

Sport

Inter Milan rout Roma

ROME, Dec 21: (Reuters/AFP): Roberto Baggio came on as a second half substitute to inspire Inter Milan to a 4-1 victory over title rivals AS Roma on Sunday - but the result hinged on the sending off of Roma's Fabio Petrucci in the 73rd minute.

Inter were trailing to Paolo Sergio's 38th minute goal with Roma dominating when Baggio was brought on for France's Youri Djorkaeff in the 55th minute.

Four minutes later, his neat pass found Francesco Colonnese free on the right and his cross was turned home by Frenchman Benoit Cauet for a timely equaliser.

With the match finely balanced, Baggio then duped Petrucci into a clumsy foul which earned the Roma defender a red card. The visitors were still reorganising when Diego Simeone's 40-metre pass released Chilean Ivan Zamorano to make it 2-1.

Baggio got on the scoresheet himself in the 87th minute before setting up Javier Zanetti for a fourth to give Inter their best win of the season and end Roma's seven match unbeaten run.

The victory lifted Inter ahead of Roma into fourth place, five points behind league leaders Fiorentina, who conceded a last minute goal in their 2-2 draw at Perugia.

The dropped points allowed Parma to reduce the Florence side's lead at the top with a thrilling 5-3 victory at Empoli.

As Serie A stops for a two-



ROBERTO BAGGIO

Five minutes into it, Spaniard Guillermo Amor handled in the area and Nakata kept his nerve to level the scores with his seventh goal in his first season.

Nakata shared the limelight with Filippo Inzaghi, whose hat-trick gave struggling champions Juventus a morale-boosting 3-0 victory over relegation candidates Salernitana.

Parma's defence had been

beaten just six times in their previous 13 matches, but they conceded two goals in the opening 45 minutes at Empoli as Alessandro Pani and Arturo di Napoli twice put the home side in front.

Argentina's Hernan Crespo, with his first goal outside Parma's Tardini stadium in 10 months, and Frenchman Alain Boghossian levelled the scores by halftime before Italy midfielder Diego Fuser edged Parma in front in the 57th minute.

Stefano Flore added a superb fourth before Di Napoli's 88th minute second briefly raised Empoli's hopes of salvaging a point. Fuser's second in the 90th finished the home side off.

Argentine Ariel Ortega's 87th minute equaliser gave former England midfielder David Platt a morale-boosting 2-2 draw on his first appearance as Samp's manager.

Lazio beat Udinese 3-1 in a match which started with a one-minute silence for the victims of the apartment building collapse in Rome last week. The team wore black armbands as a mark of respect.

The match itself was only underway for five minutes before Tomas Locatelli opened the scoring for Udinese.

Roberto Mancini soon equalised for Lazio after collecting a long ball forward from Yugoslav defender Sinisa Mihajlovic.

But the victory had a Chilean stamp on it, with Marcelo Salas scoring twice in the second half.

In other matches Piacenza were 3-2 winners over Bari, Venezia drew 0-0 with Venezia and Bologna beat Cagliari 1-0.

Hosts humiliate Indians

DUNEDIN, Dec 21 (AP/Reuters/Internet): New Zealand gave an early glimpse of their batting strength in the form of Stephen Fleming and Craig McMillan as they easily overpowered India by 66 runs in a limited-over cricket match at Carisbrook Oval on Monday.

The exhibition day night match, played on what would have been the fourth day of the abandoned first cricket Test, was the first outing for both teams after they had been confined indoors due to continuing rain that robbed the first game of the three-Test series.

New Zealand batting first hammered 304 for six in 50 overs and India replied with 238 for eight.

After Matt Bell and Matt Horne (64) had launched an early attack on the new-ball pair of Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad, Fleming, 73 off 64 balls and McMillan (46) hammered a run-a-ball 95 runs for the fourth wicket.

After opener Navjot Sidhu (10) had fallen cheaply, Laxman and Rahul Dravid (51) figured in a 112-run stand before India lost their way.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the day-night exhibition match between a New Zealand XI and an Indian XI on Monday:

NEW ZEALAND XI

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Bell c Ganguly b Kumble | 27 |
| Horne Laxman b Ganguly | 64 |
| Fleming c Prasad b Tendulkar | 73 |
| Asle c Mongia b Prasad | 2 |
| McMillan c Kumble b Laxman | 46 |
| Parore not out | 24 |
| Cairns b Kumble | 22 |
| Nash not out | 23 |
| Extras: (lb-13, w-1, nb-9) | 23 |
| Total: (For six wickets) | 304 |

Fall of wkt: 1-65; 2-122; 3-133; 4-228; 5-235; 6-264

Did not bat: D Vettori, S O'Connor, G. Allott

| | | | | |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
| Srinath | 8 | 0 | 55 | 0 |
| Prasad | 8 | 0 | 47 | 1 |
| R Singh | 6 | 0 | 39 | 1 |
| Kumble | 10 | 0 | 50 | 2 |
| Ganguly | 8 | 0 | 39 | 1 |
| Tendulkar | 7 | 0 | 44 | 1 |
| Laxman | 3 | 0 | 17 | 1 |

INDIAN XI

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Laxman c Bell b Cairns | 82 |
| Sidhu run out | 10 |
| Dravid c Horne b O'Connor | 51 |
| Tendulkar c and b Astle | 16 |
| Azharuddin not out | 44 |
| Ganguly c Vettori b Nash | 8 |
| Mongia c Astle b Nash | 2 |
| Kumble b Allott | 6 |
| Srinath b O'Connor | 7 |
| Prasad not out | 2 |
| Extras: (lb-18, w-4, nb-2) | 10 |
| Total (For eight wickets) | 238 |

Fall of wkt: 1-18; 2-130; 3-165; 4-165; 5-192; 6-200; 7-211; 8-222

Did not bat: R Singh

| | | | | |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
| Allott | 10 | 0 | 49 | 1 |
| Cairns | 7 | 1 | 29 | 1 |
| O'Connor | 10 | 0 | 43 | 2 |
| Nash | 8 | 0 | 36 | 2 |
| Vettori | 4 | 0 | 22 | 0 |
| Astle | 10 | 0 | 44 | 1 |
| McMillan | 1 | 0 | 11 | 0 |

Result: New Zealand won by 66 runs.

Tasmania crush Queensland

BRISBANE, Dec 21: Tasmania destroyed Queensland inside three days to win their Sheffield Shield cricket match by eight wickets at the Gabba here today, reports AFP.

Panamanian striker Dely Valdes scored Oviedo's goal to beat Real Madrid in the 75th minute.

Barcelona coach Louis Van Gaal has probably been spared by his sack before Christmas by the 1-0 win at Valladolid.

The streak of four consecutive losses, their worst run in a decade, was broken thanks to 18-year-old midfielder Xavi Hernandez's first goal for the club.

He headed home after Valladolid goalkeeper Cesar Sanchez could only parry a close range shot from Rivaldo.

Atletico Madrid kept intact their unbeaten home league record, which now stretches back more than a year with a 0-0 draw with Real Zaragoza.

Spanish international striker Ismael Urzaiz got his ninth goal of the season for Athletic Bilbao with the only goal of the match against Villareal.

Joan Capdevila headed home the first Espanyol goal after 35 minutes, Francisco Fariñas equalised just before half-time but Cristobal Parralo won

it for Espanyol 15 minutes from time.

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Barcelona's Netherlands striker Patrick Kluivert (R) skips a tackle by Valladolid's Jose Garcia Calvo in their Spanish Premier league fixture at Valladolid on December 20. Barca won 1-0.

AP/UNB photo



VIVE LA FRANCE! The World Cup winning French soccer team.

—Star file photo

1998: The year of France's soccer revolution

times of an audacious goal scored against them in the second round by England teenager Michael Owen who ran through the defence to strike home after a run and shot of breathtaking skill.

After 120 minutes of unrelenting drama which saw both teams hold the lead an England reduced to 10 men just after half-time when David Backham was sent off, the match finished 2-2. Argentina won 4-3 on penalties to secure a famous victory.

While the tournament saw a change in order at the top with the emergence of France and Croatia and the eclipse of an aging German side and the end of Brazil's reign as world champions, Europe still dominated.

The continent that produced seven of the eight quarter-finalists in 1994 had six in the last eight this time as Africa again failed to mount any sort of challenge.

Egypt, who lifted the African Nations Cup in February, failed to qualify for the World Cup, while runners-up South Africa were out of their depth in the game.

Nigeria topped their group

but crashed to earth in the second round to leave Africa still off the pace as new FIFA president Sepp Blatter argues its case to host the 2006 World Cup.

ELECTION BATTLE

Blatter, 62, succeeded Brazilian Joao Havelange, 20 years his senior, who had been president of the world governing body of 24 years.

The Swiss, Havelange's long-time deputy, won a fierce election battle against UEFA's 68-year-old Swedish president Lennart Johansson for the right to take soccer into the new millennium.

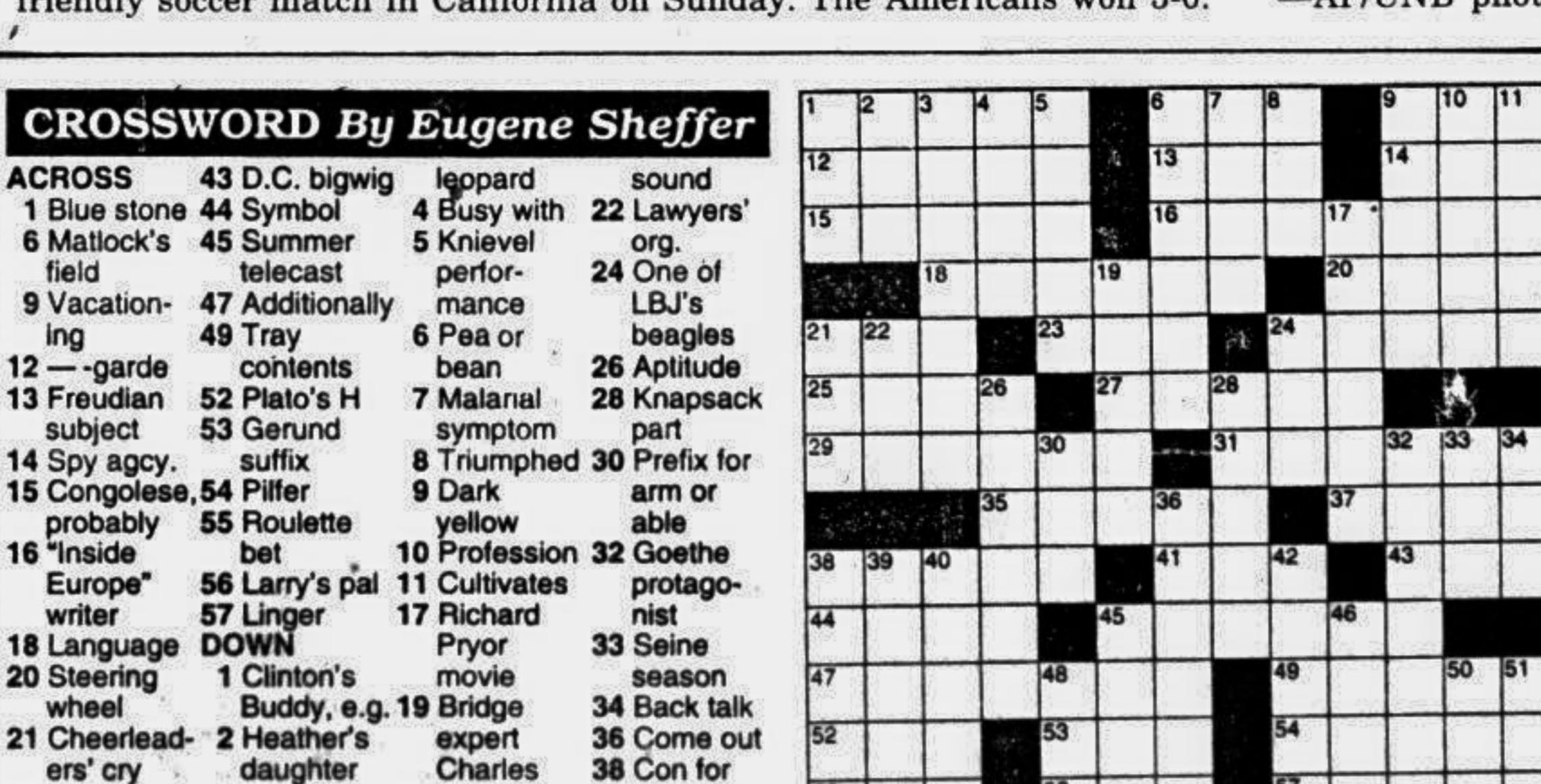
While the World Cup provided most of the on-field drama, administrators such as Johansson and Blatter have been battling to steer the ever-expanding global game forward without it being destroyed by a totally unworkable fixture list and sheer greed from the leading clubs and players. It is not yet clear whether they will succeed.

Once the World Cup was over, UEFA, with FIFA's backing, had to battle hard to see off the threat of a rival European Super League to its own Champions League.

UEFA has responded with an



USA forward Mia Hamm (R) and Ukraine's Oxana Andryushchko go for the ball during a friendly soccer match in California on Sunday. The Americans won 5-0. —AP/UNB photo



CRYPTOQUIP

O' H Y I Y E V R L I E L

L Y U Y B I K S Y K B Y V E L K V

E V Y O S D U O S Y R L K

I E H Y D K S S Y D L O K S N .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THINK ABOUT THIS ONE: WILL YOUR REPAIRED RADIOS BE LIKELY TO WORK OR PLAY?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: S equals N

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.



Barcelona's Netherlands striker Patrick Kluivert (R) skips a tackle by Valladolid's Jose Garcia Calvo in their Spanish Premier league fixture at Valladolid on December 20. Barca won 1-0.

AP/UNB photo