, Robn Smith hit 60 and then pleaded with England supremo to let him back at number three in the international side.

The 32-year-old Hampshire batsman admits to being puzzled by the rumours that he will be surplus to requirements in the three-Test series against the visitors.

He said: "But I'm not being arrogant when I say I don't see anyone else around that can do the job I can in the middle order for England."

"And at this stage of my career I want to take the bull by the horns and bat at No 3. If England give me the chance then that's where I want to play."

"I have been disappointed to read certain things recently suggesting that I don't have an international future."

"I'm realistic to know that I have no divine right to an England place, but not many people average more than 40 in both Test cricket and one-day international."

IABF to modify scoring

ATLANTA, May 6: The always controversial scoring of Olympic boxing will be modified for the 1996 Olympic Games, the president of the International Amateur Boxing Association said here this weekend, reports Reuter.

Although the boxing federation has decided to continue using the widely-criticised electronic scoring system, the tabulation will not be revealed until the end of each bout. Anwar Chowdhury, the federation president said.

"What we have been trying to do is eliminate the political decisions," Chowdhury said. "Some of the judges used to be afraid to score a bout against boxers from the larger countries."

His comments came during the Atlanta Boxing Classic, a test event at the newly-renovated Alexander Memorial Coliseum, site of this summer's Olympics boxing.

Chowdhury was displeased with the scoring of the Atlanta test event, where the electronic tabulations were revealed at the end of each round.

"This is wrong," Chowdhury said. "The judges see that the bout is going for one boy, and they just keep scoring for that boxer. Look at this score, 13-0. That's ridiculous. Are you going to tell me the other boy just stood there and got hit without ever doing anything? Impossible."

Chowdhury said none of the judges at this weekend's event will score Olympic fights and that all the judges for the Olympic tournament have already received at least three training sessions.

"The scoring system has been under criticism and the federation is alive to this criticism," he said.

Under the electronic scoring system, a boxer is awarded a point if three of the five ringside judges press a button indicating the boxer landed a punch with the scoring por-

tion of his glove on the opponent's head or torso. Part of the criticism of the current system is that it makes no allowance for superior boxing style or tactics.

"We have considered a system in which the judges would award two or three points for defence and style at the end of a bout, but that will not occur during these Olympics," Chowdhury said.

Questions of scoring aside, Chowdhury said federation officials are pleased with the boxing facility. "Everything, the arena, the training facilities are very good," he said.

"I am particularly happy that Atlanta kept their promise to us. This was the venue we were promised and this is what we have," said Chowdhury, who also is vice president of the national Olympic committee of Pakistan.

That hasn't always been the case, Barcelona promised to build a new venue, but they didn't and we ended up in a place that was too shabby for an Olympic Games."

BKSP's rude awakening

Sports Reporter

A sedate 57 not out off 102 balls by number three batsman Sajjadul Hasan guided Khulna DSA into the final of the 16th national youth cricket championship with an upset five-wicket victory over reigning champions BKSP at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Sajjad, coming to bat after his side, chasing a paltry 152 in 45 overs lost their first wicket on 14 in the first delivery of the day's third over, remained on the crease for more than three hours and played the sheet anchor role to take Khulna home with more than three overs to spare.

In his marathon inning, Sajjad, who lost two of his four batting partners early on 25 and 41, added an important 51 for the fourth wicket along with Nahid (18) and another 47 runs for the fifth along with Salim (33) during which he fired five boundaries.

Earlier, put into bat in the morning, BKSP were bundled out for only 152 in 44.4 overs. Nasirul (25) and Zakir (24) were the leading scorers for BKSP.

Khulna's Riyad Ahmed captured two wickets conceding only 12 runs in 5.4 overs while Tariqul, Barkatullah and Monirul each took one wicket for the winners who will appear in the final billed for May 9 at the same venue against the winners of today's second semifinal between My-mensingh and Narayanjanj.

Booters take the initiative

Sports Reporter

The Football Players' Welfare Association (FPWA) are planning to stage a soccer tournament involving the local big guns, Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra.

This was disclosed by the FPWA secretary Shafiqul Huq Manik to this reporter at the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) office last evening.

Manik further added that they are planning to stage an eight a-side tourney in the last week of this month.

While elaborating, Manik said with the football season already on and the authorities yet to get into the act, it is our moral duty to do something for the greater interest of football. Besides, with the players out of action for the last seven months, the FPWA has decided to come forward in the interest of the aggrieved booters.

The former national player also added that they had got the verbal consent of Mohammedan Sporting Club, Abahani Krira Chakra and Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra to go on with their move.

We want the Dhaka Stadium from May 20 for holding the meet, demanded Manik of the DMFA counterpart Mozammel Huq Mukta who, however, made no commitment to provide FPWA the slot in the all-purpose Dhaka Stadium.

But with the BCCB occupying the Dhaka Stadium for holding different events, the aforesaid tourney, if possible, can only be arranged next month after the completion of the season's cricket calendar.

Office cricket

Partex win opener

Sports Reporter

Last year's runners up partex Group began their office cricket league campaign on a promising note when they trounced Eastern Bank by 10 wickets in their opening group encounter at the City Club ground, Mirpur yesterday.

Winning the toss, Partex invited their counterparts to bat first and booked them for 121 in 39 overs.

Shovon (22) and Rafiqul (21) were the leading scorers for the bankers.

Left-arm spinner Saifullah Khan Jem captured three wickets for Partex while Iqbal took two wickets for Eastern Bank.

In reply, Partex Group reached home (124) in 14 overs with both their openers Zahid Razzak Masum and Sanwar Hossain unbeaten on 62 and 56 respectively.

22nd national cricket on

The 22nd national cricket championship began at five different venues of the country yesterday, reports BSS.

In all, 44 teams including four universities, are taking part in six groups.

On the opening day, Gazipur beat Manikganj by 16 runs at the Dhanmond Club ground. Gazipur scored 116 in 32.3 overs with Iqbal making 34.

Dipak of Manikganj displayed a brilliant performance claiming five wickets for just 16 including a hat-trick. Biplob took two for 11.

Manikganj, in reply, were all out for 100. Shamir of Gazipur also captured five wickets for 27 while Ranga and al-Mamun took two wickets each for seven and 25 runs respectively.

Haughty hearty Hristo

SOFIA, May 6 (Reuter): Hristo Stoichkov may now be on the wrong side of 30 and had a somewhat indifferent first season in Italy with Parma but his magical left foot could still make Bulgaria a force to be reckoned with at the European Championships.

For Stoichkov is the man for the big occasion and while he may be just past his peak, his experience and influence could still have a big impact on how his team performs.

Although he was an ever-present in all of Bulgaria's 10 qualifiers, scoring 10 goals in the process, he has managed only five goals in 23 appearances with Parma and rumours are rife that he will leave at the end of the season.

While his sharp footballing



brain and lethal finishing in front of goal have brought him unimaginable riches, the down-



HRISTO STOICHKOV ... his devastating left foot can answer all of Bulgaria's problems.

side to his career has been continual disciplinary problems, countless sendings-off and repeated brushes with officialdom.

In fact he first came to international attention as a youngster at CSKA when he was involved in the infamous 1985 Bulgarian Cup final brawl against Levski which ended with the match being declared void, the clubs ordered to change their names and Stoichkov spending a year on the sidelines.

Two years later his rehabilitation was complete when he was named Bulgaria's Footballer of the year, an honour he won again in 1990 and 1991.

By the time of his third award he had become his country's most expensive player, moving to Barcelona for 2.0 million pounds (3.8 million dollars), in 1992 he played a key role when Barcelona beat Sampdoria 1-0 at Wembley to win the European Cup for the first time.

In 1994 Stoichkov was again the driving force which swept Bulgaria to the semifinals of the World Cup, and together with Oleg Salenko of Russia, finished joint top scorer with six goals. The year ended with him crowned European Footballer of the year.

All of that was a long way from the start of his career as a junior with a Bulgarian Third Division side in his home town of Plovdiv.

After a number of moves, the turning point in his career came in 1989 when he scored an outstanding goal for CSKA in a Cup Winner Cup semifinal against Barcelona at the Nou Camp.

His "diamond strike" so impressed the Catalans' coach Johan Cruyff that he decided to sign him.

As well as helping Barcelona lift the Champions Cup he also played a major part in their four consecutive championships from 1991-94 before — almost inevitably — falling out with Cruyff who, of all people, he accused of being jealous of his talent.

A gregarious and generous man, his attitude is direct, sometimes biting and often misunderstood.

With another possible move on the cards, Stoichkov will be eager to do well in England. The finals pose a new challenge to his competitive and temperamental character.

'Gica' — a gifted gimmick

BUCHAREST, May 6 (Reuter): Romania come to the European Championships with two inspirational leaders. One is Gheorghe Hagi, the other is his Barcelona teammate Gheorghe Popescu.

While Hagi has grabbed the limelight with his blistering pace and trickery on the flanks, Popescu — known universally as Gica — remains more anonymous.

After a decade in the game, even he sometimes seems unsure if he plays best as sweeper or midfielder.

He often looked out of place during his brief spell in England with Tottenham Hotspur, baffled by the rough and tum-

ble of the English game. His one memorable contribution for Tottenham was a fine goal he scored against arch-rivals Arsenal in a 1-0 win in the north London derby in January last year. Apart from that his time in England is already becoming a distant memory.



Now he is returning to England where he enjoyed just minimal success as a club player.

But with Barcelona — and Romania — fans see a very different Popescu. Pressing forward from the edge of his own box for Barcelona, he looks like one of the most assured and confident players on the world stage. He displays the same kind of authority for his national side.

Pepescu's first five years — apart from a brief spell of "forced labour" at what was then the communist army side Steaua Bucharest — were spent at Universitatea Craiova.

There he earned his reputation for remarkable endurance and apparent immunity to injuries or poor form.

The Dutch caught sight of him at the 1990 World Cup in Italy, and shortly afterwards he signed for PSV Eindhoven where he was an instant hit and proved the perfect replacement for Ronald Koeman.

Then came the mid-season move to Ossie Ardiles' Spurs side where he failed to shine. Within months Ardiles was sacked, Popescu fell out of favour with new boss Gerry Francis, and before the season was through, Gica was off to Barcelona, again to replace Koeman.

Back on the continent he has again settled down quickly into the sweeper role and won the hearts of Barcelona's demanding fans.

At Euro 96 he will revert back to the midfield, where he has won 61 caps for his country.

In Romania his nickname is "Bacul", or "head shepherd." His leadership skills will be crucial to their prospects in England.

Plata powers Guatemala

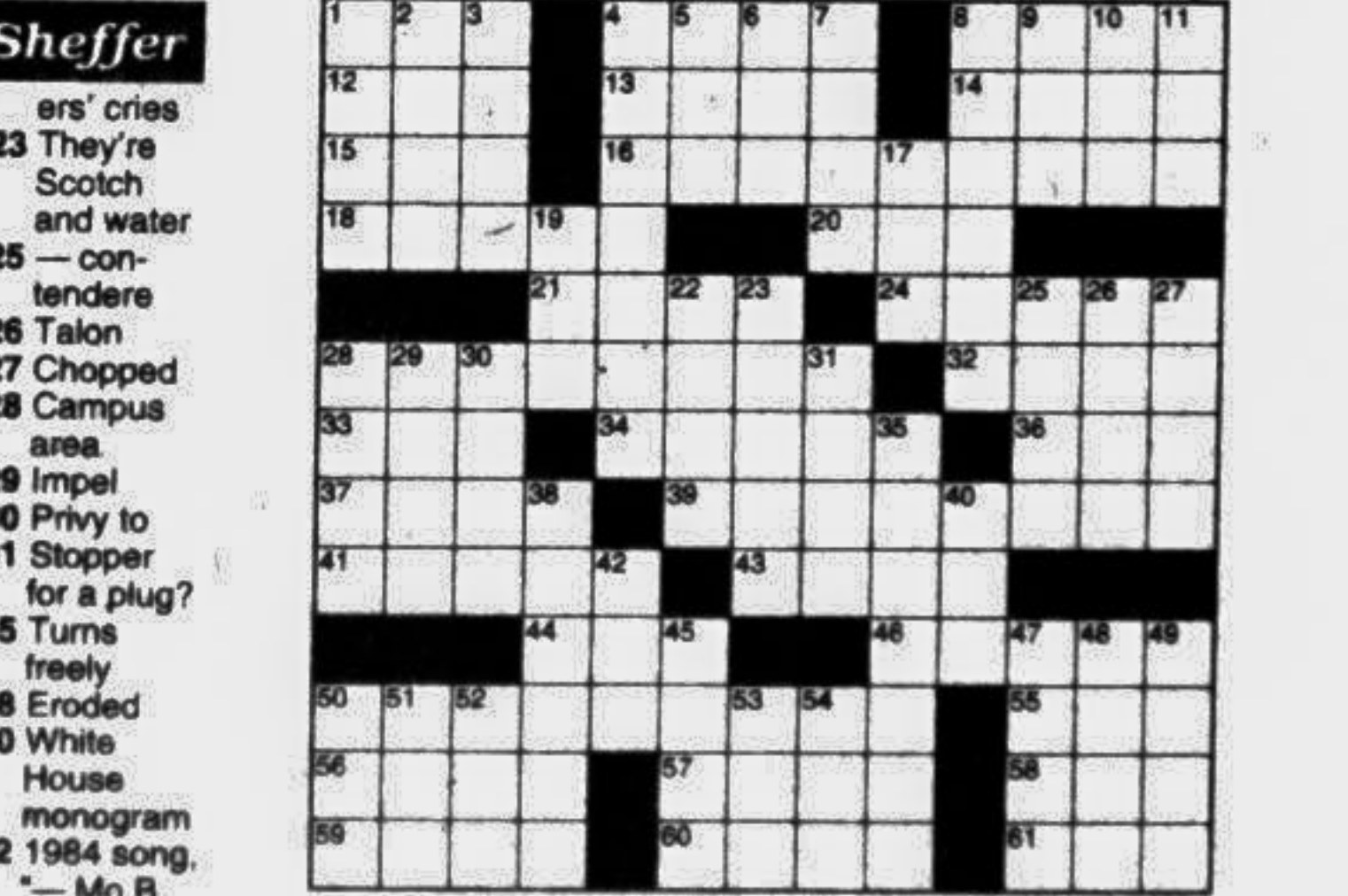
DIRIAMBIA, Nicaragua, May 6: Forward Juan Carlos Plata got past Nicaragua's Juan Orellana in the 27th minute and gave Guatemala 1-0 victory in the first leg of their World Cup qualifying series Sunday, reports AP.

Guatemala hosts the return leg of the CONCACAF Central American zone series on Friday. The winner of the series advances to the semifinal round of CONCACAF qualifying.

After Plata's goal, the first half continued with a tight Nicaraguan defence against an aggressive Guatemalan attack.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	Down	ers' cries
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37 Enthusias-		mine
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		to gravity



CRYPTOQUIP
GLFZF CRDD TYDDZT
HYM'J FRHKK ULJ 'YUZF
HY CRDDK GYZ
Yesterday's Cryptogram: WOULD A HUGE FOUNTAIN IN THE SHAPE OF A DOG INSPIRE PEOPLE TO PAWS?
Today's Cryptogram clue: U equals W
The Cryptogram 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.