Town Club reach Super League

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Apr 8: Town Club advanced into the Super League of the First Division cricket with a comprehensive eight-wicket win over Kazihata Sporting Club at the local Stadium here today.

Town Club, who had earlier

bowled Kazihata out for 145 in 32.4 overs, went on to score 147 for the loss of two wicket in 15.3 overs with Rafique hammering a rapid-fire 64 followed by Shaheen who scored 33.

The nine-team Super League featuring Diganta Proshari Sangha, Friends SC, Upashar CC, Baikali Sangha, Mahua Bagan Club, Provati Sangha, Bright Star Club, Willow KC and Town Club -- will commence from April 14.

Nat'l youth cricket

Khulna moved into the group final of the 19th national youth cricket championship earning an impressive 66-run victory against Tangail at the Kushtia Stadium yesterday, reports

In the group final they will play against the winners of the Sylhet-Comilla match beginning today at the same venue. Chasing Khulna's mammoth

out for 317 runs in 76.3 overs. Milon destroyed the Tangail batting line-up picking up five. wickets for 45 runs while Saiful and Shaon took two wickets each for 47 and 57 runs respec-

total of 383. Tangail were all

Arafat made team highest 66 runs while Rashidul and Sumon added 65 and 49 runs respectively.

BRIEF SCORE KHULNA: 383/10 in 77.3

overs (Haq 122, Aslam 72, Selim 52, Saiful 42; Manik 5/57, Sumon 3/55, Uttam 2/72). TANGAIL: 317/10 in 76.3 overs (Arafat 66, Rashidul 65, Sumon 49, Jamir 33; Milon 5/45, Saiful 2/47, Shaon 2/57).

Ankur in cup final

Sports Reporter Ankur moved into the Cup

final of the 2nd KB Rai U-13 cricket tournament with a 41run victory over Kalabagan CA (Red) at the Kalabagan playground yesterday.

Sent into bat, the Ankur amassed 150 for nine in the stipulated 25 overs with opener Mustafiz notching the highest

In reply, the hosts were all out for 109 in 23.4 overs. Mustafiz, who had earlier dazzled with the bat, did one better with the ball, claiming three wickets for 21 runs. Sajal and Akku evenly shared six wickets among themselves.

Meanwhile, in another match of the day at the same venue, Cricket Coaching School (CCS) recorded a seven-wicket win against CCS Reds.

In an all hosts affair, the CCS, chasing a paltry 72 of the Reds, reached the victory target of 73 in 13.3 overs.

Ntini denies rape charge in court

EAST LONDON, South Africa, Apr 8 (AFP/ Internet): Top South African cricketer Makhaya Ntini on Wednesday firmly denied raping a 22-yearold woman last year in evidence to the Magistrates Court in this coastal city.

The 21-year-old fastmedium bowler, the only black player included in this year's World Cup squad, told the court that he had merely given the woman a lift in his car in the

rain. Before he dropped off the young woman, he made a short detour to the city's Buffalo Park cricket ground, Ntini said. She had waited in the car while he had gone into the ground to repay money he owed to a colleague, he claimed.

The woman says Ntini raped her in one of the toilets at the cricket ground.

Becker in last eight

HONG KONG, Apr 8: Wimbledon-bound Boris Becker showed all the zest and fire of old as he comfortably advanced into the quarterfinals of the 350,000 **US-dollar Hong Kong Open here** today, reports AFP.

The former world number one and three-time Wimbledon champion defeated South African Wayne Ferreira 6-4, 7-6 to set up a clash with Italy's Laurence Tieleman in the next round.

Semi-retired from the ATP Tour after a sparkling 15-year career, Becker re-affirmed his desire to hang up his racquet at Wimbledon in June after defeating Ferreira.

"I made up my mind last Christmas that I would play for six more months. This year's

Wimbledon will be my only and last Grand Slam," said Becker. Meanwhile, giant-killer Bernd Karbacher of Germany

will meet seventh seed Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden in the last quarterfinal. Karbacher, ranked 117th

and conqueror of second seed Patrick Rafter of Australia in the first round, defeated New Zealand's Brett Steven 6-4, 6-0. Bjorkman meanwhile booked his quarterfinal berth with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over wild card Goichi Motomura of

Japan. Belgian-born Tieleman defeated American Cecil Mamiit 6-3, 6-4 to book his berth in the quarterfinals. Germany's Nicolas Kiefer also advanced with a 6-1, 6-4

win over Thai qualifier Para-

dorn Srichphan.



Ghana's Rahman (C) Issah being tackled by Argentina's Daniel Montenergo (R) their World Youth during Championship match on April 7. - Internet photo

Ghana serves a stunner Tokyo, Apr 8: J-League goalkeeper Shigetatsu Mat-sunaga has kicked the ball



LAGOS, Apr 8 (Reuters/ Inslumped to a

nst Ghana in soccer's world youth championship on Wednesday while host nation Nigeria overcame Germany 2-0 for their first victory.

Mexico became the first team to guarantee a secondround place by beating Austrlia 3-1, Croatia hammered Kazakhstan 5-1, and Ireland and Paraguay both won for the first time, beating Saudi Arabia and Costa Rica respectively.

The organisers suffered something of an off-day, with four of the six matches taking place in empty stadiums and a mammoth traffic jam forming near the stadium in Lagos after police blocked off a key flyover. A late goal by Peter Ofari-

Quaye gave Ghana victory in the group B game in Kaduna against the South Americans, who have won the last two world youth championships. Ofari-Quaye, Ghana's most

dangerous player and scorer of their goal in their opening 1-1 draw with Croatia, broke through the Argentine defence

ve Bayern Munich a hard-

lought 3-3 draw at Dynamo Kiev

The German striker fought

Bayern, who trailed 2-0 in

off two defenders and slid the

ball past keeper Olexander Shovkovsky to swing the tie

the first half and 3-1 with 12

minutes remaining, were al-

ways positive and continued to

go forward after Stefan Effen-

berg made it 3-2 in the 78th

"I think we deserved this re-

"I take my hat off to my

"I think now we have a very

However, Ukrainian coach

"Hitzfeld is a great coach and

"But I disagree with him on

Dynamo looked well in

Andriy Shevchenko, the

minute with a superb free kick.

sult," said Bayern coach Ottmar

players. They never gave up

and, despite twice being two

goals down, kept on fighting.

good chance of going through."

Valery Lobanovsky refused to

I give him credit for his team's

our chances. I still think it's a

command for the first and for

striker all Europe is chasing,

set them on their way in the

15th minute when he broke

clear and calmly slotted past

Div II cricket

and Kakrail Boys Club won

their respective Acme Second

Division cricket league encoun-

ters at different city grounds

yesterday, reports APB.

Tejgaon CA, Nabin Sangha

50/50 chance for either team."

fighting spirit," he said.

much of the second half.

in their European Cup semi-

final first leg on Wednesday.

strongly in Munich's favour.

CHAMPIONS

Hitzfeld

concede the tie.

KIEV, Apr 8

(Reuters) In-

ternet): Cars-

ten Jancker hit

a last-minute

equaliser to gi-

in the 77 minute and scored with a left foot shot.

This put Ghana top of group two with four points from two games, with Croatia and Argentina both on three. Argentine coach Jose Peckerman, whose team had the better of the first half, blamed a loss of concentration.

Croatia handed Kazakhstan their second straight defeat in the match which followed, the goals being spread between Zvonimir Deranja, Silvester Sabolcki, Ivica Banovic and Sasa Bjelanovic.

Kazakhstan's Ali Aliyec put through his own net while Yerlan Urazayev grabbed their consolation and only goal of the tournament.

The hosts played before a half-full stadium in Lagos, fans apparently staying away in protest at their 1-1 draw with Costa Rica on Saturday. Second-half goals by Ganiyu Shittu and Hashimu Garba downed the Germans, who were without Enrico Kern, their hat-trick hero against Paraguay on Sun-

Paraguay then overcame Costa Rica 3-1 in an absorbing match, goals by Roque Santa Cruz, Nelson Vera and Nelson Cuevas putting them level on

Bayern stage late rally

Georgian de Chder Kakha

Michael Tarnat reduced the

Kaladze doubled Dynamo's lead,

deflecting in Shevchenko's free

deficit on the stroke of half

time with a powerful free kick

but Vitaly Kosovsky restored a

two-goal cushion for Kiev four

minutes after the interval with

a stunning volley from a right

ticised mercurial Brazilian

striker Edmundo, telling him to

EDMUNDO

newspaper said on Thursday

that Trapattoni vented his

anger at Edmundo in front of a

few hundred fans during prac-

stop screwing around," Trapat-

toni was reported to have told

"Dear Edmundo, it's time to

tice on Wednesday.

Gazzetta dello Sport daily

grow up or go home.

FLORENCE, Italy,

Apr 8 (Reuters/

Internet): Fioren-

tina coach Giov-

anni Trapattoni

has publicly cri-

kick in the 43rd minute.

three points with Germany and one behind Nigeria in group A.

Costa Rica have one point.

"Their win was well deserved. We are a bit sad about the chances we missed ... but we realised the Nigerian team had more chances," said German coach Bernd Stober.

Mexico's win in group C. thanks to goals from Rafael Marquez, Juan Rodriguez and Daniel Osorno made them the only team with maximum points from two games.

Mile Sterjovski pulled Australia level at halftime and Jason Culina missed a secondhalf penalty. Mexico coach Jesus Lopez described the game as poor and blamed the blistering afternoon heat in the venue of Ibadan.

A spectacular long-range goal by Stephan McPhail and a Damien Duff effort gave Ireland their 2-0 win over Saudi Arabia, who missed a second-half penalty and had a first-half goal disallowed. The ball bounced down from

But the Ukrainians appeared

We made too many mistakes

"But it's not over. If we were

"If you don't want to play any

"We have all had to put up

more, then just talk about it

with the chairman and ask to

be transferred," the coach said.

with you all year long. Now it's

time you grew up and became responsible because, without a

head on your shoulders, you

won't get anywhere - despite

said he wants to return to Brazil

and he enraged team-mates by

missing three key games to at-

in February.

Lazio.

tend the Rio de Janeiro carnival

been a mixed blessing this sea-

son for Fiorentina, who are six

points behind Serie A leaders

alongside strike partner

Gabriel Batistuta, he has failed

to find form since returning

from the February carnival.

about wanting to leave Italy.

Edmundo has spoken openly

by his team mates, who felt be-

trayed when he left at a key

moment in the season to attend

the carnival, just when Batis-

tuta was ruled out with an in-

pitch -- what's the use?" Batis-

tuta was quoted as telling

Gazzetta last week.

He is reportedly ostracised

I never talk to him off the

The 27-year-old striker has

While shining early on

Edmundo has repeatedly

your talent," Trapattoni said.

to run out of steam in the latter

stages and Munich, the run-

away leaders of the Bundesliga,

defensively late in the game,'

able to score three times here we

could do it again in Munich.

took advantage.

Lobanovsky said.

Grow up or go home

the crossbar and appeared to cross the line but the referee waved play on. The result pulled Ireland level with Australia on three points and left Saudi Arabia with two straight defeats.

Sachin feels no pain at all

MUMBAI, Apr 8: India's pro-lific run-getter, Sachin Ten-dulkar today said the pain in his back has completely sub-sided and he was feeling totally

Sachin, who has started practising twice a day at the Brabourne Stadium (Cricket Club of India) here, told PTI after the nets that he was completely fit and the pain in his back has vanished.

The ace batsman, who was suffering from back spasms and was treated by a specialist in England Dr Ken Kennedy, missed two important triangular series at home and at Shar-

Meanwhile, the cricket board president, Raj Singh Dungarpur confirmed here that Sachin has recovered completely and he is looking forward to the May-June World Cup in England.

"Sachin sometimes bats twice at the nets and has no problem with his back." Dungarpur added.

Kyoto 'keeper's distinction

more than 90 metres (300 feet) into the records books, scoring the longest goal by a Japanese Premier league player, reports

Matsunaga of Kyoto Purple Sanga punted from the edge of his penalty area down a raindrenched field in the 80th minute of a night match against Montedio Yamagata in Yamagata on Wednesday.

The ball landed 20 metres (66 feet) from the line and bounced over the Montedio 'keeper's head and into the net. Kyoto won the Nabisco Cup

first round match 5-0. "As a matter of course, I have never scored a goal," said the 36-year-old former international with 40 caps.

"I kicked down the line simply because there was no other place to place the ball," he said "Thinking about how the goalkeeper feels on the other side, I can't be all that happy." in his 47-goal strike force of Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole

Kiev fans still see hope

KIEV, Apr 8 (Reuters/ Internet): Heart-broken Dynamo Kiev fans kept their hopes alive and even taciturn coach Valery Lobanovsky still rated his side's chances on Thursday despite their 3-3 draw with Bayern

With just minutes to go in Wednesday's European Cup semifinal first leg, Dynamo appeared set to cruise to a comfortable home win.

But having twice led by two goals, they squandered their advantage. "We just gave it away in the last few minutes," moaned one

young Kiev fan, wrapped in a

blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flag, on his way out after the "It's a pity -- we let go of the match we had already won," said veteran soccer

columnist Yevgeny Belozerov from the national sports weekly Komanda. "The Germans were lucky."

Bayern president Franz Beckenbauer took a similar "We made a lot of mistakes,"

he said. "When you offer two goals to your opponents, you can only be lucky to get a draw." But Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld disagreed. "I think we deserved this result," he said. "I take my hat off

to my players. They never gave up...and kept on fighting." "Our main problem was -terrible defensive mistakes late

in the game," Belozerov offered. "Now, I see Bayern's chances as a bit higher, something like 55/45," he added. "But I'm sure such an experienced coach as (Valery) Lobanovsky will find something to change it."

Inter-district kabadi

Dinajpur and Tangail reached the semifinals of the Green Delta inter-district kabadi tournament that began yesterday at the Outer Stadium, reports UNB.

Earlier, President of Bangladesh Amateur Kabadi Federation Habibur Rahman Mollah, MP, inaugurated the three-day meet. Dinajpur, who beat

Mymensingh 60-21 (first half 35-7) with four creditable lonas in the morning confirmed their semifinal berth defeating Comilla 99-35 (first half 69-9) with six lonas. Tangail, who earned a 71-41

points victory over Joypurhar

first half 46-12) with four

lonas in the inaugural match in

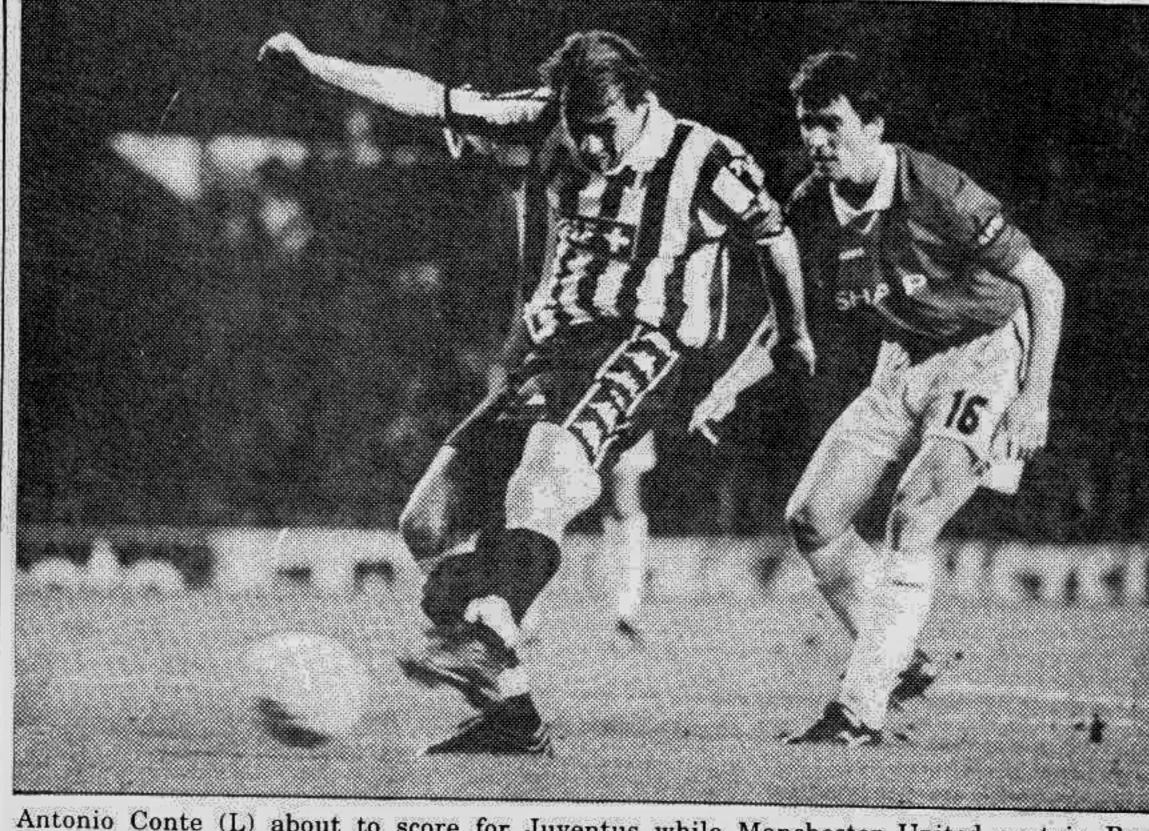
the morning advanced to the semis beating Satkhira 66-42 (first half 34-23) with four lonas in the afternoon. In the day's other two matches, Satkhira and Comilla got walkover against

Moulvibazar and Pirojpur at the same venue.

Camara could leave for Liverpool

MARSEILLE, France, Apr 8 (Reuters/ Internet): Marseille striker Titi Camara could join Liverpool at the end of the season, club sources said. "The contacts have reached

their final stage and Titi Camara could join Liverpool as soon as the French league is over," the sources said.



Antonio Conte (L) about to score for Juventus while Manchester United captain Roy Keane watches helplessly during their European Champions' League semifinal first leg fixture at Old Trafford on April 7. — AFP photo

Juve grab an away goal



MANCHESTER, England, Apr 8: Manchester United manager Alex CHAMPIONS Ferguson is still dreaming of a pla-

ce in the final despite his side being held 1-1 by Italian side Juventus in their Champion's League semi-final first leg at Old Trafford on Wednesday, reports AFP.

United looking to reach their first European Cup final since 1968, needed a stoppage time equaliser from Ryan Giggs to prevent Juventus taking a giant step towards their fourth final in succession.

The Italians pinched a vital away goal after 25 minutes through Antonio Conte and looked the better side for much of the game in front of a near 55,000 crowed. But Ferguson, ever confident

away from home, reckons his treble-seeking side can score in turning in the second leg in a fortnight. "I think it gives us a great chance," said the Scot, who said at half-time he would have set-

tled for a 1-1 draw. "We can always score. They gave us a real hard time on the counter-attack in the first half - we got caught on the break and I'm disappointed about

"If we'd performed in the first half like we did in the second half then we'd have had no trouble.

United pushed forward from the start and Andy Cole threatened with a flicked header which floated wide but the first half belonged to the Italians. United were almost caught out after 14 minutes. In-form Juve striker Filippo Inzaghi rolled his marker Henning Berg and lashed in a snapshot which Peter Schmeichel saved at his near post.

David Beckham then brushed the post with a curled free-kick for United before Conte, scorer of the decisive late goal in Greece against Olympiakos in the quarterfinals silenced Old Trafford after 25 minutes.

Frenchman Zinedine Zidane, showing no sign of his recent knee injury started the move wide on the left. He fed Edgar Davids and the influential Dutchman poked the ball through for Conte to steal in unnoticed and fire a low cross shot past Schmeichel.

Zoran Mirkovic almost doubled the damage straight away after cutting in down the right as United struggled to clear their heads.

Juve, whose side showed eight changes from that which lost at Serie A's bottom club Empoli last Saturday, were looking menacing and Gianluca Pessotto wasted a clear chance after 35 minutes, shooting wide when put clear through by Davis.

Zidane was finding plenty of space in front of the United back four and just before the break the Frenchman crossed for Inzaghi whose shot fizzed just past the post.

United needed a positive start to the second half and got it. Substitute Ronny Johnsen headed a Beckham free-kick

over and then both Cole and Paul Scholes cleared Angelo Peruzzi's bar with shots. The Italian shot stopper

pushed a glancing Giggs header over after another whipped Beckham delivery and Cole slashed a shot across goal as the hour mark approached with United developing some momentum.

Roy Keane drilled in a low right footer which Peruzzi safely gathered but despite the home side's pressure Juventus looked comfortable at the back. United fans screamed for a

penalty with 15 minutes left when Gigg's shot struck Mark Juliano's hand but Spanish referee Manuel Vega was unimpressed.

At the other Zidane dragged

hauled off top scorer Dwight Yorke, who hardly had a kick bringing on Teddy Sheringham in his place. The move appeared to have paid off after 86 minutes when

a shot wide and Alex Ferguson

Cole laid the all back to Ke ne whose shi eı ham b past Peruzzi and in. The United players cele-

brated but the linesman, belatedly, raised his flag and Juve escaped, momentarily. "The linesman flagged well after the ball was in the net."

complained Ferguson after-

wards. "It was very, very late." United stormed forward regardless and Scholes should have equalised with a close range header before Beckham hooked the ball across and via two flick-ons it fell kindly for Giggs to ram high into Peruzzi's

Erratic Capriati bows out



AMELIA ISLAND. Florida, Apr 8 (Reuters/ Internet): Jennifer Capriati squandered opportunities to give her sagging tennis career a major boost Wednesday night against Russian Anna Kournikova at the Bausch &

Lomb Championships on Wednesday. Kournikova, the ninth seed. rallied from a break down in both sets and capitalised on the 23-year-old Floridian's unforced errors on critical points to win 6-3, 6-3 and advance to

the round of 16. "I had more than my share of chances," said Capriati, ranked 81st in the world. "I was in there with her. Anna played well on a lot of balls, but I ended up making the errors. That's still from a lack of playing matches. I felt like I was rushing my own game. She wasn't doing anything.

"If I had taken my time and been more relaxed, it might have been different.

Kournikova, who now advances to face top-seeded Lindsay Davenport, trailed 3-2 in the first set and 2-0 in the second, but rallied both times on the clay surface to win the next four games and regain control of the match.

Capriati's frustration at making too many unforced er-

50 Feast-

Across

Walrus

topics

22 Feed-bag

morsel

TNN co-

30 Sacrosanct

23 Crook's

host

26 Remnant

27 Adipose

31 Faux —

32 Carry on

Python'

opener

skirmish

35 Mason's

33 "Monty

34 Major

21 Melody

rors finally struck a nerve after she missed a backhand on the next-to-last point when she mumbled to herself: "Give her the ---- match."

Capriati was ranked as high as sixth in the world in 1991, reaching the Wimbledon and U.S. Open semifinals as a 15year-old. But she suffered from burnout by 1993 and was later arrested for drug possession, forcing her off the women's tour for two years.

Kournikova, who has a residence in Miami, was content to let Capriati self-destruct in their first meeting.



"She has no rhythm, she plays a strange game,' Kournikova said. "It's difficult to play a player like that. You never know what to expect. She could hit winners from the baseline and miss easy shots. On the important points, she

"Maybe she's not prepared mentally. She tried to rush a lot and I tried to be patient. That's why I won."

Kournikova, who lost to topranked Martina Hingis in the finals last week at Hilton Head, will face Davenport for the first time since losing 7-5 6-3 to her last year in the Bausch & Lomb quarter-finals.

Davenport had the day off after winning her second-round match on Tuesday.

Four of the six seeded players in action Wednesday ad vanced to the round of 16.

Besides Kournikova, defending champion and fourth seed Mary Pierce of France cruised to a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Romania's Catalina Cristea. Fifthseeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa and 10th-seeded Chanda Rubin of the United States also advanced with straight-set victories.

But 13th seed Lisa Raymond and 16th seed Iva Majoli of Croatia faded in the third sets of their matches.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 52 A handful 19 Effortless 1 Rev the 36 Apiece 53 Hudson 20 Depressed 37 Fellow engine co-star 23 Greek X 4 Genie's 38 See 18 DOWN 24 Trendy Across 1 One-liners 25 Capp and 8 Tumble 2 Hexagonal 45 "Star Capone 12 Had a Wars" 26 Van Gogh's state snack 3 Megaloprincess love token? 13 Bewildered 46 Chime 27 Send maniacal 14 Netman noise captain quickly 47 "---4 TV pooch 28 Past Nastase 15 Whale American 5 "- Is Bom" 29 X, numer-Cousin" 6 Chow group 16 Prison, 48 Count follower 31 Thankscounterpart 7 Calls from slangily giving 17 TV show 49 Actor telecasts type 18 With 38 **Jannings** 32 Chicken governor

8 Battle

51 Goblet 10 Not firm 35 Be feature 11 Sediment Solution time: 23 mins. 3 O X O F F I C E 38 Milwaukee METSBEREBFLAW TROY AMI IDOL

Yesterday's answer

famine link 9 Jai -

36 One of 150 in the Bible products 39 Unadulter-40 Tragic 41 Wheels of fortune 42 Grant or 43 Emanation 44 Roent-

serving

suspended

34 Itsy-bitsy

CRYPTOQUIP BNAZBX NPIH IJH

IMZ XNQZ OBH F.Z JHPKO ANKK IMZQXZKFZX F B H H Q Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MANY OPERA-LOVING WORMS SIMPLY ADORE LISTENING TO VERDI'S "WRIGGLE-ETTO."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: F equals V

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Of 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.

Dynamo Kiev's Kakha Kaladze (R) celebrates his goal against Bayern Munich during their Champions League semifinal at Kiev on April 7. - AFP photo