FORMULA1

Alonso reigns in Catalunya

REUTERS, Barcelona

Renault's Formula One world champion Fernando Alonso soaked up the adulation of a 130,000-strong crowd on Sunday after becoming the first Spaniard to win his home

Watched by King Juan Carlos, and roared on by ecstatic compatriots decked out in Renault's blue and yellow colours, the triumphant 24year-old ended Michael Schumacher's hopes of a third win in a row for Ferrari. The German, six times a winner at the Circuit de Catalunya and Alonso's closest rival in the championship after winning his home Grand Prix at the Nuerburgring last weekend, finished second 18.5 seconds adrift.

Drenched in the winners' champagne and congratulated on the sunlit podium by his king, Alonso said the afternoon ranked alongside winning the championship in Brazil last year as his happiest day.

"It is probably the best feeling so far in a Formula One car." he said. "This one was maybe a better feeling because we crossed the line winning the race.'

Alonso's third win of the season. and 11th of his career, extended his overall lead over seven times champion Schumacher to 15 points after six rounds.

The Spaniard who has now finished the last 12 races on the podium, has 54 points to Schumacher's 39

Schumacher said: "We were simply not quick enough today.

"It's eight points, you have to understand in certain moments what is possible and what is not. But it's a long way to go to the end of the season. I'm reasonably happy to lose only two points."

Italian Giancarlo Fisichella completed a solid afternoon for Renault, who announced a longterm commitment to Formula One before the race after carmakers agreed to sign a new commercial deal to 2012, by taking third place.

The Roman tried in vain to get past Alonso at the start after starting alongside on the front row and then lost time when he ran wide into the gravel. Brazilian Felipe Massa was fourth for Ferrari, ahead of McLaren's Kimi Raikkonen and Honda's Briton Jenson Button and Brazilian Rubens Barrichello. Germany's Nick Heidfeld pocketed the final point in eighth place for **BMW Sauber**

Raikkonen's teammate Juan Pablo Montoya had a miserable afternoon, spinning on the 19th of the 66 laps and retiring.

Barcelona also brought more misery for Toyota, with teammates Ralf Schumacher and Jarno Trulli colliding on lap 16 as Ralf tried to

The German had to pit to replace a damaged front wing while Trulli, still without a point this year, finished

Briton David Coulthard finished out of the points in his 200th grand

prix after starting from the back row of the grid in his Red Bull.

I remain for **Moratti: Adriano**

INTERNET, undated

Adriano has again stated he doesn't enjoy his football at Inter, that row with Seba Veron and the real reasor he's staying at San Siro.

"We went through a really bad period here and all the responsibility was left on my shoulders, but I don't want to leave Inter because I have a great friendship with Massimo Moratti." he told Brazilian website 'O

This week the former Fiorentina and Parma star confirmed he would be playing for the Nerazzurri next season, despite interest from Chelsea and Real Madrid, but he continues to make no secret of his unhappiness at the club.

"At Inter you don't get the joy and desire to play football that you find in the Selecao," he reiterated. "It's good to win the Coppa Italia, although we can't celebrate it too much, as we missed out on our

primary objectives." Adriano has always been very close to patron Moratti and has confessed he is the main reason why he has chosen to stay with the

side through tough times. "To go through such a goal drought as I had this season is the most uncomfortable thing for a striker, as all the pressure went on to me, and that wasn't right. I spoke with the directors and everything is fine now. These experiences have

served to help me mature." However, the bitter row with teammate Veron which came to fisticuffs during the Champions League visit to Villarreal continues

to rumble on. "Veron is a great player and it's true we had a discussion, but he just needs to keep his feet on the ground.'



Bremen striker Miroslav Klose (L) celebrates with teammates Ivan Klasnic (C) and Nelson Valdez after scoring against Hamburg during their Bundesliga match at the Aol-Arena on Saturday.

BUNDESLIGA

Bremen snatch second spot

Football

REUTERS, Berlin

Werder Bremen snatched second place and direct qualification into the Champions League with a thrilling 2-1 victory at Hamburg SV on the final day of the Bundesliga

Miroslav Klose scored the winner 18 minutes from time which lifted Bremen up from third at the expense of Hamburg, who now enter the third qualifying round for the Champions League.

"It's hard to find words for this the disappointment is so great," said Hamburg coach Thomas Doll.

Hamburg had been second most of the season but lost two of their final three matches, while Bremen's win gave them 17 points

in their last seven games.

Bayern Munich, who clinched their 20th German championship a week ago, drew 3-3 at home against Borussia Dortmund to finish the season with 75 points, ahead of Bremen on 70 and At the bottom of the table, VfL Wolfsburg secured 15th place with a 2-2 draw against Kaiserslautern, who finished one point behind them and were relegated along with Cologne and MSV Duisburg.

Klose, the Bundesliga's top scorer with 25 goals ahead of Bayer Leverkusen's Dimitar Berbatov with 21, found an opening between two defenders on the left to tap in a cross 12 minutes after Sergej Barbarez had equalised with a fine header

Klose also set up Bremen's first goal in the 28th minute with a sharp pass from the right across the box that team mate Ivan Klasnic fired

But Bremen, the league's topscoring team with 79 goals, squandered a chance to secure the victory eight minutes from time when Germany midfielder Tim Borowski missed a controversial penalty awarded by Germany's

World Cup referee Markus Merk. Borowski's shot hit the right post and bounced away.

"I tried to make the shot too perfect," said Borowski. "I was trying to be too cool."

Hamburg wasted two earlier

chances to equalise, when both Ailton and Benny Lauth were free in the box but sent their shots just wide. Ailton later squandered another chance in the 65th minute with a shot that sailed over the In Munich, midfielder Michael

Ballack was jeered before the match as fan anger over his decision to leave Bayern, probably for Chelsea, after four years boiled

Bayern commercial manager Uli Hoeness had to go out on the pitch and appeal to the fans to stop

Ballack, Roy Makaay and Bastian Schweinsteiger scored for Bayern but Dortmund fought back from 3-1 down. Czech striker Jan Koller scored twice, including the equaliser in the 76th minute, while Philipp Degen scored Dortmund's second goal.

"It wasn't fair that Michael was not given a good farewell even though the fans are naturally disappointed," said Hoeness.

"I went out to calm things down and after that they quieted down. Michael had a lot of important goals

Italian scandal new phenomenon



Italian football is being dragged through the mud once again as four leading Serie A teams are being investigated over matchrigging allegations

If any eyebrows were being raised on Friday as the full scope of the gambling and match-fixing scandal unfolded, they should only have done so out of surprise that it has taken so long for another such huge fiasco

Italian football has been riddled with match-fixing and payments to referees for vears while the country's football authorities have only occasionally managed to clamp down on the perpetrators.

Only last season, in the most recent scandal, Serie B champions Genoa were demoted to Serie C1 after needlessly fixing their final game of the season against the

already relegated and hapless Venezia. Given Venezia had been relegated for weeks and Genoa had topped the standings all season, quite why Genoa president

Enrico Preziosi felt the need to fix the match

is mind-boggling But so he did and three days after Genoa won 3-2, player's agent Giuseppe Pagliara was caught leaving the offices of Preziosi's company, Italy's largest toy manufacturer, with 250,000 euros (320,000

dollars) in a suitcase Pagliara's client Vicente had put Venezia ahead in the 22nd minute at which point the Venice club's managing director

Franco Dal Cin rang Pagliara saying: "What the hell's going on? What are they doing? They scored....Are they out of their minds?"

Pagliara replied: "You know Vicente,

for them to equalise." Genoa's relegation did not hit too many headlines worldwide due to the offence

that's the way he is, but there's plenty of time

taking place in the lower leagues but Serie A has had its fair share of scandals as well over the last 26 years. In 1986, points were deducted from

Udinese, Lazio, Foggia, Palermo, Triestina and Cagliari for their involvement in match-In 2000, a fixed match between Atalanta

and Pistoiese resulted in the arrests of several players, while two years ago Modena were deducted points and several players were given lengthy bans for the same offence

But Italy's biggest scandal of all involved World Cup hero Paolo Rossi.

In 1980, AC Milan president Felice Colombo and players from Lazio. Avellino. Perugia, Genoa (again) and Lecce were arrested for match-fixing that took place over the two preceding years.

Rossi was one of those caught up in the furore after a match drawn 2-2 between his team Perugia and Avellino in December Rossi said during the game to an

opposing player: "2-2? If you want." He was subsequently banned for three years, which was later commuted to two on appeal, allowing him to compete in the 1982 World

Rossi made his comeback just before the finals in Spain and finished the tournament as top scorer as Italy carried off the

But that scandal saw both AC Milan and Lazio relegated from Serie A for their part.

Cisse desperate to remain a Red

France striker Djibril Cisse scored for Liverpool in their FA Cup final victory but admitted it still might not have been enough to convince boss Rafael Benitez

The 14-million-pound striker signed from Auxerre by Benitez's predecessor Gerard Houllier two years ago, insisted he wanted to stay at Anfield despite being a fringe figure in Liverpool's attack. This season had been a lot of down

a little bit of up, but it's finished good," Cisse said after the Reds beat West Ham United 3-1 on penalties after a 3-3 draw in the final at the Millennium Stadium here.

"I've done my best in the little bit of time that I've had to play. I try to do my best but he's the boss and he is going to He said clear-the-air talks with

Benitez would most likely be on hold until

after the World Cup, which kicks off on

June 9 in Germany Cisse is not certain to feature in France coach Raymond Domenech's plans with Manchester United's Louis Saha and Fenerbahce's Nicolas Anelka also vying for a place.

'Ballack to join Chelsea'

AFP. London

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho confirmed Sunday that Bayern Munich midfielder Michael Ballack will join the club ahead of next season.

Chelsea have called a press conference at Stamford Bridge on Monday at which they are expected to officially announce the signing of the Germany captain who is out of contract at the Bundesliga champi-

Mourinho told Sky Sports: "I'm happy and very proud because he chose Chelsea for different reasons, and I'm happy with the conversation I had with him and that's the reason he decided to come here." Chelsea's Portuguese manager

signings this summer and Ballack, who is set to appear at Monday's news conference, appears to be the first of those AC Milan striker Andriy Shevchenko, who is considering

has said he wants to make three

leaving the Italian club, has also been linked with the Premiership champions Inter Milan's Adriano and Corinthians star Carlos Tevez have

also been heavily linked with moves

to Stamford Bridge. Ballack's imminent arrival at the London club, who according to some reports have offered Ballack a 130,000 pounds-a-week salary, puts an end to the doubts that he would ever sign for the Premiership

champions The 29-year-old midfielder appeared to be stalling on signing for Chelsea although recently Mourinho strongly suggested the German should announce his future destination before the start of the World Cup on June 9.

That decision will please Mourinho, who is keen to build up his team for another Champions League campaign which, this season, ended before they had got to the quarterfinals stage.

It will also be good news for

Ballack, who will go into the World Cup unburdened by doubts over his The move to London will be Ballack's first footballing foray outside his native Germany, some-

thing he announced he wished to experience. He formerly played for Kaiserslautern and Bayer Leverkusen before moving to

Berlusconi demands **Juve's titles**

Bayern Munich in 2002.

REUTERS, Rome

AC Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi said on Sunday his soccer club should be awarded league titles that went or are set to go to Juventus, news agency ANSA reported.

Both Milan and Juventus have officials under investigation in fraud probes that have rocked the country's soccer elite, but out of the four clubs that have so far been named league champions Juve have come under the greatest scrutiny.

AC Milan came second to Juve in last year's Seria A championship and are likely to do so again this

Berlusconi's comment came moments before the kick-off of matches that could decide this year's title. If Juventus avoid a defeat at Reggina they will take the trophy for the second year running.

Inzamam praises appeal proposal

PTI, Dubai

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq has welcomed International Cricket Council's proposal to allow players three appeals per innings against umpiring decisions.

"It will prove to be a good proposal. There will be no chance of a flaw in a certain decision by using the third-umpire technology," Inzamam said.

The ICC's Cricket Committee recently approved the proposal to allow players three appeals per innings in case of dissatisfaction over decisions by the on-field umpire. If ratified by its Executive Board,

the proposal would be tested at this year's Champions Trophy in India. Inzamam also expressed happiness that Pakistan would host three mega events including World Cup

2011 in the coming years.

"It would give a boost to cricket in the country," he was quoted as saying by 'Gulf News' on Saturday. On appointment of South African Jonty Rhodes as fielding coach, he

said it would help in improving the

fielding standards that has always

been considered as a grey area for

his team. He expressed the hope that speedster Shoaib Akhtar, recuperating from a knee surgery, would be fit in time of the tour of England.

Zidane blasts Perez tactics

Football

France World Cup winner Zinedine Zidane blamed the policies of former president Florentino Perez for the demise of Spanish giants Real Madrid in an outburst on Saturday.

Zidane said that Perez's "Zidanes and Pavons" policy, that of buying the world's top stars and mixing them with the club's young players, had divided the dressing-"What was a shame was saying

Zidane told television channel Antena 3. "Those who spoke of the 'galacticos' are those who created problems within the camp. Our problems stemmed from the number of different personalities in the

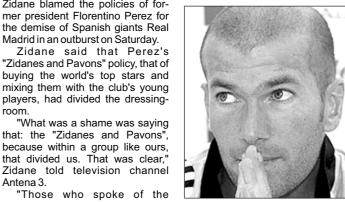
that divided us. That was clear.'

"I am not going to say anything to 'Becks' (David Beckham), Raul or

and possibly a lack of communica-

'Ronnie' (Ronaldo). Sometimes I

think we are afraid of saying certain



ZINEDINE ZIDANE

things. That's what has cost us.' Real Madrid have had to settle for a third straight season without

any silverware, something that helped convince midfield talisman and French legend Zidane to retire from football after the World

Cup in Germany. There are five or six titles every year and you can't win them

all, but to win none, that hurts. It's better to quit," he said. Zidane will play his final game in a Real Madrid shirt on Tuesday

against Sevilla, after which he will

be the second of the generation of

galacticos to leave the club. The first in, Portugal winger Luis Figo, was also the first out as he left for Inter Milan at the end of

last season. With the third of the galacticos, Brazilian Ronaldo, also seemingly heading for the exit door at the end of this campaign, only England captain Beckham and new recruit Robinho will be left from Perez's big-spending policy.

PRIMERA LIGA

group. Players with big personalities

Sevilla beat Barca backups

Football

Newly-crowned UEFA Cup winners Sevilla stayed in contention for a Champions League place when they took advantage of a weakened Barcelona to win 3-2 on Saturday.

Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard

decided on a safety first policy ahead of the Champions League final against Arsenal on Wednesday and left eight of his key players at home. Spanish first division top scorer Samuel Eto'o, Ronaldinho, Carles

Puvol. Deco. Ludovic Giuly Giovanni van Bronckhorst, Rafa Marquez and Edmilson all stayed in Barcelona Without having to face the core of the team that were crowned Spanish champions two weeks

ago, Sevilla had few problems beating Barca's backups. Brazilian right-back Daniel Alves opened the scoring for Sevilla after 22 minutes with a

stunning strike form 30 metres. Barca's Brazilian defender Belletti three minutes later brought down Antonio Puerta and Aitor Ocio scored from the penalty spot to put

Sevilla further ahead. Belletti redeemed himself by providing Santiago Ezquerro with the service to head a reply after 40 minutes and three minutes before the break Sylvinho got Barca's

Kepa Blanco harshly had a goal disallowed for offside midway through the second half but then got Sevilla's deserved winner with a header 14 minutes from time.

Barca's former Spanish international midfielder Gabri Garcia also marked his last game for the Catalan club, his contract ends in June and has not been renewed, by getting sent off late in the game for hacking down Jesus Navas. Sevilla remain in fifth place

despite the win and ahead of their final match of the season, when they play host to second-placed Real Madrid on Tuesday. Espanyol left it late but Ferran Corominas' goal a minute into

injury time gave them a 1-0 win over Real Sociedad and condemned Alayes to relegation. "It's incredible. We were fighting all game to get a goal and then to

a tearful Corominas Alaves beat Deportivo La Coruna 1-0 thanks to a Rodolfo Bodipo goal 13 minutes from time but Espnayol's victory sent them straight back to the second division

get it like that is unbelievable," said

The Basque side join Cadiz and Malaga, who were already relegated before Saturday's matches, in the lower league next season. Deportivo's defeat means that

they also miss out on European

football next season as they finish

eighth and lose out on an Intertoto

after getting promoted last year.

Cup place to Villarreal.

Espanyol went into their match with Sociedad knowing that history was on their side and that the Spanish Cup winners had never been also relegated in the same

For most of the game, Espanyol

seemed content to settle for a draw

in a tepid contest despite the fact

that an Alaves win could send them The news that Bodipo had scored quickly reached the players in the Montjuic Olympic stadium and they suddenly moved up

several gears in frantic desperation to find the net. With Espanyol throwing everyone into attack, Martin Posse provided the crucial pass for Coro to hammer home from just inside the box with his left foot and secure

the three vital points. Villarreal, who reached Champions League semifinals this year, moved up to seventh and qualify for the Intertoto Cup next season after a 2-0 win over Racing

Argentine playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme found the net for the 12th time this season when he scored from the penalty spot after

Xisco Munoz added a second for Villarreal just after the hour but the victory could not compensate for a string of mediocre league performances during January and

Zico rues missed chances

Football

side on Saturday.

REUTERS, Tokyo Japan coach Zico was once again left scratching his head after the Asian champions were held to a 0-0 draw by a below-strength Scotland

Another anaemic performance from Japan's struggling forwards meant the hosts finished last in the three-team Kirin Cup behind winners Scotland and runners-up

Japan registered 35 shots on goal in their two matches but had only a deflected goal from World Cup hopeful Seiichiro Maki in the 2-1 defeat by Bulgaria to show for their

"You can't simply create players whose job it is to score goals," Zico told reporters. "It's an instinct you're

43 Glenn

Frey's

band

48 Bees do

Lance

52 Real bad

53 Teen's

54 Plead

55 Units

picked up

by Geiger

counters

Solution time: 25 mins.

56 Blue hue

47 Uncul-

51 Judge

garde

6 Shell-

game

need

7 Sermor

8 Sign up

9 Gallup

10 One of

head

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 "National

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9 Energy

12 "So be it"

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Treasure

goal-shy attackers had it. The Brazilian names his World Cup squad on Monday and with Japan's opening game against Australia less than a month away he

needs an alchemist's touch to solve the problem Zico said after the Scotland game that he did not plan to name any standby players, leaving himself

ittle room for error "In my mind the final 23 is already decided," he said. "I have two players for each position and I have told everyone that I will be picking 23 --

no more, no less.' Zico brought in Tatsuhiko Kubo in for Maki against Scotland with depressingly predictable results. Midfielder Shinji Ono and right-back Akira Kaji came closest from open

Zico's side needed to beat How Zico must wish Japan's Scotland by three goals in their last home game before the World Cup in Germany to lift the Kirin Cup. They never came close in rain-drenched Saitama.

> thought we played very well," said Zico, attempting to put a positive spin on the result. "But it's all about taking your chances and we didn't Japan are drawn alongside holders Brazil. Australia and Croatia

"We kept pushing and overall I

at the World Cup and take on Guus Hiddink's "Socceroos" in their Group F opener in Kaiserslautern on June

Zico will have midfielders Hidetoshi Nakata and Shunsuke Nakamura available while the return of strikers Naohiro Takahara and Atsushi Yanagisawa gives the side more options.

By Eugene Sheffer 36 Thickness DOWN 20 "- Misér 37 Rocky 1 Mafia ables" 22 Bergen or pinnacle bigwig 38 Real bad 2 Old Test Holliday 40 Gift-tag 23 With ament prophet preposi tion 3 Comes 24 Edge 41 Jane together 25 Big fuss Goodall 4 Sign up 26 Tadpole subject 5 Avant-27 Naviga-

play for Japan.

30 Cribbage score keeper 35 "Pink Panther'

tor's

stack

29 Historic

actor 37 Brandy variety HOMES 11 Hammer **39** Top 40 Skater

Babilonia 16 Venusian 41 Nursery furniture 42 Loathe 43 Right

angles

44 Adorned Chantilly 45 Sicilian spouter 46 Wit-

49 Eggs



DSLOMT DCPU

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals U

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

VCK NE KEF DCOML XEUP CSZZK DEMXOJX TED XZHFIPN FZ? DCP NEIDEH

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE ACADEMY AWARDS, THE BASEBALL PLAYER WAS ONE OF THE NOMINEES FOR BEST PITCHER.

nessed