Brazilian finalists

to replay RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 9: Brazilian league finalists Sao Caetano and Vasco da Gama must play a third match on January 18 to determine who takes the title after the return leg was abandoned when a fence collapsed, injuring some 160 people, reports AFP.

The decision came after a chaotic press conference which ended when Fabio Koff, the president of the so-called club of 13, a committee which runs the Brazilian domestic game. said the deciding match would be played in Rio's legendary Maracana stadium. Koff said fans would be allowed in for

He added the committee had carefully analysed evidence from the referee of the December 30 game. Roberto Godoi. and decided the only way to break the deadlock was to hold another match.

The decision has to be ratified Tuesday by the Superior Tribunal of Sporting Justice. "We could not punish either

team because we had no proof." explained Koff. Vasco de Gama club president Eurico Miranda had earlier been quoted in the press as saving he was prepared to have

a replay. However. Sao Caetano had insisted that the rules of the competition stipulated that in case of a game being suspended the host club would be declared the loser 1-0.

That would have given them the title.

The match at the Sao Januario stadium was halted and then eventually abandoned by referee Roberto Godoi on the orders of Rio de Janeiro state governor Anthony Garotinho after 23 minutes of the return leg with the score at 0-0.

Observers said that the 35.000-capacity stadium was too small for a match of such significance and that too many

The clubs had drawn 1-1 in the first leg at Sao Caetano's Palestria Italia stadium in Sao Paulo and had the 0-0 second leg result stood, Vasco Da Gama would have won on away

Afer the match was abantelevision footage showed Miranda demanding police clear the pitch so the winners' trophy could be

awarded to his team. Miranda had reportedly said: "The governor is an incompetent idiot. I consider we are the champions.

Garotinho even said last Wednesday he would be suing Miranda for his comments.

Dundee after Maradona

GLASGOW, Jan 9: Dundee are hoping to reunite Argentinian legend Diego Maradona with former international teammate Claudio Caniggia at Dens Park, reports AFP. The ambitious Tayside outfit

are still in talks to bring the former World Cup star to Dundee for a one-off spectacular against his former club Napoli.

Maradona was recently voted the world's greatest player with Brazilian Pele and the Dundee supporters are hoping to get the chance of a lifetime. Dundee chiefs have stepped

up their attempts after Caniggia promised to bring his close friend to the club when he arrived in October. And the prospect of him ar-

riving in Dundee moved a step closer with Caniggia signing a new contract until 2003 last

Maradona will meet representatives from the Italian Serie A outfit this week and both parties have expressed an interest in going ahead with the fixture some time after the winter break.

Blazevic taking over Iran

TEHRAN. Jan 9: Former Croatian national coach Miroslav Blazevic will arrive in Tehran this week to take over under-achievers Iran, whose elimination from last year's Asian cup led skipper Jalal

· Blazevic arrives Thursday for final talks with Iranian football officials before the official announcement of his contract to guide the national side through the run-up to the 2002 World Cup, state news agency IRNA

The contract will be extended if steers Iran to qualifi cation for the finals in Japan and South Korea, IRNA said.

Blazevic led giant-killers Croatia to a surprise third-place finish in the 1998 World Cup in France, but stepped down last October after saying he could no longer "endure the constant media pressure and stress."

But he may not find much more quiet in football-mad Iran, where a dismal performance in the Asian Cup in Lebanon led to calls in parliament for a full investigation into the failure.

Iran, which had been favoured to win the cup, collapsed in the quarter-finals with an excruciating 2-1 loss to South Korea, conceding one goal in stoppage time and the other in extra time.

Talebi stepped down as

manager after the debacle. Blazevic, who coached Croatia for nine years, takes over a talented side including German league star and national hero All Daei.



Brazilian soccer star Edmundo waves to Napoli fans at the San Paolo's Stadium on January 8. -Internet photo

'Animal' gets Diego-like welcome



(Reuters/Internet) Brazilian striker Edmundo added nine and seven. subtracted 10 and

came up with an answer of 97 on Monday when he became the first player since Diego Maradona to receive a "stadium welcome" at Serie A side Napoli.

The wayward former Fiorentina striker, who has joined Napoli for six months from Brazilian club Vasco Da Gama. held a news conference at the spectators had been allowed club's ground and said he would wear shirt number 97 during his short spell in Italy.

"During my career I've always worn one of three shirts -seven, nine and 10," he told reporters.

"Given that you can't wear number 10 at Napoli and the number nine and seven shirts have been assigned to other players. I decided to put the two numbers together on my shirt."

Napoli took the rare step of "retiring" the number 10 shirt this season in honour of Diego Maradona, who transformed the club into double league title winners during his turbulent spell as Napoli's number 10 between 1986-92.

Although retiring shirts is common practice in American sport, it is almost without

precedent in Italian soccer. Edmundo, whose arrival in Naples has inevitably drawn tearing their hair out. comparisons with fellow Latin

American bad boy Maradona,

Zoff the replacement

confirmed Sven-

Goran Eriksson

will definitely be in charge of

the national team for next

month's friendly against Spain,

the Press Assocation reported,

resignation as Lazio coach on

Tuesday, with FA spokesman

Paul Newman admitting talks

would start aimed at Eriksson

Eriksson resigned his position

with the Italian champions.

clearing the way for him to be-

come coach to the England

national team six months ahead

of his scheduled start date in

time in finding a replacement.

appointing club vice-president

sion on Tuesday morning while

morning in the car on the way

old in a press conference. "The

His new challenge is seen as

one of the toughest assign-

ments in world football with

vented the world's most popular

sport - having made a disas-

trous start to their World Cup

qualifying campaign after a

England, who have not

reached a major final since

their controversial World Cup

victory in 1966, have also been

forced out of their historic

Wembley Stadium home while it

and world football had turned

down the chance to replace

Kevin Keegan, who had re-

signed, before Eriksson agreed

Many big names in English

England - the country that in-

Dino Zoff as the new coach.

that setback

training camp.

poor Euro 2000.

is redeveloped.

players.

And the Roman side lost no

Zoff was the logical ap-

Reports from Rome say

taking over as soon as possible.

The Swede confirmed his

reports AFP.

was greeted by 10,000 fans not receiving enough first-team inside the San Paolo stadium.

Napoli made a dire start to

the season but have started to recover since Emiliano Mondonico took over as coach in

Lazio 2-1 at the Olympic Stadium on Sunday to climb out of the relegation zone. Edmundo, who flew into Rome from Rio de Janeiro shortly before the match, was watching from the stands. Edmundo's return to Italy is

the latest twist in a troubled career littered with fights, red cards and a car crash wich led to manslaughter charges and a leave. brief prison sentence. He is still vividly remem-

bered in Florence, scene of his

previous incarnation as a Serie A player in 1997-99. When Edmundo joined Fiorentina the Italian club's president Vittorio Cecchi Gori

described him as "a player of crystaline class and a lion-like temper". Cecchi Gori was right on both counts.

genius during his turbulent time in Florence but left suc-

Ericksson leaves Lazio

coach England - originally pro-

SVEN GORAN ERIKSSON

vided for him to begin his five-

year contract on July 1, 2001

the day after his deal with the

England, one of the sport's

1948: Born Torsby, Sweden,

1975: Finishes playing ca-

1976: Takes over as coach

1979: Takes over as coach

1979: Wins Swedish Cup.

1981: Wins Swedish title.

1982: Wins Swedish Cup.

with Benfica, wins Portuguese

championship and domestic

cup, but loses in final of the

championship again, before

Italian Cup) in his second sea-

UEFA Cup to Anderlecht.

taking over at Roma.

son in charge at Roma.

Italian rivals Fiorentina.

side lose 1-0 to AC Milan.

1989: Rejoins Benfica.

join Benfica.

1982: Quits Gothenburg to

1983: In his first season

1984: Wins Portuguese

1986: Wins Coppa Italia (the

1987: Leaves Roma to join

1990: Takes Benfica to

1991: Wins Portuguese

European Cup final, but his

reer in Sweden with his only

Eriksson, meanwhile, re- most high profile positions,

vealed he had made the deci- earlier than planned:

"I took the decision this club, Degerfors,

first people to know were the of IFK Gothenburg.

travelling to Lazio's Formello February 5.

to Formello," said the 52-year- at Degerfors.

LONDON. Jan 9: a deal with the English Football

ball Association That deal - Eriksson be-

(FA) on Tuesday comes the first foreigner to

The English Foot- Association (FA).

soccer and although he was No player since the great Ar- coaxed back. he stormed out gentine has been honoured with again a year later -- this time to a public presentation inside the go to the Rio de Janeiro carni-The timing could not have

been worse for Fiorentina, who were top of the league but had just lost Edmundo's striking partner Gabriel Batistuta to They beat Italian champions injury. Their season fell apart and they finished third.

"It's time to stop screwing around," Trapattoni told Edmundo when he returned from carnival. "It's time you grew up and became responsible because without a head on your shoulders you won't get anywhere -- despite your talent."

The following month, Edmundo confirmed he wanted to

"I'm a sentimental person and things are different here in Italy," he said. "I can't play when I'm here in Italy and my mind is in Brazil.

Since then he has been handed a 4-1/2 year semi-open prison sentence for his part in a car crash in Brazil in which three people died, and was then threatened with prosecution for feeding beer to a chimpanzee at a party for his son.

Edmundo showed flashes of He has had bust-ups with his great rival Romario, incessive coaches Alberto Male- cluding one over a cartoon of sani and Giovanni Trapattoni Edmundo which Romario had painted on the door of one of Nine months after his arrival the toilets in his theme bar in a he walked out claiming he was suburb of Rio

second title and their first for

trophies with Lazio and during

earlier Serie A assignments with

AS Roma. Fiorentina and

Sampdoria as well as three

His career had begun in ear-

But Lazio's indifferent form

nest with IFK Gothenburg after

cutting his teeth with Gothen-

in both Serie A and the Cham-

pions League has caused ten-

sion with the supporters al-

though until now both club and

coach had been adamant the

defeat by strugglers Napoli

straw and although club presi-

dent Sergio Cragnotti said

stay with the club the Swede

Since Keegan's resignation

1996: Announced as new

Blackburn manager, but unable

to join until the summer of

1997 due to contractual obliga-

changes his mind.

Italian Super Cup.

title and Coppa Italia.

in Rome to Leeds.

last nine games.

ately.

1997: Joins Lazio.

tions with Sampdoria and later

1998: Wins Coppa Italia and

1999: Wins European Cup

2000: Wins Italian Serie A

October: Agrees five-year

contract to become first foreign

manager of the English national

December 5 - Lazio lie bot-

December 17 - Lazio lose

2001: January 7 - Lazio

tom of Champions League

Group D following a 1-0 defeat

home Rome derby against bitter

rivals and Serie A leaders Roma

lose 2-1 at home to Napoli,

making it six defeats in their

ing to reports resigns as Lazio

manager, leaving him free to

take up England post immedi-

2001: January 9 - Accord-

team from summer of 2001.

Winners Cup and UEFA Super

Howard Wilkinson and then a

was significantly silent after

However, Sunday's 2-1 home

contract would be honoured.

burg's feeder club Degherfors.

Portuguese titles with Benfica.

He has also won many other

Bertolotti to hang up boots

MODENA, Italy, Jan 9 Francesco Bertolotti, the Italian footballer who fell into coma after being attacked by an opponent after a match, is expected to announce his retirement at a press conference on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Bertolotti. 33, is still being treated for injuries sustained after the assault by Como captain Massimiliano Ferrigno after the Third Division match between the clubs in November won 1-0 by Como.

Bertolotti was admitted to hospital in a coma that night and underwent emergency surgery but has made a good recovery since.

Last week doctors treating the player said they would advise him to cease his playing career.

Panucci on-loan to Monaco

MONACO. France, Jan 9 Italian defender Christian Panucci on Monday confirmed he would be loaned to Monaco from parent club Inter Milan for six months, reports AFP.

Panucci, who was due to have his first training session at the principality club on Monday afternoon, had been loaned to English Premiership side Chelsea at the beginning of the sea-

The 27-year-old Italian in ternational told a press conference: "I'm delighted to be at Monaco." French league champions Monaco also have an option to sign Panucci on a fivevear contract.

German channels secure WC 2002

rights

MUNICH. Germany, Jan 9 The German public television channels ARD and ZDF have agreed to buy some of the broadcasting rights for the football 2002 World Cup from media giant Kirch, Kirch said on Monday.

The financial details were not disclosed, but ARD and ZDF would finance part of the deal by giving Kirch the pay-TV rights for the 2002 winter Olympics and the 2008 summer Olympics, Kirch said in a

statement. ARD and ZDF would retain the free-TV rights for the 2002 and 2008 Olympics.

Under the terms of the deal covering the rights for the 2002 World Cup, ARD and ZDF would receive the rights for 24 of the 64 matches, to be held in Japan and South Korea.

Included in the package were the rights for the opening game, the semi-finals and the final and any match in which the German national team ARD and ZDF would also be

given priority status when negotiating for the broadcasting champions, one more than anrights for the 2006 World Cup, Kirch added.

"ARD and ZDF are our dream partners for live reporting in free TV," said Dieter Hahn, head of KirchHolding.

On Friday, a newspaper report had said that ARD and ZDF would pay a record 225 million marks (115 million euros. 109 million dollars) for the World Cup 2002 rights.

Malesani fired by Parma

have sacked their coach Alberto Malesani, the Italian First Division club announced Monday reports AFP.

Malesani, who in November survived a serious car crash. paid the price for a disappointseems to have been the last ing campaign so far for a team touted to be among the challengers for the championship at Monday that Eriksson would the start of the season.

Ten Goran pointers

football management. properties including a flat in day, reports AFP. Rome's Piazza del Popolo and an River's president David Pinexclusive beach resort in Portu-

player and those who have played him, including former Italy manager Dino Zoff, testify to how much he hates losing. 4. His first marriage, to Swede Ann-Kristin, ended in the

4-5-1 and, occasionally, 3-5-2.

10. Lazio fans greeted him at

home games with a chorus of his

name to the tune of Brown Girl

half of Sven-Goran's brain'.

In The Ring by Boney M.

l'Olio.

3. He is a very keen tennis

1992. He has two children from the marriage - son Johan, 20. and daughter Lina, 14. 5. His long-term airlfriend is high society lawyer Vancy Dal-

6. Dad Sven and mother Ulla still live in his home town Torsby in Sweden. move is 26-year-old striker Sa-7. He has a great liking fo bin Ilie, who was Monday wine and Tibetan poetry. 8. His preferred system is

4-2 but he is not a slave to one from National Bucarest. strategy and has also deployed 9. Eriksson's assistant Tord to National from Spain's Valen-Grip is known in Sweden as 'one

houil.



Italian Pierluigi Collina (L) receives the trophy for the Best Referee of 2000 from legendary German Franz Beckenbauer in Rotenberg on January 9. International Football Federation of History and Statistics (IFFHS) hosted the function.

Berlin honours 2000's best



Rivaldo edged 20. fellow Brazilian Romario for the title of the world's top international scorer in 2000, the IFFHS soc-

cer statistics group said on Monday, reports Reuters. Its annual awards in Germany also named Carlos Bianchi of Boca Juniors as club coach of the year and a third Brazilian striker, Mario Jardel.

as domestic club top scorer for

his last season with FC Porto. scored 21 goals in representative matches and international club competitions combined

· Iran and Hertha Berlin into fourth place.

the 1999-2000 season before his move to Galatasarav secured him the top spot in topflight domestic club games, one voted top national coach of the aliead of fellow Brazilian Eduardo Esidio's 37 for champions Universitario in the Peruvian league.

Esidio's achievement was all the more remarkable as he was tested positive for HIV two years Morocco. Argentina's Marcelo

Hamzah Idris scored 33 Rivaldo and Romario both goals for Al-Ittihad Jeddah in the Saudi League to finish third in the ranking.

A poll of soccer experts voted But the Barcelona player Boca's Bianchi club trainer of pipped the Vasco da Gama vet- the year, with Hector Cuper of eran. under the group's rules Valencia second and Vicente del for world top scorer, by virtue of Bosque of Real Madrid third. having scored one more goal for beating last year's winner Alex Ferguson of Manchester United

BERLIN. Jan 9: striker Ali Daei was third with Real were top club of 2000 in the IFFHS ranking, ahead of Jardel's 38 goals for Porto in Istanbul's Galatasarav and Boca Juniors from Buenos Ai-

> France's Roger Lemerre was year, beating into second Humberto Coelho, who took Portugal to narrow defeat by eventual champions France in the European championship semifinals before heading abroad to train Bielsa was third.

> Fabien Barthez of Manchester United and France was voted goalkeeper of the year, ahead of Oliver Kahn of Bayern Munich and Germany and third-placed Francesco Toldo of Fiorentina and Italy.

Referee of the year was the ever-recognisable bald Italian Pierluigi Collina, followed by Swede Andreas Frisk and Markus Merk of Germany.

Hossam a national pride CAIRO, Jan 9 finals.



(AFP): In the sand-speckled back streets of Cairo the mere mention of his name triggers excitement as old men sip rich coffee at pavement

Egyptian Hossam Hassan is a living legend who today becomes the most capped footballer in the world when he plays in a friendly against Zambia at the International Sta-

dium here. It will be his 151st appearance for the four-time African other legend, former Germany and Bayern Munich midfielder Lothar Matthaeus.

Hassan has come a long way since winning his first cap in Norway during 1985 and seems set to leave Matthaeus far behind as Egypt have another five matches this month.

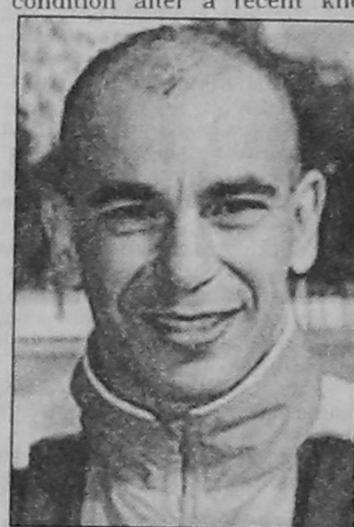
Libya visit the Egyptian capital this weekend for an African Nations Cup qualifier before the Pharaohs fly to Tehran for friendles against Iran and China.

Another friendly in Cairo. against North Korea, has been lined up before Egypt face Morocco on January 28 in a World PARMA. Italy, Jan 9: Parma | Cup qualifier that could decide which country goes to the 2002

At 34, Hassan acknowledges that life as a predator is tough with his reputation, forcing opponents into often desperate measures as they try to contain the deadliest marksman Egypt

has produced. "There is no need to worry about my age," he assures his huge fan club, which cuts across club lines in the sometimes volatile world of Egyptian football.

"I am in perfect physical condition after a recent knee



HOSSAM HASSAN

injury and have a lot to offer. Besides, good strikers do not grow on trees. Brazil would have won the 1998 World Cup had they chosen Romario. Hassan says. Hossam and twin brother

Ibrahim, a defender with a fearsome tackle, joined Cairo giants Al-Ahly at 13 and, apart from short spells with clubs in Greece. Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates, looked set to stay until retirement. But the Hassans felt un-

wanted at the end of last season and moved to bitter rivals Zamalek in a transfer deal that replaced politics on the front page of national newspapers. While reluctantly accepting

he is in the twilight of an illustrious career, fun-loving Hossam has set no date for his retirement from international or club football. "I have not thought of it.

When I am bored with football and can no longer give my best. that is the time to call it a day, says the Gianluca Vialli lookalike.

Meanwhile, there are caps to be won and goals to be scored as he needs another seven at international level to equal the record of Hungarian Ference Puskas, the Galloping Major who wreaked havoc almost 50 years ago.

Argentina bribed Peru in WC 1978?



LIMA. Jan 9: Argentina's military junta effectively bribed Peruvian authorities in order to win through to the 1978 World Cup

tine Roberto 'Tito' Bonano from 2. He already owns five River Plate, his club said Mon-

> tado said that Monaco would pay around 4.5 million dollars for the 30-year-old Bonano. who would link up with former River star Marcelo Gallardo, an inspiration for Monaco last sea-

> Monaco are also chasing down a loan deal for Romanian striker Florin Raducioiu of Steaua Bucharest, though Marseille are also monitoring developments,

Raducioiu, 30, has an Italian passport and has previously played for AC Milan and Another Romanian on the

loaned to Germany's relegationthreatened Energie Cottbus llie, who has won three Romanian caps, had been on loan

cia, where his brother Adrian Ille plays. Cottbus have also taken on two Moroccan forwards - Hamid Termina and Mohamed Lak-

English writer published Monday in a Peruvian daily, reports

David Yallop's article in El Peruvian military junta. Comercio daily maintains that Yallop said he had been told by three of the Peruvian squad. million-dollar package to purwin the match by a four-goal ensure the correct result. margin to edge out rivals Brazil and claim a place in the final. In the event, Argentina won

competition for the first time. Yallop, whose recent book How they Stole the Game led to legal action by FIFA as well as a ban on publication in Switzerland amid allegations of corruption in the world game. wrote a whole chapter on the

details. El Comercio described the Peruvians' loss as "a wound which to this day has not healed.

match in question and his lat-

est article unearths further

Yallop alleges that the Argentines achieved their victory thanks to an order "which came directly from the man who led the military junta, general Jorge Videla, to the head of the orgamising committee, rear admiral Carlos Lacoste.

The author goes on to assert that Argentina sent 35,000 tons of grain to Peru - a detail previously alleged - but adds the new allegation that the Argentines handed a 50 million-dollar credit to Lima and "the payment of substantial bribes directly to Peruvian functionaries from accounts managed by the Ar- reports AFP. gentine navy."

ranking Peruvian military offi- by the injury.

cials to broker the deal. And he added that much of

who asked to remain anonysuade the Peruvians to allow mous, that they had been oftournament hosts Argentina to fered 20,000 dollars in cash "to

the cash was shared among the

The writer described that as "a pathetically small sum given what was at stake."

According to investigations land in the final to win the by El Comercio, some of the Peruvians maintained that some of their opponents had taken doping products before the match in the central city of

Rosario. "How they Stole the Game" mentions that there were also doubts over the urine samples of the Argentine players amid allegations that the team's water carrier handed them over to

medical officials. Former Peru star Juan Carlos Oblitas remarked several years ago that "that night was

very peculiar". Peru's goalkeeper on the night Ramon Quiroga, ironically a naturalised Argentine, said Brazil had also tried to exert some pressure, allegedly offering land in Rio if they managed to produce a result which would put the Brazilians through in-

Conceicao out

MADRID, Jan 9: Real Madrid midfielder Flavio Conceicao is to have a groin operation and will be out for three months, the Spanish club said on Monday, The 26-year-old Brazilian

Yallop, who also wrote the international, signed for 4.1 blockbuster in God's Name billion pesetas (24.5 million about an assassination attempt euros) from Deportivo La on Pope John Paul I. says La- Coruna in the summer, has coste negotiated with three since been continally hampered

combined team of Peter Taylor Italian champions expired. pointment as coach and was and Steve McClaren have hanbeing touted as the leading Eriksson, 52, is Lazio's most final, alleges an article by an dled the England team while LONDON, Jan 9 (AFP): Ten candidate to succeed the Scansuccessful coach, having led Eriksson has remained in things you didn't know about dinavian even if he had seen Monaco eying the Roman outfit to the Scudetto last season - only their Sweden's Sven Goran Eriksson. out his contract. Eriksson quit as Lazio coach It marks a return to frontline Bonano, llie management for Italy's 1982 FACTEILE on Tuesday, paving the way for 6-0 and went on to beat Hol-World Cup winning goalkeeper, him to become the England who coached the national team PARIS. Jan 9: French reigncoach, one of world sport's most Talebi to resign, reports AFP. championship for the third to the Euro 2000 Final where ing champions Monaco, strughigh profile positions, earlier LONDON, Jan 9 (AFP): Factgling to avoid the drop this seathey came within seconds of file on Sven Goran Eriksson than usual. 1992: Leaves Benfica to join winning before eventually losing who quit Italian champions son, are hoping to sign Argen-1. He is currently writing a Sampdoria. to France. Lazio on Tuesday paving the international keeper book about the psychology of 1994: Wins Coppa Italia. Zoff resigned shortly after way for him to become coach of

meeting his boss.