

King's validity to be questioned?

REUTERS, Cape Town

South Africa's inquiry into cricket match-fixing has been postponed again after doubts were cast on Judge Edwin King's right to head the investigation.

The commission was due to resume its work on February 19. But on Monday lawyers representing former captain Hansie Cronje, whose resignation sparked the inquiry, said they might attempt a challenge to King following a ruling in November in the Constitutional Court.

The court ruled that a judge cannot be the head of a Special Investigative Unit.

"I don't see why the finding... does not mean the Judge King should head the Commission of Inquiry into match-fixing," Cronje's lawyer, Leslie Sackstein, told a newspaper on Monday.

Sackstein said he had written to the commission to ask them to consider the impact of the November decision.

In a statement Commission secretary Marina Valentine said the February 19 sitting had now been cancelled.

"Regardless of whether there is any merit in this view, the perception will have been created in the public mind that the proceedings of the commission under the chairmanship of Judge King may be unlawful," the statement said.

"This is an intolerable situation and it would be inappropriate for Judge King to continue the Commission until clarity has been obtained."

The judge in the Constitutional Court case was still active while King was retired when appointed.

"If he (Judge King) decides to go ahead, we will have to reserve our rights. We do not want to be part of something that turns out to be unconstitutional," Sackstein said.

The Cape High Court ruled in December against an attempt by King to impose January 24 as the date for hearings to resume, and awarded damages against the Commission. Cronje was sacked in April after Indian police had accused him of being involved in match-fixing. He was banned for life by the South African cricket board in October but is trying to have the ban overturned.

Swadhin Bangla Team sculpture

UNB, Dhaka

A sculpture will be constructed outside the Bangabandhu National Stadium to commemorate the Swadhin Bangla Football Team.

The sculpture will be inaugurated on March 19.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader approved a model for the sculpture at the National Sports Council yesterday.

Schools cricket

FROM PAGE 13

The Government boys defeated Town Secondary in the final by five wickets. Chasing the Town total of 121, the Government boys scored 124 in 16.2 overs with half of their wickets in hand.

BRIEF SCORES

Khilgaon Govt. School vs Shiddheswari Boys School
Khilgaon Govt: 171 for 9 wickets in 35 overs (Monjurul 29; Towhid 4/34)
Shiddheswari Boys: 172 for 6 wickets in 25.2 overs (Zakir 53, Tutul 28; Mahmud 4/46)
Result: Shiddheswari Boys won by 4 wickets.
 Khalilur Rahman School vs Uttara High School
Khalilur Rahman School: 215 for 4 wickets in 30 overs (Atik 58, Gazi 46, Uzzal 35, Atikur 3/31)
Uttara High School: 149 all out in 29.3 overs (Faiyaz 28; Alamgir 2/36)
Result: Khalilur Rahman School won by six runs.
 Adarsha Nikaton vs Loreto School
Loreto: 204 for 9 wickets in 35 overs (Soldier 39, Fahmid 36, Wahid 28 not out; Kowshik 2/47, Wahid 2/13)
Adarsha Nikaton: 205 for 8 wickets in 34.1 overs (Sujon 55; Mohiuddin 5/23)
Result: Adarsha Nikaton won by 2 wickets.
 Motiheel Govt. Boys vs Shahidullah Adarsha School
Motiheel Govt.: 188 for 9 wickets in 35 overs (Kabir 34, Mithun 33 not out; Ananda 26; Hossain 4/29)
Shahidullah Adarsha: 88 all out in 24 overs (Faisal 33; Ananda 3/23)
Result: Motiheel Govt. Boys won by 100 runs.
 Pre-Cadet Child Care Homes vs BAF Shaheen School
BAF Shaheen School: 186 for 8 wickets in 35 overs (saidul 41, Salahuddin 26, Moshir 25; Itussel 2/44, Ifekhar 2/36)
Pre-Cadet Child Care: 187 for 5 wickets in 30.3 overs (Johnny 45, Saad 31, Ifekhar 26; Asif 2/32, Akash 2/40)
Result: Pre-Cadet Child Care Homes won by 4 wickets.

Boycott in Pakistan

Cricket

APP, Karachi

Former England opener Geoff Boycott said on Monday the "natural flair and talent" in Pakistani players had prompted him to take up a coaching job in the country.

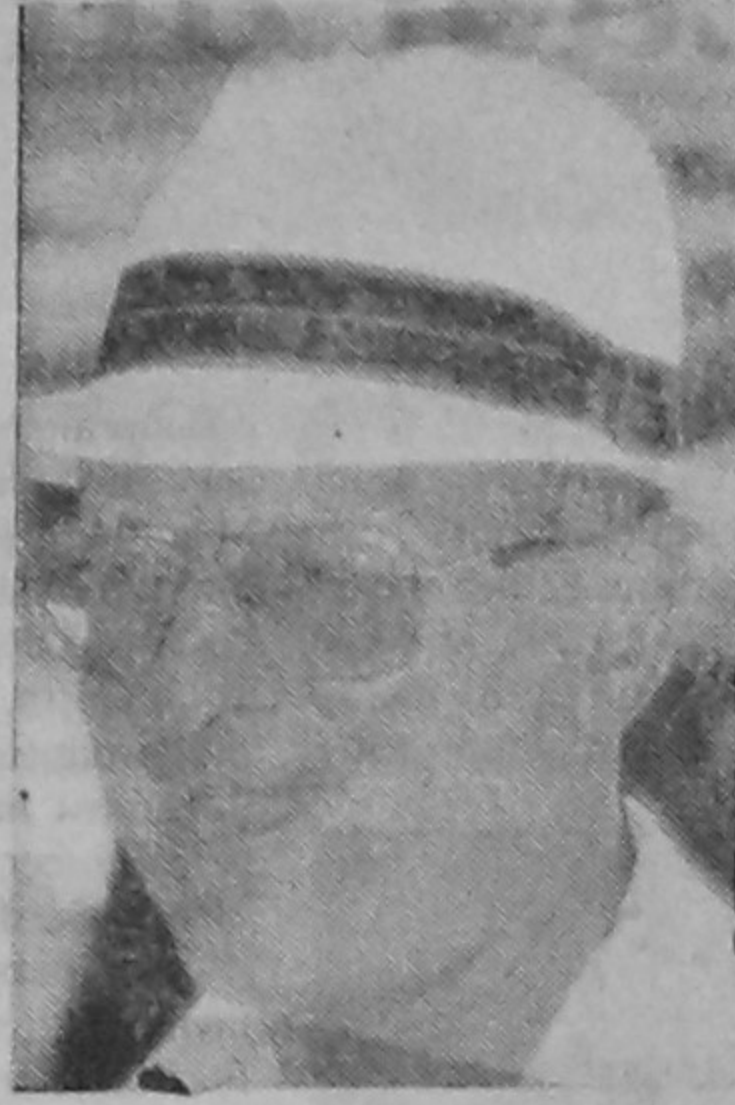
The 15-day contract with 60-year-old Boycott, for which he will receive 30,000 pounds, has come under criticism from former Pakistani Test players who called it a "waste of money".

"Despite criticism the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) took a bold decision and I will fulfil the confidence reposed in me," Boycott told this news agency, following his arrival Sunday in the eastern city of Lahore.

"I have been a great admirer of the natural flair and talent in Pakistani players and only that prompted me to take this coaching job."

"Pakistan has a great talent and the only thing is to streamline this and the academy will do that," Boycott said, referring to Pakistan's first cricket academy opened in Lahore on Monday.

"My main task is to polish the talent in up-and-coming players because seniors like Saeed Anwar



GEOFF BOYCOTT

and Inzamam-ul-Haq don't need any coaching now," Boycott said.

PCB chairman Lieutenant General Tahir Zia defended Boycott's hiring.

"The 'Vision 2005' announced by the PCB will bring far-fetched results in Pakistani cricket and Boycott's hiring is the first step."

"Whoever thinks this is a waste of money can think so, we are sincere to Pakistan cricket and the results will prove that," he said.

General Zia said Pakistan's cricket structure would be modelled on Australia.

"We sent our officials to Australia to ascertain their coaching process and its always good to follow the best set-ups," he said.

According to the PCB schedule Boycott will spend from February 5 to 7 with the New Zealand-bound senior team before coaching the under-17 team from February 8-11.

The third phase of Boycott's programme is a seven-day coaching session for Pakistan's future players beginning on February 12.

"I am not here for one visit. I will return again if invited by the cricket board," said Boycott.

He said he was delighted with the facilities created for the coaching programme.

"They are excellent. I am delighted because the general opinion is that Pakistan don't have a proper coaching infrastructure."

But former Pakistan captain Inukhab Alam was less than enthusiastic about the decision, saying: "If Boycott is so good why has he never been offered a post in the England team?"

Pakistan have lost their last four home series, three of them under coach and former Test great Javed Miandad.

Jadeja plays Santa Claus

AFP, New Delhi

Indian cricketer Ajay Jadeja, serving a five-year ban for associating with bookmakers, is spending his free time helping children in the earthquake-ravaged state of Gujarat.

Jadeja, who hails from the royal family in nearby Jamnagar, distributed chocolates and sweets to kids during a visit to the affected areas in Bhuj town on Tuesday.

"I would like to do something for the children who have been orphaned in the quake," Jadeja told the Press Trust of India.

"I want to start when others have stopped," said the cricketer, who was accompanied by his uncle Shatrughna Salasji, the erstwhile ruler of Kutch.

Jadeja was banned from playing official cricket for five years when a probe by federal investigators found him guilty of having close contacts with leading bookmakers.

He denies the charge and plans to appeal the ban, imposed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

The flamboyant 30-year-old star said he would organise events to raise funds for those affected by the quake, which has claimed an estimated 30,000 lives.

"I know a lot of industrialists, musicians and cricketers who will come here for such an event," Jadeja said.

He revealed that the family's ancestral palace in Jamnagar was badly damaged in the quake.

"We cannot live there anymore," said Jadeja, whose father, Daulat Singh Jadeja, is a politician and former member of parliament.

Jadeja took a dig at his former colleagues in the Test team, saying the cricket community was not doing enough to provide relief.

But he backed the government's decision not to allow the national team to play against Pakistan in a fund-raising series in Sharjah.

Ramprakash joins Surrey

AFP, London

Former Middlesex captain Mark Ramprakash moved across the river Thames here Tuesday, joining English county champions Surrey, a switch the batsman believes can help him regain his place in the England side.

Ramprakash, who has signed a three-year deal at The Oval, added: "I am really excited about signing for a club like Surrey."

"The quality of cricket they have played over the last two seasons has been unbelievable and I'm looking forward to being part of that from now on."

"By playing with Surrey at the highest level I also hope to have the chance to fight for an England place again."

Ramprakash has not played for England since he made an unsuccessful change from the middle order to opener last summer.

In seven innings against Zimbabwe and the West Indies he managed just 95 runs last summer — and the good form of Somerset's Marcus Trescothick has meant there has been no international action for the 31-year-old since the second Test against the West Indies at Lord's.

Ramprakash has a fine first-class record — 19,048 runs at an average of 48 including 47 centuries and five double centuries.

However, he has achieved nowhere near the same success in Test cricket, where in 42 matches he has made 1,796 runs at a modest 26.41 including only the one century.

Middlesex finished second from bottom of the county championship table last season and Ramprakash has said he does not think players with Second Division sides will be considered by the England selectors.

Ramprakash had 12 months of his Middlesex contract left to run, and last year was his benefit season. He made his debut in 1987 and was county captain from 1997-99.

Wanderley takes up Corinthians

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Former Brazil coach Wanderley Luxemburgo took over at Corinthians on Monday, his first job since he was sacked in disgrace by the national team in September amid poor results and allegations of improper conduct.

Luxemburgo, who is still one of the central figures in a Congressional commission of inquiry investigating suspected mismanagement and corruption in Brazilian football, rejoined the club he led to the Brazilian championship title in 1998.

The announcement was made on the web site of the Sao Paulo-based club, the second most popular in the country.

'Paternity' hearings held
Becker ducks first day

Tennis

AFP, London

A London court held a closed-door hearing Monday to investigate a claim by a Russian model that German former tennis star Boris Becker had fathered her nine-month-old daughter.

Becker did not attend the hearings, at the family division of London's Royal Courts of Justice, and no details were provided on what took place.

The lawyers for the model, Angela Ermakova, refused to divulge the substance of the hearing.

Becker's lawyer, Martin Cross, responded to questions on whether Becker would accept a friendly settlement to the paternity suit by saying: "I think you had better wait and see what happens."

Ermakova, 33, says that she and Becker conceived the baby girl, named Anna, while he was playing in the 1999 Wimbledon tennis tournament, his last as a professional player.

The court hearing comes just a month after Becker wrapped up divorce proceedings with his now ex-wife Barbara in a Florida court.

They are to share custody of their two sons.

On Monday, Ermakova appeared at court along with two men, but refused to speak with reporters and left by a side exit about 90 minutes later.

No date was set for a joint appearance with Becker, Cross said.

The former German tennis star agreed to DNA testing to determine whether he was the girl's father, and reported to a paternity test clinic in London last week, Britain's Daily Mail newspaper said Saturday.

The paper pictured Becker walking to the Medical Express Clinic in Harley Street on Thursday. The clinic offers "walk-in" DNA testing to establish identity of parents.

The Daily Mail said Ermakova arrived at the same clinic three hours later, with Anna, spending an hour there.

The mass-circulation German daily Bild has published photos of the child who, like Becker, has red hair and blue eyes.



Russian model Angela Ermakova arrives at the Family Division of the High Court in London on February 5.

Coach rallies behind Hewitt

Tennis

AFP, Perth

Australian Davis Cup coach Wally Masur angrily hit back Tuesday at Ecuador's top player, Nicolas Pietrangeli, after he had criticised Australia's world number seven Lleyton Hewitt.

In a slanging match only days before the countries meet in a

Davis Cup first-round tie starting Friday, Pietrangeli had condemned Hewitt's widely-deplored explosive, fist-pumping behaviour on court.

"I'm sure that with time he (Hewitt) is going to change a little bit," Pietrangeli said in a television interview Monday. "It's not nice what he does."

Masur, leaping to Hewitt's defence, said: "I hear a lot of this --

guys saying things about Lleyton. They should just have a look at their own house. If they want to play Lleyton, just go out and play him and play him hard and deal with it on the court."

"They all whine off the court. It's no good."

Hewitt was also criticised by Spanish star Alex Corretja before the Davis Cup final.

But Hewitt made it clear Tuesday he had no plans to change his style, which includes loud cries to himself of "come on," because it is his way of motivating himself.

His behaviour has nothing to do with his opponent, he says.

With Perth's weather during the tie expected to be up to the mid-30s C, there has been much speculation about how key player Patrick Rafter, a dual US Open champion, will handle conditions.

Problems with cramped cost him dearly in the Davis Cup final against Spain in December and his Australian Open semi-final against Andre Agassi last month.

But an unusually impatient Rafter said enough had been said about the issue and he just wanted to concentrate on the tie.

"I'm not quite sure of the whole idea of this interview, guys," he said, testily.

"I thought we were here to talk about Davis Cup."

Newly-appointed Cup captain John Fitzgerald came to the rescue, saying he was confident Rafter was on top of the problem.

"It is fair to say there has been a small problem there," he said. "It has not occurred very often, but it did occur in Melbourne."

"But Pat is incredibly professional and if there's a way to get on top of it, he will find it. I think he is almost there and he has a good history of learning how to replace the amount of electrolytes and fluids that he loses."

Stephen shattered

Cricket

REUTERS, Auckland

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming said his team's crushing nine-wicket loss to Sri Lanka in Auckland on Tuesday reflected a total loss of confidence and had led him "questioning everything I stand for in the game."

New Zealand struggled to 181 all out in 45.4 overs before Sri Lanka cantered past that in just 29.5 overs for the loss of one wicket.

Fleming said the mood in the changing room after the defeat was one of the worst he had experienced in his time at the helm.

"Our defeat today reeked of tentative decision-making," he said. "We are completely lacking in confidence. We didn't get anything going today and when we were batting and there was a wicket, it wasn't just jitters in the team, it was shock waves."

"I have never been in this position before. I am questioning everything I stand for in the game. Things are weighing particularly heavy on me and I've got to get over that," he said, but added he would not consider giving up the captaincy.

Despite the heavy loss, New Zealand will take the same squad of 13 players to Hamilton for the fourth match in the series.

Roger Twose will come into the starting 11 for opener Mathew Sinclair if his sprained thumb continues to respond to treatment, and Tuesday's 12th man Daryl Tuffey may replace James Franklin.

"We don't intend to over-react and panic in this situation," chairman of selectors Sir Richard Hadlee said.

"We have selected the best



STEPHEN FLEMING

players available to us at the moment. Clearly we are not happy with the results, but we don't see too many options at the moment."

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, have plenty of options. Skipper Jayasuriya said the tourists may give some second string players match experience given the series has already been won.

"We want to play to win," Jayasuriya said. "We also want to give everyone a go, but we'll balance that out when we get to Hamilton."

"Nuwan Zoysa has bowled all through South Africa and now here, and he could do with a rest, but he is bowling really well and to be honest, we're not sure whether to risk it."

Jayasuriya was superb in his innings. He scored his century off just 76 balls, hitting 10 fours and six sixes and was out, caught on the midwicket boundary, trying for his seventh.

While Wahpa with his innings, Jayasuriya was also pleased opening partner Atapattu had come into some form.

"I was really happy that Marvan made some runs," he said. "He and I play a different game and we look at him to perhaps bat for 50 overs. He is a potential match winner."

Aussies dealt a blow

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Brett Lee's injury withdrawal has forced selectors into a rethink on the makeup of the Australian cricket squad for its tour to India this month.

Cricket captain Steve Waugh spent over an hour with selectors Tuesday debating the composition of the squad focusing mostly on how to fill the void left by Lee.

Lee, the fastest bowler in Australia if not the world, underwent an operation on Tuesday for an injured elbow and will miss the eight-week tour.

Waugh said his absence has "thrown a spanner in the works" denting Australia's plan to blast India with a barrage of pace.

"Brett would have been an automatic selection and his injury has changed things quite a bit — there've been a lot of names tossed up in the last hour or so," Waugh said Tuesday.

"It has changed our way of thinking a little bit."

The final squad will be named on Thursday.

The selectors must decide whether to press on with their pace theory or add another spinner to take advantage of the slow, turning pitches the team is likely to encounter.

"I still think (pace) is the way to go but there's also a possibility of us using spin," Waugh said.

"Pace is something the Indians don't like too much and aren't all that used to but if you've got two excellent spinners it doesn't mean you can't use them either."

The other factor determining the make-up of the squad was whether 14 or 15 players make the tour.

But with an expanded squad, Waugh said one or two players could be left with little to do as there are only two lead-up matches outside the three Tests.

Gillespie will make his return to first-class cricket for South Australia on Friday and Waugh said the injury-prone quick would have to prove himself.

Jason Gillespie's a little bit of a concern. He is a bit vulnerable (to injury) and if he's going to play in India he has to do some work before that... but we know he's been training well."

Most of the squad pick themselves with Michael Slater and Matthew Hayden likely to continue as the opening pair, with Steve Waugh, Mark Waugh and Ricky Ponting assured of middle order berths.



STRONG TEETH: Malaysian strongman V Rathakrishnan lifting 130 kilograms on way to finding his name on the Malaysian Record Books in Kuala Lumpur on February 5. Rathakrishnan is well known in his country for his feats of pulling a bus weighing 10.8 tonnes and a train weighing 37.35 tonnes with his teeth.

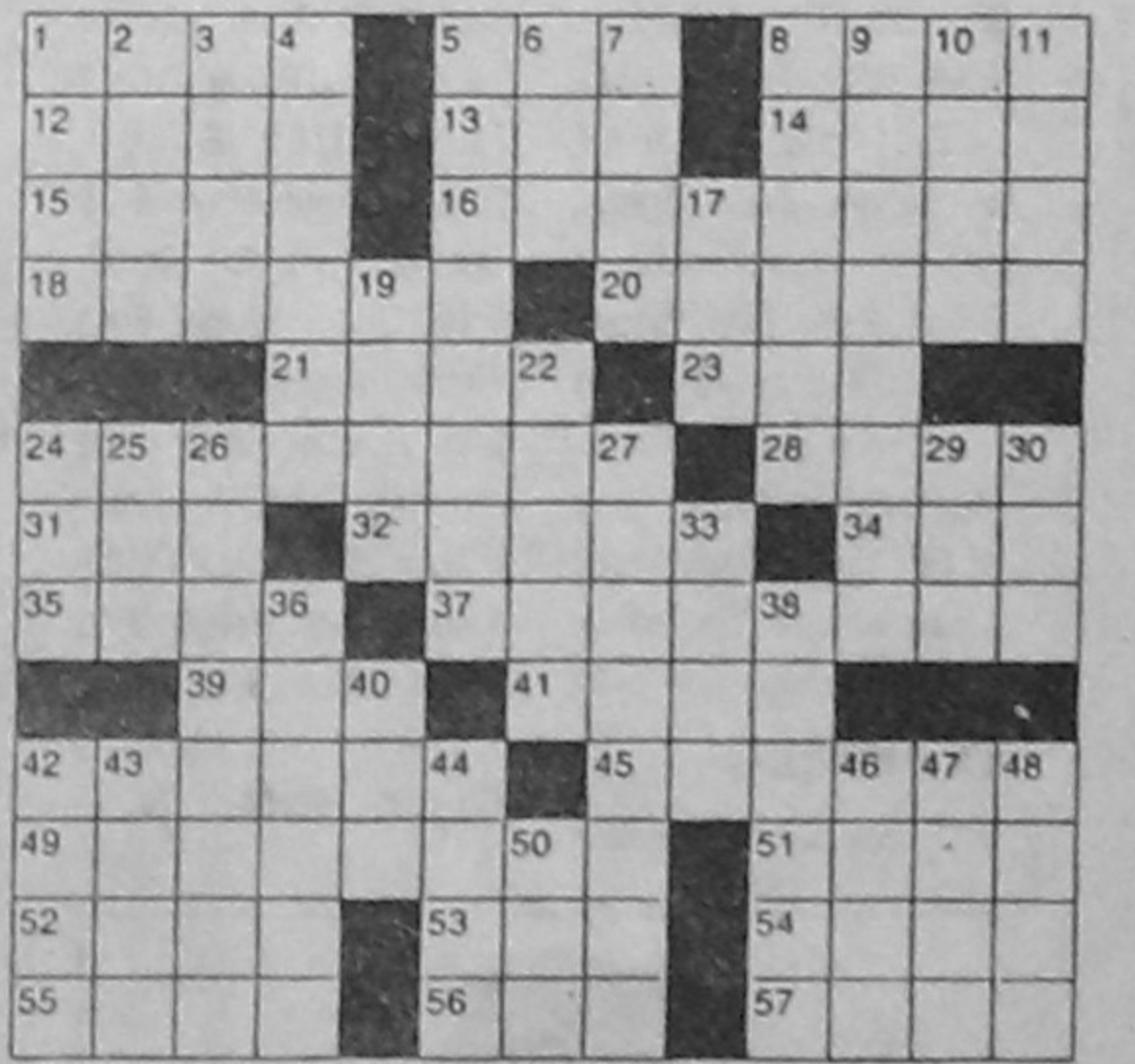
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Zhiwago's love
 5 Listening device
 8 Hale — comet
 12 We have met the enemy, and he is... (Pogo)
 13 Heston's org.
 14 Omani money
 15 Astronaut Armstrong
 16 Melt
 18 Lattice-work pavilion
 20 Tap-danced
 21 Screws on snow
 24 Sink attachment
 28 Fax
 31 Wanted poster abbr.
 32 Doctor
 34 The 7 Faces of Dr. —

DOWN
 1 Lisa of "The View"
 2 On the briny
 3 Marathon cheater
 4 Dormant fluids
 5 Backed concern
 6 Onassis format
 8 "Young Frankenstein"
 9 OPEC director
 10 Macadamize
 11 Begged
 17 Distress signal
 19 Sleepy Hollow's Mr. Bones
 22 Miss — Thompson
 24 Doo follower
 25 Mamie's man
 26 Seaweed-laden sea
 27 Languid
 29 Kvetch
 30 Buck's male
 33 Sculptor's medium
 36 Not so small
 38 Donny or Maria
 40 Teut.
 42 Eden exile
 43 Pebbles' pet
 44 Polio vaccine name
 46 Entreat
 47 Own
 48 Coaster
 50 Pigeon's call

Solution time: 21 mins.

MONDAY'S ANSWER
 DOWN: 1. LISA, 2. BRINY, 3. CHEATER, 4. DORMANT, 5. CONCERN, 6. ONASSIS, 8. YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN, 9. OPEC, 10. MACADAMIZE, 11. BEGGED, 17. SIGNAL, 19. SLEEPY, 22. MISS THOMPSON, 24. DOO, 25. MAMIE, 26. SEAWEED, 27. LANGUID, 29. KVETCH, 30. BUCK, 33. SCULPTOR, 36. MEDIUM, 38. DONNY, 40. TEUTONIC, 42. EDEN, 43. PET, 44. POLIO, 46. ENTREAT, 47. OWN, 48. COASTER, 50. PIGEON.



CRYPTOQUIP

B V X P X J V X Z J N
 M H G S X I M Y R L G N M B Z
 X Z H Y J V N D M Y X T R M B
 D B L G S I C N Z M X Z P T S N C B M
 Saturday's Crypticquip: AFTER A LONG DAY TOILING IN HIS FIELDS, THE FARMER FEEBLY SIGHED, "I'M BEET!"
 Today's Crypticquip Clue: Z equals N
 The Crypticquip 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.