

SPORTS TALK



Alec Stewart
(England cricket captain)
"I have no magic wand. I cannot change things overnight."
After being named as captain.

FA accused of Wembley 'hijack'



LONDON, July 21 (The Guardian/Internet): John Duncan reveals how Britain's new national stadium could be bought for just £1 and an interest-free Lottery loan Tuesday.

The Football Association is on the verge of a multi-million-pound "hijack" of National Lottery funds to build the new national stadium, according to the local Wembley MP.

Documents seen by the Guardian support the view of Barry Gardiner, MP for Brent North, that the stadium at Wembley will ultimately become FA property rather than belong to the nation despite £120 million of public money going towards the £320 million building costs.

"The FA have hijacked the National Stadium project," said Gardiner. "They have hijacked it from the British public who

interest", according to the Grant Agreement Status Report.

That means the FA has effectively negotiated an interest-free loan from Lottery funds to build a stadium which it, rather than a publicly accountable body, will run. The project was intended to avoid such an eventuality.

"The British public will be furious to find out that they are not getting a national stadium at all," said Gardiner, "that what they are doing is helping the FA to fund building a stadium for themselves with an interest-free loan. The whole point of a national stadium is public accountability, public controls, not a stadium controlled by an unaccountable body."

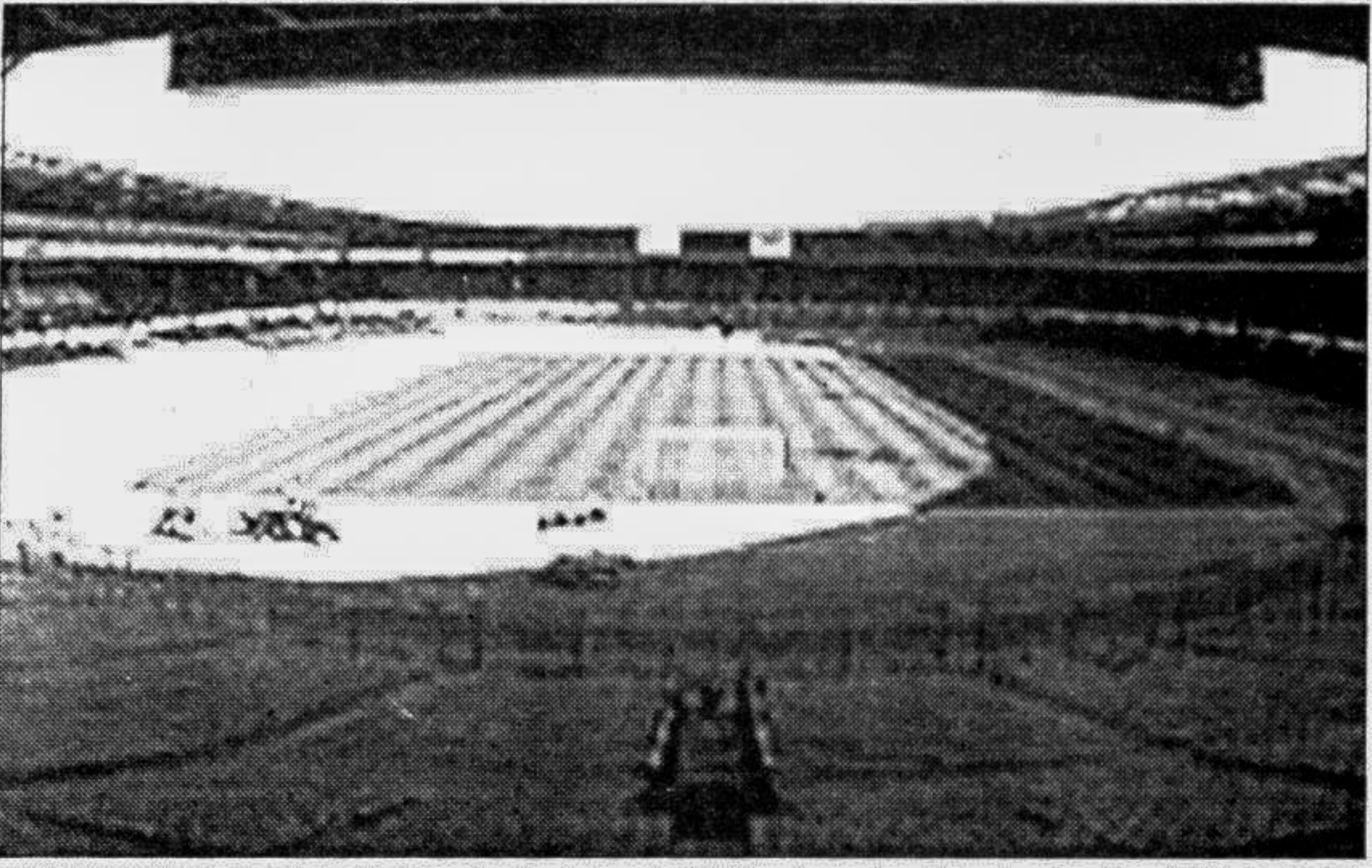
"We've already had that with Wembley plc and look what a mess the place got into. The public deserve a national stadium which sets prices and access in the public interest, not

the risk we need a certain degree of freedom. The country can't have it both ways: it wants the FA to put up its money but then won't allow them to take a position which is commercially based.

"Once the thing is built it will have the ability to stage the athletics element of the Olympics, and there will be 20-year contracts with rugby league, athletics and football and various other obligations. I don't understand how they could possibly operate the stadium in a way which wasn't in the public interest."

The English Sports Council's chief executive Derek Casey also defended the deal. "The ESC grant and conditions, direct and indirect, will be geared towards ensuring that the public's interest in the national stadium is safeguarded," he said.

"The ESC has the option to ask for enhanced repayment,



think that when they buy their Lottery ticket they are at least helping the nation to buy a national stadium that will belong to the people of this country in perpetuity. But it won't."

That view is backed by a secret Grant Agreement Status Report, which details the state of negotiations between the FA and the Sports Council and indicates that the parties are agreed that the grant must be repaid in the event of a breach of grant conditions, and that in the event of such a breach the FA has the right to buy the freehold of the stadium for just £1. This could happen at any time during the next 125 years.

The FA would have to repay the £120 million Lottery money which the Sports Council is putting into the project but in-credibly, as things stand, it would be charged no interest on this sum - no indexation, no

in the interest of filling the coffers of the FA."

Gardiner's fears are shared by the body charged with safeguarding the public interest in the stadium, the English National Stadium Trust. The Guardian has learned that, in a letter to the Sports Council, a majority of trustees threatened to resign two weeks ago if their concerns over the FA's actions were not met.

However, Bob Stubbs, chief executive of the ENST and soon to become the chief executive of Devco, the wholly owned FA subsidiary which will develop the stadium, defended the FA Sunday.

"If the FA are putting down the £200 million risk money they have to protect their position," said Stubbs.

"They have to say, 'Look, we don't know what's going to happen but because we're exposed to

but also has the ability to insist on fulfilment of their original contract, even on repayment, so guaranteeing use of the national stadium for the three sports for 20 years."

Red Star turns to Brazilians

BELGRADE, July 21: Former European champions Crvena Zvezda (Red Star) Belgrade have signed two Brazilian players in a bid to halt falling attendances.

Striker Dos Santos Williams Bartolomeo, 25, and left back Adilson Dos Santos, 22, have signed three-year contracts for undisclosed sums, the club told Reuters.

Williams, who comes from Perecinense (Goiana), and Dos Santos, from Apucarana, have said they hope joining Zvezda will give them the chance to play in European club competitions.

Their first such appearance will be against Kilkenny Pot in a UEFA Cup first qualifying round second-leg match in Belgrade on July 29.

The two, Zvezda's first Brazilian players, are part of a trio who have been training with the club for more than a month, the third, Fumasa, has not been signed.

Faced with a steady drain of local talent to top European sides, Yugoslav club attendances have plunged Zvezda's 1997-98 season aggregate barely topped the 70,000 capacity of their stadium.

Middlesex lose initiative

LONDON, July 21: Middlesex lost top spot in the English Sunday League when they were beaten by one run by Surrey at Guildford, reports Reuters.

Replying to Surrey's 40-over total of 223 for nine, Middlesex appeared well placed for victory after Justin Langer's 60 and 40 by Keith Dutch.

But England pace bowler Angus Fraser failed to score off the final ball of the match, giving Surrey their first league win of the summer.

Stuart Law's fifth Sunday century enabled Essex, who had been level on 28 points with Middlesex and Warwickshire, to beat Kent by 30 runs at Southend.

The Australian hit 126 out of Essex's 257 for seven. Kent's 19-year-old opener Robert Key made 68 in Kent's reply but they were all out for 229 with seven balls remaining.

Yorkshire lost six wickets for 12 runs after looking set for an easy victory over Nottinghamshire at Scarborough.

Notts made 168 for seven, captain Paul Johnson hitting 85 not out, after rain reduced the game to 33 overs, further showers reduced it to 21 overs.

Castle Cup football

MAPUTI, July 21: Mozambique snatched a late goal to draw 1-1 with Angola in a lively Castle Cup Southern Africa Championship match at Machava Stadium here Sunday, reports AFP.

Minhas gave the visiting Black Panthers a 51st-minute lead and Arnaldo Ouana levelled after 85 minutes following sloppy defending by Aurelio Soares.

Angola needed a victory to have a realistic chance of overtaking leaders Zimbabwe in the race for the 70,000-dollar first prize in a competition won by Zambia last year.

Steve keeps his word

CALCUTTA, July 21: Australian one-day cricket skipper Steve Waugh kept a pledge here Monday by returning to India to help a home for children of leprosy victims, organisers said, reports AFP.

Waugh, one of the world's top all-rounders, visited the privately-run home in the Calcutta suburb of Barrackpore and spent the afternoon with the children.

Organisers said Waugh was drawn to the home after hearing about it during Australia's tour of India earlier this year and had pledged to help.

He was due to host a charity dinner today and auction cricket memorabilia, including a bat autographed by the Australian team, to raise funds.

Leprosy victims, mostly poor people, are still treated as outcasts in most parts of India.

SA, Derby draw

DERBY, England, July 21: A century by Derbyshire opener Michael Slater was the only notable performance at the Racecourse ground on Monday as the English county and South Africa grounded out a draw in their three-day match, reports Reuters.

Derbyshire finished a long, tedious day on 337 for four in their second innings.

The homeside decided to bat all day after South Africa had extended their first innings until 16 overs before the close of the second day.

May, who is 27 in two days time, took advantage of the pressure-free third day to compile his third first class century.

The stocky right hander required 201 deliveries in three hours and 54 minutes to reach 101 but his celebrations were short-lived when the next delivery from Makhaya Ntini found the outside edge and was caught by wicket keeper Mark Boucher.

Earlier Australian Test opener Michael Slater scored 63, which, combined with his first innings 185, earned him the player of the match award.

South Africa travelled to Nottingham immediately after the match to begin preparations for the fourth Test against England at Trent Bridge which begins on Thursday.

The tourists discovered on Monday that all-arounder Lance Klusener will take no further part in the tour.

Klusener, who returned to South Africa on Friday, was told that he requires surgery for tendinitis and will not play again until October.

'Shearer going nowhere'

NEWCASTLE, England, July 21: Newcastle said today that skipper Alan Shearer is not for sale at any price, despite persistent reports linking the England star to Juventus, Barcelona and Inter Milan, reports AFP.

Manager Kenny Dalglish insisted Shearer was happy to stay at St James' Park and would be with the club for the big kick off on August 15.

Laughing off rumours that his star player might be on his way, Dalglish said: "There is nothing to reassure our fans about - it's just garbage."

The club's chief executive Freddie Fletcher also stressed that Shearer was staying and that he would not sanction a move even for 25 million pounds.

"We have received no offers and no inquiries. If anybody did make an offer they would be wasting their time. Even if someone offered 25 million, we would say no way," Fletcher said.

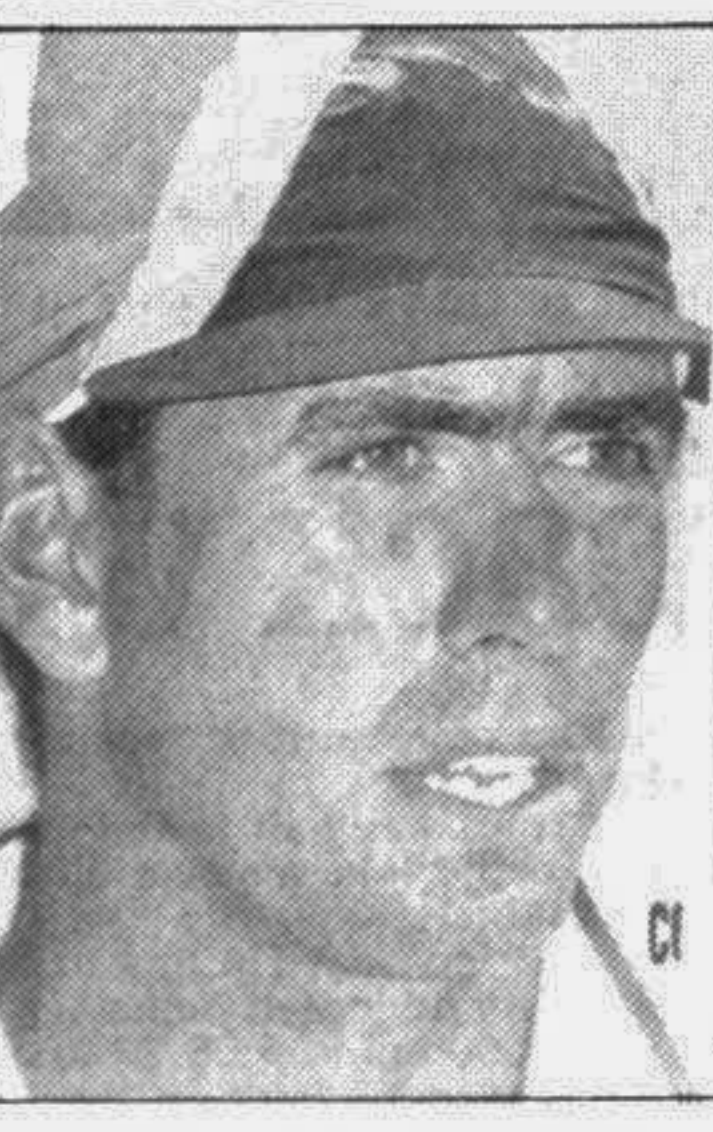
Shearer, who joined his home-town club two years ago for 15 million from Blackburn, has had a string of injury problems since but is now back to full fitness.



THE OTHER SIDE OF STEVE WAUGH: Australia's star batsman Steve Waugh laying the foundation stone of a home for minor girls affected by leprosy at Kathalia, Calcutta on July 21. Waugh is in India on a fund-raising mission. — AP photo

THE CRONJE FILE

South Africa cricket captain Hansie Cronje is having a very happy time with the willow recently. Just two days before he hammered his highest first class score (195) against Derbyshire. Gareth A Davies of The Electronic Telegraph took on the gritty South African cricket on July 20.



Earliest sporting memory
Watching my dad, Evie, playing cricket at the Ramblers in Bloemfontein for Free State. He was a terrific sportsman who also played tennis and rugby for Free State.

Sports played
At school, my brother Frans and I tried our hand at most sports: tennis, rugby, cricket and distance running, 10km, 21 km and marathons. I enjoyed a round of golf, or squash, but that was more social. I played Free State schools and under-20 rugby with the likes of Pieter Muller, Brendan Venter and Ruben Kruger. I played at No 8 but I wasn't going to go a long way in the sport. Also, the fact that I was doing quite well at cricket made me realise that it would provide a bigger and brighter future.

Sports watched
Any sport where top players are competing. If it is basketball, I wouldn't mind watching the Chicago Bulls, or if it's golf, Ernie Els, Tiger Woods or Colin Montgomerie. I watch most sports.

Why did you decide on a life in sport?
That's a difficult one because I never really decided on it. It happened automatically. I went to university to do a Bachelors degree in commerce from 1988-1991. During that time I played provincial cricket for Free State. It was a part-time job but it paid enough to get me through university without having to work. South Africa were re-

admitted into international cricket at the end of 1991 and I was fortunate enough to join them early in 1992. So I never really had a day of work in my life.

Most bizarre sporting experience
A lot of funny things have happened. The most recent was listening to 80,000 people at the Melbourne Cricket Ground shouting "Symcox is a ****". Another one was when David Callaghan was fielding wearing Brian McMillan's trousers. He dived for a ball, picked it up, and the trousers were around his ankles. He couldn't decide what to do first - throw the ball back or pull up his trousers. The batsmen ended up running three when they should have got one.

Sporting mentors:
A number of people have played a big part. My dad, Johan Volsteed, who was my coach at school. Franklyn Stephenson, the professional at Free State when I was captain. Eddie Barlow, Allan Donald and the assistant coach on tour, Corrie Van Zyl.

Most memorable cricketing experience
Playing in your first Test match is always very special. In my case it was against the West Indies in 1992 in Barbados. It was also my worst day of cricket, because we ended up getting bowled out for 148 chasing 200 on the last day. At one point we needed 78 with eight wickets standing.

Question asked most often by the public
Kids often ask: "Who is the fastest bowler you have faced?"

... and the answer
Wasim Akram has bowled the quickest at me.

Biggest sporting regret
I don't really have any regrets. If I could have it all over again, I would do it exactly the same.

Favourite sporting location
There are so many good grounds. Wanderers in South Africa; the Gabba in Brisbane.

Biggest change you would like to see in the running of cricket.
I don't think there is too much to be changed. The administrators are doing a good job. But I'd like to see the introduction of a Test World Cup.

Sporting event you would pay the most to watch
My top three: Borg versus McEnroe at a Wimbledon final; South Africa against the All Blacks in the World Cup final of 1995, because I didn't see it. And a day at the Masters, watching Ernie Els beat Tiger Woods in a play-off.

... and to miss
I appreciate all different skills. But if I had to choose one, then it would be sailing.

How well is cricket covered in the media?
As well as it can be without America involved. If America did play international cricket, we would see how big the game could be.

Whose talent do you most envy?
Daryll Cullinan is a tremendously talented sportsman. Outside cricket, Pete Sampras can step up a gear when it really matters.

With whom would you least like to room on tour?
Jonny Rhodes. You never get any sleep because he's always coming in at 6 am.

French TV boom!

PARIS, July 21: Sales of television soared in France before the World Cup, with manufacturers recording a 39 per cent jump in TV purchases in April and May compared to the same time period a year ago, reports AP.

Most of the sales were for a second TV set, as 95 per cent of French homes already have one television, the Le Parisien daily reported on Tuesday.

TV purchasers seemed intent on upgrading their viewing possibilities, with many buyers snapping up TVs with Dolby systems or big screens, the newspaper reported.

The biggest seller, however, were televisions that combined a TV and video, Le Parisien said.

French television said earlier this month that record numbers of viewers had tuned into World Cup matches and that many of the spectators were women.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-99

✓ Tick the correct answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm on July 24, 1998

1 How many goals has Del Piero scored at France '98?
0 2 3

2 How many times have Uruguay won the World Cup?
Once Twice Thrice

3 Who was the highest scorer in Italia '90?
Liniker Schilacci Carniglia

4 Who scored highest number of goals for Holland in France '98?
Kluivert Davids Bergkamp

5 How many ODI centuries has Tendulkar scored so far?
17 18 19

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq
SOUTH'S AGGRESSIVE BID LED TO A GOOD SLAM CONTRACT (Hand # 47)

West ♠ S : XXX ♥ H : AXXX ♦ D : KQ10XX ♣ C : X	North (D) ♠ S : AX ♥ H : KJX ♦ D : X ♣ C : AKQXXXX	East ♠ S : J10XXX ♥ H : Q10XX ♦ D : X ♣ C : J10X
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BIDDING (Neither side vulnerable)

South (Sayeed)	West (Zaglu)	North (Mizan)	East (Mazumdar)
-	-	1D*	Pass
1NT**	2D	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	2S
2NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
5D	Double	6C	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* Artificial, 13-17 HCP
** Artificial, 10-12 HCP

With a solid Club suit and 17 HCP, North opened one Diamond (artificial) and South showed 10-12 HCP. West ventured 2D which was passed around to South who doubled. When West and North passed, East called 2S and South came up with 2NT. West was now confident that he did not have losers in Diamond and Spade suits. He therefore went to 6D when South showed one Ace. North's decision was influenced by rather strong bids by South.

THE PLAY

The slam hinged on the placement of the Ace of Heart. After clearing trumps, South threw a Heart on the Queen of Spades and led a Heart from dummy. As the Ace was rightly placed, the doubled contract was easily made.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Atlantic City hotel, for short

4 What quibblers split

9 Conclusion

12 Director Grosbard

13 "As You Like It"

14 Tall tale

15 Circus equipment

17 — out a living

18 Quilters' get-together

19 McCormick's invention

21 1988 Sean Penn movie

24 Symphony grp.

25 Sapporo sash

26 Pen

28 Disgrace

31 Booty

33 Bishopric

35 Oklahoma city

36 Cygnus' brightest star

target

58 Adorable

59 Curse

DOWN

1 Historic boy king

2 "When We Were Kings"

3 Moonshine vessel

4 Bigots, e.g.

5 Rap-sheet data

6 Berlin's "What'll —?"

7 Copy, for short

8 Villainous looks

9 Circus performers

10 "Just do it" company

11 Moose's kin

16 Showtime rival

20 Rue the run

21 It's pretty common

22 Reed instrument

23 Circus performer

27 Favorable vote

29 Swampy situation

30 Wield a blue pencil

32 Squad

34 The one that got away

37 Thin soups

39 Square

42 Quiver occupant

44 Cartoonist

45 Tennis star Steffi

46 Humdinger

50 Unoriginal one

51 Mischievous tyke

52 — Paulo

53 Cowboy nickname

Solution time: 27 min.

CON LASH HALF
ALE ISEE ABOU
PAR CHER PLAN
OFFTHEDEEPEND
HEN TOY
BEGUN WIN RPM
OLEG HIC WHOA
AFIT TAG WROTE
JON LIE
OFFANDRUNNING
MILK LUNG DOO
ALEE EDGE ONE
REDS SEER LOS

Yesterday's answer

CRYPTOQUIP

O D G D X B E W A J B E P B
P A Q F K D X V V A P J Q W V
K Q F G Q P V W S G F P B B S Q O ?
Saturday's Cryptoquip: I BELIEVE THE CLEVER DOCTOR CALLS HIS MANSION "BEDSIDE MANOR."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: F equals R

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.