

Feeling persecuted by media

LONDON, Oct 17 (Reuters/Internet): England coach Glenn Hoddle dismissed reports of a 'dressing' room bust-up with captain Alan Shearer as 'vicious lies' on Saturday and defender Gareth Southgate said the team felt persecuted by the media.

Hoddle said he was beginning to believe what he had been told that there were 'people out there' trying to undermine his job.

Southgate, who scored England's third goal on Wednesday night, said he was 'amused and bemused' by what was written.

"I thought I must have been in a different dressing room quite frankly," he told BBC radio.

"As far as I am aware there was nothing out of the ordinary on Wednesday night," he added.

Asked whether the players were convinced that some people were out to 'get' the coach, he said:

"Yes, I think we are convinced that people are out to get everybody, quite honestly."

British Sports Minister Tony Banks said it was time the fans and media got behind Hoddle.

"Everyone thinks they know how to pick a winning team," Banks told BBC radio.

The trouble is the people with these opinions are usually propping up bars or writing newspaper columns.

"It is all about results. If he (Hoddle) gets results then obviously everyone thinks he is going to walk on water and does walk on water. If he doesn't they will want to drown him in it. It is an impossible job."

Thrilling win puts Real atop

MADRID, Oct 18: Real Madrid beat leaders Real Zaragoza 4-3 in a thrilling match on Saturday to return to the top of the Spanish First Division, reports Reuters.

The two teams started the day occupying the top two places in the league and the battle for supremacy in Zaragoza did not disappoint, with four goals scored before halftime.

Fernando Hierro started the goal deluge after 11 minutes, converting a penalty after Croatian left winger Robert Jarni was brought down by the Zaragoza goalkeeper Juanmi Garcia.

Roberto Carlos put the European champions two ahead eight minutes later but Zaragoza's Savo Milesevic got the hosts back into the game after 25 minutes.

Spanish international Raul Gonzalez celebrated his return to the ground where he made his First Division debut four years ago by scoring his sixth goal of the season to put Real 3-1 up.

However, Zaragoza narrowed the gap again when Gustavo Lopez scored after 63 minutes. Fredrag Mijatovic netted Real Madrid's fourth after 74 minutes but once again the two goal advantage did not last long.

Four minutes later Kily Gonzalez scored when a header from Real Madrid captain Manuel Sanchis landed at his feet.

Zaragoza were unlucky not to get a share of the points three minutes from time when a shot from Milesevic triggered an excellent save from Real Madrid goalkeeper Bodo Illgner.

The winning coach Guss Hiddink praised both sides for their determination to attack.

"What we saw was two very motivated sides, both teams played their part in a great game," Hiddink said.

The victory took the pressure of Hiddink after recent defeats by Spartak Moscow and Real Betis.

"A club like Real Madrid did not lose three consecutive games although we were aware that we were playing the league leaders," he added.

Despite going back to the top of the Spanish First Division, Hiddink was not fully satisfied with the performance.

Real Madrid's neighbours Atletico also notched three points with a 2-0 win over Tenerife, all the action at the Vicente Calderon was packed into the last 20 minutes.

Brazilian midfielder Juninho, a half-time substitute, scored from the penalty spot after Felipe Minambres brought down Spanish international striker Kiko Narvaez.

In a game which saw the 14 bookings, Tenerife lost two men in less than a minute when Brazilians Andre Luiz and then Emerson were given their marching orders for fouls.

There was not a Brazilian left on the pitch two minutes later when Juninho was sent off for a dangerous tackle. Roberto Fresnedoso added a second goal for Atletico two minutes in the injury time.

Barcelona once again struggled against their bogey team of recent years, Salamanca, in their own Camp Nou Stadium and had to settle for a 1-1 draw.

The Catalan club opened the scoring after 58 minutes, with Dutch World Cup player Philip Cocu scoring his first goal for his new club. Salamanca equalised five minutes later through Edu Alonso and despite the sending off of Everton Giovannella with 15 minutes to go, Barcelona could not get a second goal although the draw maintained their unbeaten record.

Celta Vigo are also undefeated and extended their growing reputation with a 3-0 away win at Real Betis. The game turned on the sending-off of Fernando Sanchez after just 18 minutes.

Second half goals from Claude Makelele, Juan Sanchez and Jorge Cadete left Real Betis still mired in the relegation zone.

Runs flow in Peshawar

PESHAWAR, Oct 18 (Reuters/AP): Ijaz Ahmed completed his Test best of 155 for Pakistan today as the high-scoring second Test against Australia headed for a draw.

Pakistan declared their first innings at 580 for nine in response to Australia's 599 for four declared and the touring team were 21 for nought - leading overall by 40 - at the close on the fourth day.

Out-of-form Ijaz resumed at 125 and went on to make 155, his highest score in his 47th Test which beat his previous best of 151, made against West Indies last year.

Ijaz was finally out, cutting leg-spinner Stuart MacGill to be caught at the wicket by Ian Healy, having struck 24 fours in an innings of 386 minutes and 279 balls.

He shared a 115-run third wicket stand in 133 minutes with Inzamamul Haq, who missed a century by just three runs.

The 28-year-old Inzamam edged paceman Glenn McGrath to Healy after hitting 16 fours during a four-hour effort.

"I don't know whether this ground is lucky or unlucky for me," said Haq. He ran short of partners after scoring 92 not out at the same venue last year against the West Indies. And in the inaugural Test here at the Arbab Niaz Stadium in 1995-96 season the burly batsman was dismissed for 95 against Arjuna Ranatunga-led Sri Lanka in Peshawar.

"There is always some pressure when a player crosses the 90-run mark," Haq said after missing his seventh Test hundred in 48th Test match. He had missed the three-figure mark on two more occasions - both against South Africa. He was out for 95 in a one-off Test at Johannesburg in 1994-95 and was dismissed for 96 at Faisalabad in Pakistan.

Once Pakistan had avoided the follow on at 400, runs came easily as the Australian bowlers struggled on a flat pitch. From an overnight 329 for two, Pakistan carried their total to 410 at lunch while losing only the wicket of Ijaz.

It was during the second session that Australia had some success, picking up three wickets as 91 were added.

From 501 for six at tea, Pakistan went past their highest total against Australia in Pakistan - 537 made at Rawalpindi in 1994-95 - as Mushtaq Ahmed and Azhar Mahmood added 50 for the eighth wicket in only 75 balls.

The batting of Mushtaq won all the applause late in the day he hit a tiring Mark Waugh for a massive straight six and played some handsome shots to re-

main unbeaten with 48, containing one six and six fours.

Azhar made 26 before falling to McGrath, mistiming a pull shot to Justin Langer at cover, and with Mohammad Zahid leg before to Damien Fleming, the declaration came.

Australia, 1-0 up on the three-Test encounter, are seeking their first series win in 39 years.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the fourth day of the second cricket Test between Pakistan and Australia on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 599-4 declared (M Taylor 334 not out, J Langer 116; R Ponting 76 not out)

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 329-2) Anwar c Healy b Miller 126

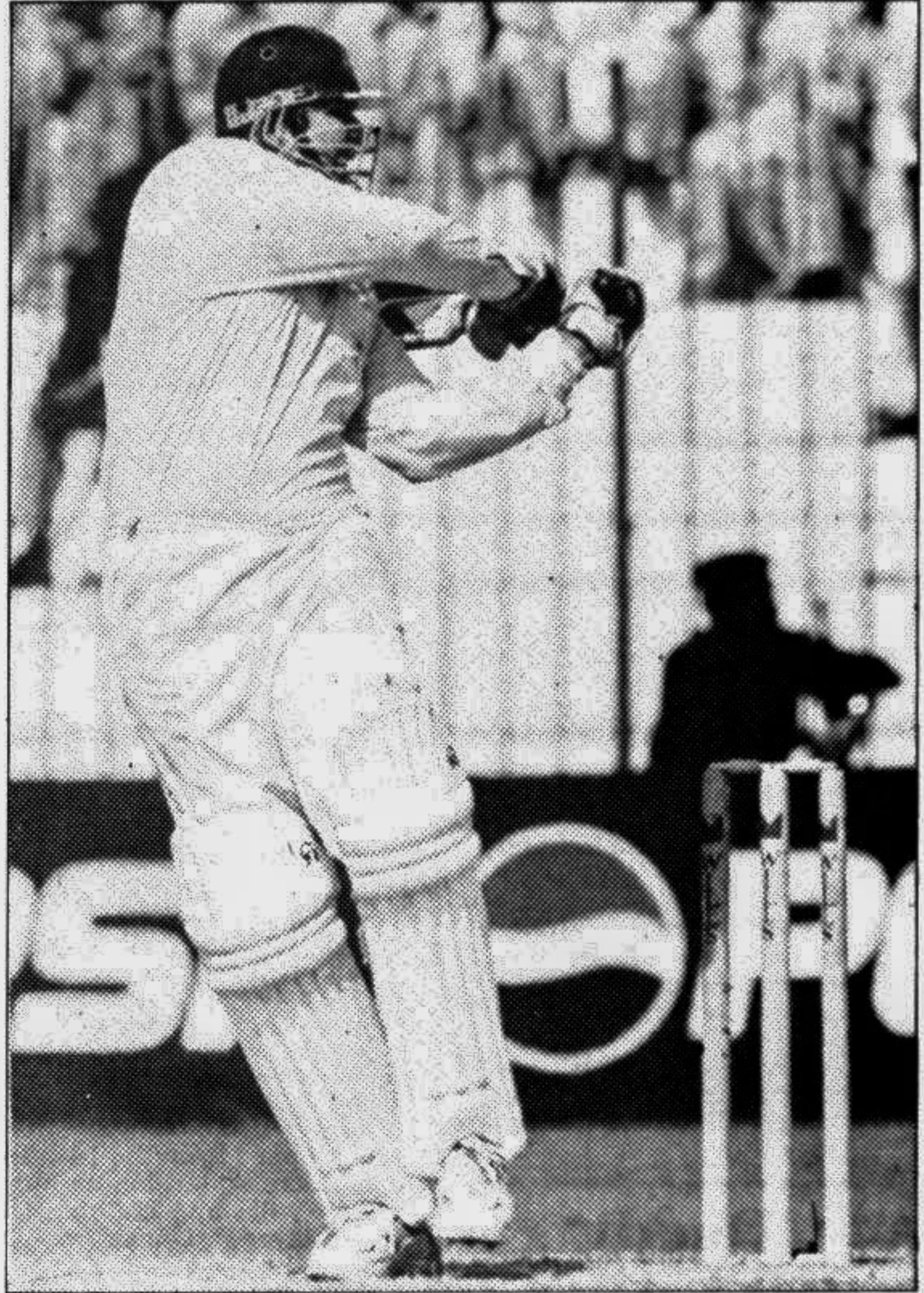
Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Extras. Includes Azhar Mahmood, MacGrath, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohammad Zahid, Extras (lb-1, nb-4), Total (for nine wkts declared) 580.

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes Shoaib Akhtar, MacGrath, Fleming, MacGill, Miller, M Waugh, S Waugh, Ponting.

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Inzamam-ul-Haq, the brilliant Pakistani batsman, pulls during his 97 on Day Four of the second Test against Australia at Peshawar yesterday. - AFP photo

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Extras. Includes Shoaib c Fleming b MacGrath, Ijaz c Healy b MacGill, Inzamam c Healy b S Waugh, Malik c Taylor b MacGrath, Youhanna c S Waugh b MacGill, Moin Khan c Healy b Ponting.

'A beautiful cup' From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, Oct 18: It's a cup with a difference.

The glittering six-kilogram gold and silver crafted cup, to be presented to the winning team of the nine-nation Wills International tournament in Dhaka on November one, has 'bowed out' former Indian skipper Kapil Dev.

The Cup is beautiful. I'm delighted to be able to lay my hands on it now," said Kapil as he removed the glass casing of the cup that shows how cricket integrates nations. An exquisite piece of craftsmanship, the Cup, formally handed over to the Minister (Press) of Bangladesh High Commission, Atiqur Rahman, by Kapil here yesterday, was designed by Jaipur-based Arun Industries.

The praise about the Cup by Kapil Dev is not just rhetoric, usually associated with such functions, because it comes from a man who has held aloft quite a few trophies and cups, including the Prudential World Cup at the Lord's in 1983.

Arun Fabuwal of Arun Industries, said the Wills International Cup is different from the Reliance World Cup (1987), MRF-Nehru Cup (1989), Hero Cup (1993), Wills World Cup (1996) and Independence Cup (1997) which were also made by his company.

"All our previous trophies are taller and this time we tried something shorter with a three-sided base," Fabuwal said here yesterday.

The main body of the Wills International Cup comprises a bowl which represents a cricket field and in the middle is a cricket ball on top of which there is a batsman playing a shot. Flags of all nine countries, taking part in the Dhaka tournament, are engraved around the bowl.

Antlers atop alone

TOKYO, Oct 18 (Reuters/Internet): Despite the first-half dismissal of Brazilian striker Marcelo, Kashima Antlers beat Yokohama Marinos 2-1 in extra-time on Saturday.

The winner came off a corner kick headed home by Brazilian midfielder Jorginho and helped Kashima leap frog over Jubilo Iwata and Urawa Reds into the top spot in the standings.

Typhoon Zeb struck Japan on Saturday, forcing several matches to be played in high winds and heavy rain.

Jubilo was upset 2-1 by Sanfrecce Hiroshima despite a goal from league-leading scorer Masashi Nakayama, which gave him 29th season. Sanfrecce won with first-half goals by Aurelio Vidmar and Tatsuhiko Kubo.

A golden goal from Argentine Fernando Oliva gave Shimizu S-Pulse a 1-0 extra-time win against Reds. The loss dropped Reds from second to third in the standings.

Tomotaka Fukagawa scored a 79th-minute winner to give Gassale Sapporo a 3-2 home win over fifth-placed Nagoya, while 2,574 braved the rain to watch JEF United Ichihara lose a home-match to Kyoto Purple Sanga 2-1 that went to extra-time.

Takayuki Yamaguchi and Fernando scored as Verdy Kawasaki beat Cerezo Osaka 2-1. Kashiwa Reysol beat Gamba Osaka 2-0 on goals from Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov and Nozomu Kato.

Russian striker Igor Ledakhov scored twice as Yokohama Flügels won 4-3 at home against Vissel Kobe.

Olympic blast: One charged

WASHINGTON, Oct 18 (AP): Eric Robert Rudolph, one of the FBI's 10 most-wanted fugitives, was charged Wednesday with the 1996 bombing at the Olympic and two other attacks in Atlanta.

Attorney General Janet Reno, accompanied at a news conference by FBI Director Louis Freeh, said the criminal complaint charging Rudolph with the Olympic blast and the 1997 bombings of a gay bar and an abortion clinic was being filed with a federal court.

"Eric Rudolph is on the run," Reno said. "We are going to keep searching until we find him and we're not going to rest until we bring him to justice."

Freeh said Rudolph now is charged with six bombings, including the three attacks in Atlanta and the January 29 bombing of a Birmingham, Alabama abortion clinic for which he was charged earlier. Freeh mentioned six bombs, because secondary bombs were placed at both the Atlanta clinic and at the bar.

Federal authorities released a new picture of Rudolph - one the said they believe represents how he looked at the time of the bombings in Centennial Park during the Olympics. It shows Rudolph wearing khaki shorts, a green T-shirt and dark socks and shoes.

The initial investigation into the Olympic park bombing focused on Richard Jewell, a security guard who discovered the bomb. His name was leaked to the media, but he was never charged. Eventually, the FBI publicly ruled him out.

Wayne Grant Jewell's lawyer, said it would be inappropriate for Jewell to comment on the latest development. Both Reno and Freeh appealed to the public for assistance in apprehending Rudolph, who has been believed hiding out in North Carolina.

Reno recalled the bombing that shattered the Olympics in the summer of 1996 "as thousands milled nearby." She said authorities were determined to press ahead against senseless violence.



DARK HORSES: The Zimbabwean players and officials line up for a team photo at their hotel lobby yesterday. - Star photo

Latif hands over cassette of 'hidden secrets'

LAHORE, Pakistan, Oct 18 (Reuters/Internet): Former captain Rashid Latif gave taped evidence to a judicial commission investigating charges of betting and match-fixing in Pakistan cricket, legal sources said on Sunday.

They said Latif submitted a video and audiotape to Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum on Saturday but recorded his statement in camera. It will not be released.

Ali Sibtain Fazli, lawyer for the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), said the evidence has yet to be examined.

"But he has provided Justice Qayyum a video and audiotape which is expected to unfold several hidden secrets," Fazli, told the news agency.

The video is expected to show footage of matches that are suspected to have been fixed. The audiotape is believed to carry a conversation between bookmakers and some cricketers involved in the probe, sources close to Latif said.

"Rashid Latif has told the judge that even Saeed Anwar was offered a bribe three but he turned down the offer," one source close to Latif said.

Latif accused Salim Malik of fixing matches on the 1994-95 tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe. He announced his retirement decision on the same tour but reversed his decision three months later.

An interim report released by the PCB recommended that Malik, Ijaz Ahmed and Wasim Akram should not be selected until the investigations were completed.

Malik and Ahmed are playing in the second Test against Australia at Peshawar but Akram pulled out because of flu.

He, however, took part in the first Test, which Australia won by an innings and 99 runs.

All the three players deny the allegations.

"We are reaching somewhere. The evidence is coming. The Australians gave some information and now Latif has provided us more."

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Nine-man Roma stun Fiorentina

ROME, Italy, Oct 17 (Reuters/Internet): Russian Dmitry Alenichev and Francesco Totti scored in the dying minutes to lead nine-man AS Roma to an extraordinary 2-1 comeback victory over leaders Fiorentina in the Italian first division on Saturday.

Fiorentina, winners of their first four matches, were on the verge of making it five in a row after Gabriel Batistuta scored with a neat lob in the 31st and Roma's Luigi Di Biagio and Vincent Candela were sent off midway through the second-half.

Fiorentina's Giulio Falcone was also shown the red card in a

tussle with France's Candela. But Roma dramatically turned the tables in the 90th minute thanks to the efforts of Argentine Gustavo Bartelt, a late substitute for an ineffectual Marco Delvecchio, who set up both the goalscorers.

Fiorentina had dominated the match but seemed to grow complacent after in-form Brazilian striker Edmundo was substituted late in the second-half.

Bartelt took advantage of Fiorentina's dormant back four, crossing from the touchline twice in the final two minutes with almost identical passes.

His first cross found Alenichev - himself a late substitute - unmarked in the area. The Russian simply slotted the ball past a helpless Francesco Toldo for the dramatic equaliser.

Two minutes into injury time, the 24-year-old Argentine again crossed diagonally into the area.

Toldo got a hand on the ball this time but Italy's Totti pounced on the deflection and fired it home.

"We showed great character. I did not win this match with my substitutions - the players on the pitch won it with their incredible determination," Roma's Czech coach Zdenek Zeman said.

Fiorentina defender Pasquale Padalino partly blamed his team's amazing collapse on the mercurial Edmundo, who yelled and gestured angrily at veteran coach Giovanni Trapattoni as he left the pitch in the 72nd minute.

"You can't behave like that. He showed a lack of respect to towards the entire team," Padalino said.

Trapattoni admitted substituting the Brazilian may have been a mistake. Fiorentina officials said they were considering punishing the player for his gesture.

Fiorentina, with 12 points, now hold a two-point lead over Roma and Inter Milan. Inter will take over at the top if they beat Lazio on Sunday.

Elsewhere, goals by Enrico Chiesa and Diego Fuser gave Parma a 2-0 win over Salernitana while Empoli and Bologna drew 0-0.

Aussies on the wagon

SYDNEY, Oct 18 (AFP/Internet): Shane Warne's Victoria State cricketers have signed a pledge to abstain from alcohol during matches.

At the instigation of coach John Scholes, the Victorians have agreed to go teetotal in the lead-up to and during Sheffield State games.

They have also agreed to stay off alcohol when representing the team at public receptions even though the club's major sponsor is Carlton and United Breweries.

Scholes is also encouraging the players - headed by spin-artist Warne - to smoke less in public.

"The players have embraced it. We don't think it's acceptable for our public image and we don't think it is ideal when you are preparing for a cricket match," Scholes told the Melbourne Age on Thursday.

Cricketers 'not louts', says Doig

CHRISTCHURCH, Oct 18 (Internet): The perception of New Zealand cricketers as 'booze-drinking louts' by some of the public is unfair, said NZC's chief executive, Christopher Doig.

Doig said some of the public had an image of the team taken from the past of beer-swilling and unprofessional antics.

"We are now constantly getting good reports about the team's behaviour from airline staff, at hotels, and from the general public," he said.

Doig said the group had responded well to the code of conduct enforced by team manager John Graham, and was an exceptionally well-disciplined sports team.

Doig said he wanted the public to judge the side not from past off-field problems, but how it was now.



'BATIGOL' TAKES OFF: Fiorentina's Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta is ecstatic after giving his side the lead against AS Roma in a Serie A clash at Rome on October 17. Roma, however, scored twice in the last four minutes to snatch an unlikely 2-1 victory. - AFP photo



A Rahman (R) press councillor of the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, and Wills International representative K Dasaratharaman holding the Wills International Cup in New Delhi on October 17. - AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues. Includes categories like ACROSS, DOWN, and Cryptic clues. Example: 1 Yon maiden, 34 Hebridean, etc.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid and solution. Includes the clue: Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IS A MATERNITY HOSPITAL SIMPLY AN HEIRPORT? Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals W.