

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Boris Becker
(German tennis superstar)
"You've been a rival, a friend, somebody who has shared the spotlight with me for a long time — truly the best ambassador I've ever seen for tennis."

Sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-42
Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. June 21, 1996)	
1. The winner of the women's high jump gold in 24th national athletics is	<input type="checkbox"/> Kalguna <input type="checkbox"/> Nidhar <input type="checkbox"/> Rabanu
2. The girls' champion in the school basketball tournament '96 is	<input type="checkbox"/> Rabanu <input type="checkbox"/> Lucky <input type="checkbox"/> Anshi
3. Dr Zaur Rahman has won the national chess title	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 times <input type="checkbox"/> 2 times <input type="checkbox"/> 3 times
4. Kalminkov won the 1996 French Open tennis title by winning the final against	<input type="checkbox"/> Sampras <input type="checkbox"/> Muster <input type="checkbox"/> Stich
5. West Germany won the first of their football World Cups in	<input type="checkbox"/> 1934 <input type="checkbox"/> 1954 <input type="checkbox"/> 1964

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

TODAY'S EURO '96 FIXTURES

France vs Bulgaria
Group B
Venue: St. James' Park
Time: 9:30 pm
Romania vs Spain
Group B
Venue: Elland Road
Time: 9:30 pm
Scotland vs Switzerland
Group A
Venue: Villa Park
Time: 12:30 am
Netherlands vs England
Group A
Venue: Wembley
Time: 12:30 am
Note: All times are Bangladesh Standard Time.

BAF aquatic

Sports Reporter
Two more swimming events of the Bangladesh Air Force annual aquatic meet were finalised at the BN central swimming pool yesterday.
On the third day of the six-day tourney, Adil of Base Matur Rahman lifted both the golds in 200 metres breaststroke and 400 metres individual medley.
BAF Base Bashar and Base Zahurul Haque won their respective water polo matches yesterday.
In the first match, Base Bashar beat Base Matur Rahman 4-2 while Base Zahurul defeated Base Pahar Khan 6-0.

Refs go down to history!

LONDON, June 17: UEFA's 'Get tough' orders to referees has turned Euro '96 into a red-card record-breaker and the first phase is only two-thirds through, reports AFP.
Russian Yuri Kovtun's dismissal against Germany was the fourth of the tournament, beating the three-man totals of 1976 and 1984.
Until 1996, only seven players had been dismissed in the entire history of the European finals.
German coach Berti Vogts has already complained about the rash of yellow cards flashed by the referees.

Holmes wins last bout

BAY ST. LOUIS, Mississipp. June 17: Larry Holmes, world heavyweight boxing champion for more than seven years, knocked out Anthony Wills in the eighth round here Sunday in what he says will be his final fight, reports AFP.

BCCB's squad for N America

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCCB) has announced a 22-member national squad for the forthcoming USA and Canada tour.

The team, comprising 15 players and five officials, is expected to leave for New York on June 24 to play a series of exhibition limited overs matches against different sections in their nearly month-long tour, a maiden trip to North America by any national cricket side.

Portly Akram Khan, skipper of the national team since 1994, will lead the side in the tour to two ICC associate member countries as part of Bangladesh's preparation for the next ACC and ICC Trophies.

The team, a blend of experienced and youth, includes five rookies who are making their first overseas tour. They are young opener Shahriar Hossain Baidut, right-arm seamer Sajal Chowdhury, a gangling Al Shahriar Rokan, a workman-like Khaled Mahmud Sujon and all-rounder Ziaur Rashid Rupom.

On the other hand, the only notable new inclusion among the old warriors is former national skipper Faruque Ahmed. The scapegoat of the disastrous Kenya tour in the last ICC Trophy in 1993, Faruque's return to the national side after a long hibernation is just reward for his recent prolific form.

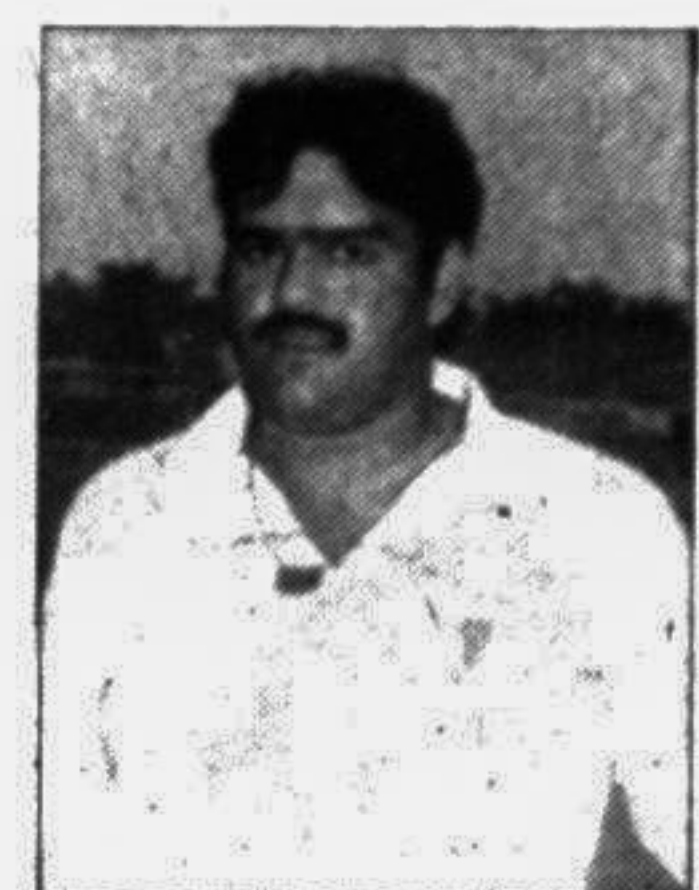
Athar Ali Khan, the tall national opener will act as deputy to Akram Khan. This added burden wrested on the long-serving right-handed bat is due to the absence of Aminul Islam Bulbul, who missed the bus because of his involvement in the minor English county cricket.

With Minhazul Abedin Nannu, the most experienced cricketer in the squad, forming a quartet of specialist batsman, the team also includes equal number of seamers and two orthodox left-arm spinners, a perennial trend that the selectors do not violate.

The two spinners are Mohammed Rafiqul and Enamul Haq Moni while Khaled Masud Pilot is the lone wicketkeeper in the final fifteen.

Although the selection of the players somewhat impressed the cricket fraternity of the country, the inclusion of five officials surprised as many.

Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, the former national skipper who was supposed to be the manager of team, was named coach. Although Reza-e-Karim, secretary, selection committee, admitted that Lipu will look after the selection and technical aspects, the question is why deprive him as 'cricket manager'? Besides, Reza-e-Karim's inclusion as tour manager has raised many an eyebrow. One wonders how the



AKRAM KHAN

same 'gutless' man, chiefly responsible for failing to curb the authoritarian Mohinder Amarnath during the Kenya tour, which eventually proved to be one of the vital factors of our ICC debacle, was once again appointed as tour manager? This after Lipu's sterling performance as Manager against the West Indies and MCC last year.

Dewan Shafiqul Arefin Tutul is another surprise-setter in the team. Better known as a football organiser, Tutul has been named as associate manager. Although his involvement

in cricket is less significant, the former national footballer has reportedly agreed to avail the tour following a request from an influential official of the BCCB.

Tutul, who is an official of the Kalabagan KC, had played a significant role for a renowned sports organiser in the recently-concluded parliamentary polls.

Meanwhile, Afzalur Rahman Sinha, director of Abahani Limited, has been appointed as chef-de-mission, and not without reason as he has agreed to dish out about seven of the fifteen lakh taka tour budget.

SQUAD

Akram Khan (captain), Athar Ali Khan (vice-captain), Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Faruque Ahmed, Zia-ur-Rashid Rupom, Shahriar Hossain Baidut, Mohammad Rafiq, Enamul Haq Moni, M Khaled Masud Pilot, Saiful Islam Khan, Hasibul Hossain Shanta, Sajal Chowdhury, Anisur Rahman, Al Shahriar Rokan, Khaled Mahmud Sujon. Stand-by: Atiar Rahman and Mizanur Rahman.

Officials: Reza-e-Karim (tour manager), Dewan Shafiqul Arefin Tutul (administrative manager), Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu (coach) and Afzalur Rahman Sinha (chef-de-mission).

TOUR ITINERARY

Venue: New York
June 28: Bangladesh VS Guyana
June 29: Bangladesh vs New York Comboid Eleven.
June 30: Bangladesh vs New York Comboid Eleven.
July 1: Bangladesh vs Bangladesh Cricketers Eleven.
Venue: Washington
July 5: Bangladesh vs USA national team.
July 6: Bangladesh vs USA national team.
July 7: Bangladesh vs USA national team.
Venue: Toronto
July 9-14: Four one-day matches against Canadian national team.

Croatia cremate champs



SHEFFIELD, June 17: Enigmatic Croatia turned on the magic in the last half an hour to beat champions Denmark 3-0.

Open tennis title by winning the final against

at Hillsborough on Sunday and become the first team to reach the quarterfinals of Euro '96, reports Reuter.

After an hour of almost stupefying boredom with little inspiration from either team, Croatia emerged from their shell to take control.

They won with two goals from Davor Suker — one from the penalty spot and the second a stunning lob over Danish goalkeeper Petr Schmeichel — another off a well-taken close-range effort from Zvonimir Boban.

In the end they ran rings around the fading Danes, who now face an uphill task to reach the last eight.

Croatia, with a haul of six points from their first two matches, meet Portugal in their final Group D game on Wednesday and cannot finish lower than second in the standings even if they lose.

The match seemed to take an age to come to life and even after Suker gave Croatia the lead from the spot after 54 minutes, they appeared content to pass the ball around.

They even strung together 27 passes at one stage after

the goal without a Danish player touching the ball, but that move, like so many others, led them nowhere.

But in fact the move that led to the penalty was a portent of what was to come.

Mario Stanic broke through the Danish back-line and Schmeichel hauled him down.

French referee Marc Batta having no hesitation awarding the penalty despite Schmeichel's angry protests.

Gradually, Croatia seemed to grow in confidence when

the ball was played out to Aljosa Asanovic on the right. He swept a 50-metre pass diagonally across the pitch to Suker, who controlled it brilliantly before advancing on goal and lobbing Schmeichel, who had actually made it back but came out to narrow the angle.

It was one of the outstanding goals of the tournament and came just minutes after Boban had tried to lob Schmeichel from just inside Denmark's half when he had spotted the Danish keeper outside his penalty area.

Although neither team impressed in the opening stages, Denmark continued to look stale and in the end were punished for only playing with Brian Laudrup as an isolated attacker.

Denmark's day was summed up when Henrik Larsen standing less than six metres out, hit the roof of the stand with an attempted volley and substitute Mikkel Beck blasted the ball over the bar from a few metres out.

ZVONIMIR BOBAN

they realised that Denmark were unable to offer any real sustained threat. The nearest Denmark did come to scoring was when Brian Laudrup hit Drazen Ladic's left-hand post from only a metre out.

A minute later Croatia swept forward in numbers, with Suker providing the final pass to Boban, who acrobatically twisted and fired home that goal that killed off the Danes.

The third goal just minutes before the end was the first real conclusive proof that Croa-

tia's much-hyped image as the dark-horses of their tournament could well be justified.

Schmeichel, as he often does for Manchester United when they are in trouble, came up into the Danish attack for a corner, but when the ball failed to make the box and was cleared, he had a desperate dash to return to his goal.

As Schmeichel raced back, the ball was played out to Aljosa Asanovic on the right. He swept a 50-metre pass diagonally across the pitch to Suker, who controlled it brilliantly before advancing on goal and lobbing Schmeichel, who had actually made it back but came out to narrow the angle.

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Bangladesh to take part in world hockey

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh have been placed in Group B of the preliminary rounds of ninth world men's hockey championship to be held in Italy from September 29 to October 12 next, according to sources of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation.

A total of 14 teams, divided into two groups, will participate in the preliminary rounds from which top five teams will earn a berth for the qualifying rounds.

The following are the groupings:
Group A: Canada, Egypt, China, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Switzerland and Wales.
Group B: Bangladesh, Ireland, Kenya, Poland, Scotland, USA and hosts Italy.

Surrey slaughter Leicester

LONDON, June 17: Surrey smashed their way to a 10-wicket victory over Leicester-shire in just 27 balls at the Oval in one of the Sunday League's shortest innings, reports Reuter.

Leicestershire were routed for 48 runs in 22 overs — their lowest total against the London side — on a bouncy wicket, and in reply Surrey needed just 4.3 overs and 18 minutes to reach 50 without loss.

Surrey's four-pronged pace attack shared the wickets, with Chris Lewis and Martin Bicknell picking up three wickets each, while Joey Benjamin and Australia's Brendon Julian took one apiece.

No Leicester player reached double figures in the equal ninth lowest innings in the 40 overs-a-side Sunday League.

Alistair Brown and Darren Bicknell wasted little time in securing victory. Brown clouted a six and five fours to finish on 30 from 15 balls, while Bicknell hit three boundaries in his 13-ball innings.

Northamptonshire maintained their position at the top of the table with an eight-wicket victory over Essex at Northampton.

Skipper Rob Bailey hit 70 off 87 balls and shared a 147-run second wicket partnership with Kevin Curran, 70 off 90 deliveries, to steer Northants to victory with seven overs to spare after Essex were bowled out for 178.

West Indies' paceman Curtly Ambrose grabbed three for 19 and Paul Taylor three for 22.

Holders Kent kept up the pressure with a comfortable 92-run win over Middlesex at Canterbury to move into second place.

Set 304 to win — the third successive week Kent have passed 300 — Middlesex were dismissed for 211. Matthew Fleming grabbed three wickets to take his tally for the season to 19.

Worcestershire's 11-match unbeaten run came to an end as Nottinghamshire raced to a six-wicket success with five balls to spare at New Road. The home side had not tasted defeat since Kent overcame them at the same venue last July.

Worcestershire must have felt confident of extending that sequence on a slow wicket after scoring 213 for three in their 40 overs.

But 58 off 57 balls by Notts' skipper Paul Johnson and Ashley Metcalfe's 65 from 84 deliveries plus a whirlwind 41 by New Zealander Chris Cairns carried them to victory.

Even Germany, so convincing with wins over the Czech Republic and Russia, is not yet assured of qualifying through Group C although it would take a big battering by Italy to send them home.

And England has enough with a draw against the Netherlands to win Group A and stay at cherished Wembley.

But it wouldn't be a big soccer tournament without the need of pocket calculators and computers to analyze results going back as far as 1992 to divide the teams.

The innovation this year is that head-to-heads take precedence over group goal difference and goals scored. If still locked together, a coefficient based on qualifying performances over the past four years will undo what Euro '96 has failed to separate.

"It would take almost a miracle," said Scotland's coach Craig Brown, looking at his team's chances after a tie with the Dutch and a loss to England. Some goodwill from England and the Netherlands.

Witnesses said most of the capacity crowd of 40,000 had left the stadium when panic broke out at one of five main stadium gates.

Other exits had been closed by stadium staff and remnants of the crowd pushed toward the open gate in hopes of seeing the teams leaving the stadium.

Stomping fans were crushed against a wall, which collapsed on them.

Zambia won the game 3-0 amid heavy security imposed after three recent sabotage bombings against government targets. A technician from the state television service, who refused to give his name, said a bomb scare may have set off the panic.

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Juergen right on the job



MANCHESTER, June 17: Juergen Klinsmann and Matthias Sammer helped Germany transform a largely lacklustre performance into a 3-0 victory over Russia and almost certainly ensured a place in the Euro '96 quarterfinals on

As the only team in the group with two victories from their first two matches, the Germans are now virtually assured of a place in the last eight.

But for long periods on a superb, sunny day at Old Trafford they lacked creativity and punch. The Russians, who were beaten 2-1 by Italy in

merous defensive problems, with a Russian team who looked very dangerous in the first half but did not have luck on their side.

But Sammer made an intelligent run into the right-hand side of the box to take a pass from midfielder Andy Moeller. His first shot was blocked by Russian goalkeeper Dmitry Kharin. But he managed to get his foot to the rebound to scramble the ball over the line.

The goal gave the Germans confidence. When Kovtun was sent off for late tackle on German midfielder Dieter Eilts, his second bookable offence, the Russian spirit seemed to fade.

Klinsmann took his first goal superbly. Picking up a pass from striking partner Oliver Bierhoff, he drifted past Yuri Nikiforov with a blistering burst of speed and struck the ball sweetly inside the left-hand post with his right foot.

The second goal was more routine for the German captain. Substitute Stefan Kuntz slipped the ball to the Bayern Munich striker in the box and he pushed it home with typical composure.

The Russians played the more effective football in the first half and looked capable of saving their Euro '96 campaign.

Apart from the fourth minute when Moeller's close-range header forced Kharin to make a superb save, the Germans struggled to break down the Russian defence. Midfielder Thomas Haessler, so often a major figure, was a disappointment.

Russian coach Oleg Romansev was very critical of his team, who now have little chance of progressing as they faced their final group match against the Czech Republic at Anfield on Wednesday.

"Some of our players looked bad. Others looked very good," he said. "It is premature to think or hope of a possible qualification."

Germany will face Italy in their final game here on Wednesday without defender Markus Babel, who picked up his second caution of the tournament. The suspension is a blow after the injury to the experienced Juergen Kohler.

"We lacked real organisation in the first half," German coach Berti Vogts said. "I am very happy with the points. But we are still not qualified. We have the World Cup runners-up now."

Russian captain Viktor Onopko will also have to sit out the match against the Czechs after his second yellow card.

their opening match, had more chances to score in the first hour and should have come away from the game with at least a draw.

Former Tottenham Hotspur star Klinsmann will get all the headlines in England for two goals which demonstrated his remarkable finishing prowess. But it was 'red-headed Sammer who will be the dressing room hero.

The Borussia Dortmund player spent most of the game trying to solve Germany's num-

berous defensive problems, with a Russian team who looked very dangerous in the first half but did not have luck on their side.

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Adrenaline-pumping hours



BIRMINGHAM, June 17 (AP): So many pray for a miracle. Others clutch at straws while some know a draw will be enough. Only one team, debutante Croatia, is already there.

Romania and Turkey are out of soccer's European Championship so 13 still have it all on the line in the final first-round matches Tuesday and Wednesday, fighting for seven remaining places in the quarterfinals.

Even Germany, so convincing with wins over the Czech Republic and Russia, is not yet assured of qualifying through Group C although it would take a big battering by Italy to send them home.

And England has enough with a draw against the Netherlands to win Group A and stay at cherished Wembley.

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who meet at Wembley Tuesday, might help him.

The state of the standings means that a comfortable draw — with no more yellow cards or injuries — would see the two through, denying any chance to Scotland and Switzerland, who play at the same time Tuesday night.

But that could be leaving things to chance, both coaches have said. "I don't think either of us will play for it. It's just too risk," said Dutch coach Guus Hiddink.

If England beats the Dutch, Scotland has a chance only with a big win Tuesday. But the Swiss also need a good win and victory of the Dutch over England to stand a chance of going through. This is not such a wild outside chance. A 2-0 Swiss win combined with a 2-0 England loss would be enough.

Both England and the Netherlands have four points, with Switzerland and Scotland standing at one.

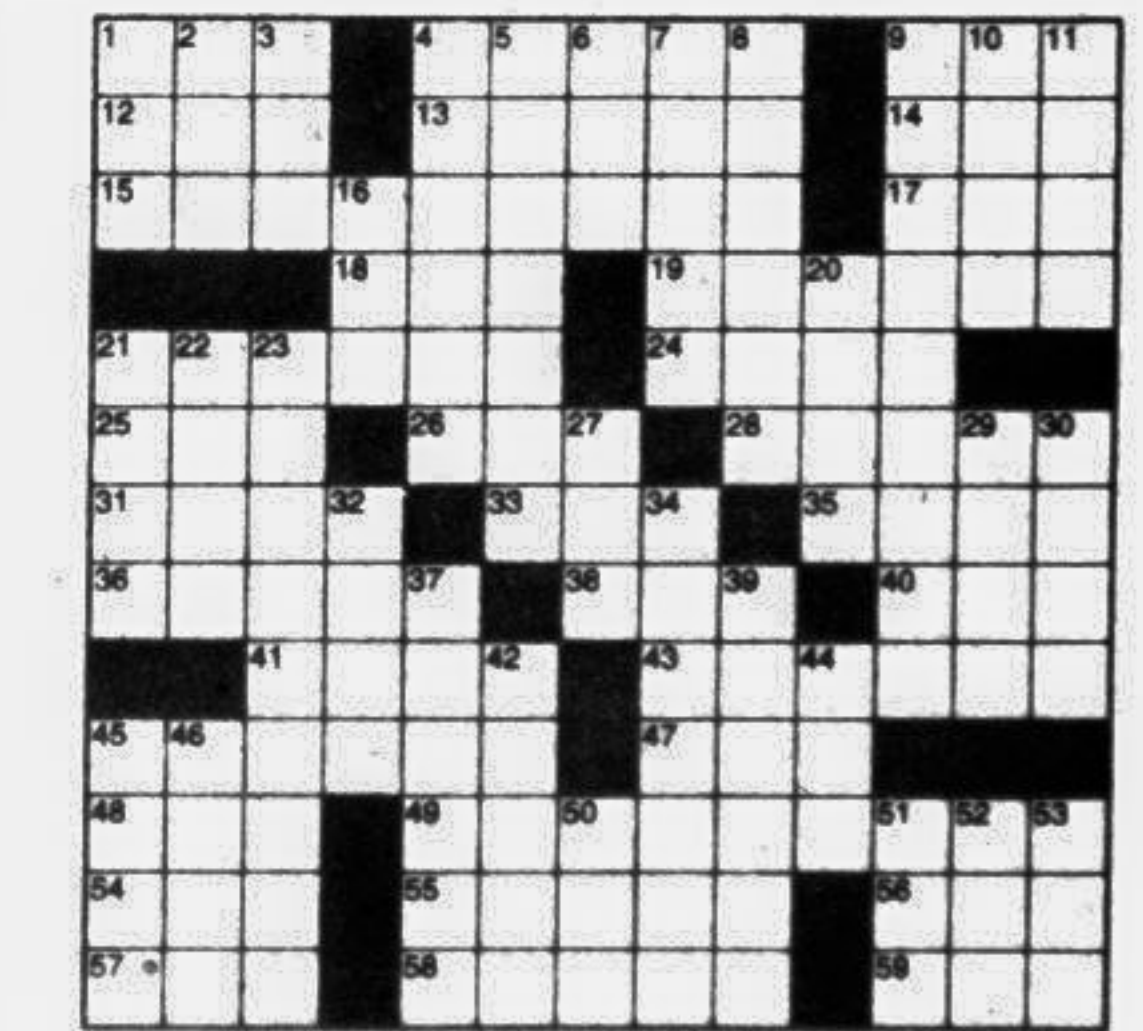
Group B could still see third place Spain vault to the top, even with a 1-0 win over Romania Tuesday if France-Bulgaria finishes in a goalless draw. Those results would mean that Spain and France qualify.

But France is apprehensive about the Bulgaria match at Newcastle's St James' park. Hristo Stoichkov and Co. stopped France qualifying for the 1994 World Cup with a last second goal and that memory remains fresh in French minds.

"Bulgaria is our nemesis," said playmaker Youri Djorkaeff. "It will be our death match."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	40 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" girl	59 Squid squirt	11 Needy
1 Grant or Irving	41 Towel	DOWN	16 Run up the phone bill
4 Thick	43 Isabella's mother	1 "Fables" in Slang	20 E or G, e.g.
9 Vitality	45 Family member	2 Actress	21 Linguist
12 "— Hard With a Ven-	47 Cereus datum	3 Absolutely	22 "Waterloo" singing
13 Like I, for one?	48 "— American Cousin"	4 Skulls	23 Props for Perot, possibly
14 "— not choose to run"	49 "Food" for the shamed	5 Acclamation	27 Love — Mary-Splendid
15 Child's play	54 He had high hopes	6 Diamond expert?	28 Leave man
17 Conceit	55 Infirm	7 Apprehends red-handed	29 Strauss
18 Literary collection	56 Indivisible	8 Prepares to prey	30 Plumbox
19 Banker, often	57 "— Mis-erables"	9 Noted exter-minator?	32 Yon folks
21 Serviette	58 Consumer	10 Advantage	34 Easily persuaded
24 Feed the hogs			37 Annie was one
25 Kyoto summer-bund			38 Lineman?
26 Blackbird			42 A real hot spot?
28 Inert			44 "Golly!"
31 Support a sinner			45 Andres Cantor's shout
33 Cleo's killer			46 Mysterious character
35 Duel tool			50 Central
36 Overly			51 Lulu gunk
38 Carte			52 B&B
preorder			53 "A mouse!"



BZR ZECES GEDEWBZV

BHBSRGV FRBSX

WVJEHBDVV HBDDRS

WFR CRLRZBD JZELHEJBDX?

Saturday's Cryptogram: SPRIGHTLY FROGS ARE OFTEN IN A HURRY; THEY'RE USUALLY HOPPING TO IT.

Today's Cryptogram clue: J equals P

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.