Queen Elizabeth is talking to Indian master batsman Sachin Tendulkar (R) while Pakistan's Moin Khan (2nd from R) and Zimbabwean Heath Streak watch during a reception for the players participating in the cricket World Cup at the Buckingham Palace yesterday. — AFP photo

How they fared

From page 13

points into the second stage, however, could prove fatal. But their demise, if it comes about, should be worth watching.

Results: Played five, won three, lost two. Second in group A, carrying forward zero points.

Australia

Don't write off Steve Waugh's men just yet. The signs are they are beginning to run into form after a lacklustre start. Glenn McGrath, the core of the team's bowling threat, appears to be getting to grips with the tournament's swinging white ball at last, with five wickets against the West Indies. Shane Warne also took three wickets in that game. But there remains a feeling that the team is not match sharp after months of non-stop cricket. Even the fielding has been ragged. The rearguard batting performance against Pakistan, however, showed that this is not a team ready to die quietly. The handicap of going into the second round without any points looks insurmountable but Australia are the one side who might just pull it off.

Results: Played five, won three, lost two. Second in group B, carrying forward zero points.

Sri Lanka

The heroes of 1996 were reduced to zeroes as Sri Lanka failed in their defence of their title. With seniors like skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and Aravinda De Silva struggling with the bat, the juniors were unable to keep the ship afloat. Skipper Arjuna Ranatunga, meanwhile, failed to change his failing tactics. By the end, he was reduced to blaming his team-mates rather than himself. The bowling, as before, lacked depth but could not be papered over this time. Not even the presence of Muttiah Murlitharan, one of the world's leading spinners, made a difference. They can expect an angry reception from their fans but the pool of talent, as Ranatunga pointed out, is shallow.

Results: Played five, won two, lost three. Fifth in group A, eliminated.

West Indies

Brian Lara, struggling with a painful wrist, came but failed to conquer as his team, despite a helping hand from Australia, was knocked out in the first round for the third time in the last four World Cups. The captain's poor form contributed to the debacle but he was not the only culprit. There were few heroes, although ageing warhorses Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose continued to astound. With a combined age of more than 70, they worried every bastman that they came across. Soon they will be gone, however, leaving Lara on his own to carry an increasingly heavy burden. The victories of 1975 and 1979 may never be repeated.

Results: Played five, won three, lost two. Fourth in group B, eliminated.

England

Alec Stewart's men became the first England team to fail to progress from the first round. There were fine performamces from strike bowlers Alan Mullally and Darren Gough, but the batting failed to fire, despite a few sparks from Nasser Hussain and Graeme Hick. But Stewart's poor form and the dependence on 'bits and pieces' players rather than genuine all-rounders was cruelly exposed. Stewart may be forced to quit, coach David Lloyd has already gone before being pushed. England's glory days seem a long way behind them but sadly few people seemed to notice - they were all watching Manchester United.

Results: Played five, won three, lost two. Fourth in group A, eliminated.

Bangladesh

They arrived for their first World Cup worrying as much about the cold as the opposition. They return as heroes, having first beaten fellow debutants Scotland and then Pakistan, in one of the biggest upsets in the history of the tournament. But coach Gordon Greenidge, removed from his post in his team's finest hour for his outspokeness, is surely right when he says the team still lacks real quality and that the Bangladesh dream of Test status remains a long way off.

Results: Played five, won two, lost three. Fifth in group B, eliminated.

Scotland

First-timers Scotland may have lost all five matches but at least they threw up a player of genuine promise. Gavin Hamilton, the Yorkshire professional, scored 217 runs - the third highest individual total of the first round - in Scottish colours after England decided not to include him in their 15-man squad. With both home teams failing to progress, however, there are already calls for England to take a closer look at the 24-year-old all-rounder. Unable to offer him a professional career, Scotland are likely to lose their one gem.

Results: Played five, lost five. Sixth and last in group B, eliminated.

Kenya

The Kenyans continue to ride on the back of their stunning victory over the West Indies in the last World Cup. They promised much here but failed to deliver, losing all five matches. Steve Tikolo still remains the only batsman of real class although wicket-keeper Kennedy Otieno made useful contributions. There was little that coach Alvin Kallicharran could do, having taken over only a few months ago. Scoring 230 against Sri Lanka in their last game was some consolation.

Results: Played five, lost five. Sixth and last in group A, eliminated.

Van Gaal being blunt

BARCELONA, June 2: Barcelona coach Louis van Gaal has begun a spring clear-out at the club, putting four first team players up for sale and telling another two they are definitely on their way, reports Reuters.

The Dutch coach, announcing his plans for the new season after Barcelona wrapped up the Spanish league title for the second successive year, also hinted that another four players could be sold as his rebuilding work at the Catalan club continues.

Veteran defender Miguel Angel Nadal — once wanted by Manchester United — the highly rated Garcia brothers Oscar and Roger and Yugoslav winger Dragan Ciric have all been put on the transfer market as of Wednesday, van Gaal said.

Third choice goalkeeper Carlos Busquets, whose contract is up at the end of the season, will definitely be leaving, along with Argentine defender Mauricio Pellegrino, who will go back to his former club Velez Sarsfield.

Another four men — Catalan midfielder Albert Celades, Nigerian defender Gbenga Okunowo and Brazilians Giovanni and Sonny Anderson — are also expected to leave, although van Gaal said he had not yet spoken to the players and would therefore not comment.

"It's never a good day to announce things like this but I wanted to tell the players face to face," van Gaal said. "I've told them now so they can get their futures sorted out.

"Despite their disappointment they're happy that this is all out in the open. They're more or less in agreement with what I've decided."

"Next season these players would have had very little chance to play first team football."

Barcelona have already received offers for Oscar and Roger Garcia and Albert Celades, with Celta Vigo ready to pay 2,000 million pesetas (12.48 million dollars) for the trio.

Chelsea have also expressed interest in striker Oscar, while Monaco have enquired about midfielder Roger.

Real Zaragoza are keen on Ciric, although the asking price of 400 million pesetas (2.5 million dollars) could prove a stumbling block.

Barca will also have to drop the 5,000 million peseta (31.21 million dollars) price of the 32-year-old Nadal, who in the past has turned down offers from Manchester United, Lazio, Roma and Deportivo Coruna.

Van Gaal said he would sign replacements for some of the players, although he hoped to bring in some from the Barcelona youth team.

Barcelona are believed to have agreed the signings of three players for next season, with another two earmarked to move up from the youth team.

Lens defender Frederic Dehu, Finnish striker Jari Litmanen of Ajax Amsterdam and Simao Sabrosa, currently at Sporting Lisbon, are all understood to be joining Barca in the summer, although the club have not yet confirmed any of the signings.

Xavi Hernandez, who played 17 first team games this term before transferring back to Barcelona B, will be fully incorporated into van Gaal's squad, along with fellow youngster Gabri Garcia.

Woolmer losing interest fast

LONDON, June 2: South African World Cup coach Bob Woolmer, a front-runner to succeed David Lloyd as England's coach, all but ruled himself out here on Wednesday by saying he needed a break from the sport, reports AFP.

Woolmer, a former English Test batsman who has been coaching South Africa since 1994, was on the England shortlist after Lloyd left after the hosts' exit from the World Cup.

But Woolmer said: "I need to take a break and, as for 'do I want to do it again', I don't know the answer to that question."

He said of the England job: "While it's a prime job in English cricket, it's a tough one. Especially as I've been in the South Africa job for five years."

England are looking to install a coach as soon as possible, with a home Test series against New Zealand looming.

Woolmer is now expected to return to coach English county Warwickshire, where he was a huge success before taking on the South African job.

Irish undecided

DUBLIN, June 2: The Irish government debated Tuesday whether to withdraw visas to Yugoslavia's soccer team as the most decisive way to prevent the controversial European 2000 qualifier going ahead Saturday in Dublin, reports AP.

But after two hours of private discussions, Prime Minister Bertie Ahern and his cabinet decided to await the outcome of negotiations Wednesday between the government's sports minister, Jim McDaid, and UEFA President Lennart Johannson.

Kiwis need

From page 16

make an impression, Scotland's world cup campaign was nice while it lasted.

"It is difficult to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the teams in our group because they never had to fully extend themselves against us," he said.

"But if you were to give me some money to bet with, I would go for Australia.

"They showed against the West Indies what they can do when it really matters and they will be hard to stop if they get on a roll."

Bits & pieces

From page 13

star.

"New avenues are opening up in India all the time and such is Sachin's excellent image, popularity and ability, he'll soon be making a lot more money," Mascarenhas was quoted saying.

"He already has 85 per cent of the Indian sports sponsorship market," he added.

Tendulkar earns in excess of 1.5 million pounds (2.4 million dollars) per year, mainly through sponsorship deals with companies including Adidas and Pepsi.

His annual income is reported to be double that of his closest rival Brian Lara, who is also a prolific run-maker and captain of the West Indies team.

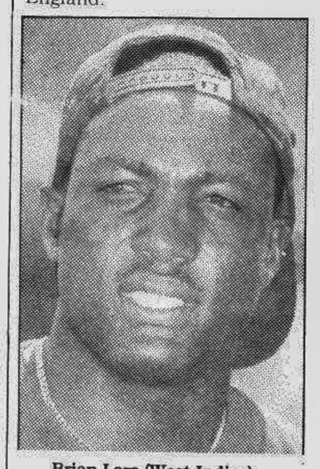
Pace-setters and wobblers

LONDON, June 2 (AFP): Who's hot, who's not at the 1999 World Cup:

Saurav Ganguly (India)

Stylish left-hander and a major Indian success in the World Cup. English conditions suit him, as he showed here in 1996 when making centuries in his first two Test matches. Made 183 while putting on a world record one-day stand of 318 with Rahul Dravid against Sri Lanka. His bowling is a bonus. Took three for 27 in the winner-takes-all against England.

Performances: 97 v South Africa, 9 and 1-22 v Zimbabwe, 13 and 0-47 v Kenya, 183 and 0-37 v Sri Lanka, 40 and 3-27 v England.



Brian Lara (West Indies)

One of the disappointments of the tournament. Regarded as the best left-hander in the world, he came to the tournament after scoring 213, 153 not out and 100 in consecutive Tests against Australia but, struggling with an injured wrist, he never found any form. The West Indies' bowlers had a fine World Cup but the batting - and Lara in particular - never fired at all. His request to go and see the European Cup final in Barcelona in the middle of the group games said it all.

Performances: 11 v Pakistan, 25 v Bangladesh, 36 v New Zealand, 25not out v Scotland, 9 v Australia

Rahul Dravid (India)

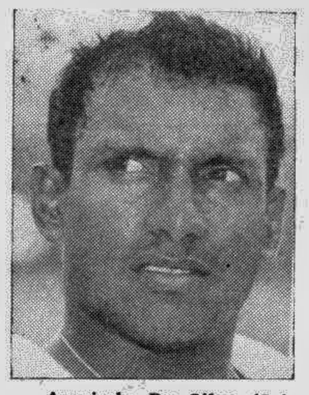
Considered too slow for one-day cricket until a year ago. The transformation has been remarkable. He now rotates the strike well and goes for his shots while rarely improvising or slogging. Enters the second round as the tournament's leading scorer with 369 runs, including back-to-back centuries against Kenya and Sri Lanka. Put on a world record one-day stand of 318 with Saurav Ganguly against Sri Lanka.

Performances: 54 v South Africa, 13 v Zimbabwe, 104 not out v Kenya, 145 v Sri Lanka, 53 v England.

Sachin Tendulkar (India)

The "little master" earned the gratitude of one billion Indians when courageously returning from his father's funeral to inspire his teammates after two consecutive defeats. Made 140 against Kenya while still jet-lagged. With India safely into the second round, the stage is set for him to show why he is rated by many as the world's best batsman. Could be pushed back into his favourite one-day position of opener.

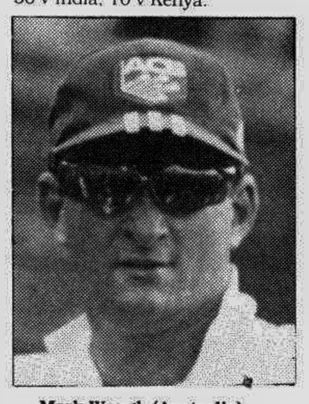
Performances: 28 v South Africa, 140 v Kenya, 2 v Sri Lanka, 22 v England.



Aravinda De Silva (Sri Lanka)

A bigger disappointment than Jayasuriya. The hero of Sri Lanka's victory in the previous World Cup final, when he made an undefeated century, he has fallen from grace, with many speculating that the 33-year-old's glorious career may be heading towards its end. He looked out of form from the start, but had to continue because of the lack of a suitable replacement. Like Jayasuriya, the movement in the air and off the wicket undid him, even though he was a huge success when playing in England for Kent in 1995.

Performances: 0 v England, 1 v South Africa, 6 v Zimbabwe, 56 v India, 10 v Kenya.



Mark Waugh (Australia)

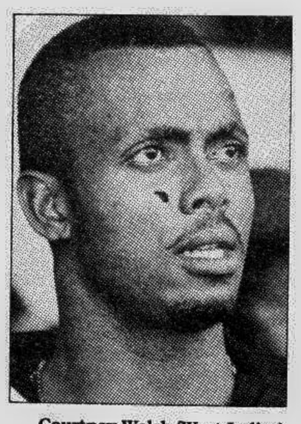
The runs have been drying up from this stylish right-hander since he opened with 67 against Scotland. His opening partnership with Adam Gilchrist is also not coming off as the team had hoped, putting extra pressure on the batsmen that follow. Waugh knows he must get it right immediately in the next round if Australia are to stay in the tournament. His marvellous run in the last World Cup, when he scored 130, 126, 76 not out, 30 and 110 in his first five innings must seem a distant memory.

Performances: 67 v Scotland, 2 v New Zealand, 41 v Pakistan, 33 v Bangladesh, 3 v the West Indies.

Shoaib Akhtar (Pakistan)

Has lived up to the hype of being the fastest bowler in the world, with eight first-round wickets. More than that, he instilled such fear in opposition batsmen that his team-mates also profited. Who can forget his first delivery in the competition, rising sharply on West Indian opener Sherwin Campbell who unwittingly topedged the ball for six over third man. With speed guns installed for the second round, the world will soon know exactly how fast Akhtar is. He was timed at 97 miles an hour in Sharjah in April.

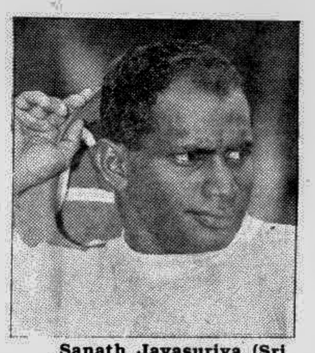
Performances: 0-30 v Bangladesh, 2-31 v New Zealand, 1-46 v Australia, 3-11 v Scotland, 2-54 v West Indies.



Courtney Walsh (West Indies)

The ageing Jamaican paceman and former captain distinguished himself in an otherwise unimpressive West Indian campaign with 11 wickets in five matches. It should have been enough but it wasn't. He exploited the English conditions - which he knows so well after 14 years at Gloucestershire - to perfection. Appears certain to overtake Kapil Dev's Test world record of 434 wickets soon - he is just 12 short. But his last World Cup appearance ended sadly, when New Zealand nudged the West Indies out of the Super Six on run rate.

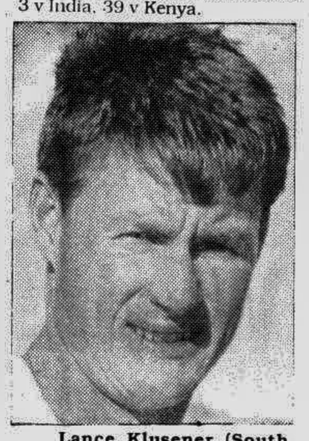
Performances: 3-28 v Pakistan, 0-25 v Australia, 3-7 v Scotland, 1-23 v New Zealand, 4-25 v Bangladesh.



Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka)

The star of 1996, anonymous in 1999. The world's most swashbuckling opener, he has been unable to repeat the form that made him an instant hit on Asia's flat tracks during the last World Cup. Injuries and personal problems before the tournament hardly helped. Seaming English conditions have not either. With the ball coming onto the bat, he should be much happier for Sri Lanka's home series against Australia in August - as long as he is not made into a scapegoat by the selectors.

Performances: 29 v England, 5 v South Africa, 6 v Zimbabwe, 3 v India, 39 v Kenya.



Lance Klusener (South Africa)

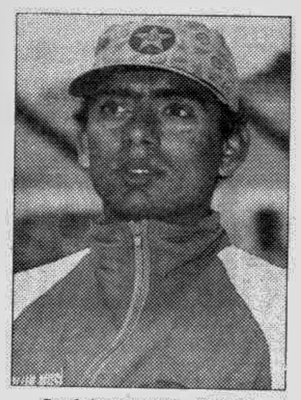
South Africa's hero of the first round, with 13 wickets and 164 runs without being dismissed. The hard-hitting, fast-scoring left-hander twice won close games with the bat and had a hand in his team's other two victories with the ball. But even an unbeaten 52 against Zimbabwe could not prevent a shock defeat for the favourites. If South Africa go on to win the World Cup, Klusener will be a major factor in the team's engine room. Very highly regarded by his peers, who say his name is always the first to be written down on the one-day team-sheet.

Performances: 12 not out and 3-66 v India, 52 not out and 3-21 v Sri Lanka, 48 not out and 1-16 v England, 5-21 v Kenya and 52 not out and 1-36 v Zimbabwe

Jacques Kallis (South Africa)

Another all-rounder playing an important role in South Africa's success, after a phenomenal improvement in his bowling over the last season. Began with 96 against India, then defeated Sri Lanka with three quick wickets with the new ball. Bats at number three and is often given the new ball to allow Allan Donald to come on first change. Once a medium-paced swing bowler, he is now decidedly sharp and many regard him today as the number one all-rounder in the game. Still describes himself as a batsman who bowls a bit.

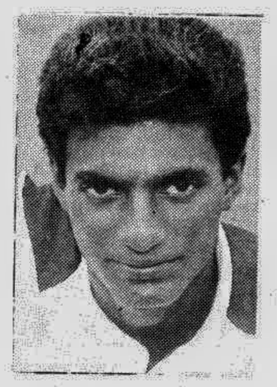
Performances: 96 and 0-43 v India, 12 and 3-26 v Sri Lanka, 0 and 2-29 v England, 44 not out and 0-37 v Kenya, 0 and 0-36 v Zimbabwe.



Saqlain Mushtaq (Pakistan)

The world's leading off spinner and a master of the one-day game, he lends tremendous support to his fast bowlers. His nagging length and line and his deadly "sliders" that drift from leg to off give batsmen no respite. Took three crucial wickets in his team's 10-wicket win over Australia in what was the most hotly-contested match of the first round. His experience with Surrey has helped him outshine his rival spinners during the first round.

Performances: 1-22 v the West Indies, 1-46 v Scotland, 3-51 v Australia, 2-34 v New Zealand, 5-35 v Bangladesh.



Muttiah Muralitharan (Sri Lanka)

Like his team, the gifted off spinner with the double-jointed wrist and bent elbow did not get into the right groove as Sri Lanka made an early and ignominious exit. Even his haul of three for 25 against South Africa was not enough to save them from defeat. Came to the World Cup with high expectations after taking 16 wickets in a one-off Test against England at The Oval last year and five wickets in the triangular final at Lord's. At least he will get a few weeks' rest before starting his county career at Lancashire.

Performances: 1-33 v England, 3-25 v South Africa, 2-29 v Zimbabwe, 0-60 v India and 0-11 v Kenya.

Ridley Jacobs (West Indies)

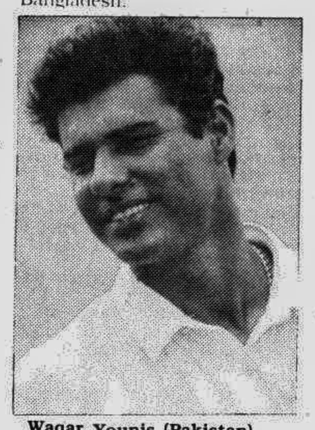
A wicket-keeper doubling up as an opening batsman, he did everything right as the batsmen around him did everything wrong. Produced several outstanding dislays with bat and gloves but could not save the former double champions from an early return home. The Antiguan was brilliant against New Zealand, taking five catches before scoring a match-winning 80 not out. Against Australia, he carried his bat for 49 as the team was skittled for 110. Made his debut last year as a 30-year-old. What a waste.

Performances: 25 and one catch v Pakistan, 51 and two catches v Bangladesh, 80 not out and five catches v New Zealand, three catches v Scotland, 49 not out and 1 catch v Australia.

Wasim Akram (Pakistan)

Leading Pakistan from the front, in his bid to emulate his mentor Imran Khan's World Cup success in 1992. He is enjoying his third stint as captain of Pakistan and has somehow bound a bunch of talented but temperamental individuals into a well-knit unit. The only bowler in the world to take more than 350 wickets in both Test and one-day cricket, he is also a useful lower order batsman. Many thought he was in the twilight of his career. He clearly isn't.

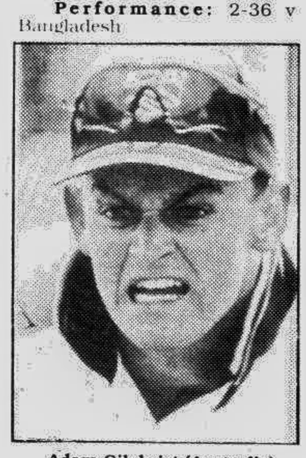
Performances: 43 and 0-37 v the West Indies, 37 not out and 3-23 v Scotland, 13 and 4-40 v Australia, 1 and 1-27 v New Zealand, 29 and 1-35 v Bangladesh.



Waqar Younis (Pakistan)

Akhtar's predecessor as the fastest bowler in the world, he is now struggling to get into the Pakistani team. Once he was Wasim Akram's right-hand - or right-arm - man but recent injuries have curtailed his career. He has played just one match out of five here, and that the inconsequential final game against Bangladesh. His two wickets in that bizarre defeat are unlikely to earn him a recall. At least he is luckier than leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, who has yet to bowl a ball in the competition.

Performance: 2-36 v Bangladesh



Adam Gilchrist (Australia)

Regarded as the pinch-hitter to watch at this World Cup, he has shone neither with bat nor behind the stumps. Australia have missed his flying starts at the top of the order, where he likes to take advantage of fielding restrictions to go for his shots. Hit an Australian record of 154 against Sri Lanka in February in Melbourne. Here, he has been less than impressive, lasting just three balls against Pakistan. But with Australia qualifying for the second round, he has the chance to get it right although pinch-hitters seem to be out of fashion in English conditions.

Performances: 6 v Scotland, 14 v New Zealand, 0 v Pakistan, 63 v Bangladesh, 21 v West Indies.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Task
4 Sound effects of stock footage?
9 Swab
12 "Hail!" to Caesar
13 U.S. Grant's real first name
14 Rushmore figure
15 Human/lion/dragon mix
17 Pinch
18 Sugar suffix
19 Votes for
21 Wet
24 Make a lasting impression?
25 "—Yankee Doodle Dandy"
26 Hallucinogen letters
28 Railroad switch
31 They'll get you moving
33 Dine on
35 Sandwich treat
36 First electronic computer
38 Derek and Diddley
40 Author Fleming
41 Cosby's "I Spy" co-star
43 Latest info
45 35 Across, e.g.
47 Corporate VIP
48 Suitable
49 Woody Allen movie
54 Torched
55 More despondent
56 AP counterpart
57 Mainlander's memento
58 Transmits
59 Comprehend

DOWN

1 Predicament
2 Eventual aves
3 Ponderosa patriarch
4 Sculptor's tool
5 Freedom
6 Plata's partner
7 Cole Porter topic
8 Refines ore
9 Region of China
10 Posthumous bio
11 Energizes, with "up"
16 Pinnacle
20 Reverb
21 Seedy joint
22 "— for All Seasons"
23 Tubular pasta
27 Brylcreem dosage
29 Trim
30 Color quality
32 Oklahoma Indian
34 Moved to sympathy
37 Seeks peaks
39 Asparagus servings
42 "Positive thinking" proponent
44 I lid?
45 Use the phone
46 Mayberry lad
50 Sister
51 Harbor boat
52 Gorilla
53 Little louse

Solution time: 27 min.

C	O	W		B	A	T	S		L	A	M	B
A	M	I		A	L	O	E		A	L	E	E
R	O	N		K	A	N	T		D	A	N	A
D	O	D	G	E	R	S	T	A	D	I	U	M
			A	R	M		L	P	S			
D	I	Z	Z	Y		Y	E	T		G	E	M
O	B	O	E		P	A	R		G	A	L	A
M	N	O		O	A	K		F	E	L	I	X
			A	N	N		M	I	A			
D	O	D	G	E	T	H	E	D	R	A	F	T
O	V	E	R		H	A	N	G		B	E	A
S	A	B	E		E	L	L	E		B	A	N
E	L	S	E		R	O	O	T		A	R	K

Yesterday's answer

CRYPTOQUIP

P K G C N Y S H K E C H A E D V H, A T W I G P D Q N G D V W D C E Y S I G S C G Q H S E H W T P H C T W Q.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: LOGICALLY, AN AARDVARK NEVER GETS SICK BECAUSE IT'S FULL OF ANTY-BODIES.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: C 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.