



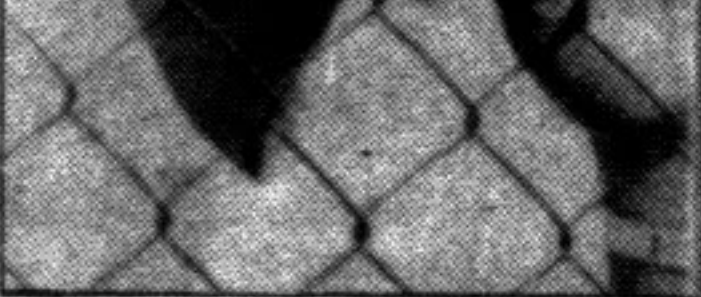
Argentine Alberto Acosta (C) beats Bolivian Dario Rojas (L) and Carlos Borja (R) in the air to head the ball in their Copa America game at the Capwell de Guayaquil Stadium in Ecuador on June 17. Argentina and Bolivia played to a 0-0 tie in a first round Group C match. — AFP photo

# Copa America lacks lustre

CUENCA, Ecuador, June 19: Brazil's insipid performance in their 0-0 draw against Peru on Friday rounded off a dreary first week in the Copa America soccer tournament, reports Reuter. Teams such as Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and even the United States and Bolivia have left out their big-name players. Performances have suffered accordingly, fuelling fears the competition is being used merely as a warm-up for the South American World Cup qualifiers which follow. Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira has already criticised the tournament's timing. Critics say pressure on the South American confederation to change their calendar could grow as the competitions drag on, if the soccer on offer fails to improve. Ecuadoreans, deprived of major sporting events in their country, have flocked to the games in a way which organisers of the 1994 World Cup in the US may envy. But their enthusiasm already seems to be waning. Fans in Cuenca, a picturesque colonial city set in mountains 2,700 metres above sea level, were thrilled at the prospect of seeing Brazil play in their local stadium. But the fans ended up jeering them off the field after they failed to beat an unheralded Peruvian side. Brazil trainer Carlos Alberto Parreira said it was the first time his team had played together. "It was a reasonable performance considering it was our first game together. Today was our first training session," he said. "I still say that our priority is the World Cup qualifiers." The Brazilians have brought none of their big European names but Parreira said: "The players we have brought are established. They have won the Libertadores Cup, the Sao Paulo Championship and the Brazilian Championship. They are all stars in their own clubs." Brazil's lacklustre display came one day after Argentina beat Bolivia 1-0 with an equally disappointing performance. Argentina even suffered the indignity of being pinned in their own half for the last 20 minutes. Uruguay were no better in their 1-0 win over the US who have brought only Tab Ramos of their exiles. The most exciting soccer so far has come from the host nation, who scored some spectacular goals in their 6-1 demolition of Venezuela. But it remains to be seen how much they owned to a Venezuelan defence renowned for its generosity.

# Basile's pragmatic approach

GUAYAWUTI, Ecuador, June 19: Argentina national team boss Alfio Basile resigned himself on Friday to the possibility he would be without Diego Maradona for the World Cup qualifiers in August and September, reports Reuter. Reporters covering the South American Championship in Ecuador heard from Buenos Aires that Maradona had announced he was quitting football. It was not clear whether the 33-year-old Maradona meant he would leave Sevilla and the Spanish First Division for a less demanding stage or retire altogether. Paraguay, Peru surprise fans CUENCA, Ecuador, June 19: Paraguay and Peru notched up surprise results in Friday's disappointing Group B South American football championship clashes here, reports AFP. Only one goal was scored in 180 minutes of football and at the end of the day Chile went down to Paraguay while title favourites Brazil looked distinctly off their game when they were held to a goalless draw by old rivals Peru. Paraguay's hero was Cabanas. He scored his sides sixth minute winner in an exciting but often violent game and continually teased the Chile defenders with entertaining runs down the flanks and majestic passes to the excellent Carlos Gamarra and Estanislao Struway. Colombian referee Jose Torres' whistle worked overtime as tempers flared and both teams finished with ten men. Chile's Margas was ordered off ten minutes from time and Paraguay's Sanabria, who had only come on as a late substitute for Sotelo nine minutes earlier, followed him off the pitch in the dying seconds. In all five Paraguayan players (Estruway, Gamarra, Cabanas, Chilavert and Sanabria) were shown yellow cards and so was Figueroa of Chile. Chile's best chances were created by striker Gabriel Mandoza but he was never given enough support up front from his teammates that might have made the difference. Brazil produced little to underlie their title pretensions. They rarely pieced together any serious attacking moves and even when Palhinha or Elivelton did get into a position to take a shot, they came up against spectacular Peruvian goalkeeper Miguel Miranda who made it clear nothing was going to get past him. Both teams will be hoping for better things in their last two group matches.



DIEGO MARADONA won over Bolivia.

Maradona told Basile back in April he would not be available for the South American Championship but he would like to play the qualifiers. "I can't comment on (Maradona's) decision, but it doesn't surprise me because



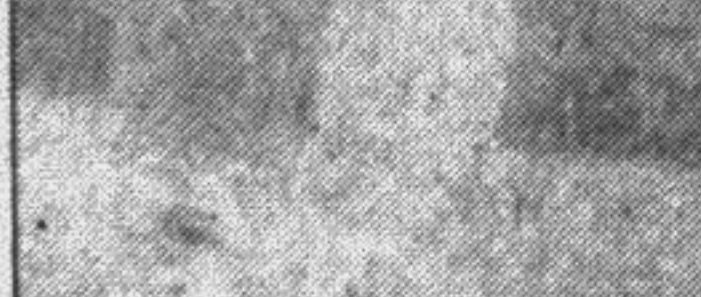
DIEGO MARADONA won over Bolivia.

Maradona told Basile back in April he would not be available for the South American Championship but he would like to play the qualifiers. "I can't comment on (Maradona's) decision, but it doesn't surprise me because



DIEGO MARADONA won over Bolivia.

Maradona told Basile back in April he would not be available for the South American Championship but he would like to play the qualifiers. "I can't comment on (Maradona's) decision, but it doesn't surprise me because



DIEGO MARADONA won over Bolivia.

Maradona told Basile back in April he would not be available for the South American Championship but he would like to play the qualifiers. "I can't comment on (Maradona's) decision, but it doesn't surprise me because

Maradona told Basile back in April he would not be available for the South American Championship but he would like to play the qualifiers. "I can't comment on (Maradona's) decision, but it doesn't surprise me because

# The untouchable

PARIS, June 19: An amateur French football player has been banned for one year for trying to headbut a referee, it was announced here on Friday, reports AFP. Herve Wagner carried out the offence while playing for a Bastia team against a Le Havre Eleven on May 29 in a championship semifinal replay for company teams. The French Football Federation disciplinary commission heard the match was the second meeting between the two clubs. The first semifinal on May 9 had to be replayed after violence flared and the changing rooms were vandalised.

# Kenyan govt backs Ngugi

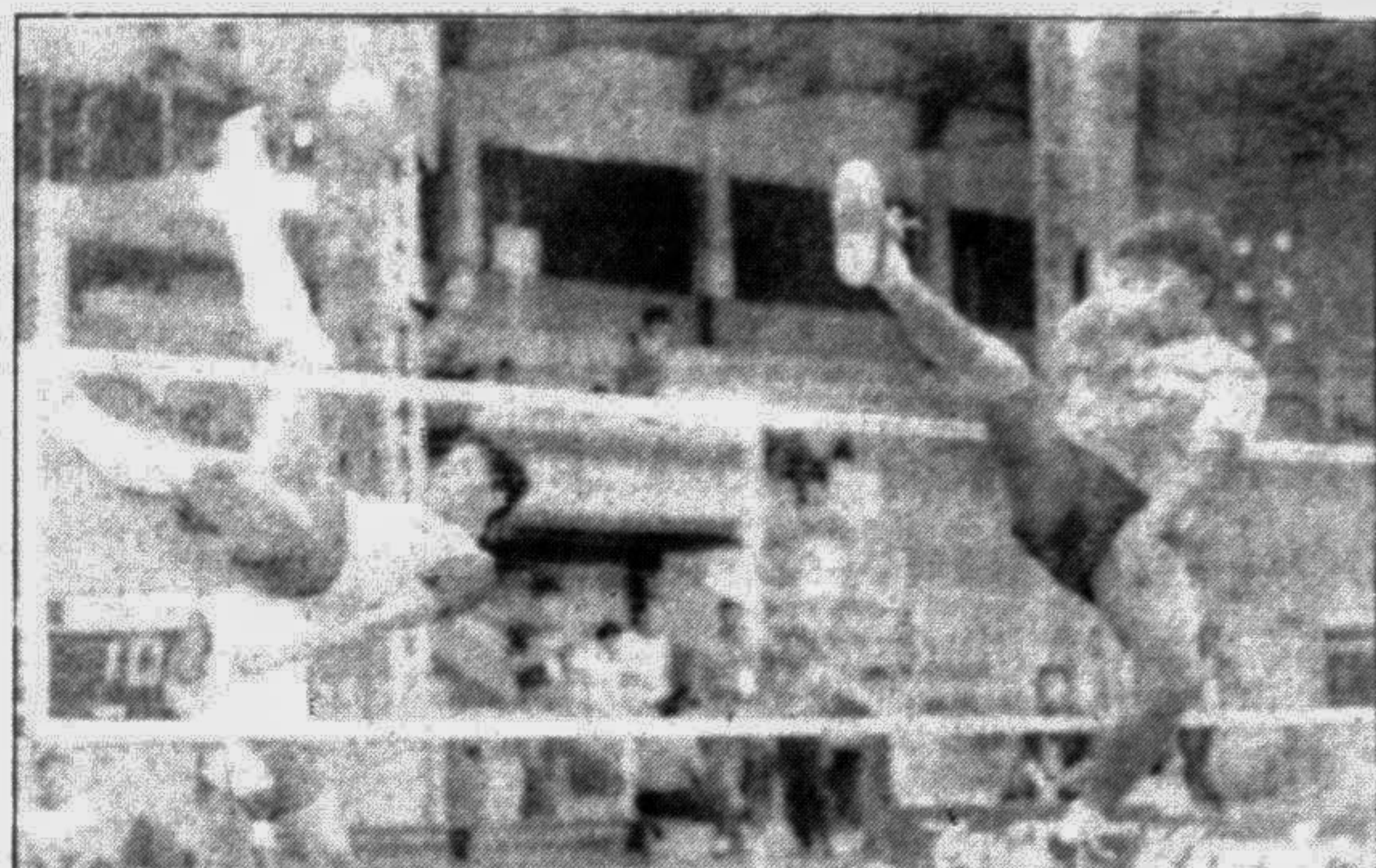
NAIROBI, June 19: Kenya is to appeal against the ban imposed on its five-time world cross country champion John Ngugi by the International Amateur Athletics Federation for refusing a random drug test, reports AFP. Sports Minister Kiptarus Arap Korir confirmed the appeal against the IAAF's four-year ban in parliament here on Thursday. Korir was replying to an appeal by member of parliament who pleaded with the government to salvage the career of the renowned athlete. The MP, Henry Obwocha, himself a former international athlete, said Ngugi had refused the drug test by "a white stranger from nowhere" who had visited him. The visit by IAAF experts was made at Ngugi's home in February. His case is due to be reviewed by the IAAF during the World Championships at Stuttgart in August.

# Chen sets a new world record

MOSCOW, June 19: Yolanda Chen set a women's triple jump world record of 14.97m during the first day of the Russian athletics championships here on Friday, reports AFP. Chen beat the previous best of 14.95m by Ukrainian Inessa Kravets with her sixth attempt. Kravets set her record on June 10, 1991 in Moscow. Krajecek loses LONDON, June 19: Richard Krajecek's preparations for next week's Wimbledon championships were dealt a blow here on Friday when he was beaten by American Todd Martin in the challenge match between Europe and the Rest of the World, reports AFP. The big-serving Dutchman who is seeded ninth at the All-England Club, lost 6-4, 6-7, 6-4 after being broken in the third game of the first set and the 10th of the decider. In between Krajecek forced the second set into a tie-break, which he took 7-5.

# Tigana takes reins of French soccer squad

LYON, June 19: Former French international Jean Tigana has been appointed technical manager of French side Lyon for the next three years, the club said on Tuesday, reports Reuter. One of the most brilliant French midfielders of the 1980s, Tigana takes over from coach Raymond Domenech, who had said he would quit the team at the end of the season. Raise for English Premier League referees LONDON, June 19: English Premier League chief executive Rick Parry has promised extra cash for referees — in return for a more professional approach, here on Tuesday, reports AFP. Referees are demanding 400 pounds-a-game next season compared to their 165 pound match payment in the inaugural Premier campaign. Parry has offered 200 pounds a time as an interim settlement and 100 pounds for linesmen, up from 75 pounds. "They gave us an assurance last week that they hadn't contemplated strike action," he said. "We are striving to raise standards and want to explore changes in assessments, training and fitness which will bring about improvements," he said. "Then we would be happy to agree a substantial increase in fees." Parry added: "It's not possible to get the package in place for the start of next season and that's why we have offered interim 200-100 payments. We are not saying take it or leave it and hope it will form the basis of further discussion."



Singaporean Rafi Abdul Majid (R) and Filipino Rey Lema (L) in action in a sepak takraw match in the 17th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games on June 18. Singapore won 2-0. — AFP photo

# Indonesia stay out of reach

SINGAPORE, June 19: Indonesia picked up golds in karate, traditional boat races, tennis and archery Friday to ensure their place at the top of the medals table at the 17th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games here, reports AFP. Indonesia built up an unsailable tally of 68 golds as the day progressed to lead Thailand who have 49 and the Philippines on 44. Indonesia's women picked up two more karate golds in the 60kg and below 53kg events while the men won the below 65kg event. The victories raised Indonesia's gold picking from karate to six. Indonesia was among seven countries, from the nine taking part, to protest earlier against Singapore's ban on the use of the headgear as required under international karate rules. But Singapore insisted that the SEA Games Federation, which runs the biennial Games, had first to adopt the rules before the use of headgear could be made compulsory. Leading the karate onslaught was 24-year-old defending champion Ribkah Taredja who demolished her Burmese and Bruneian opponents with ease before overpowering compatriot Lusana Taroreh for the kumite below 60kg title. Nilawati Daud, another university student, won the kumite below 53kg category after raining blows on Brunei's Marliza Omar, who took silver. "Our training stint in Taiwan before the SEA Games helped hone our skills," said Nilawati, from Sumatra. Hasan Basri beat compatriot Nurzaman Muhammad for the title in the men's below 65kg event. Vietnam picked up golds in the below 55kg and below 60kg men's kumite categories. Police officer Nguyen Anh Tuan overpowered Indonesia's Abu Bakar Gusti for the 55kg men's kumite title while Hanoi-based National Sports University student Tran Van Thong beat another Indonesian Supra Yogi for the below 60kg men kumite title. Filipino Ryan Mariano won in the below 70 kg men kumite title, beating Indonesia's Tommy Firman for the title. Vietnam sprang the day's surprise by picking up two of the four golds at stake in shooting. Vietnam's success came in the standard pistol event where it took golds in both the team and individual sections. Pham Cao Son shocked record holder Peera Piromratna to take the individual gold with a score of 5-9 points. Peera finished on 5-6 to take silver. The record was set by Peera in the 1991 Games with a score of 573 points. Thailand struck gold in the clay skeet team event while Peter Lee of Singapore took the individual title. Outside the top three nations Singapore with 38 gold medals are being chased by Indonesia with 36. Further down the table Burma have eight golds and Vietnam seven.

# IOC looks for ways to tackle two prime problems

LAUSANNE, June 19: The International Olympic Committee and the heads of world sporting federations are to spend a week here, tackling two problems — drugs and the law, reports AFP. The keynote of the session, which opens today, is expected on Monday when IOC chief Juan Antonio Samaranch and athletics supremo Primo Nebiolo unveil a new action plan to counter drugs in sport. Their aim is to harmonise the way different sports deal with the problem. "Those federations who want to come to this exploratory meeting will be there — but the door will remain open to the others," Samaranch said. Also worrying delegates is the trend for sportsmen and women to challenge the decisions of sporting authorities in civil courts. American runner Harry "Butch" Reynolds and German sprint queen Katrin Krabbe have both turned to the courts over drugs cases. "The two subjects are linked and represent our two biggest problems at the moment," said Samaranch. On a lighter note, the meeting will also include the inauguration of the new Olympic museum, built on five floors with 11,000 square metres of white marble at a cost of 70 million dollars.

# Masur faces Stoltenberg in final

MANCHESTER, England, June 19: Wally Masur and Jason Stoltenberg clinched a first all-Australian ATP tour final for nearly five years at the Manchester Open here on Friday, reports AFP. Both won marathon semifinals to halt a run that has lasted since July 1988, when Masur beat Brad Drewitt at Newport, Rhode Island. That was Masur's last tour victory, but he should end that drought today for he has beaten Stoltenberg on all three occasions they have met, although only one of those wins was on grass, at Queen's Club in 1989. It is also Masur's second successive ATP tour final, since he was runner-up to Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch in the Rosmalen tournament in Holland last week. To qualify for it, the 30-year-old fourth seed upset Sweden's Henrik Holm, the second seed, 6-4, 6-7, 7-6 in 142 minutes. It was a typical serve-and-volley encounter containing only three serve breaks, but Masur was aided by the volatile Holm, who received a code violation for throwing his racket into the net in the eighth game of the final set. Stoltenberg, meanwhile, defeated French left-hander Stephane Simian 6-7, 6-2, 6-3 in the other semifinal. That clash lasted 107 minutes, but might have ended quicker, for the 23-year-old Australian missed a set-point in the first set tie-breaker.

# Navratilova not to be denied

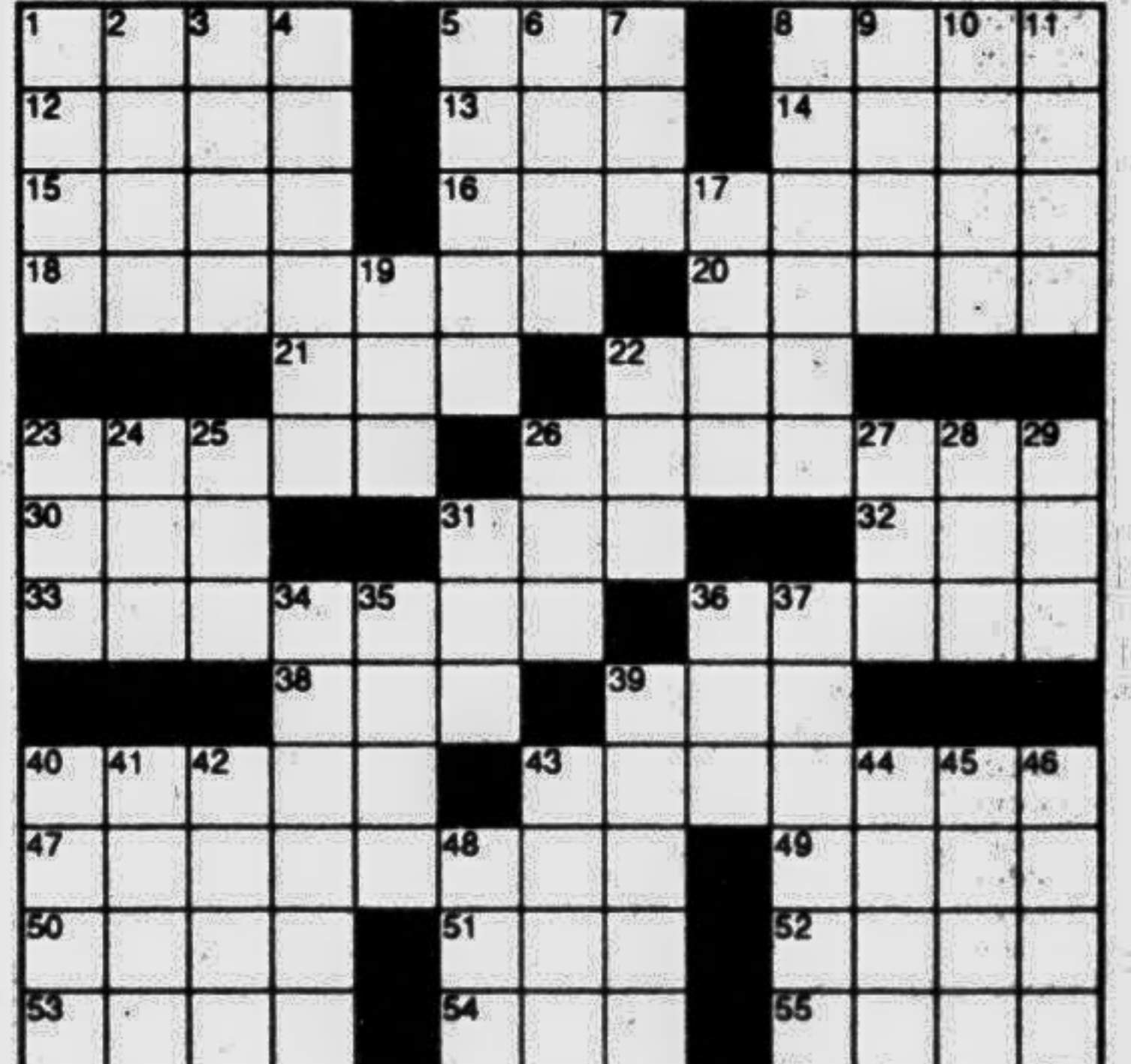
EASTBOURNE, England, June 19: Former world number one Martina Navratilova defied a chilly English summer to storm into her 13th Eastbourne final, reports AFP. Wearing Lycra cycle pants underneath her tennis shorts, the evergreen American adapted superbly to hammer commented: "It's been pretty horrid. I cannot believe how many people are out there watching because it is freezing. It's a tribute to British fans. You would not see that anywhere else in the world. It reaches 70 degrees here and you call it a heatwave and all go to the beach." It was Navratilova at her best. She took just 25 minutes to sweep through the first set, dropping only one point on her serve. But the second set, containing 16 deuces, was much tighter. She was broken twice — once when she had a match point at 5-1 — and conceded a total of 26 points on her delivery. The players came off for 40 minutes midway through the first game of the set when Navratilova appealed to umpire [Name obscured] for a change. Navratilova, however, has ruled out wearing contact lenses because they do not improve her vision as much as regular glasses. She was also forced to make a couple of spectacular dives to reach some wide volleys, killing badly on her knee on one of them. "I need some lessons on how to fall," she confessed. "I don't want to keep leaving imprints on my knees." Navratilova will play Dutch outsider Mirin Oremans in today's final after the world number 42 upset Lori McNeil, the defending champion and ninth seed, 7-6, 7-6. Oremans had the advantage of the match being her first of the day, McNeil having earlier knocked out fifth seed Nathalie Tauziat 6-1, 7-5 in the quarter-finals. Oremans said: "It was always my dream to play against Navratilova on grass. It's just a pity it's not Wimbledon."



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA Jane Tabor that she could hardly see through her rain streaked spectacles. "It's not enjoyable," she said latter. "You never feel confi-

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Essence 5 Alt. 8 Pop 12 Bart's sister 13 All the solvers 14 Cupid's a/k/a 15 Tournament type 16 Make the most of 18 A Round Table knight 20 Trombonists' accessories 21 AMA members 22 Mimic 23 Get into forensics 26 Throw off the trail 30 Tarzan Jr. 31 Sling ingredient? 32 26 Down, to Henri 33 Drum-set features 36 Young pigeon 38 Vacationing 39 Mandible 40 Like the "a" in "ago" 43 Purplish red 47 "The Color of Money" setting 49 Origin 50 Church area 51 "— been had" 52 Decorate 53 Crystal-gazer 54 Band-leader 55 Bush's alma mater 1 Computer operator 4 "Kubla Khan" setting 5 Choir's repertoire 6 Capricorn 7 Penguin costume, for short? 8 First name of 4 Down poet 9 Drop 10 Catch some Z's 11 Mars' counterpart 17 Mischief makers 19 Dander 22 Prepare to fire 23 Rudiments 24 Actor Scheider 25 Place to pump up 26 How to address some women 27 Flightless avian 28 "I— Camera" 29 Society newcomer 31 TV alien 34 Derby 35 Out there somewhere 36 Succumb to gravity 37 Type-writer sequence 39 "Home, —" 40 Watering holes 41 Manage somehow 42 Gardener's need 43 Relocate 44 Asta's mistress 45 Hard labor 46 Where not to throw bouquets 48 Ewing wares



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-6873 199¢ per minute, touch-tone / rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CRYPTOQUIP T E F S H H F F Z B H V A F W Z B H B W A B D F V E H B Z H B V C D B W E V T H B F W E C B C F S V B Cryptoquip: WHAT TIME OF YEAR IS BEST FOR TRIMMING ROSEBUSHES WAS A THORNY ISSUE. Today's Cryptoquip clue: H equals R 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.