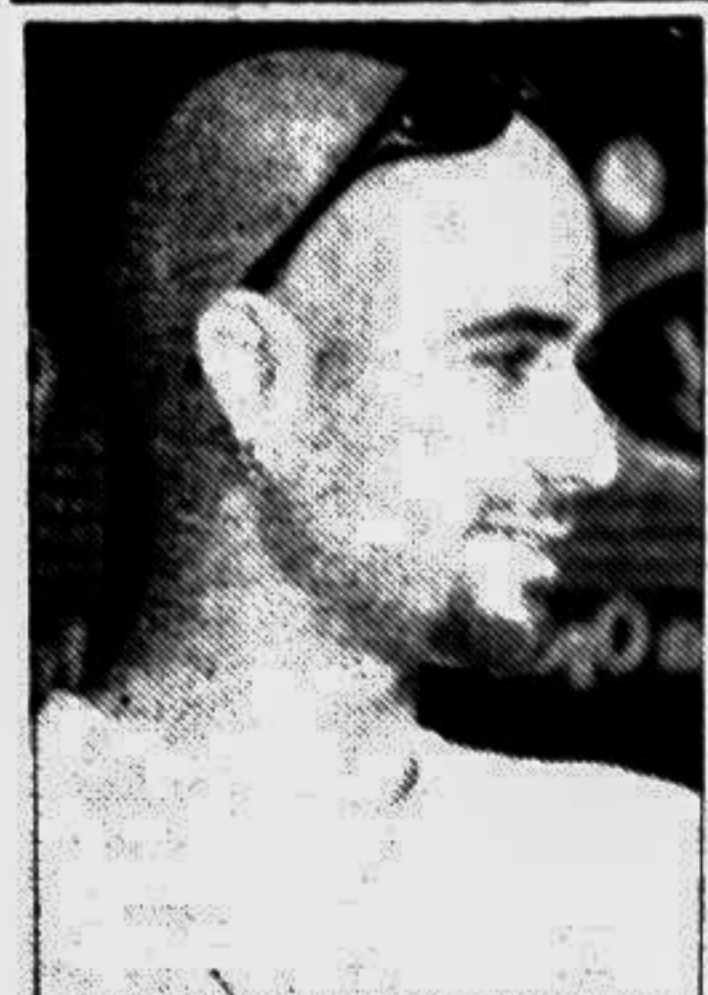


Column One
SPORTS TALK



Andre Agassi
(American tennis player)
"I've played this game for a lot of reasons and none of them have ever quite been my own. But this time my desire is to get out there and enjoy it."
On his recent comeback to the court.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-76
Tick the Correct Answers
Competition closes at 8 pm, August 22, '97

1. The current New Zealand cricket captain is	Fleming	Germon	Thompson
2. Brazilian star Ronaldo's new Italian club is	AC Milan	Inter Milan	Juventus
3. Who scored the golden goal for Abahani against Mohammedan in this year's Federation Cup semifinal?	Mizan	Zakir	Tipu
4. Who is the coach of Kenyan national cricket team?	Patil	Amarnath	Wadekar
5. The 100 metres world record holder is	Greene	Bailey	Fredericks

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

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Schools chess
Sports Reporter

Forty five players were leading the 12th Bata schools chess tournament table at the end of the second round at the NSC chess room yesterday. Mohammad Javed, Ruhul Islam Bobby, Sabir Ahmed, Yanor Rahman Royal, Mehdi Hasan, Sadequul Islam, Ibrahim Hossain were among the notable winners to move into the third round with full two points. The third round will begin today at 3 pm.

BOOST WHIZZ KID-75 winner

Tariful Haque
MGB High School
(Remember to bring your ID card and one passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7.30 pm on August 13.)

WHIZZ KID-75 correct answers

1. Who is the soccer coach of AC Milan?
Ans: Capello
2. Who lifted the Legg Mason Classic tennis title this year?
Ans: Chang
3. Which is the new club of Roberto Baggio?
Ans: Bologna
4. Who won the Ali Sports 7th schools kabaddi title?
Ans: Rifles
5. Who scored the first hat-trick in this year's Federation Cup football?
Ans: Sohag

Jones may take a break

LEDYARD, Connecticut, Aug 8: Roy Jones' rematch with Montell Griffin might be his last fight for some time and also his last under the guidance of attorneys Fred and Stanley Levin, his longtime advisors, reports AP.

"I have a feeling Roy probably is going to announce a sabbatical," Fred Levin said Thursday, several hours before the WBC light heavyweight title was to be decided.

Earlier in the day, Jones countered published reports that he was going to break from the Levin brothers.

"I never said Stanley and Fred were out," Jones said in a statement released by publicist Greg Fritz. "Nobody has been fired. I expect our team to stay together in the future."

Jones was to challenge Griffin for the title in a pay-per-view match at Foxwoods Casino Resort.

Final Test starts today

COLOMBO, Aug 8: Sachin Tendulkar's India, hampered for a world record score by Sri Lanka two days ago, are praying for a bowler-friendly wicket when the final Test opens on Saturday, reports AFP.

Tendulkar slammed the dead track in the drawn first Test at the Premadasa Stadium where Sri Lanka amassed 952 for six, saying such wickets could kill Test cricket.

The 24-year-old skipper may have his prayers answered at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC), the venue of the second match, where the hard, greenish wicket has traditionally favoured seamers.

It was on the same wicket that India reduced arch-rivals Pakistan to 30 for five in the Asia Cup last month before rain halted the match.

"This one certainly looks better than the wicket for the first Test, it is definitely more result-oriented," said Tendulkar.

His bigger worry will be to find bowlers to contain the Sri Lankan batting machinery led by opener Sanath Jayasuriya, who blasted a monumental 340 in the first Test.

Frontline spinners Anil Kumble (1-223), Rajesh Chauhan (1-276) and Nilesh Kulkarni (1-195) toiled in vain on the unresponsive wicket, while seamers Venkatesh Prasad and Abey Kuruvilla did not even get a wicket.

India, who beat Sri Lanka in their last Test at the SSC in 1993 with a three-man spin attack which included Kumble and Chauhan, are undecided whether to blood debutant seamer Debashish Mohanty.

"We may stick with three spinners if the grass is removed before the toss," coach Madan Lal said. "But if the grass stays,

playing a third seamer will be a good idea."

The bowlers are raring to go," Tendulkar added. "What happened in the first Test does not matter because the spinners did not have a chance. This one could be different."

The Sri Lankans, meanwhile, are set to drop left-arm spinner Jayantha Silva who went for 122 runs in 39 overs in



ARJUNA RANATUNGA

the first Test without taking a wicket.

But they will also wait till Saturday morning to decide between a third seamer in Sajewea de Silva or another spinner Kumara Dharmasena.

Sri Lankan manager Duleep Mendis played down his team's batting success at the Premadasa Stadium, saying the World Cup champions still needed to work on their bowling to win Test matches.

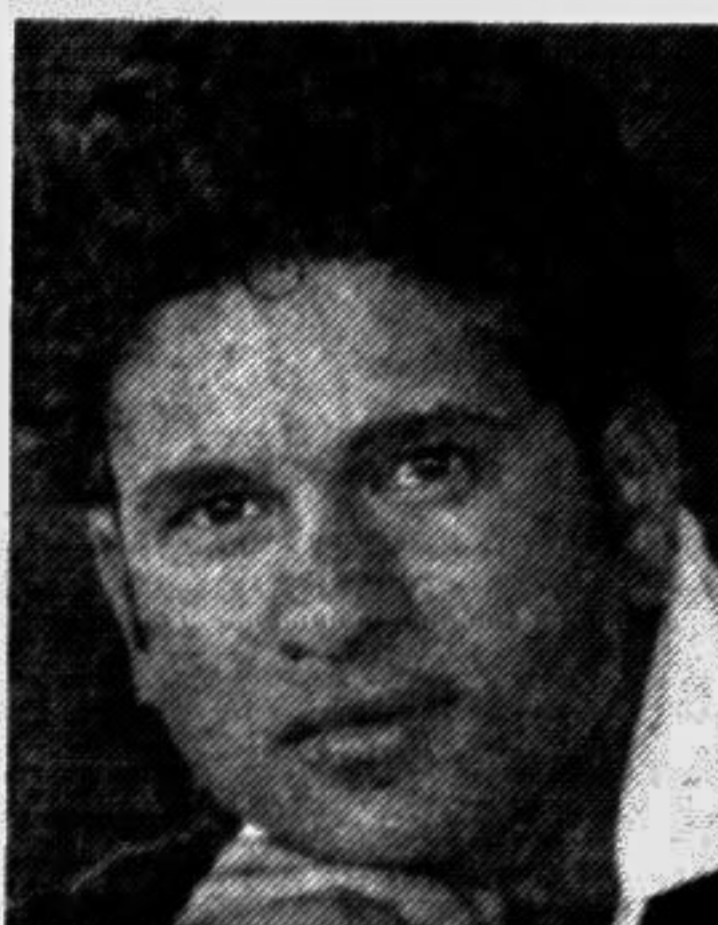
"The batting is settled, but we are looking for the right combination in spin bowling that can win Tests for us," he said.

"Muttiah Muralitharan is one of the best off-spinners in the game, but we still do not have a good left-arm or leg-spinner."

Mendis said Sri Lanka, who aim to become the best Test-playing nation by the year 2000, will not hesitate to take risk in order to win the short series.

"We have beaten Indians just once, way back in 1985, and lost more, so this is a good time to improve that record," he said. "It can be done on this wicket."

Sri Lanka have won just



SACHIN TENDULKAR

nine of their 75 matches since being granted Test status in 1981, six of them at home.

TEAMS

INDIA (from): Sachin Tendulkar (capt), Navjot Sidhu, Nayan, Mongia, Rahul Dravid, Mohamud, Azharuddin, Saurav Ganguly, Anil Kumble, Rajesh Chauhan, Nilesh Kulkarni, Abey Kuruvilla, Venkatesh Prasad, Debashish Mohanty.

SRI LANKA (from): Arjuna Ranatunga (capt), Sanath Jayasuriya, Marvan Atapattu, Roshan Mahanama, Aravinda de Silva, Mahela Jayawardena, Ramesh Kaluwitharana, Chaminda Vaas, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Sajewea de Silva, Muttiah Muralitharan, Kumara Dharmasena.



Scene from the 12th Bata schools chess tournament at the NSC chess room yesterday. — Star photo

Lessons from Asia Cup

M Ashiq
The sixth Asia Cup cricket tournament in Sri Lanka is now history. And the charm of history is this leaves both positive and negative lessons. So without much ado, if we raise the question how have our cricketers fared, almost everyone will describe it as quite disappointing. Some would say that the myth of our cricket has finally fallen apart. Others would remark that euphoria of ICC success has finally died down. But if the question is raised, have we really been a loser in any way? Perhaps the answer will not be as uniform as the first one. In my opinion Bangladesh didn't lose anything at all.

Those who believed that Bangladesh could outrun any of the three Asian giants were certainly living in a fools' paradise. Again those who expected us to have, at least, a dignified defeat against the heavyweights were not living in hell either. We have failed to hit even the

second option. At least, it can be said that this performance has not been redeeming and reassuring.

The overall feeling of our cricket-loving nation appears to be terribly depressive. A deep sense of humiliation and frustration has gripped it. The pain and anguish of being treated as perpetual underdogs in almost every sport is now so pervasive that people have resigned themselves to the inexplicable destiny. There is no hope; there is no vision; there is no dream.

Another question we constantly bear in our minds is if we are destined to bask in the glory of mediocrity while other nations remain in lofty standing. Is it the exclusive preserve of other nations to hold and enjoy special status while we will continue to languish. In fact, what our people do not want to see anymore after a quarter of a century of their nationhood is defeat, humiliation and patronising attitude of other nations towards us, be it in sport or in any other arena of our national life. They do not want to compromise the slightest bit of dignity with other nations whether it is developed or developing. This is perhaps the

only clear reading we can deduce from the pulse of our common people. Only God knows when we will get rid of this average syndrome.

While cricket organisers and players might have their own sound, sensible and critical understanding of the factors contributing to our debacle but the same can not be expected of the cricket enthusiasts in general or of even promoters in different disciplines. Admittedly, some of those organisers do not have the moral courage to appreciate the real problems. The drawbacks that have been highlighted in the media are: (i) Substandard batting, bowling and fielding (ii) Lack of match temperament (iii) Dependency on most senior players (iv) Lack of total physical fitness (v) absence of team spirit.

So, what will be the next course of action? We cannot afford to sit back and brood over our failure. Qualification for the 1999 World Cup is our biggest source of inspiration. To achieve success in England in two years let us now be serious and sincere.

(The writer is a former national hockey player.)



Auxerre's Alain Goma (R) takes control of the ball from Paris Saint Germain's Marco Simone (C) during their First Division league match in Auxerre, France on August 7. PSG won 3-2. — AFP/UNB photo

Mahanagari Cup soccer from Aug 17

Sports Reporter

The Mahanagari Cup football tournament, a new version of the former DMFA Cup, will begin at the Mirpur Stadium on August 17 under the auspices of Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC).

Twenty Senior Division clubs will be featuring in the meet of which 16 teams, split into four groups, will play in the preliminary knock-out phase for four qualifying spots to reach second round.

Abahani Krira Chakra, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra and Brothers Union, the four semifinalists of the last DMFA Cup in 1995, have been slated in the second round.

According to a DMFLC official yesterday, groupings and the fixture have already been drafted and will be finalised soon.

2 Uzbek booters for AKC

Sports Reporter

Two Uzbekistani footballers Haly Yulin Rifad and Matvie Anatoly arrived in the city yesterday to play for Federation Cup champions Abahani Krira Chakra.

The Uzbeks who represented their country in last year's Olympic Games in Atlanta, will play in the Mahanagari Cup.

Madan to get the sack

NEW DELHI, Aug 8: Indian cricket coach Madan Lal could be facing the sack after falling out with his players, reports AFP.

Sources within the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which meets in Calcutta at the weekend, confirmed that Lal's immediate future was under scrutiny.

Lal, a former Indian international, was appointed in August last year until September 1997.

He caused a furor within his own squad last month when he criticised his own side before their defeat to Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup final.

A report in the Indian Express last week predicted: "The sack could welcome at the end of the Sri Lankan tour, with Anshuman Gaekwad taking over as coach."

The newspaper said the Indian players had decided on a "collective and silent protest" and would only talk to Lal about professional matters.

Gaekwad, a former team-mate of Madan Lal, played for India between 1974-1984 as an opening batsman. He is currently India's junior coach.

Tendulkar's team is due to play a one-day series against Pakistan in Toronto in September.

The BCCI will also discuss a new formula for rotating Test venues at the weekend, appoint an administrative manager for Toronto and decide Sri Lanka's itinerary in India in November.

BCCSL's plea

COLOMBO, Aug 8: The Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) has urged the International Cricket Council (ICC) to regulate the international calendar of Test-playing nations in such a way that each team gets equal opportunities to play.

Dhammika Ranatunga, chief executive of the BCCSL, told PTI here yesterday that "We had to make the request as teams like Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and New Zealand due to commercial viability do not get to play much of Test cricket as they are not invited regularly by the biggies."

"One does not blame the big nations for failing to invite us since the commercial order is such, but we are not in favour of money dictating even the welfare of the game," said Ranatunga, who is former Test cricketer himself and the elder brother of Arjuna Ranatunga.

"We have submitted a paper to the ICC in June in which we have pledged that the international schedule of Test teams, should be planned in a way which gives everyone equal opportunity to play against other," said Ranatunga.

Life's little irony!

SYDNEY, Aug 8: Former sprinter Raelene Boyle will auction her 1972 Olympic silver medal to help pay her chemotherapy bills as she fights breast cancer, reports AP.

Boyle intends to auction the silver medal she won in the 100 metres at the Munich Olympics, and the Australian flag she carried at the Montreal Games in 1976, at a testimonial dinner on Sept. 19.

The 46-year-old needs the money for medical and living expenses in her battle against breast cancer.

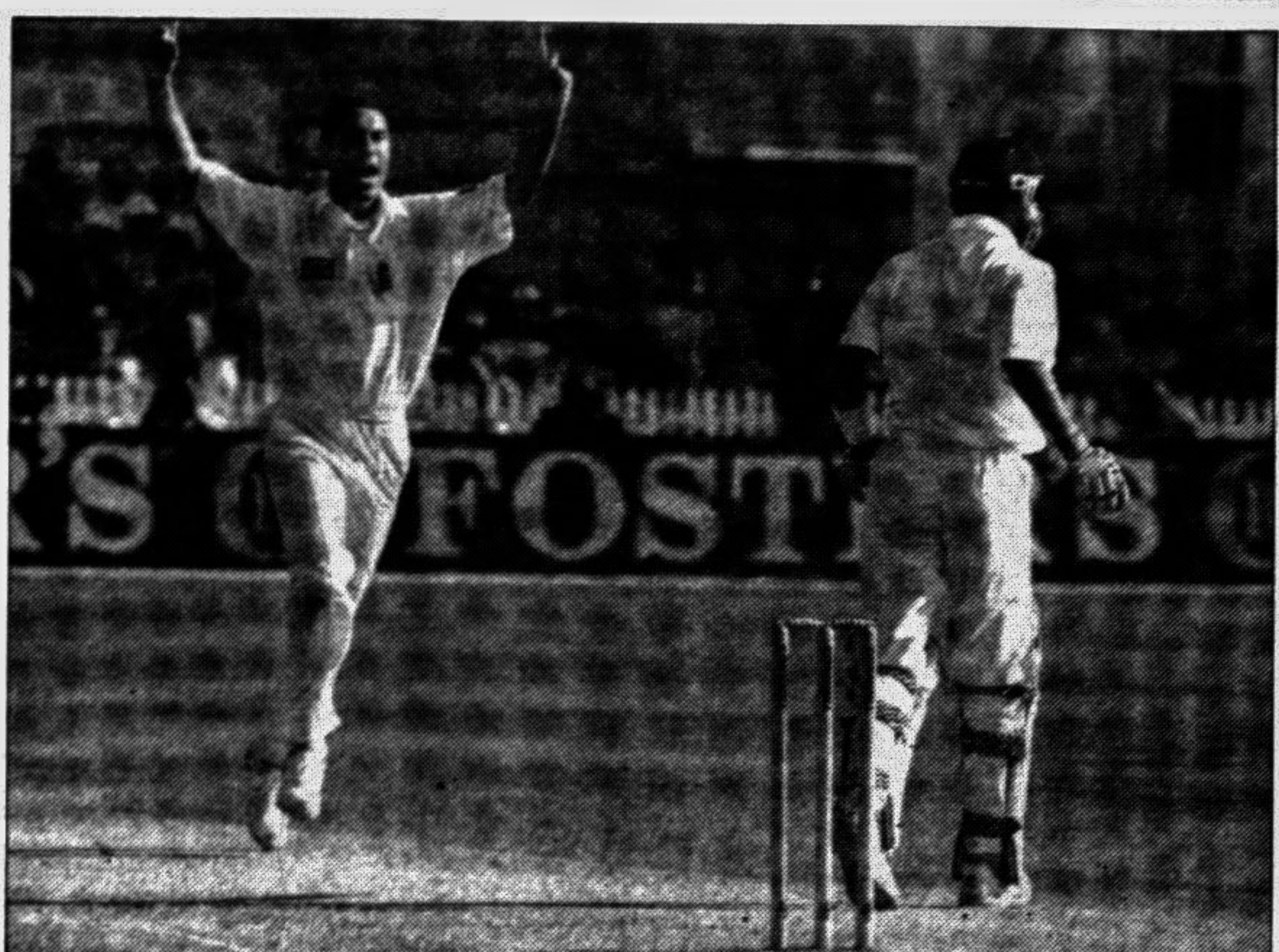
Boyle said Friday she had received three separate offers of US \$15,000 for the medal with all three sources offering to let her keep it.

"It would be great if somebody was to buy the medal and flag and then donate them back to me," Boyle said.

"But I feel a little bit like I'd be cheating the system."

"As long as they go to someone who cherishes them as much as I do and is as proud of them as I am, then I'll have no worries."

Boyle said she wanted to keep the belongings if she could, but intended to go ahead with the auction.



England debutant Ben Hollis (L) raises his arms after claiming his maiden Test wicket by dismissing Greg Blewett of Australia on the first day of the fifth Test at Trent Bridge on August 7. — AFP/UNB photo

England wrest initiative

TRENT BRIDGE, England, Aug 8: England medium pacemen spearheaded by Devon Malcolm did a short work on the

(9) in quick succession. Malcolm had Ian Healy and Shane Warne caught in the slips.

Malcolm, forced Healy (16) to edge a catch to Adam Hollis at second slip and seven balls later had Warne (0) caught by Graham Thorpe at first slip.

Australia had crashed from being 311 for three to 363 for seven inside 11 overs.

Waugh and Paul Reiffel appeared to resurrect the innings with a 23-run stand, but Malcolm had Waugh beaten for pace as he uprooted the off stump.

By the time England bowlers pulled their act together on the second morning, the Ashes were beyond the home side's reach.

Mark Taylor's men need only a draw to retain the Ashes for the fifth time in a row, never achieved by any other Australian team in the 120-year Ashes history.

Steve Waugh's half century was the five of the innings, including one by Taylor, who recovered from lean spell with the bat top score with a fine 76 on the first day.

The Australian captain's innings came after scores of one, two, one and nought since his century in the first Test.

He became only the sixth Australian to pass 6,000 runs in Test cricket.

Steve, refused to be intimidated by the demise of his overnight partner and twin brother Mark, who was dismissed for 68, his highest score in four Tests.

He hit 13 boundaries, seven of them in the 57 balls faced in the morning. He also became the 14th Australian to complete 2000 Test runs against England in his 31st game.

Mark Waugh was too slow in playing forward to Caddick (two for 91), and was trapped leg before wicket in the fifth over of the morning.

Mark lasted just 17 minutes and a dozen deliveries as he added eight runs to an

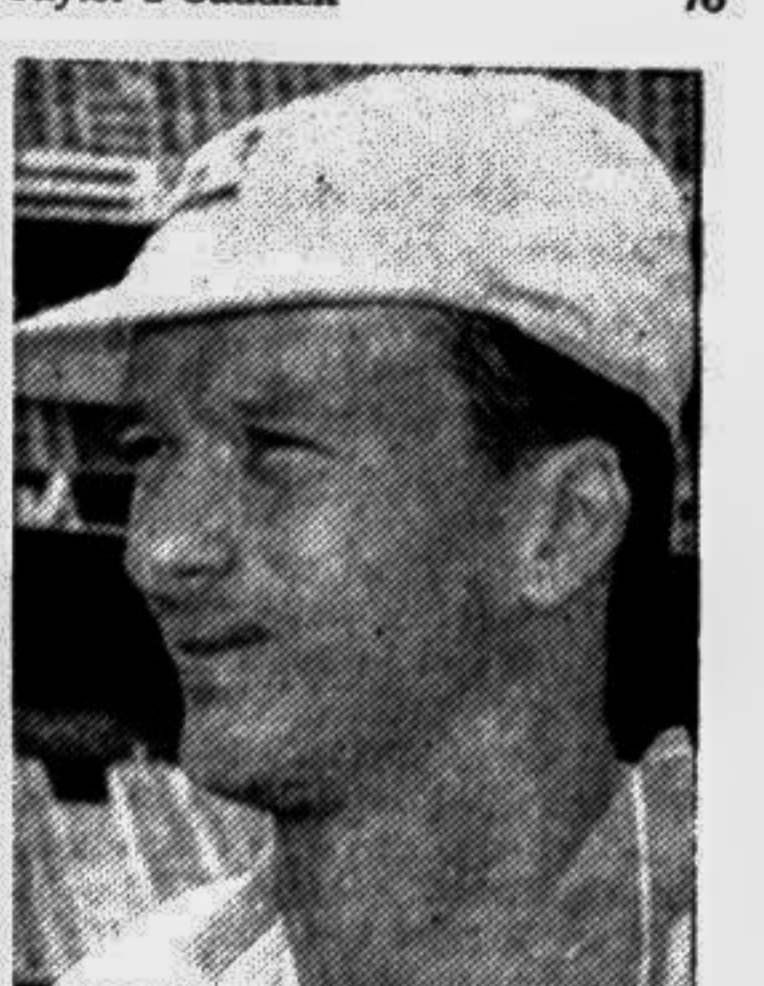
overnight 60.

Fourth Test centurian Ricky Ponting didn't last too long as he played on to Healy (two for 81) three overs later.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at lunch on the second day of the fifth cricket Test between Australia and England at Trent Bridge on Friday.

AUSTRALIAN: First innings (overnight 302 for three)
Elliott c Stewart b Headley 69
Taylor b Caddick 76



S WAUGH...2000 Ashes runs

Blewett c Stewart b B Hollis	50
M Waugh lbw b Caddick	68
S Waugh b Malcolm	75
Ponting b Headley	9
Healy c A Hollis b Malcolm	16
Warne c Thorpe b Malcolm	0
Reiffel not out	19
Gillespie not out	9
Extras (lb-9, nb-4, w-1)	14
Total (for eight wickets)	405
Fall of wicket: 1-117; 2-160; 3-225; 4-311; 5-325; 6-355; 7-363; 8-386	

To bat: Glenn McGrath.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Malcolm	25	4	100	3
Headley	28	7	81	2
Caddick	27	4	91	2
B Hollis	10	1	57	1
Croft	19	7	43	0
A Hollis	7	0	24	0

Man United, team to beat

LONDON, Aug 8: Manchester United kick off the defence of their Premiership crown with a trip to Tottenham Hotspur this weekend at the start of what looks set to be one of the tightest championship races for years, reports AFP.

United's domination of English football in the 1990s continued last season when they clinched their fourth title in five years.

But with Liverpool, Newcastle, Arsenal and Chelsea all investing heavily and shrewdly in new players over the summer United will have to find an extra gear to keep ahead of their closest rivals.

The bookmakers have installed Alex Ferguson's side as clear 5-4 favourites to retain their title despite the loss of captain Eric Cantona, who shocked his legion of adoring

fans by retiring at the end of last season.

The inspirational Frenchman has been replaced by England striker Teddy Sheringham, but doubts remain about United's defence after the club's failure to sign Brazilian Celso Silva and Frenchman Marcel Desailly.

The first test for the champions comes at White Hart Lane on Sunday against a Tottenham side, boosted by the arrivals of forwards David Ginola and Les Ferdinand from Newcastle.

The Anfield club, who are away to Wimbledon, have since beefed up their midfield with the acquisition of the combative Paul Ince (from Inter Milan) and Oyvind Leonhansen (Wimbledon) whose arrivals could be decisive.

Kenny Dalglish's Newcastle start their campaign at home to Sheffield Wednesday still reeling from the devastating loss of England captain Alan Shearer whose ankle injury threatens to rule him out for much of the season.

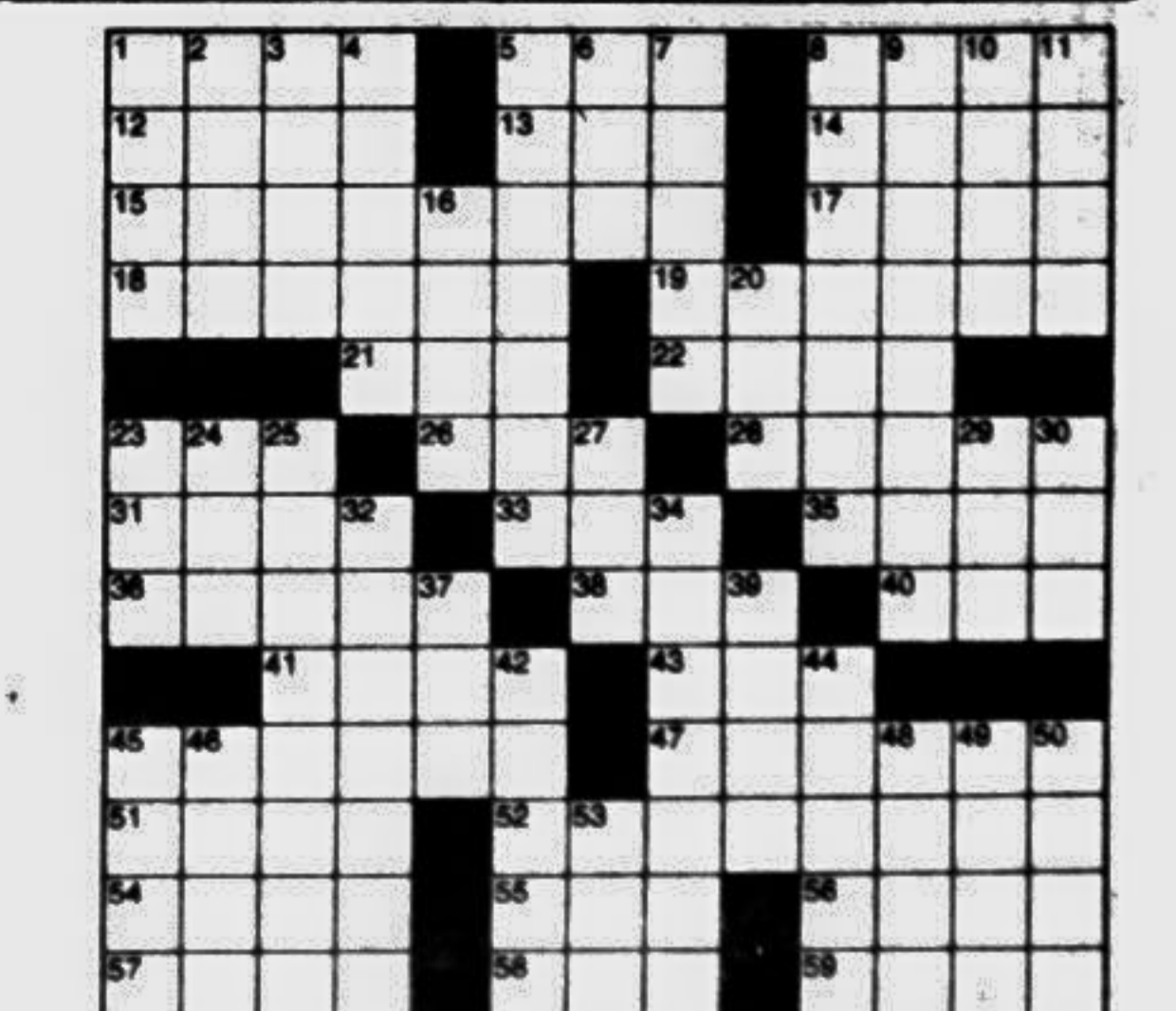
The departure of Ferdinand and Ginola has reduced their attacking options, but in Colombian Faustino Asprilla, veteran Peter Beardsley, winger Keith Gillespie and newboy Jon Tomasson, they remain a threat.

Arsenal, who play relegation candidates Coventry at High-bury on Monday, have spent more money on new players than any other Premiership club.

The arrival of so many new faces — most of them French but including Dutch winger Marc Overmars — has created a sense of excitement mixed with uncertainty at the north London club.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Meean
 - 5 Turn right
 - 8 Fraud
 - 12 Image
 - 13 Angler's
 - 14 Mah-jongg
 - 15 Abandon
 - 17 Collage
 - 18 Happened
 - 19 Puts in
 - 21 "Cool, dude!"
 - 22 Ershwile
 - 23 Make like
 - 24 Motherly
 - 25 Move along
 - 31 "Exodus"
 - 33 Aurora's
 - 35 Oklahoma
 - 36 Reach
 - 38 Article in
- DOWN**
- 2 Quilt
 - 3 Rio de
 - 4 Ball
 - 6 "Truly"
 - 7 singer
 - 9 Lionel
 - 10 Shepard's
 - 11 "of the Mind"
 - 16 Enchant
 - 18 "Candid"
 - 20 Prior to
 - 24 "Born Free"
 - 26 heroine
 - 27 Easter
 - 28 Bunny's
 - 29 Seeking
 - 30 1946 victor
 - 32 Chicago
 - 33 Tribune
 - 34 Yellowish
 - 35 shade
 - 36 Protected
 - 37 Advertisement
 - 38 Hawaiian
 - 39 city
 - 40 Not
 - 41 many
 - 42 words
 - 43 "Zounds!"
 - 44 Dander



CRYPTOKUIP

UPM NSVGHVWVRUCBX
GCWRUMB FWVGHX HWDMO

US FGBMCO WU SR UPWND
Yesterday's Cryptokuip: DO YOU THINK A NE-
VOUS BANK ROBBER MIGHT GET VERY EASILY
ALARMED?

Today's Cryptokuip clue: D equals K
The Cryptokuip 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.