Kramnik slightly ahead

LONDON, Oct 16:The fifth game between Russia's Garry Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik in the Brain Games World Chess Championship's ended in a draw after 24 moves in three hours here Sunday, leaving Kramnik leading by 3-2, reports AFP.

"I suffered an hallucination when I made the move 23. I thought I was winning because I was too tired," Kasparov said in a press conference a few minutes after the draw was agreed.

But Saturday's six-and-a-half hour marathon match of the masters -- which also ended in a draw -- appeared to have taken its toll on both players.

"We are human beings, and Saturday's game was really very exhausting. It's really difficult to play another high quality game 24 hours later," Kramnik said.

Five rounds into the 16-game championship, Kasparov appears to be facing the hardest opposition since his historical matches against Anatoli Karpov from 1984-1990.

So far he has been obliged to change his opening repertoire in two games because his 25-year-old former student has displayed strong preparation.

Kramnik won the second game, which was the first Kasparov defeat in a classical chess game since January 1999, and the others have been drawn.

The prize fund is two million US dollars, two-thirds going to the winner.

Game days in London's Riverside Studio are Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. In 1993 Kasparov left the International Chess Federation (FIDE), which has its own World Championship.

Kramnik will play with white in Tuesday's sixth game.

The series can be followed on the Internet at either **www.braingames.net** or **www.chesscentre.com/wcc2000**

ECB boss' warning

LONDON, Oct 16 (Internet report): England cricket supremo Lord MacLaurin says he will issue instant bans for any player accused of match-fixing.

The chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) says he is determined to take a hard line on a problem that has blighted the sport for the past year.

MacLaurin was speaking from Kenya at the start of a meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The two-day get-together will deal with the problem of corruption in the game in the wake of the Hansie Cronje and Salim Malik cases.

Former South Africa captain Cronje was banned from cricket for life last week after he admitted taking money from bookmakers.

And Pakistani batsman Salim received a similar punishment when he was found guilty of match-fixing last May.

The meeting will be addressed by Lord Griffiths, chairman of the ICC code of conduct commission, who is expected to rule on the future of Pakistani bowler Wasim Akram and some of his colleagues.

Wasim, Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis, Inzamamul Haq and Saeed Anwar were all fined by a Pakistani judicial inquiry led by Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum.

The Qayyum report, which recommended life-bans for Ataur Rehman and Salim, ruled there was not enough evidence to prove the charges against Wasim but nonetheless implicated him in match-fixing.

MacLaurin told BBC Radio Four: "My stance has always been, if there's any feeling of corruption with anybody in the game — be it a player or an administrator — then they should be suspended from the game until it's proved one way or another.

Cairns' greatest

From page 13

self to perform well because it was an emotional decision to play."

Commenting on his bowling, he said, "I was having problems accelerating. I took over the role of Gavin Larsen and just bowled off a shorter run-up."

He paid rich tributes to his captain Stephen Fleming, saying, "Fleming's the best captain New Zealand has ever had. This is a fantastic side and what we have achieved is simply great."

On his future, the great man has this to say: "I hope I go on for a few years more. The success here is the stepping stone for bigger things to come. Winning the World Cup would be the ultimate dream and this is the first step towards that glory. We hope to build up from here and go on to bigger things."

He said he always knew that the Indian batting was dangerous but was not too worried when Saurav Ganguly and Sachin Tendulkar were going great guns. "As I said, the ground was small and if we can manage to keep them under check after the first 15 overs, we are in the game."

When asked was it a part of his game plan to go after Anil Kumble, he said, "It didn't matter who the bowler was. I just wanted to hit all of them."

Cairns said the present Indian side looks like a happy unit. "There are a few exciting youngsters and this Indian side looks a lot close-knit unit. They played really good cricket here."

The victorious captain Stephen Fleming's face said it all when he lifted the trophy at the end of the day.

Hosts' superb rally

ASIAN CUP LEBANON 2000

BEIRUT, Oct 16: Hosts Lebanon kept their hopes of advancing to the quarter-finals of the Asian Cup alive here on Sunday with a gutsy fightback to salvage a 2-2 draw against Iraq, reports AFP.

A brilliant free-kick from golden-boy Moussa Hojej secured a share of the spoils for the Lebanese who had looked to be heading for defeat after going 2-0 down early on.

Iraq had been edging towards victory and a place in the quarter-finals when Hojej struck, curling a right-foot shot into the top corner of the Iraqi goal in the 80th minute.

Lebanon, thrashed 4-0 by Iran in their opening match, almost snatched a sensational victory late in the game when defender Jadir Morgenstern headed over from point blank range.

Iraq had started the match at Beirut's Sports City in exceptional form, Sabah Jadir heading his team into the lead with a 5th minute effort.

The Iraqis, anxious to improve on a lacklustre 2-0 victory against Thailand in their previous game, doubled the lead on 23 minutes.

Again Jadir was the target-man, leaping to power home a pinpoint cross from the right delivered by Qahtan Chatir.

With captain Abbas Jassim bossing midfield, Iraq looked firmly in control.

Chahrour let fly with a cracking 25-yard angled volley which flew past 'keeper Hashim Khamis into top corner of the Iraq goal.

Chahrour's effort invigorated the previously timid home team, and they swept forward with vigour for the remainder of the half in search of an equaliser.

Hojej headed against the bar shortly before the break and the score remained locked at 2-1 at the interval.

Iraq started the second half strongly, but were unable to extend their lead after some fine saves by Khamis.

And on 80 minutes Hojej gave the 30,000-strong home crowd just what they wanted with his dramatic equaliser.

The result, and Iran and Thailand's 1-1 draw earlier Sunday, leaves Group A delicately balanced.

Iran and Iraq, who face each other in a mouthwatering grudge match in Saida on Wednesday, are level at the top on four points each.

Thailand and Lebanon each have a point, but victory for either side could see them reach the last eight as one of the two best third-placed sides.

Lebanon's Mussa Hjeij (R) and Haydar Mahmud of Iraq fight for the ball during their Asian Cup Group A game in Beirut on October 15. — AFP photo

Wet start

SHANGHAI, Oct 16: Late-morning drizzle delayed the start of play for several hours at the 375,000-dollar Shanghai Open Monday as Magnus Norman resumed his campaign to improve in the season points race for world number one, reports AFP.

Motivation Troussier's worry

ASIAN CUP LEBANON 2000

BEIRUT, Oct 16: Japan coach Philippe 'the white witch doctor' Troussier said here Monday he did not possess the recipe for the magic potion that would motivate his side into taking Tuesday's opponents Uzbekistan seriously - but if anyone possessed the book he would gladly buy the whole library, reports AFP.

The 45-year-old Frenchman, who gained his nickname from his successful nine year spell with African clubs and countries until he became Japanese coach after the 1998 World Cup, said as long as his team stuck to their usual game plan they should gain the point they need in Saida to qualify for the quarter-finals.

"I have no magic potion recipe books on how to motivate the players but if anyone has access to them I will buy the whole library," Troussier said.

"The only thing I do know about motivating the players is that words are useless if their wife is about to leave them or they have no money to eat but if a player turns up at training with a swimming costume then I know how to gee them up.

"I tell them that if that attitude prevails then they might as well clear off," he added.

Troussier said it was important his players did not read too much into their 4-1 opening thrashing of champions Saudi Arabia.

"What we have learnt from the first matches is that teams like Lebanon and Thailand played below themselves and then hit back in the second," he said.

"Similarly with the Uzbeks they didn't play well against the Qataris (a 1-1 draw) but they are a good side with many players playing in Europe and I expect them to come out better on Tuesday.

Troussier said although the Uzbeks were an experienced and skilful side they lacked an important ingredient which was that they had only been together for a week prior to the competition.

It was a point taken up by Uzbekistan coach Yuriy Sarkisian, who is the 1994 Asian Games third boss since the turn of the year when the man who guided them to the finals Mahmoud Rakhimov was killed in a car crash.

"We don't get many opportunities to get together as the players are playing in Ukraine and Russia," he said.

"We only got together on September 25 and our first prep match was on October 8 which is hardly satisfactory," he added.

Sarkisian, who has been in charge for three months, said he was expecting a much better performance from his side, particularly striker Maksim Shatskikh, who was bought by Ukraine giants Dynamo Kiev as a replacement for AC Milan star Andrei Shevchenko.

Withe dismisses Zico's claim

ASIAN CUP LEBANON 2000

BEIRUT, Oct 16: Thailand coach Peter Withe has dismissed claims from star striker Kiatisak "Zico" Senamuang that he did not turn up for the Asian Cup because he was never asked, reports AFP.

Withe, who on Sunday saw his side nearly pull off the greatest shock in Asian Cup history before Iran fought back for a 1-1 draw, said Kiatisak's English club Huddersfield had been informed of the call-up.

"I spoke to Huddersfield's director of football Trevor Cherry about Zico and he told me that he was having a trial with Crystal Palace and talking to a couple of other English clubs," the former England international said.

"Obviously he had things on his mind and although I didn't speak to him personally we did send a fax to Huddersfield informing them nd him of hi call-up or the AsianCup," added Withe, who scored the goal that handed Aston Villa the 1983 European Cup.

Kiatisak, a former skipper of the national side, had told Saturday's Bangkok Post that he had never received a formal request from Thailand's Football Association to join the squad.

"I never received a document from the Thailand Football Assocation stating the need for my presence at the Asian Cup," he was reported as saying.

Kiatisak said he only heard he might be needed for the Asian Cup through a football reporter in Britain.

The player denied allegations that he had lost his desire to represent his country.

"I have served my country for eight years and it has meant the world for me to play under the Thai flag. It made me feel bad that I had to receive the news about my playing in such a big tournament like the Asian Cup through the media," he said.

Very sporting Sydneysiders

Paralympics tomorrow

SYDNEY, Oct 16: Sydney has embraced the Paralympics like no city before by snapping up 800,000 tickets for the Games opening on Wednesday, 17 days after the Olympic closing ceremony, reports Reuters.

Louise Sauvage, the Australian athlete-of-the-year and World-Sportsperson-of-the-Year with a Disability, is a major player in advancing Paralympic sport.

Unbeaten in a track race for eight years, Sauvage, 27, holds four Paralympic world records and has won seven Paralympic gold medals at Barcelona and Atlanta.

Sauvage won gold in the 800 metres wheelchair race demonstration event at the Sydney Olympics, later describing the experience of competing in front of 100,000 home town fans as "awesome".

She said Australians were still caught up in the Olympic spirit and were sports mad anyway, but globally Paralympic sport was still taking a big step forward.

"Having had the Olympics a few weeks ago, everyone is really hyped-up and they don't want to let it go," Sauvage told Reuters.

"The general public understand the sport and people want to see the great competition and athleticism."

Sydney Paralympic Organising Committee (SPOC) senior manager of television Simon Thomas said part of the shift in attitude towards the Paralympics came from the background images Sydney Harbour provided.

PARALYMPIC GAMES SYDNEY 2000 TM ©

"I would like to think also they'll start to see the Paralympics as the king of sport to provide memorable and compelling television," Thomas said.

"Sydney will set a whole new benchmark. Over 50 countries are taking some form of coverage, mostly daily."

Organisations said the 11th Summer Paralympic Games from October 18-29 in Sydney would be the second biggest sporting event in the world this year with 125 countries supplying 4,000 athletes.

Four of the 18 medal sports, boccia, goalball, wheelchair rugby and powerlifting, are unique to the Paralympics.

Goalball is played by vision-impaired athletes who wear black-out goggles and demand total silence from the crowd.

The ball contains bells to orient the players and indicate its direction and is thrown underarm at speeds of up to 55 kms an hour as the defending team of three players dives to block its path to goal.

The word Paralympic comes from parallel and not paraplegic and signifies Games parallel to the Olympics.

Meanwhile, the organisers are on target for selling twice as many tickets to the Paralympic Games as were sold in Atlanta four years ago.

Organisers said Monday that sales have passed 820,000 compared with the 500,000 sold at Atlanta.

All the 100,000 tickets to the opening ceremony had been sold and there were less than 1,000 tickets left for the closing ceremony.

Party time in New Zealand

AUCKLAND, Oct 16: New Zealand celebrated a rare sporting victory today with their cricketers' triumph over India in the ICC Knockout Trophy in Kenya making headline news, reports Reuters.

After a lean medal haul at the Sydney Olympics and the loss of rugby's Bledisloe Cup and Tri-Nations Cup by the All Blacks, the sporting public was hungry for success.

News of the team's upset victory was the lead story on local radio, television and news websites.

All-rounder Chris Cairns, who hit the winning runs, rated the victory as a highlight of his cricket career.

"I've been playing for a few years now. I'm getting pretty old and this is by far and away the greatest moment of my New Zealand career," Cairns told Radio New Zealand.

"New Zealand's never got to a final before, let alone win it, so this is just the best."

Cairns said the 360,000 dollars prize was pleasing but victory in a major tournament was paramount.

"Mate, there's nothing like watching (captain) Steve Fleming raising that cup up, you know that's what sports' all about and to win titles and to win major competitions is great and the money is a by-product of that."

New Zealand coach David Trist said Cairns' performance was one of the most memorable he had seen.

"It was his day, he won the man-of-the-match and hopefully he will be fit enough to go into the (one-day) series against the South Africans who will now sit up and wake up – the Kiwis are coming."

New Zealand will face South Africa in six one-day internationals followed by three Tests, starting on Friday.

Magura cricket

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Oct 16: Akai Smriti Sangha moved into the semifinal defeating Mukul Smriti Sangha by 20 runs in the Abdus Sattar Laskar Smriti cricket tournament at the Mithun-Musa-Kazal playground today.

Batting first, Akai scored 220 losing all wickets in 24.4 overs.

In reply, Mukul Smriti managed 200 runs for nine wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

BRIEFSCORES

AKAI SMRITI SANGHA : 220 all out in 24.4 overs (Bappi 59, Arif 31, Haradhon 29, Munna 20, Rimon 15, Milton 15; Nasir 4/65, Rusel 3/45, Mintu 1/22).

MUKUL SMRITI SANGHA: 200 for 9 wickets in 25 overs (Rusel 55, Milon 31, Nasir 24, Bablu 18, Kamrul 16; Rubel 4/32, Arif 2/18, Shajib 1/31).

Result: Akai Smriti Sangha won by 20 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Bappi.

Rajshahi soccer

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 16: Putia Upazila Krira Sangstha and Charghat Upazila Krira Sangstha shared points in the Rajshahi Inter-Upazila football tournament at the Charghat Pital High School playground today.

The match ended in a goalless draw.

Putia moved into the second round earning three points from two outings.

Meanwhile, Soroni Sobuj Sangha and Motpukur won their respective matches in the Professor Sarwar Jahan Smriti football tournament at Tikapara Edgah today.

In the first match, Soroni beat Choiti 2-0.

In the other match of the day, Motpukur Ordinary defeated Green Star Club 2-0.

Black Caps off to Rixon

NAIROBI, Oct 16 (Internet report): New South Wales coach Steve Rixon couldn't have wished for a better Sunday. His beloved Blues not only demolished Victoria in a Mercantile Mutual Cup opener at North Sydney Oval, but his former charges - New Zealand - stunned the cricket world by winning the ICC Knockout Trophy in Kenya.

Led by a courageous and brilliant performance by all-rounder Chris Cairns, the Black Caps sunk India with two balls to spare for a dramatic and highly unlikely victory.

Displaying traditional grit and a self-belief rare in New Zealand cricket sides, the Kiwis maintained their composure and steely desire to succeed - even when at times, their situation looked hopeless.

According to New Zealand Cricket head-honcho Christopher Doig, the influence wielded by Rixon and his right-hand man, John Graham, contributed to the Black Caps greatest-ever international success. The duo instilled in the Kiwis team spirit, self-belief and a voracious appetite for hard work that ultimately turned their fortunes around in a few short years.

"It goes back to the legacy that Steve Rixon and John Graham left with the team," Doig said. "They certainly brought them together."

"They're now an experienced side, they want to play for one another and there's growing maturity there. To achieve it without (key bowlers) Dion Nash and Dan Vettori is pretty special. It shows that we are getting a bit of depth in New Zealand which has been a major problem in the past."

Martina's sweet victory

ZURICH, Oct 16: Home favourite Martina Hingis claimed an edge-of-the-seat victory over second seed Lindsay Davenport of the United States to win the Swisscom Challenge on Sunday, reports AFP.

The number one seed's 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 triumph was the first she has enjoyed in her home country, and meant that Davenport remains without a title after competing in seven finals this year.

The American, who had won the tournament in her two previous visits to Zurich, served for the match at 5-4 in the final set, only to be denied by an opponent who had finished as runner-up in 1996 and 1999.

Hingis swept the last three games, turning the match around in the most dramatic fashion after she had seemed destined to take the Cinderella role once again.

"It was unbelievable, win or lose, it was just a great match," said Hingis. "It means a lot to win here. It's twice as large, it's just different. To win a tournament like that, it's overwhelming. It's not just the victory, it's also winning the first time here at home after losing two finals."

Hingis, who won her seventh title of the year, could have taken the title far more easily.

After Davenport double-faulted to give Hingis set point in the first set, the top seed held a break point to lead 3-1 in the second.

However Hingis 20-year-old netted a backhand, and minutes later Davenport, 24, took a 3-2 lead on her fourth break point, hitting a winning backhand return off a second serve.

That was enough to settle the second set, and Hingis again appeared to have missed an opportunity when she failed to convert two break points for a 3-1 lead in the third.

During a period in which she won 10 straight points Davenport then broke for 4-3, but instead of consolidating her lead she was broken straight back.

"That was the key," said Davenport. "I was up 30-0 and she came up with a couple of good shots and I hit one double-fault and it was back to 4-all.

"That was really a big game, because even though I led her 5-4 I lost it to 15 and didn't really have a lead. It would have been nice to get up 5-3 and have a chance to return and serve for the match," she added.

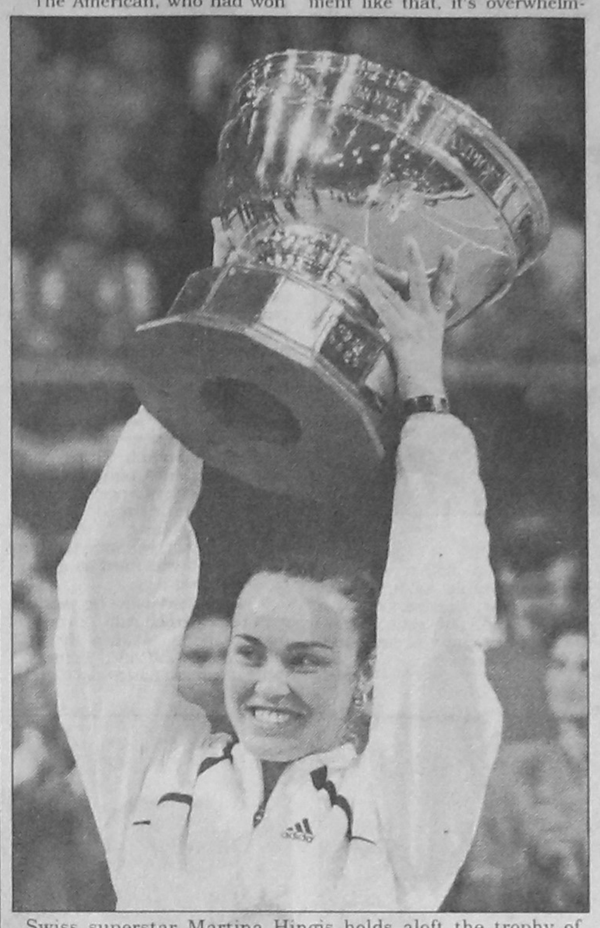
"I'm not happy with losing, but I'm happy with the way I played out there. I hung in there and overall it was a great match."

Hingis still struggled as she was taken to deuce on her serve at 5-5, but she held with her fourth ace of the match, and then broke Davenport to 15 in the final game to add the Zurich title to the one she claimed in Filderstadt last week.

"Probably that was the key," Hingis agreed when asked about the eighth game of the final set, "but then I lost my serve again to be down 5-4 and I almost wanted to cry".

"I thought, not again. I just told myself to hang in there and try everything possible to try to turn it around. So I really was proud to win here."

In the doubles with Anna Kournikova, Hingis was also attempting to become the first player since Davenport in August 1998 to win back-to-back singles and doubles titles in consecutive weeks.



Swiss superstar Martina Hingis holds aloft the trophy of the Swisscom Challenge after her victory in the final over American Lindsay Davenport in Zurich on October 15. —AFP photo

Tim takes away CA Trophy

VIENNA, Oct 16: British number one Tim Henman followed up on Greg Rusedski's success here last year by keeping the Vienna ATP tournament title in Britain with a straight sets win over Germany's Tommy Haas 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 on Sunday.

"I couldn't have been happier with the way I played today (Sunday). There weren't many things in my game that weren't working today. It's very satisfying not to lose your serve in a best of five sets match," said Henman.

The 26-year-old Henman picked up his first tournament win and fifth career success, his first since he won at Basel in 1998, despite being a finalist on seven occasions since his victory in Switzerland.

"The number of finals that I've lost have been well documented, but I never had any doubts that I would win again," continued Henman.

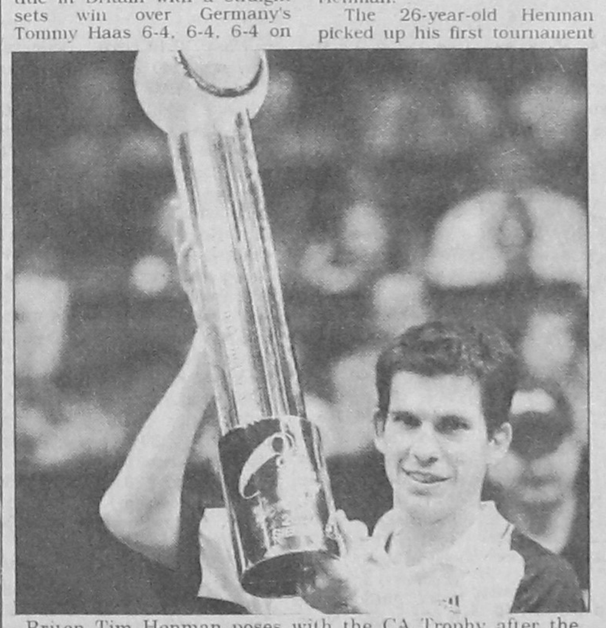
"I'm delighted to have won another title, but now I'm even more eager to win in Basel, my next tournament. Obviously making it to the Tennis Masters Cup in Lisbon is my main goal although my position in the Race will not change, but I'll close the gap," he added.

For the 22-year-old Haas, he follows in the footsteps of compatriot Nicolas Kiefer, who lost to Rusedski last year adding to two other final defeats this year, both against Russian Yeveny Kafelnikov who last beat him in the final of the Sydney Olympics.

"Tim played a really good game today (Sunday) and he served very well. He didn't show that he was nervous or shaky at any stage in the match," said Haas.

"I don't think he hit one double fault in the match but I tried everything I could but he still won. Overall I've had a good week here in Vienna," he added.

Henman used an attacking game to perfection, combining excellent concentration with brilliant volleying to dominate the game at the net and was rarely troubled.



Briton Tim Henman poses with the CA Trophy after the final against German Tommy Haas in Vienna on October 15. — AFP photo

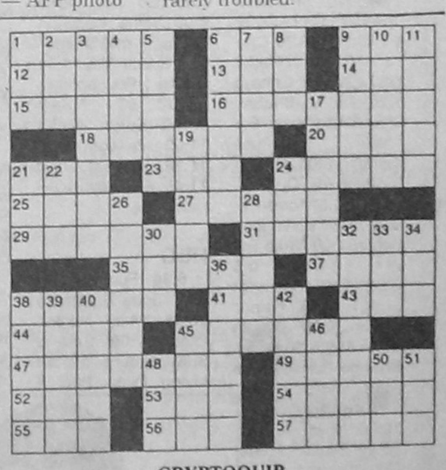
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Korean War beachhead
6 Flatfoot
9 Peninsular st.
12 Accustom
13 Mimic
14 Pentateuch bk.
15 Jazz pianist Chick
16 Outlive
18 "Misty" singer
20 Bakery employee
21 — -Wan Kenobi
23 Coop occupant
24 Slammer
25 Bus passenger Parks
27 Making all the stops
29 Thorough view
31 Ukraine seaport
35 Deluge
37 Rotate
38 Perpendicularly, to a sailor
41 Roulette bet
43 Staff
44 Aaron's daughter
45 Car care task
47 Like some art
49 Old (Sp.)
52 Compass pt.
53 Tin Man's need
54 So all can hear
55 Build a wing
56 Crafty
57 Faxes

DOWN
1 Snapshot
2 Important numero
3 Guess
4 Vicinity
5 Opposite of o'er
6 Atlantic City tourist spot
7 Piece of work
8 Apiece
9 Movio
10 Embankment
11 Cartoonist Tex
17 Illinois emblem
19 Conversation piece?
21 Raw rock
22 — George
24 Launch site
26 Social gathering
28 Ancient manuscript
30 Einstein's birthplace
32 One with inside information?
33 Box office sign
34 Moreover
36 How to take the Sabin vaccine
38 Bewildered
39 Spring
40 Blundered
42 Prima donnas
45 Banshee's cry
46 "Jewel of the —"
48 Dawn goddess
50 "Oklahoma!" villain
51 Med. emergencies

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer



CRYPTOQUIP

Q T Y C H C R S R C L M U H C C L O A Q R X , P M C H R L H X N W G M S G R C R T M A W Y P O G H R U N .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS AMUSING SIGN ON A BAKERY BECKONS CUSTOMERS: GET YOUR BUNS IN HERE!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals O

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.