

Inter owe Ventola one

MILAN, Oct 29: Inter Milan were pelted with eggs by their own fans before struggling to a 1-0 victory at home to Third Division Castel Di Sangro in the Italian Cup on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

A group of Inter supporters, reportedly angered by their side's 1-0 defeat at Juventus in the league on Sunday, threw dozens of eggs at the team bus as it arrived at the San Siro stadium before the third round first leg tie.

The "ultras", or hardcore fans, then boycotted the game. Inter won thanks to a goal from emerging Italian striker Nicola Ventola, who hammered home a free-kick after 26 minutes.

The UEFA Cup holders dominated the rest of the half but once again looked disjointed in attack and faded after the interval.

They now face a difficult return leg at Castel Di Sangro's 9,000-capacity ground, perched up in the mountains east of Rome.

Colombian Faustino Asprilla scored twice in the last 15 minutes to give Parma a 2-1 win at Bari.

Asprilla, who has failed to hold down a first team place in Parma's league side, put them ahead on 75 minutes with a delicate chip from the edge of the penalty area after defender Duccio Innocenti gifted him the ball.

Michele Marcolini equalised for Bari six minutes later but Asprilla gave the visitors victory with an angled shot across the goalkeeper a minute into injury time.

Gabriel Batistuta continued his exceptional start to the season with the decisive goal in Fiorentina's 1-0 victory over Serie B side Lecce.

The Argentine knocked home a cross from Brazilian Edmundo seven minutes from the end of the match to give the rampant Serie A leaders a precious first leg lead.

AS Roma had to come from behind to earn a 1-1 draw at second division Atalanta. The home side took an early lead before in-form forward Marco Delvecchio scored Roma's equaliser after 30 minutes.

Sampdoria and Bologna drew 0-0 as did northeast rivals Udinese and Vicenza.

Juventus and Venezia drew 1-1 in their third round first leg tie on Tuesday while Lazio were due to host AC Milan today in a repeat of last year's final.

FIVB approves new scoring system

TOKYO, Oct 29: The International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) approved unanimously on Wednesday a proposal to introduce a new scoring system which will be used from January 1999 in all FIVB competitions, reports AFP.

The main change will be that teams score points at each rally in the style of current tie-breaks, not only when a team has served, the FIVB said.

Matches will be played in two sets of five sets with 25 points for the first set and 15 points for the fifth set, each of them with a minimum lead of two points.

Nat'l rowing Nov 13

The 23rd national rowing competition will be held on November 13 instead of November 6, reports BSS.

All affiliated rowing clubs, government and non-government organisations and district sports associations have been requested to register their names in the federation with entry fees by November 4.

Squeaky English start

PERTH, Oct 29 (Reuters): England opened their tour of Australia on Thursday with a thrilling one-run, last ball victory over the Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI.

England made 297 for five from their allotted 50 overs then dismissed the locals for 296. Tallender Jo Angel was run out attempting a single which would have tied the game.

England's batsman revelled in the carnival-like atmosphere at Perth's Lilac Hill.

Opener Michael Atherton top-scored with 88 while captain Alec Stewart and middle-order batsman John Crawley also hit half-centuries.

Atherton was dropped on 15 but made the most of his let-off with a tidy innings featuring 13 boundaries.

His performance laid the foundations for England's middle-order to lash out against the Board XI whose bowlers included former Test players Dennis Lillee and Bruce Reid.

Stewart smacked 74 off just 68 balls while Crawley belted 64 from just 50 deliveries.

The Board XI looked set to overhaul England's total as their top order made a brilliant start.

Ryan Campbell and Michael Hussey put on 87 for the first wicket before Hussey was caught by Mark Butcher for 32 off the bowling of uncapped English paceman Alex Tudor.

Campbell also fell to Tudor for 74 but Matthew Elliott and captain Simon Katich kept the runs flowing until Elliott was bowled by Darren Gough for 39.

Gough finished with two for 40 from 10 overs but it was Tudor, who returned figures of three for 62 in his first international appearance, who turned the game England's way.



Brian Lara receiving the winners' cheque from Industries and Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed.

Wills Cup: Itsy bitsy teenie weenies

Syed Ashfaqul Haque

SL TAKING NO RISK

The World champions are all set for today's semi-final clash against South Africa. The Lankan cricketers took care of each and everything in their 2-hour final practice session at the BUET ground yesterday. Besides the batting, bowling and fielding, they honed their 'bowl-out' skill.

Excepting skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and Marvan Atapattu all the players demonstrated their expertise in the 'bowl-out', a formula similar to the tiebreaker in football.

If needed, the unique 'bowl-out' formula will be used in the on-going Wills International Cup to get a result from an abandoned match. In this method, five bowlers from each team will bowl two deliveries each and the team hitting the stumps most will be declared winners.

If the score remains tied from the first twenty deliveries, the result will be decided through sudden death formula.

Even the Lankan physio, Alex Kouni, had his time at the nets. Much to the amusement of a few hundred spectators at the ground, Alex and wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwitharana showed remarkable success compared to the regular bowlers.

RANJIT HAPPY WITH HIS ROLE

Only a few months back, Ranjit Fernando was a popular TV commentator before stepping into the shoes of another successful Sri Lankan, Dulip Mendis. And the amiable islander took virtually no time to prove his mettle.

"It took a little bit of time to settle in, but I'm enjoying it now," said the former Test cricketer.

When asked to compare the two roles, he said, "Commentating is a very comfortable job. You know you're not subject to criticism. In fact, you're criticising people. But when you're manager it's different. Every one is looking over your shoulder. You're subject to lot of responsibility and also you've to do the things the right way. You can be criticised if anything goes wrong. So you have to be careful what you do."

It is so far so good for Fernando. It seems he knows what he is doing.

THE SOOTHSAYER

Here comes a new soothsayer. Gauthbert Gordon Greenidge knew that West Indies would win the match against Pakistan. The Caribbean cricket coach of Bangladesh

scoreboard of the limited-overs match between England and ACB Chairman's Eleven at Lilac Field on Thursday:

ENGLAND Butcher b Reid 19 Atherton c Katich b Canning 88 B Hollisake c and b Nicholson 28 Stewart b Nicholson 74 Crawley run out 64 Ramprakash not out 9 Hegg not out 4 Extras: (lb-6, w-3, nb-2) 11 Total: (5 wks in 50 overs) 297

Fall of wks: 1-32; 2-101; 3-170; 4-276; 5-288

Bowler O M R W Lillee 6 0 22 0 Reid 7 1 30 0 Nicholson 10 0 46 2 Angel 8 1 55 0 Canning 10 0 74 1 Baker 9 0 64 0

CHAIRMAN'S XI Hussey b Tudor 32 Campbell c Butcher b Tudor 74 Elliott lbw Gough 39 Katich c Crawley b Headley 27 Baker run out 38 Wood b Such 10 Dighton c Atherton b Tudor 31 Canning run out 22 Nicholson b Gough 5 Angel run out 5 Reid not out 0 Extras: (4-b, 4-lb, 4-w, 2-nb) 14 Total: (All out in 50 overs) 296

Fall of wks: 1-87; 2-124; 3-172; 4-195; 5-217; 6-257; 7-270; 8-283; 9-294.

Bowler O M R W Gough 10 2 40 2 Cork 10 0 50 0 Headley 10 1 55 1 Tudor 10 0 62 3 Such 9 0 67 1 Butcher 1 0 14 0

Result: England won by one run.

Player of the match: Mike Atherton.

was present at the BCB hospitality box along with his wife Patricia to watch his countrymen in action yesterday. He was found in a jovial mood as West Indies sent Pakistan on a leather hunt. The famous 'Flush' Gordon was walking on air as his fellow Barbadian Philo Wallace scored a scintillating 58-ball 79. When asked who's going to win, the star of the yore promptly forecast, "Take it from me, West Indies will win." Windies won the match by 30 runs. Long live Gordon, the fortune-teller!

PHOTOGRAPHER BUCKNOR

Umpire Steve Bucknor was using his index finger for a completely different reason yesterday. He turned into a photographer. The tall Jamaican was enjoying his day-off from the match by making good use of a camera. Bucknor, famous for being lazy in raising his dreaded finger while officiating a match, had a happy hunting at the stadium while the match was in progress. Interestingly, Bucknor's target was none other than the photographers on duty.

WICKETKEEPER SOHAIL

Pakistan captain Aamir Sohail was forced to make his debut in wicketkeeping yesterday. He had to stand in for stumper Moin Khan, who received a nasty blow on his left knee from an Azhar Mahmood delivery when the play was 1.3 overs old. The left-handed opener had a torrid time behind the wicket with the fast-bowler Wasim Akram in full fury. He heaved a huge sigh of relief when Moin returned to the field to resume his job in the 8th over.

PAT ON THE EYE

With the fall of the wicket of opener Stuart Williams, the Pakistan cricketers rushed to have a high five with the bowler Azhar Mahmood. Skipper Aamir Sohail was the first to reach Mahmood, who bowled Williams leg before for 14. Salim Malik, joining the 'high five' party late, raised his right hand in joy. But unfortunately his palm landed on Sohail's eye. And a 4-minute delay in the match followed.

CRICKET, NOT INTERESTED

Former West Indies fast bowler Michael Holding has lost all interest in cricket.

LITTLE MASTER NODS

'Little Master' Sunil Gavaskar was full of praise for the Dhaka crowd. The legendary batsman has come to watch the Wills International Cup as a special guest of Bangladesh Cricket Board. While talking to the UNB, he said, "They (crowd) support the real cricket. Everything here is good."

STAR OF THE DAY

Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan is considered by many as the best off-spinner in the world today.

The 26-year-old Tamil is a prodigious spinner of the ball.

Besides, he is an agile fielder in any position.

FACTFILE

Muttiah Muralitharan Born: 17 April 1972, Kandy Major Teams: Sri Lanka, Tamil Union Cricket and Athletic Club. Known As: Muttiah Muralitharan. Pronounced: Muttiah Muralitharan. Batting Style: Right-Hand Bat. Bowling Style: Right-Arm Off Break.

ODI Debut: Sri Lanka v India at Colombo (RPS), 2nd ODI, 1993-94. Latest ODI: Sri Lanka v New Zealand at Dhaka, Wills International Cup, 1998-99.

One-Day Internationals (including 26.10.98)

Table with columns: Batting, M, I, NO, Runs, HS, Ave, 100, 50, Ct, St

Table with columns: Bowling, O, M, R, W, Ave, Best, 4w, 5w, SR, Econ

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Harun becomes AFC official

General secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation Harunur Rashid, MP, has been nominated president of the Security Committee of the Asian Football Confederation for four years, reports UNB.

He was also nominated as the member of FIFA Media Committee and delegate member of AFC in the Asian Games, to be held in Bangkok in December.

Bangladesh Football Federation vice president Jafar Imam and joint secretary Badal Roy have been nominated member of the Appeal Committee and Media Committee of AFC respectively.

These nominations were finalised in an executive committee meeting of the AFC on October 23 in Beirut.

Thackeray's threat

MUMBAI, Oct 29: Shiv Sena supreme Bal Thackeray here last night said Pakistan's cricket team would not be allowed to play matches in India, reports PTI.

Speaking at a chat-show on the occasion of opening of 'Saamana' Cup under-14 state level cricket tournament, Thackeray said on one hand Pakistanis were indulging in blood letting and on the other they wanted to play cricket.

"How can you expect us to allow them to play cricket in India when they are creating problems everyday," he said.

"I have no desire to meet them," he said.

Replying to questions during the show, Thackeray said he held the opinion Dilip Kumar in high esteem before he accepted Pakistan's supreme award 'Nishan-e-Pakistan' and had not met him since then.

Reverting to cricket, Thackeray gave vent to a common suspicion that matches were fixed. "It is unfortunate but it happens," he said.

Former Test umpire Madhav Gothoskar and cricket columnist Dwarkanath Sangziri were also present.

Spanish Cup surprises

MADRID, Oct 29: Spanish Third Division side San Sebastian de los Reyes, from a northern Madrid suburb, caused the biggest shock of the Spanish Cup third round first leg matches on Wednesday with a 2-0 victory over First Division Tenerife, reports Reuters.

The club's 20-year-old striker Carlos Ribera did the damage with two first half goals within the space of five minutes.

His first came with a rasping long range shot from outside the area that beat Tenerife goalkeeper Marcela Ojeda.

Ribera's second shortly afterwards was a similar effort.

Former Atletico Madrid coach Radomir Antic was among the near capacity 6,000 spectators and watched as the part-timers hung on despite a late barrage from the Canary Island club, which had nine international players in its side.

San Sebastian de los Reyes have reached this stage in the cup for the first time in their 27-year history but their successful cup run has caused concern at the bank, pushing the club close to bankruptcy.

Club president Angel Villena reckons the club could lose more than 1.5 million pesetas (10,720 dollars) on the return leg to Tenerife due to the cost of having to hire an aeroplane.

Badajoz, currently mired in the Second Division relegation zone, pulled off the other big upset of the night, beating First Division Oviedo 3-1.

Two quick-fire goals from Luis Fernandez and Mauricio Lopez put the home side two up in 12 minutes.

Fernandez got his second from the spot after 34 minutes when Russia's captain Viktor Onopko brought down Carlos Torres.

Ivan Iglesias finally got one back for the visitors just before half-time.

However further calamities were to befall Oviedo in the second half and they ended the game with nine men after both Albert Nadj and Ricardo Bango got their marching orders late in the game.

It was a difficult night for four other First Division sides.



Pakistan coach Javed Miandad (C) is anxious about the proceedings in the field.

BEYOND THE BOUNDARY

The Usual Rerun

By Shakil Kasem

Things were going awfully wrong for Doc Akhand. He was losing at snooker the last couple of days, and wasn't looking forward to his afternoon skirmishes with Qamruddin Huda anymore. The samosas he had ordered several overs ago were not materialising, and Syed Mahboob who was supposed to be handling the other stuff was not being overly co-operative. To top it all off, after the first five overs the West Indies were none for plenty. It was not the time to make the customary predictions. Doc and I were at a loss, albeit for different reasons.

Philo Wallace and Stuart Williams, not your most destructive opening pair in the world, were giving the world's best quick bowler a torrid time. It is not often that Wasim Akram goes for 14 in the opening over. He was quick and he got movement, perhaps a bit too much of it. And the batsmen made merry. When Brian Lara won the toss and opted to bat he certainly could not have been counting on the support these two gave him. Wasim Akram was taken off after three overs to give the other new ball bowlers a chance to suffer as well.

The writing was on the wall, this was not a wicket the fast bowlers' union would be happy with. The story was repeated when the Pakistanis batted. They too got off to a flying start. Only the fact that Shahid Afridi insisted on walking across the

stumps all the time meant Pakistan lost an early wicket. But Salim Elahi was confidence personified and paid back the Windies quickies with some rollicking shots. But the cards were on the table. This was a wicket for the slower bowlers.

Pakistan immediately brought on the spinners and should have had Lara removed immediately on arrival. The captain was only a pale shadow of his former self, and it was only a question of time before he committed hara-kiri. But his was not a knock that promised anything at all. The West Indies as always relied on the plegmatic Chanderpaul to bring sanity to their ranks, but as is increasingly being the case, the hugely talented Hooper let his team down when it mattered most.

Pakistan is a gritty side although unpredictable in their middle name. But when the chips are down you can count on the Pakistanis to come at the opposition from all corners. The bowlers brought them back into the game.

In an obvious test of wills between two sides that are more or less evenly matched, Pakistan got the upper hand in the war of attrition from the mid overs till the slog overs. Thoughts of 300 plus, which was a distinct possibility at one stage, dissipated quickly and the Windies were fortunate to limp past the 280 mark.

True to form, the Pakistanis lived up to their reputation of

living life dangerously and to the fullest. Loose bowling at the start gave way to discipline at the end. But they compounded matters worse with some careless batting that lost them some early wickets, including that of the skipper Sohail.

This was a match that never looked like reaching the heights that some of the earlier matches did. Pakistan mourned the absence of Saeed Anwar and Inzamam in their line-up. But the revised batting order did not make much sense either. Azhar Mahmood came up the ladder and Saleem Malik was pushed down, while part-timer Keith Arthurton prodded and pried and stretched the middle order to its limits. Although the resident expert on the West Indies, Sadaat S Kasem, expounded on the wisdom of making the fear-

some — and, more importantly, experienced — pace duo of Ambrose and Walsh a permanent fixture in the squad (in his own words, "Don't leave home without them!"), captain Brian Lara was able to make the best out of the depleted resources at his disposal. Keith Arthurton, in fact, did him proud.

In the end it was all too confusing. The wicket, which had taken a pasting over the week, struck back, favouring only the slow bowler. And for a change the batsman struggled. Once again the Grameen Dream team failed to make the right connections, and I was wiser at the end of the match, knowing that, of course, I was better off using CityCell.

Sampras simply superb

STUTTGART, Oct 29: Pete Sampras warned those eyeing his world number one spot he was determined to keep it by crushing German Nicolas Kiefer 6-3, 6-4 at the Eurocard Open on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Sampras, fighting to end the year in top spot for a record sixth successive time, showed no sign of the back pain which forced him out of last week's Lyon tournament as he cruised to a routine win over the unseeded German in a second round match.

The Wimbledon champion, who pulled out before a scheduled quarterfinal match with German Tommy Haas on Friday in Lyon, needs a good showing in the 2.45 million dollars indoor event featuring the world's top 10 players.

If he fails to reach the quarterfinals here, the American will be replaced at number one by either world number two Marcelo Rios of Chile or number three Patrick Rafter, if the Australian wins the title.

Rios and Rafter also advanced through to the third round on Wednesday with straightforward victories over Haas and Swede Magnus Gustafsson respectively.

But the form Sampras, now

lined up to play Czech Bogdan Ullrich for a place in the last eight, displayed against Kiefer suggested he would stay where he is.

"To do something that's never been done before is a great challenge," he said. "But in a way, it's simple. If I play well and win, the ranking will take care of itself."

The battle for number one may be decided only at the season-ending ATP Tour World Championship which starts on November 23 in Hanover.

Sampras was just too good for Kiefer, breaking him in the eighth game of the first set before claiming the set with an ace after just 25 minutes.

Cheered on by some 5,000 fans in the Stuttgart Hall, Kiefer opened a 2-0 lead in the second set but Sampras immediately broke back and went on to hit a service winner on match point to end his opponent's agony, which lasted just 61 minutes.

Rios, who held the number one ranking for two short spells earlier this year, showed he had also overcome his fitness problems by ousting Haas 6-3, 7-5.

The Chilean had to retire with a sore hamstring in his semifinal against the same opponent in Lyon on Saturday and has also been hampered by back pain.

"I've been able to rest for a few days and I'm much better," said Rios, who now faces Dutchman Jan Siemerink, the 15th seed, for a place in the quarterfinals.

Double US Open champion Rafter was equally impressive, relying on his powerful serve and volley game to brush aside Gustafsson 6-1, 6-4.

The Australian will now play Briton Greg Rusedski in a re-run of last year's US Open final.

Hard-hitting Rusedski, seeded 13th, was made to work by unseeded Australian Jason Stoltenberg on an outside court.

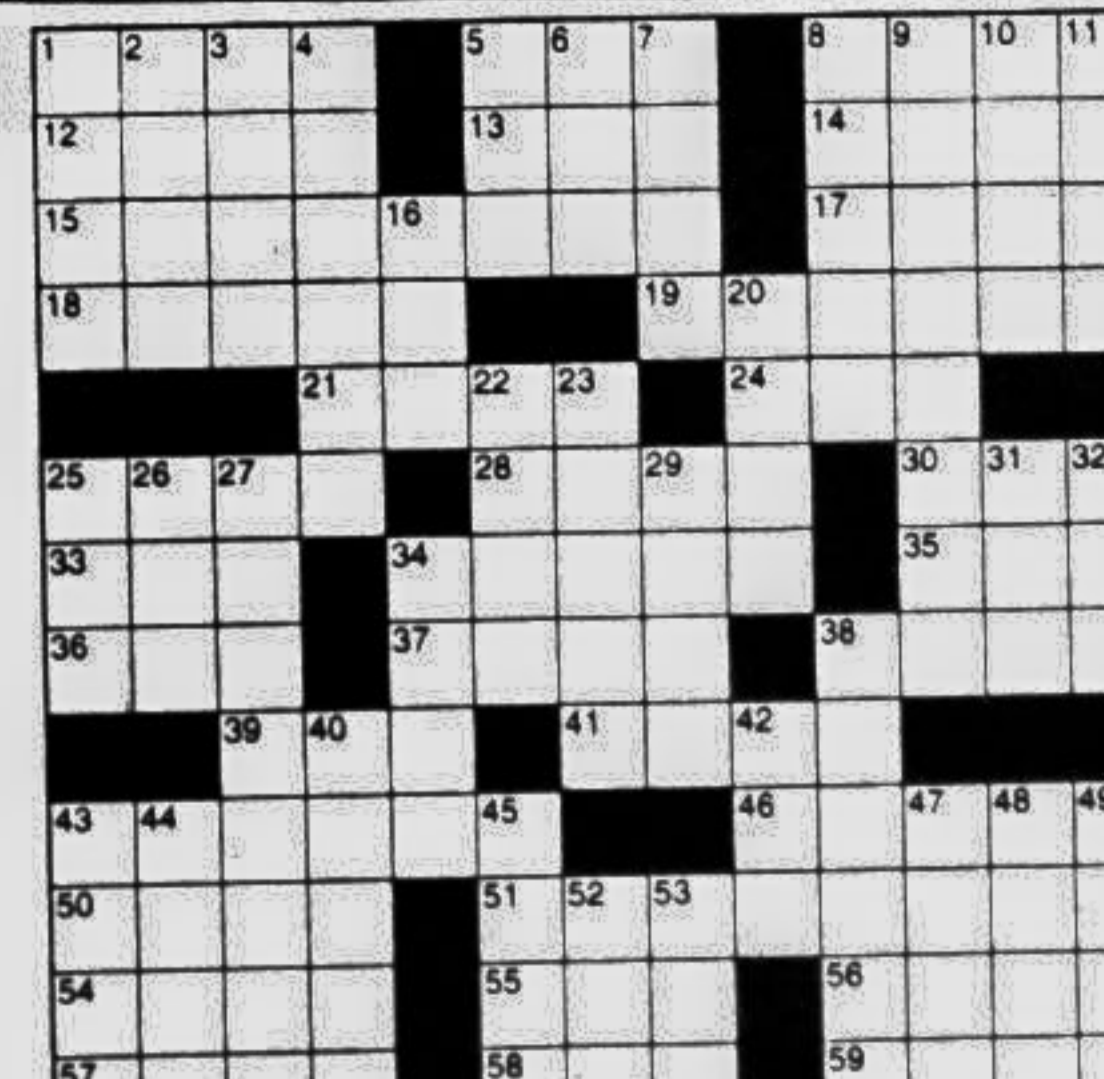
There were three tie-breaks in a close battle which Rusedski eventually won 7-6, 6-7, 7-6 with a service winner on match point.

Kiefer and Haas could do little against their prestigious opponents but there was some consolation for the home crowd as Boris Becker came from a set behind to beat French Open champion and world number four Carlos Moya of Spain.

The semi-retired Becker proved he had fully recovered from an ankle injury which kept him sidelined for some eight weeks by hitting brilliant winners on his way to a 6-7, 6-4, 6-4 victory.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS e.g. 1 Rudiments 39 Spring- arvil or 20 Ticket receipts 5 Coach steen's 3 Last Field of Queens 8 Lion's 41 Bat a gnat several notes 23 Lands a hand 12 Aerobic 43 Skimpy 4 Dashing 25 Whiffen-puff comment 13 Holster 50 Incessantly 6 Partake in a marath 26 New Haven collegian 14 Medal occupant disrespect- 7 Con 27 Highly infectious 15 Lazy character? 8 The Big 29 Imperfection 17 Lazily 55 Prompt 9 Nice-smelling 31 Appomattox VIP 18 Lachrymose 56 Big name in Deco 10 Woody's son 32 A mere handful 19 Northern 57 Pretentious 11 Most of the Mc- 34 Highland "ET" col- 59 High time Caughy septuplets 38 "Hot" 21 Erntw- host 1 Hit bottom? 16 Caustic 40 Go off 24 Every last crumb 2 Hammer, 21 mins. 42 Bother 25 Quail group 43 It means "six" 28 Importance 44 State 45 "Casa-bianca" role 30 Polar employee 46 TRAVAILS 47 There's nothing to it 33 The Greatest 47 LIMIT 48 Within: prefix 34 Ball VIP 48 FOY WEARY 49 Actress 35 Born 49 ESTE RIDES 50 For a GOWS TRAVELOG 52 Cross 36 It's good for a breather 51 OBOE QUI ROBE 53 Solidify 37 With 52 Down, Easter Island 53 Mulligan, Yesterday's answer



CRYPTOQUIP X UKD DSWD KLLWHD EEIF EFWMKLN IGDKH SXD IHFM GIWF UWFFN Yesterday's Cryptogram: ARE WEARY SEA COWS POSSIBLY APT TO SLEEP IN BARNACLES? Today's Cryptogram clue: G equals F 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.