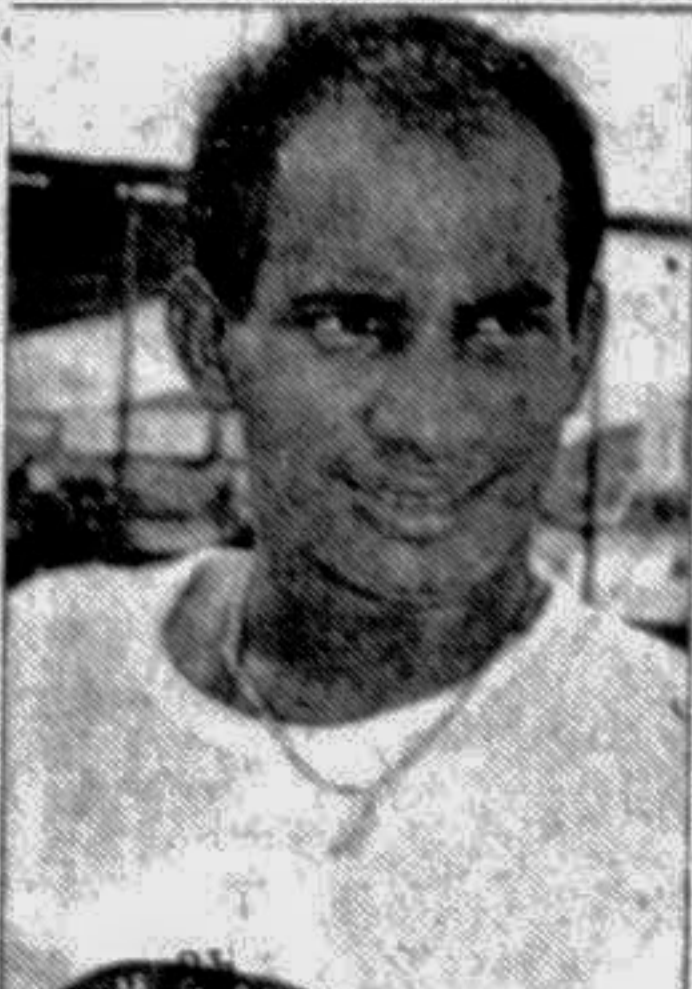


## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**Sanath Jayasuriya**  
(Sri Lanka's dashing opening batsman)

"I never knew of all the records until I passed them. I was timing the ball well. It was my best inning in one-dayers."

After his world record 48-ball 100 against Pakistan in the Singer Cup in Singapore.

### DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

**T**HAT for the last almost 440 years a diving competition has been held every summer at the Stari Most. This is the 'old bridge' spanning Neretva River in Mostar. That's right! It is Stari Most which has bestowed upon this South-western town of Herzegovina its name.

Mostar has endured more than its share of war casualties. Among them Stari Most, a splendid stone structure which was destroyed by Croat shelling in November, 1993.

From 1556 to 1992, the annual diving meet went uninterrupted. Diving from atop the 65 feet high bridge onto Neretva's cool olive water has been a 'test of courage' with young boys beginning training at age seven. The bitter was put an end to all that. Now, you know why most Professors hate wars.

However, old habits die hard. On July 30, 1994, during cease-fire in the divided city, Muslims in East Mostar set up a diving platform near the remains of the old bridge. And, they held a competition. Fifteen thousand spectators turned up but the Croats stayed away.

Renewed bombing wiped out the event and attempts to resurrect the rite of passage to manhood has since been continuing.

### 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    |
| 2. If FIDE is for chess, FINA is for                                  | Billiards   | Snooker  |
| 3. Tennis star Jennifer Capriati is                                   | Swedish     | American |
| 4. The fastest one-day hundred by Sri Lankan Sanath Jayasuriya is off | 46 balls    | 47 balls |
| 5. The man-of-the-series in Pepsi Cup was                             | Calcutta    | Karim    |

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

### Four-nation ODI tourney in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, May 7: Pakistan will stage a four-nation one-day cricket competition featuring world champions Sri Lanka, South Africa and West Indies next year to celebrate its golden jubilee celebrations, a government spokesman said on Monday, reports Reuters.

### Aussie coach in an abyss

SYDNEY, May 7: Australian swim coach Forbes Carlile, a trenchant critic of China's drug-tainted swim programme, says the Chinese will be 'rubbing their hands in glee' over news that Australian world record holder Samantha Riley had tested positive to a banned drug, reports AFP.

## M'singh crush Meherpur

Sports Reporter



Mymensingh, Kushtia, BUET and Faridpur moved into the next round of the 22nd national cricket championship after winning their respective zonal opening matches in different venues across the country yesterday.

On the eastern strip of the Dharmad Cricket Stadium, Mymensingh recorded a six-wicket win over Meherpur in Zone F. Put into bat first, Meherpur were all out for 149 in 43.5 overs with middle orders Khasru and Milan scoring 41 and 40 respectively.

In reply, Mymensingh reached their target in 36.2 overs losing four wickets. Middle-order Nasim Ahmed scored highest 44 not out while Moniruzzaman and Harunur Rashid Lito added 26 and 21 respectively for the winners, who will take on Gazipur in the zonal semifinal at the same venue on May 10.

Away in Barisal, Kushtia defeated Jhenidah by the barest of margins — one wicket in

Zone E engagement. Sent into bat, Jhenidah were restricted to 209 for nine in the stipulated 45 overs with Robin scoring highest 43. Khokon and Natun with 26 and 25 respectively were the other notable run-getters for the eventual losers.

In reply, Kushtia took exactly 45 overs to post the victory 214 with only one wicket in hand. Tito hammered 45 followed by Jewel and Cornel, who contributed 42 and 35 respectively.

Jhenidah's Robin captured four wickets while Natun and Ujjal took two wickets apiece. Kushtia will play in the first semifinal tomorrow against Narail who earned a first round bye against Madaripur on Monday.

In Zone C encounter, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) posted a 22-run win over Moulvibazar at the Comilla Stadium.

Electing to bat first, BUET could muster 172 for six before they exhausted their quota of 45 overs. Noman scored

highest 46 followed by Rahis (42) and Sanwar (23).

In reply, Moulvibazar were booked for 150 in 33 overs with Zim hammering highest 44.

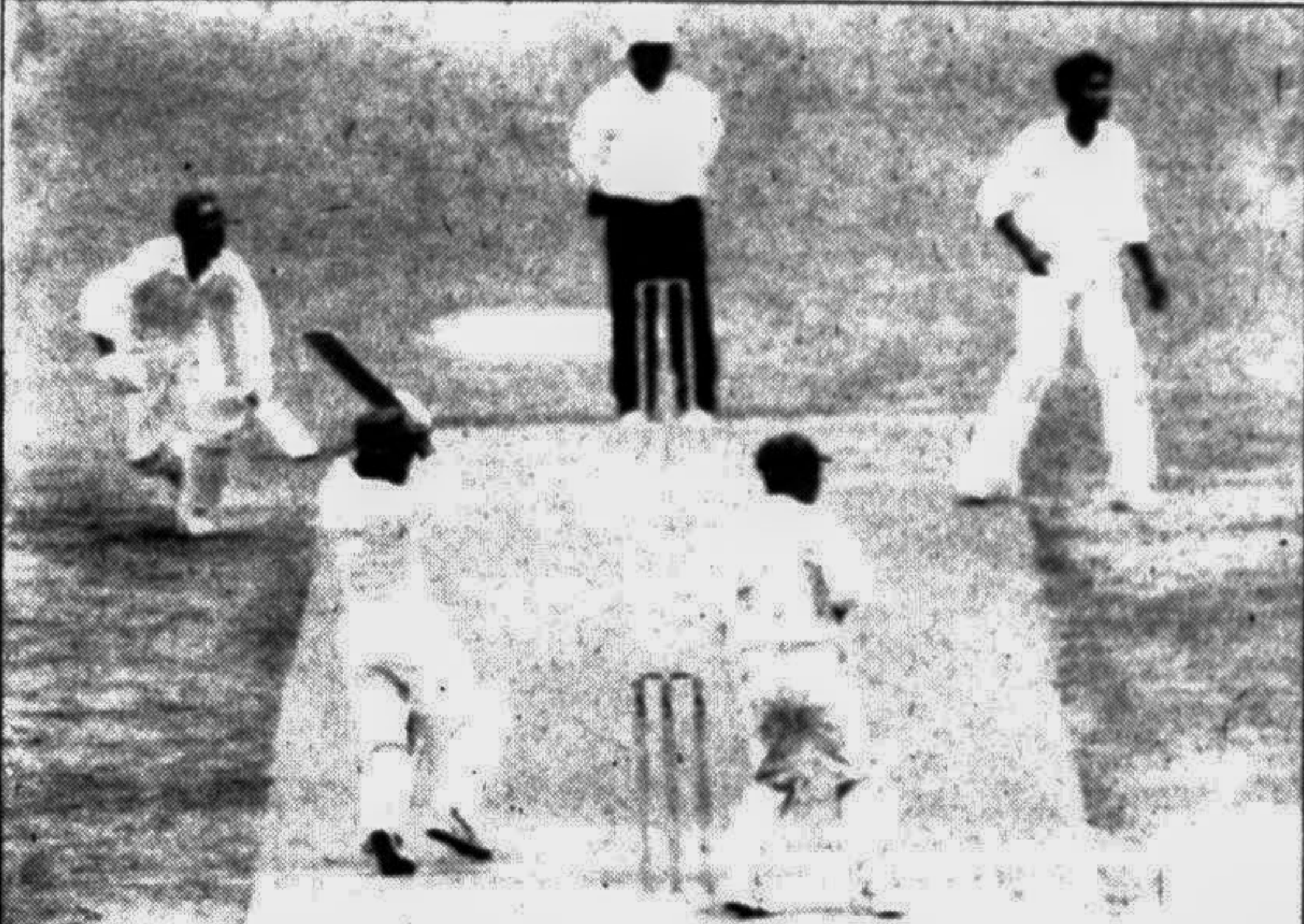
Noman captured two wickets for BUET, who with this win will now meet Chandpur in the zonal semifinal tomorrow at the same venue.

In the day's other match in Chandpur, Faridpur handed Jamalpur a six-wicket defeat.

Electing to use the wicket in the morning, Jamalpur were all out for 151 in 44.1 overs with Swarup notching highest 49 and Monwar scoring 23.

Mofizul captured four wickets for Faridpur, who in reply reached home losing four wickets and more than 15 overs to spare with Biplab hammering highest 77 for the winners.

Faridpur will now face Comilla in the semifinal of Zone D tomorrow at the same venue. Earlier on Monday, Comilla handed Gopalganj a crushing nine-wicket defeat in their opening match.



Narayanganj's Shyamol square drives during a national youth championship encounter against Mymensingh at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

## Azharuddin finds his feet



LONDON, May 7: Mohammad Azharuddin picked himself off the floor to score a sparkling century as India cruised

to their second easy victory in as many days at the start of their England tour on Monday, reports AFP.

Captain Azharuddin, who was left reeling by the criticism that followed his team's World Cup failure, received a heavy blow of the physical kind after a training ground collision at Lord's.

"It was very painful, the worst pain I've known," said Azharuddin, who damaged his shoulder, chest and leg when clattering into team-mate

typically wristy flick off his legs, reached 50 with the second of two driven sixes and collected half-a-dozen fours against the club players of England's National Cricket Association before being bowled by paceman Keith Arnold.

Perhaps most pleasing for India, though, was the equally encouraging form of new opener Vikram Rathore, who played a handful of one-day internationals during the recent Sharjah tournament.

The tourists have high hopes for him this summer and his confident run-a-ball innings of 103 here was studied with 10 fours and a six.

Even without the resting Sachin Tendulkar, who scored a brilliant century at Arundel, India were able to total a mighty 290 for four from their 50 overs — a target that proved far too tall for the amateurs.

### Partho powers Biman

Sports Reporter

A swashbuckling 62 off only 36 balls by dashing opener Imran Hamid Partho guided Bangladesh Biman to a convincing seven-wicket victory over Aqua Marine in their office cricket league Group B opener at the City Club ground yesterday.

The portly left-hander in his whirlwind inning clouted four massive sixes and seven savage hits across the rope as Biman, chasing only 93 in 45 overs, reached home in only 14.1 overs for the loss of three wickets.

Earlier, put into bat, Aqua Marine were skittled out for a paltry 92 in 32.1 overs with Monir scoring highest 29.

Biman's national left-arm seamer Anisur Rahman was the most successful bowler capturing three wickets for 23 runs from his 8 overs while Babu, off-spinner Mona and Shaheen, grabbed two wickets apiece.

### N'ganj in nat'l youth cricket final

Sports Reporter

Narayanganj DSA moved into the final of the 16th national youth cricket championship after they recorded a 54-run victory over Mymensingh DSA in the second semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

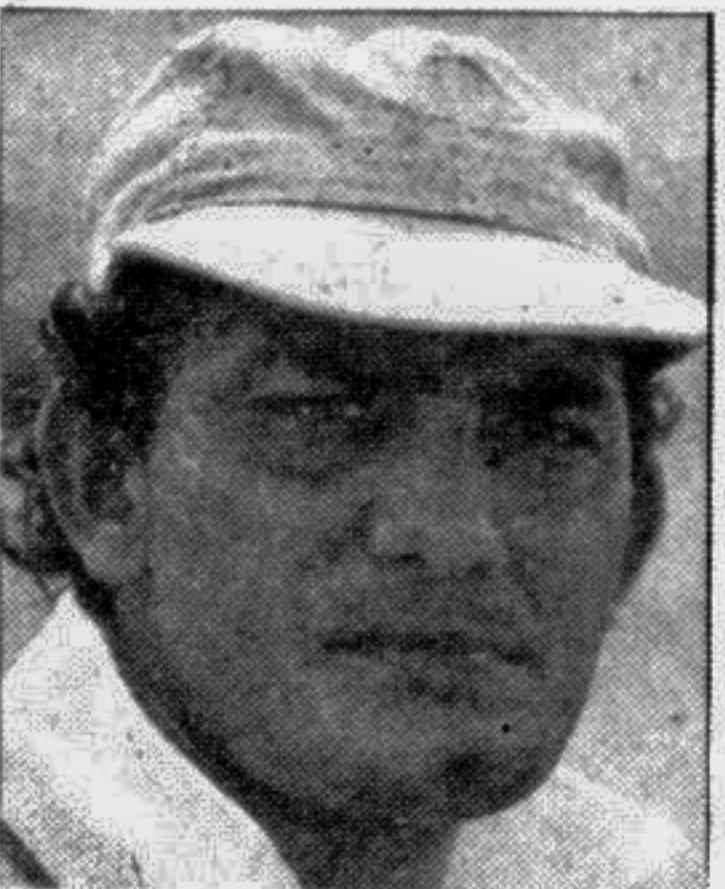
The winners will now meet Khulna DSA, who ousted defending champions BKSP in the first semifinal on Monday, in the final showdown at the same venue tomorrow.

Electing to use the wicket in the morning, Narayanganj scored a fighting 198 (all out) in the stipulated 45 overs with middle-order Sajjad Hossain Munna hammering highest 51 runs off 74 balls. Shahabuddin (27), Sajal(22) and Mridul (20) were the other leading scorers for Narayanganj.

Mymensingh's Masud Rana captured three wickets for 41 runs while Imran Ahmed took two for 18 runs.

In reply, Mymensingh made a shaky start losing both openers for 14 runs. They were finally booked for 144 in 39.1 overs with Afroz Khan scoring highest 22.

Sohel Hossain Pappu was the most successful Narayanganj bowler with three for 37. He was ably supported by Topu and Mehboob who captured two wickets each.



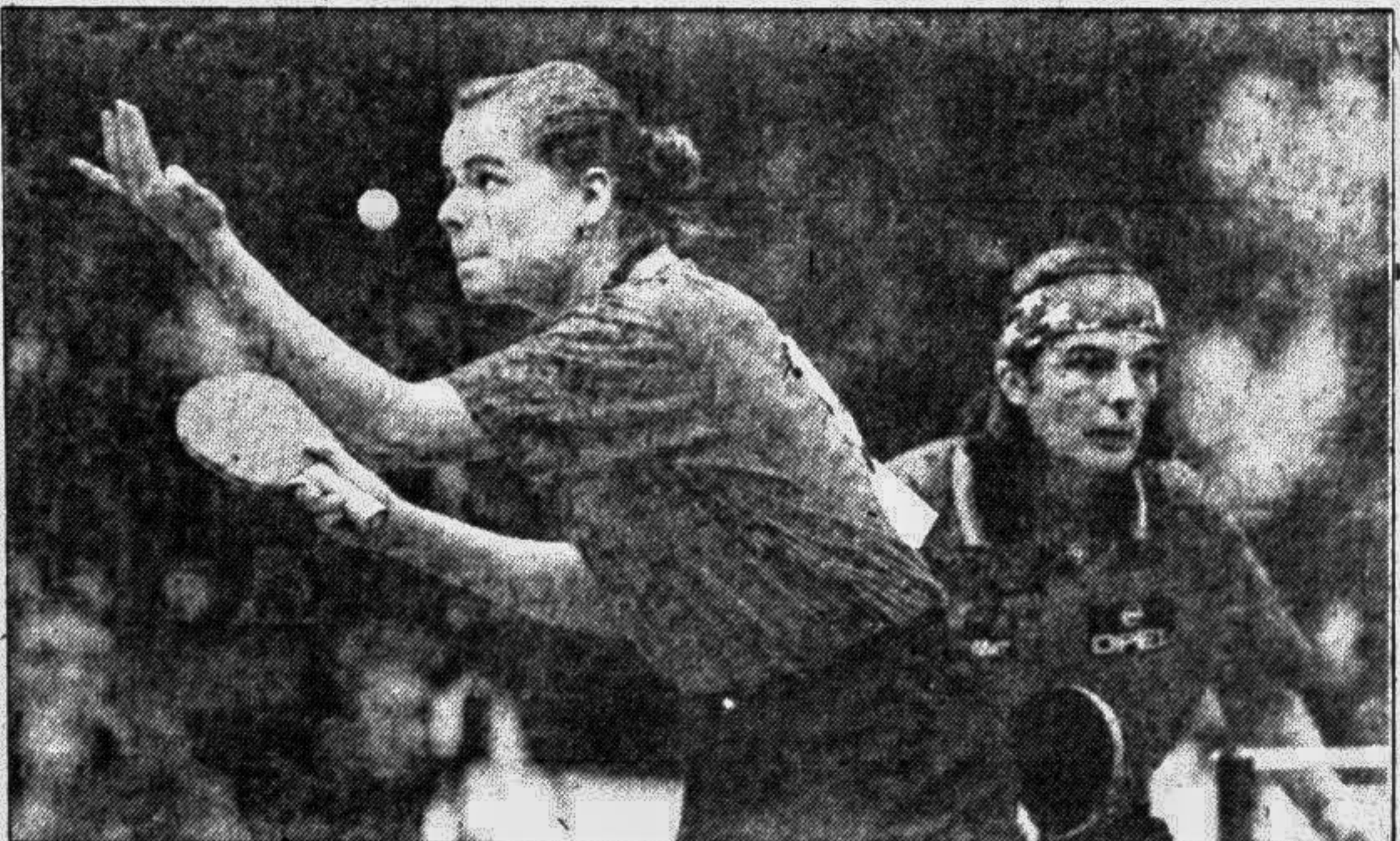
Venkatesh Prasad during catching practice on Saturday. Azharuddin was forced to sit out India's opening match at Arundel, which ended in a thumping nine-wicket victory for the visitors over the Duchess of Norfolk's XI.

But he pushed himself back into action and contributed a typically attractive innings of 119 as India triumphed again at Uxbridge, this time by 114 runs against England's amateurs.

"It's still painful but I'm happy with the way I batted," said the skipper, who faced only 113 deliveries.

The thought of playing England, against whom he has scored six of his 14 Test centuries, is one he is relishing. "I'm really looking forward to this tour," he said.

His innings started with a



German player Elke Schall is about to serve during her women's doubles final match against the Netherlands in the European table tennis championships in Bratislava, Slovak Republic on May 6. — AFP/UNB photo

## Abdul Hamid's egg first, or the hen?

Sports Reporter

Long-standing Radio sports commentator, Abdul Hamid, has embarked on trying to confuse the nation.

Signing a press release yesterday as secretary general of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), Abdul Hamid announced that "in the absence of any definite date regarding elections (BOA and sports bodies), it will not be possible for me to carry out my responsibility."

Elaborating, Hamid states that in the greater interest of sports if BOA and sports bodies election dates are announced, then only shall it be possible for him to carry on as secretary general.

The burning question to Abdul Hamid is, why have you taken charge knowing fully well complicity in announcing election schedule now? Hamid, as well as anyone else connected to sports, knows that elections will not be held soon. So, why has Hamid chosen to juggle with words? It's more like the hen first, or the egg!

## UIM unites aqua buffs

In 1992, 74 years ago, the sport of international powerboating was created by the Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM), which publishes the international rule books and coordinates approximately 250 international events each year, including Continental and World Championships in the different UIM disciplines. These include: Pleasure navigation, aquabike, radio command boats, historical boats, solar powered boats, V-hulls, hydroplanes and catamarans which race on rivers, lakes and offshore venues around the world.

As far as safety is concerned, the UIM remains vigilant. All members on UIM Commissions continue to strive for practical rules and guidelines designed to maintain the highest safety record on the water, whilst considering all aspects of competition and ecology.



One of the top classes of powerboating, the UIM Formula One Powerboat Championship made a successful return to Russia and China in 1995. The continuous growth in the Gulf States is being proven by the addition of Qatar on the 1996 calendar and Abu Dhabi will, again host the final round of the World Championship.

The Formula One UIM contracted promoter, Nicolo di San Germano plays a major role in the extension of venues and is always looking for any potentially interested new venue.

With the increased media interest, the UIM is convinced that a similar growth of worldwide racing activities will continue in the future.

### 1996 calendar

Sunday 12 May Mediterranean Grand Prix Porto Cervo, Sardinia

Sunday 26 May Grand Prix of Hungary Dunaujvaros, Hungary

Sunday 9 June Grand Prix of Russia St Petersburg, Russia

Sunday 23 June Grand Prix of France Chalon-sur-Saone, France

Sunday 7 July Grand Prix of Corfu Corfu Town, Corfu

Sunday 25 August Grand Prix of China Shanghai Province, China

Sunday 8 September Grand Prix of Italy Campione, Italy

Sunday 22 September Grand Prix of the 3-Seas Galipoli, Italy

Friday 15 November Grand Prix of Qatar, Qatar

Friday 13 December Grand Prix of the Emirates Abu Dhabi, UAE

## Terry still grumbling

LONDON, May 7: England's friendly against China in Beijing on May 23 is still on but manager Terry Venables has called for repairs to the Wembley Stadium pitch, the English Football Association (FA) said today, reports Reuters.

"Terry saw the pitch on Sunday and asked for some more work to be carried out," FA spokesman Steve Double said. "We don't regard the game as being in jeopardy at this stage."

Venables travelled to China after reports that the playing surface in Beijing was uneven and could cause injuries just weeks before the start of the European Championships.

The FA has been criticised for organising a long-haul trip to Asia in the run-up to Euro 96.

## From Italy with excellence

ROME, May 7 (Reuters): In Italy, a land where soccer skills are rated on a par with artistic genius, 21-year-old attacking midfielder Alessandro del Piero is already considered an old master.

Before the boy wonder drew gasps of awe with six goals for Juventus in the Champions' League this season, the club's owner Giovanni Agnelli had already nicknamed him after an Italian renaissance painter — "Pinturicchio."

But Del Piero, who has played for Italy at under-21 and senior level as well as the military team during a meteoric rise to stardom this season, is known above all as a



DEL PIERO ... a perfect blend of flair and creativity. Sure to excel at Euro '96.

cheerful "bravo ragazzo," a good kid.

His robust language on the pitch might occasionally be enough to make the Mona Lisa blush — he was recently reprimanded by a Franciscan monk campaigning against swearing in soccer — but Del Piero's artistry is undeniable.

He says level-headedness has kept him cool in the face of stardom and a new six-million-dollar contract with Juventus, and he hopes it will help him achieve his most cherished goals.

"In the year 2000, I would like to look back having won a European Cup, a World Cup and having been named European Player-of-the-Year," Del Piero, who comes from the northeastern town of Treviso near Venice, said recently.

"But above all I hope I'm still the balanced person that I am today, because that's the most important value in my life."

This year, France Football named him fourth, the highest-ranked Italian, in its "Golden Ball" awards decided by soccer journalists while world soccer readers listed Del Piero runner-up to club teammate Gianluca Vialli.

Del Piero, in just his first season as a regular starter for Juventus, began with Padova's youth side at the age of 10 and made his debut for the then-Serie B squad six years later.

At 18, he moved to Turin where he proved a quick understudy to Roberto Baggio, showing a glimpse of things to come when he replaced the injured hero of Italy's 1994 World Cup squad in a key match against Panama that year and scored three goals.

He went on to replace Baggio as permanent number 10 after the "divine ponytail" signed for AC Milan last year, and his goals have showcased his talent in Serie A and Champions' League this season.

Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi now says Del Piero, who is at his best when attacking from the left side of midfield, holds an "untouchable" place in his team along with Milan defender Paolo Maldini. Injury-plagued Baggio may be merely a spectator.

## Russians ready to roll?

MOSCOW, May 7 (Reuters): Russia, victorious in 12 of their last 13 matches, are heading for Euro 96 confident that for once they can produce the goods when it matters most.

Since the Soviet Union became the first winners of the European Championship in 1960, Russian and Soviet sides have often shown plenty of promise but failed to live up to expectations on the big day.

But under coach Oleg Romantsev the Russian bear has started to growl.

Since he took charge after a disastrous World Cup campaign in 1994 Russia have been beaten only twice in 18 matches and rattled up 34 goals to finish unbeaten at the top of their qualifying group for the June finals.

Critics will say Russia have not faced any major opponents since losing 1-0 to Germany in September 1994. They also have a mountain to climb in England to survive a tough group which includes the Germans, Italy and the Czech Republic.

But their recent opponents do not doubt their ability. "They are one of the best teams in the world... watch them do well in England. They are pacy and good tactically," Ireland manager Mick McCarthy said after his team were soundly beaten 2-0 by the Russians in Dublin in March.

Russia boast no single player on whom their success depends. Their improvement owes most to Romantsev, who doubled up as coach of Spartak Moscow until giving up that job late last year to concentrate on the national team.

He took over a team lacking ideas on the pitch, divided by a players' rebellion and low on confidence after being

knocked out of the World Cup finals in the United States at the group stage.

Romantsev brought back into the fold some of the rebels who had refused to work with former coach Pavel Sadyrin, although others remain out of favour.

"We have a new coach, a new concept, different relations with the team and have won 12 matches in a row, if you include friendlies," said

team spokesman Leonid Trakhtenberg, speaking before a 0-0 draw with Belgium in late April.

"Our team had the best results in the qualifiers and scored more goals than any other team. I'm sure we'll reach the second round in England."

He would not be drawn further on the team's prospects but other team officials have set their sights higher. "The team play a modern game and are ready to fight for the title in England," said Vyacheslav Kolosov, chairman of the Russian soccer union.

But Russia will miss Nikiforov's contribution in their opening group C clash with Italy at Liverpool on June 11. He misses the match after picking up two yellow cards in the qualifying round.

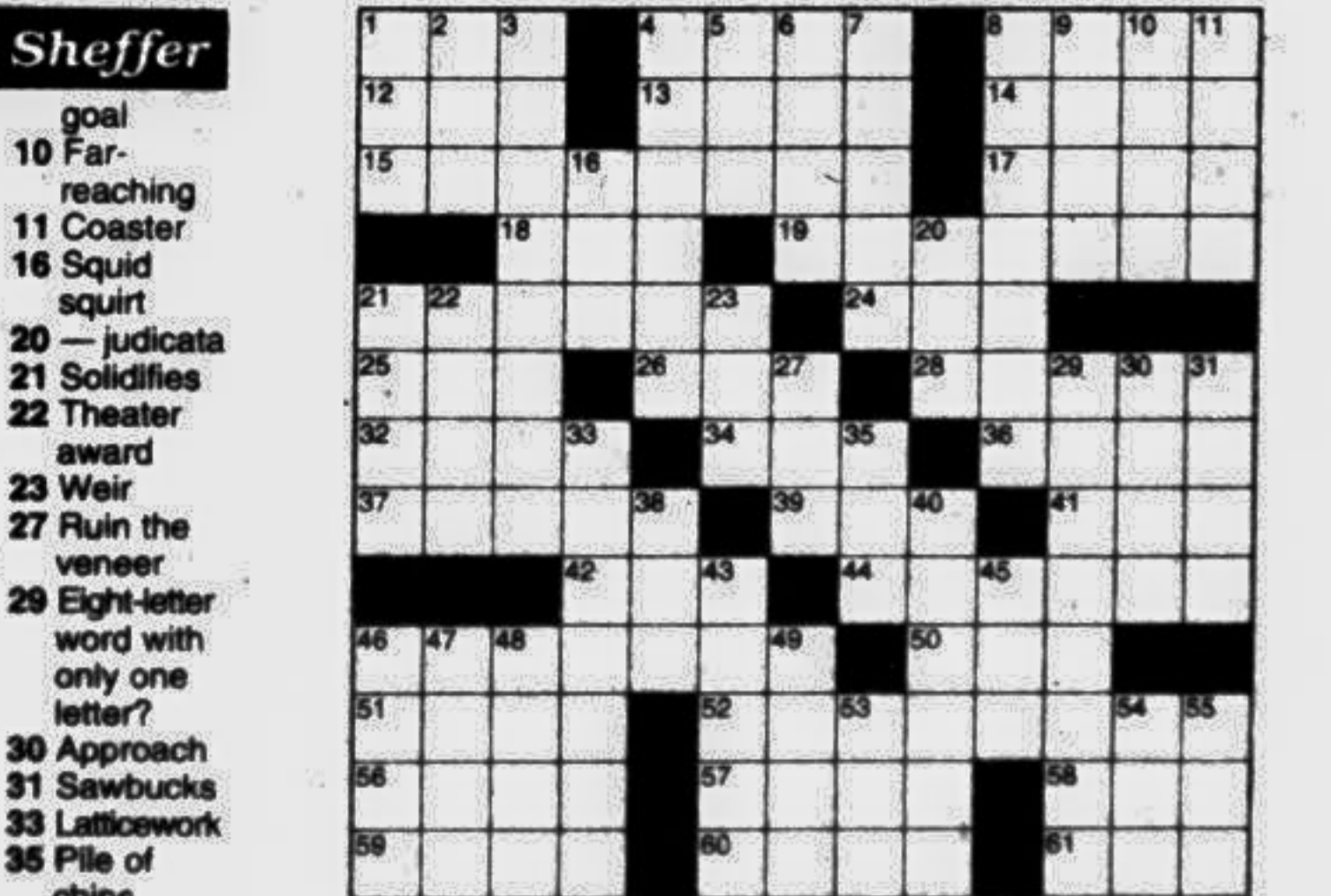
Striker Sergei Yuran, only recently back in favour and now with England's Millwall, is not guaranteed a place but could be called up.

Oleg Salenko, joint top scorer in the 1994 World Cup finals after a record five goals against Cameroon and one against Sweden, is out of favour and unlikely to be selected.



### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

|                 |                 |              |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| ACROSS          | moving          | 61 List-and  | goal            |
| 1 Draw          | 42 "A mouse"    | abbr.        | 10 Far-         |
| 4 Loony         | 44 Castle       | DOWN         | reaching        |
| 8 Wields an     | 46 Late-        | 1 Ball       | 11 Coaster      |
| axe             | night TV        | viewer's     | 16 Squid        |
| 12 A billion    | viewer's        | gadget       | 20 — judicata   |
| 13 Capri, e.g.  | choice          | particle     | 21 Solidifies   |
| 14 Leaf-        | 50 Chum         | 3 Arousing   | 22 Theater      |
| branch          | 51 First victim | the green-   | award           |
| angle           | 52 Vicinity     | eyed         | 23 Weir         |
| 15 See in your  | 56 1958's       | monster      | 27 Ruin the     |
| mind            | Best            | veneer       | 28 Eight-letter |
| 17 Faction      | Picture         | 4 He slipped | word with       |
| 18 Imaret       | 57 Sheltered    | Mickey       | only one        |
| 19 Smooth       | 58 Cause of     | 5 "Just —    | letter?"        |
| wool cloth      | princess's      | thought!"    | 30 Approach     |
| 21 Thorough-    | insomnia        | 6 Current    | 31 Sawbucks     |
| ly wet          | 59 Portions     | 7 Carreras,  | 33 Latticework  |
| 24 Rock band    | abbr.           | e.g.         | 35 Pile of      |
| — Speed-        | 60 Turns        | 8 Footstool  | chips           |
| wagon           | blue?           | 9 Labyrinth  | 38 Shipwreck    |
| 25 Recode       |                 |              | 40 Cheats on    |
| 26 Thanks-      |                 |              | a test          |
| giving          |                 |              | 43 Massage      |
| veggie          |                 |              | 45 Card game    |
| 28 Aroma        |                 |              | 46 Binges       |
| 32 Pinball      |                 |              | 47 Rose's love  |
| no-no           |                 |              | 48 Safe-        |
| 34 Cheat        |                 |              | cracker         |
| 36 Dangling     |                 |              | 49 Slingless    |
| locals          |                 |              | 53 Church-      |
| 37 Prognosti-   |                 |              | chian           |
| cators          |                 |              | gesture         |
| 39 Fabulous     |                 |              | 54 Bottom line  |
| bird            |                 |              | 55 Pouch        |
| 41 I'll get you |                 |              |                 |



CRYPTOQUIP

FYV DWHXVP OCJOT-  
DWT V H E HVP-YJF  
WQQWXH KWE FYV FJOT

JQ FYV FJKI  
Yesterday's Cryptogram: JADEB BILL  
COLLECTOR'S DITTY WAS "OWED TO BILLY JOE."

Today's Cryptogram clue: H equals R  
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.