Texeira points at Pele

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 20: Brazilian football federation chief Ricardo Texeira hit out at Pele Sunday for not supporting Brazil's 2006 World Cup bid, only because the federation did not employ Pele's marketing company, reports AFP.

Texeira told the local press: "He's not backing Brazil because we haven't retained his company. But you have to split Pele from the citizen Edson Arantes do Nascimiento (Pele's real name). The first is the best athlete of the century, my criticism is directed towards the second."

Texeira continued: "We can do without Pele's backing. At the end of the day he's lost all the fights he's been in. In the 1994 FIFA elections he was against Joao Havelange, who won, and in 1998 he backed the Swede Johansson who was beaten by Joseph Blatter."

Texeira claimed that Pele had backed England's campaign before switching his allegiance to South Africa in the last couple of months hwen he thought England's chances of winnig the world's biggest sporting event had diminished.

South Africa, England and Germany are considered the strongest contenders to succeed Japan and South korea as World Cup hosts, with Brazil and Morocco the outsiders.

World governing body FIFA will decide on the destination of the 2006 competition at an executive committee meeting in Zurich next July.

Sporting alone atop

LISBON, Dec 20: Injury-hit Benfica lost 2-1 away to Vitoria Guimaraes on Sunday to leave Sporting alone at the top of the Portuguese First Division, reports Reuters.

But reigning champions Porto could recapture the leadership if they beat Farense at home today in the final match before the league takes a two-week Christmas break.

Sporting, who have 33 points, beat Maritimo 4-2 at home in a pulsating game on Saturday night. They have two points more than Porto and three more than Benfica.

Benfica, missing midfielders Joao Pinto and Jose Calado along with defender Ronaldo Guiaro, took an early lead through striker Nuno Gomes.

But Vitoria Guimaraes levelled the scores after 36 minutes with a goal from Brandao Dalsoto.

Riva Silva got the winner with 13 minutes remaining after a scramble in the Benfica goalmouth.

Kaladze has no plan to join AC Milan

TBILISI, Dec 20: Georgian Dynamo Kjev midfielder Kakha Kaladze on Sunday denied rumours in the local press that he was soon moving to Italian champions AC Milan, reports Reuters.

"I've heard various reports which had me going to Milan, Barcelona or Manchester United but no one from these clubs has approached me," the 22-year-old Georgian international told the agency.

"I know that Dynamo Kiev have a deal with Milan which gives the Italians the first right. I intend to speak to (Dynamo president) Hrigory Surkis next week and find out about my future," he added.

"But, if anything, I see myself changing clubs only after the end of the European season."

Media reports in both Georgia and Ukraine had Kaladze joining former Kiev teammate Andriy Shevchenko at Milan for a reported $10-12 million.

Earlier this year the Italians signed Shevchenko for $25 million — the highest sum ever paid for a player from the ex-Soviet bloc.

Alves set to join Hertha

BERLIN, Dec 20: German First Division club Hertha Berlin look set to sign Brazilian striker Alex Alves from Cruzeiro, reports Reuters.

The club said on Sunday commercial manager Dieter Hoeness had gone to Brazil to settle the final transfer details for the 24-year-old, expected to join the Champions League campaigners for a fee of around 15 million marks ($ 7.78 million).

Hoeness was due back in Berlin today.

Sampras to play Kooyong classic

MELBOURNE, Dec 20: Former world No 1 Pete Sampras was confirmed Monday as a starter for the Jan 12-15 Kooyong Classic exhibition tennis tournament, a major tune-up for the Australian Open, reports AP.

His entry means the Rebound Ace event will boast the world's top four players, a field that promoter Colin Stubs said was the best in its 12-year history.

"It's pretty handy — you add Pat Rafter and an exciting youngster like Nicolas Kiefer in there as well and we think it's the best collection of players you'd see in a men's tournament outside a Super Nine or a Grand Slam," Stubs said.

World No 1 Andre Agassi and No 2 Yevgeny Kafelnikov will head the eight-man field, with the final player likely to be named before Christmas.

Stubs said Rafter had contacted him last week and remained keen to play as he recovers from his shoulder surgery. Thomas Enqvist and Richard Krajicek are the other players confirmed for the tournament.

Serie A

Lazio take lead into the Millennium

MILAN, Dec 20: Lazio finished the millennium two points clear at the top of Italian football on Sunday, after beating Piacenza 2-0 while rivals Juventus drew 1-1 with Fiorentina, reports AFP.

Lazio won their afternoon match and then had to wait for Juventus' evening kick-off, just praying that Christmas would come early.

Those prayers were answered in Florence, where Fiorentina went a goal down in the 16th minute goal when Juventus' Croatian defender Igor Tudor rose to meet Alessandro Del Piero's corner with powerful header.

But Gabriel Batistuta levelled four minutes later, steering home a cross from Enrico Chiesa, while a second-half header from Chiesa hit the crossbar after a desperate block by goalkeeper Michelangelo Rampulla.

The result left Juventus on 29 points and two behind Lazio, who are confirming pre-season tips as favourites for the title.

Lazio's Chilean striker Marcelo Salas opened the scoring after only nine minutes. Yugoslav defender Sinisa Mihajlovic sent a high ball forward, Swiss midfielder Guerino Gottardi nodded on and Salas drove it home.

It was Lazio's 100th goal of 1999, the best performance by any team in Italy, and the 101st goal was only 50 minutes away.

Mihajlovic crashed one of his trademark free-kicks against the Piacenza wall, but the rifled home the rebound from the edge of the area.

Coach Sven Goran Eriksson was taking nothing for granted this season, despite his team's ninth victory in 14 league games.

The *Serie A*'s top scorer, Argentinian Hernan Crespo, struck in the third minute to bring his total to 11 this season and Stefano Torrisi drove home a shot from outside the area in the 32nd minute.

Capello was angry that the match had even been played at all.

Parma, who started October third from bottom, finished December third from top after beating title rivals AS Roma 2-0 on a pitch which prompted the fury of Roma coach Fabio Capello.

Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko was both hero and villain for 10-man AC Milan, scoring two goals but then missing a last-minute penalty as they could only draw 2-2 with lowly Reggina.

Milan celebrated their 100th anniversary on Wednesday night but the players hadn't recovered from their hangovers when Reggina's Andrea Pirlo, on loan from Inter, hit a low shot past Christian Abbiati on the half-hour.

At the other end, the goal prompted Milan fans to throw a volley of fruit and also a firework at Reggina's debutant goalkeeper Emanuele Belardi, who was slightly hurt when the firework exploded by his leg.

Shevchenko scored twice midway through the second half, but Milan had midfielder Federico Giunti sent off in the 78th minute and from the ensuing free-kick Reggina's Mohamed Kallon of Sierra Leone bundled in the equaliser.

But there was still time for more drama with German striker Oliver Bierhoff earning Milan a 90th minute penalty, which Shevchenko took but Belardi was able to push round the post for a corner.

Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni was not happy with the outcome against opponents who are in the relegation zone.

"In the first half, we were too predictible, too static," he said. "We were more dynamic and moved the ball around better in the second half and we had chances to win the match.

"It's a shame, because when this team really play they can beat anyone."

Elsewhere, Roberto Ripa got the winner as Perugia beat Bologna 3-2, Danish midfielder Martin Jorgensen nodded in a 26th minute corner to give Udinese a 1-0 win over Torino and Cagliari drew 0-0 with Lecce.

AC Milan's Argentine star Andreas Gugielminpietro (L) is pursued by a Reggina player in their *Serie A* encounter on December 19. — AFP photo

STANDINGS

Italian *Serie A* table on Sunday night (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Lazio	14	9	4	1	30	13	31
Juventus	14	8	5	1	17	7	29
Parma	14	8	3	3	27	17	27
Roma	14	7	4	3	26	14	25
AC Milan	14	6	6	2	29	19	24
Inter Milan	14	7	2	5	24	12	23
Bari	14	5	5	4	17	17	20
Perugia	14	6	2	6	16	18	20
Udinese	14	5	4	5	19	22	19
Fiorentina	14	4	6	4	15	17	18
Lecce	14	5	3	6	15	23	18
Bologna	14	4	5	5	11	13	17
Verona	14	4	3	7	11	20	15
Torino	14	3	5	6	10	17	14
Reggina	14	2	6	6	15	23	12
Piacenza	14	2	5	7	9	16	11
Venezia	14	2	3	9	9	19	9
Cagliari	14	0	7	7	12	25	7

Success never easy

LISBON, Dec 20 (Reuters): Therese Alshammar led Sweden on a world record spree at the European short-course swimming championships but that singular Swedish talent has been steeled and honed in Germany for the past few months.

Alshammar eclipsed the six-year-old 50 and 100 metres freestyle world short-course marks of Chinese Olympic gold medalist Le Jingyi and shared in a pair of world-best performances in two Swedish relays.

"Everybody's really looking forward to doing their best. It's hard to say why everybody's swimming so fast. But we're a really great country, I'd say, and we have some great talent." The talent is certainly there but Alshammar has taken a long route to develop hers, spending two years in the United States and then, less than four months ago, migrating to Hamburg to become one of six swimmers from four nations in the care of German coach Dirk Lange.

Experts note improvements in her smooth unhurried stroke; Lange talks about a better training programme.

Swedish head coach Hans Chrunak, a fierce critic of China's methods of producing a formidable squad of women's champions before dope tests revealed steroid use by a number of their swimmers, was particularly pleased that Alshammar had broken Chinese world records.

'MARVELLOUS TECHNIQUE'

"Therese is not a big girl . . . but she has a marvellous technique and a great, great talent," he said. "In the past she lost her focus but in the last year she has really focused on what she's doing."

Alshammar, a 22-year-old from Stockholm who stands 1.79 metres and weighs 60 kilos, is herself indifferent to whose records she has broken, regarding such considerations as an inhibiting distraction.

She started out as a backstroker and went on to pick up European long-course medals in the 50 freestyle — bronze in 1997 and silver this year. But she had never stood out the way she did in Lisbon's Jamor pool.

The transformation has occurred since she joined Lange three weeks after taking the silver behind Dutch rival Inge de Bruijn in Istanbul in August.

"I knew she would be fast but I didn't expect she would be as fast as she was," said the shaven-headed German trainer, who also coaches Olympic silver medalist Sandra Voelker and British world short-course double champion Mark Foster.

"It was the training programme, the concept was individual for her because all my swimmers have individual training programmes."

TRAINING SCHOOL

Alshammar had been training for two years in the United States and Lange reckoned her regime there was not too good. "I switched it more to power, more dynamic: Weight-training and running — sprints and interval training — as well as swimming," he said.

"I think Therese is at the beginning of her career but it doesn't mean she will always beat everybody, especially Sandra."

Voelker had to settle for the 100 freestyle bronze behind Alshammar and defending champion Sue Rolph of Britain but Lange said her swim had been really good, her best in three years since she took the silver medal at the Atlanta Olympics and won the inaugural European short-course championships in Rostock.

"Every year she had been a bit slower but now we've been able to change it . . . This shows in the training school, with Therese especially. It's harder to be number one in training for Threse and Sandra than in their countries," Lange said.

"It's always a fight. For a coach nothing can be better."

Alshammar said she had been told she would benefit from training with Voelker in Hamburg. "Someone said . . . it could be good being training partners. She (Voelker) hadn't had one before and she thought it would be good, too," she said after her first world record.

"If I could I would wish to share this with her. Sandra's helped me a lot. I'm sure she'll come back. She's still one of my favourite swimmers in the world. I think this will only make her stronger."

Voelker retained her 50 backstroke title the following day. "She's been a great influence mentally," Alshammar said.

Lange said Alshammar, thrust for the first time into the role of favourite, had coped well with the sort of pressure which Voelker and Rolph had long to handle.

"She works really professionally, she's not afraid of pain," Lange said, admiring the way Alshammar had gone out hard from the start of the 100 and not tried to conserve her power.

"She swims with the heart. This is the thing I want with all my swimmers."

THERESE ALSHAMMAR

Scottish Premiership

Hibernian break Hearts

GLASGOW, Dec 20: Hibernian left Scottish Premiership and Edinburgh rivals Hearts reeling at Tynecastle Sunday, running out 3-0 winners in their final 'derby' match of the century, reports AFP.

Fine goals from Dirk Lehmann and Franck Sauzee put them firmly in command by the interval before substitute Kenny Miller wrapped up victory with a well-taken strike in the 90th minute.

Antti Niemi lined-up for his Hearts debut after his 600,000 dollar switch from Rangers was completed Sunday and the Finnish international was joined by fellow debutant Fitzroy Simpson.

Hibernian recalled Lehmann to the fold with Kenny Miller dropping to the bench as both teams sought to improve on the inconsistent form which has left them mid-table.

The visitors were the first to threaten, Tom Smith making ground on the left before crossing for another Finn Mixu Paatelainen to head wide of goal.

After 16 minutes, Simpson's first positive contribution saw a fine deep cross to the far post which Stephane Adam took on the volley forcing Nick Colgan into an alert low save.

But two minutes later it was Hibernian who moved ahead after Russell Latapy played the ball into the feet of Lehmann whose fierce low drive surprised Niemi.

Moments later, Lehmann, who has struggled to settle since his summer arrival from Fulham, soured his night by crashing into Steven Pressley to earn an instant booking.

Hearts came close to levelling on 23 minutes when Gary Naysmith's cross from the left picked out Darren Jackson but he sent his header over the bar.

Again however it was Hibernian who struck, a Grant Brebner drag-back only half-cleared and Sauzee rifling the ball in from distance with a stunning strike to make it 2-0.

A Stuart Lovell burst forward might have resulted in a Hibs' third as his pass released Lehmann again, but his angled shot was well-held by new recruit Niemi.

On 36 minutes, Adam miskicked badly in front of goal from a searching Simpson cross, while Colgan was brave at the feet of Colin Cameron in their next attack.

It was Scotland international Cameron who made Hearts' next opening out of nothing, creating time and space for himself and testing Colgan from 25 yards.

Hearts continued to press forward ahead of the break, Simpson blasting a free-kick which Colgan needed two attempts to gather - but Hibs held firm.

In the second half Hibernian's Russell Latapy went close on a couple of occasions before Miller finished things off.

The result puts Hibernian, in fifth place, four points clear of Hearts in sixth.

River Plate Argentine champs

BUENOS AIRES, Dec 20: River Plate won the Argentine championship on Sunday, a 2-2 draw away to Oscar Ruggeri's San Lorenzo giving them the point they needed to claim the title, reports Reuters.

Eighteen-year-old Javier Saviola, the new sensation of Argentine soccer, was again on the scoresheet for River. He converted a 51st minute penalty to finish as the championship's top scorer with 15 goals. The game began 15 minutes late as both sets of supporters hurled firecrackers onto the field on another black weekend for Argentine soccer.

On Saturday, the match between Belgrano and Independiente had become the third this season to be abandoned due to crowd trouble. Independiente were leading 3-2 at the time.

River's game was played in a tense atmosphere, San Lorenzo fans having already warned River Plate players not to perform a lap of honour in their stadium.

River finished the so-called Apertura (Opening) championship, the first of two championships in the Argentine season, with 44 points, one more than Rosario Central and three ahead of arch-rivals Boca Juniors.

River appeared to be cruising to the title as Guillermo Pereyra and then Saviola gave them a two-goal lead.

But they were made to suffer a nervous finish as San Lorenzo, who completed their first year under the leadership of former Argentina defender Ruggeri, hit back with two goals in the last 10 minutes by Bernardo Romeo.

San Lorenzo, early leaders in the championship, finished fourth after fading in the last few weeks of the tournament.

A third San Lorenzo goal would have forced River Plate into a playoff with Rosario Central, who beat Velez Sansfield with a goal by Maximiliano Cuberas.

Boca, who needed a win and a loss by River to force a playoff, were held to a goalless draw away to Talleres.

Argentina's most fanatically supported club won both championships last season, but were handicapped this year by a serious knee injury to marksman Martin Palermo.

Palermo still finished second in the scorers' table with 14 goals.

Borussia Dortmund Otto Addo (R) is challenged by Hertha Berlin's Michael Hartmann during their *Bundesliga* fixture on December 19. — AFP photo

Bundesliga

Incident-filled last week

COLOGNE, Germany, Dec 20: The *Bundesliga* year has ended in controversy when both linesman and referee in Munich's Olympic stadium had their view obstructed and disallowed what was clearly a Kaiserslautern goal, altering the tide of the game, reports AFP.

The Red Devils went on to lose 2-1 at 1860 Munich Saturday and announced they would be seeking clarification from the German Football Federation (DFB) about the controversy which was exposed by television footage.

Elsewhere Bayer Leverkusen and Hamburg both got wins and kept up the chase on Bayern Munich who beat Werder Bremen Friday. At the halfway mark of the season Bayern have 36 points, followed by Leverkusen on 34, Hamburg on 31 and 1860 Munich on 29.

Borussia Dortmund closed out the year with an emphatic 4-0 victory over Hertha Berlin Sunday evening, their first win in nine games, and lie fifth with 28 points.

Despite a chopped up pitch, a constant problem at Dortmund's Westfalen stadium where sunlight is unable to penetrate the enclosing stands, the home side were already three goals up at half time through Alfred Nijhuis (16th minute), Carsten Baumann (21st) and Fredi Bobic (33rd).

It was an eventful afternoon in Munich Saturday, heralded by several interesting tactical switches by Otto Rehhagel.

The Kaiserslautern coach named winger Mario Basler as libero to replace Hany Ramzy and stalwart goalkeeper Andreas Reinke was dropped in favour of reserve man Uwe Gospadarek.

Basler, who turned 31 Saturday, adjusted well to his new position in defence but couldn't stop Martin Max's goal after just four minutes.

In the second half Basler picked up two yellow cards and, provocatively waving to the Munich crowd, stomped off to the showers with 12 minutes to play.

Former Germany international Thomas Hassler also found himself at the centre of action when he uncharacteristically landed a sliding tackle on Jeff Strasser in 1860's goal area after 15 minutes.

Youri Djorkaeff converted the resulting penalty for the visitors but Hassler redeemed himself by scoring the Lion's winner an hour later, also a penalty caused by Olaf Marschall pulling down his former Kaiserslautern teammate Thomas Riedl.

Only 18,000 turned up in chilly conditions but they saw plenty of action. The lowlight was referee Helmut Krug's error in the 66th minute.

A Kaiserslautern corner kick saw Olaf Marschall redirect the ball to the far post where it hit defender Harald Cerny and crossed the line before keeper Daniel Hoffmann could grab it.

If granted the goal would have put Kaiserslautern 2-1 ahead and, coming minutes before Hassler's converted penalty and Basler's sending off, might have changed the course of the game but Krug was not prepared to go out on a limb.

It was a lucrative decision for 1860 because the win lifted them to fourth on the table and guaranteed each player a 26,113 dollar bonus for ending the year in the top four.

Hamburg blew Duisburg away 6-1 and had five of those goals on the board already by half time. Tony Yeboah (8th and 29th minutes) and Nico Hoogma (11th and 90th) both scored twice.

Goalkeeper Hans-Jorg Butt notched his seventh goal of the season when he converted a 41st minute penalty while Duisburg defender Tomasz Hajto scored an own goal two minutes later. The Zebras' lone score came from Markus Beierle on 20 minutes.

SSV Ulm got their third win in a row with a 3-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt while Freiburg drew 1-1 with Wolfsburg. On Friday, Werder Bremen lost 2-0 to Bayern Munich and VfB Stuttgart won 2-1 at Arminia Bielefeld.

The *Bundesliga* now enters its annual winter break and play will not resume again until February 4th 2000.

Christian Worns extended Dortmund's lead on 69 minutes, snapping Hertha's form recovery in their previous four outings which included three wins and a draw.

The result restores hope for Dortmund who have slipped dramatically in the last six weeks. Criticism was rife that Dortmund's players were overpayed and lacking heart but the turnaround was marked 11 days ago by their watershed win over Glasgow Rangers in the UEFA Cup.

"Let's go into the winter break now and see what the new year brings," scorer Fredi Bobic said. "It's been a wearing season for us so far - just as it has been for the other teams.

"It was tough tonight with the bad weather and pitch conditions. There's still a lot of work ahead of us if we want to have any ambitions of a title."

Sunday's other game saw Hansa Rostock's newcomer Sven Benken pay his way with a goal in the 70th minute, lifting the East Germans to a 1-0 win over Schalke.

STANDINGS

German *Bundesliga* table after matches played Sunday (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against):

Bayern	17	11	3	3	33	13	36
Leverkusen	17	9	7	1	29	18	34
Hamburg	17	8	7	2	39	19	31
Munich 1860	17	8	5	4	28	21	29
Dortmund	17	7	7	3	24	13	28
Stuttgart	17	8	3	6	21	19	27
Bremen	17	7	5	5	34	24	26
Kaiserslautern	17	7	2	8	21	30	23
Hertha Berlin	17	5	7	5	22	28	22
Schalke 04	17	4	9	4	21	20	21
Wolfsburg	17	5	6	6	22	30	21
Freiburg	17	5	5	7	24	23	20
Unterhaching	17	5	5	7	18	20	20
Rostock	17	5	5	7	23	35	20
Ulm	17	5	4	8	19	25	19
Duisburg	17	2	7	8	18	30	13
Frankfurt	17	3	2	12	17	27	11
Bielefeld	17	2	5	10	13	31	11

Unique triumph for Burkinabe club

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 20: Burkina Faso claimed their first international club prize when ASFA Yennenga lifted the West African Football Union (WAFU) Cup in Ouagadougou at the weekend with a 3-2 final win over Stade Abidjan, reports AFP.

ASFA levelled twice through Amadou Toure after Lacina Traore had struck two goals for the Cote d'Ivoire team and Burkinabe national team midfielder Ismael Koudou snatched the 83rd-minute winner.

Jeunesse Sportive Tenere of Niger, runners-up to Ghapoha United of Ghana and Shooting Stars of Nigeria in the previous two finals, finished third through a 3-1 play-off victory over Etoile of Guinea.

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS
1 007, e.g.
4 Train sound
8 Thick chunk
12 Court
13 Lend a hand
14 Elite alternative
15 Request
16 Bunny's battery
18 Motif
20 Tie up the phone line
21 One of "The Brady Bunch"
24 Onetime NYC mayor
28 User of the long form
32 Mimi's enemy
33 Kenny G's instrument
34 Avifauna
36 Wrath
37 Make-up artist?
39 Perfume bottle, perhaps
41 He's had some bad hare days
43 Leftovers concoction
44 Cribbage score-keeper
46 It's from the heart
50 Robert McCall, in TV reruns
55 "— Town"
56 Prickly seed cases
57 Peregrinate
58 Inseparable
59 Crooked
60 Burden
61 More, to Manuel

DOWN
1 Bat a gnat
2 Luxurious
3 Oxen's joiner
4 "Ta-ta!"
5 Coop occupant
6 Bullring bravo
7 Nashville show
8 Added alcohol
9 Columnist Smith
10 Expert
11 Slot machine symbol
17 See 20-Across
19 Leo's home?
22 Pound of verse
23 Fellows
25 N.Mex. neighbor
26 Not adorned
27 Water pitcher
28 Man, e.g.
29 Coin toss option
30 Term terminator
31 Laugh-a-minute sort
35 Slandered
38 Meal
40 Jima preceder
42 Prot. or Cath.
45 Daughter
47 Chamber
48 Salad ingredient
49 Mars' counterpart
50 Suffer recession
51 "— Sera, Sera"
52 Coffee-maker
53 Menagerie
54 Space walk, for short

Solution time: 22 mins.

H	E	I	R	■	J	E	F	F	■	L	A	W
O	M	O	O	■	A	G	R	O	■	I	D	O
S	U	N	T	A	N	O	I	L	■	F	O	R
■	■	■	A	M	E	S	■	L	I	E	G	E
L	A	S	T	S	■	■	K	I	N	G	■	■
A	L	E	E	■	S	I	N	E	C	U	R	E
M	I	A	■	W	A	D	I	S	■	A	H	A
B	A	S	S	I	N	E	T	■	B	R	E	T
■	■	■	H	U	N	K	■	R	I	D	E	S
G	R	E	B	E	■	B	A	I	L	■	■	■
A	I	L	■	S	U	R	F	B	O	A	R	D
I	L	L	■	A	R	I	A	■	X	R	A	Y
L	E	S	■	P	I	E	R	■	I	N	G	E

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				17				
18			19		■	■	20			■	■	■
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	■	32			
33			■	34				35	■	36		
37			38	■	39				40			
41				42	■	43				■	■	■
■	■	■	44		45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54		■	55		
56				■	57				■	58		
59				■	60				■	61		

CRYPTOQUIP

H X Z U R Q Q Z M Y O L J N M O R Q W T Y Q H Z J H W Y H J N T X U L B Z M Z B R Z U J.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BIG SIGN TACKED ON HEALTH CLUB'S WALL: WE CAN TAKE YOUR BREADTH AWAY.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals E

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.