

Emirates' Naser Khamiss (9) is closely marked by Saudi forward Abdullah Souliman Mohammed during a match of the 12th Gulf Cup played at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Nov 6. The game ended in a one all draw. AFP photo

Sanchez-Vicario gets in Navratilova's way

OAKLAND, California, Nov 8: Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario overcame a sluggish first set to beat Martina Navratilova 1-6, 7-6(7-5), 7-6(7-3) here Sunday in the finals of a 400,000-dollar WTA tournament, reports AFP. Sanchez-Vicario played doubles Saturday night, finishing only 12 hours before the start of the singles final and managing only five hours of sleep. "It was hard to come back and have enough energy for today," she said. "Even though I was down, I never got discouraged."

Silva wins NY Marathon

NEW YORK, Nov 8: German Silva outspurred fellow Mexican Benjamin Paredes at the finish on Sunday to win the 25th anniversary New York City Marathon in its closest finish ever, reports Reuter. Overcoming a near-disastrous mistake just before the finish line, Silva put on a desperate surge to catch and overtake Paredes to win in an official time of two hours, 11 minutes 21 seconds. Silva momentarily lost his way by taking a wrong turn off the course within a mile of the finish line, but still managed a victory by two seconds. His win is the closest in race history, eclipsing the four-second duel in 1982 won by American Alberto Salazar over Mexican Rodolfo Gomez, who co-incidentally coaches both Silva and Paredes.

TA may shut Williams out

MELBOURNE, Nov 8: American prodigy Venus Williams is likely to be prevented from playing in the Australian Open, her first Grand Slam event, by Tennis Australia organisers, reports AFP. Williams made her professional debut at the age of 14 in California last month. She joined the WTA Tour before the enforcement of new age rules applying an age limit of 16 on the circuit. The American rookie has indicated she wants a wild card into the New South Wales Open, the lead-up Sydney event to January's Australian Open. Australian Open tournament director Paul McNamee said today that while he had not received any request for a special entry for Williams, he could not support granting one. Tennis Australia is keen to support the recent age ruling of the Women's Tennis Council (WTC).

Tide may be turning AC's way

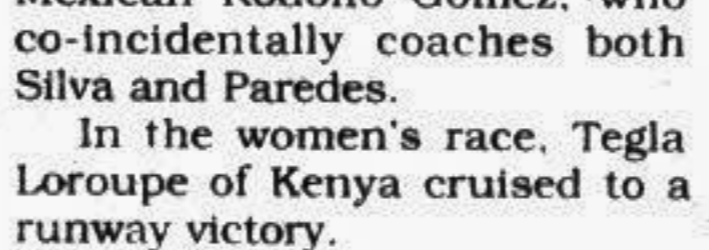
LONDON, Nov 8: After weeks of indifferent form in their domestic league the tide may be turning for European champions AC Milan, who showed their class at last at the weekend, reports Reuter. Milan have made a miserable start to the season by their own high standards and although they did not beat league leaders Parma, coach Fabio Capello was buoyant after their 1-1 draw and confident enough to issue a warning to all would be pretenders to the Milan throne. "I say that all our rivals had better be very, very careful. This Milan is still capable of a lot."

Nantes by eight points. It was a bad weekend for PSG whose supporters went on the rampage in the streets of nearby Marseille and threw missiles on the pitch, forcing the kickoff to be delayed half an hour. PSG's hard core fans are rapidly becoming among the worst in Europe and a growing problem to the game in France which otherwise has relatively little soccer hooliganism to worry about. But PSG's morale was boosted somewhat at the weekend when striker David Ginola was named as player of the year in a poll of his fellow professionals. HAGI UNHAPPY Spanish champions Barcelona, who destroyed Manchester United 4-0 with an exhilarating display in the Champions' League last week, stayed fourth after a 1-0 home win over Real Oviedo. But their celebrations were marred by rumblings of discontent from Romanian World Cup star Gheorghe Hagi, left out of the team for the Manchester Match and brought on only for the final 20 minutes on Sunday. Hagi, newly signed by Barcelona from Brescia in Italy, said he understood coach Johan Cruyff's desire to stick with a winning line-up but added: "Twenty minutes is very little time for me to show anything. This situation is new for me and I don't know if I will stand it. I will have to think and see what happens."

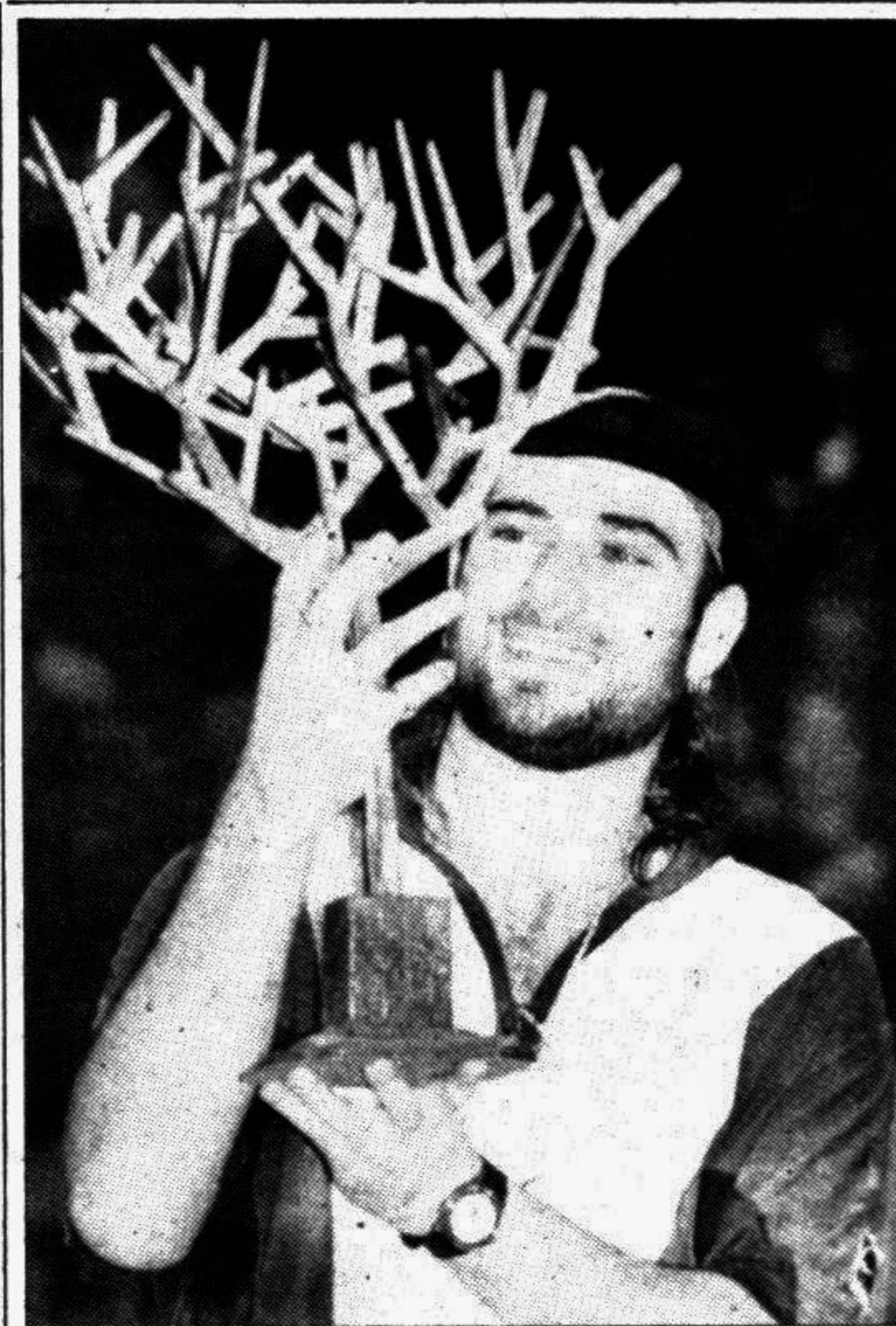
by 17-year-old Raul Gonzalez in the 4-2 victory over neighbours Atletico Madrid. Raul, brought into the first team two weeks ago from the lower ranks, had a hand in the first two, Real goals and scored the third himself with a brilliant finish. The current malaise at German champions Bayern Munich — they are ninth in the table six points behind leaders Borussia Dortmund — is reflected by coach Bert Vogts's likely inclusion of only three Bayern players in his squad for Germany's European championship qualifier against Albania next week — Veteran libero Lothar Matthaus, defender Christian Ziege and Oliver Khan as reserve goalkeeper. Bayern were held to a 1-1 draw by Bayer Uerdingen at the weekend while Dortmund stretched their lead with a 2-0 win over Werder Bremen. Manchester United's bid for a third successive English title maintained its momentum when they recovered from their mauling in Barcelona to beat Aston Villa 2-1 with goals from Paul Ince and Russian Andrei Kanchelskis on Sunday. But the main talking points in England revolved around London clubs Tottenham and Queen's park Rangers, who are both embroiled in managerial crises. Managerless Spurs, who sacked Ossie Ardiles last week, lost 2-0 at Blackburn on Saturday, while QPR, whose manager Gerry Francis has resigned but not yet left the club, went down 2-1 at leaders Newcastle. Both issues are set to be resolved this week.

Schuster still out of favour

BONN, Nov 8: The commanding form of 34-year-old veteran midfielder Bernd Schuster will not after all bring an international recall for Germany's prodigal son, who quit the world stage in 1984 with just 21 caps to his name, reports Reuter. A day before naming the squad for Germany's November 16 European Championship qualifier against Albania, national coach Bert Vogts said on Monday he was pleased Schuster had said he would like to play for Germany again. "But I can't just use Bernd Schuster for one or two matches," he said. "I wouldn't be doing him a favour. And when all the players are fit, I have Matthias Sammer, Andreas Moeller and Thomas Haessler for that position." Former national coach Franz Beckenbauer agreed, even though Germany have looked woefully shot on creativity in two friendlies this season following their disappointing World Cup. "If Vogts recalled Schuster now, it would look like an emergency situation," he told the Bild Daily. Schuster produced another superb performance on Saturday, scoring in Leverkusen's 2-1 win at Hamburg, and had made clear he would like to be part of Germany's qualifying campaign for the 1996 European Championships in England. Meilen makes Coetzer rue PHILADELPHIA, Nov 8: Meilen Tu, a 16 year-old Californian, won for the first time as a professional Monday, upsetting Amanda Coetzer 6-1, 6-3 in the opening round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, reports AP. Coetzer is seeded No. 8 and is ranked No. 16 in the world. Last year the South African won tournaments in Australia and Japan, but was able to win only one service game in this match — the fourth game of the second set. A long duce battle ensued in the ninth game of the second set between the two, each using a two-handed backhand. Tu closed the match when Coetzer hit a lob out of court. Tu, who won the US Open junior crown last summer, was playing in her second tournament as a pro. Last week, she made her debut in Oakland, Calif, losing 6-3, 6-4 in the first round to Meredith McGrath. Indonesian sweep at Thai Open BANGKOK, Nov 8: Top seed Susi Susanti of Indonesia defeated second seed Lim Xiao Qing of Sweden 11-5, 12-10 to clinch the women's singles title for the fourth consecutive year in the Thailand Open badminton championships 1994 here Sunday, reports AFP. In the men's singles final, Indonesian Joko Suprianto defeated Sun Jun of China 10-15, 15-11, 15-5 in a hard fought battle.



American Andre Agassi poses with the trophy after beating Swiss Marc Rosset in the final of Paris Open on Nov 6. Agassi won the four-setter 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5. AFP photo



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Maleeva wins at last

QUEBEC CITY, Canada, Nov 8: Katarina Maleeva of Bulgaria won her first tournament in three years on Sunday when she defeated Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-3 in the final of the 150,000 dollars Bell Challenge, reports Reuter. Maleeva, the fifth seed, broke the second-seeded Schultz's serve in the sixth game of the first set, and in the fifth and ninth games of the second set for the winning margin in the 65-minute match. Maleeva, currently ranked 41, earned 27,000 dollars for her 11th career title, the first since winning in Indianapolis exactly three years ago. Schultz took away 13,500 dollars. Aussie-Sino initiative CANBERRA, Nov 8: Australia and China have agreed to push for the creation of an Asia and Oceania anti-doping forum, Australian Sports Minister John Faulkner said today, reports Reuter. "To ensure that there is a strong voice in world anti-doping initiatives, Australia and China will commence work to establish an Asia and Oceania anti-doping forum," Faulkner told parliament. He also detailed earlier announced Australian measures to help China set up an independent drug-busting agency able to concentrate on more out-of-competition tests.

Foreman & fat endorsements

NEW YORK, Nov 8: Boxer George Foreman has been a regular in snack food, sneaker and automobile commercials even before his improbable heavyweight title victory over a man young enough to be his son. Can new commercial roles — maybe pitching pain pills to his fellow middle agers — be far behind? "His stock is way up," Lloyd Kolmer, who matches celebrities with advertisers, said Monday. "He just made it for every old fat bald person in the country." Foreman, two months shy of his 46th birthday, knocked out Michael Moorer, 26, on Saturday and recaptured at least part of the championship he lost to Muhammad Ali more than 20 years ago, reports AP. He became the oldest fighter to win a championship in any weight class. Even before the victory, Foreman had amassed an impressive list of commercials since resuming his boxing career about seven years ago. The list includes regional or national ads for Kentucky Fried chicken, Oscar Mayer hot dogs, McDonald's hamburgers, Nike sneakers and Texaco gasoline. Boxing has seldom produced athletes who are both widely known and are embraced by ad-makers for their ability to influence consumers. But American Data Sports found in a survey of more than 2,400 people last year that Foreman placed eleventh out of 77 athletes in terms of consumer recognition and was 17th in terms of influence as a product endorser. "If he did that well just being a contender, the victory probably increases his endorsement potential geometrically," said Harvey Lauer, president of the sports and leisure research firm. In a brutal sport, Foreman has cultivated a remarkably warm persona. "He was in a commercial for Doritos in 1992 with his four sons," said Lynn Markley, a spokeswoman for the tortilla chip brand's owner, Frito-Lay Inc. "He is a lovable guy who has a big presence. He delivered for us."

Talent brokers said Foreman could probably do a good job pitching pain relievers like baseball's Nolan Ryan did for Advil and tennis' Jimmy Connors did for Nuprin. Others say his 250-pound (113-kg) girth makes him a natural for fast food and his strength could appeal to a pickup truck maker. But others say Foreman's triumph at age 45 only shows the quality of top fighters has deteriorated since Ali and Rocky Marciano reigned. "I see him being used in a specific campaign that calls for an older athlete who has come back," said Stephen Disson, who advises companies on signing athlete endorsers.

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Fortification of over-40s

LONDON, Nov 8: Heavyweight George Foreman's defeat of Michael Moorer was hailed as a hammer blow against the culture of "youth is best" on Monday, allowing over-40s to puff out their chests one last time and flaunt their flab with pride, reports Reuter. Newspaper editors agreed with Foreman, 45, that his 10th-round knockout defeat of a man 19 years his junior was a triumph for "every guy who ever got told to act his age."

old man came punching home," said the Johannesburg Star over a picture of Foreman being hustled to his corner at the end of the fight. Many newspapers speculated on what effect Foreman's win would have on middle-aged men, many of whom measured sporting success on whether they could lob an empty beer can into the waste paper bin while watching soccer on television. Experience, even if it was measured in a bulging waistline, could still show the kids a thing or two, they agreed. "If the spirit is willing the body will make it too. Once again the veterans have proved the power of the will," said Vienna's Die Presse.

to challenge and so drastically revise the preconceptions of a society in which the young had grown accustomed to having it all," said Jeff Powell of the Daily Mail. "The tougher the going, the more Foreman and real old-fashioned men like him are exposing the brittle frailties of the get-rich-quick generation." Pundits, of whatever age or sex, agreed his achievement laid greatness on Foreman. Australia's Kleine Zeitung said Foreman had "Kod" the sport of boxing with the "greatest comeback of all time" and called him "the oldest and the greatest." But newspapers warned Foreman against trying his luck against former champion Mike Tyson, due to leave prison next year. Some expressed sorrow boxing should be so devoid of talent that a 45-year-old could event think of winning the world belt. "Time of the dinosaurs" said le Monde, expressing a mixture of disbelief and sadness in French newspapers. "It's certainly an unlikely and phenomenal magic trick which Foreman achieved, an unbelievable return destined for sporting history," it said. "What happened in Las Vegas is for boxing both magical and tragic... it is a big step backwards."

Hide goes to court

LONDON, Nov 8: World heavyweight boxing champion Herbie Hide went on trial on Monday, accused of attacking his former girlfriend in a jealous rage, reports Reuter. The court heard that Hide, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) champion, flew into a fury in October 1993 after seeing a photograph of Deborah Edmonds with another man. It was alleged he punched and kicked Edmonds, with whom he had a relationship for several years, and then hit her with a shoe. Hide denies assaulting Edmonds causing her actual bodily harm, theft of 500 pounds (dollar 750) worth of her clothing, and criminal damage to a photo frame. The trial continues.

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Nov 8: Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club earned two valuable points in the CJKP First Division football league beating Ispath Ekadosh 4-2 at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS. The other match between Muktiyoddha Krira Sangsad and Shatadal ended in a 2-2 draw.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Ninja Turtles' diet, mostly 6 Pheasant's cover? 11 Area of shallow water 12 In need of mending 14 Francis or Dahl 15 Iroquoian language 16 Low sound? 17 Varlet 19 Snitch 20 United nation? 22 Dead heat 23 Location 24 CNN news-caster Frank 26 Consarned 28 Scull need 30 Firmament 31 Sparkle 35 Call dibs on 39 Un-escorted 40 Bear hair 42 Actress Thompson 43 In the env. 44 'The Black Tulip' author 46 Calendar abbr. 47 Hand-some youth 49 Slalom course 51 'That's plenty' 52 Baltimore bird 53 Salamanders 54 Dominions DOWN 1 Release the hood? Solution time: 28 mins. TUFTS PAM AFT OPERA EFG MAO PATTO WARLOCK LONGER ENTE TOO ERE EGGON ARCH ASTRA JOKERS ORCHID ROPES YETI LOBBY VIP MSG ASEA SORREL MATLOCK ILOVE EGO RAE NICER DEN END TAKEN

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-54 and letters G O B N G O E L F N B ' D E O B W G B O N U I F N T S V B M B O W Z I M T S N U N I L O D M B I V B

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: GUR LOCAL POST OFFICE DECIDED TO STAMP OUT CRIME. Today's Cryptoquip clue: G equals F 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 locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error