

### The Daily Star

and they are the sailors. If they don't

want to leave with us, we cannot

considered as a starting point.

Today we are going to consider

see more countries from Asia like

"I told them that today will be

"By the World Cup 2014, I want to

FIFA, which has allocated an

annual grant of 2.5 million dollars for

the masterplan, would work

together with AFC to develop the

huge potential in Asia, said its new

Cup 2002 audience were Asians,

more than double the Europeans.

Economically for FIFA, Asia is in

going to go ahead. It is a positive

trend not to lay back but to say now

we are here, where are we tomor-

On Asia's failure to secure a fifth

automatic berth for the 2006 World

Cup in Germany, Hammam said the

AFC was satisfied to retain its rights

for four teams and an opportunity for

He said there were suggestions

now with FIFA to change the format

to focus on both "quality and quan-

tity" after 2006, with berths to be

given based on performance apart

the 2002 tournament when co-hosts

Japan and South Korea were joined

by China and Saudi Arabia in the

Some 150 people are attending

the two-day conference focusing on

clubs and local competitions, mar-

keting, sports medicine and admin-

istration under the masterplan.

The AFC quota is the same as

from automatic allocations.

final rounds

a fifth team in a play-off.

"This is day one to say Asia is

number one position," he said.

row.

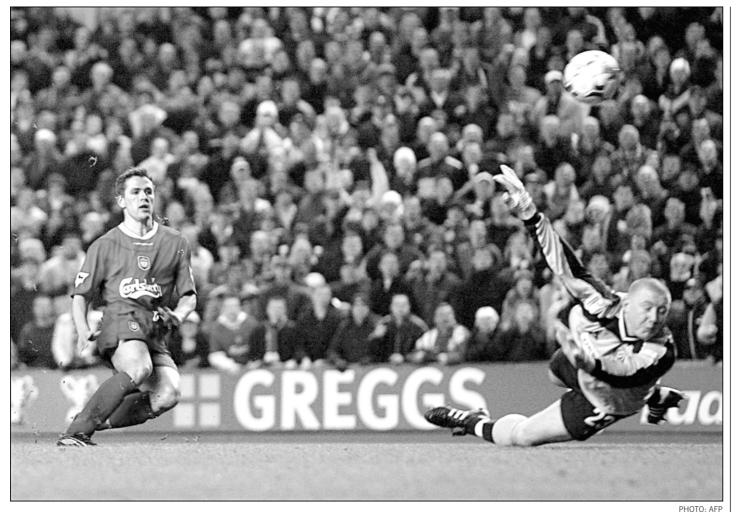
"Forty-two percent of the World

wait for them," he warned.

ourselves as being reborn.

Japan and South Korea."

general secretary Urs Linsi.



THERE SHE GOES! Liverpool superstar Michael Owen watches his attempt entering goal past the diving Sheffield United custodian Paddy Kenny at Liverpool on January 21

had laid it back to him.

half volley hit the crossbar.

The visitors also had their

chances with seasoned striker

Wayne Allison spurning a great

opportunity in the eight minute,

sending his free header over the

was cleared.

wide

side of the post.

## **English League Cup Owen does his stuff**

### Football

#### AFP, London

England striker Michael Owen shrugged off the headlines over his betting habits here on Tuesday scoring the second goal in the 2-0 defeat of Sheffield United in the League Cup semi-final second leg clash to seal their place in the final 3-2 on aggregate.

Owen scored his 16th of the season but only his second in nine games in the 107th minute to add to a rare goal by El Hadji Diouf in the ninth minute against a valiant but outclassed First Division outfit and send them to their ninth League Cup

The post match celebrations and the general good spirit of the match despite a war of words prior to the clash were marred by allegations from Sheffield United manager Neil Warnock that Swiss defender Stephane Henchoz had spat at him after the final whistle

Owen had missed a succession of chances but made no mistake when Steven Gerrard played a superb through ball from halfway and the England star ran on to shoot

past Patrick Kenny. Owen was just relieved to have made the right sort of headlines after stories that he had lost 30-40,000 pounds on gambling on his

horses over the last year. "Obviously I would have pre-

ferred for the headlines not to have been written but that's what happens in this country. "I just do my talking on the pitch,"

he said Warnock said he was proud of his players and praised Liverpool apart from Henchoz.

"Henchoz spat at me which is well out of order but apart from him all the other players were complete gentlemen and shook our hands," he said.

"They're a cracking team with some great players but we gave them a good game and did as well as I expected His Liverpool counterpart Gerard

Houllier, who was tasting a rare two successive wins after the Premiership success over Southampton, denied Henchoz had done any such thing.

"Neil does a good job but sometimes he speaks too loud. "He has said a lot of things that

were wrong about us in the past two weeks and there was no spitting incident "Stephane did not spit in his

direction and as one knows players do spit on the ground. "Stephane may have been angry and spat on the ground."

Kenny saved his side twice in quick succession after Owen's goal from Gerrard and then Owen again with a stunning fingertip effort.

Vladimir Smicer to completely fluff Diouf struck early in the first-half rattling home a fierce drive for his his shot.

fifth goal of the season - but first in Liverpool went closer 10 minutes 11 matches - after Owen's shot had later as Jon-Arne Riise's low cross been beaten out by United keeper picked out Gerrard but his shot was Patrick Kenny and Emile Heskey diverted for a corner by the heel of Wayne Quinn.

The 22-year-old Senegalese United were given a late chance forward nearly added a second in before the game went into extrathe 26th minute but his poorly-hit time when Kirkland was adjudged to have handled outside his area - the Owen was presented with a young keeper was fortunate just to glorious chance in the 32nd minute receive a yellow card for pushing the when Gerrard set him free but his referee - but Tommy Mooney's freefirst touch let him down and the ball kick was deflected for a corner.

Warnock, though, claimed that his side had been hard done by over the decision

"Well that was a Premier League referee (Alan Wiley) looking after his lot ... if it had been our lad he would nave got sent off," he stormed.

crossbar, and Phil Jagielka also saw Mooney had a great chance to a header from a corner go narrowly head them level in the third minute However, it was Liverpool who of extra-time but Jamie Carragher finished the first-half the stronger as who had five stitches in a head Heskey's shot just went the wrong wound earlier in the contest - did enough to put him off and his effort United's chances were all comwent wide

Owen almost nipped through in ing from set pieces and it was from a stoppage time of the first period of 59th minute freekick that they went desperately close to levelling the extra-time as he turned Australian tie on the night and retaking the lead defender Shaun Murphy but his shot overall as Michael Brown's curling cannoned off the near post to safety. effort was turned over by Chris

Kirkland for a corner. Kenny then saved United as he

### Tottenham supporters won't mind AFP, London

Tottenham fans have told the English Premiership club they are ready to leave their 104-year north London home at White Hart Lane.

Ninety per cent of the 13,000 supporters who have so far completed an on-line questionnaire claimed they would be happy to move

But fans were split on the issue of sharing a ground with another club, especially London archrivals Arsenal, the London Evening Standard reported Wednesday.

Chairman Daniel Levy would prefer to stay at White Hart Lane but the area is in need of a massive regeneration programme to improve transport links and local infrastructure.

The biggest problem for Levy is persuading the different local authorities and central government to invest in the area to be able to redevelop the current stadium

"The aim of the survey was to understand the views of fans if we have to look at other options." a Spurs spokesman said.

"There seemed to be a split in views regarding the consideration of a possible groundshare.

"It is obviously a passionate subject and one that we will revisit should the option present itself as viable."

"There's not a great deal between the numbers the clubs want," Fenerbahce spokesman Atilla Kivat said.

made a bid for the three million pound (5 million dollar)-rated

The 28-year-old is keen to leave White Hart Lane after a nightmare spell at the club. He joined from Dynamo Kiev for 11 million pounds in 2000 but has

failed to make an impact. Rebrov has made just 37 league appearances and has not played for Spurs this season.

### Real academies

### in China, Mexico

European champions Real Madrid

are looking to open football acade-

mies in China and Mexico, the club's

sporting director Jorge Valdano said

national football schools in Mexico

and China in the next six months."

intended to sell Argentino Santiago

Hernan Solari to Inter Milan, whom

the Spaniards must sell on a player

as part of the price of luring Brazilian

star Ronaldo from the Milanese last

agreement between the player and

Inter," said Valdano, who added

Real might offload striker Fernando

Morientes by season's end given

the emergence of young starlet

Morientes has been linked to

"All that is needed now is an

Valdano told reporters.

"We hope to open the first inter-

Valdano added the club still

# **Mission to end Asian slumber**

ously as we should. We still take it

as a hobby. When they go to

Europe, it will change their mental-

first announced in August and is

designed to raise regional stan-

dards, aimed to produce more

skilled teams like Japan and South

would be divided into six geograph-

ical zones -- West Asia, South,

Central and East Asia, China and

Under the plan, the continent

Korea by 2014, he said.

The Vision Asia plan, which was

ity," he said

### AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Football

Asian football is a "sleeping giant" that has fulfilled just 20 percent of its potential, Asian Football Confederation (AFC) chief Mohamed bin Hammam said Wednesday as he revealed details of a plan to boost standards.

Hammam identified administrative problems among Asia's 45 national associations and a lack of strong grassroots development as key reasons for the region's slow

progress. Asian footballers tended to treat the game as a hobby and were not taking it seriously, he told reporters after presenting his "Vision Asia" masterplan at an AFC conference here.

"We are only working with 20 percent of our capacity. Asia is a sleeping giant and the time has come for all of us to awake and reach full potential. We have more to give to the world of football." he said

"Most of the Asian countries are working on a one-man show system. When this man disappears, the system disappears, which is not correct for development. So mainly Asia is suffering from administration problems

"By reorganising the national organisations, we can have more success." Hammam cited Japan's Football

Association as a role model and said it was encouraging to see more Asian footballers entering European leagues.

"The shortfall of Asian players is that we don't take football as seri-

# Forlan a fans' fan



MOHAMED BIN HAMMAM

India -- with national teams to be ranked according to performance. The AFC will send experts this

vear to study the needs of national associations, with technical help from UEFA, England and Germany. The Qatari, who took over the AFC presidency in August, told

reporters that specific programme would be implemented from 2004 but said success was up to the national associations.

"National associations must have the drive and the courage to help us implement these projects. The AFC is the captain of the boat

Meanwhile, Turkish club Fenerbahce have told Spurs they will take unhappy striker Sergei Rebrov if Tottenham reduce their asking price.

Premiership rivals Fulham

Rebrov last week.

Football

AFP, Manchester Manchester United's in-form Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan claimed on Tuesday the club's supporters had played a large part in his adapting to life in a different

> country. The 23-year-old international has shown he was not a misfit after failing to score in 17 appearances last season following his 7.5million pound move from Independiente last year scoring six times in 21 Premiership appearances this season.

He capped his return to scoring form by netting the last second winner in the crucial 2-1 win over Chelsea last Saturday - the second time he had broken Chelsea's

### Italian Cup Lazio in semis

#### AFP, Rome

Lazio played out a goalless draw at Bari to win their Italian Cup quarterfinal tie against the Second Division side 2-1 on aggregate on Tuesday.

Lazio advanced to the last four thanks to last week's narrow first leg win in the capital and could meet bitter city rivals AS Roma in the semis

Bari enjoyed the lion's share of possession but Lazio had the better chances, the best falling to Diego Simeone

The veteran Argentine international headed Enrico Chiesa's corner wide from six yards out in the ninth minute with the goal at his mercy.

Bari's slick one-touch was a joy to watch but they lacked a cutting edge up front, and when they did break through Lazio's defence they found giant Dutchman Jaap Stam in imperious form

Lazio coach Roberto Mancini was unimpressed by his team's performance but happy to progress to the next round.

"We didn't play particulary well as Bari denied us space and closed us down quickly, but the important thing was to get through," said Mancini whose side remain unbeaten away from home in Serie A with half the season gone.

"Bari were very positive and dollars) to buy Jonathan Woodgate perhaps unlucky not to score, but and Brazilian Kleberson before the our defence did a good job.

On Wednesday AS Roma, languishing in mid-table in Serie A this season, take a 2-1 lead into their second leg tie at home to Second Division side Vicenza, while Chievo welcome league leaders AC Milan.

The first leg at the San Siro ended goalless

In Thursday's action Perugia will ness and we are conscious of that." manager Bobby Robson said as he be aiming to book their place in the awaited news from Shepherd. last four by ousting league champions Juventus

Last week Perugia took advantage of a weakened Juventus side to battle back from a goal down to win 2-1 in their first leg tie at the Delle Alpi Stadium.

came out to take on Owen and blocked his effort but the ball rolled free only for Czech international

### Marcos for Gunners?

Football

AFP, London

Brazilian World Cup goalkeeper Marcos was expected in London Wednesday to open talks with Arsenal over a reported 2.5 million pounds (3.8 million dollars) move, press reports said Wednesday. The 29-year-old could prove an

ideal long-term replacement for England keeper David Seaman, who will be 40 at the start of next season. Arsenal's Brazilian defender Edu

welcomed the move. "For Marcos to come here would

be great for the club," he said. 'David Seaman has really been thinking about the possibility of

stopping this year and we already have two other goalkeepers in contention to take over."

Football

Newcastle United are poised to

spend 15 million pounds (22 million

closure of the FIFA transfer window

Shepherd flew to Brazil Tuesday to

meet Kleberson and his club Atletico

Paranaense to finalise a 5 million

season in which you can do busi-

"This is the only period of the

"When a player of that calibre

Italy's Roma and United's

(Kleberson) comes onto the market

then as a top club we have to be

interested. And we are," Robson

Champions League opponents

Newcastle chairman Freddy

AFP, Newcastle

pound bid

added

Marcos' club Palmeiras conpoint was when he joined the firmed he was on his way England to Premiership champions discuss personal terms at Highbury after the two clubs agreed a transfer

MARCOS

**KLEBERSON** 

fee

Europe

"Arsenal want him now," a Palmeiras club spokesman said. "But Marcos doesn't want to go until

the start of next season." Palmeiras have been relegated from Brazil's top flight and Marcos wants to help them win back promo-

"And he wants to start the season in the English championship and not arrive halfway through."

Seaman, 39, capped 75 times by England, may be on his way out after 16 years at Arsenal

The Arsenal veteran has repeated edly denied he was calling it a day since being embarrassingly beaten by Ronaldinho's 30-metre free-kick for Brazil's winner in their World Cup guarter-final against England in Japan last year.

AFP, Madrid

Tuesday

summer

Javier Portillo.

hearts in two months having dumped them out of the League Cup

However he credits the fans with helping him feel at home so guickly. "The fans have been great, especially so given I hadn't played that many matches," he told the club's television station MUTV

"When my friends and family came over and heard the crowd singing my name, they were surprised.

"I put a bit of pressure on myself last season because I wanted to score before the summer.

However, Forlan, who scored a spectacular goal in the 3-3 draw with Senegal in their World Cup finals first round match, said he had never panicked about his scoring drought with United

"I kept calm and carried on doing the things I always have," said Forlan, who scored 30 goals in 54 appearances for Independiente.

"Once you start scoring you have more confidence. Hopefully there will be many more to come.

43 Old type

of sailboat

cabbage

type

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DIEGO FORLAN.....learning to fly

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals S 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.

understood to be meeting Wednesday to discuss a 10 million pound offer for Woodgate. reported to have brought forward "Woodgate and Kleberson are plans to marry Dayane Da Silva both 23 (Woodgate turns 23 when she turns 16 next month so clubs she can eventually join him in Wednesday) and they're in the right

age bracket for the squad that we're And Leeds United directors, putting together," Robson added. "There's still a lot of communica-

under pressure from creditors owed nearly 80 million pounds, were tion and dialogue that will have to go



JONATHAN WOODGATE

"But in the current market the

have a magnificent stadium and an Miracles don't happen and if we

through investment." Newcastle's bid to sign Woodgate and Kleberson was proof that United are not prepared to drop

have told close friends he would walk to St. James's Park to become a part of Robson's set-up.

Premiership, see him as the man to shore up their leaky defence.

clubs with the money have the power and we are one of those "We could not afford to think about these players if it were not for the fact that we've made progress in the Champions League and we

adoring public," explained Robson. "We sell out every game and we're generating income sensibly.

want to make progress then it will be

out of this season's title race. Woodgate was understood to

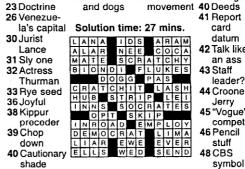
Newcastle, third in the English

47 Chewy mark 5 "Flying treats Down to 49 Hardy 8 Tower city 50 Cafeteria 12 PC symprop 51 Longing bol 13 Blow it 52 Ms. 14 State with Fitzgerald 53 Terrier certainty 15 Insult

ACROSS

1 Easy

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**Kleberson,Woodgate targetted** on before anything happens. Bayer Leverkusen are also in the hunt for Kleberson who was

Arsenal said they had "no official his, having signed him when he was comment" to make on the possible in charge of Real Madrid transfer

