PRIMERA LIGA

Clemente too racist!

Football

AFP, *Madrid*

Barcelona opened up a seven-point gap at the top of the Spanish first division with a 2-1 win over relegation-threatened Athletic Bilbao on Sunday.

However, the game was overshadowed by the post-match comments of Athletic coach Javier Clemente who referred to Samuel Eto'o as having, "descended from trees."

Clemente was incensed that Eto'o, the Spanish first division's top scorer and the reigning African Player of the Year, had spat at one of his players towards the end of the game, but his words were viewed as a racist slur.

Goals from Ronaldinho and Lionel Messi responded to the early shock of going behind after 16 minutes from a header by Athletic's Fernando Llorente and extended Barca's winning streak to 12 league games.

The Catalan club's impressive lead over the rest of their rivals at the end of the first half of the Spanish season was helped by second-placed Osasuna losing 2-0 at Valencia on Saturday.

Athletic came out fighting at the Nou Camp and silenced the Barca faithful when Llorente was left unmarked to head home a Francisco Yeste cross from wide on the right flank.

A huge upset started to look on the cards with Barca looking second best for much of the first half until Ronaldinho levelled from the penalty spot seven minutes before the break.

The two-time World Player of the Year got his 12th goal of the season after Athletic defender Fernando Amorebieta was judged to have handled the ball.

Messi then hammered home the winner six minutes after half time from just inside the six-yard box.

Nevertheless, it was an unimpressive performance from Barca, and the night ended on a negative

note when Deco was sent off for pulling Carlos Gurpegui's hair after a clumsy challenge from the Athletic midfielder.

In the accompanying melee, Eto'o was seen to spit at Athletic defender Unai Exposito.

Real Madrid got their first league win at home since Juan Ramon Lopez Caro took over from the sacked Wanderley Luxemburgo with a 4-2 victory over Sevilla, helped by a Zinedine Zidane second-half hat-trick.

Jose Maria Gutierrez opened the scoring after just seven minutes but Sevilla got back into the game when Luis Fabiano equalised five minutes after the break.

The Brazilian picked up the ball on the edge of the area after Real goalkeeper Iker Casillas could only parry away the ball from an initial shot by Daniel Alves.

Zidane then quickly put Real back in the driving seat with two goals in three minutes, the first a penalty after Aitor Ocio had brought down Julio Baptista.

Ocio got one back for the visitors seven minutes from time but Zidane, having his best game of the season, completed his scoring spree three minutes into injury time.

Bottom club Alaves pulled off a shock 2-0 away victory at high-flying Deportivo La Coruna.

Australian international John Aloisi headed Alaves in front after 21 minutes, connecting with a long pass out of the midfield by Jandro Castro.

Equatorial Guinea international Rodofo Bodipo then added Alaves' second shortly after the break, blasting home an Aloisi cross from just inside the area.

Alaves' hero though was their Argentine goalkeeper Leo Constanzo, who pulled off a series of first-rate saves to give Juan Carlos Oliva a winning start to his career as coach.

Oliva was the assistant to the previous coach Chuchi Cos but took over at the helm on Monday when the club sacked his predecessor.

"At this moment, I'm in heaven," said Oliva, who admitted he could not have imagined his career as a first division coach would start in such a fashion.

"There has been many times when I've thought about what we should do and how to execute such a plan, and today was the day," added Oliva, whose team travel to Barcelona next Sunday.

Another surprise came when Racing Santander beat Villarreal 1-0 despite having to play most of the second half with only nine men.

Racing's Sergio Matabuena headed home a Raul Martin cross midway through the first half for the only goal of the game, before Pablo Alfaro and Pablo Pinillos got their marching orders.

TOP SIX

Team	M	W	D	L	G/F	G/A	Pts
Barcelona	19	14	4	1	47	16	46
Osasuna	19	12	3	4	26	19	39
Valencia	19	10	6	3	28	17	36
Real Madrid	19	10	3	6	31	21	33
Deportivo	19	9	5	5	26	19	32
Villarreal	19	8	7	4	25	17	31

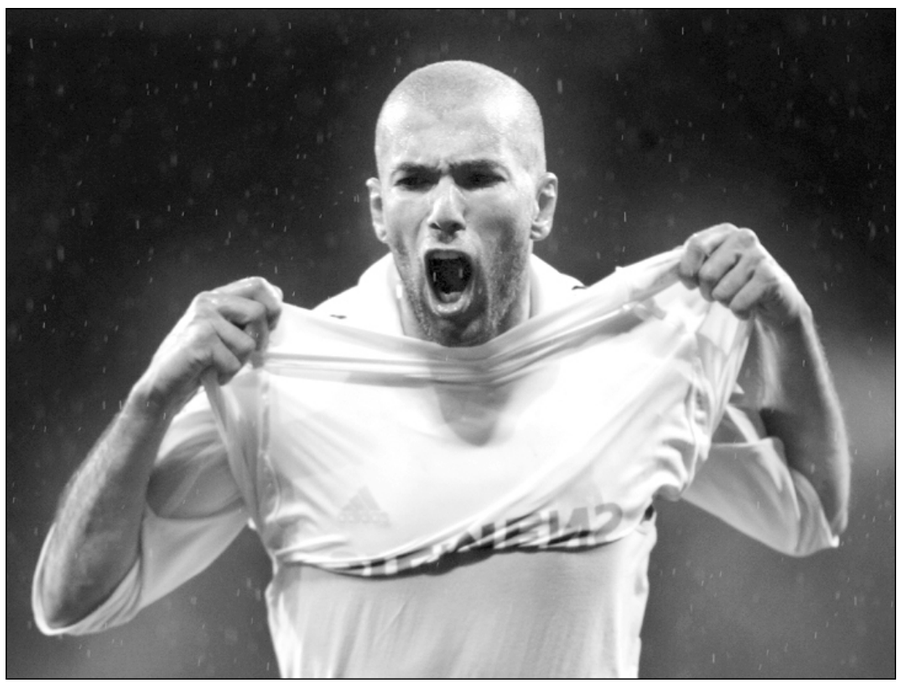


PHOTO: AFP

Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane celebrates one of his three goals in their Primera Liga clash against Sevilla at the Bernabeu on Sunday.

Eriksson his latest success

Football

THE GUARDIAN

England's football coach, Sven-Goran Eriksson, spent yesterday making a series of apologetic telephone calls to a group of his leading players after he fell victim to an elaborate "fake sheikh" sting just five months before the World Cup finals.

After enjoying lobster and £900-worth of vintage champagne with the News of the World's notorious undercover investigator posing as a rich Arab businessman, Eriksson said he would quit England if they won the World Cup and was prepared to become the £5m-a-year manager of Aston Villa as part of a takeover bid.

The 57-year-old Swede, accompanied by his agent Athole Still, offered to "tap up" the England captain, David Beckham, and persuade him to leave Real Madrid to join Villa, and offered a series of indiscreet remarks about England stars, including the observation that Michael Owen was unhappy at Newcastle United.

While Eriksson made a round of contrite calls to his players to head off any dressing room tension, senior figures at the Football Association conducted a flurry of telephone conversations before letting it be known that his position as England boss was not in danger.

FA sources said they did not believe it was a sacking offence for the manager to be discussing his future after the World Cup and said he was not the first person to be taken in by the News of the World's sheikh impersonator.

Later an official statement said: "The FA can confirm that England's head coach, Sven-Goran Eriksson, continues to have the full support of the organisation. This follows conversations between FA chief executive, Brian Barwick, and Sven, and subsequent conversations involving Brian with FA chairman, Geoff Thompson, international committee chairman, Noel White, and senior FA figures."

Eriksson said: "I would like to assure everyone, especially the fans that I'm 100% committed to the England job. I've told the FA this and value the great support I have received from them. I have spoken with the players concerned today and I have been very pleased with their reaction and am confident my relationship with them has not been damaged."

Eriksson was lured to Dubai's seven-star Burj al-Arab hotel last week for talks about a consultancy for a sports project in the city. The News of the World is believed to have set up the sting six months ago and spent more than £100,000 on it.

According to the newspaper, Eriksson raised the idea of buying a club with the Arab businessman, suggesting Aston Villa as a target because it was for sale and the chairman, Doug Ellis, "is an old man ... he's sick". Asked whether he could be prised away from his England contract, Eriksson said: "Everything is possible. But only at the end of the season." Later he added: "Anyhow, if we win the World Cup, I will leave and say goodbye."

The following day, aboard a luxury yacht in Dubai's marina, the paper claims Eriksson said he would like a three-year deal similar to Jose Mourinho's £5m-a-year salary at Chelsea. Eriksson offered to phone Beckham to persuade him to join Villa, saying the team would "sell more shirts in one week than they did for the last 10 years". He said Beckham was frustrated at Real Madrid: "I know for sure he wants to come back to England ... if it's a London club, he will come tomorrow. And it's up to me to convince him Birmingham is the right place to be."

Perhaps the most damaging quotes were about Michael Owen's transfer to Newcastle from Real Madrid after he failed to strike a deal with Liverpool. Eriksson was quoted as saying: "I talked to Michael Owen and said, 'You are happy?' He said, 'Not really with the club, but economically I never earned that money in my life'. So they paid the salary more than Real Madrid did. He said, 'they gave me a house, they gave me a car, it's incredible'. They had to do it because in any other way he wouldn't have gone there."

Other observations were less indiscreet, attributing a "temper" to Wayne Rooney and describing Rio Ferdinand as "lazy sometimes".

Eriksson's agent took to the airwaves to defend him, while admitting they had been naive to be caught out by the reporter Mazher Mahmood. "Sven is totally committed to doing the very best for England at the World Cup and it would be a scandal and a disaster if scurrilous entrapment of this kind did anything to destabilise that situation," Mr Still told Radio 5 Live's Sportsweek.

The England coach himself was keeping a low profile - in contrast to last week's celebratory interview on the FA's website to mark his fifth anniversary in the job, "reflecting that he has done things his way". Sven's way has included a series of off-the-pitch headlines, including affairs with the TV presenter Ulrika Jonsson and an FA secretary, Faria Alam, and a secret meeting in 2003 with the Chelsea owner, Roman Abramovich. Fears he was about to jump ship to the Premiership club led to an extension until 2008 of his £4m-a-year contract with England.

For some time there has been an expectation at Soho Square that England will part company with the Swede after the World Cup final in July. Yesterday's revelations will do nothing to dampen that speculation. For the time being no one is taking very seriously Mr Still's suggestion yesterday that far from going early, Eriksson might want to negotiate an extension: "Sven said to me recently, 'Perhaps I've got used to this job, despite all the annoyances. Perhaps you should have a word with Brian Barwick and see whether the FA would be interested in my staying until 2010'. That is absolutely true."

Mahmood's other victims:

Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall, April 1998

The Newcastle United directors called northern women "dogs" and their £15m signing, Alan Shearer, "Mary Poppins", and bragged about brothels and prostitutes. They resigned only to be reinstated by the club.

Johnnie Walker, April 1999

The Radio 2 DJ was filmed cutting cocaine at the Grosvenor House hotel and offering to hire prostitutes for the fake sheikh. He was fined £2,000 after pleading guilty to drug possession.

Countess of Wessex, April 2001

Prince Edward's wife met the fake sheikh over a business lunch at the Dorchester. Indiscretions included calling William Hague "deformed", Cherie Blair "horrid" and Gordon Brown's budget "a load of pap". The incident led the countess to quit her high-flying PR job.

Diane Abbott MP, May 2004

Mahmood posed as a member of a Kashmiri terror group and was invited to the Commons by Abbott. He tried to lure her to Dubai and offered a donation to aid his cause; Abbott refused both.

Carole Caplin, June 2005

Cherie Blair's former style guru told Mahmood, posing as a potential client, that "Tony's in dire straits", calling him "overweight" and suggesting he drank too much. She also criticised Nigella Lawson and Delia Smith and called Gillian McKeith "ugly as fuck".

Princess Michael of Kent, September 2005

Mahmood posed as a property buyer to lure the princess, who suggested that Prince Charles had only married Diana as "a womb ... somebody to give him children". She also defended Prince Harry's choice of Nazi fancy dress. "He will never live it down," she said.

"But I believe if he had been wearing the hammer and sickle there wouldn't have been so much fuss made. And yet what does a hammer and sickle stand for? Russia, Stalin."

Sujauddin new BCF president

SPORTS REPORTER

Syed Sujauddin Ahmed was named new president of the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) yesterday.

Sujauddin, chairman of the Tariff Commission, was general secretary of the federation from 1998-2005. He replaced Planning Secretary Akhter Hossain Khan, who was named president of the federation in early August.

Shock exit

FROM PAGE 12

rankings last year, is a second round showdown against Laura Granville of the United States.

Dementieva fared little better than Williams and will be hugely disappointed with her performance, serving up 12 double faults before succumbing to Germany's Julia Schruff, ranked 80, 7-5, 6-2 under the searing Melbourne sun.

The Russian, who reached two Grand Slam finals in 2004, has now failed to get past the fourth round here in eight attempts.

Davenport is fancied by many to lift the title here with injury hampering Kim Clijsters, but said she was nervous as she began her 13th Australian Open before quickly settling into her rhythm.

She next plays Karolina Sprem of Croatia.

Sharapova made short work of Germany's Sandra Kloesel, winning 6-2, 6-1 despite still recovering from injury to set up a second round encounter with American qualifier Ashley Harkleroad.

Henin-Hardenne pounded Poland's Marta Domachowska 6-2, 6-1.

In the men's draw, Nalbandian of Argentina, one of the few players to beat Roger Federer last year, considered himself lucky to survive against Danai.

Eighth seeded Gaston Gaudio of Argentina is also through, as is 13th seed Robby Ginepri and 11th seed David Ferrer, but 1997 finalist Carlos Moya was sent packing.

Russian Dmitry Tursunov again proved Tim Henman's Grand Slam nemesis by knocking him out.

The 53rd-ranked Russian was too strong for the British number one, winning 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 in 3hrs 14min to set up a second-round encounter with Spanish 16th seed Tommy Robredo on Wednesday.

He hit 67 outright winners, mainly with his powerful forehand, and broke Henman's service nine times.

Tursunov repeated his second round win over Henman at last year's Wimbledon, coming from 1-5 down in the fourth set to knock out the popular Englishman.

PREMIERSHIP

Robben's joy turns sour

Football

AFP, *Sunderland*

Jose Mourinho refused to criticise referee Chris Foy after the official took the gloss off Premiership leaders Chelsea's 2-1 win away to bottom-of-the-table Sunderland by dismissing matchwinner Arjen Robben.

The Dutch international midfielder received a second yellow card for clearing an advertising hoarding and celebrating with Chelsea fans moments after claiming a 69th-minute winner that secured the visitors' 20th league win of the season and left then a huge 16 points clear of Manchester United.

Robben was booked for a first half foul and referee Foy ordered the player off after issuing a second caution, despite strenuous protests from Chelsea captain John Terry.

But Mourinho failed to follow his captain's lead and later revealed he sympathised with the decision which left the visitors clinging on to victory in the face of a late Sunderland rally.

"I don't like the fact that players receive yellow cards for celebrating with their own fans but it's then rule," the manager said. "As a player you have to adapt to that.

"I think Foy did well. The first yellow card was not a caution but it is easy to make little mistakes. I shook hands with Arjen when he came off because I understood the situation and I wanted to show him some support. He fought well for us and was very disappointed.

"But the next time he is on a yellow he won't celebrate like that again."

Liam Lawrence fired the Wearsiders into an unlikely lead with his third goal of the season, only for Argentina international Hernan Crespo to level from close range midway through the first half.

And Robben secured all three points for the reigning champions with a deflected goal.

Sunderland were unable to capitalise on their numerical advantage despite a brave late surge and their despondent manager Mick McCarthy said: "I'm sick that we lost.

"If the worst happens and we are relegated then the players will definitely be better off for the experience. Individually and collectively they're getting better."

TOP SIX

Team	M	W	D	L	G/F	G/A	Pts
Chelsea	22	20	1	1	48	11	61
Man Utd	22	13	6	3	41	20	45
Liverpool	20	13	5	2	29	11	44
Tottenham	22	11	7	4	31	19	40
Arsenal	21	11	4	6	34	15	37
Wigan	22	11	1	10	25	27	34

SERIE A

Juve jive on Del Piero

Football

AFP, *Rome*

Juventus coach Fabio Capello predicted Alessandro Del Piero's rich vein of scoring form would continue after his record-breaking striker scored the winner in Sunday's 1-0 home victory over Reggina.

Del Piero was given an award before the match for becoming the club's all-time top scorer and he increased his tally on the stroke of half time to clinch a 17th win in 19 games for the Serie A title holders.

"He's playing really well and breaking the record of top scorer has lifted a weight off his shoulders," said Capello whose joy must have turned to sheer elation after hearing of AC Milan's 1-0 defeat at Roma in Sunday's late match.

"I'm sure that from now on he'll score even more easily."

Del Piero's goal, a vicious left-footed shot, took his haul in all competitions to 186, four clear of Giampiero Boniperti whom he surpassed on Tuesday when he netted a hat-trick in the Italian Cup win over Fiorentina.

Juventus have taken 52 points from their 19 games, 10 more than Inter Milan for whom Adriano scored twice in a 3-2 home win over Cagliari.

AC Milan's fifth defeat of the season left them in third spot, 12 points off the pace, at the halfway stage of the campaign.

At the Delle Alpi stadium, Del Piero unlocked a stubborn Reggina defence just before the break.

Racing on to David Trezeguet's clever flick, the 31-year-old Italy international hit a crisp half-volley past a bewildered Nicola Pavarini from 12 yards.

Roma shrugged off their indifferent form to claim a deserved win over AC Milan at the Olympic stadium.

The deciding goal came nine minutes from time when substitute Amantino Mancini's deflected drive wrong-footed Nelson Dida.

At the San Siro, Obafemi Martins opened the scoring for Inter with a lightning run and cool finish, before Javier Zanetti sliced open the Cagliari defence to give Adriano an easy tap-in.

Zanetti then turned from hero to villain when he allowed David Suazo to run past him and set up Mauro Esposito whose low drive gave Julio Cesar no chance.

Adriano restored Inter's two-goal cushion from the penalty spot after Andrea Capone was judged to have fouled the Brazilian.

Suazo's deflected free-kick closed the gap for Cagliari nine minutes before the end, but despite jangling nerves and frayed tempers, Inter held on for the three points.

Fiorentina are level with AC Milan on 40 points thanks to a last-gasp 2-1 win at home to Chievo where Luca Toni netted twice for the Florence club, taking his haul for the season to 18.

Although Toni is Serie A's leading scorer, they were his first goals since November 27 when he converted a penalty away to Roma.

In other matches, fifth-placed Livorno were held to a 2-2 draw at home to Tuscan rivals Siena and Treviso climbed off the bottom by claiming the same result at Udinese.

Ascoli defeated fellow relegation candidates Empoli 3-1, while Parma remain in danger of losing their top flight status after a 1-1 draw with Lazio.

TOP SIX

Team	M	W	D	L	G/F	G/A	Pts
Juventus	19	17	1	1	41	10	52
Inter Milan	19	13	3	3	39	16	42
AC Milan	19	13	1	5	43	22	40
Fiorentina	19	12	4	3	35	19	40
Livorno	19	10	5	4	23	19	35
Roma	19	8	6	5	29	20	30

For Parreira's eyes only

AFP, *Rio de Janeiro*

Weighty files on Brazil's World Cup rivals will this week be handed over to coach Carlos Alberto Parreira in a sign that the South American champions are leaving no stone unturned in pursuit of a successful defence of their title.

The dossiers were compiled by Jairo dos Santos and Jairo Leal - the two 'spies' commissioned by the Brazil football Federation to undertake the information gathering exercise.

"It's incredible, Jairo dos Santos has carried out painstaking work on all the teams," Jairo Leal told the O Estado de Sao Paulo newspaper.

"He shows where the player comes from, his age, his weight, and how he's played over the past few matches. He's put together an extensive file."

Parreira will have the first fruits of the duo's research on Brazil's Group F opponents - Croatia, Australia and Japan - in his hands on Wednesday.

Information has also been gathered on three other teams - Italy, Czech Republic and Serbia-Montenegro - the five-time World Cup winners' possible second stage rivals in Germany this summer.

Bashundhara keep winning

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Group were on the verge of winning the Squash League title when they bagged sixth straight win on Monday.

In the day's lone match, Bashundhara blanked GMG 9-0 at the Gulshan Club squash court. Bashundhara's Swapan Parvez beat GMG's Masud Rana (3-0) 9-6, 9-7, 10-8 while Dulal and Raju also blanked their GMG oppositions Sohel Hamid and Abdus Sattar respectively. After six matches, their collection rose to 40 points. They will take on AP Food in their seventh and final round outing.

GMG on the other hand, have 12 points from four matches.

Patuakhali win divisional title

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

Patuakhali clinched the Barisal Divisional Under-17 Development Cricket Tournament title defeating Perojepur by 95 runs in the final here on Monday.

Batting first, the hosts scored 188 for eight in 40 overs at the Patuakhali Stadium.

In reply, Perojepur were bundled out for 93.

All six districts took part in the competition organised by the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

BU, Sonargaon

FROM PAGE 12

ensure their team's fourth defeat in eleven matches.

Left-arm spinner Suhrawardi Shuvo was the most successful bowler with 3-20 while Nazmul Hossain and Arafat Sunny chipped in with two wickets each.

After an early hiccup, Brothers rode on Pakistani Rashed Hanif's 48 and Marshal Ayub's unbeaten 41 to post 144-5 in 37.4 overs.

ABAHANI-ORIENT

Orient recorded their first victory to add woes to the Abahani wounds in a low scoring match. Opener Masumudowllah struck an undefeated 67 off 109 balls as Orient reached 135-7 in 36.4 overs after Abahani were shot out for 134 in 39.3 overs.

It was for the first time the popular Dhanmondi outfit, who stumbled to their seventh defeat, missed the second stage of the coveted competition but it was not unexpected as they lined up a very ordinary team this season.

INDIRA-AGRANI

A 91-run seventh wicket partnership between Rezaul Haque and Nazmul Hossain guided Indira Road to register their third win.

Man-of-the match Nazmul hammered a run-a-ball 66 and Rezaul was not out on 43 as Indira scored 231-7 in reply to the banker's 229, built around half centuries by Imtiaz Hossain (50) and Rakibul Hasan (72).

SCORES IN BRIEF

DOHS: 284-9 in 50 overs (Tikolo 98, Manjarul 69, Mahmud 21, Akram 24, extras 25; Al-Amin 2-42, Kamrul 4-36, Kapali 2-15).

CITY CLUB: 231 all out in 48.3 overs (Rajin 18, Nafees 26, Taibu 41, Mehrab 55, Farid 36, Kapali 16, Sirajullah 24; Shafaq 3-40, Mahmud 3-25).

Result: DOHS won by 53 runs.

VICTORIA: 94 all out in 26.2 overs (Sagir 45, Kamrul 21, extras 14; Tapash 3-27, Mahbubul 5-26).

SONARGAON: 100-3 in 25.4 overs (Ejaz 26, Ashraful 48 not out, extras 11; Wasqurini 3-30).

Result: Sonargaon won by seven wickets.

MOHAMMEDAN: 142-9 in 41 overs (Sandeep 59, Bashar 11, Shamsur 11, Alamgir 12 not out, extras 5; Nazmul 2-21, Sunny 2-27, Shuvo 3-20).

BROTHERS UNION: 144-5 in 37.4 overs (Ehsanul 24, Rashed 48, Marshal 41 not out, extras 11; Monjurul 2-26).

Result: Brothers won by five wickets.

ABAHANI: 134 all out in 39.3 overs (Jahangir 20, Neeyamur 44, extras 12; Saikat 2-24, Bashar 3-19).

ORIENT: 135-7 in 36.4 overs (Masum 67 not out, Mahmudul 20, Firoz 20, extras 11; Faisal 3-25).

Result: Orient won by three wickets.

AGRANI BANK: 229 all out in 46.4 overs (Imtiaz 50, Rakibul 72, extras 31; Murad 4-27, Zakir 2-30, Mowla 2-39).

INDIRA ROAD: 231-7 in 47.5 overs (Junaid 29, Mithun 21, Rezaul 43, Nazmul 66, extras 34; Sarker 3-52).

Result: Indira Road won by three wickets.

World record

FROM PAGE 12

Tendulkar for the third wicket at Multan in 2004.

Sehwag, who was on 96 overnight, hit a boundary off leg-spinner Kaneria to reach his 11th century off 93 balls -- the fastest by an Indian opener, surpassing Sunil Gavaskar's 94-ball effort against the West Indies in New Delhi in 1983.

Mohammad Azharuddin and Kapil Dev jointly hold the Indian record for the fastest century in any position -- off 74 balls.

Sehwag reached 199 with four consecutive boundaries off Navedul Hasan and then jabbed the fifth delivery to third man where Shoaib Malik narrowly missed taking the catch and allowed the batsman to take a single.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first Test between Pakistan and India at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Monday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 679-7 declared (Younis 199, Yousuf 173, Afridi 103, Akmal 102 not out; Agarkar 2-122, Kumble 2-178)

INDIA: First innings (overnight 145-0)

Sehwag not out	247
Dravid not out	128
Extras: (b-2, lb-7, nb-17, w-2)	28
Total: (For no loss in 75 overs)	403

To bat: Tendulkar, Laxman, Ganguly, Yuvraj, Dhoni, Pathan, Agarkar, Kumble, Harbhajan

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Akhtar	15	6	45	0
Naved	15	1	88	0
Afridi	11	0	55	0
Sami	12	1	67	0
Kaneria	10	0	69	0
Malik	12	1	70	0

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS

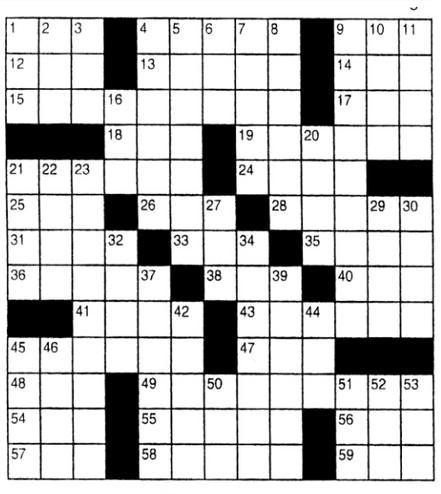
1 Tangoers' move
4 Japanese noodles
9 Burst
12 Blackjack component
13 "Maria —"
14 Lawyers' org.
15 Kreskin, e.g.
17 Boar's mate
18 "Simpsons" storekeeper
19 Abyssinian baby
21 Taleteller
24 Bygone times
25 "The Greatest"
26 Lair
28 "Prince of Tides" actor
31 Wealthy
33 Potential syrup
35 Even
36 "Blossom" star Bialik
38 One of the litter
40 Droop
41 Harvester's collection
43 Rook
45 — Curtis (hair-care brand)
47 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
48 Onassis, to pals
49 Trapeze performer
54 Wrong (Pref.)
55 Chum
56 Wish otherwise
57 Prepared
58 Town at the mouth of the Tiber
59 Barbie's ex

DOWN

1 Weir
2 Rocks
3 Nerd-pack occupant
4 Used a scythe
5 Charms
6 "— want a hula hoop"
7 Exalt
8 Country
9 Sketcher of a sort
10 Reed instrument
11 Hock
16 Diet soft drink
20 Jog
21 The MacDonald place
22 Pelvic bones
23 Armstrong, for one
27 Siesta
29 Blue hue
30 Advantage
32 Take on
34 "La Bohème" composer
37 Rainier's home
39 Tropical fruit
42 Jurors, in theory
44 Bando of baseball
45 Radio hobbyists
46 Huron neighbor
50 Deterioration
51 Annoy
52 Bring to trial
53 X rating?

Solution time: 24 mins.

W	A	S		D	Y	E	S		T	H	E	N
H	U	P		R	E	N	E		R	A	R	E
I	R	E		E	A	V	E		A	L	G	A
Z	A	C	H	A	R	Y	T	A	Y	L	O	R
			U	R	N		H	I	S			
S	A	L	L	Y		J	E	D		S	H	E
P	L	E	A		P	O	D		G	O	A	L
A	P	T		P	R	Y		D	A	L	L	Y
		B	O	O		F	E	W				
A	N	D	R	E	W	J	A	C	K	S	O	N
B	E	A	U		L	I	K	E		A	L	E
L	E	V	I		E	V	E	N		S	I	X
E	D	E	N		R	E	S	T		H	O	T



CRYPTOQUIP

S X E T B Q G X T Q M G U L T Q G H S N F X Q T W E T B Q U G H S N F Z L G U O T H L, S'U M Z C C S L Z U S H - Z O O T S F L W G F L.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: SHOULD AN OFFICIAL GROUP OF ATHEISTS BE DESCRIBED AS A NON-PROPHET ORGANIZATION?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals D

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.