

Column One

SPORTS TALK

Battle of Britain today

LONDON, June 14: Far more is at stake than the settling of old scores when the ancient rivalry between England and Scotland is revived at Wembley after a seven-year gap on Saturday, reports Reuter.

While both sets of fans want their team to win this match more than any other, the players will be far more concerned with picking up three points in their quest to advance from Group A of Euro '96 — especially as the Netherlands opened a three-point gap on both of them by beating Switzerland 2-0 on Thursday.

While the main objective is a victory, the fact that this game is being contested by so many club-mates from both sides of the border will guarantee the match will be played

While the history of the fixture — the first international ever played — dates back to 1872, of far more immediate concern is the story of the last seven days.

Scotland, incongruously the 'home' side because of the way the draw worked out and using the home dressing room, come to the game on a high after a battling performance in a 0-0 draw with the Dutch on Monday.

Their training camp at Stratford-on-Avon has been a haven of tranquility in comparison to England's with coach Craig Brown and his players enjoying an excellent working relationship with the media.

Brown is keeping his tactics secret, but has hinted he will take special precautions to deal with Paul Gascoigne who he rates as England's most influential player. That could mean Gascoigne's Glasgow Rangers teammate Stuart McCall is assigned to man-mark him.

Brown could also start with John Spencer, who replaced Scott Booth at half-time against the Netherlands, in attack in a bid to solve Scotland's worrying inability to score. And he may well give a starting berth to Billy McKinlay who came on after 56 minutes for Kevin Gallacher on Monday.

His only injury worries are slight ones concerning Stewart McKimmie, John Collins and Gary McAllister but he believes that the recent adverse publicity surrounding England will help boost the opposition.

"I would imagine Terry Venables will use that flack to inspire his players," he said. "I'd expect him to do that and it will be a big danger to us."

England, as is usual at major championships, have been vilified by one tabloid attack after another following their trip to China and Hong Kong, the damage done to the aircraft bringing them back from

Asia and tales of players drinking after hours in night clubs.

Venables, who called the English press corps "traitors" on Tuesday, has turned his mind back to team matters. He was expected to recalled David Platt to his starting line-up but he is still nursing a rib injury and remains doubtful. Jamie Redknapp is on standby.

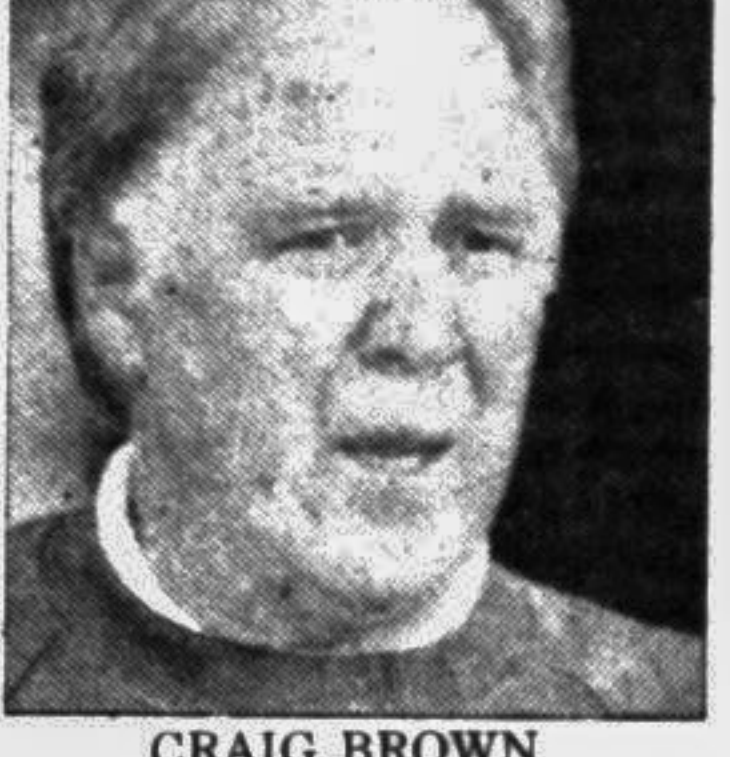
Despite intense media pressure to drop Gascoigne, Venables is certain to keep Scotland's player-of-the-year in his team. If he is on song, more than any other player can unlock the Scottish defence and bring his country a victory they badly need against his adopted homeland.

PROBABLE TEAMS

SCOTLAND: 12-Andy Goram; 2-Stewart McKimmie; 4-Colin Calderwood; 5-Cion

ENGLAND: 1-David Seaman; 2-Gary Evans; 5-Tony Adams; 6-Gareth Southgate; 3-Stuart Pearce; 4-Paul Ince; 8-Paul Gascoigne; 7-David Platt or 15-Jamie Redknapp; 11-Darren Anderton; 9-Alan Shearer; 10-Teddy Sheringham.

Referee: Pierluigi Pairetto, Italy.



CRAIG BROWN

with a passionate intensity setting it apart from all the others in the competition.

As England striker Teddy Sheringham said this week: "Just one of two dozen players to express the same sentiment — 'We all know each other so well and have played with and against each other so often it is going to be more like a league game than an international.'"

Sheringham's own opposing clubmate from Tottenham will be Colin Calderwood.



TERRY VENABLES

GLASGOW, June 14 (Reuter): To an outsider it might look like just an exceptionally noisy soccer match, but to Scottish fans the game against England on Saturday is a long-awaited chance to put one over the "Auld enemy."

The Scots, who see themselves as a distinct society within Britain, dislike having to cede ultimate control over their affairs to a government based in far-off London.

"Scots resent the way in which London is deemed the centre of any meaningful universe," said Scottish writer Ruth Wishart.

"It isn't that the Scottish hate the English, but there is a big problem with the government," said Kevin Pringle of the Scottish Nationalist Party, campaigning for independence.

"Scottish society has its own laws, education system, banknotes and soccer association, but this is overlaid by the Westminster structure."

Many are also unhappy that the huge revenues from Scottish oil fields go straight to London, and question the right of Britain's ruling Conservative Party to govern them when its presence north of the border has virtually been wiped out.

After centuries of sometimes open hostility, Scotland and England were merged under the Act of Union in 1707 but in the words of one academic, the relationship is more like "A marriage of convenience which involves negotiation."

Mix the resentment with the fierce Scottish sense of pride and memories of great past battles against the English and you have the perfect

A love-hate bond embedded in history

recipe for an explosive occasion.

"The rivalry has a very hard edge to it. It's a case of inverse snobbery — the Scots are seen as much tougher than the stuck-up English. We have a big chip on our shoulder," said Scotland fan Iain MacDonald.

The scrapping of the annual fixture in 1989 spelled the end of the Wembley Club sav-

Maldini blessed with a bambino

MILAN, June 14: Italian captain Paolo Maldini became the father of a baby boy on Friday, only hours before he was due to lead his country against the Czech Republic at Euro '96, reports Reuter.

His Italian club AC Milan said that the defender's wife Adriana gave birth to a son, Christian, at Milan's La Madonnina clinic and both were doing well.

Christian will have a lot to live up to. Both his father and grandfather, Cesare, have been Italian international captains. Cesare is now the coach of Italy's under-21 squad.

While Maldini was celebrating, his Italy and club teammate Alessandro Costacurta received a legal separation from his wife.

Italian newspapers said Costacurta, who will play alongside Maldini in defence in the Group C match, agreed in the terms of his separation, a preliminary divorce on Thursday.

They said the defender had agreed to pay monthly maintenance of 12 million lire (7,500 dollars) to his wife Fioriana, who also gets a BMW car and assets in foreign currency.



NO STOPPING THAT MAN: The irresistible Hristo Stoichkov bursts through the Romanian defence on way to score Bulgaria's winner during the vital Group B match of the European Championships in Newcastle on June 13.

Euro '96 Portugal beat Turkey

Portugal beat Turkey 1-0 in Group D encounter at the City Ground in Nottingham, according to a BBC sports bulletin monitored here last night. Couto scored the all important goal for the Portugese.

England sans nudity!

MACCELSFIELD, England, June 14: Germany coach Bert Vogts said on Friday that his team has learned an important new lesson about life in England during Euro '96 — Don't enter a sauna naked, reports Reuter.

British guests at the team's luxury hotel were reported to have complained that some of the players had gone into the sauna baring all.

Nudism is common in Germany. But Vogts has learned that the British are not so bold. "I knew that in England all you need in your hand is a glass of schnapps, in Russia you just need a hat. And in England, you must have your trunks," Vogts said. "You have to know."

Romania reach roads' end

NEWCASTLE, June 14: Luckless Romania were effectively eliminated from the European Championship on Thursday when a solitary early goal Hristo Stoichkov earned Bulgaria victory in their Group B showdown at St James' Park, reports Reuter.

Stoichkov, the 1994 European player-of-the-year, struck after only three minutes with a typical burst of pace and a forceful solo finish.

His goal gave Bulgaria an excellent chance of reaching the quarterfinals.

Romania, beaten 1-0 by France on Monday, were entirely out of luck despite enjoying plentiful possession.

Dorinel Munteanu appeared to have cancelled out Stoichkov's goal when he thundered a 30-metre drive against the bar in the 31st minute.

The ball ricocheted off the bar, bounced down near the goal-line and was then cleared, leaving the Romanians to create a series of chances without reward.

Danish referee Peter Mikkelsen did not have the

Romania seek justice

NEWCASTLE, June 14: Romanian confirmed on Friday that they will be lodging an official protest to UEFA about the "goal" they scored, but which was not given, during their 1-0 Euro '96 Group B defeat by Bulgaria on Thursday, reports Reuter.

An official letter of protest would be handed to UEFA later on Friday, following meetings of Romania's soccer federation officials at the squad's hotel near Durham, team spokesman Radu Timofte said.

"We will be delivering a letter in protest at the goal and the way it was handled," said Timofte. "Everyone has seen the television replays now and it is clear that the ball crossed the line."

The disallowed goal incident came after 31 minutes of Thursday's match at St James' Park when a powerful shot by Dorinel Munteanu thundered off the bar and bounced down behind the line.

Danish referee Peter Mikkelsen and the linesman closest to the action, Henning Knudsen, both ignored claims by the Romanians that they had scored. Romanian midfielder Gheorghe Hagi led the protests, but they were waved away.

If Romania had equalised at that time, it might have changed the shape of the game and helped them achieve the result they needed to stay in the tournament.

The goal not awarded!

LONDON, June 14 (AP): If technology helps referees discover what's going on behind their backs, why don't they make big mistakes?

That is the controversy raging through the European Championship after Romania were eliminated from the competition after having a perfectly good goal disallowed.

Some Euro '96 refs are allowed to carry armbands which emit a sound and vibrate when the linesman flags to indicate he has seen something the referee can't.

But neither the linesman nor Danish referee Peter Mikkelsen saw a 25-yard (metre) shot from Romania's Dorinel Munteanu cross the line after it struck the underside of the bar during Bulgaria's 1-0 European Championship victory which eliminated the Romanians. The TV cameras saw it clearly.

A 1-1 tie would have kept Munteanu's team in the competition and television cameras showed the spinning ball was well over the line before it bounced back into play.

"It was a goal," said Romanian captain Gheorghe Hagi, whose corner kick laid on the ball for Munteanu to shoot.

"What is astonishing is that the referee didn't even think it necessary to ask the linesman for his opinion. Anyone who watches the television replay can see it was a goal, and can see me complaining with the linesman."

UEFA has always stuck with the policy that the referee's decision on the field is final and cannot be changed.

Ruud Gulit, a former Dutch star who now is manager of English club Chelsea, said he believed TV replays should be used.

"But only for situations like this," said Gulit, who is being used as a soccer analyst by the British Broadcasting Corporation. "Not for every decision."

Thursday's ruling, coupled with a linesman's wrong offside decision which cancelled out a perfectly good, Hristo Stoichkov goal against Spain and John Collins' clear handball on his own line in the Scotland-Netherlands game, would have been changed by another official looking at the TV replays.

"Even cricket, which always has been slow to accept change, uses TV replays to de-

side whether a player is out of his ground if the referees, known as umpires, indicate they want an extra opinion.

The controversy surrounding Thursday's disallowed goal overshadowed the brilliant one that counted.

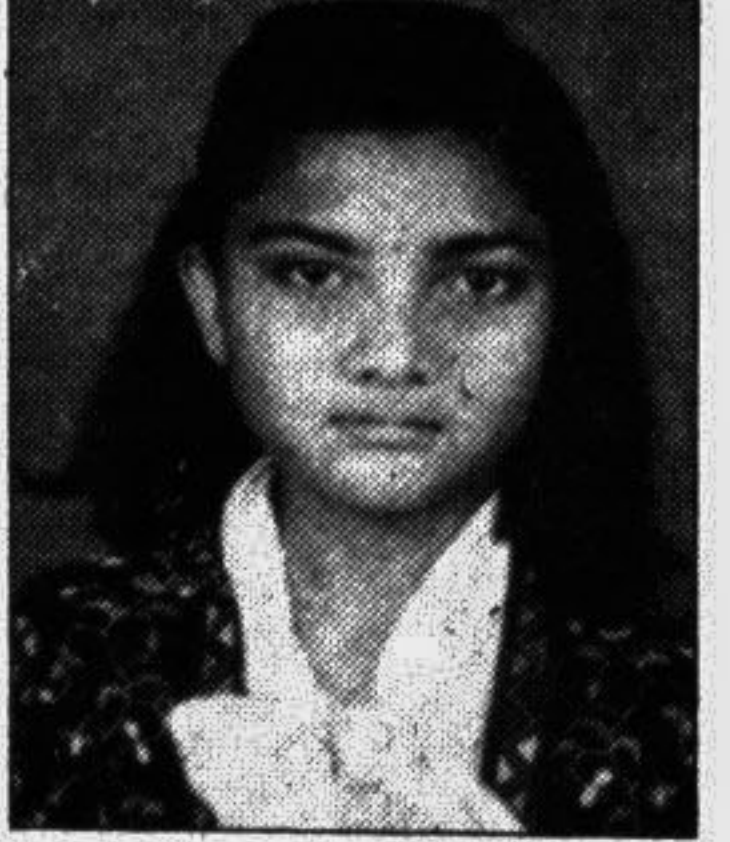
Hristo Stoichkov went on a Diego Maradona-like, 50-yard run to weave into a shooting position and almost nonchalantly prodded the ball home with his left foot after only three minutes.

It proved to be the only goal and Bulgaria now top the Group B standings with four points from two games. France, still to play their second game against Spain Saturday, have three while Romania are eliminated after two losses.

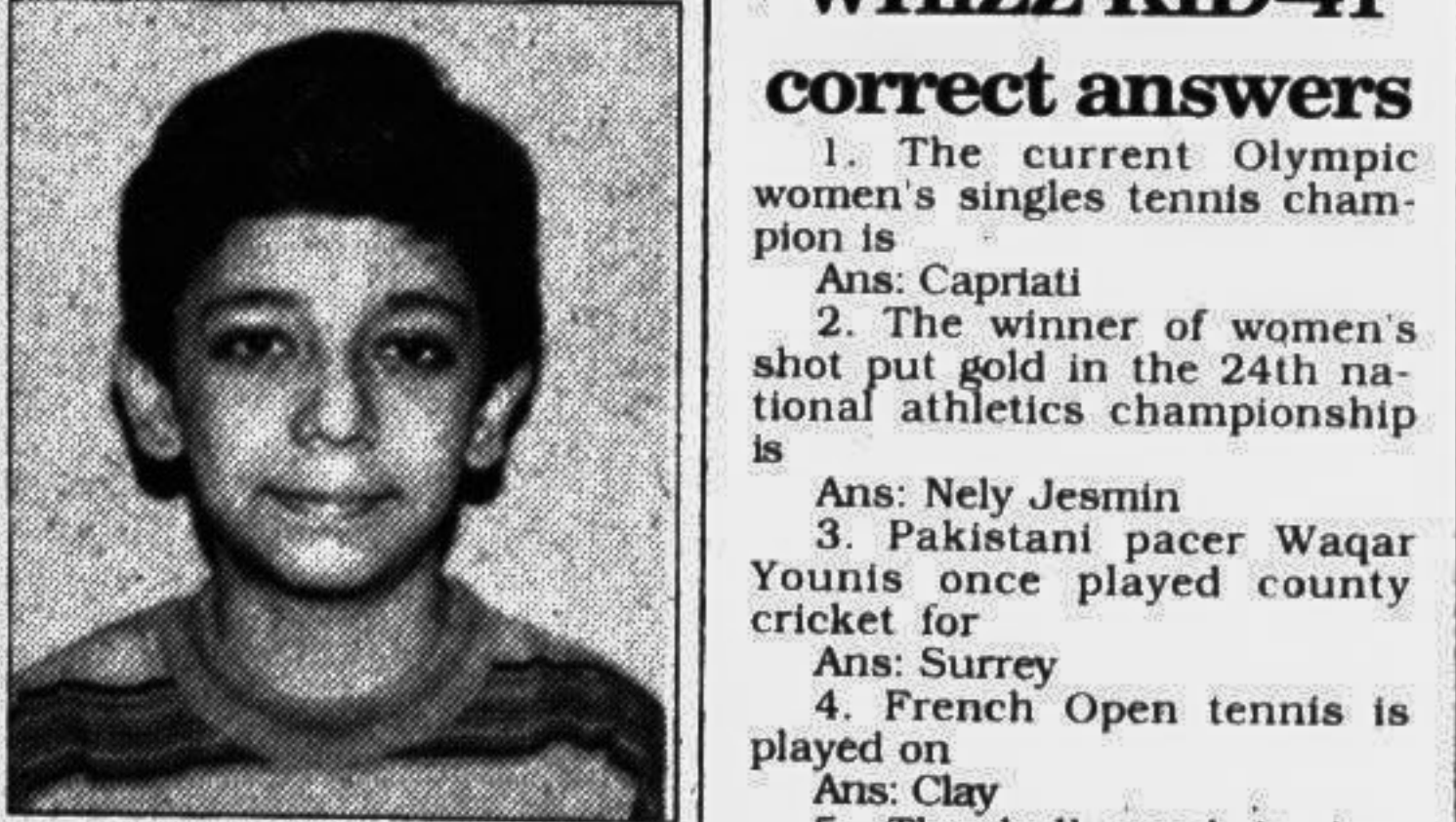
TODAY'S EURO '96 FIXTURES

Scotland vs England
Group A
 Venue: Wembley
 Time: 8:00 pm
 France vs Spain
Group B
 Venue: Elland Road
 Time: 11:00 pm
 Note: All time are Bangladesh Standard Time.

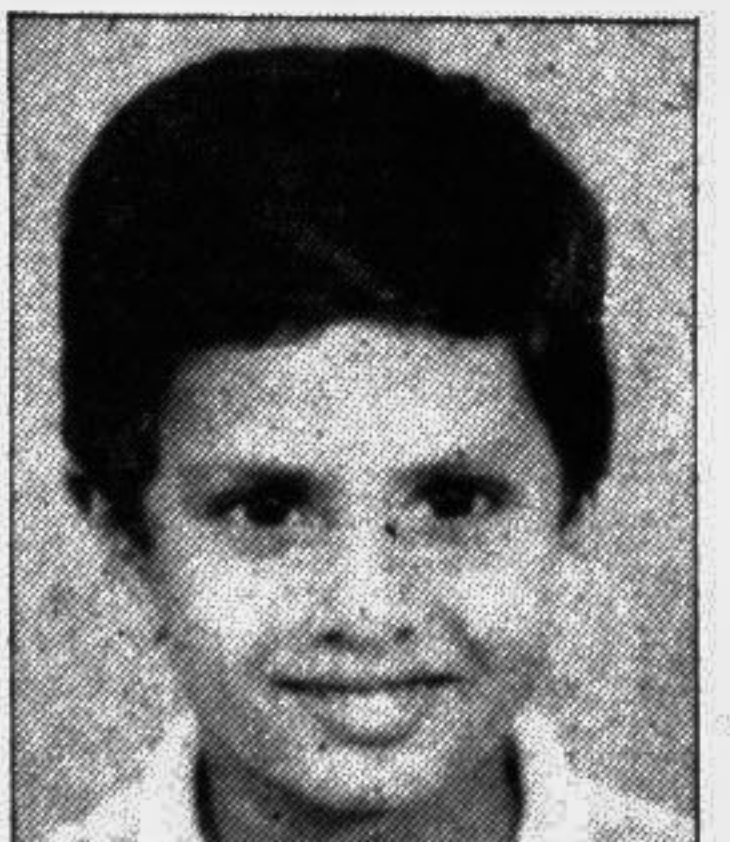
WHZZ KID-40 WINNERS



1. Emili Sharma Shaheed Anwar School Dhaka Cant



3. Tareque Shareef Scholastica Gulshan, Dhaka



2. Razin Mustafa Omi South Breeze Dharmondi, Dhaka

Whizz Kid-41 winners

1. Asma-Ul-Hosna Rifles Public School Dhaka
 2. Nahian BAF Shaheen School Dhaka
 3. Mithun Mirpur Bangla High School Dhaka
 4. Tonoya Playpen Dhaka
 5. Ayoon Ahmed Fokkuri School Dhaka

WHZZ KID-41 correct answers

1. The current Olympic women's singles tennis champion is:
 Ans: Capriati
 2. The winner of women's shot put gold in the 24th national athletics championship is:
 Ans: Nely Jesmin
 3. Pakistani pacer Waqar Younis once played county cricket for:
 Ans: Surrey
 4. French Open tennis is played on:
 Ans: Clay
 5. The ball used in ice hockey is:
 Ans: Puck

Dutch duo in qtrs

ROSMALEN, Netherlands, June 14: Richard Krajicek and Paul Haarhuis sent their fans home happy here on Thursday securing their places in the Rosmalen ATP tournament quarterfinals, reports AFP.

The third seeded Krajicek, finalist in the Italian Open, was pushed to the limit by his 192-ranked compatriot Henrik Jan Davids winning the last set tiebreak 7-2 and taking the match 3-6, 6-3, 7-6.

Krajicek, 24, will face Haarhuis in the quarterfinal. The 30-year-old sixth seed saw off the challenge of Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen in two tightly fought sets, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3).

Tickets for Euro '96 semis unsold

LONDON, June 14: Tickets for the two Euro '96 semifinal matches are still available, admitted red-faced organisers here on Thursday, reports AFP.

Despite claims that 92 per cent of all tickets for the championships have been sold there have been bitter complaints about the number of empty seats at each stadium.

The organisers insist that the unsold tickets are available as a result of foreign fans not buying their full allocations.

They add that the tickets are now available to the English fans who would not previously have had the chance to see such important games - thanks largely to the good behaviour of fans to date.

Other major games where tickets remain unsold include quarterfinals at Villa Park, Old Trafford and Wembley, plus group games involving favourites Germany against Russia at Old Trafford and Scotland against Switzerland plus both of current champions Denmark's remaining group games.

Tournament director Glen Kirton said: "We are pleased to report that the good behaviour of fans at all matches so far has made it possible to review our ticketing policy."

"These arrangements have been drawn up in conjunction with the relevant authorities and should make it even easier for more supporters to attend a Euro '96 match."

CROSSWORD BY Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	1 Quite dry	40 Hammett	2 Gumbo	23 See
	5 Reticent	41 sleuth,	3 - a man	28 Across
	9 Cornfield	42 Continental	4 - with seven	24 Derek and
	12 Invitation	43 Craze	5 Paucity	25 ... but is
	13 Emanation	44 Candy	5 Scound-	26 Means of
	14 Plate stat.	47 "Exodus"	6 Capt. Jean-	putting
	15 Public	48 Campaign	7 Picard	people
	17 Understudy	49 Enter-tainer	8 He ran	on ice
	18 Mob-scene	50 Adams	9 He ran	27 Maca-
	19 Small egg	51 Work out	10 Seth's	damize
	21 Baseball	52 Possesses	11 brother	29 Put all
	22 California	53 Jafar's	12 Sagacious	together
	24 "Goldberg	54 Clinton's	13 Unfavor-	30 TV Tarzan
	27 "Great	55 Jafar's	14 Unfavor-	portrayer
	Expecta-	56 Possesses	15 Sagacious	31 Sundial
	tions" hero	57 Jafar's	16 Unfavor-	numeral
	28 Pinnacle	58 Clinton's	17 Unfavor-	37 Oration
	31 Bobby of	59 Clinton's	18 Unfavor-	39 Tag
	hockey	60 Clinton's	19 Unfavor-	40 Hooper
	32 Exile	61 Clinton's	20 Through	41 Subject
	33 "Diamond	62 Clinton's	21 Stuck in	42 Dreaded
	34 Charon's	63 Clinton's	22 Stuck in	by many
	river	64 Clinton's	23 Stuck in	42 La Scala
	36 Irrever-	65 Clinton's	24 Stuck in	show-
	37 Not merely	66 Clinton's	25 Stuck in	stopper
	attractive	67 Clinton's	26 Stuck in	43 One of
	38 No longer	68 Clinton's	27 Stuck in	12 in AA

CRYPTOQUIP
 UTRDG ADXWRX, UDCERX
 KCN KC TKQ AKROEQ
 ODQG URRH, VDWK
 DVXBQQ D QGDOHRX
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE DOOR SALESMAN'S TRIAL AT MUNICIPAL COURT IS AN OPEN-AND-SHUT CASE.

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.