

Boris Becker left in cold

BONN, Sept 21. Three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker, who has been embroiled in public rows about Germany's Davis Cup team in recent years, will play no part in helping his country defend their title this season, reports Reuter.

Team captain Niki Pilić said on Tuesday that Becker would not be selected if Germany reached the final after this week's semifinal against Russia because he had not competed in the earlier rounds.

"Boris is very welcome in the team but not until next year," Pilić said in an interview with the German magazine Stern.

"If we get in the final I can't pick him... I have a moral obligation. I can't pick someone who hasn't played all year and then throw out someone else who has been in the team all season."

Becker, who led Germany to their first triumph in 1988 and helped them defend the title the following year, has not played for his country since September 1992 when he took part in a relegation playoff against Belgium.

He was expected to play the quarter-final against Spain on his favourite grass surface last July but withdrew at the

last minute. Becker's decision to miss the prestigious team competition to concentrate on his ranking last year game under heavy fire from teammate Michael Stich.



BORIS BECKER

Although German Tennis Federation (DTB) chief Claus Srauder said recently that it was too early to rule out Becker for the year, Pilić

seems to be following Stich's line.

The experienced coach, who has been in charge of Germany's three Davis Cup triumphs, said Becker would need to play from the early rounds next year.

"Every Davis Cup captain in the world would want to have a player like Boris Becker in the team. I would, too but not at any price. There is a limit for everything."

"Becker is the biggest name in German tennis and I have experienced the greatest moments of my sporting life with him. But it is now up to him to come to me and explain what he wants to do."

The Stich-Becker row has been a source of embarrassment to the DTB.

Earlier this year Stich signed a special contract which committed him to an increased role within the DTB. Federation officials said there were on-going talks about a similar contract with Becker.

Asked if he would be happy if there was a deal with Becker by 1995, Pilić said: "I would be if Boris played from the first round... it is not acceptable for us for Boris to come to the team too late. Sometimes the first round is like a final."

"Either you want to play for Germany or you don't it is a matter of feeling."

Ma to market his formula

BEIJING, Sept 21: China's flamboyant track coach Ma Junren, whose long-distance women runners broke a string of world records last year, plans to market his elixir during the Asian Games next month, an official report said Wednesday, reports AP.

Ma's health drink, a secret mix of Chinese herbs and medicine, is already on sale in China under the name "Mao's Army - No 1." The report in the Beijing Youth Daily said his runners are quaffing the herbal drinks in preparation for the Asian Games opening Oct 2 in Hiroshima, Japan.

The paper said Ma denied rumours that his runners are given a stronger version of the drink than what he markets. It added that drug testers invariably will be keeping a close eye on what Ma's runners eat and drink because of allegations that the women were taking illegal performance-enhancing drugs when they broke the world records.

But several drug tests have all come back negative, and the paper said Ma is confident that his drink does not violate any regulations.

The coach plans to take sales agents with him to the Hiroshima Games, where he hopes to sign contracts with Japanese buyers for his sports drink even as he's clocking his time, the paper said.

His primary objective at the Asian Games is to win gold medals rather than break world records because the gold medals are the best way to promote the elixir, the report said.

Ma started to market his sports drink because of lack of funding to train his runners. They had to run barefoot until their feet were bloodied because they wore through their sneakers too quickly and there was no money to buy new ones, they said.

The Asian Games will be the first competition in which Ma's runners will participate using proceeds from his sports drink, the paper said.

Usha selected

NEW DELHI, Sept 21: The frustrations and disappointments are over, sprint queen PT. Usha is finally going to Hiroshima for the Asian Games, reports PTI.

Her name figures in the list of the 26-strong athletics squad announced here this evening by Lalit Bhanot, secretary of the Amateur Athletic Federations of India (AAFI).

The team comprises 10 men, 10 women and six officials.

Bhanot said the federation had considered Usha's performance in Pune and was convinced that she had done well.

AAFI apparently did not feel the need to wait for the verdict on her complaint against the clocking of her performance there as it would be too time consuming.

The "Payoff Express" will run the 200 metres and the two relays — 4x100 metres and 4x400 metres.

Passarella under fire

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 21: Argentine national coach Daniel Passarella came under fire on Tuesday for reportedly saying his squad should be submitted to obligatory doping tests, reports Reuter.

"It's madness to make such a fuss of drug testing as if soccer was plagued by the problem," 1978 World Cup winning coach Cesar Menotti told reporters.

Argentina, tired of drug scandals which have cast a shadow over its national soccer team, is embarking on a new era under Passarella, a strict disciplinarian.

Soccer's world governing body FIFA banned Diego Maradona for 15 months in August for failing a doping test at the World Cup finals. It was his second such ban in little more than three years.

Striker Claudio Caniggia was banned for 13 months in 1993 for cocaine abuse.

Passarella reportedly said on Sunday that Argentine players should undergo doping tests before wearing national colours.

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter on Tuesday called for tighter controls to stamp out drug abuse in soccer after it was revealed that an unnamed French player had failed a test.

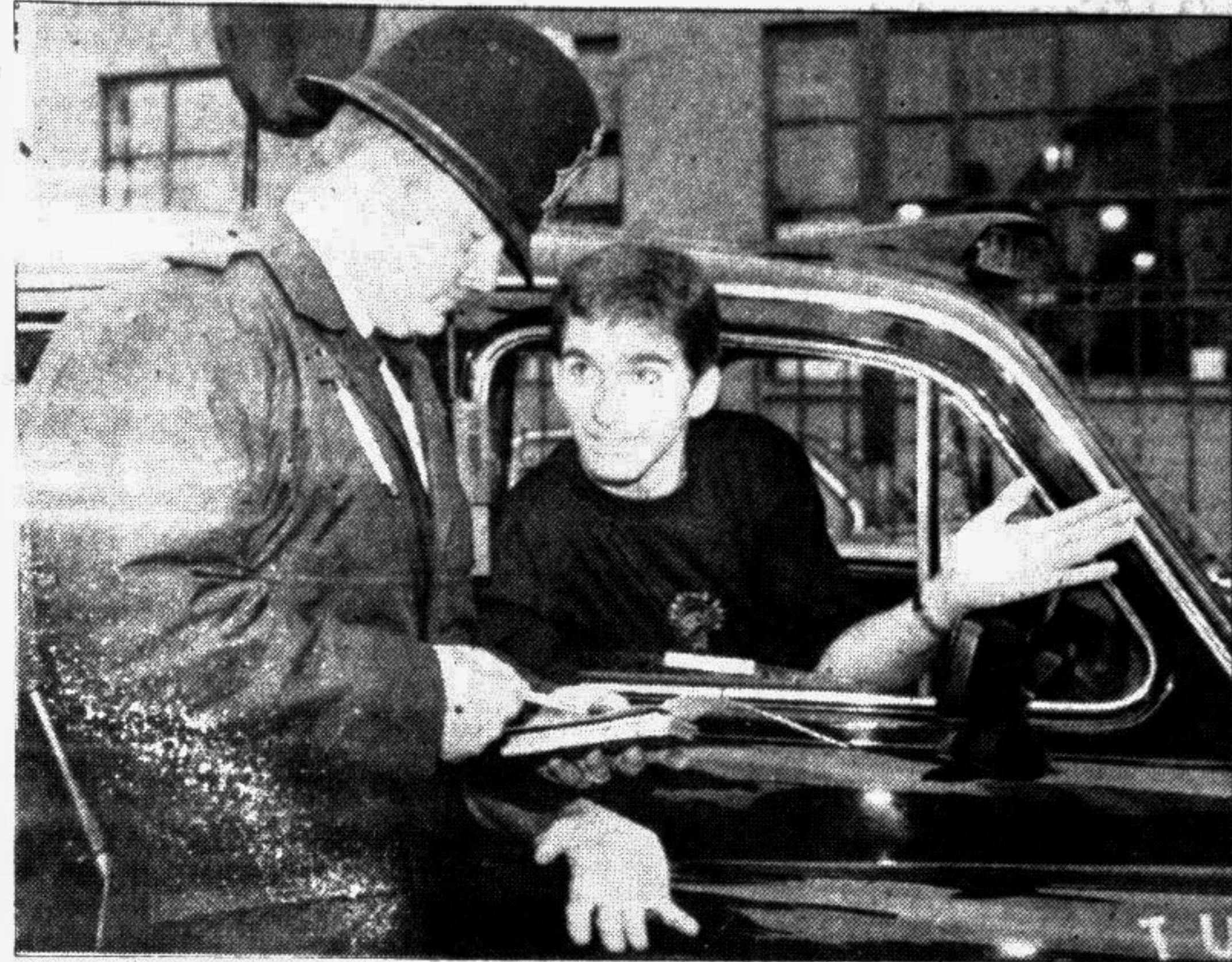
Boat races

A junior boat race competition, organised by the Bangladesh Rowing Federation, will be held today on the River Buriganga near the Friendship Bridge, reports UNB.

Twelve teams will compete in three events of the meet which starts at 2.00 pm.

Another one-day meet, the Navana national boat race, will be held on Friday at the same venue at 3.00 pm.

Thirty-one teams will take part in four events, including one for women.



Formula One star Britain's Damon Hill, driving a revolutionary new London taxi pleads his case with a policeman on Sept 20. The taxi is fitted with a satellite TV dish. — AFP photo

Kiwis far from intimidated

CHRISTCHURCH, Sept 21: Despite facing Australia, one of the most daunting tennis nations around, New Zealand's players said they were optimistic about the upcoming Davis Cup rubber here, reports AP.

The relatively neglected status of tennis here is reflected in the choice of the makeshift venue, the Old King Edward Barracks, which held conscripts in World War I and is still used for recruiting.

The usual tennis venue was not available, so the floor of the Barracks has been replaced with road carpet overlaid with a playing surface.

The Davis Cup rubber opens here on Friday.

New Zealand is depending on Brett Steven, ranked 114, although Davis Cup tennis captain Jeff Simpson says he has seen improvements in teenage players James Greenhalgh and Steven Downs, who are vying for the second singles berth.

Greenhalgh and Downs, both 19, did not play in New Zealand's tie against Japan four months ago, but each has since improved markedly, Simpson said.

One of the pair will make their Davis Cup debut in the No 2 singles position behind New Zealand's leading player, Brett Steven, against Australia.

"I think they are stronger and their playing ability is better," Simpson said.

"They've had a lot of tennis, of course, and they look a lot more match-sharp and a lot more experienced. They just have a different look about them. It's good to see their progress."

Simpson knows whoever gets the nod is going to face an almost impossible task against the impressive Australians.

"It can only be a plus for James or Steve really," he said. "It's one of the things they strive for, to play Davis Cup."

"It's a tough tie. There is no question about that. But we've got to get out there and play our hardest. We've never beaten Australia. But we'll take

each match one at a time."

The Australians are likely to choose Pat Rafter, ranked 24, and Richard Fromberg, 48, to play singles, and Mark Woodforde, 42, and Todd Woodbridge for the doubles.

Steven, however, said he believes Woodforde may be the second singles player.

"Mark Woodforde has some good results on fast indoor surfaces," Steven said.

Woodforde reached the quarter-finals of indoor tournaments in Paris and Sydney and the carpet surfaces suited his serve-volley game.

New Zealand will play veteran Davis Cup player Kelly Evernden in the doubles.

"We have an outside chance," Steven said. "But they are a very strong team and they have a long history in Davis Cup tennis."

Australian coach Tony Roche expects an Australian win, and points out his country has not lost a tie to New Zealand. The Australians must win to stay in the world group of 16.

Kamsky doesn't like it at all

LINARES, Spain, Sept 21: Controversy has erupted over demands by United States Grandmaster Gata Kamsky over playing arrangements for the Chess World Championship semifinal eliminators starting in Linares today, reports Reuter.

Russian born Kamsky, who plays Briton Nigel Short in one 10-game semifinal, is insisting that the two series be played in separate halls or at least with the playing areas separated by partitions.

India's Viswanathan Anand plays Michael Adams of Britain in the other match.

In a statement on Monday, Kamsky said he had asked for separate playing areas because "I am afraid the two English Grandmasters would speak about the moves during the game."

"I don't like to have psychological problems. I prefer the battle to go on in a sporting way."

Anand was Short's friend, Kamsky said. "I don't want to have to play against all three of them."

Luis Rentero local organising chief in Linares told reporters he had agreed that a partition could be erected on the stage.

But a fax message from Professional Chess Association (PCA) managing director Dan-Antoine Blanc-Shapiro to Polish match referee Andzrej Filipowicz said there was no point in building a partition. Non of the players has ever been seen to do anything unsporting, it said.

Kamsky left Eh Linares hotel where the semifinals are being played on Wednesday night, still insisting on a partitioned playing area.

Maggard in Walker's boot

ATLANTA, Georgia, Sept 21: Dave Maggard was named managing director of sports for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics here Tuesday, filling a vacancy created when Dr Leroy Walker departed to become president of the US Olympic Committee, reports AP.

Maggard was hired 18 months ago with an eye toward his new duties. Charlie Battle has served as directors of sports and international relations since Walker's departure.

Battle will retain control over plans for such areas as the Olympic village, translation services and relations with more than 195-national Olympic Committees.

Maggard, a US Olympic shot putter at the 1968 Mexico City Games, was on the planning group for the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

Narozhilenko off the hook

MOSCOW, Sept 21: A Moscow court has ruled that a four year ban imposed by the Russian Athletics Federation on former world 100m hurdles champion Ludmila Narozhilenko was illegal, reports AP.

Narozhilenko failed a drug test after equalling the world indoor 60m hurdles record at Lievin, France in February 1993.

Sports Express newspaper reported here Tuesday that the Moscow court had accepted 30-year-old Narozhilenko's version that her former husband and trainer had administered the banned substance without her knowledge.

A case of chemical tragedy

SOUTHAMPTON, NY, Sept 21: Former tennis star Vitas Gerulaitis died when a faulty propane heater filled the cottage where he was staying with high levels of carbon monoxide, authorities said Tuesday, reports AP.

Gerulaitis, 40, was found dead Sunday. Tests showed "between 72 and 77 per cent of his blood was saturated with

carbon monoxide — extremely, extremely high levels," said Norma Dill, assistant to the local chief medical examiner.

Police said the fumes seeped into the heating and air conditioning system of the cottage, which sits near the beach on the estate of a Gerulaitis friend in this affluent Long Island community.

The Suffolk County medical examiner found carbon monoxide traces during an autopsy Monday afternoon. Investigators then returned to the house and had to retreat for gas masks before recording carbon monoxide levels that were described as "off the scale."

Detective Sgt David Betts said it was not clear if Gerulaitis was asleep when fumes swept through the house or how long he had been dead. When a servant entered the cottage Sunday afternoon, the television was on and Gerulaitis was still wearing clothes he'd worn Saturday morning at a tennis clinic.

Betts said that although the deadly gas apparently came from the heating and cooling system, the exact source had not been determined. The system had been serviced within the last two weeks, Betts said.

The carbon monoxide was an unexpected discovery in the autopsy, according to a source who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"It was extremely puzzling, since they thought what they were dealing with was an indi-

vidual who died of natural causes or a drug overdose, given the individual's history," the source said.

Police said there were no signs of drugs or crime.

Once one of the world's top players, Gerulaitis' pursuit of the fast lane made him as much a personality off the courts as on the shave lawns of Wimbledon. Even he conceded that drugs and long nights eventually halted a career that had won him a place among the tennis elite.

Gerulaitis won the Australian Open in 1977, a leg on tennis' Rand Slam, and was ranked as high as No 3 on the professional tour 15 years ago. He remained in the top ten from 1977 to 1983.

Gerulaitis acknowledged using cocaine during the late 1970s and '80s, and said that his appetite for drugs and disco undercut a career that was based on quickness and endurance. He was treated for substance abuse and was implicated, though never charged, in a cocaine dealing conspiracy in 1983.

Gerulaitis was a frequent guest at the shingle-and-stone cottage on the 4.7-acre, \$13.5 million estate of developer Martin Raynes. He arrived there last weekend after playing a tennis tournament with former great Jimmy Connors and Bjorn Borg on the US West Coast.

The funeral was scheduled Thursday, but details were not settled.

ITF, ATP, WTA join forces

LONDON, Sept 21: The three international tennis governing bodies are to set up a common board to review doping offences, reports Reuter.

In a statement released on Tuesday, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) said it would establish a joint review body along with the Men's Professional Tour (ATP) and the Women's Professional Tour (WTA). At present each organisation has its own review board.

"Beginning in 1995, this common programme, which will be independently administered by Firstlab, a professional third party organisation to ensure consistency in all programmes, will strengthen and standardise tennis' anti-doping programmes internationally," the statement said.

At present tournament winners are automatically tested with random tests conducted on up to 30 per cent of the remainder of the entrants.

Players testing positive for drugs such as anabolic steroids are banned for one year with a three-month sentence for less serious drugs such as stimulants.

No tennis player has ever been suspended for taking drugs.

Kushtia clinch BDR kabaddi title

KUSHTIA, Sept 21: Hosts Kushtia Sector emerged champions in the Bangladesh Rifles inter-sector kabaddi competition which concluded at the Kushtia Sector ground today, reports UNB.

Kushtia Sector secured 15 points to clinch the title while Dhaka Sector finished runners-up with nine points.

Sepoy Arman Ali of Dhaka Sector was adjudged the best player of the competition, organised by the Kushtia Sector of BDR.

Director General of BDR Major General Mohammed Anwar Hossain was the chief guest at the closing function and gave away the trophies.

Twelve sectors of BDR took part in the competition.

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Sept 21: Regency Sports Club and PDB Recreation Club registered victories against BCIC and Kallol Sangha in the CJKP Elite Paint First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Regency beat BCIC 3-1 in the first match of the day.

Regency mid-fielder Firoj scored a brilliant hat-trick while Kaias netted for the BCC.

PDB Recreation Club defeated Kallol Sangha 2-1 in the other match.

Rashed and Javed hit one goal each for PDB while Masud replied for Kallol.



Filipino sprinter Lydia de Vega practices in Manila yesterday. De Vega, 29, will be competing in the 100 metres at the Hiroshima Asiad next month. She won the event at 1986 Games in Seoul but could not defend her title four years later in Beijing after giving birth to a daughter. — AFP photo

OJ Simpson to stand trial

LOS ANGELES, Sept 21: O J Simpson's last-ditch effort before his trial to have murder charges dismissed failed as the judge rejected defence arguments that the case was based on sloppy and dishonest detective work, reports AP.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito Monday upheld an earlier ruling by Municipal Court Judge Kathleen Kennedy. Powell that detectives acted properly when they acted on Simpson's estate hours after the June 12 slayings without a search warrant and found bloody evidence. Kennedy-Powell presided over Simpson's preliminary hearing over the summer.

In another development, prosecutors complained that Simpson's personal secretary shredded a document after prosecutors had tried to seize it. But the defence contended that investigators improperly used the grand jury investigating Simpson's longtime friend Al Cowlings to learn about the document.

Simpson is charged with two counts of murder in the knifing deaths of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and her friend Ronald Goldman, 25, outside Ms Simpson's condominium, about two miles from Simpson's estate.

Ito agreed with Kennedy-Powell that the detectives clearly were motivated by a desire to inform Simpson of the tragedy and make sure that others were not wounded or dying at his estate.

"The detectives were faced with a brutal and violent killing. They had two young children who were unattended," the judge said, referring to the couple's 8-year-old daughter Sydney and 6-year-old son Justin, who were asleep at the condo when the

slayings occurred.

Ito said the officers were understandably concerned when no one answered the doorbell or phone at Simpson's estate and they spotted what appeared to be blood on his Bronco, which was parked askew in the street.

Ito said he was more troubled by the length of time that officers stayed after making sure everyone was all right.

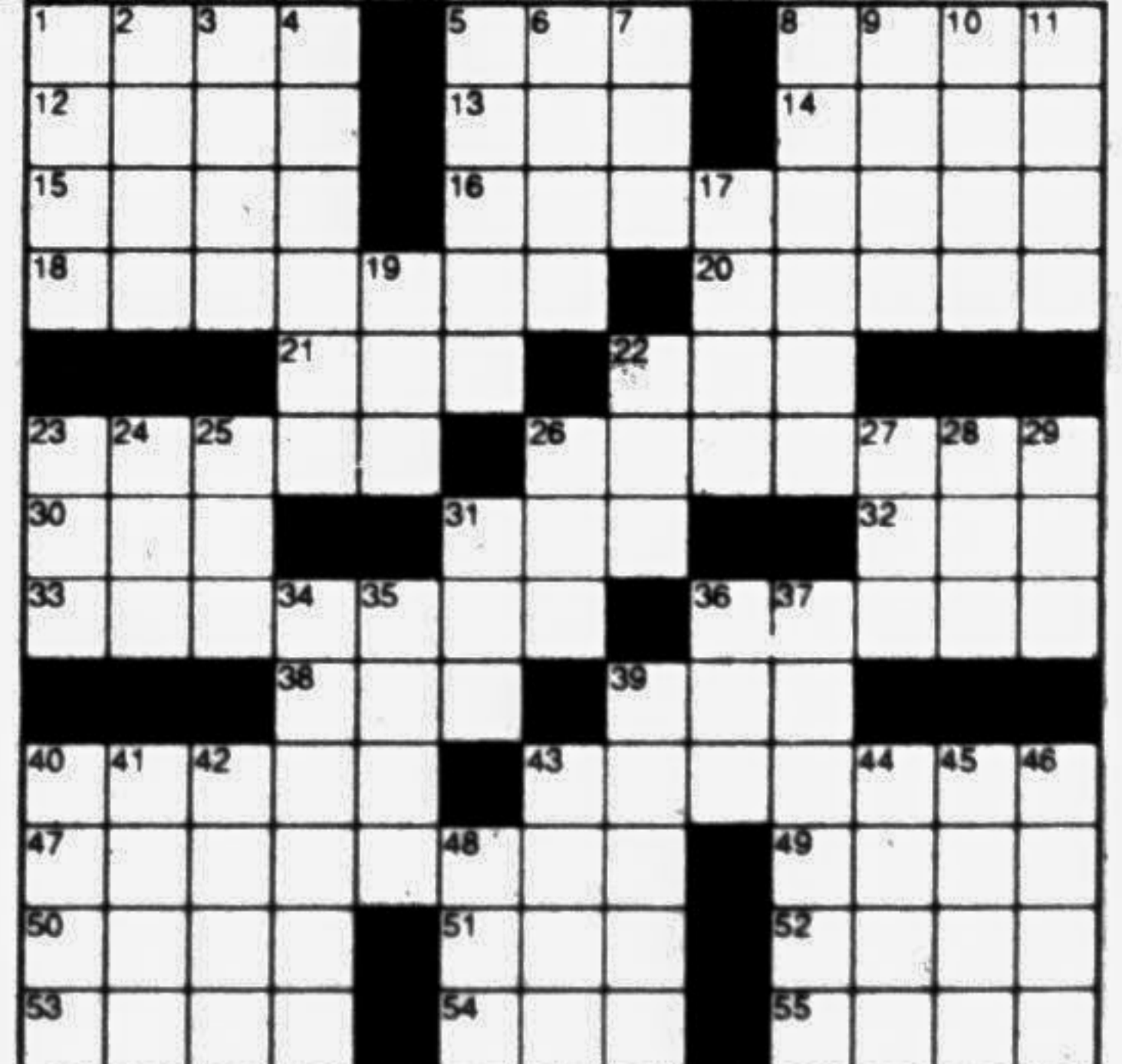
But he said that the report of thumps heard by Simpson's house guest, Brian "Kato" Kaelin, was enough to keep detectives at the scene and allow them to investigate further. That was when they found a bloody glove lying on a pathway and seized it as key evidence against Simpson.

In responding to earlier defence claims that police were sloppy in their investigation, Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark argued that "murder is a messy thing."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Door-frame part
 5 Mr. Calloway
 8 Hardy ruddy
 12 Inter-
 13 Actor Tognazzi
 14 Lamb's a/k/a
 15 Refuses to
 16 Newscaster Frank
 18 Restrained
 20 Get the lead out
 21 Succor
 22 Miss Piggy, self-referentially
 23 She's just wild about Harry
 26 Singer Frank
 30 North Pole employee
 31 City near Marseilles
 32 "— Wiedersehen"
 33 Sports-caster Frank
 36 Insertion mark
 38 Sort

DOWN
 39 Scoundrel
 40 Splendid
 43 Inter-mingled
 47 Actor Frank
 49 Slimy stuff
 50 "Rule, Britannia" composer
 51 "— Town"
 52 Tackle-box item
 53 Antelope's playmate
 54 Infinitesimal
 55 Small quaff
 1 A big fish story?
 2 Billions and billions
 3 Wartime explosive
 4 Keaton role
 5 All better
 6 Like fine wines
 7 Tarzan's son
 8 Illinois city
 9 Actress Nazimova
 10 They're the tops
 11 Some people get ill at it
 17 Night light
 19 Woody's ex
 22 Work on a recording
 23 Journey segment
 24 Mr. Whitney
 25 Vacationing
 26 Imogene's costar
 27 Roofing gunk
 28 Wish otherwise
 29 Sternward
 31 Clumsy craft
 34 Say, "That's him, officer!"
 35 Shoppe description
 36 Shuffle-board tool
 37 Major Andre's aide
 39 Irish county
 40 Pleased
 41 Hard to find
 42 Mrs. Shakespeare
 43 Despondent
 44 Gloomy
 45 Pound of poetry
 46 Consider
 48 Despondent



CRYPTOQUIP

Z J B Z N I S V T P M Z B Z J S P N
 M D T K , " W T K G E G J D S
 I Z V V S O " K E V V A S M P G C
 A O W Z V S Z G W C V S G
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: FUNNIEST GOOSE CAN CAUSE A GAGGLE OF GIGGLES.

Today's Cryptquip clue: V equals L

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.