Greece should not trouble Ar-

gentina, although they qualified

without losing a game and beat

win Group D as the runners-up

meet the winner of Italy's Group

history in their opening game

on Jun 18, the second day of

the month-long tournament,

when they meet Switzerland in

Their Serbian coach Bora

"Colombia are the team to

Milutinovic was far from dis-

picked out Colombia as the

beat and we can do it. We need

five points to go through and it

Dutch tacticians, with the

probable Netherlands coach.

Dick Advocaat, coming up

against compatriot Leo Been-

hakker who took over as Saudi

Arabia boss last month in place

of sacked Brazilian Jose Can-

dido. Beenhakker was Dutch

national coach at the last World

the Dutch after Barcelona's Jo-

han Cruyff pulled out of an ar-

rangement to take over for the

Faye Dunaway, world heavy-

weight boxing champion Evan-

der Holyfield, and a host of past

and present soccer stars includ-

ing Franz Beckenbauer and

Marco van Basten, was heavily

from the same continent apart

from Europe were to be placed

together, which ensured a

spread of interest but meant

that some teams had to be

strategically placed in selected

groups when pulled from the

glass bowls to avoid such

In a break with tradition,

FIFA also matched up the venue

cities with the groups after they

Germany, Brazil

bookies favourites

bookmakers Ladbrokes made

defending champion Germany

and Brazil 4-1 co-favourites to

win the World Cup after Sun-

day's draw in Las Vegas, reports

had Germany as the 7-2

favourite. Host nation United

States remained a long shot at

winning the event shortened

from 8-1 to 7-1 after they re-

ccived a comparatively easy first

stage draw and Argentina came

Ladbrokes shortened Colom-

bia's odds 12-1 to 10-1 while

Belgium came in from 25-1 to

20-1. Spain stayed at 16-1 and

Russia's odds lengthened from

to 33-1; Norway, Sweden, Ire-

landand Mexico all lengthened

from 33-1 to 401; and

Cameroon went out from 66-1

to 100-1 after a tough draw.

and Bulgaria remain at 50-1,

Nigeria stayed at 80-1 and

from 100-1 to 150-1 while

Saudi Arabia remained a 200-1

shot and South Korea is still

Romania, the United States

Morocco alsos lipped out

Switzerland stayed at 33-1.

Boltvia moved up from 25-1

20-1 to 25-1.

Greece 100-1.

rated 250-1.

down from 9-1 to 8-1. Italy re-

mained third favourite at 9-2.

The odds on the Netherlands

Before the draw, Ladbrokes

LONDON, Dec 20: British

FIFA decreed that no teams

The draw, involving actress

finals.

manipulated.

clashes.

had been drawn.

Advocaat is expected to lead

Group F features a clash of

is within our grasp," he said.

But Argentina will be keen to

The United States make

Russia.

played indoors.

most dangerous.

Rosy route for world champions



LAS VEGAS, Dec 20: World champions Germany were given the ideal start to the defen-

ce of their title when they were drawn in one of the easiest first-round groups of the 1994 World Cup finals on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Germany begin their defence when they play minnows Bolivia in Chicago in the opening match of the tournament. Rank outsiders South Korea are also in their first round group, as well as Spain.

Brazil, three-time world champions like Germany, ended up in probably the toughest of the six groups - and one which coach Carlos Alberto Parreira had feared most beforehand and labelled "the group of death."

They face Russia, Cameroon, who reached the quarter-finals in 1990, and European Championship semifinalists Sweden, who were drawn from the supposedly weaker outsiders bowl during the televised ceremony from the Las Vegas Convention Centre.

Their only concession was that they were placed in Group B, based in the cooler climate of San Francisco, as they had requested.

Breaking from tradition, FIFA selected the venues for each group after they had drawn them so teams could be placed among their ethnic support base.

Italy will play their three opening games in New York, New Jersey, while the United States were placed in Los Ange-

Argentina, beaten finalists in Italia '90, were matched against Nigeria, the strongest of Africa's three teams, bringing back their haunting memories of their opening game in 1990 when they were beaten by another African side, Cameroon.

But Argentina, the two-limes champions who will play in Boston and Dallas, landed two of Europe's weaker teams, Bulgaria and World Cup debutants Greece.

Three-times winners Italy were cursing their luck at being thrown into what will be an awkward group with Ireland,

Mexico and Norway. The Italians had said they hoped to avoid Norway, who took three points off them in qualifying for the 1992 European Championship, costing them their place.

Hosts the United States were given no favours, pulling Colombia, who beat Argentina twice in qualifying, Romania and Switzerland.

Belgium, the sixth seeds,

and the Netherlands, twice finalists, drew the short straw when they were placed in Group F and forced to play two of their first-round games in the lerocious heat and debilitating humidity of Orlando, Florida + the city all coaches had said they wanted most to avoid.

The Belgium-Netherlands match on June 25 will be in marked contrast to the rest of their 100-plus meetings in a rivalry dating back to 1905.

They have never met in the finals before - and are unlikely ever to have played in the heat they can expect in Florida. Worse still, their opponents,

Morocco and Saudi Arabia, will be much more at home in the conditions.

German coach Berti Vogts picked out Brazil as the seeded team with the toughest task of making the second round.

"The groups are largely all very fair, but Brazil is certainly in one of the toughest groups you can never underestimate the Russians," he said.

He played down suggestions that Germany had been given a plum draw, warning that Bolivia, who became the first team

qualifying and ousted Uruguay, were potentially dangerous. "Bolivia are a good team and they have some good players,"

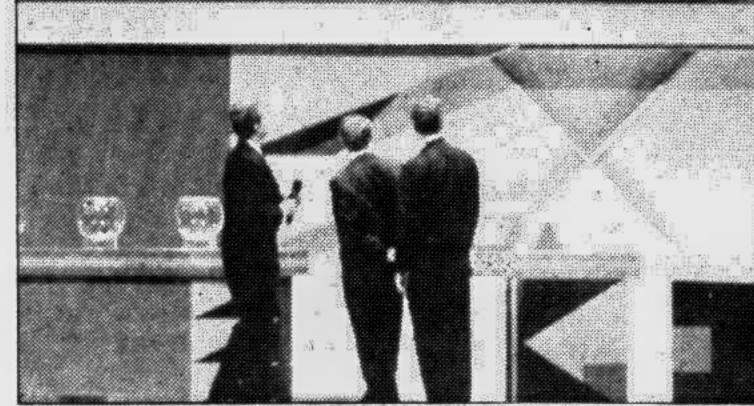
There will be pressure on us in the opening game. People expect more than just a draw or a close victory from us."

Bolivia, making their first appearance in the finals since 1950, won all their home qualifying games, but that was at high altitude in La Paz and on to reach the final. Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi said his side and Brazil had the hardest groups.

"It will not be easy for us, as we have three formidable opponents. But if we want to win the World Cup we have to play well," he said.

Vogts, however, believed Italy had received a good draw, and would benefit from playing in New York, New Jersey where there is a vast Italian popula-

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	E. C.
USA	Brazil	Certain	100	Italy	
1		1	1	1 1	1
	T III	Bolivia	Greace	breised Rep.	Margara.
2		2	7	2	2
e la lib		Spain	Free	Norway	letterlas
3		3			8
Pomenia.	Sweden	Korea Rep.	Balgaria	Maxico	and true
4.4	4	7		4	1
				to te	****
een : let				Total	California (



Members of the FIFA executive board look at the complete 1994 World Cup draw table after a colourful ceremony in Las - AFP photo Vegas on Dec 19.

many South American observers don't expect them to fare so well in the United States.

Germany's toughest opponent is Spain, who beat European champions Denmark in their final qualifying game, denying the Scandinavians a place in the finals.

Germany have played Spain twice before in World Cup finals, in 1966 and 1982, beating them 2-1 both times and going

"They are virtually playing at home in New York," he said.

Argentina will be wary of meeting Nigeria - and all the better prepared after the rude awakening from Cameroon in the 1990 finals which almost cost them a second round

Nigeria, appearing in their first World Cup finals, are considered to be the strongest of the three African finalists.

WORLD CUP SCHEDULE

LAS VEGAS, Dec 20: World Cup schedule by venue following Sunday's draw:

Los Angeles - Rose Bowl: June 18: Colombia v Romania. June 19: Cameroon v Sweden, June 22: US v Colombia, June 25: US v Romania July 3: Second-round match. July 13: Semifinal. July 16: 3rd/4th place final,

July 17: World Cup final. San Francisco - Stanford Stadium:

June 20: Brazil v Russia. June 24: Brazil v Cameroon, June 26: Switzerland Colombia,

June 28: Russia v Cameroon. July 4: Second-round match: July 10: Quarter-final match.

Detroit - Pontiac Silverdome: June 18: US v Switzerland, June 22: Romania Switzerland. June 24: Sweden v Russia,

June 28: Brazil v Sweden. Chicago — Soldier Field: June 17: Germany v Bolivia, June 21: Germany v Spain, June 26: Bulgaria v Greece, June 27: Bolivia v Spain:

July 2: Second-round match. Boston - Foxboro Stadium: June 21: Argentina v Greece, June 23: South Korea v Bolivia, June 25: Argentina v Nigeria,

July 5: Second-round match, July 9: Quarter-final match. Dallas — Cotton Bowl:

June 17: Spain v South Korea, June 21: Nigeria v Bulgaria, June 27: Germany v South

June 30: Argentina v Bulgaria, July 3: Second-round match, July 9: Quarter-final match. New York/New Jersey Giants Stadium:

June 18: Italy v Ireland, June 23: Italy v Norway, June 25: Saudi Arabia Morocco, June 28: Ireland v Norway,

July 5: Second-round match, July 10: Quarter-final match, July 13: Semifinal. Orlando — Citrus Bowl:

June 19: Belgium v Morocco, June 24: Mexico v Ireland. June 25: Belgium v Netherlands, June 29: Morocco v Nether

lands. July 4: Second-round match. Washington - RFK Stadium June 20: Netherlands v Saudi

June 19: Norway v Mexico, Arabia, June 28: Italy v Mexico, June 29: Belgium v

Saudi Arabia,

WASHINGTON, Dec 20: President Clinton was invited Friday to open the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, reports AP.

there with Hillary," said Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee.

White House on whether Clinton accepted the invitation during a brief, private meeting with

asked Clinton to support an International Olympic Committee and United Nations call for a cease-fire in the former Yugoslavia during the Winter Games early nest year in Lillehammer, Norway

going on and that we considered a truce very difficult, very nearly impossible," Samaranch said. "But we have to try, and we will try."

The UN General Assembly passed a resolution in October cient Olympic Truce — a halt to ing the Games.

The idea is especially fitting because the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo was the site of the 1984 Winter Games, Samaranch said.

Samaranch also said he told Clinton of another UN resolution declaring 1994 the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal.

Palmeiras' fine treble

SAO PAULO, Dec 20: Palmeíras, playing textbook fast, attacking soccer, subdued Vitoria with two first-half goals to win the Brazilian National Championship on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The Sao Paulo side, carrying the advantage of a 1-0 win in the first-leg a week ago, stunned their Bahia opponents with an early goal after four minutes. Evair sprinted forward to

the Pontiac Silverdome, Detroit connect with a low cross from in the first World Cup game the left by Roberto Carlos, stabbing the ball past Vitoria keeper Dida. Twenty minutes later, Edmayed at his opponents, and

mundo deftly controlled a high pass from midfield and beat Dida with a low, angled drive into the left-hand corner.

The title capped a triumphant season for Palmeiras, in which they also won the Sao Paulo Local Championship and the Sao Paulo-Rio Competition, another national soccer event. They last on the Brazilian Championship title in 1973.

Vitoria fought back in the second-half, despite the sending off of defender China after he pulled down Edmundo. He had already collected a yellow card in the first half.

The Bahia team's best chances came from Roberto Cavalo, who twice fired blistering free kicks towards the Palmeiras goal. One was saved by Sergio and the other went

Palmeiras fans around Sao Paulo celebrated their team's win in typical style, unleashing a barrage of ear-deafening firecrackers that echoed across the city's landscape of skyscrapers and high-rise apartments.

Revolutionary boot unveiled

LAS VEGAS, Dec 20: Former Liverpool star Craig Johnston launched a revolutionary soccer boot here on Friday which promises to unleash a volley of more spectacular goals at next year's World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

The performance-enhancing boot, developed in conjunction with sportswear giant Adidas with FIFA's blessing. will give players more power, accuracy and greater ballswerve, according to Johnston.

He said Adidas tests had shown that the boot, christened the Predator, produced 50 per cent more rotation and 23 per cent more swerve on the ball, which will give freekick specialists another weapon in their arsenal.

The controversial boot, which was sanctioned after much deliberation by FIFA, the sport's ruling body, features moulded ridges on the top of the boot which were designed by computer and which resemble fins.

Johnston, who said he initially created the boot as a coaching aid for children, got the idea from the material on table tennis bats which give the balls more spin. When he showed his proto-

type to former Liverpool colleague he realised its potential went far beyond a simple coaching aid. Adidas chief Simon Skirrow

said: "When we began testing we immediately recognised that there would be parties with a vested interest in stopping us and this is why we involved both FIFA and some of the world's top players in the development phases."

Zimbabweans well placed



LAHORE, Dec 20: Pakistan, after conceding a first innings lead of 83 runs, scored 37 without any loss

on the fourth day of their third and final cricket Test against touring Zimbabwe here Monday, reports AFP. By stumps, Aamir Schail

had scored 19 and Shoaib Mohammad was batting on eight. Replying to Pakistan's mea-

gre 147, the tourists resumed their innings at 121 for three after a day's rest on Sunday. A breezy spell from Pakistani pacemen Wagar Younis and

captain Wasim Akram failed to contain the tourists, who hit 230. Zimbabwe secured a respectable 83-run lead over their experienced rivals before the dismissal about 80 minutes after lunch. Andy Flower playing a mas-.

terly knock of 62 remained not out while David Hougton made Younis finished with five for

100 while Akram captured four for 70 in the face of strong re-

sistance from the taile nders. This was the 16th time that the 23-year-old Younts took a haul of five wickets. He has now raised his tally of scal ps to 27

in the current series. When Pakistan started their second innings, the run rate was slow in the face of some ac-

curate bowling. They scored 37 in 100 minutes from 27 overs. Bad weather again delayed the start for about half-an-hour, while only 21 minutes play was possible on Saturday due to

mist and fog. Tuesday being the last day the match is heading towards a

draw.

Pakistan already leads 2-0 in the three-Test series. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on the fourth day of the third and final Test

between Pakistan and Zim-

babwe here Monday:

PAKISTAN: 1st innings 147 ZIMBABWE: 1st innings G Flower c Latif b Rehman Dekker c Latif b Akram Campbell c Latif b Younis Houghton c Latif b Younis A Flower not out

Whittal c Mujtaba b Akram James c Shoaib b Younts Streak b Younis Brain c Sohail b Akram Brandes lbw b Akram Rennie c Latif b Younis Extras: (b-10, lb-13, nb-7, w-1) Total: Fall of wickets: 1-17; 2-35;

3-88; 4-121; 5-126; 6-141; 7-141; 8-181; 9-215. Bowling: Wasim Akram 70 4 Wagar Younis 100 5

Ataur Rehman 13 24 1 Mushtaq Ahmed 13 0 PAKISTAN: 2nd innings A Sohail batting S Mohammad batting Extras: (lb-9, nb-1) Total: (for no wkt) .

To bat: Inzamamul Haq. Javed Miandad, Basit Ali, Asil Mujtaba, Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Wagar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Ataur Rehman.

	-		1000	1775
Rennie	7	2	7	0
Streak	5	1	5	C
Brain	7	4	7	0
Brandes	8	3	9	C
DOMING:	U	100	K	

"It's good to get a big stand

and to get runs but in the Test

match we know we'll need to

make a much better start than

tury included 12 boundaries

and one six and his 267-minute

stay was included 19 bound-

his century was the less

sparkling of the two, requiring

Cullinan started slowly and

aries and two sixes in all.

Cronje's 10th first-class cen-

we did today."

Cronje, Cullinan rescue SA a virus since he arrived in Aus-



BRISBANE, Dec 20: Hansie Cronje and Darvll Cullinan shared a record 242-run

fourth-wicket partnership Monday to rescue South Africa from a dismal start on the first day of their four-day cricket match against the Queensland state team, reports

The partnership enabled the tourists to rally from 38 for three to a healthy 297 for four by stumps at the Gabba.

After winning the toss and batting, the South Africans found themselves in dire straits with Andrew Hudson, Gary Kirsten and captain Kepler Wessels all dismissed cheaply.

A record South African partnership in Australia then turned the match around.

Cronje recorded his highest total for South Africa with 145, while Cullinan was unbeaten on 109 at the close of play with Dave Callaghan on four.

The performance of Cronje and Callaghan gave South Africa a much-needed boost with the first Test against Australia due to start Dec 26 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The partnership totally eclipsed the previous South African fourth-wicket record in Australia of 150, set by Dave Nourse and Tip Snooke against Tasmania in 1910-11.

"This game is not the one that really matters but I'm happy to get some runs under my belt," Cronje said.

"The team needed a big stand after the start we made and Daryll did a really fine job after the problems he's had with

fidently handled the pace of Australian Test bowler Craig McDermott. "We had to get in with Mc-Dermott and mix it with him for the later games," Cullinan said. "It was good to get an idea of the conditions we might expect for the Tests and it was ideal preparation in that regard. "I just wanted to occupy the crease, so I'm very happy with the way it went. The Queensland team played without ace opener Matthew Hayden and captain Carl Rack-

Hayden was forced to pull out of the match with a virus. while Rackemann stood down in favour of Mike Kasprowicz. The match continues

Brazil shine DELRAY BEACH, Fla. Dec

Kuerten and Marcio Carlsson, won the doubles match Sunday to defeat Chile for its first vic-

After Kuerten lost to Marcelo 3 was tied 1-1.

Kuerten's swinging volley hit Rios in the groin. After a 15minute delay, the third-seeded Brazilians reeled off four straight games for the set. Brazil eventually won 6-2, 6-7 first-ever Sunshine Cup title.

tinental Players Cup on Satur-

to beat Brazil in World Cup July 2: Second-round match. June 30: Greece v Nigeria,



20: The United States officially began their hosting of the 1994 World Cup on Sunday in typical Hollywood

display of show bustness hype, reports Reuter. The only problem was the sport's biggest star was nowhere near the lights on centre

style on Sunday with a classic

Pele, the most famous soccer player and the game's biggest ambassador, was left out of Sunday's draw because of a row between himself and Brazilian soccer chief Richardo Teixeira, the son-in-law of FIFA boss

Joao Havelange. The show went on without Pele. But without the most recognised soccer face in the world under the lights, it was like a Hollywood gathering without a few words from Bob Hope or Elizabeth Taylor.

Before anybody got around to deciding the composition of the first-round groups, which vas the main aim of Sunday's gathering, the Las Vegas Convention Centre had seen singers James Brown, Barry Manilow and Oscar-award winning actress Faye Dunaway

A video of president Clinton, holding a football, welcomed the

gathering of stars from the world of soccer, stage and screen. "World Cup fever is spreading across the America," Clinton said. "Tonight live from Las Vegas

it's the 1994 World Cup draw,"

the announcer then screamed. The world "tonight" was impor-It was midday in the city, but most of Europe, where millions would be watching, was setting down in their living rooms after their evening meals.

lunch for the show Brwon opened the show singing "Living in America" with young people glittering around

It was doubtful whether so

many people in the US would

have interrupted their Sunday

Manilow, in a dinner jacket, sang "Could it be Magic" and twinkled on the tvories of a grand piano in the middle of the But "let's do it," might have been a more appropriate song for the billions of television

viewers around the world who

waited eagerly to hear the fate

of their countries in the first

The question, however, on many people's lips must have been: Does the World Cup really need all this hype?

The finals every four years

are the most important event in world sport. Billions of people around the world change their lives for a month in order that they can watch every ball that is kicked.

The World Cup has stopped fighting temporarily in turbulent areas while people watched their country in action. It has held up production in factories as workers rush home early in time for the kickoffs.

People from Bogota to Birmingham, who never normally go anywhere near a football match, take an interest in the event and can reel off the names of the top stars because everybody is talking about the event at work. Soccer's governing body FIFA did not need to bring the draw to the ubiquitous neon lights of Las Vegas. They could have broadcast the draw from a dinner in Detroit and millions worldwide would

People largely turned on their television sets on Sunday to find out who is playing who next June and July - not to watch players and coaches watching a show in Las Vegas arena at midday in dark suits and ties.

still have watched it.

But the American gambling capital made sure they saw a show before the serious bustness began.

Clinton invited to inaugurate ACROSS Atlanta Games 1 — buddies 6 Martian lines 12 One of the

15 Childbirth

method

16 Chaplin

19 Showed

the way

second

Charles

portrayer

now

24 Helium,

for one

27 Pakistan's

29 Town near

32 "Arachno-

phobia'

the matter

35 Heart of

36 St. Louis

bridge

37 Lovey-

Caen

language

22 Nora

17 Up to

20 Any

"We hope that he will be

There was no word from the Samaranch. The official said he also

"I explained to him what was

calling for the revival of the anall wars around the world dur-

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer DOWN birth 1 Vamp of

yesterday.

38 Fall silents 2 Bulky behind 40 Fit inside bovines 3 Male and Andrews snugly 42 Chum female Sisters 44 Simba's 4 Insepa-13 Unconrable cerned call 5 "The with pitch 46 "As --Velvet 14 Philadelgoing to St. Ives" Fog" 50 "20 6 Beckon campus

dovey

Ques-

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tions" way category 8 -- de lady 52 Fingers guerre 9 Tending to 33 Greek H and toes 34 Fool 54 Catch a examine 39 Just 10 Lounge quick 40 around 55 Brunch 11 Downhill entree 56 Taste and racer

12 Year of

7 In any

57 "En --!" Solution time: 24 mins. CHI MASK CORD LOT ISEE AREA OPERAHAT DOXY DEMISE CEE FMS HATBOX

SCALA EUR LAM COPE ALP AURA ACEOFFBLESS OVER NEWS NUT 53 "- Little

18 Pacers' place 21 "- Town" 23 Kiln; var. 24 Jewel 25 Dump from the payroll 26 Paddock 28 Unlikely winner 30 Card game 31 Lennon's barely hit

NXBG

QXCIU

South African batsman Hansie Cronje is in pain after

being hit in the chest by a Craig McDermott lifter during

their four-day match against Queensland in Brisbane

41 Calvin's Hobbes, e.g. Charles I's 42 Quarterback's tactic 43 Mrs. Lindbergh 45 Barcelona bravos 47 Undomesticated 48 Suit to --49 Concorde letters 51 Fractions of a yr.

Teapot"

CRYPTOQUIP

- AFP photo

T S F KUFKAU KCPI

XAIF NCPSJ SFZZG KUB KXAI. TQCJU

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU'LL SEE CREEPY

SHIPS ON THE EERIE CANAL Today's Cryptoquip clue: K equals P

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.



through Thursday.

20: Brazil, led by Gustavo tory at the Sunshine Cup since 1958, reports AP.

That was the inaugural year of junior tennis' version of the Davis Cup.

Rios, the No. 1 ranked junior in the world, 6-1, 6-4, the best-of-Early in the first doubles set,

(7-4), 6-4, depriving Chile of its Brazil's victory, coupled with Argentina's victory at the Con-

Show went on without Pele

