Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT Mikael Palmquist of Sweden juggled a regulation football for 14 hours 14 minutes non-stop with feet, legs and head without the ball ever touching the ground at Goteborg, Sweden on April 6, 1986. He also headed a regulation football non-stop for four and half hours at the same town in 1984.

Now I was not a bad player in my days. But, I could knock a ball about four or five times; the last touch always had me spreadeagled.

To imagine how great and extraordinary is Palmquist's feat, why don't you try holding a regulation ball on your palm for an hour or two?

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		
	Kalpana	Nilufar	Rahima
2.	The girls' champion in the school batminton tournament '96 is		
	Rubina	Lucky	Anjhi
3.	IM Ziaur Rahman has won the national chess title		
	6 times	2 times	3 times
4.	Kafelnikov won the 1996 French Open tennis title by winning the final against		
	Sampras	Muster	Stich
5.	West Germany won the first of their football World Cups in		
	1934	1954	1964

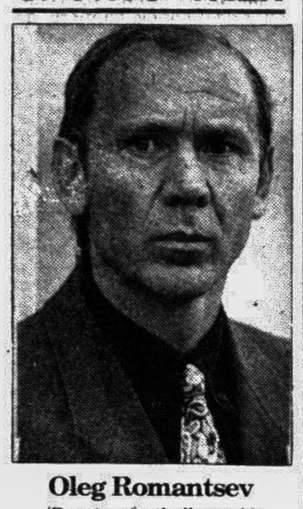
Name : . . . . . .

Class : . . . . . Roll No : . . . .

School Address: . . . . . .

Phone: (if any) . . . . . .

SPORTS TALK



Oleg Romantsev

(Russian football coach)

"Some of our players looked bad. Others looked very bad. It is premature to think hope of a possible qualification."

After losing 3-0 to Germany in a Euro '96 Match.

TODAY'S EURO '96 FIXTURES

Croatia vs Portugal
Group D
Venue: City Ground
Time 9:30 pm

Turkey vs Denmark
Group D
Venue: Hillsborough
Time: 9:30 pm

Russia vs Czech Republic
Group C
Venue: Anfield
Time: 12:30 am

Italy vs Germany
Group C
Venue: Old Trafford
Time: 12:30 am

Note: All times are Bangladesh Standard Time.

J-League falls short of target

TOKYO, June 18: Japan's professional football league suffered a deficit of 74 million yen (680,000 dollars) in the year to last March, despite a record 10.27 billion yen income, the J-League secretariat said today, report AFP.

The deficit was due to low revenue from J-Leauge merchandising rights, which was also forecast to decline in the current fiscal year, the secretariat said.

The main sources of revenue were corporate sponsorships, which rose 80 million yen to 3.79 billion yen, and the sale of television rights, at 2.21 billion yen.

The secretariat also estimated revenue from TV money to decline in the current year, reflecting falling TV ratings despite an increase in the number of teams from 12 to 16 in league's fourth year.

Chelsea's sensational signing Italian superstar Gianluca Vialli (R) displays his jersey alongwith fellow overseas ace Ruud Gullit (player-manager of the club) at Stamford Bridge on June 17. — AFP/UNB photo

Italy's back against the wall

MANCHESTER, June 18: Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi believes his team are too good to bow out of Euro'96 after the group stage but they are going to have to beat favourites Germany on Wednesday to prove it, reports Reuter.

After their surprise defeat by the Czech Republic last Friday, the Italians have just three points from their two Group C matches and need a victory against Berti Vogts, unbeaten team to rescue their hopes of reaching the quarter finals.

Sacchi will come under heavy fire from the country's fervent fans and media if his team are forced to pack their bags and return home.

But the task facing the Italians is formidable. The Germans are almost certain of a place in the last eight after two victories against the Czechs and the Russians.

Italy are only level on points with the Czechs who have an easier task against the struggling Russians in their last game.

But Sacchi said: "We do not deserve to go home. We have played a high standard of football. But we can't just hope to beat Germany. We must be convinced that we can do it."

A point would be good enough for the Germans to win the group. But Vogts has warned his team that they have not qualified yet and the Italians can expect no favours from their traditionally fierce rivals.

Italian captain Paolo Maldini knows that his team will have to take the game to the Germans but run the risk of falling prey to their deadly counter-attacks in the process.

"The Germans won't want to lose the opportunity to throw Italy out of the Championship," the experienced AC Milan defender said. "We are under a lot of pressure."

History is in favour of the Italians. They have won 11 of the previous 25 clashes between the two teams. But the Germans have won their last two meetings in friendlies in 1994 and 1995, the last a 2-0 victory in Zurich.

The last time the two countries met in a competitive match was at the 1988 European Championship in Germany when they drew 1-1 in Duesseldorf.

Captain and Striker Juergen Klinsmann is the only player in Germany's Euro's 96 squad who pled that day. After two goals against the Russians in his match at the tournament, the Bayern Munich striker is likely to provide the biggest danger to the Italians.

Neither team has major injury worries. Borussia Dortmund's Steffen Freund is expected to replace suspended Markus Babbel at the back for the Germans.

Italian defender Luigi Apolloni will also miss the Old Trafford clash after being sent off against the Czech.

There are rumours in the camp that Sacchi may even take the gamble of calling up 20-year-old Lazio defender Alessandro Nesta for his first cap.

Probable teams

GERMANY (probable): 1-Andreas Koepke, 6-Matthias Sammer, 2-Stefan Reuter, 4-Steffen Freund, 5-Thomas Helmer, 21-Dieter Eilts, 17-Christian Ziege, 10-Thomas Haessler, 7-Anday Moelier, 18-Juergen Klinsmann, 20-Oliver Bierhoff.

ITALY: 1-Angelo Peruzzi, 3-Paolo Maldini, 4-Amedeo Carboni, 6-Alessandro Nesta, 5-Alessandro Costcurta, 8-Roberto Mussi, 10-Demetrio Albertini, 7-Roberto Donadoni, 16-Roberto di Matteo, 17-Diego Fuser, 14-Alessandro del Piero, 18-Pierluigi Casiraghi, 21-Gianfranco Zola.

Czechs promise fireworks

PRESTO, June 18: The Czech Republic aim to show no mercy to a weakened Russian team on Wednesday in their bid to reach the European Championship quarter-finals from Group C, reports Reuter.

But they should take nothing for granted. The Russians have shown in the past that they are at their most dangerous when the odds are stacked against them.

Czech coach Dusan Uhrin, buoyant after a 2-1 win over Italy, said mental strength should be the key against a Russian side who have often played intricate, attractive soccer during Euro '96 but have conceded more goals than any other side.

"We will be quite aggressive towards them. Their forwards play very well if the other team allow them to," he said after seeing the Russian start well against the Germans on Sunday before stumbling to a 3-0 defeat.

The match will not be for the faint-hearted as sides from Eastern Europe always welcome the chance to take revenge against their former occupiers.

Just to add spice to the occasion, Wednesday will be the fifth anniversary of the day the last Soviet soldier left Prague.

The Czech, who recovered well after a dispiriting 2-0 defeat by the Germans in the first game, will play two men up front from the start.

UEFA's complicated new regulations on separating teams who finish level on points in their qualifying groups mean the Russians will reach the last eight if they beat the Czechs by at least two goals and Germany beat Italy.

The Experience of the last two World Cups show this feat is not beyond them.

In 1990 the Soviet Union lost their first two games and then beat Cameroon 4-0 while in 1994 Russia again lost the first two games before crushing Cameroon 6-1.

But this time they have not helped their cause by depriving themselves of virtually their entire first-choice defence.

Captain Viktor Onopko and Yuri Kovtun are suspended while Yevgeny Bushmanov picked up a serious injury in the 2-1 defeat by Italy.

Veteran centre back Sergei Gorlukovich looks set to start his first Euro '96 game and it seems inconceivable that Romantsev will again ask fleet-footed winger Andrei Kanchelskis to play at right back as he did in the match with Germany.

Uhrin's problems are minor in comparison.

He has to give fitness tests to midfielders Radoslav Latal and Jiri Nemec and must decide who will take the place of suspended captain and sweeper Miroslav Kadlec. The experienced Lubos Kubic is likely to be given the nod.

PROBABLE TEAMS:

Czech Republic: 1-Poetr Kouba, 2-Radek Latal, 3-Jan Suchoparek, 4-Pavel Nedved, 12-Ludos Kubik, 7-Jiri Nemec, 8-Karel Poborski, 9-Pavel Kuka, 13-Radek Bejbl, 14-Patrik Berger, 15-Michal Hornak.

Russia: 1-Dmitry Kharin, 2-Omari Tetradze, 3-uri Nikiforov, 20-Sergei Gorlukovich, 18-Igor Yaovsky or 21-Dmitry Khokhlov, 4-Ily Tsymblar, 6-Valery Karpin, 8-Andrei Kanchelskis, 10-Alexader Mostovoi, 9-Igor Kolyvanov, 11-Sergei Kiryakov.

Hristo, a Janus faced genius

NEWCASTLE, June 18 (Reuter): Hristo Stoichkov, strutting hero of Bulgaria's forceful crusade towards a place in the Euro '96 quarter finals, is a man with a split personality.

One scowls, struts and gesticulates on the pitch as if tormented by demons. This man has been sent off countless times and had just as many brushes with authority on and off the pitch.

The other plays with a grace and power few can match. He charms school children with his smile, poses for the photographs and signs autographs without even a hint of impatience.

This character scores priceless goals. He was top marksman with six at the 1994 World Cup finals and has won more medals and honours than any footballer in Bulgarian history. In Euro '96, he has scored twice to date.

Stoichkov is a footballing schizophrenic — so warm and friendly he was invited to the wedding of his great East European rival Gheorghe Hagi, yet so wildly competitive he has been suspended frequently.

When Bulgaria played Romania in Newcastle last Thursday, Stoichkov pointedly embraced Hagi, a former Barcelona teammate, before the kickoff. Three minutes later Stoichkov hit the only goal of the game.

Now 30, and registered with Parma in Italy after a stormy departure from Barcelona following endless heated rows with former coach Johan Cruyff, he is beginning to show signs of mellowing.

In his first two games of Euro '96, he has been booked only once. Apart from some brief attempts to show his feelings, he has kept away from

HRISTO STOICHKOV

confrontations with referees.

But while he has been as skilful, powerful and inventive as ever, he remains testy and unpredictable. When French reporters, visiting the Bulgarian training camp north of Newcastle on Sunday, requested an interview they were told: "No, I am not talking to the French — only to the Spanish and the English." There was no explanation.

Yet, at the same training ground — a windswept school field normally used by an under-11 team — Stoichkov had delighted his junior admirers only 24 hours earlier by lifting children in his arms, talking in broken English to anyone who was listening, and staying behind to fulfill every request from the local public as the Bulgarian team bus waited in the car park.

In his four years at Barcelona, where he won the Spanish championship from 1991 to 1994 and the European Cup in 1992, he was sent off a reported total of 11 times.

"He has a great talent and a very warm temper," smiled Hagi. "He can be very difficult to understand, but he is a very fine friend."

His relationship with Cruyff at Barcelona was never less than turbulent, but he scored 104 goals for the side.

After a less than impressive first season in Italy, he is expected to move again and English Premier league Newcastle are said to be interested in signing him.

It has been reported that Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan has made him an offer and that he is also considering an approach from Spanish champions Atletico Madrid.

But according to Spanish reports, Stoichkov would prefer to return to Barcelona now that Cruyff has been replaced by Briton Bobby Robson.

The smile came naturally, by instinct. Stoichkov, after all, is nothing if not both an opportunist and a publicist, a soccer player and a showman.

Euro '96

Bulgaria bow out

Favourites France and enterprising Spain booked their quarterfinal berths from Group B after winning their respective clashes of the European Championships according to a BBC sport bulletin monitored here last night.

France overran 1994 World Cup semifinalists Bulgaria 3-1 at St James's Paek with strikes from Laurent Blanc, Patrice Loko and an own goal 1-1 courtesy of Lubislav Penev, while Bulgaria's consolation came through Hristo Stoichkov.

Spain edged Romania 2-1 at Elland Road. Manjarin and Amor scored for the hard-working Spaniards Florin Raducioiu pulled one back for Romania.

Div II V' ball in July

Sports Reporter

After four years break, the second Division handball league, organised by the Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF), will resume from the third week of July next.

According to a BHF press release the clubs who participated in the 1992 league and other interested and organisations may take part this time. They have been requested to submit entry forms any day before July 5 from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the federation's office.

Vialli vows to impress

LONDON, June 18: Striker Gianluca Vialli continued his long-running feud with Arrigo Sacchi on Monday, saying he would teach the Italian coach a lesson with every goal he scored for new club Chelsea, reports Reuter.

"It will be difficult for me to get back into the national side with Sacchi as manager," he told his first news conference at the English Premier league club.

"But I hope to score as many goals as possible for Chelsea and that will put Sacchi in trouble."

The independent-minded forward has never seen eye-to-eye with Sacchi and Italy's soccer establishment.

Early last season he shocked the nation by pledging never to play for Italy under Sacchi. He finally left home last month after lifting the European Cup with Juventus.

Chelsea's player-manager Ruud Gullit lured him to Stamford Bridge with the promise of Premier league soccer and the bright lights of west London.

"Ruud is a good friend of mine," the shaven-headed Vialli said. "And it's a new challenge for me. It's very important for me to play in London. It's a wonderful city."

Gullit, who played against Vialli in Serie A and joined Sampdoria just as the Italian was moving to Juventus, said Vialli would have no problems adapting to life at Chelsea.

"English football is less technical than in Italy," he said. "It is an open game here and with the passing game I want Chelsea to play, Vialli will be perfect."

Gullit, who also signed a new two-year contract with the club as player manager, with an option to extend the deal to the year 2000, said Vialli would not be his last signing.

"I have a number of players on my list and the signing of Vialli sends a signal to those players that Chelsea are the team to play for," he said.

Gullit, 34, was recruited as a player in 1995 by Glenn Hoddle, who quit as Chelsea manager last month to succeed Terry Venables as England boss.

The deal was revealed by Chelsea managing director Colin Hutchinson at the news conference.

WC qualifiers

SA, Zambia calm nerves

JOHANNESBURG, June 18: Resurgent Zambia overturned a 2-0 first leg deficit to beat Sudan 3-2 on aggregate and advance to the league stages of the continents qualifying competition for the 1998 World Cup in France, reports Reuter.

Tragically though Sunday's 3-0 win in Lusaka was marred by the death of nine fans who were crushed under a wall during a stampede at the end of the match, another 78 fans were injured.

African champions South Africa recovered from an indifferent 1-0 away win over Malawi two weeks ago to win the second leg in Johannesburg 3-0.

Mozambique, traditionally one of Africa's footballing powers, could only manage a 1-1 home draw with unfancied Namibia and go out of the competition after losing the first leg 1-0.

Ivory Coast were also surprise casualties, falling 3-1 on aggregate to Congo. Like Mozambique they could only draw 1-1 at home after losing the away leg 2-0.

In Luanda 80,000 fans saw Angola advance with a 3-1 (aggregate 5-1) win over Uganda while Zaire beat Mauritius 2-0 in Kinshasa to thrash them 7-1 on aggregate.

In Accra the second leg of Ghana's clash with Tanzania was abandoned at halftime because of rain. The two sides remain deadlocked overall at 0-0.

FEDERATION feedback

Bangladesh Bodybuilding Federation

Bodybuilders' part-time body

By Hasan Masood

A healthy body is a guest chamber for the soul whereas a sick body is a prison.

Bodybuilding is the process of developing and shaping the muscles of the body by means of progressive resistance, weight training and precise diet. Competitive bodybuilders use certain prescribed exercise techniques to develop their physique to a degree no human being has been able to reach before, and then compete with one another on stage to determine who has reached the highest level of development.

Since one can only shape and develop his body only by means of extremely difficult physical effort and perseverance, bodybuilding can be defined as a sport. But the aesthetic goal of achieving the right blend of muscularity, symmetry, proportion and muscle shape, and the need to show it off through a mastery of stage presentation, also makes bodybuilding a highly demanding art form.

In Bangladesh bodybuilding is still an amateur sport. In the past it was popular among the youth in different parts of the country. Almost every district had gymnasiums to provide necessary support to the youths. But in the course of time, bodybuilding came to be restricted to a few cities and towns.

To provide opportunities to all weight classes, the International Federation of Bodybuilding (IFBB) recognises the following categories:

Bantamweight (upto 65kg), Lightweight (upto 70kg), Welterweight (upto 75kg), Middleweight (upto 80 kg), Light heavyweight (upto 90kg) and Heavyweight (over 90kg). But due to the lighter body frame of Asians, the Asian Bodybuilding Federation (ABBF) has made some modifications to include two special categories such as Flyweight (upto 60 kg) and light middleweight (upto 80 kg).

The standard of bodybuilding in Bangladesh is not anywhere near the international mark. There are lot of plausible reasons behind the poor standard. Firstly, our body frame is rather small in comparison to those from even some Asian countries such as Russia, China, Japan, and Pakistan. Secondly, bodybuilding is an expensive sport. One needs a number of apparatus for exercising all the body parts starting from the head and neck to the toes. Most of these instruments have to be imported. Moreover, a bodybuilder needs a balanced and healthy diet which many not be possible for many a pursuer of this art sport.

To run the affairs of bodybuilders in the country, Bangladesh Bodybuilding Federation (BBBF) was formed in 1972. But the justification of the body for bodybuilders remains a one million dollar question.

The BBBF runs only one tournament in a year — the national bodybuilding championship. And that is also not held regularly. In the last 25 years, the BBBF have arranged only 15 national championships; the last being held in December 1994.

MD NAZRUL ISLAM

The reason behind this is, most of the bodybuilding federation officials are also actively involved in some other sports federations. In the present ad-hoc committee, four out of six top officials including the Vice President and Treasurer, are also officials of other federations. They can hardly pay any reasonable attention to bodybuilding. These double-timing officials appear only during the meetings, if at all.

In this regard, a very senor member of BBBF said, "this trend should be changed. One man can not and should not serve three or four federations. This is unwise. That's why we can't prosper in any sport."

To know more about the BBBF and its activities, The Daily Star (DS) had a worthwhile cogitation with its general secretary Muhammad Nazrul Islam, a former "Mr Bangladesh," in his office this week. The followings are the extracts of the interview:

DS: You have not organized any championships in the last two years since the 15th national championships way back in 1994. Do you think this is encouraging for the future of our bodybuilders?

Nazrul: Well, we admit it is our fault, but there are also other reasons for this. We could not arrange the championships last year because of the SAF Games. Although bodybuilding was not a SAF Games event, many of our officials were involved in organising participants of other sports. Since they were busy with the SAF Games, the Federation skipped its national championship last year. We took initiatives to arrange the nationals at the beginning of this year. But the prevailing political unrest at the time put an end to that. We have now plans to hold the meet in August.

DS: Do you believe merely organizing an annual national championship can bear positive results?

Nazrul: No. I don't think in that way. Our resources are limited. Perhaps we are the federation which gets the minimum amount of financial help from the National Sports Council (NSC). This year they have allotted us only one lakh fifty thousand taka. Do you think with this little amount of money you can run a national federation and go for numerous tournaments in a year? Nevertheless we are trying our best to uphold the standard of bodybuilding in the country. We have started a national veteran championship from 1994. This year we will try to hold the second version. This veteran tournament is for the plus-40 years bodybuilders.

DS: You have sent teams abroad many a time but failed to achieve any success.

Nazrul: Yes, this is true. As far as the Asian standard is concerned, we are nowhere. This is because of our poor resources. To tell you very frankly, the instruments we have in our own gymnasium at the north-east corner of the Dhaka Stadium, many clubs in the country have more than that in number and quality as well. To improve the standard, you have to have all the modern equipments with you. This needs a lot of money. Till such time we can purchase those, this problem will be very prominent.

DS: Beside the equipments, what other problems are you are facing?

Nazrul : We need foreign coaches who can train us as per the international methods. We also need long-term programmes to train our young bodybuilders. But as I have already said, with one and a half lakh taka you can hardly be ambitious. Moreover, the gymnasium we have is also not very comfortable. We do not have toilets and other facilities.

DS: Now, finally about democracy in sports. You are appointed on an ad-hoc basis. How do look at this?

Nazrul: This is the most talked about subject in our sports arena these days. Yes, we demand elected bodies in the federations. But how can we have that until our constitution is amended. Besides, we have a separate demand. If elections are held, the officials of Bodybuilding federation should be elected by the bodybuilders.

Crafty Croats' cool counsel

NOTTINGHAM, June 18: Portugal need one point to reach the Euro '96 quarterfinals when they take on Croatia in Group D on Wednesday — and their opponents have obligingly announced that they will rest some key players, reports Reuter.

The match is largely academic for Croatia, they have already qualified for the last eight, thanks to their 3-0 win over Denmark on Sunday.

Striker Devor Suker, who scored two goals in the win over the champions, is one of the men who could be rested by coach Miroslav Blazevic.

"I don't know if I will be playing against Portugal. The trainer is talking about resting a few players," Suker said on Monday.

The news could be frustrating for Denmark who need a Croatia win allied to a victory of themselves over Turkey to reach the quarterfinals.

Even then, they will have to make up a goal difference which is four goals in Portugal's favour.

Striker Alen Boksic with a tonsil infection, and defender Nikola Jerkan, with an injured nose, are definite sidelined for Croatia.

Portugal, less brilliant in the 1-0 win over Turkey than they had been in their 1-1 draw with Denmark, are giving little away about their team.

Full-back Paulinho Santos is suspended for accumulating two yellow cards and is likely to be replaced by Secretario, although coach Antonio Oliveira would not provide confirmation.

"Secretario is one of the possibilities we are considering," was his typically cagy reply.

Six other Portuguese players have one yellow card and cannot afford to be booked again.

Oliveira has till not found a striker who can provide the finishing touch to his team's intricate approach work.

Sporting Lisbon's Sa Pinto has started both games but, despite a goal against Denmark, has not convinced. He was substituted against Turkey after a stunning miss in the first half.

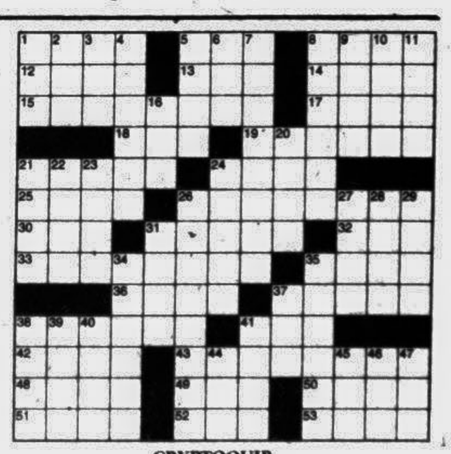
CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS
1 Humorous sorts
5 Derek and Diddley
8 Yemen port
12 Drop
13 Once around
14 Hawaiian resort area
15 Botswanan desert
17 Rainbow
18 Horde
19 Thatched-roof shelter
21 Condition
24 Work with finger paints
25 Tops
26 Command to Fido
30 Historic period
31 — in on (singled out)
32 Palindromic name
33 Put one's foot down
35 Wield a spoon
36 Spotted
37 Sew temporarily
38 Hair on your chinny-chin-chin
41 "— longa, vita brevis"
42 Arab bigwig
43 Gertrude Zelle
48 Rien, across the Pyrenees
49 I
50 Exceptionally eager
51 Salver
52 Weir
53 Longings

DOWN
1 Moo goo gai pan pan
2 Docs' org.
3 Hodges of baseball
4 Cause of some recent Elvis sightings?
5 De-bag the cat
6 Propulsion device
7 Rose steadily, as inflation
8 With hands on hips
9 Mrs. Copperfield
10 Oklahoma city
11 Houston acronym
16 Weeding tool
20 "— Lang Syne"
21 "Rosebud," e.g.
22 Take on
23 Leading man
24 Senior member
26 Cashed in
27 Cisterns
28 Blue-pencil
29 Nearly uncooked
31 Locale for dandling
34 Off
35 Move like a runway model
37 Pectoral pouch
38 Urbane chap
39 The Tent-maker
40 Verdi masterwork
41 Tiny bit
44 — Khan
45 St. crosser
46 Canine forename?
47 Check-casher's two

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	M	Y		C	H	U	N	K		P	E	P
D	I	E		R	O	M	A	N		I	D	O
E	A	S	Y	A	S	P	I	E		E	G	O
			A	N	A		L	E	N	D	E	R
N	A	P	K	I	N		S	L	O	P		
O	B	I		A	N	I		S	T	I	L	L
A	B	E	T		A	S	P		E	P	E	E
M	A	C	H	O		A	L	A		E	V	A
		H	E	R	S		I	N	G	R	I	D
G	R	A	M	P	A		A	G	E			
O	U	R		H	U	M	B	L	E	P	I	E
A	N	T		A	N	I	L	E		O	N	E
L	E	S		N	A	D	E	R		I	N	K



CRYPTOQUIP

T B S X W P R X V R V Z B V H W P J Q Z R N S R X U J T L K B S V P E B J S N V P : K B J H U L N Q S P J W E.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ARE RIGID MILITARY ACADEMY HEADS TYPICALLY CALLED THE GENERAL PRINCIPALS?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals P

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.