

Sport

Piturca to continue

BUCHAREST, Apr 6: Romania's national coach Victor Piturca survived a vote of confidence today after unhappy fans had demanded his resignation, reports Reuters.

Piturca called for the vote of confidence himself after angry fans had demanded his resignation following his team's poor performance in a 0-0 draw with Slovakia on March 27.

Mircea Sandu, the president of the Romanian Football Association (FRA) said: "Piturca is the best coach we have," and although he gave no specific details, he added Piturca had been given the support by the board he needed to remain in his job.

The FRA board will dismiss Piturca once the last chance to qualify for the European finals is lost," Sandu said.

Romania drew 0-0 with Slovakia and beat Azerbaijan 1-0 in two European Group Seven qualifiers at the end of last month but angry fans demanded Piturca's resignation after the Slovakia game.

Mijatovic fined

MADRID, Apr 6: Yugoslav striker Predrag Mijatovic has been fined five million pesetas (32,370 dollars) by Real Madrid following his decision not to play for the club on Sunday while NATO strikes continued against his country, reports Reuters.

The club also warned Mijatovic on Monday that he could be discarded from the Real first team squad if he refused to play in future matches.

Mijatovic, who missed Real's 3-2 win at home to Alaves, was one of six Yugoslav internationals in Spain's First Division to opt out of this weekend's matches.

Mijatovic vocal in his criticism of the strikes on Yugoslavia said he was not in the right state of mind to play soccer.

"Footballers are not going to play while our families cannot come out of their cellars," he said at a protest last week.

Salgado set to leave Celta

MADRID, Apr 6 (Reuters/Internet): Celta Vigo's Spanish international defender Michel Salgado confirmed on Tuesday that he is determined to leave his club.

"If I don't leave Celta at the end of the season it will be an opportunity lost," Salgado was quoted as saying in the Spanish magazine Interview.

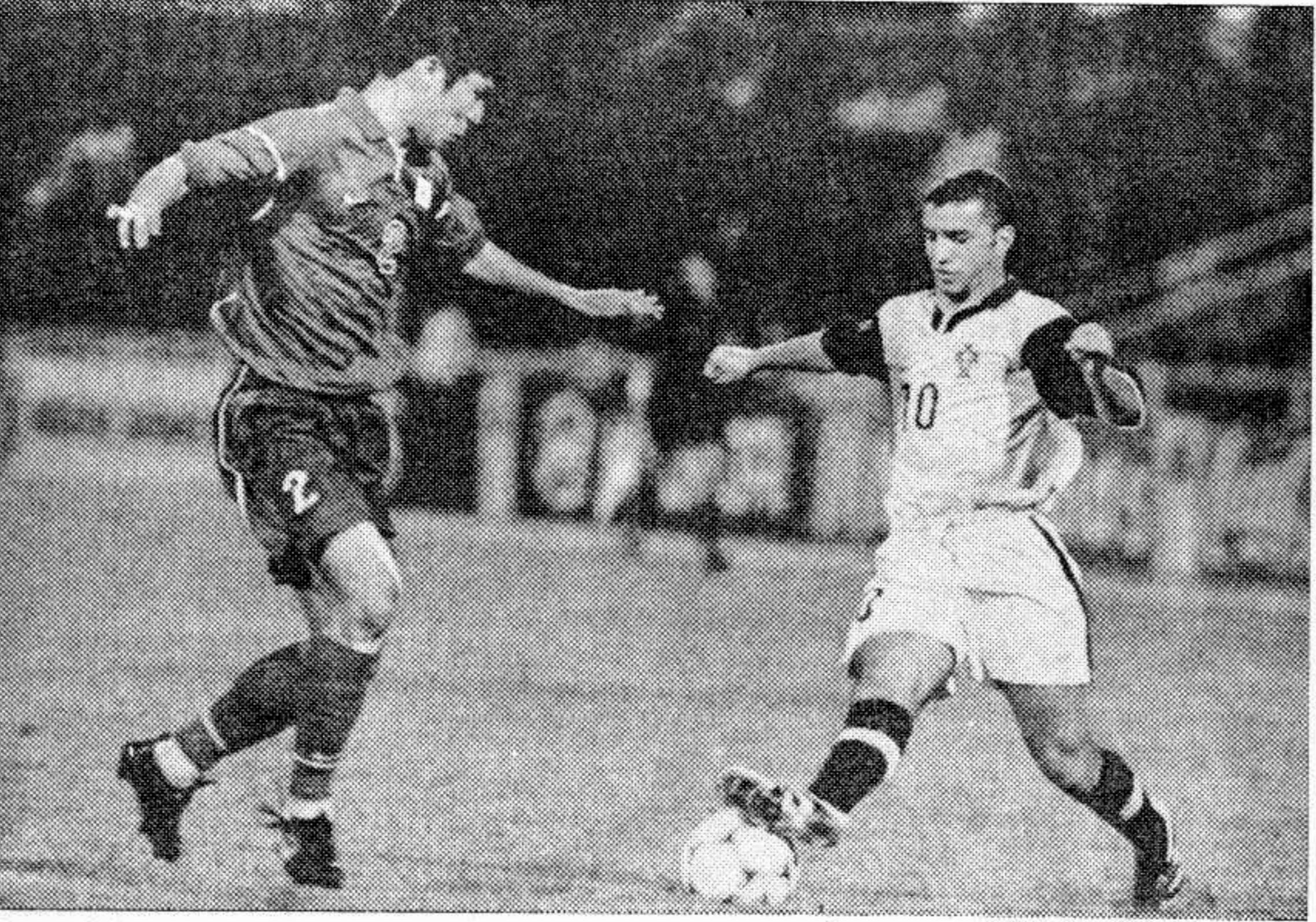
Salgado made his international debut last September and has quickly matured into one of Europe's top-rated players.

He said in February that both Juventus and Real Madrid had made him offers.

Barcelona were also linked in the Spanish media with the player earlier this season.

The speedy right-sided defender has a contract that lasts until June 2000 but his buy-out clause is 2,000 million pesetas (\$12.9 million), a price well within the means of the Italian and Spanish soccer giants supposedly chasing him.

Salgado has become widely respected for his play in the last 12 months but first gained international notoriety in February 1998 for the brutal tackle which broke Juninho's ankle and ruled Atletico Madrid's Brazilian international midfielder out of World Cup contention.



Simao Sabrosa (R) of Portugal tries to out think a South Korean defender during their World Youth Championship match at Enugu, Nigeria on April 5. — AFP photo

Brazil, England shocked



LAGOS, Apr 6: Two first

half goals from Barcelo

llorena reserve

striker Gabi-

Spain beat

World Youth

Championship

on Monday said

reuters reports

Real Madrid

2-0 in the

Group E match in

Kano, Gaspar

Komol scoring

both their

goals after Naohiro

Takajara had

put the Asians ahead.

The United States beat Eng-

land 1-0 while Mali sprung a

major shock as they scored in

the last minute to overcome

1997 runners-up Uruguay 2-1

on an excellent day for African

teams.

Zambia and Cameroon both

came from behind to beat Hon-

duras and Japan respectively.

Garcia was one of five play-

ers to score twice on a day

which went well for the Nige-

rian organisers. Pitches and

stadia were in good condition

and decent-sized crowds

watched most games.

Garcia put Spain in com-

mand with well-taken goals in

the 16th and 33rd minute.

Brazil's best player was goal-

keeper Fabio who pulled off a

string of excellent saves to keep

the team in the lead.

The unlikely pairing of

Zambia and Honduras provided

the match of the tournament so

far, with two spectacular long-

shots.

The tournament continues

Wednesday with six games.

The matches are Nigeria v

Germany and Costa Rica v

Paraguay (Group A in Lagos),

Ghana v Argentina and Croa-

tia v Kazakhstan (Group B in

Kaduna), and Australia v Mex-

ico and Ireland v Saudi Arabia

(Group C in Liban).

Jacek Deimbski has accused

them of incompetence and cor-

ruption and last week threat-

ened to resign if new leaders

were not elected within four

months.

"This deadline (of April 8) is

not realistic. The board meets

only once per quarter and only

they can make the decision to

hold new elections," said PZPN

spokesman Tomasz Jagodzinski.

"Tomorrow (Wednesday) we

will send FIFA a response say-

ing that due to procedural is-

sues, the board was not able to

comply with FIFA's demand,"

Jagodzinski added.

But he said a decision on

possible new elections might be

made within two to three weeks.

"Of course we will respect the

decisions and demands of

FIFA... If elections have to be

held before their scheduled

time, (there is) no problem this

can be done, but according to

our procedures and our statute,"

he said.

The PZPN shows little sign

of compromise over the central

issues, control over transfer

fees and television revenues.

An attempt this year by lead-

ing clubs to set up an auto-

nomic league and gain more

control of funds was defeated by

Dziubowicz and his spokesman

suggested elections would

change little, being purely a me-

chanical exercise.

"There is no need to call

elections in the PZPN... and I

am willing to say openly that

elections in the PZPN will not

change anything within the as-

sociation. Most board members

will retain the seats," Jagodzinski

said.

He did not foresee Poland be-

ing expelled from Euro 2000 for

dragging its feet over the leader-

ship question.

"FIFA has about a dozen

possible sanctions and exclu-

sion is one of the harshest.

There are no rational reasons

why this sanction should be

placed on us," he said.

"The deadline (of April 8) is

not realistic. The board meets

only once per quarter and only

they can make the decision to

hold new elections," said PZPN

spokesman Tomasz Jagodzinski.

"Tomorrow (Wednesday) we

will send FIFA a response say-

ing that due to procedural is-

sues, the board was not able to

comply with FIFA's demand,"

Jagodzinski added.

But he said a decision on

possible new elections might be

made within two to three weeks.

"Of course we will respect the

decisions and demands of

FIFA... If elections have to be

held before their scheduled

time, (there is) no problem this

can be done, but according to

our procedures and our statute,"

he said.

The PZPN shows little sign

of compromise over the central

issues, control over transfer

fees and television revenues.

An attempt this year by lead-

ing clubs to set up an auto-

nomic league and gain more

control of funds was defeated by

Dziubowicz and his spokesman

suggested elections would

change little, being purely a me-

chanical exercise.