

Ronaldo's words of encouragement for Inter mates

MILAN, Mar 15: Ronaldo urged his Inter Milan teammates on Sunday to salvage a horrible season by beating Manchester United when they meet on Wednesday in the second leg of their European Cup quarter-final, reports Reuters.

The Brazilian said he hoped to play the full match in the San Siro, despite only playing 45 minutes in Saturday's 2-2 draw with AC Milan.

"This is our most important match this season - our pride is at stake and we must be up to the task," said Ronaldo, last season's world player of the year.

Inter - who lost the first leg 2-0 in Manchester, are looking to the European Cup as their last chance to salvage a season in which they have been knocked out of the Italian Cup and are out of the title race at mid-table.

"We are playing better now, we're creating chances and are doing a good job in preparing the match with Manchester United, who are a great side who are very fast on the counter-attack," the Brazilian striker told a news conference.

Ronaldo started his first match in two months on Saturday after a knee injury, playing in the first half in Inter's 2-2 draw with AC Milan.

"I never said I was 100 per cent, but I'm satisfied with my performance last night," he said, adding that he hoped to play the entire match on Wednesday, "even though it will be difficult."

"There will be many scoring chances for both sides... we've got to be prepared for everything and believe in our success until the very end."

Inter - who lost the first leg 2-0 in Manchester, are looking to the European Cup as their last chance to salvage a season in which they have been knocked out of the Italian Cup and are out of the title race at mid-table.

"We cannot afford to pay anybody and even if we could we would not do it," said Pan Am Games Society chief Don MacKenzie.

"If you pay one sport, you have to pay them all. It's a decision supported by PASO and the national Olympic committees of South America," MacKenzie added.

The decision by South American nations not to play soccer in the Games, which will be staged in Winnipeg from July 23 to August 8, applies to both men's and women's teams.

The weakened Pan Am men's soccer tournament will still feature 10 men's teams, led by Mexico, the United States and Jamaica.

But the event, which was to have five berths reserved for South American teams, will have a decided Caribbean and Central American flavour with nations such as Trinidad, Cuba, Guatemala and Honduras playing instead of traditional powers such as Brazil and Argentina.

Rounding out the 10-nation tournament will be Canada, El Salvador and Costa Rica.

"Neither side could afford to give in," Pan Am's sports vice-president Mike Moore noted.

From their standpoint, if they did this for free, they'd do everything for free."

Moore said that when he met with South American soccer officials last December, he asked why they would participate in the Olympics but not the Pan Am Games.

Their response, said Moore, was that their participation in the Olympics was a gift to the IOC. They were looking for about \$3 million to take part in the Pan Am Games.

Ye All-England women's champ

BIRMINGHAM, Mar 15: World Champion Ye Zhaoying of China won the women's singles title for the third time in a row with a win over her teammate Dai Yun at the All-England Open badminton championships here on Sunday, reports Xinhua.

Ye, joint third seed with Dai at the century tournament, rallied from first set down to beat Dai 9-11, 11-5 and 11-1 in an all-Chinese final.

In the men's singles final, world number one Peter Gade Christiansen of Denmark battled to his first All-England title with a 15-11, 7-15, 15-10 victory over Indonesian teenager Taufik Hidayat.

The experienced Dane had to fight all the way against his 17-year-old opponent, the youngest finalist in the men's singles since 1958.

Simon Archer and Jo Goode became local heroes when they took the mixed crown by defeating South Korea's Ha Tae-Kwan and Chung Jae-Hee 15-2, 15-13. It is the first gold for England since 1994 when Nick Ponting and Joanne Wright won the mixed doubles.

The men's doubles title went to Indonesia's Tony Gunawan and Candra Wijaya who beat South Koreans Lee Dong-Soo and Yoo Yong-sung 15-7, 15-5.

The women's doubles final was won by South Korea's Chung Jae-Hee and Ra Kyung-Min. They defeated China's Huang Sui and Lu Ying 15-6, 15-8.



THE WORLD CUP '99 TROPHY. Star Sri Lankan batsman Sanath Jayasuriya admires the coveted ware while popular Indian singers Usha Uthup (R) and Anaida look on during a function in Colombo yesterday.

'SL in need of a victory'

COLOMBO, Mar 15 (AFP/Internet): Sri Lanka's humiliating defeat in the Asian Test championship has affected morale and the team desperately needs a victory ahead of the World Cup, star batsman Sanath Jayasuriya said Monday.

Jayasuriya, who missed the three-nation Test series against India and Pakistan because of an injury, blamed poor batting for the loss to Pakistan in the final in Dhaka earlier Monday.

"It is true that we had an inexperienced side, but that is not an excuse because we fielded a good side," Jayasuriya said.

"A score of 231 in the first

innings is not enough against a side like Pakistan."

Pakistan won the final by an innings and 175 runs.

"All we needed was for four players to do well. Two to make good scores and two to take wickets," said Jayasuriya.

"That could have seen us through. Our batting failed," he said at a ceremony to show off the World Cup trophy that Sri Lanka will defend in England starting in May.

Sri Lanka skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and star spinner Muttiah Muralitharan also missed the final against Pakistan because of injuries.

"It is foolish to say that our morale has not been affected by the recent defeats. The only way to boost morale is by winning a

few matches before we go for the World Cup," said Jayasuriya.

He said he had almost fully recovered from the right-hand injury suffered during a match in Australia. A metal plate had been inserted in the hand with seven bolts to keep it in place.

Jayasuriya will miss a triangular one-day series starting in India this week, though he will play in domestic matches before going to the World Cup.

Sri Lanka want to use the India series to re-launch their campaign and there could be a major revamp of the team.

We plan to get more new people involved," Sri Lanka's Cricket Board President Thilanga Sumathipala said in a recent interview.

Rivaldo's tactical plea

BARCELONA, Spain, Mar 15 (Reuters/Internet): Barcelona once again had cause to be thankful for the match-winning talents of Rivaldo at the weekend as the Brazilian celebrated his 100th game in Spanish football with two goals in a 3-0 win over local rivals Espanyol.

The left winger Barcelona four points clear at the top of the table and on course to retain their domestic league title.

But, on a worrying night for his coach Louis van Gaal, Rivaldo hinted both on and off the pitch that he might be starting to lose his appetite for the Nou Camp life -- despite his own sensational form.

Rivaldo celebrated his first goal, a quick response to some poor control from Patrick Kluijver, that allowed the Brazilian to drag a shot in at the far post, by removing his shirt to reveal another Barca shirt -- the number 10 of fellow Brazilian Giovanni, who is currently out of the Nou Camp reckoning.

That nudge to van Gaal was followed by a more surprising admission to the media as the Brazilian conceded: "I didn't enjoy that game at all."

Rivaldo has been asked by van Gaal to play on the left side of midfield for much of this season, inter-linking with Dutchman Phillip Cocu, who generally plays just behind him but in a more central position.

The switch outside has hardly been detrimental to his scoring record. Rivaldo has notched 15 league goals so far this season and should go on to better his tally of 19 last year.

But the former Deportivo Coruna marksman, one of the few players to shine for Brazil in their World Cup campaign in France, is clearly not enjoying his football as much as the Barcelona fans.

"I'm not enjoying playing on the left," he said. "Out there the balls take too long in arriving and by the time I'm in possession there's someone marking me."

"What I'd like to do is to interchange more with Cocu and be nearer the centre. I'll have to speak with van Gaal."

"I can't spend my time on the left. I scored two goals but I'm not enjoying it."

On the subject of his one-man support act for Giovanni, Rivaldo explained: "I just wanted to cheer him up. He's very sad at not playing."

Last season he scored the goal that won us the league title but now he's in a difficult situation."

Van Gaal, who was at pains to play down the double protest after the match, can at least be comforted by Rivaldo's insistence that he is happy at Barca -- at least for the time being.

Rumours, were circulating, last week that Italian club AS Roma were trying to negotiate his transfer at the end of the season, something the Brazilian was quick to dismiss.

"It's all lies," he said. "I'm in the best club in the world and I'm not going to swap for one that's half the size."

Sparks continue to fly

LONDON, Mar 15: British Sports Minister Tony Banks called for a rematch Sunday after the controversial Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield world heavyweight championship unification fight in New York, reports Reuters.

"Lewis won the fight," Banks said of Britain's World Boxing Council champion in a statement broadcast by BBC radio. "The judging seemed to me to be somewhat bizarre."

"It was a good fight and a close fight but clearly a lot of people are now going to be feeling cheated. And, frankly, a rematch is absolutely essential. I think it also has to be in this country," Banks said.

Many in the 21,284 Madison Square Garden crowd booed the shock draw result, believing that Lewis had been robbed.

But judge Eugenia Williams of the United States scored the fifth 115-113 for Lewis while Britain's Larry O'Connell could not split the fighter and had it 115-115.

Major figures in British boxing could hardly contain their disbelief.

Lewis' manager Frank Maloney insisted: "It's an absolute con. My reaction is shock and total disbelief. If I was (British Prime Minister) Tony Blair I'd cut off all diplomatic relation with America."

Former British WBC heavyweight champion Frank Bruno said the judges verdict was "the most disgusting decision I've ever seen in the boxing ring," and blamed it on politics.

Former British middleweight Chris Eubank said: "It's a travesty of justice... this has messed up my four days in New York."

Former Irish world champion Barry McGuigan was less equivocal. "He wasn't robbed. He won the fight clearly as far as I'm concerned by two rounds, but he was his normal negative self."

"He let him back into the fight over and over and over again. He won the fight. Let's get this right, but it wasn't daylight robbery. He wasn't decisive enough, he has got to be more assertive."

Lewis' promoter Panos Eliaides said: "I'm disgusted by that decision. Everybody knows that Lewis won that fight. The sport needed this fight to show what it is all about and it has done -- the sport is corrupt."

"I don't know where we go from here, it's very disheartening."

Lewis wants an immediate rematch but both boxers will come under pressure to fight the number one challengers for their respective belts.

Moya's weird 24 hours

INDIAN WELLS, California, Mar 15: One day after feeling like the king of the world, Carlos Moya's kingdom came under a missile attack and the fourth seed succumbed to the rocket serves of Australian Mark Philippoussis on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Moya enjoyed his day in the desert sun on Saturday, when his semifinal victory ensured he would overtake Pete Sampras and become the first Spanish man ever ranked number one in the world.

But the French Open champion was under siege Sunday as the unseeded Philippoussis launched 3 aces in the early three-hour battle to pull out a 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 upset and claim his second title of the year.

"It feels great, extra special knowing that Carlos is number one in the world," Philippoussis said. "I played some great tennis, so I'm very pleased."

The unseeded Philippoussis, who started the week ranked 16th moves up to a career-high of 11th in the world with Monday's ATP Tour rankings and

owns a 1999 Tour-best match record of 14-2.

It seems that beginning with last year's run to the US Open final, the brawny Australian is finally living up to his advance billing and emerging as one of stars of the game.

"A lot of people mature quicker than other people," said the 22-year-old Philippoussis. "I guess I'm a slow maturer."

"I'm just a big kid. I love having fun and had other things on my mind. But this year, I've been working hard, concentrating hard and enjoying the moment."

With his own rocket serve -- the shot that earned him the nickname "scud" on target, Philippoussis could turn his attention to Moya's delivery and he was able to break the new number one five times during the match.

"I have so much pressure knowing that if he breaks me, it is difficult to break him back," said Moya. "He served great today."

Philippoussis earned 361,000 dollars for his seventh career title and most important trophy in his collection, with the possible exception of his US Open runner-up prize.

Moya, who fell to 0-3 against Philippoussis, takes home 190,000 dollars as runner-up but leaves atop the tennis world.

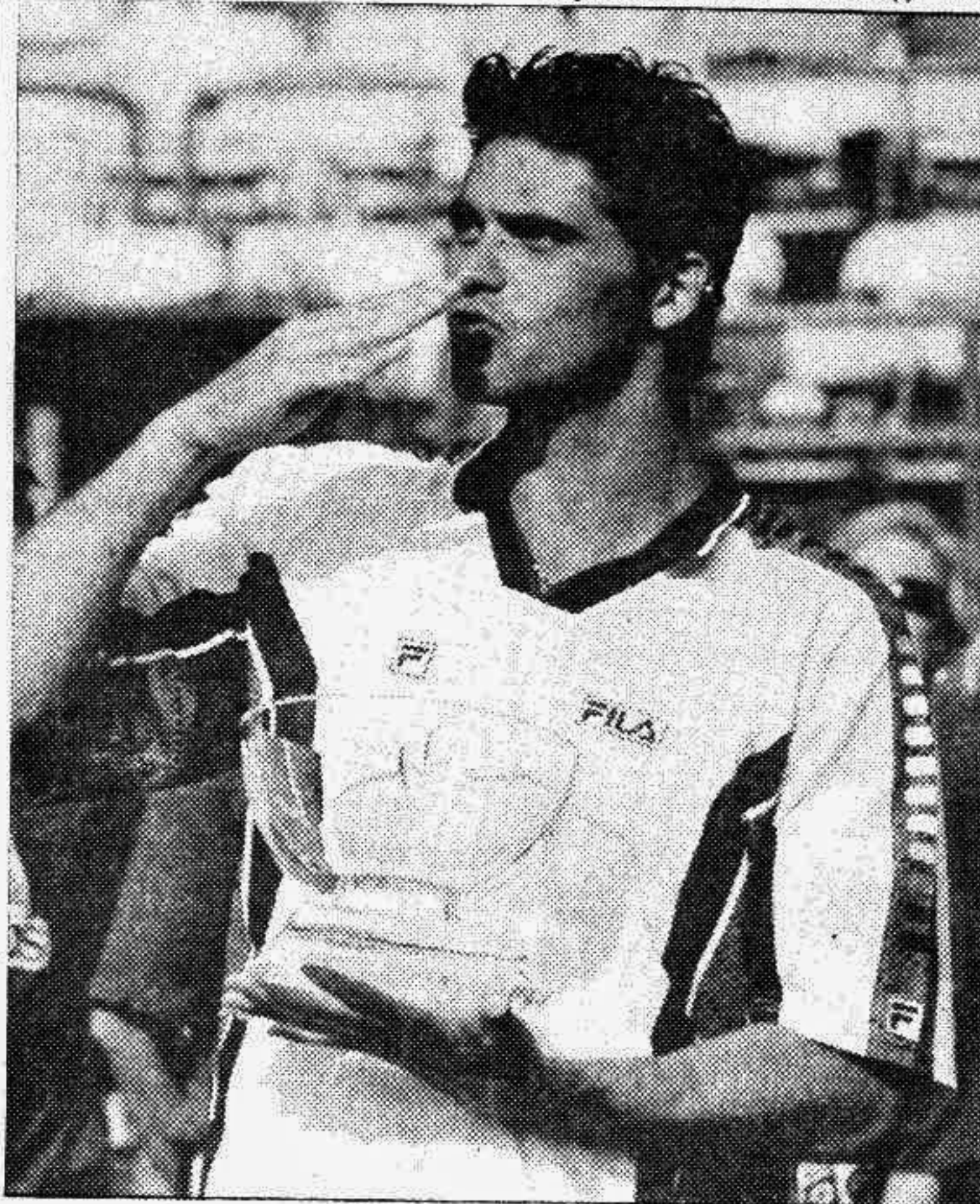
Moya appeared to use much of his remaining energy to secure the fourth set after Philippoussis claimed the second and third, cracking aces to get himself out of danger whenever necessary.

In the final set, Moya appeared listless, unable to run down shots he might have reached earlier in the match.

When Philippoussis broke serve in the third game as Moya snacked a forehead when the net, the match was virtually over.

"When he broke me at the beginning of the fifth set, I was fighting like crazy. He broke me and it makes me feel like I'm there for nothing," Moya said.

"Maybe he is mentally a little bit tired."



Australia's Mark Philippoussis sends a flying kiss towards the fans after winning the Champions' Cup at Indian Wells in California on March 14.

Detari, Savicevic shine

BUDAPEST, Mar 15 (Reuters/Internet): Veterans Dejan Savicevic and Lajos Detari may be in the twilight of their careers but they both showed at the weekend that they are still capable of turning on the style.

Former AC Milan striker Savicevic shone on his return to the Yugoslav league with a fine performance for Crvena Zvezda, while Hungarian Detari, another former Serie A player, grabbed the winning goal for little BVSC Budapest in their shock win over title contenders Gyor ETO.

In the Czech Republic, Sparta Prague suffered an upset at the hands of mid-table Opava, a result which gives heart to unlikely challengers Teplice.

In Yugoslavia, leaders Partizan Belgrade continued their record-breaking run of form with a 3-0 away win over Mogren.

Mogren goalkeeper Darko Ljubanovic, who joined the Budva club from Partizan, could do nothing to stop former team mates Vladimir Ivic, Nenad Bjekovic and Ivica Iliev hitting the target.

Champions Obilje Belgrade, who trail Partizan by four points, had an easy time away in Pristina, where they won 2-0 with goals from top scorer Zoran Rankovic and Dragan Sarac.

Crvena Zvezda defeated their lesser-known Belgrade neighbours Rad 3-1 to stay third, 12 points behind Partizan.

Goran Drulic opened the scoring for Zvezda and then new signing Mihaljo Planovic scored his first two goals since joining the club in the winter break. Aleksandar Mutavdzic scored Rad's sole goal.

The match marked Dejan Savicevic's return to Yugoslav football, with the crafty front man pulling on a Zvezda shirt after seven years with Milan.

Savicevic, who helped Zvezda win the European Cup in 1991, showed plenty of his old flair but still lacks match fitness and was substituted in the 67th minute.

In Hungary, MTK Budapest opened up an 11-point lead after

they comfortably dismissed Ferencváros 2-0 and second-placed Gyor ETO crashed to a shock defeat.

Goals from Kristijan Kensei and Csaba Madar gave MTK a deserved victory in a hard-fought Budapest derby.

Veteran Lajos Detari scored the winner for struggling BVSC Budapest in their 2-1 victory over a Gyor side whose title challenge once again looks like fading away.

It was the 35-year-old former Eintracht Frankfurt and Genoa midfielder's second goal since joining BVSC from Austrian second division club St Poelten.

Champions Ujpest had sweeper Florian Urban sent off in the 24th minute but went on to an impressive 2-0 win away to Debrecen, sending them into fourth place.

In Czech Republic, an injury-time goal condemned defending champions Sparta Prague to their first defeat of the season as mid-table Opava pulled off a shock win.

Sparta's lead over Teplice has been cut to seven points and the provincial side, the surprise package of the season, have a game in hand and could yet make a serious bid for the title.

Third-placed Slavia Prague thrashed cross-town rivals Viktoria Zizkov 4-1, with midfielder Ivo Ulech twice on target.

In Romania, an injury-time goal from substitute Zeno Budea gave Rapid Bucharest a 2-1 away win over FC Onesti to keep the "Railwaymen" three points ahead of Dinamo Bucharest, who defeated Farul Constanta 2-1.

Rapid played the final 24 minutes with 10 men after striker Daniel Pancu was sent off for dissent.

Albanian Albert Duro became the first foreign player to wear the colours of Steaua Bucharest when he made his debut in a 2-0 win over Universitatea Cluj. Marius Baciu and newly-capped Romanian international Laurentiu Rosu's scored the second half goals.

National Bucharest lost 1-0 against Otetul Galati, the first home defeat that National, coached by Spaniard Ramon Alexanco, have suffered this season.

In Bulgaria, Bulgarian champions Litex Lovech scraped a 2-1 away win over lowly Pirin to stay in first place.

Litex had Marian Todorov sent off with the score level after 70 minutes, but an 85th-minute header from Bulgarian international Radostin Kishishev sneaked a victory for Litex.

But Levski Sofia are kept in close touch with the champions after an important 2-0 win over Lokomotiv Plovdiv.

Third-placed Levski Kyustendil won at home 2-0 against Dobrudzha and could well make it a three-horse race.

In Ukraine, Dynamo Kiev warmed up their European Cup quarter-final against Real Madrid on Wednesday by defeating Metalurg Mariupol in the first round of league games following a three-month winter break.

Andriy Shevchenko's first half strike led Ukraine, seven times champions, to a comfortable 2-0 home win on a rain-soaked pitch and propelled them to the top of the league table.

Shevchenko, who put Dynamo ahead against the European champions in the first leg two weeks ago, scored his 11th league goal after getting a 40-metre pass from Artyom Yashkin.

Russian midfielder Sergei Serebrennikov scored on his debut to clinch the points.

Dynamo have 39 points from 16 games, two points and a game in hand ahead of Shakhtar Donetsk, who were held to a 1-1 home draw by Kryvbas Kryviy Rih.

Jadukar Samad soccer

Jadukar Samad Kishore football tournament will be held at the Dhaka Outer Stadium and Mirpur Sher-C Bangla National Stadium later this month, reports APB.

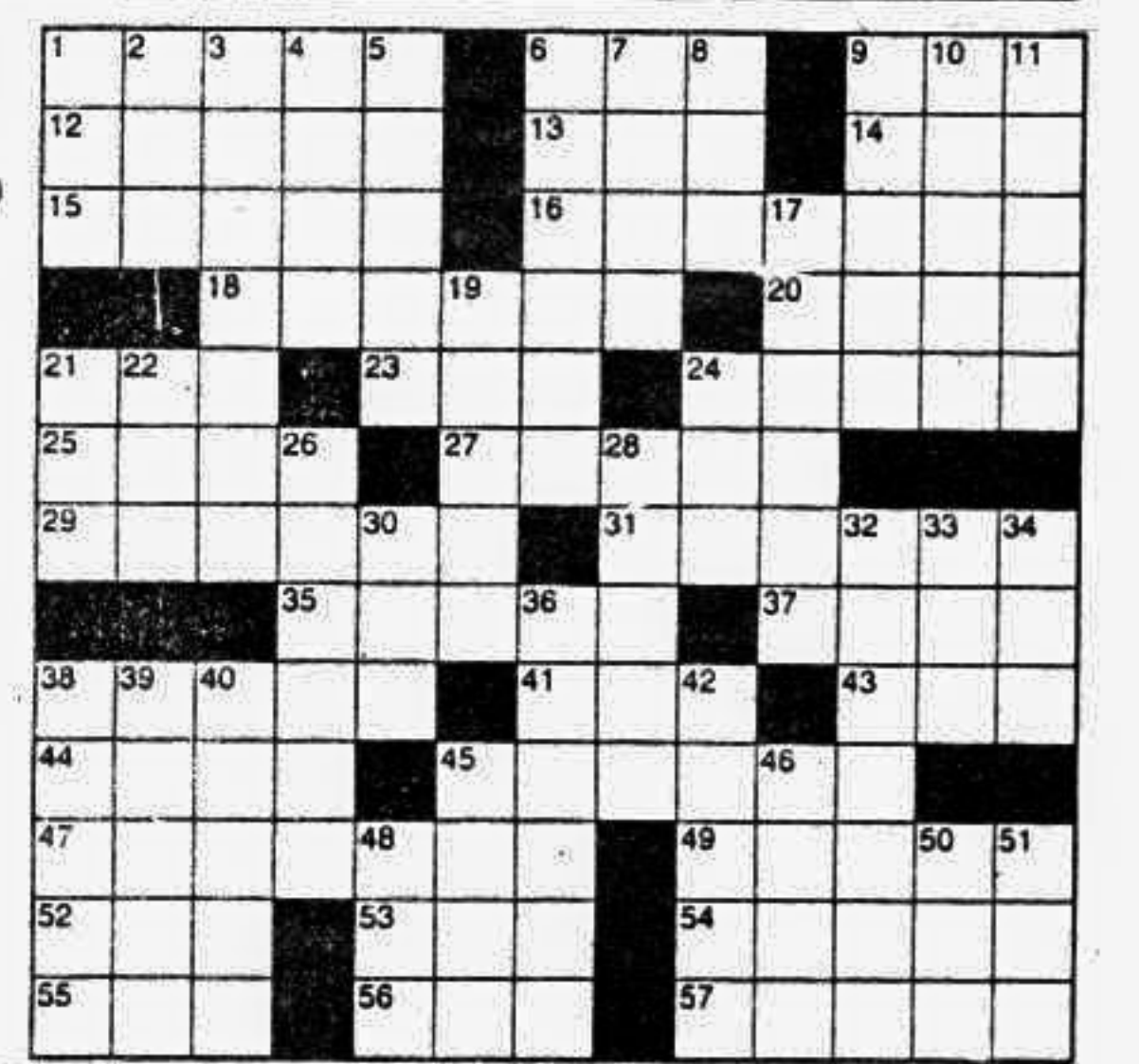
Interested clubs have been asked to enlist their names with Bangladesh Sishu Kishore Krira Unnayan Tahlil by March 25.



Fiorentina's Gabriel Batistuta (L) being challenged by two Venezia defenders during their Serie A match at Venice on March 14. Fiorentina were shocked 1-4.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Dieter's entree
  - 6 Trygve's successor
  - 9 Some radios
  - 12 Seek a J.P. Mainlander's memento
  - 15 Match Broom-Hilda's buzzard buddy
  - 18 Ace
  - 20 San-dusky's county
  - 21 Suitable
  - 23 Seek damages
  - 24 Exploits
  - 25 Be too fond
  - 27 Beast of Madagascar
  - 29 Not trans-parent
  - 31 Queen of Soul
  - 35 Disas-semble
  - 37 Gloom
  - 38 Winning
  - 41 NNW, e.g.
- DOWN
- 2 Prelim to geom. and calc.
  - 3 Mrs. Leroy Lockhorn
  - 4 Pinnacle
  - 5 Areas of great intensity
  - 6 Notch of Latin
  - 7 Part of a Latin 101 trio
  - 8 Chap denizen
  - 9 Plant life
  - 10 Earn
  - 11 Polygonal bounds
  - 17 Clever output
  - 19 Swiss mathe-
  - 21 Vast
  - 22 Unexpect-edly
  - 24 Bear hair
  - 26 Match-maker?
  - 28 Penn and Teller's forte
  - 30 Cologne con-junction
  - 32 Blondie's neighbor/partner
  - 33 "Ben"-panky?
  - 34 Wall St. wheeler-dealer
  - 36 Exemplars
  - 38 Useful quality
  - 39 Self-help book
  - 40 Put up
  - 42 Summary
  - 45 Where heros are made
  - 46 Perpetrator of "henky-panky"
  - 48 Violin piece?
  - 50 Shade provider
  - 51 Absolutely
- Solution time: 26 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

BYI UTU QYW EBXBEVU

L R X X W W J W V Y E J J W K

Q R - Q V T I - P D W E V D I

Y W D R C Q Y T C L E D E K P

Yesterday's Cryptogram: WHEN THE HOG FARMER'S OLD SOW RAN OFF, YOU MIGHT SAY HE WAS DISGRUNTLED.

Today's Cryptogram clue: J equals F

The Cryptogram 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.