

Twose fit for second ODI

WELLINGTON, Feb 15: New Zealand Cricket said today it would not replace injured all rounder Chris Cairns for its next one day match against South Africa on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Cairns tore his right calf muscle while batting in Sunday night's three-wicket win by New Zealand over South Africa in the series opener in Dunedin.

A total of six one-day internationals and three Tests are scheduled for the Proteas' tour which runs to the end of March.

Cairns' recovery would take two to three weeks, ruling him out of the second and third matches of the series, team physiotherapist Mark Harrison said in a statement.

Batsman Roger Twose's return to fitness from backstrain had led to the decision to make no further changes to the side, NZ Cricket said.

This would also keep in young batsman Matthew Bell, who made 37 against South Africa in Sunday's game — the New Zealanders' second top score — after being called up to replace Twose.

The 21-year-old was earlier dropped for his poor form during India's tour to New Zealand.

SQUAD

Dion Nash (capt), Matt Horne, Nathan Astle, Craig McMillan, Roger Twose, Matthew Bell, Adam Parore, Chris Harris, Daniel Vettori, Gavin Larsen, Simon Doull, Geoff Allott.

Nat'l cricket

N'ganj baffle Biman to reach final

Narayanganj moved into the final of the 24th National Cricket Championship defeating Premier Division champions Bangladesh Biman by 27 runs in the second semifinal yesterday, reports UNB.

Narayanganj will take on Chittagong today in the final. Sports Secretary ASM Shahjahan will watch the final as a chief guest.

Earlier on Sunday, Chittagong reached the final getting a walkover against Rajshahi.

Narayanganj scored 172 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs.

Mridul hit the team highest 65 runs off 96 balls that included four boundaries and two sixes while Mona added 20 runs off 43 deliveries with two fours.

Shariful Haq Plabani, Athar Ali Khan and Saiful Jem captured two wickets each for 25, 27 and 35 runs respectively.

In reply, Biman were restricted to 145 in 47.1 overs.

Halim Shah made 34 and Rupom added 28 runs.

Mona and Zia destroyed opposition batting lineup with three wickets each for 18 and 24 runs respectively.

Shaymal took two wickets for 28 runs.

Nipa's solo lead intact

Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa maintained her solo lead after seventh round matches in the 20th National Women's chess championship at the NSC chessroom yesterday, reports APP.

Nipa who won her previous six matches, drew with Tanima Parveen in this round to raise her tally to 6.5 points.

With the draw, Tanima moved into second place jointly with IWM Rani Hamid who lost her board to Masuda Begum. Tanima and Rani both secured 5.5 points.

Barisal cricket

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 15: Jordon Road SKP defeated KCC Juba Sangha by 25 runs in the First Division cricket league here at the Barisal Stadium today.

Battling first Jordon Road scored 202 runs for eight in stipulated 40 overs.

In reply, KCC scored 177 in 37.4 overs.

Badminton competition

A badminton competition organised by Sunydale School, will be held on February 20, says a press release.

Participation requires no entry fee.

Further information can be obtained by visiting the school's senior section at House No 34, Road No 7, Dharmundi during office hours — 8:30 am-1:30 pm — or by phoning 9118056/9110240.

M'singh cricket

MYMENSINGH, Feb 15: Mukul Faaj Club beat County Nabin team by 59 runs in the Mymensingh First Division Cricket League at the local circuit house ground today, reports UNB.

BRIEF SCORES
MUKUL FAJU CLU: 197 for 40 overs. Omar 53, Nasim 41; Swapani 4/23.

COUNTY NABIN: 138 all out in 38.2 overs. Riaz 35; Sumon 3/19, Pika 2/23, Shohag 2/17.

Meanwhile, Laboratory High School advanced to the final of the inter-school tournament beating Pre-Cadet School by 70 runs.

BRIEF SCORES
LABORATORY HIGH SCHOOL: 144 for 4 in 25 overs. Sian 41 and Asif 30.

PRE-CADET SCHOOL: 74 all out in 20.5 overs. Saikat 30 and Rana 4/10.

Test's test at Eden



CALCUTTA, Feb 15: Test cricket's first multi nation tournament kicks off tomorrow, enlivened by the promise of high voltage action between arch rivals India and Pakistan, reports AFP.

Some 90,000 fans are expected to throng the Eden Gardens for the Asian Test Cham-

ption, also featuring Sri Lanka, is being considered a forerunner of the proposed 'World Championship' of Test cricket.

Each team play the other once in the preliminary league with the top two, based on a comprehensive points system, advancing to the final in the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka from March 12.

In other league matches, India play Sri Lanka in Colombo from February 24 while Pakistan take on Sri Lanka at home in Lahore from March 4.

All matches will be supervised by third country umpires drawn from the international panel. West Indian Steve Bucknor and David Orchard of South Africa will stand in the opening match.

To encourage positive cricket, 12 points will be awarded for an outright win but there will no points for a first innings lead in drawn games.

Eight bonus points are also on offer for batting and bowling, but confined only to the first 100 overs of the first innings.

Teams can get a maximum of four batting points for scoring 350 or more runs and another four for taking nine or 10 wickets in the first 100 overs.

It's Test cricket with a difference," Gaekwad said. "The calculators will be out but the important thing is to win and gain the extra 12 points."

A sporting pitch with a tinge of green, in sharp contrast to the two dusty tracks which provided four-day finishes at Madras and New Delhi, has raised hopes of a thrilling finale to Pakistan's first Test tour of India in 12 years.

"This will be the mother of all battles," Pakistani coach Javed Miandad promised.

"It may be a separate series, but this game is a decider of sorts. Somehow the two Test matches left us unfulfilled an hungry for more."

The Indians gave away their feelings by asking the ground-staff to shave off the grassy wicket to counter Pakistan's devastating pace duo of skipper Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis.

The Indians hid their disappointment at not getting a turn after leg-spinner Anil Kumble's sensational 10-wicket haul in Pakistan's second innings at New Delhi enabled them to square the series.

This wicket has something for everyone," Indian coach Anshuman Gaekwad said. "But it hardly feels we are playing at home."

The path-breaking competi-



MAN OF THE MOMENT: Pakistan off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq bowling in the nets at the Eden Gardens yesterday.

French league feels disturbed

PARIS, Feb 15 (Reuters/ Internet): French soccer officials expressed concern on Monday over the violence that flared at the end of Olympique Marseille's 1-0 defeat at Toulouse on Sunday.

"We are waiting for a report from the referee in a day or two and there will be a disciplinary committee meeting to deal with the matter," league spokesman said.

"But we must admit that we are concerned. This is not the first time Marseille's supporters have been mixed up in outbreaks of violence," he said.

On Sunday, three stewards were injured in clashes with Marseille's fans unhappy with the defeat after a late penalty which leaves their team second in the table, one point behind Girondins Bordeaux.

In December Marseille were banned from using their stadium for one match after their fans invaded the pitch before a 3-0 victory over Metz.

Marseille had to play their League Cup first round match against French champions RC Lens in Caen, losing on penalties.

"It's too early to say if another suspension will hit the Stade Velodrome but clubs must be aware they are responsible for their supporters even when they play away," the spokesman said.

Violence involving fans also stopped a second division match between Cannes and Nice two weeks ago and put Cannes goalkeeper Sebastien Chabert in hospital.

Rare celebration

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 15 (Reuters/ Internet): Africa's smallest country are celebrating a rare soccer triumph after St Michel United of the Seychelles won through to the first round of the African Cup Winners' Cup.

The team from the Indian Ocean island beat Fire Brigade from Mauritius in a penalty shoot-out to win the preliminary round tie on Sunday.

The two teams drew 2-2 on Sunday in the second leg for a 4-4 aggregate score. The Seychelles won the shoot-out 3-2.

It is the first time a team from the islands have won a Cup Winners' Cup tie. St Michel's reward is a trip to Zambia to meet Power Dynamos, a former winner of the competition, in the first round next month.

Seychelles' clubs are traditional whipping boys in Africa's club competitions and the record for the heaviest defeat in the tournament is still held by the country's Anse-Boileau, who lost 12-1 in a Cup Winners' Cup match nine years ago.

The Seychelles' victory was the only major upset in African Champions' League and Cup Winners' Cup preliminary round games at the weekend. The Confederation of African Football have confirmed the one outstanding preliminary round tie in the Champions League between Real Banjul of the Gambia and AS Kaloum of Guinea is to be played next month.

The Gambian team were kicked out of the competition last month for not paying overdue fees but CAF have reinstated them after a late payment by the Gambian association.

The two legs will be played on the same dates as first round matches. The first leg is in Banjul on March 13 and the return in Conakry on March 28.

Maradona not on Kuwait's mind

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 15 (Reuters/ Internet): Former Argentine soccer great Diego Maradona is considering an offer to coach Kuwait, he said on Sunday.

There is a very big chance that I will direct the Kuwaiti team," Argentina's 1986 World Cup winning captain told local radio.

Maradona had a short and unsuccessful career as a coach in Argentina after ending his playing career.

Sacchi is the sixth coach to part company with a Spanish first division club this season.

Sacchi, who replaced Radomir Antic, had been the 21st coaching appointment by club president Jesus Gil in his 21 years at the club.

On his arrival he immediately started rebuilding the team, bringing in 11 new players over the summer, including Lazio pair Vladimir Jugovic and Jose Antonio Chamot.

But he struggled to justify the sale to Lazio of Christian Vieri, last season's top scorer with 24

goals, after the two Italians suffered a public fallout.

His inability to find a place for Juninho in the regular starting line-up also alienated fans -- and almost provoked the Brazilian to move back to England's premier league, although Sacchi eventually managed to persuade the player to stay on and fight for his place.

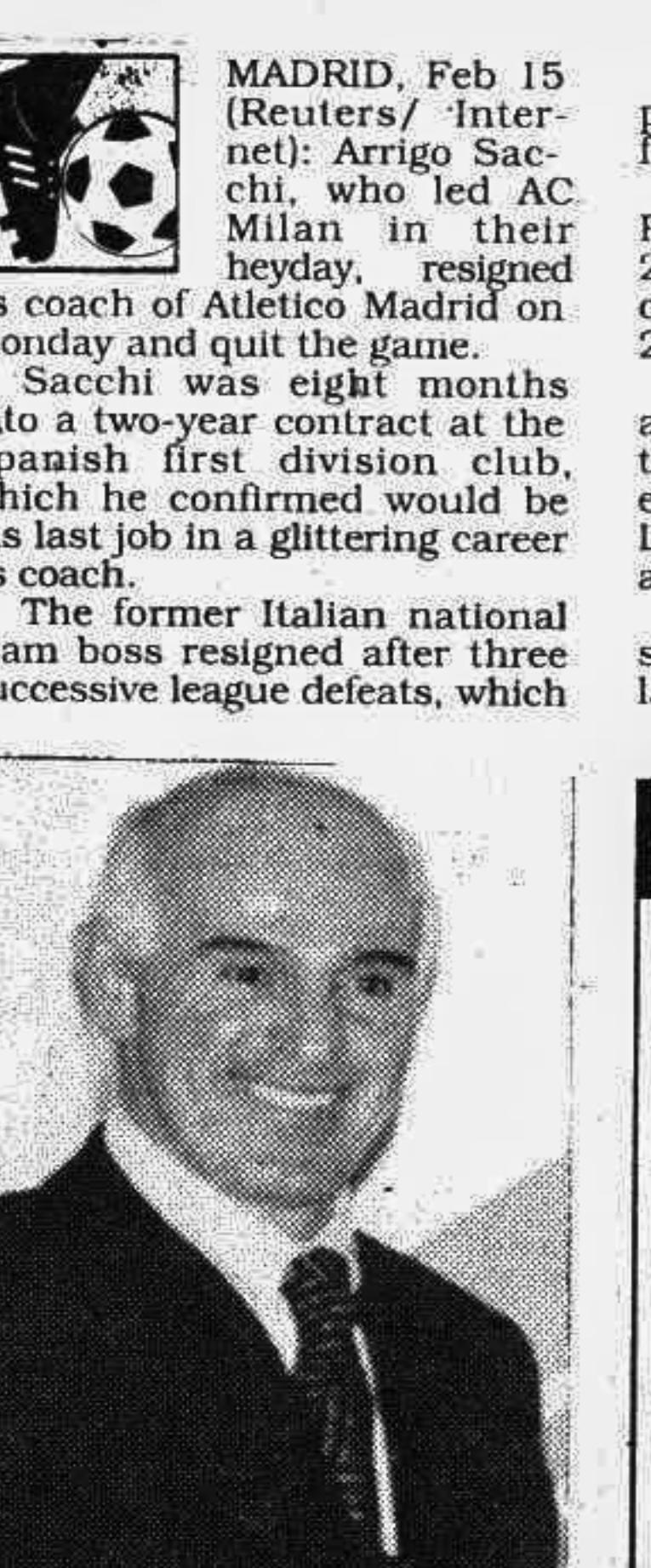
Sacchi, who arrived smiling and relaxed but looked close to tears as he read from a prepared statement, added: "I'm exhausted, which is why I've taken the decision."

FACTFILE

MADRID, Feb 15 (Reuters/ Internet): Arriko Sacchi, who led AC Milan in their heyday, resigned as coach of Atletico Madrid on Monday:

- 1946 Born April 1 in Fusignano, Italy.
- 1972 After a moderate amateur career — and a subsequent seven-year spell working for his father's shoe firm — took first coaching job at his home-town club.
- 1977 Entered professional football as youth coach at Cesena.
- 1982 Appointed first team coach at Serie C club Rimini.
- 1983 Moved to Fiorentina as reserve team coach.
- 1984 Returned to Rimini.
- 1985 Moved to Parma, also in division three. Won promotion in first season in charge.
- 1986 Guided Parma to victory over AC Milan in a cup match, attracting attention of club's owner Silvio Berlusconi.
- 1987 Became coach at AC Milan, beginning one of the most successful reigns by any coach in club football. In his four seasons in charge, Milan won the Italian title, the Italian Supercup (1989), two European Cups (1989 and 90), two European Supercups (1990 and 91) and two Intercontinental Cups (1990 and 91) and played some of the most stylish, attacking football seen in Europe.
- 1991 October — Appointed national team coach after Azzeglio Vicini failed to qualify the team for the 1992 European championship.
- 1994 Took Italy to World Cup in the United States on the back of a run of 19 games with just one defeat. Despite criticism of methods and teams election, Italy reached the final, losing to Brazil on penalties.
- 1996 Quit national team post after disappointing European championship finals in England, when Italy failed to get past the opening group stage.
- 1996 Returned to AC Milan but failed to work another miracle and quit after one year. Spent a season out of the game.
- 1998 May 11 — Joins Atletico Madrid on a two-year contract, saying it would be his last coaching job. Brought in a host of new players, including Lazio pair Vladimir Jugovic and Jose Antonio Chamot. Crucially decided to let Christian Vieri move back to Italy after falling out with the World Cup striker.
- 1999 February 15 — After suffering a run of three successive league defeats, quit with the side in ninth place in the first division, 11 points behind leaders Barcelona.

ARRIGO SACCHI



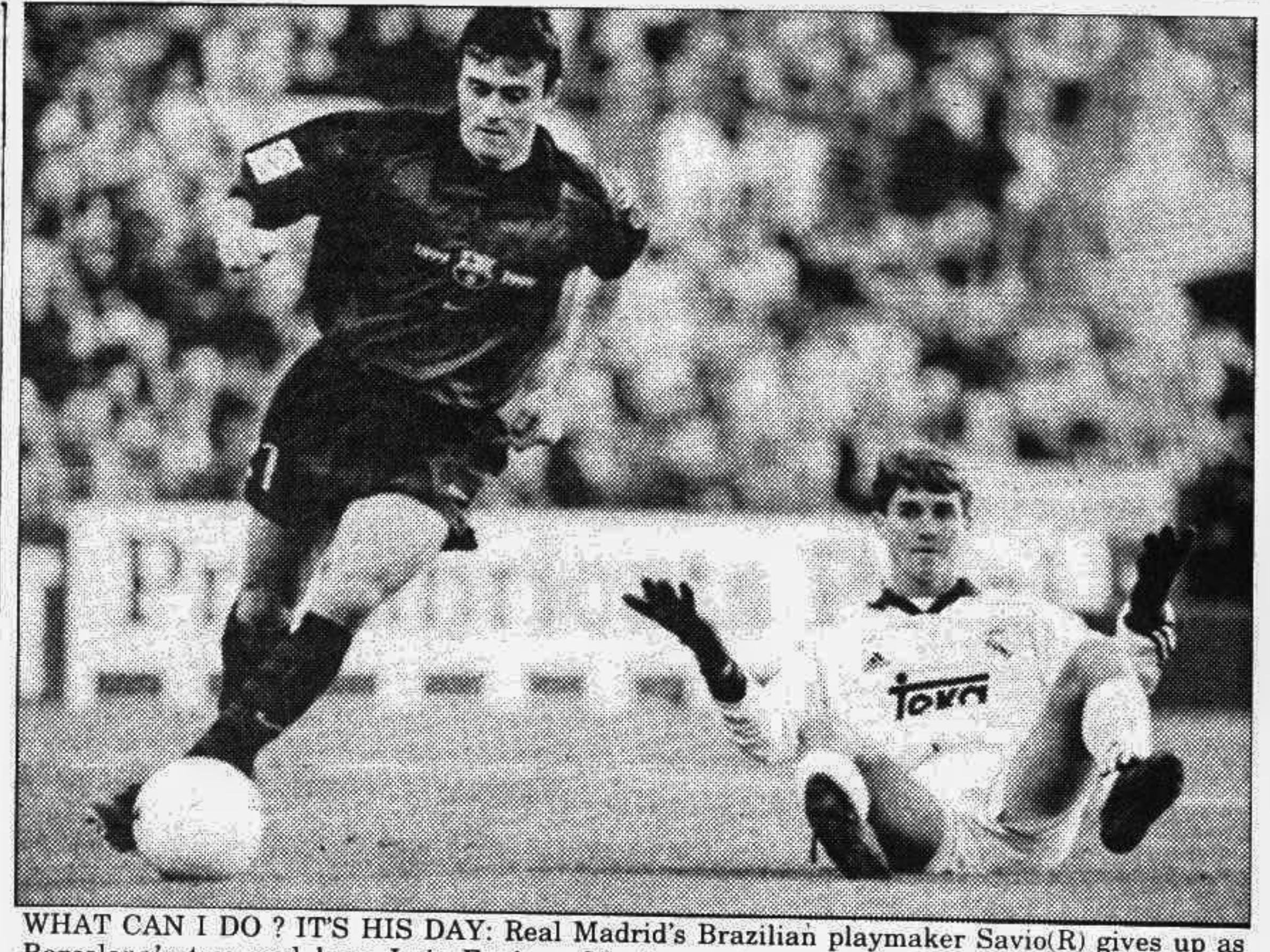
saw Atletico slip to ninth in the 20-team Spanish league, 11 points behind leaders Barcelona.

"From now on I'm no longer coach of Atletico Madrid," Sacchi, who led AC Milan to European Cup triumphs in 1989 and 1990 and Italy to the 1994 World Cup final, told a news conference.

"I'm tired and I'm also bringing to an end my career as a football coach."

Sacchi, who arrived smiling and relaxed but looked close to tears as he read from a prepared statement, added: "I'm exhausted, which is why I've taken the decision."

"Today I'm quitting football. I haven't anything else to say."



WHAT CAN I DO? IT'S HIS DAY: Real Madrid's Brazilian playmaker Savio (R) gives up as Barcelona's two-goal hero Luis Enrique Martinez races away with the ball during their Primera Liga fixture at Barcelona on Sunday.

— AFP photo

2-ref system to be tried soon

Blatter repeats his call



SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 15 (AP/ Internet): FIFA president Sepp Blatter repeated his call for the soccer World Cup to be played every two years instead of four, but deflected questions Sunday about whether the Women's World Cup should follow suit.

Blatter, speaking at a news conference a few hours before the draw for this summer's Women's World Cup, said holding the men's event every two years would strengthen national teams.

With players frequently crossing national boundaries to play club soccer, Blatter said, the importance of the national teams is being diluted. Holding the World Cup more frequently could help address that problem, he said.

Blatter's suggestion has been attacked by numerous other soccer officials worldwide, but the head of FIFA — the world governing body for soccer — said new ideas should not be rejected just because they would lead to change.

"It's like when Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone," said Blatter, who plans to report to FIFA's executive committee on March 11-12 about the proposal. "People said, 'We don't need it because we already have the telegraph.'

When asked about the Women's World Cup also going to a two-year schedule, Blatter did not answer directly.

"I think it will be easier to have a Women's World Cup ev-

ery two years than a men's World Cup every two years," he said with a laugh.