

Arambagh almost out of relegation

SPORTS REPORTER
Arambagh Kira Sangha virtually saved themselves from relegation when they thumped bottom-side Dipali Jubo Sangha 4-0 in the Premier Bank Premier Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.
Murshed and Ritu struck twice each in both sessions to give Arambagh the comfortable win.
With the outcome Arambagh raised their tally to 18 points from 16 matches while relegation-bound Dipali remained on two points.

Dulairpar win big

SPORTS REPORTER
Defending champions Dulairpar High made a flying start when they crushed Armanitola High 7-1 in one of the five opening day matches of the Pran-Cola Metropolitan School Football Tournament at the Birshesthra Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.
Khilgaon Government High also registered a massive 6-1 victory over Wari High at the Brothers Union club ground. Junaid slammed a hat-trick for the winners.
In another match at the same venue, Ali Ahmed High beat Mannan High School by a solitary goal.

BFF hands over Tk 247,940 to Nannu

UNB, Dhaka
Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday handed over a cheque of Tk 247,940 to ailing former national footballer Monwar Hossain Nannu.
The BFF had earlier declared the Premier League clash between Abahani and Mohammedan as the benefit match for Nannu who is suffering from prostate cancer.
The amount was raised from the extra gate-money collected from daily tickets on the August 26 match.

Crucial Mukti

FROM PAGE 12
must say injury was a big issue behind our poor showings.
"Now my boys are fully fit and confident to encash full points against Muktiyoddha," said Josi.
Mohammedan lost three and drew as many matches in the second phase which include a 1-0 defeat against arch-rivals Abahani.
Muktiyoddha are already out of the title race as they are lying in the third position with 31 points, just one point behind Abahani, but the Reds were not concerned with their position.
"We are not thinking about our position. We just want to outplay Mohammedan in this match like we did against Brothers to add more spice to the title race," said Muktiyoddha captain Aminul Haque.
He also said that they were looking forward to avenge their 1-0 first-leg defeat against the Motijheel outfit.



Did U Know?

England's win in the fourth Ashes Test over Australia at Trent Bridge was their first victory at this venue since 1977 and their fourth in 20 Tests against the old enemies at the same ground.



Steve Waugh
(Former Australia cricket captain)
"England have played excellent cricket and have met head on challenges both on and off the field. They have called Australia's bluff during series and certainly dominated the last couple of Tests."

It's Newcastle for Owen

Football
AFP, Madrid
Real Madrid confirmed Tuesday they had agreed a deal with Newcastle for England striker Michael Owen.
But the Spanish giants, who paid Liverpool 8 million pounds for the player last year, did not confirm the transfer fee.
Newcastle said they had agreed to pay a club record fee. Their previous record was the 15 million pounds they paid Blackburn for former England captain Alan Shearer in 1996.
Owen was to undergo a medical later Tuesday before signing a four-year deal. He had spent most of last season behind Brazil star Ronaldo and club captain Raul in the Madrid pecking order and was pushed further down when Madrid signed Brazil pair Robinho and Julio Baptista in the summer.



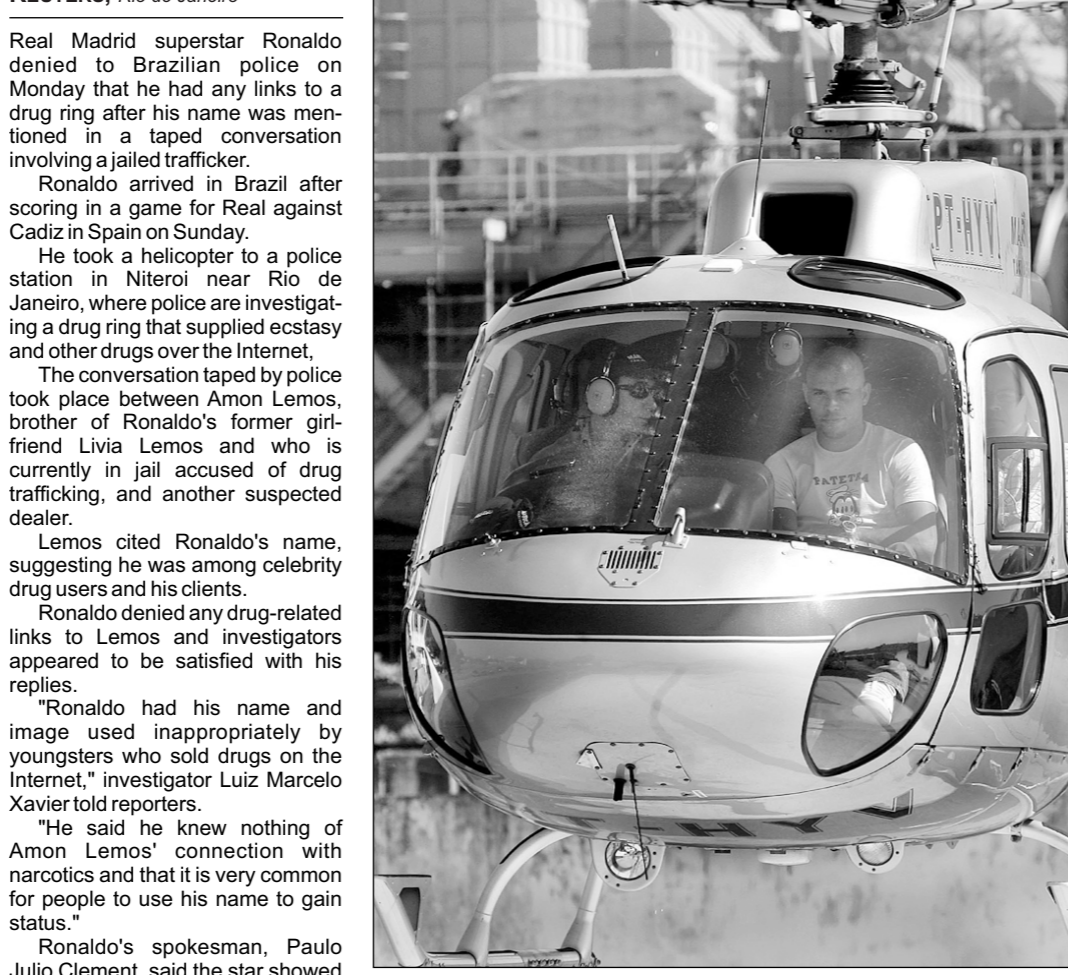
MICHAEL OWEN
"Bringing Michael to St James Park will rank alongside the signing of Alan Shearer as my proudest moment at Newcastle United," chairman Freddy Shepherd said.

And England coach Sven Goran Eriksson told him that if he was unable to get first-team football then his place in the England squad for the 2006 World Cup would be in doubt.

Newcastle fans love centre-forwards and Michael is a fantastic goalscorer. He's someone we would love to build the team around and we hope he can help us bring success to the club.
Owen wanted to return to his former club Liverpool but they were unwilling to pay more than what Madrid paid for him last year.
Newcastle are currently second-bottom of the Premiership without a league goal in four matches and one point out of a possible 12 and will be looking to Owen to kickstart their season.
He will be unveiled next week after returning from international duty with England who are playing two World Cup qualifiers.
Owen flew to England for talks with both Liverpool and Newcastle on Monday after being left out of the Real side for Sunday night's Primera Liga match at Cadiz, where his club won 2-1.

Ronaldo satisfies investigators

Football
REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro
Real Madrid superstar Ronaldo denied to Brazilian police on Monday that he had any links to a drug ring after his name was mentioned in a taped conversation involving a jailed trafficker.
Ronaldo arrived in Brazil after scoring in a game for Real against Cadiz in Spain on Sunday.
He took a helicopter to a police station in Niteroi near Rio de Janeiro, where police are investigating a drug ring that supplied ecstasy and other drugs over the Internet.
The conversation taped by police took place between Amon Lemos, brother of Ronaldo's former girlfriend Livia Lemos and who is currently in jail accused of drug trafficking, and another suspected dealer.
Lemos cited Ronaldo's name, suggesting he was among celebrity drug users and his clients.
Ronaldo denied any drug-related links to Lemos and investigators appeared to be satisfied with his replies.
"Ronaldo had his name and image used inappropriately by youngsters who sold drugs on the Internet," investigator Luiz Marcelo Xavier told reporters.
"He said he knew nothing of Amon Lemos' connection with narcotics and that it is very common for people to use his name to gain status."
Ronaldo's spokesman, Paulo Julio Clement, said the star showed up at the police station willingly and without a lawyer.
"He fulfilled his duty and collaborated with Justice," Clement said.
In a separate conversation, published by Istoe magazine, the kingpin of drug trafficking in Rocinha slum apparently referred to Ronaldo using his nickname "R9". It suggested that Ronaldo sent some sports kit to him such as a Nike



Superstar Ronaldo Nazario (R) leaves the police station in a helicopter after testifying for 40 minutes in connection with a drug trafficking case on Monday in Niteroi, northern Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

sweatshirt.
The bugged Rocinha conversations have indirectly implicated various celebrities, including soccer player Romario, who took part in a beneficiary game in the slum organized by the drug lord. Local media said Romario had acknowledged taking part in the game.
The vast Rocinha slum, is Rio's biggest drug distribution spot and its dealers have many rich clients from the neighboring upscale seaside districts.

Aussies demand changes

Cricket
Reuters, Sydney
Former Australian Test players have joined the national media in calling for changes to Ricky Ponting's team for the fifth and final Ashes Test against England at the Oval next week.
With Australia needing to win the final match to retain the Ashes after falling 2-1 behind following their three-wicket loss at Trent Bridge, most commentators now believe the time has come to make changes.
Former Test batsman Michael Slater has called for the axing of his old opening partner Matthew Hayden.
Hayden has scored just 180 runs in the series at 22.50 and Slater said he should be dropped so Simon Katich can move to the top of the order.
"The time has come for Australia to drop Matthew Hayden," Slater told the Daily Telegraph on Tuesday.
"He's struggled to make runs all series, as he did in 2001 in English conditions and in truth, has been out of form now for 12 months.
Former Australia captain Steve Waugh said Ponting's team only had themselves to blame for their predicament after boasting they would thrash England 5-0.
"They don't seem to have the hunger normally associated with Australian cricket sides," Waugh told the Daily Telegraph.
"From Australia's point of view, there have been a few injuries, too many statements in the papers leading up to the series.
"Actions speak louder than words and they need to perform on the pitch."
Waugh's sentiments were echoed throughout most of Australia's newspapers while The Australian's chief cricket writer Malcolm Conn said Ponting's team were also at risk of being branded as bad sports after their

outbursts at Trent Bridge.
"Once considered arrogant bullies for their overly aggressive demeanour on the field, the Australians are now in danger of being painted as sore losers," Conn wrote.
However, not everyone was laying the boot into the Australians.
Former Somerset captain Peter Roebuck, writing for the Sydney Morning Herald, said the team deserved credit for their brave fightback on the fourth day of the fourth Test when they almost stole an unlikely victory.
Roebuck also took aim at the performance of umpire Aleem Dar who made a series of critical decisions against the Australians which television replays suggested were incorrect.
The Australian's columnist Patrick Smith also said it was unwise to write off Ponting's men and urged the selectors not to make changes for the sake of it.

Winning on Vaughan's mind

Cricket
BBC ONLINE, undated
England captain Michael Vaughan expects his team to go all out for victory in the final Test at the Oval, despite needing just a draw to win the Ashes.
England went 2-1 up in the series after a thrilling three-wicket win over Australia in the fourth Test.
"If you go into the game thinking you are going to play for the draw it's the wrong mindset," said Vaughan.
"We will just go out and try to play in a similar fashion as we have done in the last three games."
Sunday's epic victory at Trent Bridge sees England lead the series for the first time since 1997.
Now Vaughan's side head to The Oval next week knowing they need only to prevent Australia from winning to make history and win an Ashes series after eight successive defeats.
"It's too early to say whether we are going to win the Ashes," Vaughan added.
"We are playing good cricket, we are 2-1 up with a game to play and I am sure The Oval will be an epic like the last three.
"To be 2-1 up is obviously a nice position to be in, but to win eight (Tests) on the trot last year was fantastic and we played some excellent cricket.
"We are challenging ourselves against the best team in the world now and we must continue it."
Vaughan will urge his vibrant side to remain the same as they build up for one of the biggest sporting occasions England has ever known.
"I think we have just got to be exactly how we have been for the last four weeks," he stressed.
"We went 1-0 down and we didn't change, we went to 1-1 and we didn't change, and we should have won at Old Trafford and we didn't change.
"We will be exactly the same at The Oval. We realise we are on the brink of something special, but we have to be very, very controlled and continue to work at our games.
Meanwhile, Vaughan's benefit match on Wednesday is expected to be a sell out, reflecting the booming interest in cricket.
Vaughan will lead an England XI against Yorkshire in a Twenty20 match at his home ground Headingly.
Organisers say 2,000 tickets are left but they expect them to sell quickly.

BOWLERS HOLD KEY: FLEMO

Kiwis take on Zim today

PTI, Harare
Halfway through the cricket triseries, New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming is envisaging a key role for bowlers who can swing the ball.
Fleming said the conditions favour the bowlers and batsmen would be compelled to put up a different kind of innings on such "tough pitches".
"It is a kind of pitch where bowlers would have some time in the sun. This would provide movement throughout the day and there is some swing as well. It will be the battle of bowlers for sure," he said on the eve of the match against Zimbabwe.
Ironically, the press briefing of Fleming did not have a word on Zimbabwe, largely on account of the fact that the hosts have been nothing more than pushovers so far.
With Zimbabwe least of their concerns, Fleming was already looking ahead at India and how his team would shape up in view of the 2007 World Cup.
Narinda Progati Boys Club recorded a 31-14 victory over Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club in the CUTE Premier Division Handball League at the outer stadium handball court yesterday.
The winners led the first-half 13-8. Rajon and Mizan scored seven goals each for the winners while Ripon netted five for the losers.

Progati Boys baffle Mariner

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh a real
FROM PAGE 12
recently and chased 250 plus in Cardiff against Australia. So they are a real threat to any team," said Moody.
Talking about the new rules, the Lankan coach admitted that it could be confusing. "Whatever it is, you have to take advantage of the rules. So we are going to face it with an open mind. I think, after three games, we'll have a better idea about exactly how the format works."
Moody was also relishing the meeting with his compatriot Dav Whatmore, the Tigers coach.
"I played cricket against him. He was as tough a player as he is a coach. I also have my respects for the Bangladesh team because they are an emerging side and improving all the time," said Moody, whose only match against Bangladesh was in the 1999 World Cup where he won the man-of-the-match award.

In Murali

FROM PAGE 12
would have to wait four or five years more to really challenge other teams.
Responding to the new ODI rules that includes use of supersub, Muralitharan said it would be good for bowlers because one could become more positive to take wickets in the middle overs.
"It will also encourage us to take more wickets."
"It's interesting as well as confusing. We have to learn more and looking forward to face more obstacles in the middle," said Muralitharan whose side will play the first time play under the new rules.
"The 20-over restriction is simple. But the supersub concept is confusing because both the sides can't get similar advantage in a game."
"Fitness is very important because wicketkeeping is a tough job. You have to focus yourself and always think about the game. Before a match, one should prepare meticulously like someone does before going to office. You also need a bit of luck to survive. Luck will favour you when you are working hard. Many talented players have vanished because they were not hard workers."
Mashud felt that it would have been more appropriate had he played this special game in front of his home crowd.
"But it is also nice to come to a place where I got the man-of-the-series award in the Test series against Sri Lanka.
"Even if I am out for a duck, I won't mind if my team wins tomorrow. That would be a perfect gift for me. The team always comes first."
He felt that he was ready to step down after the 2007 World Cup if there was a talented wicketkeeper waiting in the queue.
"I can't tell much about the young keepers because I haven't seen them much. However, if there is someone really good, I will make way for him because it will serve the team's purpose in the long run."
Bangladesh's 100th ODI brought good luck in December 2004 when they stunned India at home. It was also wishful thinking that Mashud's 'century' could also bring similar luck for the Tigers.

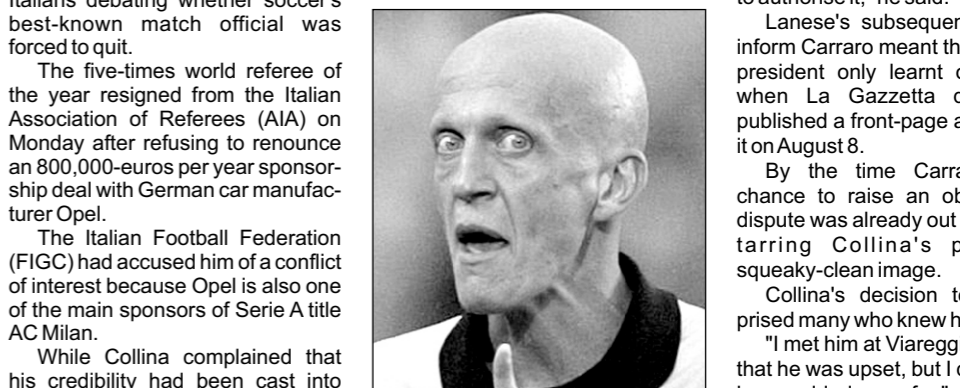
US OPEN
REUTERS, New York
A year after winning her maiden grand slam title at the US Open, Svetlana Kuznetsova suffered the humiliation of becoming the first defending women's champion to lose in the opening round on Monday.
By contrast, fellow Russian Maria Sharapova and men's second seed Rafael Nadal started their campaigns in irresistible style.
An out-of-sorts Kuznetsova stomped off court stony-faced after being thrashed 6-3, 6-2 by little-known compatriot Ekaterina Bychkova.
Sharapova, the women's top seed, demolished Greece's Eleni Daniilidou 6-1, 6-1 with a pugnacious display of hitting on Arthur Ashe Court. Spanish teenager Nadal beat American wild card Bobby Reynolds 6-3, 6-3, 6-4.
Argentine ninth seed Gaston Gaudio suffered a premature exit, losing 7-6, 6-2, 6-4 to US wild card Brian Baker and Andre Agassi and women's contenders Kim Clijsters and the Williams sisters, Serena and Venus, recorded impressive first round victories.
Fifth seed Kuznetsova has struggled to live up to her success last year, failing to win a single title in 2005 and the 20-year-old looked burned out on Louis Armstrong Court.
Bychkova, also 20 but ranked only 97 and making her grand slam debut, dominated from the start while Kuznetsova ballooned errors from all angles.
"Of course I'm disappointed," Kuznetsova said.
"But things like this happen. I just didn't play my game. I will learn from it. I just want to have some time off."
Her defeat gave Russia a disappointing Grand Slam double in 2005. Anastasia Myskina also lost as defending champion in the first round

of this year's French Open.
Sharapova has never been beyond round three at Flushing Meadows but was clinical in her disposal of Daniilidou, who upset Belgian Justine Henin-Hardenne in the Wimbledon first round in June.
The 18-year-old Russian, resplendent in a sky blue dress with yellow trim, has been suffering with a pectoral injury but she said: "It felt really good. I feel a lot stronger in my arm. I moved quite well today. I don't think I moved that well in quite a while."
Reigning French Open champion Nadal, the 19-year-old Spaniard who has won nine titles this year and risen to number two in the world, displayed flashes of his usual panache in beating American wild card Bobby Reynolds 6-3, 6-3, 6-4.
"The first match is never easy," the teenager said.
Gaudio, the 2004 French Open champion, offered little resistance after losing the first set tiebreak 11-9 to Baker, who took advantage to record his first victory at a grand slam event and only the fourth win of his career.
Seventh seed Agassi, now 35 and embarking on his 20th US Open campaign, recorded a sprightly 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 win in the final night session match in only 69 minutes against Romania's Razvan Sabau.
Women's eighth seed Serena showed little sign of her nagging knee and ankle injury when she overwhelmed Taiwanese 16-year-old Yung-Jan Chan 6-1, 6-3. Fourth seed Clijsters made even shorter work of German qualifier Martina Mueller, winning 6-1, 6-2.
Serena trailed 3-1 in the second set after losing her serve before reeling off the next five games.
Older sister Venus, the Wimbledon champion and Serena's potential fourth round opponent, mirrored her sibling's winning scorching by outclassing Japan's Rika Fujiwara 6-3, 6-1.

Collina's shock exit

Football
REUTERS, Rome
The sudden resignation of referee Pierluigi Collina has left many Italians debating whether soccer's best-known match official was forced to quit.
The five-times world referee of the year resigned from the Italian Association of Referees (AIA) on Monday after refusing to renounce an 800,000-euro per year sponsorship deal with German car manufacturer Opel.
The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) had accused him of a conflict of interest because Opel is also one of the main sponsors of Serie A title AC Milan.
While Collina complained that his credibility had been cast into doubt, FIGC president Franco Carraro attempted to draw a line under the row.
"I am an admirer of Collina and I'm grateful for all he has given to Italian football," Carraro was quoted as saying in La Gazzetta dello Sport on Tuesday.
"I am glad that the president of the AIA (Tullio Lanese) has decided to turn down his resignation. All we can do now is see what happens next."
Despite Carraro's disappointment, however, Italy moved swiftly on without its best-known referee.
The FIGC informed FIFA and UEFA on Monday of Collina's decision to quit and instructed them to

find a replacement to officiate in his next international, a World Cup qualifier between Spain and Serbia and Montenegro on September 7.
As the heads of Italian football looked ahead to a season without Collina, however, many people



PIERLUIGI COLLINA
were asking how the row had been allowed to blow up in the first place.
Collina turned 45 in February, the retirement age for referees, but was allowed to continue for another year after the FIGC intervened to change the rules in recognition of his special talent.
His striking bald head, eye-popping stare and reputation for quick, accurate decision-making meant he was in demand both on and off the pitch, with companies queuing up for him to endorse their products.
According to Lanese, Collina

visited him shortly after the end of last season to talk about the Opel deal.
"On July 17 Collina came to me to talk about the sponsorship deal. I told him, 'Great, well done, good luck,' but that didn't mean I wanted to authorise it," he said.
Lanese's subsequent failure to inform Carraro meant that the FIGC president only learnt of the deal when La Gazzetta dello Sport published a front-page article about it on August 8.
By the time Carraro had a chance to raise an objection the dispute was already out in the open, tarring Collina's previously squeaky-clean image.
Collina's decision to quit surprised many who knew him.
"I met him at Viareggio and I saw that he was upset, but I did not think he would do so far," Italy coach Marcello Lippi said.
Fabio Capello, coach of champions Juventus, cannot see anything wrong with Collina's Opel contract.
"A person's credibility does not depend on who sponsors him," Capello said.
"I feel bitterness for a decision that has deprived us of a man of sport who has always been fair and up to the job.
"I believe Collina was offended - that was why he took this unexpected decision. I hope he reconsiders because Italian and world football would lose a great referee."

Svetlana stumbles, Maria sails

U-19 WC IN SL
ICC discusses Test schedule
BBC ONLINE, undated
The International Cricket Council (ICC) says it has made progress after a meeting to discuss changes to the programme of Tests and one-day matches.
Member countries debated proposals to change the current international cricket cycle from five years to six.
"We've discussed initial drafts and all countries will now be given a chance to comment on a revised six-year plan," said ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed.
"There's still work to be done but this was an important part of the process."
A special scheduling summit was followed by a meeting of its chief executives' committee (CEC) to consider the implications of a change.
"Once we have received comments from the countries the matter will be considered by the ICC board at its next meeting in Australia in October," added Speed.
The CEC also discussed the role of Twenty20 cricket in the international arena, rankings of non-Test playing countries and the schedule for next year's Under-19 World Cup in Sri Lanka.

Simon Jones in bid to speed up recovery
BBC ONLINE, undated
England's Simon Jones hopes several trips to an oxygen chamber will speed up his recovery from an ankle injury ahead of the decisive Ashes Test.
"I sit in there for an hour at a time and I will be doing this twice a day for the next few days," he said.
"I'll be doing everything I can to get in that side for the fifth Test."
Paceman Jones left the field during the fourth-Test victory with what was diagnosed as "an anterior impingement of the soft tissue in the ankle joint."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Chicago squad
5 Collapse
9 Sheepish remark
12 On
13 "Zip - Doo-Dah"
14 Kreskin's claim
15 Apt to start
17 Goller's concern
18 Join by interweaving
19 Take things easy
21 Big Apple abbr.
22 Canyon National Park
24 Unpaid bill
27 Humpback's home
28 Egg
31 Rd.
32 Thickness
33 Exploit
34 "Follicularly challenged"

36 "Treasure Island"
37 Blue hue
38 Neighbor of Chad
40 "Monopoly" square
41 Scent
43 Starve
47 Nearly depleted
48 Grip
51 Honest politician
52 Canal zone
53 Guide's agenda
54 Roulette bet
55 Praise to the skies
56 Change for a sawbuck

DOWN
1 Urban fleet
2 Texas shafts of light
3 Weevil's target
4 Fracture aid
5 Confront
6 Commotion
7 "Misérables"
8 Suspiciously
9 University in Nebraska
10 One side of the Urals
11 High point
16 Gelid
20 Environmentally friendly
22 Beautiful (Ital.)
23 Shafts of light
24 Apply lightly
25 Zsa Zsa's sis
26 Roared
27 Agile
29 NAFTA signatory
30 Brooks or Gibson
35 Poorly lit
37 Beefsteak or cherry
39 Scene of noisy confusion
40 Merry
41 Winged
42 Post-bout garb
43 Took off
44 Object of worship
45 Actress Elisabeth
46 Towel designation
49 Chapter in history
50 Co-star with Barrymore and Diaz

Solution time: 25 mins.
ALBA SAW ACTIA
CROSS THA RIAL
HAYSTACK UIMA
NEIGHBOR EAGLES
TUT SNUB
FFF TEN GLASS
IOLA DOC ACRE
GRAPE DOG KON
PREZ MOI
CAJOLE PAMPAAS
ASAP BRAT PLAK
RICO RUN EELI
YAKS AMY LOUIT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
15				16					17		
18							19	20			
24	25	26		27					28	29	30
31				32					33		
34			35		36				37		
41	42			38		39			40		
47				48	49	50					
51				52					53		
54				55					56		

CRYPTOQUIP
JUB PLDN KRRT'N BRFQPPQ
WUM IUMYV AQR Q
KRYUADEF NDFE PLQP
BRQVN "WQILPN UJ YMITI"
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A HIGH SCHOOL FAILS TO HIRE AN OFFICIAL DIRECTOR, I GUESS IT'S UNPRINCEPALED.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: W equals Y
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.