

Ranatunga steps into Lankan Test history Bowlers reign on Day One

NAPIER, New Zealand, Mar 11: New Zealand grabbed the initiative on the opening day of the first cricket Test against Sri Lanka on Saturday, but then slumped to 33 for three by stumps, reports AP.

New Zealand restricted Sri Lanka to just 183 in their first innings before losing three quick wickets in the final session at McLean Park.

The Sri Lankans, aiming for their first Test victory away from home, rocked New Zealand by claiming three wickets for just six runs in the space of 20 balls with openers Darrin Murray (1) and Bryan Young (2) and Mark Greatbatch (1) all falling cheaply.

Stephen Fleming was unbeaten on 20 at the close of play with captain Ken Rutherford on eight.

Fleming was fortunate when he played loosely at a ball from seamer Chaminda Vaas, only for wicketkeeper Chamara Dunungeth to spill a regulation catch from a thickish edge.

Fleming was on 12 at the time and the New Zealand total stood at 23. Sri Lanka may have cause to rue the missed opportunity.

The Kiwis earlier enjoyed one of the best days in the field this season but their smiles were quickly erased when Pramodya Wickremasinghe (2-18) and Vaas (1-14) punched gaping holes in the upper order.

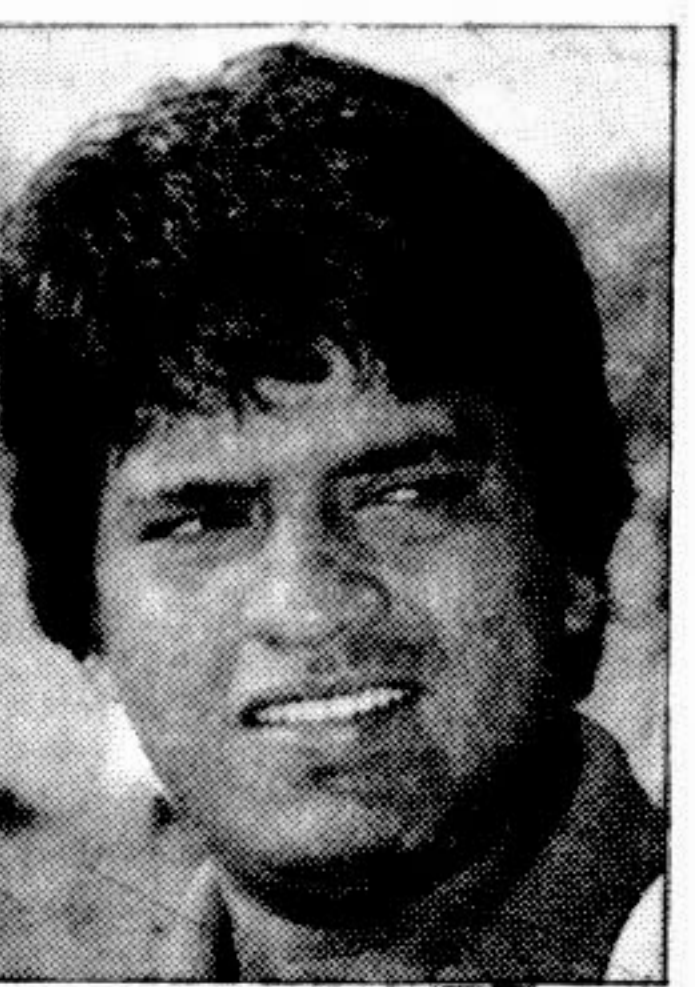
Murray and Greatbatch both were dismissed leg before wicket as the tourists made the most of the assistance offered the seamers on a pitch which had made survival difficult for the batsmen throughout the day.

The late developments negated the deep inroads the

Kiwi bowlers made into the Sri Lankan batting lineup. With low cloud hanging over the ground throughout the day, New Zealand's medium-fast attack revelled in the favourable conditions to roll the tourists in just 69 overs.

Sri Lanka were 64 for four at lunch and 137 for seven at tea after Rutherford won the toss and elected to field.

All of the home team's bowlers impressed, with rookie Kerry Walmsley proving a



A RANATUNGA shade expensive but returning the satisfactory figures of three for 70 in just his fourth outing at first-class level.

Paceman Danny Morrison picked up three for 40. Dion Nash two for 28 and Gavin Larsen two for 39.

Only a fighting half-century by captain Arjuna Ranatunga saved Sri Lanka from an embarrassing low score.

In the course of his fine innings off 55, Ranatunga became the first Sri Lankan to reach the 3,000-run milestone in Tests.

Opener Dulip Samaraweera was tidy in reaching 33, while Vaas was unbeaten on 33 in a show of defiance as wickets

tumbled around him. Star batsman Aravinda de Silva's poor form continued and his second-ball duck before the lunch interval left him with just 56 runs from five innings on tour.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the first day of the first Test between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at McLean Park today.

SRI LANKA: First innings:

A Gurusingha b Walmsley	2
D Samaraweera c Young	33
b Walmsley	10
S Ranatunga c Larsen b Nash	12
A de Silva c Parore b Nash	0
H Tilakaratne lbw b Morrison	5
A Ranatunga c Young b Walmsley	55
C Dunungeth c Rutherford b Larsen	11
Larsen	33
C Vaas not out	33
P Wickremasinghe c Fleming	1
b Morrison	13
M Muralidharan c Nash b Larsen	8
R Pushpakumara c Larsen b Morrison	1
Extras: (lb-6)	6
Total: (all out)	183

Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-40; 3-40; 4-54; 5-64; 6-88; 7-137; 8-166; 9-178

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Morrison	19	5	40	3
Walmsley	17	3	70	3
Mash	16	4	28	2
Larsen	17	6	39	2

NEW ZEALAND: First innings:

B Young c Dunungeth	6
b Wickremasinghe	2
D Murray lbw b Vaas	1
M Greatbatch lbw b Wickremasinghe	1
S Fleming not out	20
K Rutherford not out	8
Extras: (lb-1)	1
Total: (for three wickets)	33

Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-4; 3-6

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Wickremasinghe	8	3	18	2
Vaas	7	3	14	1

Ottery still not satisfied

BARCELONA, Mar 11: Merlene Ottey is known in her country as the "Queen of Jamaica." In track and field, she is the queen of the sprints — and she's hardly satisfied, reports AP.

At 34, an age when most sprinters are retired or thinking about it, the remarkable Ottey is collecting medals quicker than a bill collector assesses debts.

With 27 medals in major international championships since 1979, Ottey still is missing an individual gold in the Olympics and a 100-meter gold in the World Outdoor Championships.

"I still have a lot to achieve, and that's what keeps me going," Ottey said Friday after winning her first 60-meter title at the World Indoor Championships in 6.97 seconds, equalling the second-fastest time in the world this year.

The gold was Ottey's sixth medal at the world indoors, more than any athlete in history, including two golds in the 200. She also has won four

medals at the Olympics, 10 at the World Outdoor Championships, five at the Commonwealth Games and two at the Pan American Games.

The 60 gold was one she wanted badly.

"I've tried it twice and lost it twice," she said, referring to a third-place finish in 1989 and a second in 1991. "This had to be it. I had to get a gold medal before retiring. It worked well."

Retirement doesn't appear in the near future for the tall, elegant sprinter with the flawless gliding strides.

"I don't know," she said. "At least I got one, just in case."

She will try and erase another void in her missing medal collection at the World Outdoor Championships at Göteborg, Sweden, during the summer.

"I will double (in the 100 and 200), of course," Ottey said. "I will concentrate more on the 100 metres because I'm not yet a world champion at the 100."

Meanwhile, she treasured her 60 gold.

"This was very special," she said. "I've won the 200 metres twice. I won the bronze and silver in the 60 metres. This was the right time, time for the gold medal."

"It was very easy. I got to the final, I had to get adrenaline. I wish (Irina) Privalova (of Russia) was there. If she was, I would have run faster. Instead, I had to run against the clock. I was preparing especially for her. It's too bad she went for the 400."

In spite of her numerous triumphs, Ottey has no difficulty getting motivated.

"If I have won everything, then it would be much harder for me," she said.

When Ottey looks at her younger competitors, she jokingly refers to herself as "the Grandmother."

"They are still afraid of me and can't wait for me to retire," she said of her youthful rivals. "I don't know how much longer I can last in this sport."

"I will continue until I can't compete with the best anymore."

Chang runs out of patience

INDIAN WELLS, Mar 11: Patience is Michael Chang's game. He lost his patience Friday and his match, falling to 14th-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 (7-3) Friday in the Newsweek Champions Cup, reports AP.

"Thomas doesn't like to play serve-and-volleyers all that much, so if you're able to stay with him from the back and also be aggressive, then you're going to break down his game," the fourth-seeded Chang said after failing to convert three match points. "I should have picked a few better shots to hit and be a bit more patient at the end."

In other matches, top-seeded Pete Sampras got by No. 15 Patrick Rafter of Australia 6-4, 6-7 (8-10), 6-1 Friday; No. 3 Boris Becker won a shortened match when Marcelo Rios of Chile was forced to retire with a hip injury while trailing 6-3, 3-2; No. 8 Todd Martin edged David Wheaton 7-6 (7-5), 4-6, 7-5, and No. 11 Stefan Edberg defeated No. 5 Alberto Berasategui of Spain 6-1, 6-2.

No. 6 Michael Stich of Germany was upset by 12th-seeded Magnus Larsson of Sweden 5-7, 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-5).

No. 2 Andre Agassi and No. 7 Wayne Ferreira of South Africa won their third-round matches Thursday to advance to Saturday's quarterfinals.

Sampras needed nearly two hours to put away Rafter's challenge. Sampras had two match points in the second-set tiebreaker, but Rafter came back both times. Sampras led 8-7 when Rafter's 117-mph (188 kph) ace tied it up.

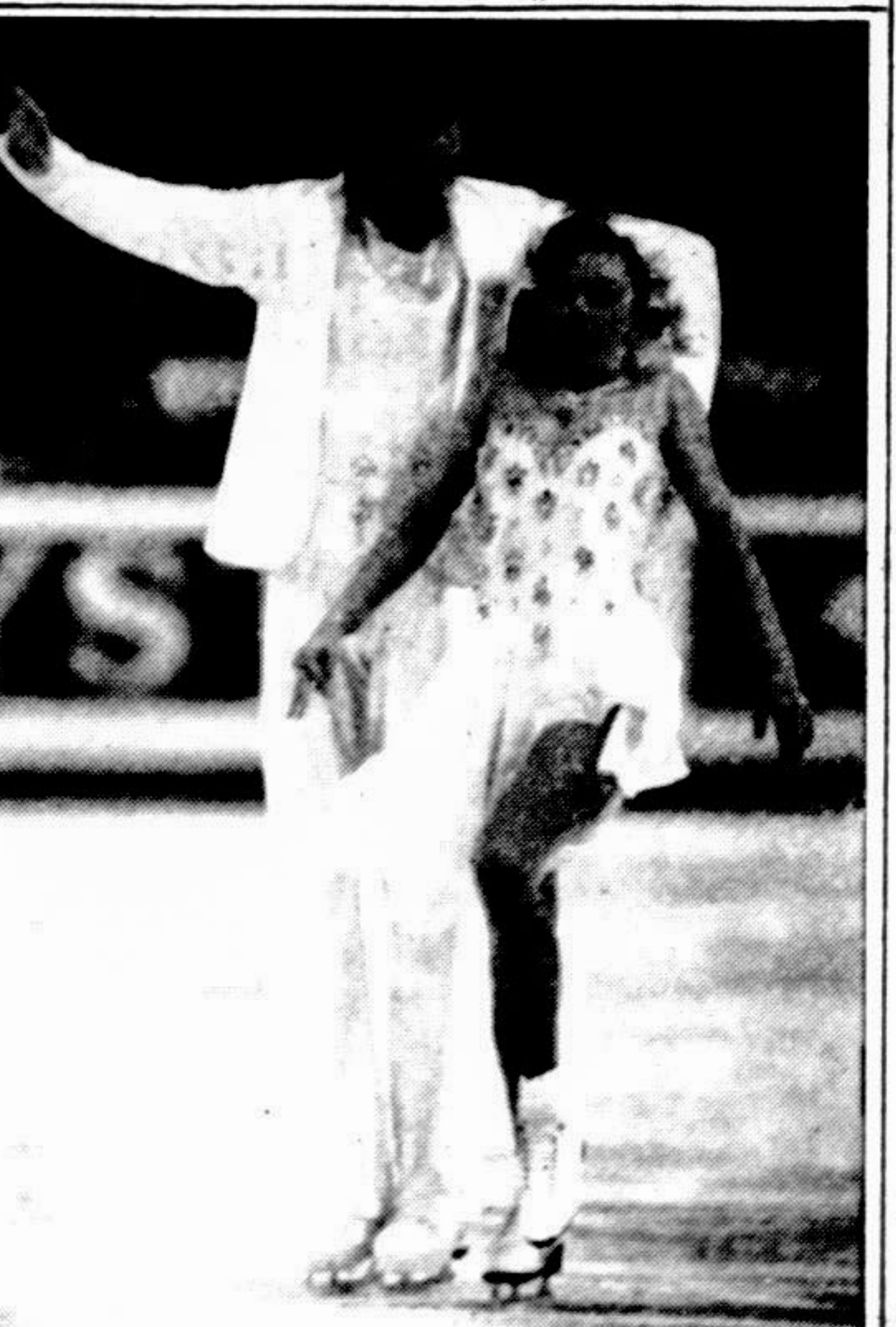
Rafter served another ace at 122 mph (196 kph) to lead 9-

8 and Sampras hit a forehand long to lose the second set.

In the third set, Sampras lost just one point on his serve. He built a 5-0 lead and had a match point in the sixth game before Rafter held serve.

Sampras then won the final game at love, ending the match with an ace.

Rios injured his left hip in a second-round match on Thursday and wasn't at full strength against Becker.



Oksana Grichuk and Yevgeny Platov of Russia perform their free dance programme at the World Figure Skating Championships in Birmingham on March 10. The Russian couple took the gold. — AFP/UNB photo

A patriot

BARCELONA, Mar 11: China's star hurdler Li Tong stormed to an early success at the World Indoor championships here on Saturday — then told the media to give his country a break over drugs, reports AP.

American-based Li won his 60m heat in 7.66 sec, just one hundredth of a second outside his personal best, to reach the semi-finals.

Questioned over the controversy surrounding China's recent spate of positive drug tests, particularly in swimming, he said: "Probably the western media is not fair on China over the drugs stories — we have become good and it sometimes feels as if they don't want us to be."

As for coach Ma Junren's famed army of runners, led by 3,000 and 10,000m world record holder Wang Junxia,

he added: "We will have to see if they can do it again. I know Wang Junxia to say hello to but not better than that."

Li, who won the 110m title at the Asian Games last year, was disappointed to see teammate Chen Yanhao fail to qualify from his heat.

But Li still believes he can come away with a medal here, despite the presence of big three Tony Jarrett of England, the world silver winner, reigning champion Mark McKoy of Austria and American number one Allen Johnson.

"If I run at my best I think I can get a medal," he said. "I don't worry about the others, I just focus on myself."

"The heat went well after I got a good start. I'm tall, which makes me better suited to the 110m but I enjoy both disciplines and I have been training harder this year for indoors."

"I think I can go much quicker."

The 27-year-old, known as a Tony Li in the US where he is now a part-time teacher and coach in Los Angeles after graduating from college in computer science, finally shed his reputation as a fall guy in Hiroshima last year.

He fell while leading the 1990 Asian Games, the 1991 NCAA and the world student games but erased those memories in Hiroshima when he beat Chen to the title.

Jarryd in Copenhagen Open semis

COPENHAGEN, Mar 11: Swedish veteran Anders Jarryd continued his mastery over Pat Cash on Friday, outlasting the former Wimbledon champ from Australia in three sets to gain the semifinals of the dlr 228,000 Copenhagen Open, reports AP.

Jarryd, one of the greatest doubles players of all time, won 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 and will meet Germany's Martin Sinner in Saturday's semis. Sinner defeated the last Danish hope, Frederik Fetterlin, in two straight but tough sets, 7-5, 7-5.

Jarryd, at age 33 the oldest player in the draw, beat Cash for the sixth time in as many meetings.

"I like the surface (Supreme Court) here," Jarryd said. "It suits my game with the low bounce. I think I have as good a chance to win the tournament as the other guys, if I can continue to serve and return well."

Jarryd, a two-time Copenhagen Open finalist, has won every Grand Slam doubles title at least once and was ranked No. 1 in the world for 106 weeks, second only to John McEnroe's 270. But he lost in the doubles quarterfinals Thursday night.

Cash, the 1987 Wimbledon champion, played his second quarterfinal of the year. A wildcard entry here, he also reached the last 8 in the Dubai Open in February.

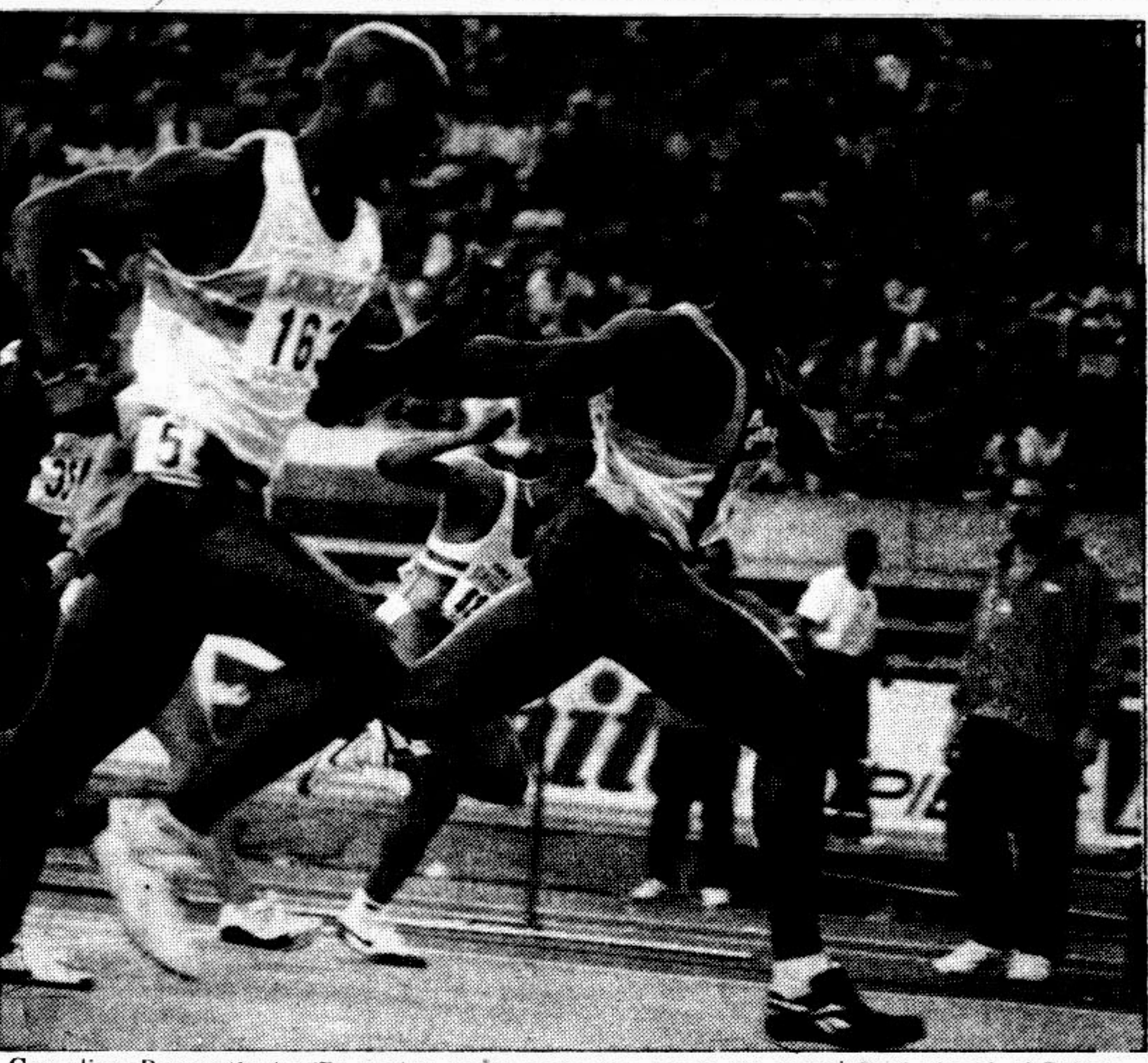
No. 5 seed Karol Kucera of Slovakia, the highest seed left in the tournament, downed No. 4 Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-4 and Andrei Olhovskiy of Russia whipped No. 7 Jeremy Bates of Britain 6-1, 6-0 in the other quarterfinal matches.

Benin would rather lose full points

CONTONOU, Benin, Mar 11: Benin soccer officials have decided to forfeit an Africa Cup match against Algeria's national team for security reasons, reports AP.

The match was to have been held March 24 in Algiers, the Algerian capital. The country has been wracked by a three-day insurgency waged by Islamic militants seeking to topple the government and install an Islamic state. About 80 foreigners have been among the thousands of victims.

The vice president of Benin's soccer club, Martin Adjagoda, said Friday there was no guarantee of his team's safety in Algeria. "We are not going to sacrifice the lives of athletes in the name of fair play," he said.



Canadian Bruny Surin (R) on his way to win the men's 60-metre final ahead of Briton Darren Braithwaite (L) with a new record time of 6.46 seconds at the World Indoor Championships in Barcelona on March 10. Third was Surin's compatriot Robert Esmie. — AFP/UNB photo

Jarret jives, Surin shines

BARCELONA, Mar 11: Britain's Tony Jarrett posted the fastest time Saturday in heats of the 60-meter hurdles, one of the most competitive events at the World Indoor championships, reports AP.

Jarrett, silver medalist at the 1993 world outdoors, won his heat in 7.58 seconds to lead the qualifying for Saturday night's semifinals.

In the absence of fellow Briton Colin Jackson, the world outdoor champion and

world-record holder, Jarrett is a favourite for his first major title.

Courtney Hawkins, a late replacement on the US team for Mark Crear, knocked down four of the five hurdles but still won his heat with the second-best qualifying time of 7.62 seconds.

Allen Johnson of the United States, the top hurdler of the indoor season, took his heat in 7.66 seconds, while Olympic champion and defending indoor tittle mark McKoy of Austria qualified, in 7.67.

In the women's 60-meter

hurdles, Olga Shishigina of Kazakhstan clocked 7.95 seconds for the fastest heat time. Lynda Tolbert of the United States failed to qualify after aggravating an achilles injury and finishing last in her heat at 8.31 seconds.

In other events, Maria Mutaola of Mozambique won her 800-meter semifinal in 2:03.28 to lead the field and stay on course for her 39th straight victory in the event.

Nine finals were on Saturday's programme at the Palau Sant Jordi arena: women's triple jump, men's pole vault, women's high jump, men's long jump, women's shot put, men's 1,500 meters, men's and women's 200 and women's 3,000.

On Friday night, Canadian sprinters Bruny Surin and Robert Esmie issued a warning to their more famous American and British rivals after taking gold and bronze in the 60-meter dash.

"The world better look out because Canada is here, and we're here to stay," Esmie said. "This summer (at the outdoor world championships in Göteborg, Sweden), we're going to surprise everybody. We're going to rock the house."

Surin defended the title he won at the 1993 world indoors in Toronto by smashing the meet record with a clocking of 6.46 seconds. That was the fastest time in the world this year and the fourth fastest of all time — although .03 seconds off his own personal best.

"It was a lot of pressure for me" Surin said. "I came here to defend my title and I think I did it very well."

Britain's Darren Braithwaite was second in 6.51, with Esmie third in 6.55.

The race was missing many of the world's top names, including world and Olympic champions Linford Christie of Britain and American stars Dennis Mitchell, Leroy Burrell and Andre Cason.

But Surin said their absence did not devalue his victory.

Chinese juniors dethroned in ABC b'ball

MANILA, Mar 11: Behind the 22-point shooting of Cho Woo Hyun, South Korea upset defending champion China 55-48 Saturday to win the 13th ABC Juniors Basketball Championship, reports AP.

China appeared on their way to a route when they rolled up a 14-0 lead in the opening minutes. But the South Koreans roared back, scoring 10 unanswered points, half of them from Cho.

Cho then scored 11 more points in the final 20 minutes, including nine from three-point range. South Korea had been seeded second behind China.

The South Koreans also outbounded the taller Chinese 22-20.

Jordan finished third in the tournament with a 62-56 victory over Thailand.

Mark Aguirre powers Pistons

MELBOURNE, Mar 11: Former Detroit Pistons star Mark Aguirre led the way with 30 points Saturday night as Magic Johnson's All Stars scored a 97-94 overtime win over the Australian national team in an exhibition basketball game, reports AP.



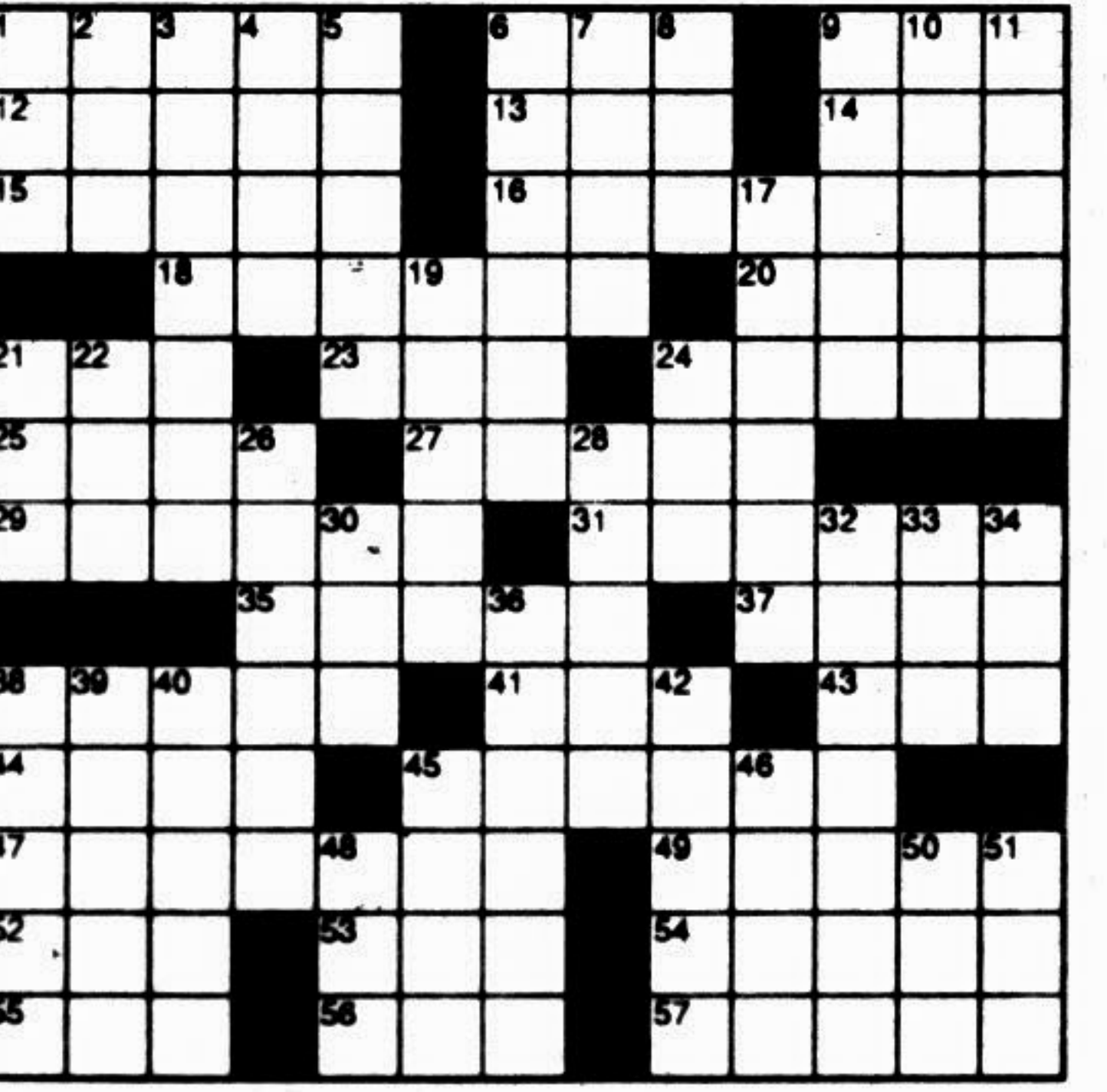
Russia's Svetlana Moskalets is airborne during the women's pentathlon long jump competition at the World Indoor Championships in Barcelona on Friday. — AFP/UNB photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| ACROSS | Can" | 56 Toothpaste | able |
| 1 Swagger | 38 Four-bagger | 57 City on the Aire | 17 It's done in an instant |
| 6 Navigationaid | 41 Agent, for short | DOWN | 19 More pleasant |
| 9 Old English coin, for short | 43 Cleo's killer | 1 Terminal: abbr. | 21 "Made in —" |
| 12 Name | 44 Teensy bit | 2 Humor | 22 Split a seam |
| 13 Cause of I strain? | 45 Rommel, "The — Fox" | 3 Southeastern city | 24 Moment |
| 14 Numerical prefix | 47 Southwestern city | 4 Pole, e.g. | 26 Plot |
| 15 Attorney | 49 Likewise | 5 Chopped | 28 He took two tablets |
| 16 Midwestern city | 52 Sword vanquisher | 6 She had a bad hair day | 30 LBJ pooch |
| 18 Thoroughfare | 53 Expert | 7 Writer James | 32 Northwestern city |
| 20 Scat specialist | 54 Poe's adoptive father | 8 Kitty | 33 Ending for hair |
| 21 Coffee vessel | 55 Cen. portions | 9 Shoulder wrap | 34 Kennel cry |
| 23 Prefix for cord or content | | 10 "Stop — shoot!" | 36 Philadelphia campus |
| 24 Period | | 11 Indispens- | 38 Content |
| 25 Perches | | | 39 Different |
| 27 Humpback? | | | 40 Jupiter has 12 |
| 29 Parisian hoodlum | | | 42 Propel a velocipede |
| 31 "Juno and the Paycock" writer | | | 43 Chuck-a-luck needs |
| 35 Doves | | | 46 Irk |
| 37 Davis' — | | | 48 Rundown roan |
| | | | 50 Lincoln boy |
| | | | 51 Switch position: |

Solution time: 26 mins.

POLK	STA	MOWS
OLIO	WAR	ILIE
REAR	ABC	RYNE
NORMAN	HARMON	
ALL	COP	
STUN	IMP	ERIAL
TIAN	KAI	ARA
RUDDIEST	MDCX	
EAR	CRO	
CARMEN	HERMAN	
GANAN	APPE	MAGE
EDGE	VIR	ONUS
DYED	YES	NYET



CRYPTOQUIP
K N E Y P A H Z S N M J - H E J L W V
K M N S Y W O Z L S G U M M V
Z H O Z P S L U Y M N N Z J G
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MEAN, AVARICIOUS COUNTERFEITER STILL HAS THE FIRST DOLLAR HE EVER MADE.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y equals C
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.