

Div II hockey

Sports Reporter

Shuja earned two valuable points for his team Udity Club when they beat Muktiyoddha Sangsad by two goals to nil in the Green Delta Second Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Shuja scored two goals in the 12th and 55th minute respectively. The other match of the day between Rayer Bazar and Young Star Club ended in a goalless draw.

Gullit wrinkles a return

ROME, Oct 27: Ruud Gullit, rolling back the years with his superb performances for Sampdoria, has confirmed he wants to play for the Netherlands in the 1994 World Cup, reports Reuter.

"I have not given up the idea of returning to the national team, especially with the arrival of (Johan) Cruyff, the greatest name the Netherlands has ever produced," Gullit told Corriere dello Sport on Tuesday.

"It would be ideal to end my international career at the World Cup finals in America," added the 31-year-old Gullit, who quit the national side last April after being substituted during a match against England at Wembley.

The Dutch need one point from their final World Cup tie in Poland next month to book a place in the finals.

Barcelona coach Cruyff will take over the national side from Dick Advocaat for the finals, smoothing the path for Gullit's return after his differences with Advocaat.

The Dutchman did not say whether he would make himself available for the tie in Poland on November 17.

Plagued by knee trouble throughout his career, Gullit has appeared rejuvenated since moving from champions AC Milan to Sampdoria this summer.

He has scored six times in nine matches as Sampdoria have joined the early front runners. The crunch for Sampdoria and the dreaded Gullit will come on Sunday when they host Milan, who share top spot with Parma.

The Dutchman made it clear he has a point to prove to his former employers who left him on the sidelines for much of last season and allowed him to be sold off for 715,000 — a figure fixed by UEFA since Gullit was out of contract.

"People say I'm bubbling and appear to be fitter. It's no surprise to me.

Stage set for the finale



DOHA, Qatar, Oct 27: The cream of Asian football will face all-or-nothing encounters on Thursday as the World Cup qualifying matches here reach a dramatic finale that could not have been scripted better, reports Reuter.

Two teams qualify for next year's finals in the United States and, with just one point separating five countries, there are several possible outcomes.

The only clear-cut scenario is that victories for Japan and Saudi Arabia would automatically send them to the US if either side draw or lose, the door would be open for South Korea, Iran or Iraq to claim a spot, probably on goal difference.

Group leaders Japan, on five points, take on fourth-placed Iraq, who are a point adrift, while Saudi Arabia, second on goal difference, meet Iran, fifth with four points.

The other match pits third-placed South Korea, also on four points, with cold war rivals North Korea, the only team out of the running.

All three matches will be played simultaneously to avoid any team receiving an unfair advantage.

Japan, aiming for their first

World Cup finals, look ready to take over the mantle of Asia's top side from South Korea.

The highly-successful J-League has given the players a competitive edge and striker Kazuyoshi Miura was at his opportunist best against North Korea and South Korea, with three vital goals.

Iraq have played with the passion demanded by their country's leader Saddam Hussein and the people, who have implored the team to return with a passport for the United States.

"I want the team to play relaxed football," said Japanese coach Maru Ooft. "They should feel the tension but not too much, just like the game against North Korea which they had to win."

"A win takes us to the United States — we have to go for it not the draw."

Iraq coach Ahmed Baba, who guided the side to the 1986 World Cup finals, has worked his magic on the teams since taking over from Adnan Dirjal after the first-game loss to North Korea.

"The people expect us to qualify and we have the chance to do so if we win," said Baba, who has three players available again for selection after one-match suspensions.

Baba will have more say in

the composition of his team than new Saudi Arabia coach Mohammed Kharrash, who replaces sacked Brazilian Jose Candido for the game against Iran.

"I will not change the team. I have not been brought in to do that," said Kharrash.

If Saudi Arabia are to play in the finals for the first time they will have to cope with the aerial threat of Ali Daai, the tournament's top scorer with four goals and a target for German club Bayern Munich.

Although they have no chance of qualification, North Korea will not be doing their southern neighbours any favours.

"We are not going to abandon the tournament just because we cannot qualify," said North Korea's assistant coach Yun Myung-Chang, "we are going to play hard. No body wants to lose a game."

South Korean coach Kim Ho is worried about his players' alarming lack of stamina as they bid for a third straight appearance at the World Cup finals.

"Our physical condition has not been good in these matches, with the players being affected by the heat and humidity," he said. "I will be asking them to make a big effort against North Korea."

Dream at reality's threshold



DOHA, Qatar, Oct 27: As a 15-year-old entranced by the gifted Pele, "Kazuyoshi" Kazu Miura dreamed of playing in the World Cup, reports Reuter.

Eleven years on and with a soccer apprenticeship with Pele's club Santos behind him, Miura is the established kind of Japanese strikers and now just 90 minutes away from turning football fantasy into reality.

Miura will lead Japan's attack in their final qualifying match against Iraq on Thursday knowing that another of the opportunists strikes which have made him a hot property back home could clinch a spot in the 1994 finals.

Japan, who have never previously reached the finals, lead the six-team group in the Asian Qualifying competition. The top two nations will go to the United States next year.

It was Miura's golden boot that gave Japan victory over North Korea and South Korea and took them to the verge of

qualification. "Since I was 15 I have dreamed of playing in the World Cup finals," said Miura. "Now I am so close to achieving that goal."

"But I am trying to empty my mind and not think too much about the game. I've been asked if I want to score against Iraq — of course I do but it does not matter if I score as long as the team wins."

Japanese sports newspapers have linked Miura with Italian club Juventus but he said he was not interested in becoming embroiled in transfer talk just hours before the most important match of his life.

"I don't know about that," was his terse answer to questions about a possible move to Italy from his J-League club Verdy Kawasaki.

When he defied his mother and teachers and left Japan for Pele country in 1982, it was thoughts of soccer stardom that fortified the young Miura.

Homesickness and a lonely existence were tolerated as he started to learn the tricks of his

chosen trade from the Brazilian masters.

Miura had watched old videotapes of Pele in action over and over again while he was growing up and he realised one of his ambitions when he signed professionally for Santos.

But he could not command a first team place and played for several other clubs in Brazil before being tempted back to Japan in 1990.

He became an instant hit when the J-League was launched earlier this year and was elevated to hero status by the Japanese supporters when he scored nine goals for his country in the first round of World Cup Asian qualifying matches.

In Doha, hundreds of female fans screech at his every touch of the ball and the 300 strong Japanese press corps hang on his every word.

A goal or two from the striker against Iraq on Thursday and the court of "king Kazu" will move to the United States next year.



Sydney Harbour is illuminated by fireworks on Oct 24 as the city celebrates the 20th anniversary of its Opera House. Over 53,000 concerts, operas, films and plays have been staged under the unique parabolic sails designed by Danish architect Joern Utzon in 1957 and opened in 1973. —AFP photo

Man gives way to machine

PERTH, Oct 27: Line judges will be replaced by electronic monitors at the Hopman Cup mixed team tennis tournament in Perth over the new year, officials said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Hopman Cup chairman Paul McNamee said the event would become the first major international tournament to use electronic line-judging equipment, making redundant all officials except a chair umpire, a net cord judge and a foot fault judge.

The system, known as TEL (Tennis Electronic Lines), was tried at this year's US Open but abandoned after the qualifying rounds because of false readings from some types of players' shoes.

McNamee said the systems Australian inventors had ironed out such problems and he was confident the equipment would work.

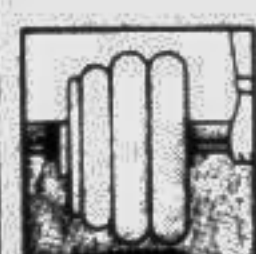
The system relies on detectors laid under the lines and specially designed tennis balls containing iron filings. It emits a beep if a ball is judged to be out.

TEL was successfully tested during the over-35s event at the 1992 US Open and was due to be introduced on two courts at the Australian Open this year but bad weather prevented its installation.

The players at the Hopman Cup, which starts on new year's eve, will include American John McEnroe, whose abuse of line judges has often overshadowed his achievements on the court.

"I think it might be a shock to John when he finds out," McNamee said. "But he is one of the players who we can thank for such technological advances."

Russian trio banned for life



MOSCOW, Oct 27: The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) has banned three Russians from next months World Championships after random dope tests showed traces of illegal drugs, a Russian sports daily said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The newspaper Sovetskiy Sport said Maxim Agapitov and Andrei Matveyev had been disqualified for life.

A third weightlifter, European Championship bronze medalist Ramzan Musayev, faced a probable year's suspension because only a small dose of banned anabolic steroids had been detected.

The news was a severe blow for the IWF which has been trying, with some success, to clean up the drug-tainted image which once threatened the sports Olympic status.

Sovetskiy Sport said the IWF had carried out its random checks at the Russian Championships in St Petersburg in September and that the samples had been analysed in

Cologne, Germany. Russian officials detected traces of illegal drugs in four other athletes at St Petersburg and punished them but three named by the IWF were not among them.

Russian sports officials could not be reached for comment but Viktor Polyakov, president of the Russian Federation, told the newspaper: "The failure of our doping control system occurred perhaps because of imperfect technical equipment or perhaps because of incompetent specialists."

"I don't exclude basic negligence," he said.

The IWF disqualified another Russian, junior world champion Vyacheslav Ostrov for life earlier this year.

Any federation which has four athletes banned in one season faces a 50,000 dollar fine or a total ban from championships under IWF control for a year.

Even if our boys go to the World Championships in Australia and compete successfully in November, it will take

longer than a year to re-establish the authority of Russian weightlifting," the newspaper said.

The Russians are among the best weightlifters in the world. Along with other former Soviet competitors from Georgia, Ukraine and Armenia, they won all the gold medals at the European Championships in Sofia in April.

The World Championships are in Melbourne, Australia, from November 12 to 21.

There were no doping scandals at the European Championships and IWF officials were confident that they had started to beat the problem of drug abuse.

After a crackdown on doping, there were fewer world records, so the IWF decided last year to introduce new weight categories.

It was not immediately clear which categories the two banned lifters were in but Sovetskiy sport said Agapitov was a Russian champion and Matveyev had won a silver medal in St Petersburg.

The curtain-raiser at Sharjah

By A M Chowdhury



With the advent of winter in the northern hemisphere and summer in the southern, things are warming up for international cricket. After a brief period of full cricket lovers are due for a feast of entertainment in the next few months.

The desert venue at Sharjah is going to provide the curtain-raiser, where the three-nation (Pakistan, West Indies and Sri Lanka) one day international competition is due to start on Thursday, the 28th October.

New Zealand are already in Australia for a three Test match series against Australia and South Africa are going to join them for the World Series Triangular to be followed by a three Test series against Australia. The six-nation (may be five, if Pakistan fail to turn up) CAB Diamond Jubilee Tournament is due to start in India on the 7th November. The fate of Pakistan's visit to India and the Asia Cup tournament in Pakistan are yet uncertain. Early next year New Zealand are due to host Pakistan and India. West Indies are due to make a brief stop-over in Sri Lanka after the CAB Tournament and they go back home to receive England for a five Test series and five one-day internationals early next year.

Cricket is coming back to the desert venue after nine months. Last February Pakistan won the Sharjah Trophy beating Sri Lanka in the final by 114 runs.

Zimbabwe, the babes of international cricket, were beaten by both Pakistan and Sri Lanka, but were not humiliated; they compiled 213 for 6 against Pakistan and 236 for 9 against Sri Lanka. This time the format of the tournament allows each team playing others twice and the two top teams shall meet in the final on 5th November.

Sharjah had always been a happy hunting ground for Pakistan. But the world champions cannot expect the going to be easy when they are up against the might of West Indies, with whom they struggled hard to level the five-match one-day series early in the year. Neither Sri Lanka can be discounted easily. The island nation had the recent satisfaction of beating India 2-1 and drawing 1-1 with South Africa in one-day internationals. Sri Lanka have definitely emerged as a recog-

nisable force in the instant variety of the game. So the competition at Sharjah is expected to be keen and tough.

Pakistan recalled their experienced batsman Salim Malik and leg-spinner Abdul Qadir to augment their strength, though the experienced opener Ramiz Raja has been dispensed with; the selectors have preferred Saeed Anwar instead.

Pakistan's strength lies in their bowling attack spearheaded by Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, the most dreaded pair of quickies in present day cricket. Aquib Javed is back in action to provide good support, which can also be provided by up-coming Aftab Rahman. The recall of veteran leggie, Abdul Qadir, indicates the selectors' doubt about Mushtaq Ahmed's viability on the Sharjah wicket. In last

providing last minutes fire work as well as solidarity. Pakistan's fielding is known for its sloppiness and in their department both of their rivals excel.

West Indies are likely to provide the toughest challenge for the world champions. Early in the year on home grounds they took a 2-0 lead in the one-day series, but Pakistan came up to make it 2-2 and the fifth match was declared a tie. The West Indies team is on its ascent at the moment.

Richie Richardson has flocked together a team of mavericks into a winning outfit. With Desmond Haynes, the highest run-getter in one-day game (8195 in 225 matches), still holding his position, their batting looks awfully solid with Phil Simmons, Brian Lara, Richie Richardson (5307 runs in 185 matches), Carl Hooper

that they are ready to dominate the nineties as well.

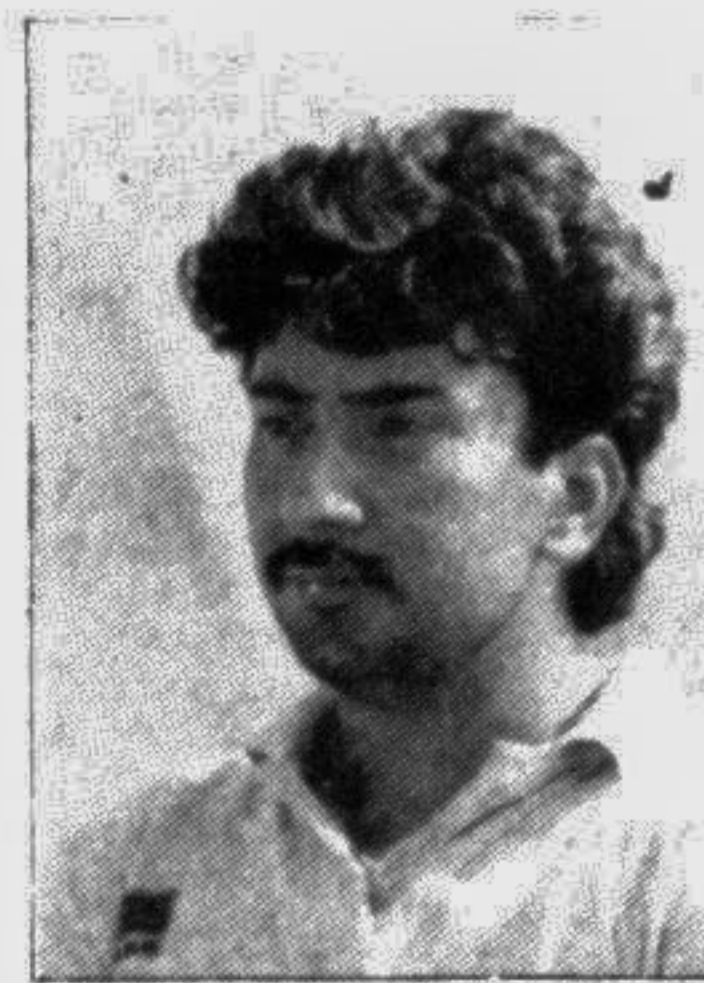
Shri Lanka, after their recent successes against India and South Africa in the one-day variety of the game, are capable of striking a surprise. Playing against visiting teams on home grounds during the last 14 months Sri Lanka have at last put together a healthy combination, during the period they won 9 one-dayers, lost only 3 and 2 were abandoned due to rain. Their batting is their strong point, as is their fielding, though the bowling is yet somewhat tentative. Muttiah Muralidharan, who is capable of turning the ball on any track, will be appearing for the first time at Sharjah and the batsmen on the opposing line-up will be facing him for the first time. It will be interesting to see how they fare against him.

May be he is going to till the scale in Sri Lanka's favour. Shri Lanka's batting is quite impressive: Roshan Mahanama (2077 in 82 matches), Chandika Hatturasinghe, Asanka Gurusinghi (2222 in 85), Aravinda de Silva (3163 in 117), Arjuna Ranatunga (3201 in 124), Hasan Tilkaratne and Sannath Jayasuriya make up quite a solid and long line up. Under Ranatunga's leadership the Lankans have started to have a feeling of confidence in their own ability and may be said to have got into the winning habit — an essential phenomenon to make a mark in highly competitive international cricket of the present days.

One-day cricket is essentially batsman's game where the bowlers concentrate more on containment than attack. On the Sharjah track batsmen are likely to dominate. If the Caribbean cut out their impetuosity and play to their potential they are likely to lift the Sharjah Cup. But Sharjah has always been Pakistan's hunting ground. The emerging Lankans may also produce the surprise. The glorious uncertainties of cricket will not doubt manifest itself in its majestic vein in the next seven days of entertaining cricket on the desert track.



ABDUL QADIR



SALIM MALIK

February he could manage only one wicket in three matches, whereas Qadir had always proved to be effective on the Sharjah track. Asif Mujtaba and Aamer Sohail could very well fill in the fifth bowler's slot.

Pakistan in recent days have shown lack of consistency in their batting. Whether the recall of Salim Malik, who did not have a good season with Essex last summer, would improve the situation is a big question. Javed Miandad, the ace veteran, (7233 runs in 222 one-dayers) still holds the key to Pakistan's batting solidarity. If Aamer Sohail and Saeed Anwar are able to give a good start Pakistan's hope of getting a winning total would largely depend on Inzamam-ul-Haq's acceleration and gritty Basit Ali's performance. Rashid Latif, a good performer with the willow, is capable of

and Keith Arthurton to follow. Barbadian holder face in the team, Roland Newer may forge ahead with his aggressive batting prowess. Their lethal fast bowling headed by Curtley Ambrose and supported by the deceptive Courtney Walsh, either of the Benjamins (Kenneth or Winston) or Anderson Cummins could shatter any line up in the world. Roger Harper, an excellent fielder, may be useful on the Sharjah track and his inclusion in the first eleven would limit the fast bowling department to three. The allround ability of Carl Hooper and Phil Simmons is a plus point for the Caribs. On this outing Richie Richardson is out to prove that he has succeeded in turning the tide and approach the high water mark of the glorious Lloyd-Richards era of the seventies and the eighties, and

Israel trounce Austria

HERZLIYA, Israel, Oct 27: Israel beat Austria 6-0 (halftime 1-0) in a European under-21 championship Group Six qualifying match on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Blackburn agree Batty's fee

BLACKBURN, England, Oct 27: Big-spending Blackburn agreed a fee of 2.75 million pounds sterling (4 million dollars) for Leeds England midfielder David Batty, on Tuesday, the club said, reports Reuter.

Batty was discussing the move with Blackburn manager Kenny Dalglish.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Derek and Diddle
- 4 La Scala show-stopper
- 8 Equitable
- 12 "— not choose to run"
- 13 They'll keep you moving
- 14 Land, lots of land
- 15 Top
- 16 Healing
- 18 Memorize
- 20 Stately tree
- 21 Charity
- 24 Whitney's "The Body-guard" costar
- 28 Broadcasting
- 32 Prank
- 33 Baptists' bench
- 34 Steer breed
- 36 Some MIT grads
- 37 Send out
- 39 Approaching
- 41 Tune for a trio of trios
- 43 Emulate
- 4 La Scala Columbus
- 44 Overly
- 46 Steph-anie's pop
- 50 Alert
- 55 Neighbor of Miss.
- 56 Frank
- 57 Oklahoma city
- 58 Shriner's chapeau
- 59 Stench
- 60 Shri! barks
- 61 Golf gadget
- DOWN
- 1 Pres. Clinton
- 2 Garfield's pal
- 3 Pop
- 4 Disney TV series
- 5 Scurred
- 6 Passbook abbr.
- 7 Carolina county
- 8 Stuck
- 9 Exploit
- 10 Major no-no
- 11 Lincoln lad
- 17 Wapiti
- 19 Gallery
- 20 outcry
- 22 Hand, to Jose
- 23 Burma Shave
- 28 Act the robot
- 47 Huck's vessel
- 48 Gen. Robert —
- 49 Labyrinth
- 50 Eye, in
- 51 Indicate it's OK
- 52 Ring decision
- 53 Literary collection
- 54 Backtalk

RAMA OJAI BAR
IVAN BARN ALI
BACKFIRED CON
LABS INKED
ABBEY TAOS
MOAT CHANDLER
ORG KOALA IGO
REKINDLE ADOB
TWOB PRESS
CAROB SEAR
ORA BACKWOODS
PIC EVOE YURI
YAK DEWS ORYX

Solution time: 28 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-7

USOC meets to promote Games

NEW YORK, Oct 27: The annual Olympic Congress begins Wednesday at a Broadway hotel, and it's a show that would make a showman proud: glitter, stars, lots of razzamatazz and not too much substance, reports AP.

The US Olympic Committee meeting is part trade show, part academic symposium, part sports — and all business.

Highlights include a look at sports in developing countries, a debate on professionalism in the Olympics and a keynote speech Thursday by Henry Cisneros, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development on using sports to help rebuild cities.

"The congress is intended to bring the Olympic family together for discussion of issues and solutions of issues," said Anita DeFranz, the IOC member for the United States and head of the Amateur Athletic

Foundation in Los Angeles.

There aren't too many issues up for discussion as the USOC gathers for its last meeting before the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, next February. But DeFranz and the International Olympic Committee are involved in perhaps the biggest.

The United States has been lacking a second IOC member for two years, since Robert Helmick resigned in a conflict-of-interest scandal in 1991. At least four potential replacements have been rejected by the IOC, and the USOC hopes to finally present someone to fill the gap this week.

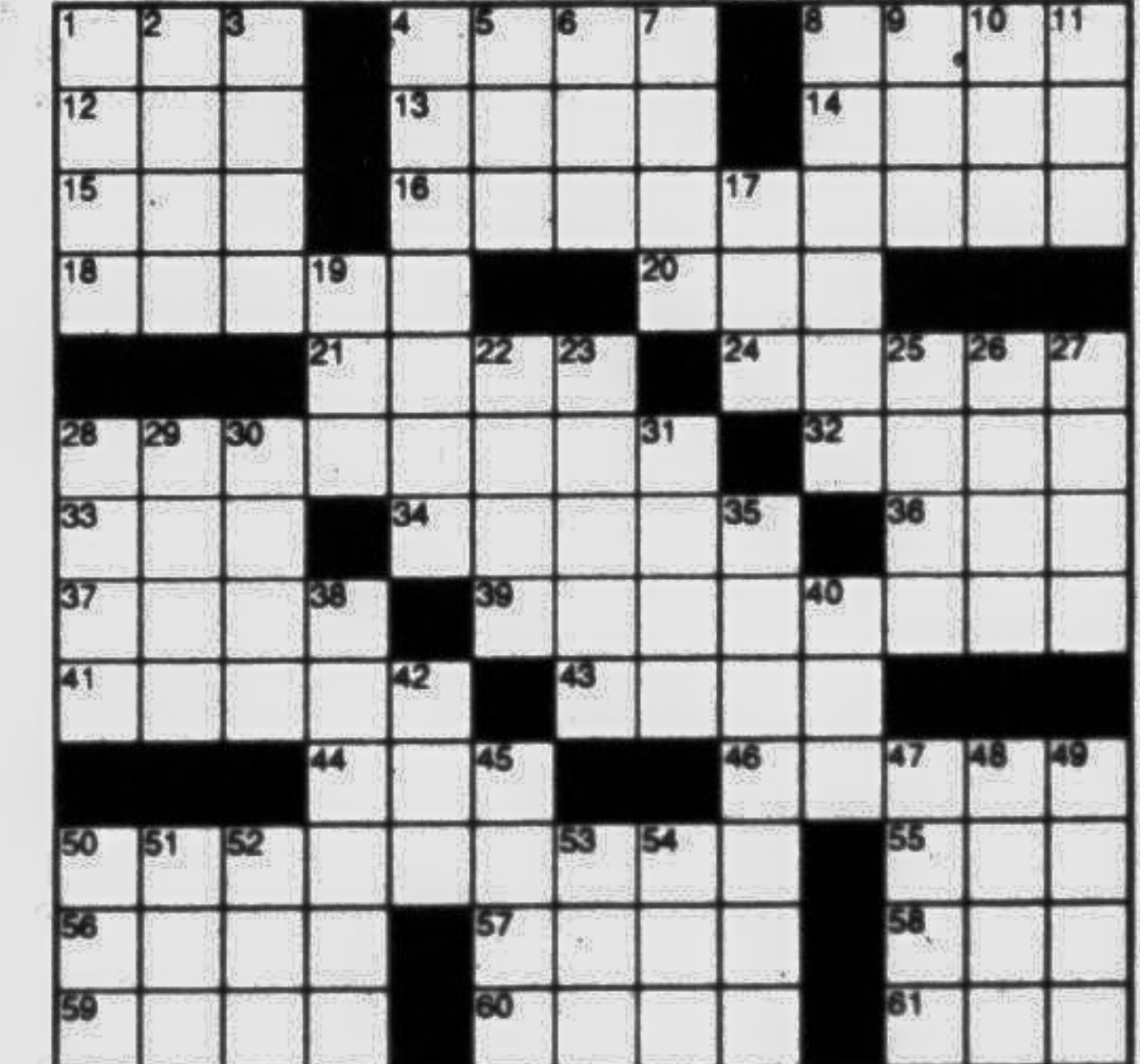
USOC president LeRoy Walker has pledged to give Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the IOC and the person who will make the final decision, a name or names. Samaranch is due in New York for the final three days of the

meetings, and a nominee could be handed over then. "President Samaranch will be in New York. Dr Walker will be in New York. I would certainly suspect they would talk," said Harvey Schiller, USOC executive director and a leading candidate for the IOC post.

Other names that have been mentioned include former United Nations ambassador Andrew Young, NBA commissioner David Stern, Larry Hough, the head of the federal student-loan administration; and Peter V. Veberoth, the guru of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Even actor Arnold Schwarzenegger has been listed as a contender.

The congress was opening Wednesday with an Olympic Event Bidding Seminar, a place for prospective hosts of major sports events to pick up guidance on how to lure athletic organizers and sponsors.



CRYPTOQUIP

E J X F Q L D I E U I F K
J F E X I K W V R K H V I
D C A W J K I K H L C E D D Q
R I F I U V J E D D V R I X

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BOOK PUBLISHER'S GESTURE AT THE CONVENTION MIGHT SPEAK VOLUMES.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: D equals L. 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.