

## Brazil warming up well

SYDNEY, Sept 10: French-based striker Lucas came off the bench to grab a quickfire double as Brazil's Olympic football squad cruised to a 4-0 win over local club side Marconi in their final warmup game, reports AFP.

The forward, who plays for Rennes in the French league, had only been on the field for two minutes when he scored his first and Brazil's third in the 67th minute. A second strike ten minutes later completed the rout after first half goals from Ronaldinho and Geovanni.

After spending the weekend in the Olympic village here, the Brazilians, bidding to win the only major football title to have eluded them, are due to fly back to their base on the Gold Coast on Monday.

They kick off their Olympic campaign against Slovakia in Brisbane on Friday.

## Anti-shark triathletes

SYDNEY, Sept 10 (AP): The South African triathlete stepped to the edge of the dock, pulled on his goggles and prepared to dive into Sydney Harbour for a warm-up swim before the official test run of the Olympic triathlon.

"Here comes the shark bait," Conrad Stoltz joked to a bunch of Olympic volunteers.

The triathlon course, which starts and finishes on the plaza in front of Sydney's landmark Opera House, got its first workout on a sunny, warm Sunday morning.

And while many competitors have wondered what they'll encounter in the placid harbour, any sharks who wandered onto the course Sunday got quite a charge out of the event.

That's because the practice run also was the first official Olympic trial of the "sharkpod," which sends out low frequency electromagnetic shocks to repel sharks. The devices were strapped to five divers who escorted the triathletes through the harbour and will do the same during the Sydney Games.

## Fair Princess quite fair

SYDNEY, Sept 10: A cruise ship to be used as a floating Olympic hotel was given a clean bill of health on Sunday after a Legionnaires' disease scare, reports Reuters.

Health officials said checks on the P&O liner Fair Princess, which arrived in Sydney harbour today with 1,100 passengers, had cleared away fears that passengers who fell ill may have come down with potentially fatal Legionnaires' disease.

## Div I soccer

Agrani Bank defeated BRTC Sporting Club 4-3 in the tie-breaker in the National Bank Metropolitan First Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

This was the third time a First Division game went into a shootout as the sides failed to any goals.

Agrani Bank collected two points and BRTC were awarded one point.

## Premiership

## Man United march on

LONDON, Sept 10: Paul Scholes netted twice on his return to the Manchester United line-up as the champions continued their free-scoring start to the season against Sunderland, reports AFP.

Scholes scored either side of a Teddy Sheringham effort at Old Trafford as United took their goals tally to 14 in five games and reclaimed their place at the top of the Premiership.

At Anfield Liverpool withstood a Manchester City fight-back to hold on and win 3-2. Dietmar Hamann scoring twice to add to Michael Owen's strike.

Substitute George Weah scored his first City goal and Terry Horlock's 81st minute penalty responded for the visitors.

Gerry Taggart's second-half strike gave Leicester a 1-0 win over Southampton that took Peter Taylor's team into second place.

Everton scored all three goals in the 2-1 fightback victory over Middlesbrough. Steve Watson scored an own goal for Middlesbrough on seven minutes but then a second half double score from Francis Jeffers earned Everton all three points.

Aston Villa also earned a 2-1 win over Ipswich thanks to goals by Lee Hendrie and Dion Dublin, but, on a worse note, Luc Nilis, who arrived on a free transfer from PSV Eindhoven, suffered a double fracture to his leg.

Middlesbrough, Bradford drew 1-1 at home to Arsenal but before giving the Londoners an early shock after Stuart McCall fired home

in the 10th minute.

Midway through the second half however Fredrik Ljungberg found Thierry Henry in space and the Frenchman's cross picked out Ashley Cole for his first goal for the Highbury club.

The goal was shrouded in controversy after Martin Keown had grasped the ball during a tussle with Carbone as he awaited the award of a free-kick which was eventually given his way.

Lee Dixon swept the ball upfield and Cole profited, but although the goal was hardly undeserved Bradford's rearguard action merited the point they earned.

Newcastle, who led the table, before this round of matches could not stay top, held to a goalless draw at home to Chelsea.

It also finished 0-0 between Coventry and Leeds.

Manchester United added Scholes, Ryan Giggs and Jaap Stam to the nucleus of the side which had hit Bradford for six in midweek.

United did not have to wait long for the opening goal and it came in the 14th minute.

A lovely passing move culminated in the overlapping Beckham crossing from the right for Scholes to head home his first goal of the season from eight yards out.

It was a well-worked goal and which will have delighted watching England coach Kevin Keegan.

Don Hutchison managed to put the ball into the back of the United net after 38 minutes, but the assistant referee already had his flag up for offside and the effort was disallowed.

Sunderland still harboured hopes of snatching an equaliser and they thought their chance had come when Niall Quinn flicked on Emerson Thome's header only for Fabien Barthez to make a fine save.

That stop became even more critical when seconds later in the 75th minute Sheringham latched onto Cole's through-ball to double United's advantage.

United underlined their superiority when Scholes cracked home a third with his trusty right foot from just inside the area seven minutes from time to seal yet another win.

## England fix claim denied

LONDON, Sept 10 (Internet report): The head of the Scotland Yard probe into cricket match-fixing has said he would be "very surprised" if reports from India that two England players may be facing corruption charges turned out to be true.

According to a news report from the AFP news agency, a source within India's Central Bureau of Investigation had indicated that two England players and three Pakistanis would be named in an interim report into corruption by Indian police at the end of this month.

However, Detective Superintendent Steve Gwilliam, who is heading the police investigation into allegations of bribery, made by the former England all-rounder Chris Lewis, has poured cold water on the claims.

Scotland Yard have been liaising closely with their Indian counterparts, who recently visited Britain to further their investigation, and Det Supt Gwilliam said it was highly unlikely that any England players would be named without his knowledge.

"I know absolutely nothing about this at all," he said. "I'd be very surprised if this was true bearing in mind that we do talk to the Indians regularly."

Det Supt Gwilliam, who was present at the King Commission hearing in Cape Town in June when the former South African captain, Hansie Cronje, confessed to accepting inducements, says he has found no evidence to suggest that any English player has been involved in corruption.

The England and Wales Cricket Board are equally mystified by the claims and insist they have had no contact from the Indian authorities.

Separate sources within the Indian CBI also confirmed that as far as they were aware, no England player would be cited in the report.

## Torch again in trouble

SYDNEY, Sept 10: The Olympic flame escaped another hijack attempt today after a man tried to throw it into a river after snatching it from the bearer, a police spokesman said, reports DPA.

The spokesman said a man grabbed the torch from former surf world champion Tom Carroll, but was wrestled down by Carroll and security staff before managing to throw the torch into the Kiama river in the town of Kiama, south of Sydney.

## Gustavo goes down under

SYDNEY, Sept 10: Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten, likely to be named the Olympic tennis tournament's top seed, arrived Sunday with the rest of his teammates facing an uncertain fate on the Rebound Ace courts, reports AP.

The French Open singles champion has won four tournaments this year, but lost in the first round last week at the US Open to Australian Wayne Arthurs.

## Motijheel Model h'h champions

Motijheel Model School & College yesterday became new champions in the 11th Bha Schools Handball Tournament beating Rajarbagh Police Line School 23-17 at the handball court near the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The winners led the first half 12-10. Kaiser netted 8, Reefat and Sadiq 6 for the champions while Hanif scored 8 and Solai Rana 6 for the losers.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader later distributed prizes as the chief guest.



The captain and an official of Motijheel Model School and College receive the winners' trophy of the schools handball tournament from State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader after the final yesterday.

## Williams queen of US



NEW YORK, Sept 10: Third-seeded Venus Williams captured her second straight Grand Slam title.

storming from behind to beat fellow-American Lindsay Davenport, the number two seed, at the 15-million-dollar hard court event here Saturday, reports AFP.

The 20-year-old American, after an hour and a half rain delay, rallied from a 4-1 deficit in the opening set for a 6-4, 7-5 victory in one hour and 25 minutes. Venus succeeded her younger sister Serena, who won the title last year for her only Grand Slam crown.

Celebration was under way in the Williams' clan as father Richard took down to the court to embrace his daughter and did a victory dance.

The final marked the first

time since the 1984 US Open final between Chris Evert-Lloyd and Martina Navratilova that two American women competed for the title.

This was the second time in two days Venus rallied back to earn the victory. In the semifinals, she was down 5-3 in the decisive set and two points away from defeat against top-ranked Martina Hingis of Switzerland before turning the tables around.

"I felt I needed to change a few things. And it went the right way for me from there on," Venus said.

Davenport, who was appearing in her second US Open final in three years after having won here in 1998, said her serve let her down.

"I thought I was doing everything pretty well but I didn't serve the way I wanted to. The first serve percentage was just

not high enough. It let me down," said Davenport, who had a 56 per cent first serve winning margin but only 32 per cent second serves.

"I felt a lot of pressure on my serve and it started affecting my ground strokes," she added.

Hampered by multiple injuries, Davenport, who could have regained the number one ranking had she won the title, is nonetheless content by the way she played during these two weeks.

"I am leaving on a positive note because I am playing the best I've played in months. I feel good physically," she said.

With the victory, Venus, who pocketed an 800,000-dollar cheque, has now stretched her winning streak to 26. A streak that began at Wimbledon this past July.

The elder of the Williams sisters, a runner-up here in 1997, beat Davenport there, becoming the first African-American to capture the title since Althea Gibson in 1958.

Uplifted by her first Grand Slam laurels, she continued winning all summer long, capturing WTA titles this summer in Stanford, San Diego and New Haven while brushing opponents aside along the way without dropping a set.

Next goal now for Venus: the number one ranking.

"That's the next goal. We've hired a physical trainer. It's not always a lot of fun but in the long run it's gonna pay off," she said.

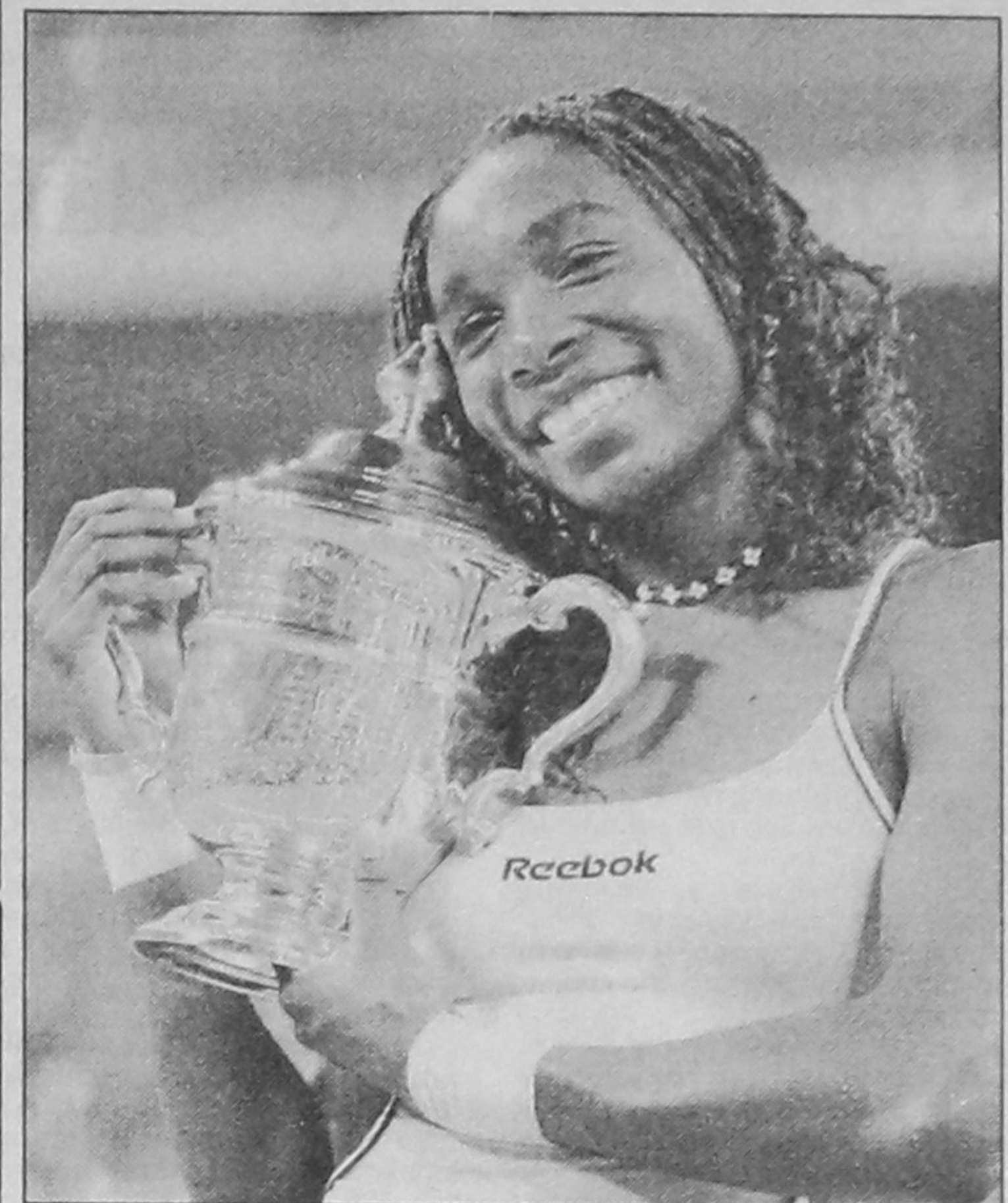
Williams has now cut Davenport's lead 9 to 6 in head-to-head meetings, with Venus winning 5 of the last six matches.

On fire from the outset and blasting winners at will, Davenport was in the zone. She earned a double break in the third and fifth game to go up 4-1.

But her game went inexplicably off the mark and Venus fought back from the edge of losing the first set. "I was returning great I was having fun in the rallies but I just couldn't hold it," she said.

She reeled off six consecutive games to close out the set and went up 1-0 in the second set.

Both women exchanged service breaks in the third and fourth game before Venus finally made the decisive break in the 12th game to sail to victory.



American Venus Williams smiles with the US Open trophy after beating compatriot Lindsay Davenport in the final on September 9.

## Legend meets a knight



NEW YORK, Sept 10 (AFP): Ten years after his first Grand Slam win here in 1990, Pete Sampras is

gunning to capture his 14th Grand Slam title and second of the year on Sunday, reports AFP.

"I want to win it and win more majors after that," Sam-

pras said. "I feel like I've got a lot of good years left in me to really contend for major tournaments."

"That's what drives me and that's what keeps me going. I don't want to have any regrets when I look back on my tennis," he added.

Sampras, a 13-time Grand Slam record holder, reached his sixth US Open final Saturday but first since 1996.

He overcame ninth-seeded Australian wonder kid Lleyton Hewitt 7-6 (9/7), 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) in two hours and 36 minutes Saturday in the semifinals.

The 19-year-old Australian, who won his first Grand Slam crown Friday, teaming up with Max Mirnyi of the Belarus to capture the doubles crown, said the experience of playing a Grand Slam semifinal will help him in the near future.

"Next time I get into a semifinal of a Grand Slam, I won't be as anxious, Hewitt said. "Just making it out there for the first time will be a big bonus when I get there again."

"I played 100 per cent out there. I didn't leave anything in the locker room," he added. "I

gave it everything I had," added Hewitt, who outplayed Sampras 23 aces to 18. "It's something I can be proud of. There will be a lot of positives when I reflect on this."

Sampras is happy making it to the finals here after pulling out last year due to a back injury.

"Being in the final here means much more this year than at any other time," he said.

The American is one match away from equalling his illustrious compatriot Jimmy Connors, who won a record five US Open titles. To accomplish that feat and earn his 14th Grand Slam, he will have to thwart hard-hitting Russian Marat Safin in Sunday's final.

The six-seeded Russian beat unseeded American Todd Martin 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/1) in the other semifinal to earn his first trip to a Grand Slam final.

The 20-year-old Russian will be the youngest man to play for the US Open singles title after fellow-Americans Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras squared off against each other in 1990.

Safin is also the first Russian to reach the US Open final and will be gunning for his first Grand Slam crown Sunday.

"It's nice to be in the finals but... something is missing," Safin said. "I want to win it and I'd like to know how it feels to be the champion here."

The 6-foot-4-inch baseline has been one of the hottest commodities on hard courts this summer, reaching the finals of two Tennis Masters Series. He captured the title in Toronto, where he beat Sampras in the quarterfinals after

the American squandered two match points, and was a runner-up in Indianapolis.

"He believes he can beat me and that's a big bonus for him," Sampras said. "But this time it will be a final of a major and he hasn't played many of them."

The American said he'd need to counter Safin's powerful serve and devastating groundstrokes. "Marat possesses a big serve. I'll need to get it back," he said. "He's a powerful player and I let him play and give him free shots to the forehand or backhand, he'll crack it."

"My goal is to hold onto serve and get a couple of chances to break him and convert."

Asked to reminisce on his first Grand Slam win here when he was an underdog, he beat Agassi, the Wimbledon king said: "Ten years ago, I was so overwhelmed that I came out with nothing to lose. I didn't know what I was doing. I just played a couple of good matches and next thing I knew I won the Open."

## Vincent takes Andre's place

NEW YORK, Sept 10: Vincent Spadea, eliminated in the first round of the US Open Tennis Championships, will replace defending Olympic gold medalist Andre Agassi on the US team in Sydney, the US Tennis Association announced Saturday, reports AFP.

Agassi withdrew from the Games in order to stay home and lead support to his mother and sister, who are battling against cancer.

Spadea lost in the first round of the US Open to Todd Martin, who is also on the Sydney team. Michael Chang, former Wimbledon bad boy Jeff Tarango and the doubles team of Alex O'Brien and Jared Palmer complete the men's roster.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Prefer	2 Southern st.	20 Praise the performance
1 Vacationing	40 Chinese gooseberry	3 Remade Disney classic	21 Hold the scepter
4 Blueprint	41 From the top	4 Leonine group	22 Stock
8 Expansive	42 Dance using castanets	5 Olympic sled	23 Bonny gal
12 Chicken-king link	46 Concerning	6 Blonde shade	25 Asian secret society
13 Stratagem	47 "A Death in the Family"	7 Bottom line	26 Pop-culture periodicals
14 Opera show-stopper	48 Pencil holder?	8 Principles writer	27 Lip
15 Window over a door	49 Mad king of literature	9 Saharan	28 Horse of another color?
17 Nexus	50 Active one	10 Make music	30 Hideaway
18 Shore phenomenon	51 Resort	11 Snatch forecast	33 April
19 Judy Sheindlin, e.g.		12 Leave it to Beaver?	34 "Music Man"
20 The Red Badge of Courage author		13 To mom	36 Autumnal quaff
22 Despondent		14 Lumox	37 Go below C level?
24 A Deadly Sin			38 Mrs. Lindbergh
25 Change of pace			39 "Ship of Fools" ship
29 Foreman foe			40 Reflex test site
30 Baggy			41 Beanie Babies, e.g.
31 Brouhaha			43 Past
32 Low caste			44 Hiatus
34 Swedish woman's name			45 Man-mouse link
35 Costly			
36 Swindle			

Solution time: 23 mins.

DOWN

1 Lumox

2 Southern st.

3 Remade Disney classic

4 Leonine group

5 Olympic sled

6 Blonde shade

7 Bottom line

8 Principles writer

9 Saharan

10 Make music

11 Snatch forecast

12 Leave it to Beaver?

13 To mom

14 Lumox

15 Window over a door

16 Concerning

17 Nexus

18 Shore phenomenon

19 Judy Sheindlin, e.g.

20 The Red Badge of Courage author

21 Hold the scepter

22 Stock

23 Bonny gal

24 A Deadly Sin

25 Change of pace

26 Pop-culture periodicals

27 Lip

28 Horse of another color?

29 Foreman foe

30 Baggy

31 Brouhaha

32 Low caste

33 April

34 "Music Man"

35 Costly

36 Swindle

37 Go below C level?

38 Mrs. Lindbergh

39 "Ship of Fools" ship

40 Reflex test site

41 Beanie Babies, e.g.

42 Dance using castanets

43 Past

44 Hiatus

45 Man-mouse link

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12										
15										
18										
20										
21										
22										
23										
24										
25										
26										
27										
28										
29										
30										
31										
32										
33										
34										
35										
36										
37										
38										
39										
40										
41										
42										
43										
44										
45										

## CRYPTOQUIP

K G P F G N P U E H A F U

P N G K E P Q K H U E O O B N O A F Q

B N N Q K P N K O G K H N

P E R S U A D E S C U S T O M E R S : T H E R E ' S N O

P R E S E N T L I K E T H E T I M E

Today's Cryptquip Clue: G equals P

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.

## TV Guide

## Monday 11th September

(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

## BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement, Recitation From The Holy Quran And Programme Outline 3:15 Patriotic Song 3:20 Open University Prog. 4:00 Bangla News 4:05 Educational Programme. Learning In The Lab And Fun With Math / Japanes Video 4:30 Sashtoth Thattho (Health Developing For Mother & Children) 4:45 Sports

Programme 5:20 Anu-Parmanu 5:45 Pushi Thaththo 6:05 Lay Transmission New Artist Audition From Chittagong Center 7:00 Samudra 7:05 Dolanchapa 7:25 Barta Probaho 8:00 Bangla News At 8:20 Package Drama: 10:00 News At Ten (English) 10:20 Ujjiban 10:50 Hazaar Bachhor Dhare 11:30 Bangla News 11:35 English News 1