

Nat'l chess final round begins tomorrow

The final round of the 21st national chess championship, organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation, begins Wednesday at the chess room of National Sports Council with 16 seeded players of the country, reports UNB.

The number-drawing ceremony of the 15-round competition will be held today afternoon.

The participating players are: Defending champion IM Ziaur Rahman, runner-up IM Rezaul Karim, Saifuddin Labu, SK Sadat Hossain Ratan, Arifuzzaman Siddiq, Arman Monir, Ataur Rahman, Khorshed Alam, Ali Amjad Mintu, Khandakar Kayes Hassan, Ziaul Quader Tuhin, Sumon Malik, Enamul Hossain Rajib, Abdullah Al Rakib and Tayyubur Rahman Sumon.

Lotus-Kamal Div II cricket

The qualifying round matches of the Lotus-Kamal metropolis Second Division cricket league began at different venues in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Forty one teams, split into eight groups, are competing in the qualifying round.

Three matches were held on the opening day.

Maniknagar CC registered a 45-run victory against Mirpur Young Star at the Dhannondi Cricket Stadium.

Maniknagar CC: 178 for 5 in 35 overs. Shilant not out 71, Mamun 27, Mainul 22, Extras 29 and Ashraf 2/16.

Mirpur Young Star: 133 for 8 in 35 overs. Rony not out 21, Iftakhar 19, Extras 23, Tapan 4/25 and Mamun 2/12.

At the Jagannath Hall ground, Milu Smriti Sangshad beat Jupiter KC by 11 runs. Milu Smriti Sangshad: 161 all out in 32.5 overs. Anwar 53, Wahed 41, Zahidul 19, Extras 16, Shezan 4/16 and Romel 2/21.

Jupiter KC: 150 all out in 33.1 overs. Badal 40, Shezan 30, Monirul 23, Extras 23, Saiful 3/22 and Zahidul 3/26.

At the Mirpur City Club ground, Dikusha SC beat Green Road Estate Eleven by 18 runs.

Dikusha SC: 135 for 9 in 30 overs. Ashim 42, Siddique 19, Extras 21, Farhad 2/9 and Nayan 2/41.

Green Road Estate Eleven: 117 all out in 27.3 overs. Nazim 47, Nayan 14, Zahid 13, Extras 19, Siddique 3/12, Romel 2/11, Ashim 2/20.

Ecuador Korea Cup champs

SEOUL, June 12: Ecuador beat their Zambian counterpart 1-0 Monday and won the invitational eight-nation Korea Cup soccer tournament, reports AP.

Energio Diaz scored the winning goal seconds into the second half. He slotted in the ball after it was dropped by Zambian goalkeeper James Phiri, who surged out to intercept a centering shot.

The Ecuadorians, who beat their Zambian counterparts 4-1 in the preliminary round, controlled most of the match at Seoul's Municipal Stadium.

They received the winner's cup and a cash prize of \$100,000 from Prime Minister Lee Hong-kob, who watched the game throughout.

The tournament's other teams were from Costa Rica, Brazil, Belgium, Sweden, Scotland and host South Korea.

Signori on sale for \$15.3 m

ROME, June 12: Lazio owner Sergio Cragnotti has said he will accept a staggering 25 billion lire (15.3 million dollars) bid for striker Giuseppe Signori from Serie A rivals Parma, reports Reuters.

"This is the moment to use your head rather than listen to your heart," Cragnotti was quoted as saying in Monday's Gazzetta Dello Sport, adding that he would use the money to strengthen the Lazio squad.

"Signori is a great player but he'll be 28 next February. He's been at the top for three years, how much longer can he keep it up? Maybe two years," said Cragnotti.

"Twenty-five billion lire is a lot of money for two years of Signori," he added.

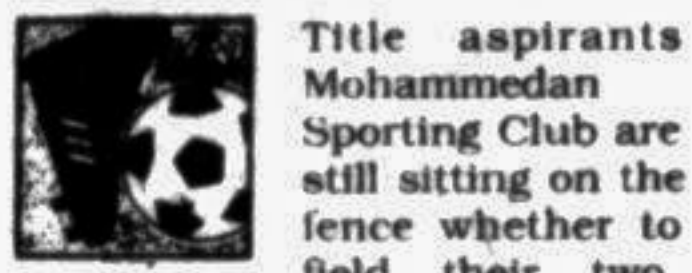
Cragnotti said Parma could afford to pay that much as they had lined up an 11 million dollar transfer for their Colombian star Faustino Asprilla. He did not say where Asprilla was going.

The Signori deal would be one of the biggest in soccer history almost matching the estimated 16 million dollar move which took Gianluca Vialli from Sampdoria to Juventus in 1992.

But it is certain to provoke anger among Lazio fans for whom Italian World Cup player Signori, club captain and the most consistent marksman in Serie A over the past three seasons, is a folk hero.

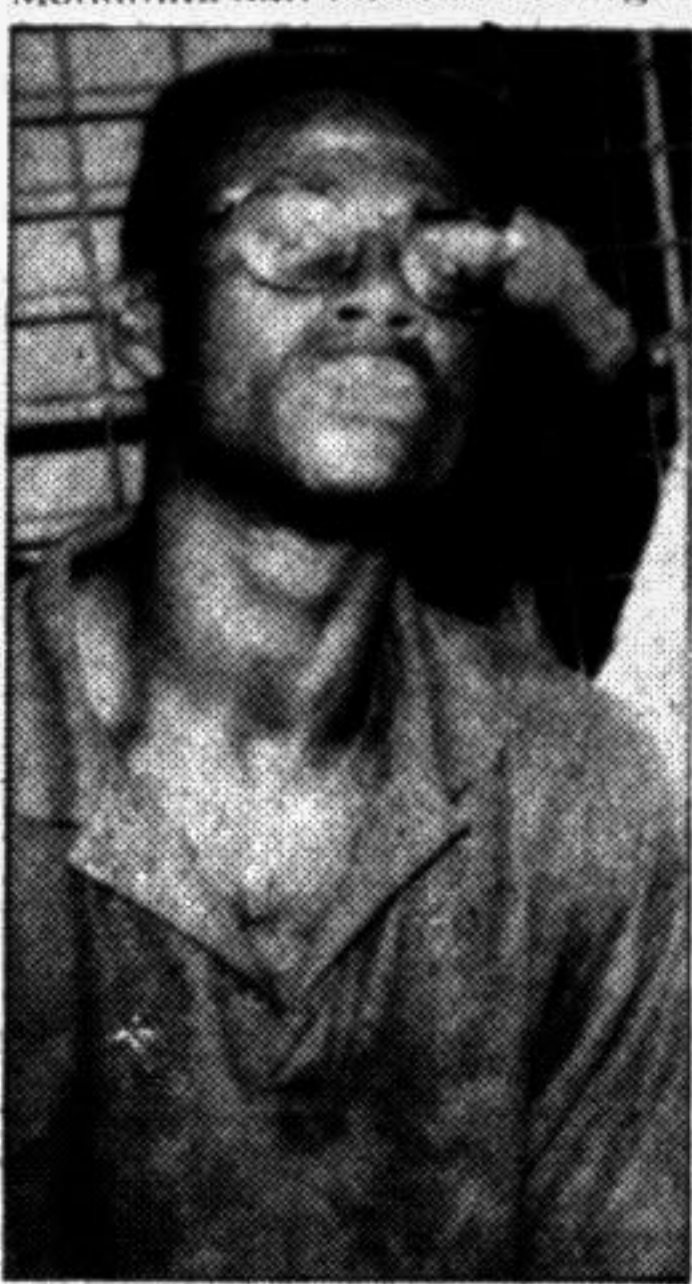
MSC uncertain over Babas

Sports Reporter



Title aspirants Mohammed Sporting Club are still sitting on the fence whether to field their two Nigerian booters in their next Neximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament engagement against arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra tomorrow.

"We have enough time to make our final decision about the two foreign players. Furthermore, it doesn't necessarily mean that they should play in our next match," said the Mohammedan football manager.



BABA LHA LADI

Badal Roy after his team's light practice session at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday where the two Nigerian booters — Baba Lha Bode and Baba Lha Lode — had rub their shoulders along with the locals.

But the Baba duo who along with their Concord FC coach Audu Kadiri Ikhanu arrived in the capital on Saturday, failed to make any lasting impression in their maiden practice session last evening.

But Badal Roy, who carefully avoided any controversial remark, said, "You can't judge a player at first glance."

Badal Roy, however, added that they did not want to affect the winning combination and made it clear that the Nigerian coach would not be given full authority until the forthcoming Premier Division football league.

Though the Mohammedan official brought the Nigerian booters in a bid to fill the void of a quality striker but seemed not to repeat the last year's debacle where they signed four Russian players without knowing their abilities.

Meanwhile, among the Baba duo, the tall Baba Lha Bode was troubled throughout the practice session for the lack of a

Navy handball

CHITTAGONG, June 12: The annual handball championship of the Bangladesh Navy began at BNS Issa Khan here today, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

suitable pair of boots. Bode, 20, who is an attacking midfielder in his home club Concord FC, had to search in vain to obtain a pair of boots for his extraordinarily large feet.

While Baba Lha Lode, 24, who is a striker, failed to live up to the expectations of the Mohammedan supporters who thronged the stadium in large numbers.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Rahmatgonj vs B Boys (5 pm) Muktijoddha vs Brothers Union (7 pm)



BABA LHA BODE

Juventus' domestic double

PARMA, June 12: Juventus added their ninth Italian Cup to the league title on Sunday, defeating UEFA Cup holders AC Parma 2-0 to take the two-leg final on a 3-0 aggregate, reports AP.

Defender Sergio Porrini scored in the 28th minute, adding to his goal in the first leg Wednesday at Turin, and Fabrizio Ravanelli added an insurance goal in the 54th.

Juventus won the cup and the championship in the same season for the second time, a feat accomplished by no other team. Torino and Napoli each have done it once.

Juventus, owned by the Agnelli family of auto tycoons, avenged last month's UEFA Cup final loss to Parma, who finished third in the league.

Lippi fielded a lineup without several injured regulars including star striker Roberto Baggio — expected to leave the team in the off-season — goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi, and Portuguese midfielder Paulo Sousa.

Ravanelli credited first-year Juventus coach Marcello Lippi who said from the first day there would be no primadonnas.

"We knew we'd all have to sweat," Ravanelli said.

Porrini, goalless this season until Wednesday, was the only player to connect in a furious paced first half.

Both clubs pressed from the kickoff and the action was intense at midfield. Off a corner kick just before the half-hour mark, the ball squirted out to forward Ravanelli, whose powerful shot from the left side was deflected by diving goalkeeper Luca Bucci. The rebound came to Porrini, who deposited the ball into the empty net with a low left-footed drive from nine metres.

"I think we really played a good 30 minutes, but that goal changed things," Parma coach Nevio Scala said.

Needing three goals to win the cup, Parma put in flashy Colombian forward Faustino Asprilla in the second half, but he was hampered by an injured

right ankle. Parma's relentless offensive raids were snuffed by a tight Juventus defence and left the home team open to counterattacks.

Juventus capitalised when Ravanelli took a freeing pass just over the midfield line. He dribbled in, hounded by defender Alberto Di Chiara, and from the top of the penalty area lofted a shot that deflected off Bucci's outstretched right hand and floated just under the crossbar to seal the victory.

It was Ravanelli's sixth goal in the cup, tying him with Parma's Mario Branca for leading scorer in this year's edition.

Juventus, who last won the Italian Cup in 1990, clinched the Italian First Division title by beating Parma 4-0 on May 21.

The Turin team's nine Italian cups and 23 league titles are both records.

Juventus also claimed both laurels in 1959-60. Torino did so in 1942-43 and Napoli in 1986-87.

Betis climb into third

MADRID, June 12: Betis defeated cross-town rivals Sevilla 2-1 Sunday with goals by Wojciech Kowalczyk of Poland and Julian Sabas to lift the first division newcomers into third place and headed toward their first European soccer play since 1978, reports AP.

Kowalczyk slotted in Betis' first goal in the 15th minute and Sabas made it 2-0 in the 78th before Sevilla fought back with an 83rd minute goal by Rafa Paz.

The win gives Betis 44 points, five behind No. 2 Deportivo de La Coruna with one week to go in the season, and in a strong position for a UEFA Cup berth next year.

Real Madrid, who clinched their 26th league championship in an earlier round, defeated Celta 0-2 Saturday to stay six points ahead of Deportivo, who are the guaranteed runners up for the second year in a row.

In other games Sunday it was: Valladolid 0, Athletic de Bilbao 1; Oviedo 1, Sporting 0; Real Sociedad 0, Racing de

Santander 1; Tenerife 1, Espanyol 1; and Atletico Madrid 2, Zaragoza 0. In other Saturday games, it was: Barcelona 0, Albacete 1; Deportivo 5, Logrones 0; and Valencia 4, Compostela 1.

Valladolid 0, Athletic de Bilbao 1. Julien Guerrero scored his 13th goal of the season in the 63rd minute to give Athletic the win and lift the side to within two points of Barcelona, their opponents in next week's final round.

Oviedo 1, Sporting de Gijon 0. Oliverio "Oli" Alvarez gave Oviedo a 1-0 victory with his 50th-minute goal to lift his side to No. 8 with 39 points. Sporting's loss assured them a spot in playoffs against a Second Division team that they must win to stay in the First Division.

Real Sociedad 0, Racing de Santander 1

Russian international Dimitri Radchenko's goal in the 20th minute was all Racing needed to defeat Real Sociedad and win a crucial two points that keep them out of demotion playoffs against Second Division teams.

Tenerife 1, Espanyol 1. Francisco Lopez made it 1-0 for Espanyol in the 36th minute but Argentine Ezequiel Castillo got the equaliser with a 48th-minute header as No. 6 Espanyol drew even on points with No. 5 Sevilla.

3 new faces in Sacchi's squad

ROME, June 12: Coach Arrigo Sacchi, living up to his reputation as an innovator, on Monday named three young newcomers for the exhibition games Italy will play against Switzerland and Germany later this month, reports AP.

Defender Fabio Petrucci and midfielder Francesco Statuto, both of AS Roma, and forward Marco Delvecchio of Internazionale di Milano, were among 21 players called for the games scheduled in Switzerland to celebrate the centenary of the Swiss Soccer Federation.



Parma's Dino Baggio (L) is tackled by Juventus' Moreno Torricelli during their Italian Cup second leg encounter in Parma on June 11. Juventus won 2-0 and 3-0 on aggregate to complete a league and cup double. — AFP/UNB photo

Luckless day for Lancs

LONDON, June 12: Glamorgan handed Lancashire their first defeat of the season in any competition on Sunday when they fiercely defended a small total to win their Sunday league clash at Old Trafford, reports Reuter.

The Welsh county bowled and fielded brilliantly after scoring only 162 with four balls remaining of their 40 overs to beat Lancashire by nine runs.

Steve Watkin took three for 28 from eight overs of steady medium pace and effected the run-out to dismiss the dangerous Neil Fairbrother when the left-hander tried a risky single to backward point.

Unusually, two of Sunday's matches ended in ties.

At Chelmsford in a match reduced to 26 overs due to rain, Jonathan Lewis was run out attempting the second run which would have given Essex victory over Durham.

Both sides finished with the identical score of 116 for nine.

And at Derby the home side needed 14 runs off the final over from left-arm pacesman Paul Taylor to reach their victory target of 201 against Northamptonshire.

Needing two from the final ball, Paul Aldred and Andy Harris could only scramble a bye to the wicketkeeper to level the scores.

Venables vivid yet defeated

LONDON, June 12: England coach Terry Venables said there were plenty of good signs for his side despite being well-beaten by world champions Brazil on Sunday, reports Reuter.

England, who host the European Championships next year, lost when Brazil came from a goal behind to win 3-1, their biggest victory over England for 31 years.

"There are plenty of plus points and I was very pleased with the way we played in the first half," Venables said.

"There is something there for us to build on. After some disappointing performances we got there in the end — nearly. I believe we will be right a year down the line.

"For 60 minutes we did our job right. The free-kick they scored from gave them a lift when they were morally going a bit and then they came into the game."

Brazilian coach Mario Zagalo said: "In the first half we tried to achieve what we managed to achieve in the second. After the first goal from Juninho, England opened up more in defence and we took advantage. We showed we are going the right way for the future."

Brazil's immediate future is the Copa America in Uruguay next month, and Zagalo added: "The result is very important because football is celebrated by victories. The way Brazil played during the second half I think that is the future of Brazilian football."

England skipper David Platt backed up his coach's claims.

"I think there is a great deal of optimism, resolution and honour in the England dressing room. We have probably seen enough from our first half performance to realise we have moved forward."

"The changed their game in the second half but it was the free-kick goal that brought them back into the game."



Brazilian captain Dunga celebrates with the Umbro Cup after beating England in the four-nation soccer final at Wembley Stadium on Sunday. Brazil won the match 3-1. — AFP/UNB photo

Brazil break Wembley jinx

LONDON, June 12: World champions Brazil sent England crashing to their worst home defeat since 1972 on Sunday when they won the last match of the Umbro Cup 3-1 with a superb attacking display in the second half, reports Reuter.

Though England came from two goals down in the final 20 minutes to draw 3-3 with Sweden in mid-week, they could find no way back against the Brazilians in a hard-fought match which ended the week-long four-team tournament.

Although England took the lead with a Graeme Le Saux goal after 39 minutes, Brazil replied with a 55th-minute freekick from Juninho, a 62nd-minute solo effort by Ronaldo and a 77th-minute classic from Edmundo, who pocketed the ball through goalkeeper Jim Flowers' legs to score.

England's last home defeat by such a margin was when West Germany beat them by the same score in a European Championship match at Wembley 23 years ago.

The defeat was also England's first in 10 matches under coach Terry Venables. It stretched Brazil's unbeaten run to 20 matches since November 1993 and earned them the 500,000 pounds (798,500 dollars) first prize for winning the tournament.

Brazilian Joao Havelange, the president of FIFA world soccer's governing body, presented Brazil's World Cup-winning captain Dunga with the Umbro Cup donated by the sponsors.

Brazil had not beaten England in five meetings since winning 1-0 in London in 1981 and at half-time England must have thought they had a good chance of stretching that record.

They led by a goal having played with far more conviction and spirit than in their games against Japan and Sweden.

England, carrying the game to the Brazilians, had a chance to score after seven minutes when Teddy Sheringham nodded across to Alan Shearer who could not connect with a diving header.

At the other end Roberto Carlos went close with a trademark drive that flashed across the English goal, and in the 11th minute Dunga sent Ronaldo away and the PSV Eindhoven teenager lashed the ball against Flowers' right-hand post.

England, with four changes from the team that drew with Sweden, continued to look better with Le Saux, playing in a forward midfield role, helping to create space for Shearer, Sheringham and Darren Anderton up front.

With John Seales tight on Edundo and Colin Cooper sticking close to Ronaldo,

Brazil had fewer options than against Sweden and Japan although the threat was always there when they broke.

And that is exactly how they turned the match.

Le Saux's goal was more typical of the Brazilians. He lofted a high 25-metre left-foot shot over Brazilian goalkeeper Zetti who could only get a despairing hand to the ball.

The equaliser came after Colin Cooper gave away a freekick at the edge of the penalty area, and Juninho swept the ball past Flowers' outstretched hand from 20 metres.

That came 10 minutes into the second half. Seven minutes later Brazil were ahead when Ronaldo ran on to a through ball from Juninho and rounded Flowers to score with England appealing for offside.

The third finished England with Edmundo running on to a long ball out of defence which bounced off Pearce's back, into his path and allowed him to score through Flowers' legs.

Pearce could have pulled one back but turned and shot against the bar.

Brazil's win followed victories by 1-0 over Sweden and 3-0 against Japan. It also made them only the second nation, with Germany in 1972 and 1991, to beat England twice at Wembley.

Two players two from each side were booked.

US eye for '98 WC berth

FOXBORO, Massachusetts, June 12: With the big crowds gone, soccer's spotlight shifted to Europe and uncertainty over the coaching staff, the US soccer team began preparation for 1998 World Cup qualifying with a win.

Sunday's 3-2 victory over Nigeria in the opener of the US Cup '95 tournament was entertaining but not too significant. More important is World Cup qualifying in the North and Central American and Caribbean region, reports AP.

"If you beat Nigeria, Mexico and Colombia, but lose in CONCACAF qualifying, it's meaningless," said Steve Sampson, the US interim coach.

Bora Milutinovic, who led the United States to the second round of the World Cup, was fired on April 14. Sampson is coaching for now, but US Soccer Federation officials want to hire Carlos Alberto Parreira, who coached Brazil to the title last summer.

With the start of the new American league nearly a year away, the national team is the only top-level soccer available for live viewing. Sunday's game was the first time the top Americans played together since last July 4, when they lost to Brazil 1-0 and were eliminated from the World Cup.

"When you have the full team, you have to get results," said Brad Friedel, who took over from Tony Meola as the No 1 goalkeeper.

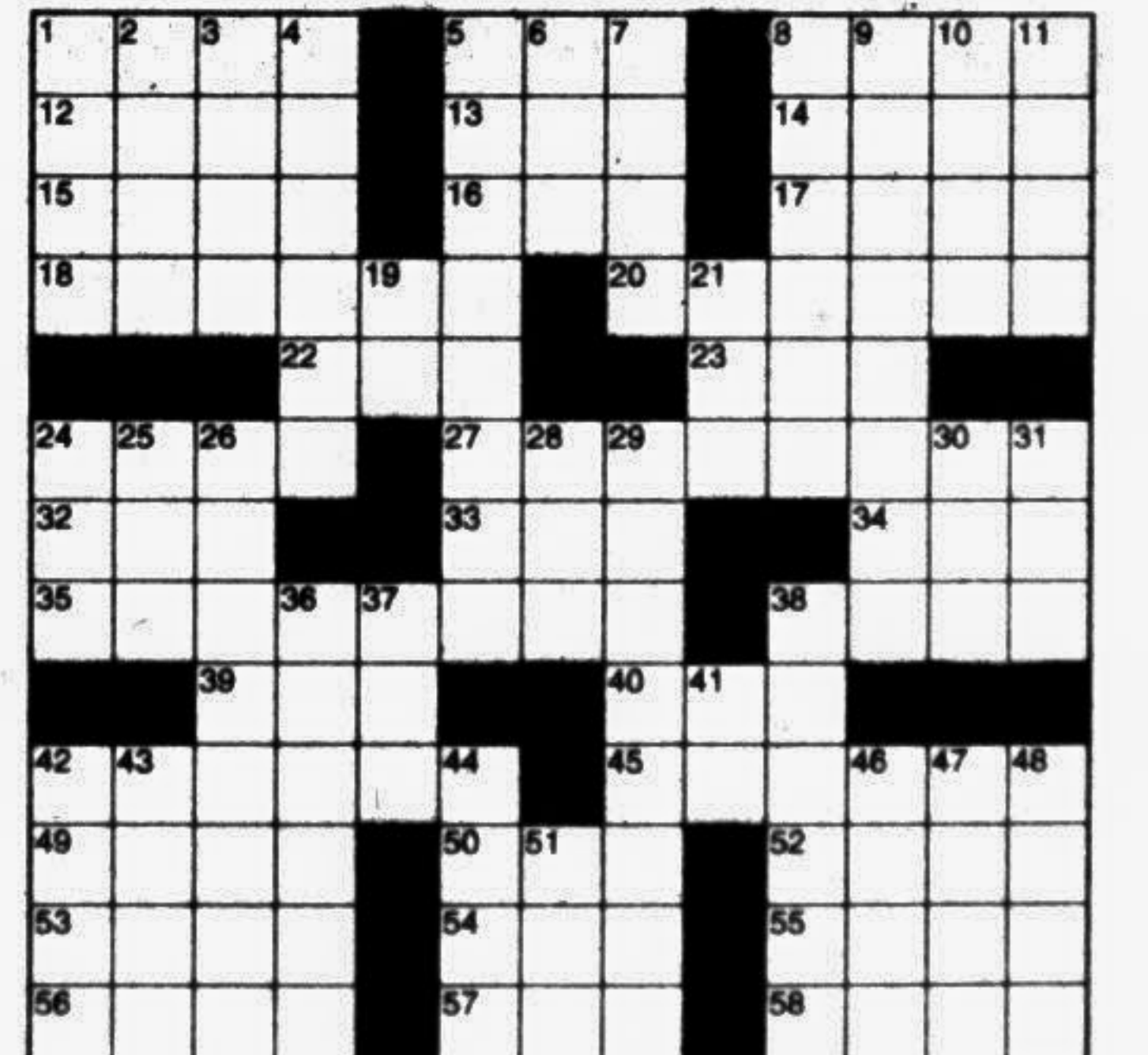
"Everyone on this team is trying to show the coach of the team that they can be in the starting 11 for the next World Cup and the qualifiers," said Cobi Jones, who scored the winning goal with 22 minutes left.

Meanwhile, after spending two days with Carlos Alberto Parreira, the executive director of the US Soccer Federation all but said he wants to hire the Brazilian as coach of the American national team.

"I think he wants to put some roots down in his life," Hank Steinbecker said Sunday during halftime of the game between the United States and Nigeria.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Diet target 5 Use a straw 8 Commercial 12 "Damn Yankees" temptress 13 Prior night 14 Fruit-flavored treats 16 Loony Louis 17 Scandina-vian man's name 18 Pamper 20 Kind of apple or potato 22 Har- varder's rival 23 Obtain 24 Treaty 27 Sleepwear of a sort 32 Oklahoma city 33 Old French coin 34 Gun- lobby org. 35 Lamaist land 38 Minimal change 39 "Town"



CRYPTOQUIP

Q D T S D T Q O J O C O C M , H D T G F A T J H J G T S H H A Z T A S D A J G F O M G T S .

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: TO MAKE THE CHICKEN COOP MORE SECURE, I'LL INSTALL A PEEP HOLE. Today's Cryptiquip clue: C equals B

The Cryptiquip 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.