

Acme Youth Hockey  
Kutubuddin stars  
in BKSP win

**Sports Reporter**  
Defending champions Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Prosthana (BKSP) got off to a flying start in the Acme 17th National Youth Championship with a 5-0 thrashing of Chittagong DSA in the inaugural match at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 2-0.

Centre forward Kutubuddin, who opened the flood-gate in the 15th minute, scored three goals. Maksud and Mazharul Islam shared the other two to complete the Chittagong rout.

With this win the country's lone sports institute strolled into the quarter-finals of the knock-out meet involving 16 teams.

Earlier, Harun-ur Rashid, MP, who is also the General Secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation inaugurated the meet in a simple ceremony.

Long distance  
swimming in  
Dhaka

**BANGKOK, Dec 10:** The first Asian Open long distance swimming championship will be held in Dhaka in December 1999, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a meeting of Asian Amateur Swimming Federation (AASF) held in the Thai capital on December 6.

Twenty teams, including swimming giants Japan, China, South Korea, India and the Philippines are likely to participate in the four-event winter meet.

Inter-varsity  
sports end

The 3-day inter-varsity swimming and water polo championships concluded at the Dhaka University swimming pool yesterday, reports APB.

In water polo, Dhaka University emerged champions while Rajshahi became second.

Rajshahi became champions in swimming claiming 10 gold medals and Dhaka runners-up capturing 3 gold.

Vice-Chancellor of DU, Prof A K Azad Chowdhury distributed prizes as chief guest.

Arsenal skipper  
faces surgery  
lay-off

**LONDON, Dec 10 (Reuters/Internet):** Arsenal captain Tony Adams, who aggravated a back injury in a Champions' League game last month, has had surgery and faces a long layoff.

The England international defender, currently resting in Florida, said in a prepared acceptance speech for a television award that the operation had been carried out.

"I've had a busy week. My father's had a heart attack; I've been looking after him and my three children and also having an operation on my back, which has gone very, very well."

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger hoped last month the 32-year-old Adams could avoid surgery after the player was told by a specialist that six weeks of rest would cure a chronic career-threatening inflammation.

Adams told the London Evening Standard in an interview published on Thursday, but given before his operation, that retirement at the end of the season was an option.

"I'll try everything -- anything -- before I call it a day," he said. Retirement is my very last option but the reality of it is that it is an option I must consider."

Arsenal can ill afford to lose Adams, who may be out until February. The north London club is already wrestling with injuries to French World Cup winner Emmanuel Petit, and Dutchmen Marc Overmars and Dennis Bergkamp.

PSV to change  
its coach?

**BRUSSELS, Dec 10 (Reuters/Internet):** Club Bruges coach Eric Gerets said on Thursday that he would coach PSV Eindhoven from next season.

"PSV have my word," Gerets told Belgian newspapers. They said the former

Belgium and PSV defender would officially announce the move on December 20.

Belgian and Dutch media have said PSV tried to sign Gerets last season, but had to hire former England manager Bobby Robson for one season as Gerets insisted on serving out his contract with Bruges.

German side VfB Stuttgart were also keen to sign Gerets, who won the Belgian league title with Lierse in 1997 and in 1998 with Bruges, who are also run-arounders this season.

Pakistan rule the day

**LAHORE, Pakistan, Dec 10 (Reuters/Internet):** Saqlain Mushaq snapped up his Test-best of five for 32 after Waqar Younis made inroads with four wickets to give Pakistan the upper hand in the second Test against Zimbabwe on Thursday.

An eventful first day ended 16 minutes early due to fading light after Zimbabwe were dismissed for 183, leaving Pakistan to begin their reply on Friday.

Zimbabwe, put in to bat on a grassy pitch by Pakistan's stand-in captain Moin Khan, were reduced to 55 for five but recovered through a resolute innings by vice-captain Andy Flower, who made an unbeaten 60.

The match began on a dramatic note when Pakistan captain Amir Sohail pulled out at the last minute on medical grounds and the selectors recalled former skipper Salim Malik for his 100th Test, the second Pakistani to achieve the milestone after Javed Miandad's 124 Tests.

Pakistan awarded a first Test cap to opener Mohammad Naveed, who replaced Sohail, one of five changes from the side beaten in the first Test of the three-match series at Peshawar.

Waqar took full advantage of a seaming pitch to rip through Zimbabwe's top order, reducing the touring side to 28 for four at one stage. He took the first four wickets and finished with four for 54 from 18 overs.

Off-spinner Saqlain, playing in his 17th Test, pressed home the advantage and steadily worked through the lower order with guile and immaculate length. He beat his previous best of five for 54 against West Indies at Karachi late last year.

Andy Flower remained the only batsman to play the Pakistani bowlers with any degree of confidence, batting 260 minutes, facing 147 balls and hitting seven fours.

Craig Wishart was the other notable contributor, making 28



SAQLAIN ... 5 FOR 32 in a sixth wicket stand of 49 with Flower.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the second cricket Test between Zimbabwe and Pakistan on Thursday:

<b>ZIMBABWE:</b> First innings				
Rennie c Ijaz b Waqar	3			
G Flower lbw b Waqar	7			
Goodwin c Moin b Waqar	10			
Campbell c Yohanna b Waqar	5			
A Flower not out	60			
Johnson c and b Shoaib Akhtar	14			
Wishart c Malik b Saqlain	28			
Streak c Wasim b Saqlain	19			
Olonga c Shoaib Akhtar b Saqlain	3			
Huckle c Anwar b Saqlain	13			
Mabangwa c Ijaz b Saqlain	2			
Extras: (b-4, lb-3, nb-12)	19			
Total:	183			
Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-16; 3-22; 4-28; 5-55; 6-104; 7-136; 8-140; 9-170.				
<b>Bowler:</b>				
Wasim	20	6	42	0
Waqar	18	3	54	4
Akhtar	15	1	48	1
Saqlain	13.5	3	32	5



Pakistan speedster Waqar Younis exults after having Zimbabwe captain Alistair Campbell during the first day's play of the second Test in Lahore yesterday.

— AP/UNB photo

Third Test begins today

Such in, Tudor out

**ADELAIDE, Dec 10 (Reuters/Internet):** A betting scandal has overshadowed the third Ashes Test between Australia and England starting on Friday although the home side will still start clear favourites.

Australian captain Mark Taylor told a news conference, dominated by the betting scandal, that it had not affected the morale of the team.

But he acknowledged that batsman Mark Waugh, one of the players at the centre of the storm, would struggle to put the controversy aside.

"You don't like to have these sort of things hanging over your head on the eve of a Test match," Taylor said on Thursday.

"I don't think he (Waugh) is going to be in the best state of mind over the next five days unless he's super-human, which we've already come to the conclusion over the last 48 hours that he's not," Taylor said.

The Australian captain added that

But he said the cricketing public should forgive Waugh's mistake and both Waugh and Warne had the full support of the Australian team.

"It certainly will not divide the Australian cricket team. They have our full 100 per cent support," Taylor said.

"If it involved throwing matches or not giving 100 per cent day in and day out there would be a lot more to it. But that certainly has not been the case."

Their record as individuals -- and the team's -- since 1994 is second to none," he added.

Taylor said he asked all members of the current Test side whether they had any problems playing with Waugh or Warne and all said they did not.

"I brought up the issue at a team meeting and the two had the total support of other players."

Osaka gets  
government's  
backing

**TOKYO, Dec 10:** Top Japanese government officials agreed Thursday support a bid by the nation's third-largest city of Osaka to host the 2008 Olympics, the Foreign Ministry said, reports AP.

Cabinet ministers are expected to formally endorse the decision Friday, paving way for financial support for the city's preparation for the event.

Osaka, about 450 kilometers (280 miles) southwest of Tokyo, will formally file its candidacy with the International Olympic Committee in early 2001.

Paris, Beijing and Kuala Lumpur have also expressed hopes to host the 2008 summer games. The host will be decided at an IOC meeting in Moscow in 2001.

ers," he said. England have picked off-spinner Peter Such for his first Test in four years in preference to Robert Croft while there is no place either for fast bowler Alex Tudor who made a successful debut in Perth.

"The management have always said be ready to play and the backroom staff have kept us going really well," Such said.

"I'm in an enviable position and just want to go out and give my best shot."

Tudor is omitted despite an impressive debut in Perth where he had a burst of four for 21 in Australia's first innings.

Dominic Cork was ruled out with influenza on Thursday and Graham Thorpe, England's most successful batsman against Australia, has returned home with a back injury.

Australia lead the five Test series 1-0 after winning the second Test inside three days in Perth last week.

The home side's fast bowlers ripped through a brittle English batting line-up for totals of 112 and 191 on a grassy pitch to secure a seven wicket victory.

Australia dominated the drawn first Test in Brisbane and England were only saved by a downpour that washed out the ground on the final day.

Australia received another blow late in the week with an injury scare for veteran keeper Ian Healy, who was in doubt with a groin strain.

Taylor said he was 99 per cent certain Healy would play.



MISNOMER! General secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation Harun-ur-Rashid MP (3rd from left) inaugurating the 17th national youth hockey competition at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

Division I Chess  
Leonine floor  
Farashganj

**Sports Reporter**  
Holders Leonine Chess Club maintained their solo lead in the First Division chess league when the star-studded outfit blanked Farashganj 4-0 in the fourth round at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

It was Leonine's third consecutive win by the same margin after their disappointing drawn opening encounter with last year's runners-up Bangladesh Biman.

The smooth sailing of chess circuit's new force was once again a compliment of their two Grand Masters -- Latvian GM Igors and Belorussian GM Suleman, who recorded their fourth consecutive victories with consummate ease.

Khandaker Kayes Hasan and Abu Sufian were the other winners for Leonine on the day.

In another match, Bangladesh Biman beat Kamalpur SKKS by 3.5-5 points to move into second position.

Zia, Reefat and Rakib-- the three Biman stalwarts-- won convincingly while Tahmid drew with Parag. Biman now have 12 and a half points.

On the other hand, Titas Club slipped to third position after they drew 2-2 with Anushilan Daba KC. They are now trailing Biman by half a point.

Injured Thorpe  
reaches home

**LONDON, Dec 9:** Forced to pull out of the Ashes series because of a back injury, England batsman Graham Thorpe may struggle to be fit for the World Cup in May, reports AP.

The Surrey left-hander returned home on Wednesday for long-term treatment of back pains which have bothered him since July, when he had a cyst removed.

"My back just isn't fit for cricket at the highest level," he said on arrival at Heathrow airport after a 12,000-mile flight which did little to ease the pain.

The only sensible thing was to come home and sort it out. "It's unfortunate and it's bad luck for me but life goes on," Thorpe said. "I'm not setting any targets for when I want to be back although it would be nice to be ready for the one-day tournament in Sharjah in April."

"But if that doesn't happen then I'll just try to make sure I am ready for the summer."

If Thorpe doesn't make it for the one-day series, it's unlikely he'll be able to endure the stresses of the month-long World Cup the following month and England will hope he's fit in time for the Test series against New Zealand.

Thorpe played in the first, drawn Test at Brisbane but was ruled out of the second at Perth, which England lost heavily.

Trouble flared up again on the flight from Brisbane. "Thorpe said, 'I don't know if I was the flight itself or the fact I had been batting for a long time that caused it to go.'"

Thorpe's place in the team has gone to Graeme Hick, who was originally called into the squad because of a back injury affecting Mike Atherton. Opener Atherton has since recovered.

"Although we are 1-0 down the mood in the camp is good," Thorpe said. "When you lose you just want to turn it around as quickly as you can and the boys are still right in it."

Milan fined a  
hefty sum

**MILAN, Dec 10:** A court ordered Italian League club AC Milan on Wednesday to pay 115 million lire (70,000 dollars) in damages to a fan hurt at a match, a groundbreaking ruling, reports AP.

The fan suffered an eye injury in the stands at Milan's home game against Sampdoria of Genoa in October 1990.

The court ruled that soccer games "have become dangerous activities" because of brawling by fans and said home teams must compensate injured spectators if the clubs cannot prove they took all possible security measures.

Wednesday's ruling "contains contradiction," Milan club lawyer Leandro Cantamessa told the ANSA news agency. "It goes against the jurisprudence of recent years, which has always held that a soccer game is not a dangerous activity."

The court made reference to "the series of incidents, some even fatal, that ruin each sports season."

Italian major and minor league soccer is often marred by clashes involving "ultras," the equivalent of English hooligans.

The most recent example came Nov 3, when an explosive device was tossed onto the field during a UEFA Cup match between Italy's Fiorentina and Switzerland's Grasshoppers. An official was injured, and Fiorentina was kicked out of the competition.

In 1995, a 25-year-old Genoa supporter was stabbed to death in a fight between rival fans outside the stadium before a Genoa-AC Milan Serie A match. In response, Italian authorities cancelled the following Sunday's league schedule and other professional sports events -- the nation's first game day without soccer in a half-century.

"It is a very dangerous precedent," Juventus club president Vittorio Chiusano, a lawyer, said of Wednesday's court decision. "Anything suffered by a fan at the stadium, regardless of the circumstances, could lead to asking for damages."



Bangladesh Biman's IM Ziaur Rahman (L) contemplating his next move against Enayet Hossain of Kamalapur SKKS in their First Division chess engagement at the NSC yesterday.

— Star photo

Central win at a canter  
Rain doesn't save India

**NAPIER, New Zealand, Dec 10 (AFP/Reuters):** India suffered a dispiriting seven-wicket defeat there today at the hands of a provincial team which last defeated an international side 25 years ago.

The match against a Central Districts XI was the opening event of India's three Test tour of New Zealand.

Central captain Craig Spearman guided the victory by scoring 86 and supported by Jarrod Englefield (40 not out) as Central reached their target of 158 halfway through the middle session on the fourth and final day.

Central began the day at 73 for two but rain momentarily threatened to prevent them from grabbing a deserved victory when only two overs were possible in the morning session.

The rain cleared during the lunch break and they could press on to claim victory.

Pakistan were the last international team beaten by Central Districts in a first-class game in 1973.

After making 85 in the first innings, Spearman was determined to reach three figures in his second knock and be there

at the end to celebrate Central's epic win.

However, after taking two boundaries off Robin Singh he gloved an attempted hook shot to wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia.

The win was the important thing and I'm absolutely thrilled we have pulled a victory over an international side of the calibre of India," Spearman said.

"I was happy with my batting. I'm always happy to score 80 but it would have been nice to kick on and get the hundred. The ball was there to hit but for some reason I gloved it."

Spearman said his non-selection in the New Zealand first Test team to play India had not been a factor in his outstanding batting double.

With new Test opener Matthew Bell assured of an extended chance to prove himself, Spearman's immediate Test prospects look slim.

However, he did not dismiss the prospect of batting down the order.

Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin said while the result was disappointing the game had been very beneficial to his side.

Azharuddin said his batsmen would be better for the experience and he was confident they would perform better in

the four-day game against Wellington, starting on Saturday.

"We play a lot of cricket and sometimes we have an off day or so. We should play better in Wellington. We just need to apply ourselves a bit better," he said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of India's four-day match against New Zealand Central Districts on Thursday:

**INDIA:** First innings 103  
**CENTRAL DISTRICTS:** First innings 336

**INDIA:** Second innings 390  
**CENTRAL DISTRICTS:** Second innings (overnight 73-2)

Milnes c Tendulkar b Prasad 0  
Spearman c Mongia b R Singh 86  
Sinclair b Prasad 8  
Englefield not out 40  
Douglas not out 17  
Extras: (lb-1, nb-6) 7  
Total: (For three wickets) 158

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-30; 3-130  
**Bowler:** O M R W  
Prasad 10 2 37 2  
Mohanty 11 2 39 0  
R Singh 8.1 0 43 1  
H Singh 12 2 38 0

**Note:** At a national level, New Zealand counts no balls as worth two runs. The rule does not apply to Test matches.

**Result:** Central Districts won by seven wickets.

Smile of deception  
or innocence?

**BANGKOK, Dec 10 (AFP):** The rapid rise, fall and rise of Sri Lankan sprinter Susanthika Jayasinghe has all the ingredients of a best seller: success, shame sex and suspicion.

Against all the odds -- she faces a drugs investigation in early 1999 which could see her banned for at least two years, she has made it to the Asian Games starting line.

If she is still in shape, despite months of inaction sparked by the drugs scandal, she will win the 200 metres gold and another medal in the 100 here next week.

When she arrived last week, the 22-year-old, her hair beautifully beaded, charmed everybody with a dazzling, relaxed smile.

"I won't just win the 100 and 200 metres, I'll win them in record time," she said in hesitant English.

Few of the neutrals who cheered her to a World Championships silver in Athens last year, however, will join the applause this time.

The tale of Susanthika Jayasinghe is simply too bizarre and too packed full of lies and half-truths, to leave anybody feeling comfortable.

For Jayasinghe supporters, this is a story of an uneducated and exploited victim, the youngest daughter in a family of five children, who grew up in a mud hut in the village Oudiwaka, 70 kilometres (43.75

miles) north-east of Colombo. A tom-boy, she climbed trees for fruit and coconuts because there was no food at home. She had no shoes, so she learnt to



SUSANTHIKA JAYASINGHE

sprint in her bare feet.

When she joined the world elite by winning Sri Lanka's first world track medal last year she became an instant heroine in the small tropical island of 18.3 million people.

But things soon turned sour. First it was reported she had

skipped army national service. Then a Sri Lankan sports Minister allegedly harassed her for sex (the counter-claimed that she was "mentally deranged" and looked like a "black American youth").

Then she failed a drugs test for an anabolic steroid.

Her supporters claim she is the victim of Sri Lankan sports officials trying to control her and her massive earning potential.

She was painted as struggling to make ends meet after being ditched by her sponsors.

In August, however, the tide turned in her favour when an independent Sri Lankan appeals panel cleared her of drugs abuse. She would run at the Asian Games after all.

But Jayasinghe, approaching her 23rd birthday, is far from being in the clear.

The sport's world governing body, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), is deeply unhappy with the panel's decision, so much so that they have set up a new board to reopen the case.

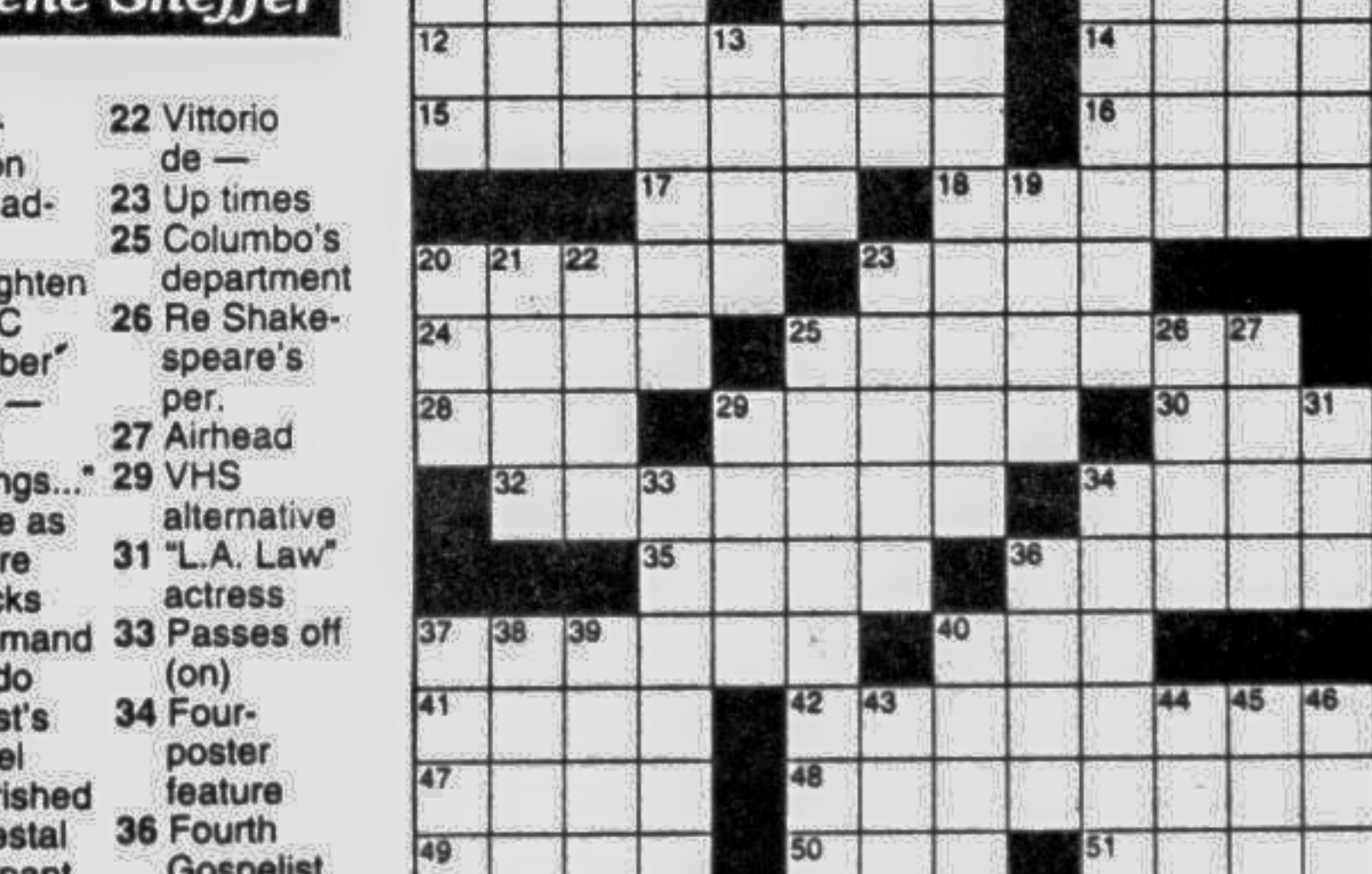
If they find her guilty, she will lose any medals won here and be banned until at least April 2000.

When you meet Jayasinghe, it's easy to take her side. She is slim and petite where you expected a broad, muscular clone of the "wundermaedchen" produced by the secret East German drugs laboratories in the 1970s and 80s.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	Down	Across	Down
1 Stream	41 Piccadilly figure	5 Com-	22 Vittorio de -
5 "No seats"	42 Cold storage area?	6 Skedaddled	23 Up times
8 "People's Court" judge	47 Hue	7 Straighten member?	25 Columbus's department
12 Polar	48 Minimize	8 OPEC	26 Re Shake-speare's per.
14 Al's cousin	49 Praiseful pieces	9 "The - Belongs..."	27 Airhead
15 IRS task	50 Remnant	10 Serve as	29 VHS alternative
16 Leather strip	51 Year-end celebration	11 Shakes	31 "L.A. Law" actress
17 Needle-fish	1 Att. state	13 Command (on)	33 Passes off
18 Makes use (of)	2 Bud's partner	19 Florist's vessel	34 Four-poster feature
20 Suspicious	3 Peculiar	20 Nourished	36 Fourth Gospelist
23 Brit	4 Import-tance	21 Pedestal occupant	37 "Take - your leader"
24 Tense texts			38 Saharan
25 Jacked up			39 Zlich
26 Elmer, to Bugs			40 Lecherous
29 Liquor			43 Oppositionist
30 Top			44 Director Grosbard
32 Whom to chertchez			45 "Erie Canal" mule
34 Give as an example			46 Storm center
35 Mayberry's town drunk			
36 Lively			
37 "Flash-dance" song			
40 Actor			

Yesterday's answer



CRYPTOQUIP

Y FYONQ YOOERAYNV  
HYO VTHYQO RYTTAFB  
NCV VLLEJ-JLEFV ERYFF  
EBLYJCVL YTT HVN  
Saturday's Cryptoquip: HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THAT A SUSPENDER VENDOR IS SIMPLY A HOLDUP MAN?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: H equals W.  
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.