

## 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 over New Zealand in the first of 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 backstain 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 Aspinall, 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

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

Narayanang 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 walkover against Rajshahi.

Narayanang 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 Monir added 20 runs off 43 deliveries with two fours.

Shariful Haq Plaban, Athar Ali Khan and Saifullah 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.

Monir 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 APB.

Nipa who won her previous six matches, drew with Tanima Parveen in this round to raise her tally by 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: Jordan Road SKP defeated KCC Juba Sangha by 25 runs in the First Division cricket league here at the Barisal stadium today.

Batting first, Jordan 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 Sunnydale 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, Dhanmendi during office hours — 8:30 am-1:30 pm — or by phoning 9118056/9110240.

## M'singh cricket

MYMENSINGH, Feb 15: Mukul Fauji 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 FAUJI CLUB: 197 for 7 in 40 overs. Omar 53, Nasim 41, Swapan 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. Sihan 41 and Asif 30.

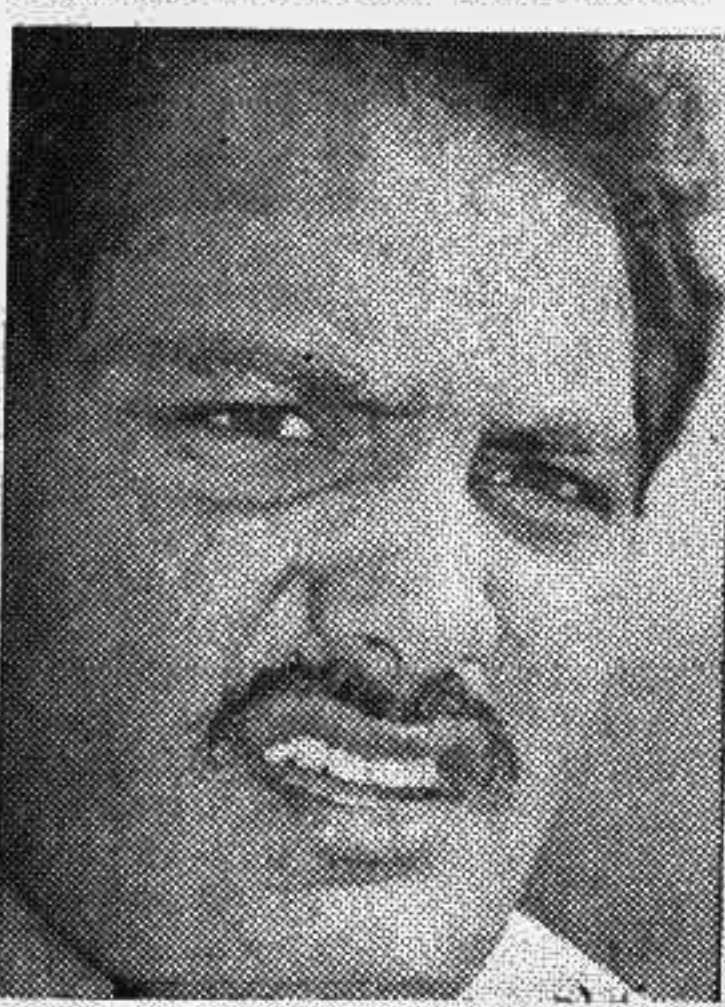
PRE-CADET SCHOOL: 74 all out in 20.5 overs. Saikat 30 and Rana 4/10.

# 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 Championship.



AZHARUDDIN

pioneer opener regarded by many as the decisive game of the short two-match series which ended in a 1-1 deadlock last week.

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 and hungry for more."

The Indians gave away their feelings by asking the ground staff to shave 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 turner 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 competitionship opener regarded by many as the decisive game of the short two-match series which ended in a 1-1 deadlock last week.

## Bayern want Hitzfeld to stay

BONN, Feb 15 (Reuters/Internet): German first division Bayern Munich want coach Ottmar Hitzfeld to extend his contract, club vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge was quoted as saying.

"We are more than satisfied with Hitzfeld, who's doing a great job," Rummenigge told Munich daily AZ in an interview released on Monday. "We are interested in signing him for three or four more years."

Hitzfeld, who steered Borussia Dortmund to the 1997 European Cup, joined Bayern this season, replacing Italian Giovanni Trapattoni.

# Sacchi bids bye to soccer



MADRID, Feb 15 (Reuters/Internet): Arrigo Sacchi, who led AC Milan in their heyday, resigned as coach of Atletico Madrid on Monday and quit the game.

Sacchi was eight months into a two-year contract at the Spanish first division club, which he confirmed would be his last job in a glittering career as coach.

The former Italian national team boss resigned after three successive league defeats, which

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 Bangladesh 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 calculations will be out but the important thing is to win and gain the extra 12 points."



WASIM AKRAM

stars invited for the opening match to study the new format.

They will meet with world cricket chief Jagmohan Dalmiya, the brain behind the championship, at the end of the match to suggest any improvements.

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

### FACTFILE

MADRID, Feb 15 (Reuters/Internet): Following is factfile of Arrigo Sacchi who resigned as coach of Atletico Madrid on Monday:

1946 : Born April 1 in Fagnano, 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.

## 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," a 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 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 Chabbert 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 Seychellois 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.



Maradona also said he is in talks with a company linked to Italian media magnate and politician Silvio Berlusconi to make a film about his life.

"I will have the chance to tell my own story, and the film's director will have to do what I say and not what he wants. That's what Berlusconi's people told me," the former midfielder said.

But, Kuwait denied on Monday making an offer to Maradona to coach its national side.

"True, we are searching for a new coach for our national team but Maradona is not among the proposed names to fill the job," Fahd al-Ahmad al-Sabah, head of Kuwait's soccer federation and president of the Olympic Council of Asia, told the news agency.

He was responding to the remarks by the Argentine legend.



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.

## 2-ref system to be tried soon

# Blatter repeats his call



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.

Blatter also said he favours experimenting with two referees in soccer matches, though only if such an experiment could take place over a full season. Trying it in only one competition would not be enough time to assess such a change, he said.

The FIFA president pointed out that female referees will be used in the Women's World Cup, to be held in seven US cities June 19-July 10.

"I think women will pay more respect to their gender in the game," said Blatter, who added that more women's referees must be trained. "There will be so many women's matches in the future that we'll need the same number of women's officials as men's officials."

Besides, a trial two-referee system should be approved next Saturday and used in every match over a half or full season, Blatter said.

The international football board will meet in Cardiff, Wales, next Saturday and is set to approve using two referees on a trial basis, perhaps as quickly as next season.

The eight-member rule-making body has four British members and four FIFA delegates, six must approve any changes.

"Right now it has full FIFA support," Blatter said.

In discussing his idea for a World Cup every two years, Blatter said that traditional

events on the global football calendar such as the European Championship are the mightiest roadblocks in his path.

"The biggest challenge to every two years is the calendar," Blatter said.

Another worry is health: with top players already facing 65 to 70 matches a year between league and international action, Blatter said players' health is already at risk.

Blatter also stressed he does not want to undermine national leagues by swiping top talents too often from loyal fans at club level.

"We should assess everything and look at it," said Blatter who offered no timetable for when a switch from every four years to every two might be made.

Blatter also backed Arsenal decision to replay a 2-1 FA Cup triumph over Sheffield United after a goal scored during an injury made the difference.

Nigerian Nwankwo Kanu intercepted a ball to set up a goal after United kicked the ball out of bounds so an injured player could be treated.

"It's ethically the right thing to do only because the winning team is the one that expressed concern," Blatter said.

Blatter also blasted holding and injury fakers in the men's game, saying the women's game is much more honest. However, he offered no solution on how to punish fakers while allowing proper aid to serious injuries.

Unlike men, the women don't cheat," Blatter said. "The women seem much more honest than the men."

# United face to face with Chelsea



LONDON, Feb 15 (Reuters/Internet): Manchester United and Chelsea, the top two teams in the English premier league, were drawn on Sunday to face each other at Old Trafford in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup.

Manchester United, currently four points clear of Chelsea in the race for the league title, won their place in the last eight after Andy Cole's lone strike gave them a hard-fought 1-0 victory over second-division Fulham.

Chelsea, winners two years ago, secured their passage on Saturday.

## Swapping

MOSCOW, Feb 15 (Reuters/Internet): Spartak and Dynamo, two of Moscow's premier division clubs, have swapped a player each, Russian newspaper Sport-Express reported on Monday.

Veteran striker Nikolai Pisarev is moving from Spartak to Dynamo in exchange for international defender Yuri Kovtun. Spartak, six times Russian champions, hope the rugged Kovtun will make up for the loss of stopper Yevgeny Bushmanov, who is out for the season after knee surgery.

Saturday with a 1-0 win over Sheffield Wednesday.

The two sides, whose meeting in the 1994 final at Wembley ended in a 4-0 win for United, have met twice this season, both matches ending in draws.

They (Chelsea) have had the upper hand in both of those games but this is a one-off in the Cup and we have to make it tell," said United's Republic of Ireland defender Dennis Irwin.

Holders Arsenal have again been rewarded with a home draw against Derby or Huddersfield — but only if they beat Sheffield United in the replay of their "void" fifth-round tie on Saturday.

Arsenal won the game 2-1 but a decision was made to replay the game after Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger conceded that their second goal, scored by Marc Overmars, was unsporting and should not count.

If first-division Huddersfield, who won the Cup for the only time in 1922, do go forward to meet Arsenal it would be a repeat of the 1930 final, which the London side won 2-0.

The only non-premier league side definitely to reach the last eight is Barnsley, winners in 1912, who face the possibility of an all-Yorkshire clash if Leeds

can overcome Tottenham in their replay next week.

"It's a good draw for us. We beat Tottenham in the fourth round last year and we are not afraid of Leeds," said Barnsley player-manager John Hendrie. "We are just happy to be at home."

In the other match the 1995 winners Everton, who beat Coventry City in the fifth round, have a home tie against the winners of Newcastle or Blackburn, who drew on Sunday and face a replay on February 24.

## Romney new SLOC chief

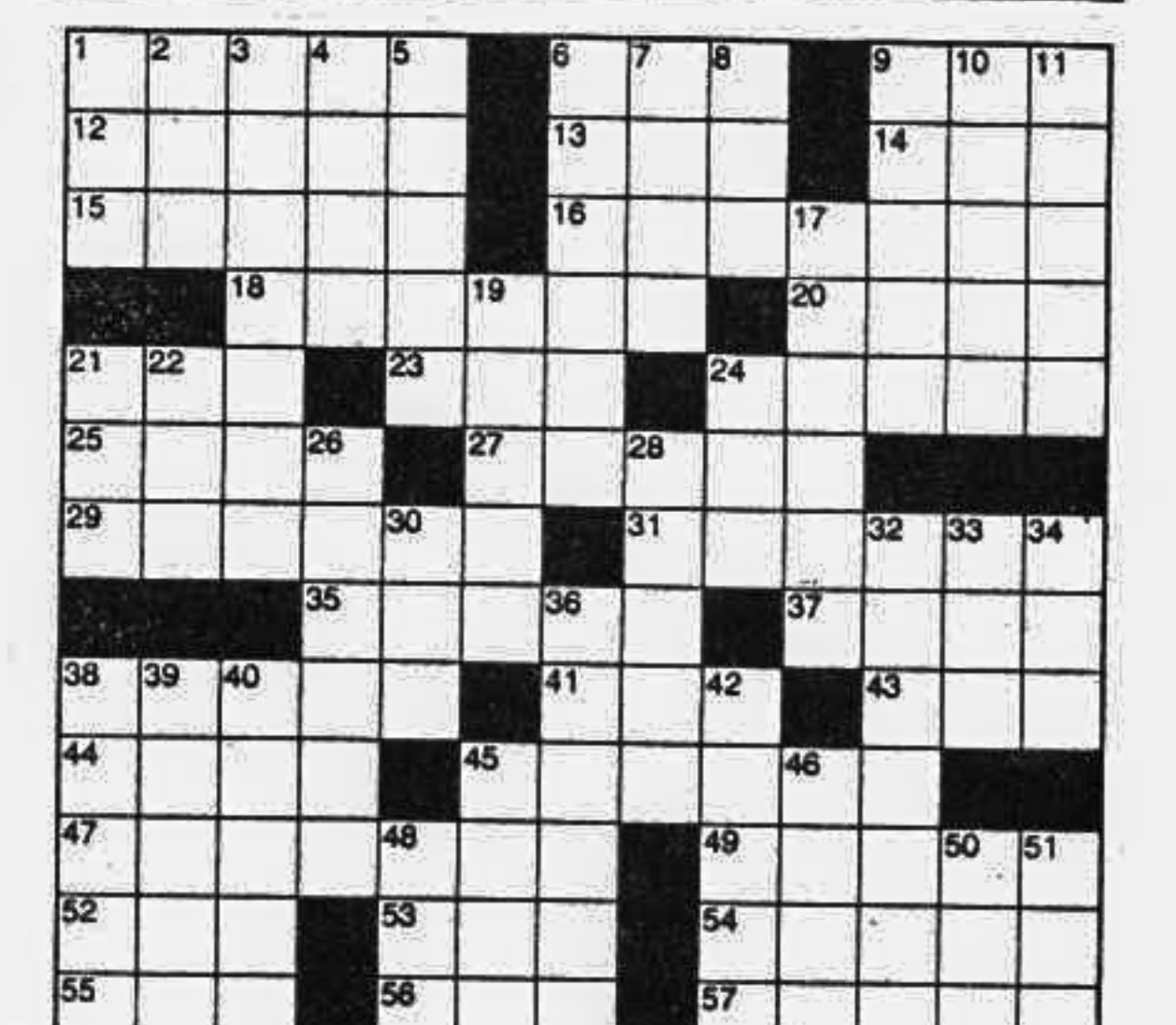
SALT LAKE CITY, Feb 15 (AP): Mitt Romney insists the Olympics are about sport, not business.

But he has plenty of business to attend to these days as the man in charge of cleaning up the scandal surrounding the Salt Lake City Olympics.

On Friday, the day after he was hired to run the Salt Lake Organising Committee (SLOC), he appeared on "Good Morning America," spoke with his staff, reviewed financial projections, met predecessor Frank Joki and discussed marketing and sponsorships.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 Like mid-August, typically  
6 With 8 Down, consent  
9 Sandy's comment  
12 Words to the house  
13 Pub offering  
14 Sundial notation  
15 Tests the waters  
16 Large, powerful dog  
18 Semidiam-eter  
20 Portrayal, familiarly  
23 Leading lady?  
24 Picked a target  
25 Smack  
27 On the quiver  
29 Slipproof surface  
31 Pager  
35 On the quiver  
37 Memoriza-  
tion method  
38 Hold the scepter  
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44 Cartoonist  
45 Venter  
47 Conductor  
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52 Compass heading  
53 "I — Camera"  
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56 N.A. nation  
57 "Moll Flanders" author  
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5 From, to  
6 Francisco  
6 Biblical judge/prophet  
7 "Sad to say..."  
8 See 6  
9 Truth held to be self-evident  
10 Ransack  
11 Accompanied the  
17 Less original  
19 Donald's ex  
21 Play part  
22 Wish undone  
24 Exist  
26 Wine bottle  
28 Siskel's partner  
30 Possessive  
32 Valcan VIP  
33 Greek H  
34 — U.S. Pat. Off.  
36 Winner of three Cy Young Awards  
38 Triple Crown jewels  
39 Uneven, as if gnawed  
40 Word with ear or tube  
42 Inspired  
45 "All — (song)"  
46 Entertainer  
48 Cartesian conclusion  
50 Car in a 1964 song  
51 Storm center



CRYPTOQUIP  
M' W LUTYCE DE MAARUZFULUW TSMZEUK ONUUF  
NMAA HU AMYUAK RC  
HACN SMO ORDTY  
Yesterday's Cryptogram: SILLY SHEEP MOUTH  
THIS SONG: "I GOT PLENTY O' MUTTON."  
Today's Cryptogram clue: T equals C  
The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think 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.