

Chelsea get tough draw

LONDON, Sept 26 (Reuters/Internet): Chelsea earned a tough tie against league leaders Aston Villa on Saturday when FIFA president Sepp Blatter made the draw for the English League Cup.

Gianluca Vialli's multinational side, who beat Middlesbrough to lift the trophy at Wembley last season, will take on Villa in the second round at home at the end of October.

Middlesbrough also have a difficult task hosting Everton, while league champions Arsenal are away to Derby County, currently second in the table.

Manchester United drew a softer tie against first division Bury while Liverpool entertain second division Fulham, now run by their former star striker Kevin Keegan.

Second-division Northampton, who put out West Ham in the first round, host another premier league London side, Tottenham.

Ties, played on a single-match knockout basis for the first time, will take place in the week starting October 26.

Vogts' tips for Ribbeck

BONN, Sept 26 (Reuters/Internet): Former Germany head coach Berti Vogts has urged his successor, Erich Ribbeck, to look for new talents rather than relying on gifted but ageing stars such as Lothar Matthaeus.

"It would hurt me tremendously if extensive plans to promote young players, on which I had been working for years, were to gather dust in a drawer," Vogts told daily Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (WAZ) in an interview released on Saturday.

Ribbeck, who took over after Vogts resigned suddenly earlier this month, has said he will recall several members of Germany's old guard cast aside by his predecessor, most notably Matthaeus, the 37-year-old Bayern Munich libero.

Vogts, who had been under intense media pressure since his men bowed out to Croatia in a World Cup quarter-final in France last July, said Ribbeck should look for fresh players.

"Ribbeck must first of all qualify the team for the 2000 European championship," Vogts told WAZ. "I can understand that he's aiming at short-term success and therefore wants to rely on experienced players but he must not forget to promote young talents if he is to rebuild the team."

Ribbeck will unveil on Monday his squad for two Euro 2000 qualifiers away to Turkey on October 10 and Moldova four days later.

Cuba's ultimatum

GENEVA, Sept 26: World champion Cuba has given 20 days to find out its lost trophy as the women's volleyball World Championship is slated for November, the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) said in Lausanne on Friday, reports Xinhua.

Just one month before the World Championship to be started in Osaka, Japan on November 12, title-holders Cuba cannot find the trophy, said FIVB who has made an urgent appeal to the Cuban Volleyball Federation to find the solid silver cup in time.

Until Cuba does find the prize cup, FIVB has frozen its earnings from the international body, an estimated 300,000 US dollars.

In April when lots were drawn for the championship, Cuban Federation president arrived in Japan without the trophy, saying he had forgotten it but would forward it at a later date.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

A GOOD PLAY BY THE DECLARER

(Hand #104)

North		East	
♠ A J X	♥ 9 8 X	♠ K X X	♥ K Q J 8 7 X
♦ 10 9 X X	♣ X X X	♦ K J X	♣ 6
South		West	
♠ 10 9 7 6	♥ A X X	♠ Q 8 5	♥ 10
♦ Q 6 X	♣ K 8 7	♦ A 8 7	♣ A Q J 10 9 X

Bidding:

South	West	North	East
2 Clubs*	Pass	Pass	2 Hearts
Pass	2 No Trumps	Pass	4 Hearts
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

* Strong Club suit.

THE PLAY

South led from the top of the series, the Ten of Spades which was covered with the Queen. North won the trick with the Ace and returned the Jack. The declarer won the King, and played a small Heart toward the Ten in the dummy. He could not play the King of Hearts as he was afraid that an opponent could have four-card Hearts with Ace and Nine. South ducked. The declarer then thought of taking a Diamond finesse against Queen to come to the closed hand to play trumps. However, he abandoned the idea and opted for a superior play. He played the Ace of Clubs and on the Queen of Clubs he slapped his losing Spade when North played low. South won the trick but could not do any harm to the declarer. South played the Nine of Spades which was ruffed by the declarer with small trump. He then played the King of Hearts, South won the trick and played back another good Spade. The declarer was in control as he ruffed the Spade return, cleared the trumps and entered dummy with the Ace of Diamond. The losing Diamond was parked on the good Club.

Australians to be asked to appear at commission



MARK TAYLOR

KARACHI, Pakistan, Sept 26 (Reuters/Internet): Australian cricketers are to be asked to appear before a Pakistani judicial commission probing match-fixing allegations during their last visit four years ago.

Ali Sibtain Fazli, the Pakistan Cricket Board's lawyer, said on Saturday Australian team manager Steve Bernard would be requested to "allow his players, particularly Mark Waugh", to appear before the next hearing of the commission on October 3.

"They are being asked to appear because the judicial commission has decided to re-open the Salim Malik case," he said. When Australia toured Pakistan four years ago three of their players - Shane Warne, Tim May and Mark Waugh - accused Salim Malik of offering them a bribe to throw the Karachi test which Pakistan eventually won by one wicket.

Malik was initially exonerated of all charges but was stripped of the captaincy. However, an interim report released by the PCB three weeks ago recommended that Malik, Wasim Akram and Ijaz Ahmad should not be selected until the investigations were completed. Mark Waugh is the only one of the three players to have made the bribery allegations currently in Pakistan. Warne is sidelined after a shoulder operation and Tim May has retired. Skipper Mark Taylor is expected to be asked to appear before the judicial commission. "A recent report suggested

that Mark Taylor also knew about the offer (bribe)," said Fazli. "Therefore, his presence would also help the commission in reaching the bottom of this scandal."



MARK WAUGH

Sepp lays down the law



MARK TAYLOR

ZURICH, Sept 26: FIFA president Sepp Blatter warned on Friday that any clubs who sign up for the proposed privately-backed super league will be suspended, reports AFP.

Blatter, speaking after a FIFA executive meeting, stressed that the world governing body would take a tough line against any attempt to break up the family of football.

FIFA would ask the club's national soccer federation to suspend the team, thereby preventing them from playing in their national league or any continental cup competition.

The tough line was taken in a resolution by FIFA's executive after a two-day meeting here, saying that its 'principles of solidarity' are under direct attack by commercial companies with the agreement of certain prestigious clubs.

The super league, seen as a direct challenge to existing European competitions, has been proposed by media partners, a Milan-based consultancy, the company already held talks with many of Europe's leading clubs.

The proposals are to replace the three official cup competitions run by European governing body UEFA with a midweek

super league of 36 teams and a pro-cup with 96 clubs from 51 countries, starting in 2000-2001.

Blatter said: These entities, who are trying to enter the family of FIFA and take away the best and the most talented of our family, cannot be reconciled with the moral and ethical approach I have. "If someone in the family is unhappy, they have to say why and the senior members of the family have to ask them what's wrong. We don't want confrontation, we want to talk to our partners - the clubs, the league and the federation."

"We want to avoid a clash, but we don't want to be offside either. Some people in the executive said we must be strong and harsh and confirm the power of FIFA, others said we should consider how the situation reached this stage."

"I think we have to show we are in charge on football and that no abuses are coming in to damage it. But at the same time, we have to talk to our authorities of (our) competitors."

The main plank of the super league proposal is to take competition ownership away from UEFA and hand it over to the teams involved.

The new competitions, according to media partners, would generate around two bil-

lion dollars a year in television rights over the first six years, compared to 500 million dollars a year from UEFA's Champions' League, European Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup.

Blatter warned clubs tempted by the proposals: "If someone says they don't want to be in the family, they'll have to go into another organisation. But they won't take the advantage of being in the family with them."

Blatter is convinced that negotiation is the way ahead, but he reserved the right use his last resort of suspension.

"The last issue would be to suspend the national association that the club is in and the national association would then suspend the club. But I'm sure that solidarity will prevail and that everyone will come back to the family," he said.

FIFA's resolution, which will now be distributed worldwide, is a call upon the confederations and the national associations to ensure that their members comply with the statutes and other rules issued by FIFA.

Should any national federation fail to take action against super league clubs, the federation faces a suspension from FIFA, its national team would then be banned from international competition.

Lewis in no-win situation?



beat Lennox Lewis. Yet he wishes the WBC champion wasn't fighting Zeljko Mavrovic.

"Stylistically this is the worst fight for Lennox," Steward said. "Mavrovic is a very technical fighter."

It's the kind of style that can make an opponent look bad.

And Steward is concerned that if the power-punching Lewis is taken the full 12 rounds Saturday night against the relatively unknown Croatian, he will be criticised for not scoring a knockout.

On the other hand, Steward said, "If Lennox wins very early, people will say, who did he beat."

Lewis agrees. The unbeaten Mavrovic is not an opponent of choice. Lewis is making a mandatory defense against the WBC's No. 1-ranked contender.

The fight at the 5,000-seat tent at Mohegan Sun Casino will be televised by HBO. Mavrovic, the 29-year-old European champion, has fought only four times in the United States and not since 1995. He has a record of 27-0, with 22 knockouts, against mediocre opposition.

He has scored five straight technical knockouts dating to a 12-round decision over Christopher Bizot in defense of the European title April 26, 1996, in Germany.

Another minus for Mavrovic

could be that he hasn't fought since October 18. Lewis has fought twice since Oct. 4, and those two fights lasted less than six full rounds. But fighting is what keeps a boxer in fighting shape.

While Mavrovic has an impressive knockout record, Lewis does not expect him to engage in a slugfest.

It should be remembered, however, that Shannon Briggs, not a real big puncher, had Lewis reeling about the ring in the first round before Lewis stopped him in the fifth round March 28.

The only loss on Lewis, 33-1 record, with 27 knockouts, came when he got caught with hands low and was knocked down and stopped in the second round by Oliver McCall on September 24, 1994.

My main goal is not to allow him to capitalise on any mistakes I make," said the 6-foot-5 (2.88-metre) Lewis, who weighed in Friday at 243 pounds (109.4 kilograms). Mavrovic, 6-4 (2.84-metre), weighed 214 1-4 pounds (96.5 kilograms).



Lennox Lewis (R) and his challenger Zeljko Mavrovic pose after the weigh-in at Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut on September 25. — AFP photo

Di Canio floors referee after sending off

LONDON, Sept 26 (Reuters/Internet): Sheffield Wednesday striker Paolo di Canio floors referee Paul Alcock after being sent off for violent conduct against Arsenal in the English premier league on Saturday.

The Italian, who can expect a heavy sanction for his behaviour, angrily shoved the referee in the chest after being shown the red card in the 44th minute at Hillsborough, sending the surprised Alcock sprawling to the ground. Di Canio was sent off, followed by Arsenal's Martin Keown, for fighting in a mass brawl on the pitch. The match was 0-0 at the time.

Dutchman Wim Jonk and Arsenal's Frenchman Patrick Vieira, who was also booked, provided the spark when Jonk pulled Vieira's shirt as the Arsenal man went past him on the turn.

Vieira reacted angrily and Di Canio then became involved.

Gullit not after Flo

LONDON, Sept 26: Former Chelsea manager Ruud Gullit has revealed he has no intention of returning to his old club for players as he continues his revolution at Premiership Newcastle, reports AFP.

Reports this week suggested that Gullit might try to tempt Norwegian striker Tore Andre Flo, who has started just one of his side's seven matches this season, to travel north.

But Gullit who brought Flo to Stamford Bridge at the start of last season, said: "I am not interested in buying Tore. He's at Chelsea, and I'm not going to be involved in that."

"None of the speculation is true. I rate him as a very good player - that's why I brought him to Chelsea. But I will not go to Chelsea and ask if they will sell him."

Gullit added that he had no intention of trying to buy any of the current Chelsea squad. "I built that team and I don't want to be accused of demolishing it. That's why I won't go for players at Chelsea," he said.

Euro 2004

Hungary, Austria to bid jointly

BUDAPEST, Sept 26: Hungary has agreed to bid jointly with Austria to host the 2004 European Championship, local reports said on Friday, reports Xinhua.

The Hungarian cabinet voted on Thursday to support the joint bid as Prime Minister Viktor Orbán is a former junior league player, the Nemzeti sport daily said.

Earlier this month, economics minister Attila Chikan expressed doubts about financing the project, which is expected to cost between 15 billion and 20 billion forints (70 to 85 million US dollars).

The deadline for bid submissions is September 30 and UEFA is expected to announce the winner in July.

Other bidders for the championship finals are Spain, Portugal and Switzerland.

Davies very ill

LONDON, Sept 26: Kevin Davies, Blackburn Rovers' record 7.25 million pounds signing from Southampton was admitted to hospital on Friday after being struck down with a mysterious illness, reports AFP.

Roy Hodgson, manager of the English Premier League side, said Davies was "very ill" and out of football for the "foreseeable future."

Davies missed Blackburn's Premiership defeat by Chelsea on Monday with what the club believed was tonsillitis.

But his condition has deteriorated, and Hodgson said: "Kevin has gone into hospital. It's a throat infection of some sort or other, but he is not well at all. We will wait to see what the medical people say."



Arsenal's Martin Keown (2nd from right) clashes with Paolo di Canio of Sheffield Wednesday during their Premiership match yesterday. — Internet photo

Bordeaux keep on winning



UNDATED, Set 26: Bordeaux swept to their sixth win in seven games Friday.

Leading Rennes 4-0 to extend their lead at the top of the French First Division to four points, reports AP.

In the seventh round of the championship, Lyon drew 0-0 at Nancy to move second, level with Marseille, a 2-0 winner at Bastia on Thursday.

Bordeaux had little trouble disposing of Rennes to maintain their outstanding start to the season.

Striker Lilian Laslandes pressed his claim for a place in the national team in the 11th minute, profiting from lacklustre Rennes defending to score from seven metres.

Silvain Willord, another in-form Bordeaux striker, made the second in the 28th minute, carving open the visitors' defence before passing to 21-year-old Congolese midfielder Kiki Musampa, who scored his first of the season.

Musampa turned provider early in the second half, dribbling superbly on the right and finding David Jemmal who, unmarked, made no mistake from close range.

Willord completed the rout in the 58th minute with a fine 15-meter strike, his seventh goal of the season.

Lyon drew 0-0 at Nancy. Nancy came closest, when Marc Zanotti shot just wide of the post when well-placed early in the match.

In an incredible match at the Felix-Bollaert stadium, Lens had two men sent off as it

fought back from 2-0 down against Nantes, before conceding two late goals to lose 4-2.

Lens, which visits Dynamo Kiev in the Champions' League Wednesday, got off to a disastrous start when Eric Sikora was sent off in the 13th minute for handball in the penalty area.

Christophe Leroux converted from the spot for the Canaries. Nantes doubled the lead in the 31st minute when Nicolas Gillet head in from a corner.

Tony Vairalles pulled one back just before the break, but Lens' cause looked hopeless when Cyril Rool was sent off early in the second half.

Vairalles stunned Nantes by equalising soon after. But Nicolas Savinaud scored again for the visitors as Nantes won to climb to fifth place.

Monaco moved to fourth with a 3-0 win at home to lowly Le Havre.

The 1997 champions opened the scoring in the 24th minute when Robert Spehar played a defence-splitting pass to David Trezeguet, who fired in from the right of the penalty area.

Victor Ikpeba made it 2-0 in the 52nd minute before Trezeguet scored from the penalty spot late on.

Paris Saint-Germain's miserable start to the season continued with a 1-0 loss at Sochaux, which began the game in last place.

Big-spending PSG went down even though Sochaux defender Eric Boniface was sent off for a dangerous tackle early in the 22nd minute.

Sebastien Dallet scored with winner after a comical error by PSG goalkeeper Bernard Lama.

In other matches Friday: Lorient 1, Metz 1; Strasbourg 2, Montpellier 1.

GERMANY: Surprising 1860 Munich put pressure at the top of the table on more famous cross-town rivals, Bayern Munich Friday with a 2-0 victory over Hertha Berlin in the Bundesliga.

1860, often overlooked in the Bavarian city shared by the two teams, picked up its fourth win in six matches and closed to within two points of Bayern.

Bayern Munich, who have steamrolled to five wins to open the season, play Saturday against Bremen.

1860 stunned Berlin, winner against several top Bundesliga clubs this season, with quick goals to start each half.

Morocco's Abderrahim Quakili split the Berlin defence in the second minute on a solo run, while Hendrik Herzog scored an own goal fighting off striker Bernd Hobsch just 56 minutes into the second half.

The win insured that 1860s overachieving players will earn two days off and a trip to the Oktoberfest underway in the city. Coach Werner Lorant had threatened to forbid any visits and add extra training if his charges lost.

Berlin, who entered the match in sixth place, have emerged as a power at home in Olympiastadion, but have not won the road.

Hamburg's Andrei Panadic scored in the 83rd minute on a header to carry his team to a 1-0 home victory against the nine men left on the field for Hansa Rostock.

The visitors had two players sent off for rude fouls.

2002 World Cup might kick off in May



ZURICH, Sept 26: The 2002 World Cup might begin earlier and feature a significant rule change designed to reduce the number of shootouts, reports AP.

FIFA, soccer's world governing body, said Friday the 2002 event, with Japan and South Korea serving as hosts, would remain in the customary period of June and July, but may open earlier in June.

"Looking at meteorological studies from Japan and South Korea, we felt it should be scheduled as long as possible in June," said FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

While FIFA will decide on the actual dates at the executive committee meeting in December, not everyone was convinced a move to a May kickoff was out of the question.

South Korea requested the event begin in May to avoid the rainy season. The quadrennial, month-long competition traditionally has started around June 10, well after the profes-

sional soccer seasons in Europe and South America end.

The International Football Association Board will discuss the committee's suggestion that two extra substitutes be permitted during overtime in World Cup matches. That might open up play in the extra sessions, which often are conservatively played and marred by the exhaustion of the players.

That, in turn, could lead to more games decided in overtime, avoiding shootouts. Only one game in France '98, when the hosts beat Paraguay 1-0, ended in overtime.

FIFA said it would not change the dates of the upcoming Confederations Cup, but would reduce the time clubs are required to make their players available.

The draw for the competition will be made on Sunday, October 4 in Mexico City.

It has already been decided that hosts Mexico will be in Group A and will play in Mexico City, while Brazil will be in Group B in which matches will be played in Guadalajara, Monterrey or Queretaro.

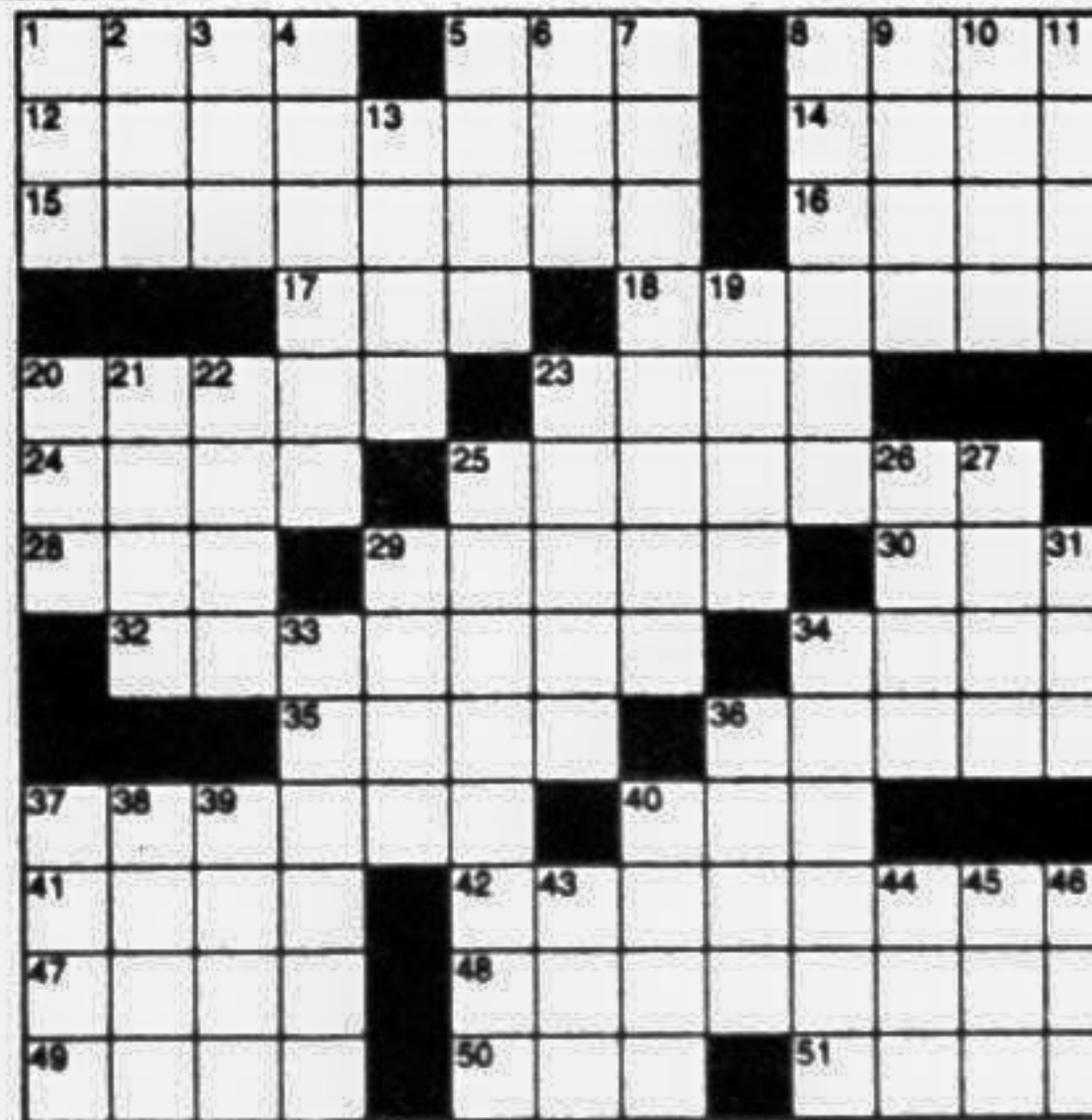
The United States, Mexico, Bolivia, Brazil, France, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the winners of the current Oceania contest in Brisbane, will participate in the eight-nation tournament. Scheduled for Mexico next Jan 8-20 - when leagues in the southern Hemisphere are in full swing and only some in Europe are off - several leagues will be left without their stars.

FIFA also discussed the dangers of the performance-enhancing substance EPO and the possibility of introducing blood tests rather than only urine tests, as well as random doping testing between competitions. The IOC set a forum for Oct 27 in Lausanne, Switzerland, and invited all the international federations to exchange views.

Candidates to stage the 2006 World Cup will be accepted at the end of October, with bid countries required confirm their bids by April 1999. Bids will be reviewed by Jan 31, 2000 and the executive committee will select the host country in March 2000 - not in June, as previously planned.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- Surrounded by
 - "Eureka!"
 - Survive
 - Baggage conveyor
 - Unslightly
 - Severe
 - Successful stroke
 - Boston Jetset
 - On leaving home
 - John B., e.g.
 - Equine gait
 - Sackel, for one
 - Swindles
 - Tough wood
 - Neighbor-hoods
 - Have bills
 - Beach-goer's woe
 - Campus quarter
 - Competent
 - Elbow
 - Muppet drummer
 - Moan - gal pan
- 41 World according to Arp?
- 42 Scrutinizes
- 43 Help a hood
- 44 Attention-grabbing
- 45 Network
- 50 "Sprechen"
- 51 "Deutsch?"
- 52 Lovers' quarrel
- DOWN
- Expert
 - 2 Nth degree
 - George's brother
 - "ER" extra, lack?
 - perhaps
 - Europe's neighbor
 - Coop denizen
 - 7 Man of Oran
 - Transparent plastic
 - 9 Enthusiastic, plus
 - 10 Get an F in diction
 - 11 Work at the keyboard
 - 13 Miners' sch.
 - 19 Mick Jagger's lack?
 - 20 Hot tub
 - 21 Smaller
 - 22 Honolulu's island
 - 23 "Done at last!"
 - 25 Bakery wares
 - 26 Intensely colorful
 - 27 Booty
 - 29 "Waterloo" quartet
 - 31 Dutch commune
 - 33 Super Bowl III MVP
 - 34 High-pitched rings?
 - 36 Idler's terminus
 - 37 Leading man?
 - 38 Local movie-house
 - 39 Mid-month date
 - 40 Donated
 - 43 Noon, maybe
 - 44 Pinch
 - 45 Bamb's aunt
 - 46 Cpl.'s higher-up
- Solution time: 25 min.
- Yesterday's answer



CRYPTOQUIP

G J F Z H M H Z J V H V H
M Y F Z V H A G C Q H A F P P C G V Q
C Q H V Q F A F A M H V
H M A J ? Y C P V A F G
Saturday's Cryptogram: DIVERTING MOVIE ABOUT A FAMOUS FASHION DESIGNER: "THE GARB FATHER."

Today's Cryptogram clue: G equals W
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.