

Japanese soccer supremo in town

Sports Reporter
Tadao Murata, one of the vice-presidents of Japan Football Association (JFA), has offered to extend cooperation for the development of sports in Bangladesh.

The pioneer of the successful introduction of professional J-League in Japan, Murata, who called on State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain at his office yesterday, laid emphasis on further strengthening the existing rapport to develop sports in Bangladesh.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Sheikh Akmal Hossain, who accompanied the visiting Japanese soccer supremo, was also present on the occasion.

Murata, who is also the vice-president of the AFC and a member of the 1994 USA World Cup Organising Committee, arrived in the capital on Tuesday to seek cooperation from Bangladesh in his campaign for the coming FIFA election, where he is a candidate for the post of a vice-president from Asia.

He is expected to leave Dhaka today for Nepal.

ATF chief arrives today

President of the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) Eichi Kawatei arrives in the capital today on a two-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Kawatei, who is heading the ATF since 1989, will call on Industries Minister and president of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation A M Zahiruddin Khan, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain and Tennis Federation officials during his stay in Dhaka.

Kawatei is the member of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) since 1981 and ITF vice president since 1991.

SA returns to C'wealth Games

VANCOUVER, May 4: South Africa is expected to take part in the Commonwealth Games in August for the first time in 36 years after the country's historic all-race elections, sports officials said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"Should they decide they want to send a team, they will be more than welcome," said David Roach, a spokesman for organisers of the Games to be held in the Canadian city of Victoria from August 18-28.

South Africa has not participated in the Games since 1958 because of sporting isolation over its apartheid policies.

At a meeting in Cyprus last October, Commonwealth heads of government decided to readmit South Africa into the group and allow it to take part in this year's Games if its first all-race elections were free and fair.

"With the success of the polls, the decision to participate is now officially up to the new South African government being formed by President Nelson Mandela," Roach said.

But sporting officials said it was virtually certain the country would take part, and they expect a formal announcement by South Africa within about a month.

Behind the scenes, organisers have quietly been preparing for South Africa to participate and space has been reserved in the Athletes' Village for a team of about 150 South Africans.

DMFA Cup final round from Friday

Phase One ends in goal rush



Farashganj and Victoria completed the eight-team quarter for the second round of the DMFA Cup as the preliminary round of the curtain-raising meet of this year's domestic football season ended in a glut of goals at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Fifteen goals, so far the highest in a day, were scored as the Group B and C qualifiers reserved berths in one of the two groups for the final round alongside last year's runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra and Brothers Union.

The second round comprising last year's four semifinalists and the four qualifiers is scheduled to begin on May 6 after a day's rest.

However, holders Mohammedans, who head one of the two groups including Arambagh, one of the semifinal quartet of last year and this year's two qualifiers — Mukhtijoddha and Bangladesh

Boys are yet to clarify their position regarding participation. Mohammedans, who came back from behind to beat arch-rivals Abahani 3-2 in last year's final, had earlier expressed their inability to take part in this year's meet unless the organisers Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) pushed back the second round by some 21 days.

Categorically expressing its inability to get a load of Mohammedans' petition, the DMFA got the meet started according to the original schedule and the first round which produced four qualifiers in sensational Mukhtijoddha, Bangladesh Boys, Victoria and Farashganj duly came to an end yesterday.

In the first match Victoria, who played in Star First Division league last year, eliminated Premier outfit Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club 5-1.

Victoria, who will play Abahani Krira Chakra in the

second match, billed for the first day of the second round from seven pm onwards came back with a vengeance after being down by a 5th minute goal from Fakirerpool's Arifur Rahman.

Fakirerpool defender Chhoton levelled the margin unintentionally when his attempt to thwart Victoria's Jamal culminated in a suicidal goal in the 30th minute of the first half.

Victoria deservingly forced ahead 14 minutes into the second half when an inform Angur latched on a Faiz Babu pass to make a neat finish 2.

Striker Amin Khan then scored twice to give Victoria a 4-1 lead but the third hat-trick of the meet eluded him as teammate Shimul completed the tally with a solo effort one minute before the final whistle.

TIPU'S TREBLE
Farashganj Sporting Club eliminated Bangladesh Boys while eliminating Third Division champions Bashabo Tarun Sangha in day's second match held later at the same venue under floodlights.

In another goal feast, Farashganj recorded a massive 7-2 win, the second biggest victory so far following Bangladesh Boys' 7-0 during of the Pioneer Eleven on the opening day with Tipu Sultan notching a hat-trick.

Like the first match unfancied Bashabo took a surprise lead when Jahangir found the net with an header in the 12th minute.

Farashganj mounted tremendous pressure on Bashabo defence and restored parity three minutes later through Liaquat and from then it became a one way traffic.

Monir gave Farashganj a rather delayed lead finding the net in the 25th minute and then Tipu and skipper Ratan joined forces to give Farashganj an unassailable 4-1 lead within 51 minutes of the match.

Bashabo's Rahel brought some changes in the pattern when he found the net from a melee arising out of an indirect free-kick.

Tipu Sultan scored the third hat-trick of this year's meet after Bangladesh Boys' Swapan and Mukhtijoddha's Bangladesh international Rumi Rizvi Karim with successive strikes in two minutes.

Ratan befittingly rounded off a day of resounding success for Farashganj when he found the net one minute from the final whistle.



Action from yesterday's DMFA Cup football match between Victoria SC and Fakirerpool YMC at the Dhaka Stadium. Victoria won 5-1. — Star photo

Marauding Mamun

Sports Reporter
Mamun scored a blistering 75 to guide his side Lalkuthi Cricket Club to a huge 145-run win over Desh Pharma Sporting Club in one of the three Lotus Kamal Second Division qualifying matches held at different city venues yesterday.

Mamun, who came to bat at number six, hammered an unbeaten 75 off only 28 deliveries taking his team's total to 204 for five wickets in the allotted 35 overs at the Jagannath Hall ground.

His hurricane innings included nine hits to the fence and four huge sixes.

In reply, Desh Pharma were bundled out for a paltry 91 in 25.2 overs.

Neaz with 21, was the top scorer for Desh Pharma while Tanim, who made 14, was the other double digit scorer.

Cricket scares 'em

SLOUGH, England, May 4: The owners of a house who say they are bombarded by high-flying cricket balls have taken an English village cricket team to court in a bid to get protection nets erected on the boundary, reports Reuter.

Design engineer David Lacey claims he and his wife have to abandon their dining and living rooms on summer evenings in case big-hitting batsmen shatter the windows and injure them.

Lacey's lawyer told a court in the southern England town of Slough: "He and his wife live in constant fear, while cricket is being played, of being hit."

Court officials said the judge was to take a first-hand look today at the cricket ground in the picturesque village of Jordans before making a ruling.

Mourning rally

TOKYO, May 4: Japan's Suzuka circuit is to hold a "mourning rally" to commemorate the achievements of Formula One driver Ayrton Senna, news reports said Wednesday, reports AFP.

The Brazilian, killed in a crash at San Marino Grand Prix on Sunday was a hero in Japan where he was known as "the prince of speed."

Honda, owner of Suzuka circuit used for the Japanese Grand Prix, is preparing the memorial rally for November. Sports Nippon newspaper said.

It will probably be on November 6 when the Japanese Grand Prix ends this year Formula One season, it added.

"I'm overwhelmed by surprise and deep sorrow," Honda president Nobuhiko Kawamoto said of Senna's death.

Senna sealed his first world drivers title in 1988 by winning at Suzuka in a Honda powered McLaren.

The shock of his death to fans in Japan was as great as the shock to Brazilians, Sports Nippon said.

Senna is said to have rejoiced with tears when he met Solchiro Honda, the late founder of the Honda empire, told him that he would manufacture the "world's best engine" for him and McLaren.

Honda kept the promise and at its peak, the Honda V 10 engine made Senna virtually unbeatable.

Martin made to sweat

PINEHURST, North Carolina, May 4: Top seed Todd Martin found himself in a dog fight in the first set of his opening match at the 275,000 dollars USTA clay court challenge, but he survived the test to move into the second round, reports Reuter.

Martin fought off two set points in a lengthy tie-break before beating fellow American Brian Dunn 7-6 (10-8), 6-2.

Second seed Malivai Washington also reached the second round with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over fellow American Doug Flach.

Washington fell behind 1-3 in the opening set, then got on a roll, winning 11 of the next 14 games.

Seventh seed Jamie Morgan of Australia needed nine set points to win his first set over unseeded Argentine Alberto Mancini and went on to prevail 7-6 (10-8), 6-4.

Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland, the eight seed, was decimated 2-2 with American Wade McGuire in the first set when rain halted play for the day.

Martin, ranked ninth in the world, had a chance to close out the first set without the tie-break when he led 5-4, 40-15. But the 222nd-ranked Dunn broke the top seed as he served for the set.

Dunn then held set points at 6-5 and 7-6 in the tie-break, but each time Martin survived to win the 18 point breaker.

Once Dunn missed his big chance, Martin picked up his play a notch and overwhelmed his unseeded opponent.

"If I had held my serve at 40-15 the match should probably have been 6-4, 6-2," Martin said.

"I need to work on playing with the lead. When I'm 5-4 up, I need to hold."

Hiroshi knocks Bueno out

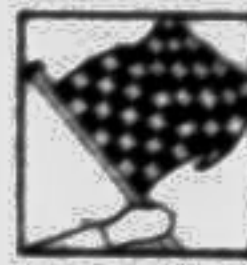
YOKOHAMA, Japan, May 4: Japan's Hiroshi Kawashima knocked down Jose Luis Bueno in the 11th round Wednesday night and took away the Mexican's World Boxing Council junior bantamweight title with a unanimous decision, reports AP.

Kawashima floored Bueno with a left counter punch in the next to last round of the match at Yokohama Bunka Gym.

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, May 4: Top 20 women's tennis players as ranked by the Women's Tennis Association on Monday, reports Reuter.

1. Steffi Graf (Germany)
2. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
3. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
4. Martina Navratilova (US)
5. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland)
6. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
7. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
8. Kimiko Date (Japan)
9. Mary Joe Fernandez (US)
10. Natalia Zvereva (Belarus)
11. Anke Huber (Germany)
12. Lindsay Davenport (US)
13. Mary Pierce (France)
14. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
15. Zina Garrison Jackson (US)
16. Helena Sukova (Czech Republic)
17. Sabine Hack (Germany)
18. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)
19. Sabine Appelmans (Belgium)
20. Amy Frazier (US)

Ayrton Senna's funeral today



SAO PAULO, May 4: The coffin carrying the body of former world champion Ayrton Senna arrived in Sao Paulo this morning, three days after his death in the San Marino Grand Prix, reports Reuter.

The coffin was taken off the plane by six Brazilian Air Force cadets and draped with a Brazilian flag. It was then put on a fire engine which set off for the Sao Paulo state legislative assembly in a motorcade.

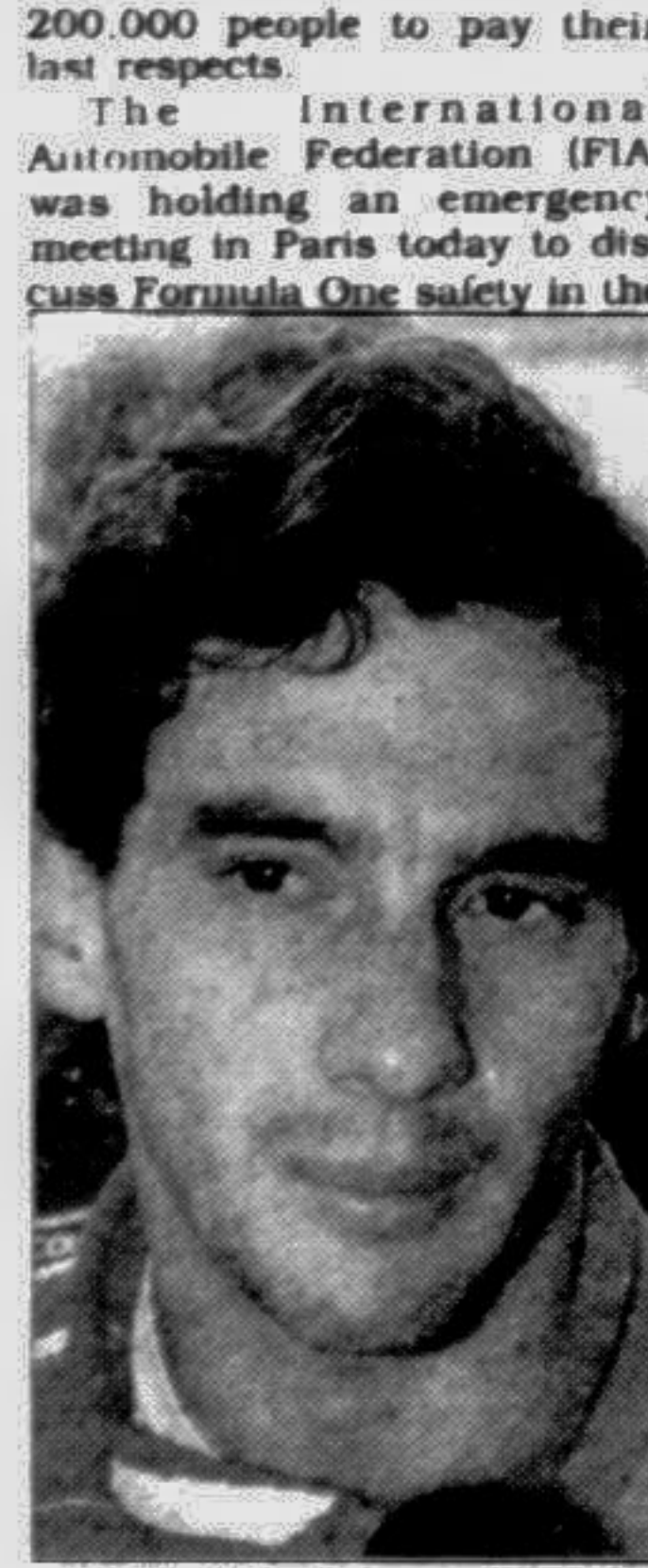
Hundreds of people flocked to the airport for a glimpse of the coffin of their idol, who died after a crash at the Imola Formula One circuit on Sunday.

The crowd applauded when the fire engine set off and many onlookers wept openly.

Sao Paulo state government Luiz Antonio Fleury was present at the airport.

Dozens of people had been waiting along the route to the city centre since early morning for a brief glimpse of Senna's coffin.

Senna's body will lie in state until his funeral on Thursday. Authorities expect around



AYRTON SENNA

wake of Senna's accident and the death of Austrian driver Roland Ratzenberger in qualifying only 24 hours earlier.

Senna, who won the World Championship three times, suffered massive head injuries when his Williams crashed into a wall on the notorious Tamborello curve at Imola's Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari.

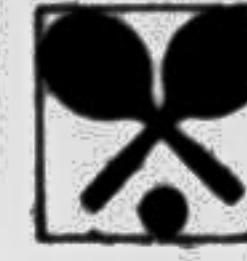
Italian magistrates have launched a manslaughter inquiry into the two deaths and have formally advised several people, including a director of the company which runs the track and representatives of Williams and Ratzenberger's Stmtek team that they would be required to take part in the investigation.

Italian authorities conducted an autopsy on Senna's body on Tuesday before releasing it for the flight from Bologna to Sao Paulo, via Paris.

Senna will be buried on Thursday with special honours including a flypast by Brazilian Air Force planes.

The funeral will take place at a cemetery in the Morumbi suburb.

Martina gets into groove



ROME, May 4: The evergreen Martina Navratilova sailed past Czech teenager Ludmila Richterova 6-2, 6-1 to Tuesday to reach the last 16 of the Italian Open — a tournament she has never won, reports Reuter.

Given a bye into the second round, the 37-year-old Navratilova — the most successful player in tennis history — sailed past the 16-year-old qualifier in 55 minutes in the 750,000 dollars clay court tournament.

In her last season on the circuit, Navratilova looked in good form on clay as she prepares for a nostalgic return to the French Open later this month after a six-year absence.

"I've played a lot on clay this season and the more I play the more confident I get," said Navratilova, a beaten finalist here, way back in 1974 and 1975 plus again in 1990.

She reeled off nine straight games to move from 2-2 in the first set to the verge of victory.

The only thing to disturb her was the chirruping of a spectator's portable phone — prompting the umpire to tell fans to turn off a gadget so dear to his Italians.

Seeds Amanda Coetzer of South Africa and Linda Ferrando of Italy went out of the competition on Tuesday.

Their defeats meant five of the 16 seeds failed to survive the first two days of what is as in important warm-up for the

French Grand Slam event. Dutchwoman Miriam Oremans and German Meike Babel — the bottom two seed — were knocked out on Monday, while a hand injury forced 11th seed Leila Meskhi of Georgia to pull out of the tour.

New court at Roland Garros

PARIS, May 4: Paris mayor Jacques Chirac opened a new 10,000 seater show court today at the Roland Garros Stadium where the French Open tennis championships are staged, reports Reuter.

French Tennis Federation president Christian Bines said the new court and the complex surrounding it constituted "the Roland Garros of the year 2000".

Apart from the new stadium, which will be known as Court A and stage the major matches not being played on Centre Court, the complex boasts seven training courts, an indoor gymnasium and a players' lounge.

The ever growing popularity of the tournament prompted the building of the new court after court number one, with its 4,500 places, proved too small.

The new court will be used for the first time at this year's French Open, starting on May 23.

nament without playing a match.

Coetzer — seeded six — was humbled 6-0, 7-5 by Radka Zrubakova of Slovakia in the second round, Zrubakova becoming in mid-afternoon the first player to reach the last 16.

The South African, a semi-finalist here two years ago, never got her game together against a woman ranked 150 places below her in the world who had won through the qualifying rounds.

Italian number one Ferrando — seeded 12th — disappointed the Roman crowd when she threw away a winning position against Argentine Patricia Tarabini in their first round encounter.

The woman from Genoa served for the match at 5-3 in the final set but Tarabini saved three match points and went on to win 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-2).

Fifth seeded Mary Pierce of France cruised past Slovenia's Barbara Mulej in straight sets in a second round match.

Japan's seventh seed Naoko Sawamatsu dropped the first set to Dutchwoman Kristie Boogert before recovering to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 to beat Pierce in the last 16.

Defending champion Conchita Martinez, top seed in the absence of Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, plays in the second round today when she meets Hungarian Andrea Temesvari, winner of the tournament in 1983.

Leconte wins in style



HAMBURG, Germany, May 4: French tennis veteran Henri Leconte proved he still has the class to match his clothing on court when he destroyed Germany's Davis Cup hero Marc Goellner in the first round of the German Open on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Leconte, one of the most popular players on the circuit with his relaxed approach to the game, served strongly and played some brilliant ground strokes on his way to a 6-3, 6-3 victory in 66 minutes.

The German crowd cheered more for the 30-year-old Frenchman than for home hero Goellner whose game was riddled with errors. The 23-year-old German, playing his first tournament since the end of March, was whistled at the end by the packed Centre Court crowd.

It was just two years ago that Leconte battled his way into the semifinals of the French Open after some memorable performances at Roland Garros. The 1988 runner-up in

shot sealed another break for Leconte in the first game of the second set and he finished off the match with another break when Goellner, ranked 46th in the world, netted a forehand.

"He was completely confused afterwards. He did not have any rhythm," Leconte said. "It is important to play well before the French. You then know where you are going."

Leconte has a serious side behind his jovial image. He talked sadly about the death of his friend Ayrton Senna.

"A friend has gone away. I was shocked," Leconte said. "I was with him only a few weeks ago. He invited me to a day of testing (in the south of France). I spent the day with him and really got to know him."

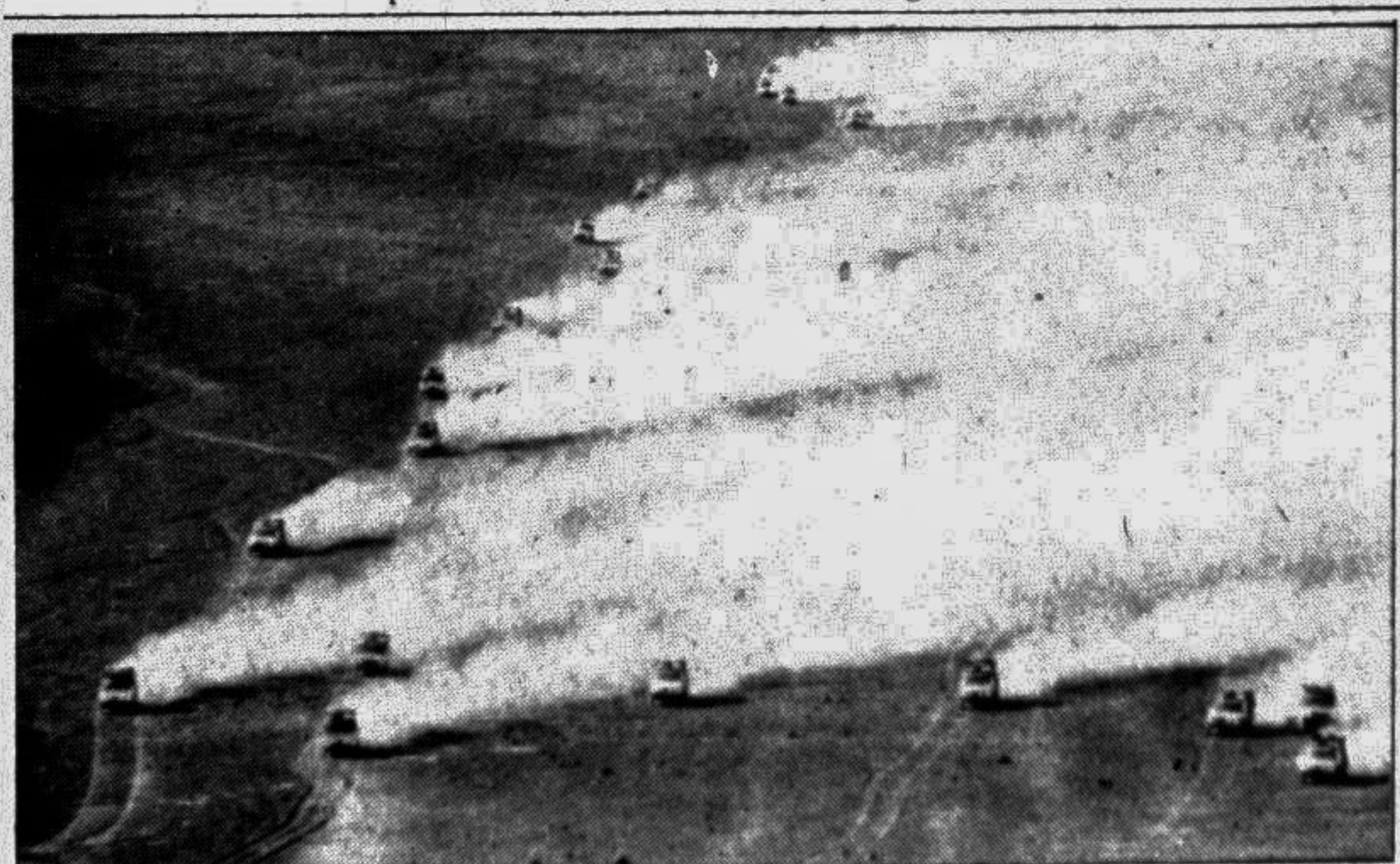
Goellner, the hero of holders Germany's narrow first-round victory over Austria at the start of the year, summed up his performance perfectly: "I would have whistled with the crowd too," he said.

The match began with a typical piece of Leconte comedy for the crowd. The Frenchman walked on court wearing a baseball cap turned back-to-front, a joke at the expense of Goellner, who has made the reversed cap style a fashion for German schoolchildren.

The black cap came off before play began and Leconte, who has recently taken to using a bigger racket, was soon getting down to the serious business of breaking Goellner's serve.

The German, who has not played since the end of March because of an arm injury, was broken as early as the second game when he hit a backhand into the net. Leconte finished off the set after 30 minutes with an ace.

A powerful forehand passing



The Camel Trophy convoy of Land Rover Discoveries leaves a trail of dust as it crosses the barren Atacama desert in northern Chile on May 2. Teams from 18 different countries set out on an epic 2,500 km drive from Argentina to Chile. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Temptation for Atlanta
- 6 Judicial closefit
- 11 "Sophie's Choice" author
- 12 Hand-some lad
- 14 Harass
- 15 Blue hue
- 16 Brian of rock music
- 17 Norton's workplace
- 19 Fluffy neckpiece
- 20 Teen's woe
- 22 Crude
- 23 Cassini
- 24 Lacquer ingredient
- 26 Ann's adjective
- 28 Dawn goddess
- 30 Mr. Brynner
- 31 Spools
- 35 Hero's due
- 39 Ersatz spread
- 40 Pen point
- 42 Director

DOWN

- 2 Air-race markers
- 3 Grand N.S.
- 4 Deprivation
- 5 Sign up
- 6 Track
- 7 Stench
- 8 Newhart's latest sitcom
- 9 Opposite of "preclude"
- 10 Stored, as grain
- 11 Campaign tactic
- 13 Overly theatrical
- 18 Kids' card game
- 21 Farm refrain
- 23 Leers
- 25 Postal
- 27 Stickum
- 29 Legislative groups
- 31 Up to now
- 32 "— Restaurant"
- 33 Acquire canines et al.
- 34 Knightly title
- 36 Add water
- 37 More penetrating
- 38 Brewery output
- 41 TV's "— Buddies"
- 44 Ringlet
- 45 Yevtu-shenko's "— Yar"
- 48 Lubricant
- 50 Diamond lady

Solution time: 28 mins.

COBRA TIP FIB
A B O U T O R E I D O
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S A L M A N P L A N
A L T L O T E L Y S E
D E E P T O S C A
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CRYPTOQUIP
F A S T E K P R I I R P Q M A A
Z T E D M P Q Z F R E M W E
A E R T P V A T D S V R K
S E T K K T V

Yesterday's Cryptquip: THAT DECISIVE SURGEON IN TRAINING COULD BE A CUT ABOVE THE REST.

Today's Cryptquip clue: A equals F

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.