

Feyenoord Dutch champions

THE HAGUE, Apr 26 (AFP): Feyenoord wrapped up their 14th Dutch league title on Sunday after a 2-2 home draw with NAC Breda.

Feyenoord, coached by the vastly experienced Leo Beenhakker, had needed just the one point to make sure Vitesse Arnhem, 15 points behind with five games left, cannot catch them.

And that point came before a 47,500 crowd at the club's Kuip stadium.

Breda, bottom of the table and almost certain to be relegated, did their best to spoil the party as they took a 29th-minute lead through Siukov.

Feyenoord levelled through former Newcastle striker Jon Dahl Tomasson on 35 minutes and Argentinian Julio Cruz made it 2-1 to the hosts five minutes before the break.

But Georgian Archil Arveladze snatched an equaliser to dampen Feyenoord's celebrations of their first championship since 1993.

Vitesse Arnhem gave up the title ghost when they lost 3-1 at Nijmegen.



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: Jubilant Feyenoord players are showered with champagne at the victory podium after securing the Dutch First Division title at Rotterdam on April 25 with a 2-2 draw with NAC Breda. — AFP photo

Italy roster for Croatia clash

ROME, Apr 26: Italy coach Dino Zoff summoned a third Lazio defender for his squad to face Croatia in a friendly international next week and gave AC Milan midfielder Massimo Ambrosini his first call-up, reports Reuters.

Zoff named Lazio right back Paolo Negro on Sunday in his 20-man party for the match in Zagreb on Wednesday.

Negro, who played three times for Italy under Arrigo Sacchi in 1994 and 1995 but has not figured since, joins teammates Alessandro Nesta and Giuseppe Pancaro in Zoff's list of defenders.

Ambrosini, in his second spell at AC Milan after a successful season at Vicenza last year, has never played for the first team but has established himself in the centre of Milan's midfield alongside Demetrio Albertini, who is also named.

Italy's attack will be led by Lazio's Christian Vieri, Filippo Inzaghi of Juventus and possibly AS Roma forward Francesco Totti. All three players found the back of the net in league matches earlier on Sunday.

Parma's Enrico Chiesa is Zoff's other striker.

SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Gianluigi Buffon (Parma), Francesco Toldo (Fiorentina)

**Defenders:** Paolo Maldini (AC Milan), Paolo Negro (Lazio), Alessandro Nesta (Lazio), Giuseppe Pancaro (Lazio), Christian Panucci (Real Madrid), Gianluca Pessotto (Juventus)

**Midfielders:** Demetrio Albertini (AC Milan), Massimo Ambrosini (AC Milan), Dino Baggio (Parma), Antonio Conte (Juventus), Eusebio Di Francesco (AS Roma), Diego Fuser (Parma), Giuliano Gianichedda (Udinese), Gianluca Zambrotta (Bari)

**Forwards:** Enrico Chiesa (Parma), Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus), Francesco Totti (AS Roma), Christian Vieri (Lazio)

Novotna heads Hamburg field

HAMBURG, Germany, Apr 26 (AFP): Czech star Jana Novotna will be hoping she can go the extra step and claim the Betty Barclay Cup title here in Hamburg this week after twice finishing as runner-up.

At the first major European clay court tournament of the season, Novotna heads a field that is without German stars Steffi Graf and Anke Huber.

The injury-plagued Graf was forced to withdraw from Germany's Fed Cup tie against Japan at the weekend after suffering an inflamed joint in her right foot, while Huber is hampered by an inflamed toe.

Shooting star Venus Williams of America makes her Hamburg debut as the number two seed when play begins on Tuesday.

Slaney found guilty of doping

PARIS, Apr 26 (AFP): Former double world champion Mary Decker Slaney has been found guilty of doping, the athletics world governing body IAAF said on Monday.

The 40-year-old 1993 world 1500m and 3000m champion tested positive during the American 1996 trials for an illegally high level of testosterone-epitestosterone.

She was banned the following year but readmitted by her national federation later even though the IAAF referred the case to their arbitration tribunal.

The IAAF arbitration tribunal said Monday that Slaney was guilty of a doping offence on June 17 1996 and that the American federation's findings were wrong.

All her results and awards, the IAAF added, in the two-year period which she ought to have been banned, up to June 16 1998, would be null and void. The IAAF further said there was no right of appeal.

IAAF media director Giorgio Reineri confirmed on Monday that Decker Slaney could continue racing immediately.

"She can continue running. The only punishment is that her results in the period she should have been banned are now null and void," Reineri said.

Chelsea's challenge falters

SHEFFIELD, England, Apr 25 (AFP): Chelsea's 0-0 draw with Sheffield Wednesday on Sunday has made a serious dent in the London side's Premiership title-winning aspirations.

However for Wednesday it helped them in their battle to keep relegation at bay.

Gianluca Vialli's Chelsea side have now drawn their last three matches and find themselves four points adrift of current leaders Arsenal and three behind second-placed Manchester United.

It's hard to see them going any higher, while they still face a challenge from Leeds for that third place which guarantees a Champions League action next season.

The reason being is that the skilful, fast-flowing football

which had carried Chelsea to their long, unbeaten run and to the top of the Premier League for a brief spell, has simply evaporated.

There were too many misplaced passes, too much hit-and-hope to suggest the Blues can seriously overhaul either Manchester United or Arsenal down the closing stretch.

But despite that, they are still not out of the title frame as their run-in is the easier of the three, with matches against Everton, Spurs and Derby potential three-point bankers.

But then Vialli's side were also expected to beat Middlesbrough, Leicester and Wednesday as well, but have ended up with a total of just three points.

The six dropped would have seen them climb the summit again, but it's clearly become advantage Arsenal and United.

Vialli's body language was

also a clear pointer of his growing frustration, the Italian becoming increasingly animated during the second-half.

The dismissive gesticulations of referee Steve Dunn's decisions which went against him and his side became more and more flamboyant as the game wore on.

But this was a match for the purist as both sides, in particular Wednesday, defended solidly as Chelsea's attacks floundered on the rocks which were Emerson and Des Walker.

Although having taken just five points from the last 27, their future in the Premiership for next season looks almost guaranteed.

The Owls are now eight points clear of Southampton and Charlton, with both the Saints and the Addicks having just three games left with which to save themselves.

Kuerten gains at Rios' cost

MONTE CARLO, Apr 26 (AFP): Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten won the first all-South American final in the history of the Monte Carlo Open on Sunday, lifting the trophy 6-4, 2-1 when Chilean opponent Marcelo Rios retired with a thigh injury.

The victory gave the 1996 French Open winner his fourth career crown and his first since Mallorca last autumn. All of his wins have come on clay.

"This is the first time that the Brazilian flag has been flown here since (Formula 1 driver) Ayrton Senna (won the Monaco Grand Prix)," said "Guga," on his way to becoming a sporting idol in Brazil as Senna was before him.

This is a very emotional moment for me," added Kuerten. Rios, who won the title here in 1997, said that he first felt his thigh problem in a late semi-final win Saturday over Frenchman Jerome Golmard.

"The last thing I wanted to do was not finish this match," said the ninth seed, who only recently overcame four months of back problems which kept him from starting his season until last month.

"But I just could not go on," Rios said. After a scheduled best-of-five sets final ended after less than an hour on court at a site overlooking the Mediterranean.

"I'm sorry it had to end this way. I really wanted to play it out, there was just no way."

Kuerten collected a cheque for 361,000 dollars and goes into next week's BMW Open in Munich riding high as third seed.

"I'm sorry this match could not go all the way," said the Brazilian. "I really wanted to win this title the right way."

Fed Cup Germans overpower Japan

HAMBURG, Germany, Apr 26 (AFP): Germany joined the world's elite with a 3-2 victory over Japan in the Fed Cup world group I first round fixture here on Sunday.

Handicapped by the absence of injured players Steffi Graf, Anke Huber and Marlene Weingartner, the Germans nevertheless secured victory on Sunday from being one match all on Saturday.

World number 13 Elena Wagner took her match against number 84 Miho Saeki of Japan 7-6 (10/8), 6-3 after losing Saturday's match to world number 139 Shinobu Asagoe 7-6 (8/6), 6-1.

Japan's Ai Sugiyama, world ranked number 24, withdrew Saturday morning from her country's scheduled singles match with Wagner and was replaced by 22-year-old Asagoe.

However, the German victory was assured by Andrea Glass, 65th in the world, who in winning 6-4, 6-3 subjected Asagoe to the same fate she subjected Miko Saeki to on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Japan secured a second win on Sunday when doubles pair Shinobu Asagoe and Saori Obata beat Germany's Jana Kandarr and Andrea Glass in three sets 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

Rennes stay in hunt for Champions' League spot

PARIS, Apr 26 (AFP): Lyon's bid to secure a place in next season's Champions' League suffered a blow Sunday when the team best placed to deprive them of the place, Rennes, inflicted a 2-1 home defeat on the team immediately above them in the table.

The result put fourth-placed Rennes within three points of Lyon for each side although Lyon have scored more goals and conceded less than their Britany rivals.

With Marseille and Bordeaux virtually assured of places in Europe's top club competition, the third ticket would seem to be a two-way battle between Lyon and Rennes.

A win for Lyon would have all but ended the hopes of Rennes, who currently are qualified for the UEFA Cup.

A goal from Cedric Bardon (33) and a penalty from Shabani Nonda (71) gave the visitors a 2-0 lead and Christophe Coccard's injury time consolation for Lyon came too late.

Meanwhile, Paris St Germain more or less ensured their first division status by beating fellow strugglers Le Havre 3-0 at the Parc des Princes.

Ginola, Anelka fellow Professionals' choice

LONDON, Apr 26 (AFP): Tottenham's French winger David Ginola has Sunday been voted Player of the Year by his fellow professionals in the English Premiership.

Ginola just beat Manchester United's Champions' Cup hero Dwight Yorke and his World Cup winning compatriot Emmanuel Petit for the coveted

the 12 million pounds switch from Aston Villa to Old Trafford in his stride and blossomed under Alex Ferguson's guidance.

Arsenal's Petit has been plagued by disciplinary problems this season. He picked up three red cards during the Gunners' defence of their Premiership title but has proved as influential as ever when he has been available to Arsene Wenger.

His midfield partnership with Partick Vieira has become

a formidable force for the High-bury club and the duo were named in the divisional team voted by their fellow players.

Young Player of the Year Anelka, also named in the Premiership team, stopped Owen, the only Englishman involved in the big awards, defending his crown.

The three Arsenal men are joined in the Premiership team by five Manchester United stars, Yorke, David Beckham,

Honours split in Munich derby

MUNICH, Apr 26 (AFP): A late goal from a corner kick by 1860 Munich's Marco Kurz gave the Lions an unexpected 1-1 draw against city rivals Bayern Munich Sunday.

Bayern now have 65 points while second placed Bayer Leverkusen, who beat VfB Stuttgart 0-1 Friday evening, have crept closer with 57.

1860 Munich have been waiting 22 years to beat Bayern - their last win was in November 1977 when they came away 3-1 winners - and almost chalked up another defeat Sunday.

Having lost their previous five matches 1860 were on the precipice once more when Markus Babel scored on 75 minutes.

Thomas Strunz's cross was headed by Thomas Helmer and blocked by 1860's keeper Michael Hoffmann. The ball bounced off Hoffmann's chest though and a lurking Babel buried it.

That goal brought some life to an otherwise flat game.

It forced the Lions' coach Werner Loranz to switch his side around, bringing on two fresh men in the form of Bernd Hobsch and Abderrahim Ouakil who are known for their attacking qualities.

Their presence and a fresh sense of desperation by 1860 saw far more action in the final 15 minutes than in the previous 75.

Bayern's Carsten Jancker began to look dangerous and a likely candidate to score a second goal for Bayern but instead it was 1860's Marco Kurz who headed his side's 89th minute corner kick past keeper Oliver Kahn for a 1-1 draw.

Young Player of the Year

Runner-up: Dwight Yorke (Man Utd)

Third: Emmanuel Petit (Arsenal)

Also short-listed: David Beckham, Dennis Bergkamp, Roy Keane.

Young Player of the Year: Nicolas Anelka (Arsenal)

Runner-up: Michael Owen (Liverpool)

Third: Harry Kewell (Leeds)

Also short-listed: Lee Bowyer, Lee Hendrie, Alan Smith.

Premiership dream team

1 Nigel Martyn (Leeds), 2 Gary Neville (Man Utd), 3 Denis Irwin (Man Utd), 4 Patrick Vieira (Arsenal), 5 Sol Campbell (Tottenham), 6 Jaap Stam (Man Utd), 7 David Beckham (Man Utd), 8 Dwight Yorke (Man Utd), 9 Nicolas Anelka (Arsenal), 10 Emmanuel Petit (Arsenal), 11 David Ginola (Tottenham).



NICOLAS ANELKA

PFA Player of the Year title.

Another Frenchman, Nicolas Anelka of Arsenal, was named the Young Player of the Year award ahead of last year's winner Michael Owen and Australian international Harry Kewell of Leeds.

Ginola's flamboyant wing play has dazzled the Premiership since George Graham moved to White Hart Lane last year.

The former Newcastle star has lit up a rejuvenated Spurs team who have claimed the Worthington Cup, a place in next season's UEFA Cup and reached the semi-finals of the FA Cup.

He received his accolade at the 26th annual awards dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel, in London Sunday night.

Yorke, many people's favourite for the prize after plundering 27 goals as Manchester United gunned for an unprecedented treble, had to settle for second place.

The Tobagan star has taken



DAVID GINOLA

Denis Irwin, Gary Neville and Jaap Stam.

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Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Harun-ur-Rashid MP (X) poses with footballers of Dhaka and Rajshahi Sonali Atit Clubs prior to their exhibition match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo



Barcelona's Brazilian superstar Rivaldo (C) looking for a way through a number of Atletico Madrid defenders during their Spanish Primera Liga clash at Madrid on April 25. — AFP photo

Atletico hold Barcelona

MADRID, Apr 26 (AFP): Spanish champions-elect Barcelona could only draw 1-1 at Atletico Madrid but remain nine points clear at the top of the Spanish championship on Sunday.

Barcelona, on 63 points, are ahead of Celta Vigo, Real Mallorca and Deportivo La Coruna who all have 54.

Fifth-placed Real Madrid lost their chance to move into second spot in the championship following their 1-1 draw at bottom club Salamanca.

Madrid have 53, 10 points behind Barca, and Valencia are sixth, 11 points behind the Catalonians.

Atletico's Juan Carlos Valeron scored first for the UEFA Cup semi-finalists 10 minutes after the break before

Barcelona defender Abelardo equalized in the 63rd minute.

Real, who did not have a single shot on target during the first half, opened the scoring in the 47th minute through Raul, who tops the goalscoring list with 22, ahead of Barcelona's Brazilian Rivaldo who has 19.

But Real's lead only lasted four minutes when Sergio Corino equalized.

Meanwhile, Mallorca capped a fabulous week, which saw them through to the European Cup Winners Cup final after beating England's Chelsea on Thursday.

Biagini, who scored the winning goal in the semi-final, second leg, hit a first half hat-trick as they went on to beat Athletic Bilbao 6-1. Ariel Ibagaza, Marcelino and Daniel Dani hit the other goals.

"Mallorca are on a real high following their victory over

Chelsea," Athletic Bilbao coach Luis Fernandez said after the game.

On Saturday night, Celta Vigo and Valencia drew 2-2, the best possible result for Barcelona.

Vigo were denied the win by just seconds when Francisco Farinos notched a last-gasp equalizer for Valencia.

Croatian international striker Goran Vlaovic put Valencia ahead in the 11th minute but Vigo fought back to level six minutes before the younger break through Juan Sanchez.

And the visitors looked to have secured a fine win when Russia's Valery Karpin fired them in front four minutes into injury-time.

Deportivo La Coruna continued their impressive season with a 3-0 victory over Real Valladolid.

Lazio owe Vieri one

MILAN, Apr 26 (AFP): Christian Vieri kept Lazio at the top of Italian football on Sunday with a price less winner against Sampdoria, but AC Milan stayed on their tail with a 2-0 win at Vicenza.

Lazio, who had lost both their previous matches, were struggling to make headway before Vieri headed home a cross from Portuguese winger Sergio Conceicao on the hour for a 1-0 win.

Both sides finished an Argentinian short, with Lazio midfielder Matias Almeyda being sent off in the 66th minute and Sampdoria losing playmaker Ariel Ortega just three minutes later.

Lazio stay one point clear at the top, but Milan kept the pressure on the league leaders with their convincing win at Vicenza, who like Sampdoria are fighting to avoid relegation.

German centre-forward Oliver Bierhoff nodded home Milan's first in the 39th minute and Brazilian substitute Leonardo, who came on for injured Croatian Zvonimir Boban, made it 2-0 in the 71st minute.

With four matches left to play, the Serie A is clearly destined for a pulsating finale to the season.

Juventus, crushed by their European Cup disappointment against Manchester United, bounced back to beat third-placed Fiorentina 2-1 - and snuff out the Florence club's last faint hopes of winning the league.

Filippo Inzaghi, who scored two quick goals against Alex Ferguson's men last Wednesday, bagged another in the 24th minute, heading home a cross from the right by France's World Cup captain Didier De-

schamps.

Piemontina looked to have secured a draw when Belgian international Luis Oliveira equalised in the 85th minute, but captain Antonio Conte notched Juventus' winner just two minutes later.

AS Roma moved to within one point of Parma's fourth place by beating them 1-0 at the Olympic stadium.

Skipper Francesco Totti cracked home the late winner, giving Roma fresh hope they can rob Parma of their place in the next Champions League before the season comes to an end.

Brazilian striker Marco Amoroso, meanwhile, outshone his more famous compatriot Ronaldo with two goals in a 3-1 victory here over Inter Milan.

Amoroso slotted home an 11th minute penalty after a hand-ball by Nigerian defender Taribo West, and Inter managed only one shot on goal in the opening 45 minutes - a free-kick from Roberto Baggio.

Whistled off by the home fans at half-time, the barracking seemed to do some good to the team managed by stand-in coach Luciano Castellini, with Chilean Ivan Zamorano equalising in the 53rd minute.

But Amoroso broke away to score again in the 64th minute and then tied up Paolo Poggi to score Udinese's third to put the result beyond doubt.

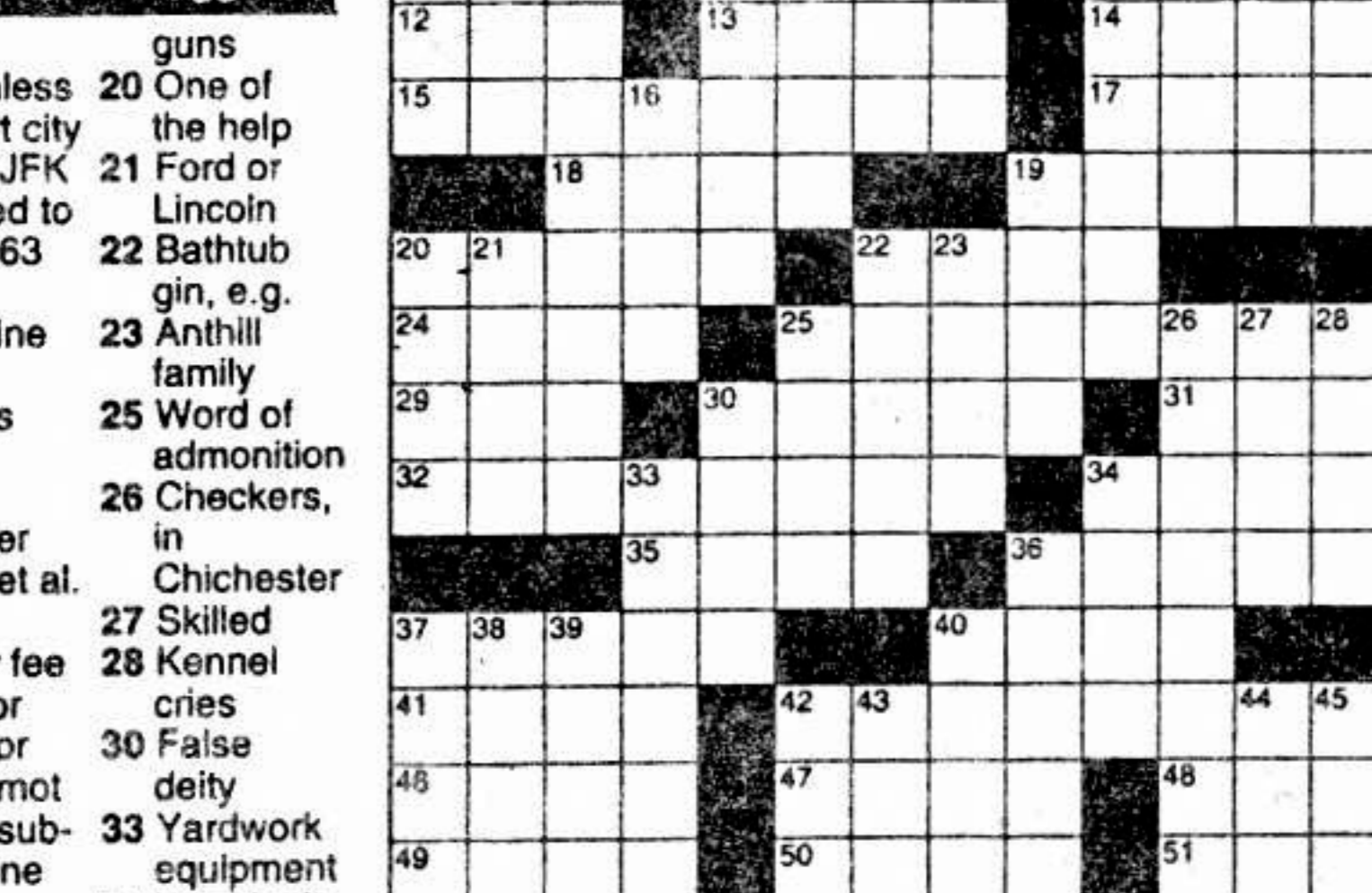
The match was watched by Marcello Lippi, making his first appearance at San Siro since being announced as Inter's coach for next season.

Bologna's controversial UEFA Cup semi-final exit, which combined a dubious penalty and an all-out punch-up in the players' tunnel, left its mark on the team on Sunday as they crashed to a 4-0 away defeat at Salernitana.

Hat-trick hero Marco Di Vaio

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Sphere definitions 4 Catholic symbol, in Catalan 8 Strong silent type? 12 Conk out 13 Clinton's hometown 14 Letter-mart rival 15 Mad Tea Party guest 17 Aware of 18 Similar to 19 Hypnotized 20 Battleship destroyed in 1988 22 Visibility hindrance 24 Family member 25 Pillow actress 29 Resident suffix 30 Prosperous times 31 Slugger's stat. 32 Inactivity 34 Insect's sense organ 35 Four-letter word



DOWN 1 Matchless 2 Resort city 3 What JFK claimed to be in '63 4 Stifle 5 Libertine 6 Pros-perous 7 Wye 8 Dolly et al. 9 Loan 10 Poker fee 11 Anchor 12 Basil or bergamot 13 Pigs' ditch 14 Croupier's tool 15 Liberator 16 Culture medium 17 Wye follower 18 Dolly et al. 19 Loan 20 Poker fee 21 Ford or Lincoln 22 Bathub gin, e.g. 23 Anthill family 24 Checkers, in admonition 26 Checkers, in 27 Skilled 28 Kennel 29 False 30 Daisy 31 Yardwork equipment 34 Whodunit 35 Tem-pled 37 Stroller 38 Hindu music style 39 Suitable 40 Grails 42 Bicyclem dosage 43 Mined-over matter 44 Pack away 45 Wool quantity?

Solution time: 26 mins. CRYPTOQUIP P S VOYUEPL OWOL WOXOUEYPELT MPHO OEUPLX ELPSEM VYEVHOYT. Yesterday's Cryptquip: THE EMBARRASSED PRISONER ADMITS THAT STEALING LAMPS IS NOT A BRIGHT IDEA. Today's Cryptquip clue: V equals C. The Cryptquip 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.