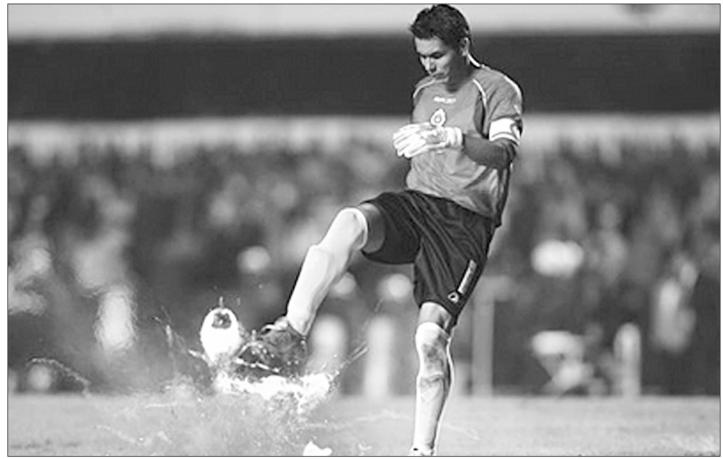
The Daily Star





Mexico Chivas goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez kicks out a firecracker during Copa Libertadores semifinal against Sao Paulo of Brazil at the Morumbi stadium in Sao Paulo on Wednesday.

Toons confirm Tavano interest

INTERNET. undated

Francesco Tavano's agent has confirmed that Newcastle are indeed keen on securing the plaver's signature -- although they look like facing a battle to land him.

The 27-year-old Empoli striker emerged as a target for The Magpies earlier this week and now Stefano Guercini has confirmed that there are talks planned with the North East giant's

"Newcastle are one of the clubs interested in Stefano," he said.

"We are hopeful something will be done.

Tavano has bagged 38 goals in the last two seasons and has attracted attention from a number of clubs including Internazionale, Valencia and Shakhtar Donetsk -but he would like the chance to play in England.

Capello warns Gravesen

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Fabio Capello has warned Danish midfielder Thomas Gravesen about his behaviour after Tuesday's bust-up with

Materazzi extends Inter contract

the representative

negative sign

Inter know that."

Football

INTERNET, undated

Stopper Marco Materazzi will end his career with Inter after agreeing a new four-year contract with the club. The world champion held sur-

prise talks with owner Massimo Moratti on Tuesday and seems to have ironed out his future despite interest from numerous clubs in his services

"It was important for Marco to discuss technical plans with Inter," agent Vincenzo Morabito told local television station Antenna 3. "Materazzi will be a main asset

for the team in the next season and set to expire in 2009, but his new that is why we believed that he

agreement will now expire 12 deserved to be satisfied also from an economic point of view," added months later and include a small rise n salary.

PHOTO INTERNET

"Several meetings took place on "Inter wanted to give a tangible Wednesday and Marco was also sign to Materazzi," added technical director Marco Branca. "Not only for there, showing his availability. "It was important to keep his World Cup form, but because of Materazzi in Milan as him leaving for the way he has always comported another club would have been a himself with us." Morabito also confirmed that

"A new four-year contract is now several Spanish clubs showed under discussion, actually confirminterest in the player, including Real ing that there are no problems with Madrid, but Materazzi insisted he the club and showing his intention of wanted to stay in Milan. ending his career with the outfit. "Having a world champion on the

The 33-year-old stopper, who was regularly left out of the side last term, was linked with a move away from Inter before he played a key role in Italy's World Cup success in Germany

Penalties against swearing and

A club whose fans use foul

Any racist act will result in a three-

point deduction on a first violation, a

six-point deduction on the second and

relegation on the third, it said

Lens criticise Milan admission **INTERNET**, undated

Football

playmaker Michael Ballack.

Italian giants AC Milan.

he would be wearing number 19.

Pierre Frelot told the BBC.

still a misunderstanding.

player in person first before releas-

he expects to be in.

against him."

AFP, London

French club Lens have criticised UEFA's decision to admit Milan to the Champions League, but will not appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The French outfit, who finished

fourth in Ligue 1 last term, had argued they should replace scandal-hit Milan after UEFA decided to further study the Rossoneri's position on ethical grounds.

Director general Francis Collado was furious after Wednesday's final verdict was confirmed, finding the reasons behind why UEFA failed to kick out the Italian outfit hard to digest "UEFA's statement says that

Milan were admitted only because of an insufficient legal basis in the regulations," he said. "Where are the ethics?

"The Italian Football Federation organised a strange scheme to have Milan admitted in the Champions League, when it is clear they were responsible, as well as others, of in some way fixing the championship," he added. Lens President Gervais Martel

was also verv disappointed, as he argued that no Italian team should have been allowed to take part in the European competitions. However, he has confirmed that

his club would not appeal against the decision after previously hinting that would be an option they would consider

Di Vaio signs for Monaco

INTERNET, undated

Italian striker Marco Di Vaio has signed a two-year contract with Monaco after initially joining the club on loan from Valencia in January. The 30-year-old striker played 15

matches in last season's Ligue 1, netting five goals and impressing the club and its fans.

Recent speculation had linked the Roman player to Lazio, where Di Vaio grew up in the youth team, but

Palermo had also expressed their interest in the former Juventus forward, with Coach Francesco Guidolin anxious to work with him after their experience together in the Principality. Osasuna, Atletico Madrid and

Paris Saint-Germain all had the player on their wish list, but Di Vaio in the end opted to continue his adventure with Monaco

mised a frustrating off-season in the Di Vaio was runner up in the transfer market for Germany's top-Serie A top scorers' list in 2001-02, flight clubs netting 15 goals with Parma, before his transfer to Juventus and then

Bayern had expressed confithat the Dutch strike would head to Bavaria but when they refused to meet Manchester United's asking price Real Madrid captured his signature for a fee of around 16 million euros (20.5 million dollars)

Bayern Munich's failed attempt to

land Ruud van Nistelrooy epito-

Football

AFP, Berlin

pivotal part of their two title winning sides.

Gallas in deeper trouble

Gallas had requested extra-time off following the World Cup but was informed he should still report to Los Angeles on the date previously agreed.

Chelsea's French international defender William Gallas' days with His failure to report had club two-time Premiership champions officials on Tuesday considering Chelsea looked distinctly numbered further disciplinary action as a on Wednesday after they gave his consequence. number 13 shirt to German "William Gallas will not be joining

reasons." Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho

quence.

Angeles on the date previously agreed with him. He did not report

and further action will now be con-

sidered by the club as a conse-

is about building team spirit among

our squad and extra leave is only

granted for valid football-related

"Pre-season training and the tour



WILLIAM GALLAS

ing a statement and taking action up with Chelsea on the pre-season tour of the United States," read a Gallas has played more than 200 statement from the club on Tuesday times for Chelsea since joining from "William requested extra-time off Marseille five years ago for six following the World Cup but was million pounds and has been a informed he should still report to Los

insisted however that Gallas for now at any rate was still in the picture. "Obviously I'm disappointed but he is still in the team. He will start training Friday in England."

Foreign stars snub Bundesliga

they were relegated for matchfixing, few foreign stars made the move to Germany.

SV Hamburg landed one of the more exciting talents in European football, Dutch midfielder Rafael van der Vaart. ahead of last season, but failed this summer in a bid to recruit Milan Baros, the Czech international striker who was top scorer

Bundesliga clubs. Belgian centre-back Daniel Van Buyten swapped Hamburg's colours for Bayern's with Peruvian striker Paolo Guerrero going in the opposite direction. Dortmund meanwhile bought

involved moves between

Nelson Valdez, the Paraguayan striker, from Bremen to partner

they are putting their faith in the

took Germany to the semifinals

of the World Cup on home soil

just a few weeks ago will be lining

up for Bundesliga clubs when the

2006-2007 season kicks off next

Only Ballack, and goalkeeper

Miroslav Klose, the top scorer

Jens Lehmann, who remains at

Premiership club Arsenal, will

at the World Cup, has said he is

staying with Werder Bremen -- at

least for another season -- while

Bayern bought Lukas Podolski,

the 21-year-old forward who

collected the Best Young Player

award at the World Cup, from

RQ

relegated FC Cologne.

Nine of the 11 players who

homegrown product

week

play abroad

Frei. German clubs however are

Turkey to probe new match-fixing allegations

team is a very important factor from

a psychological point of view and

Materazzi's previous deal was

Under new disciplinary rules drawn

Olmez told the daily Vatan in an interview last month how he received an up at an executive board meeting late offer in April to rig a critical match with Ankaragucu, just three weeks before match-fixing will be suspended for six months to two years, while clubs will be the end of the season Olmez alleged that Mehmet relegated, the TFA statement said. Kemal Unsal, the TFA's number If a club is found to have rigged a match in previous seasons, it will only three and a former Ankaragucu vice-president, asked him for have points deducted, it added. The Association also removed a 715,000 Turkish lira (about 477,000 dollars, or 373,000 euros) two-year statute of limitations on to ensure that Samsunspor won investigations into match-rigging

nothing was finalised.

Brazilian teammate Robinho in training

Capello was asked in a news conference on Wednesday whether he thought Gravesen had had a poor attitude throughout the preseason camp in Austria.

He said: "Possibly. But I am not going to have problems with him. He is a little different but he works hard which is important to me

"His behaviour? I don't like it, he wants everyone to do what he wants, and I have told him so."

The two players had to be separated after a tussle in a training match which started when Gravesen put in a late challenge on Robinho.

When asked if he thought Gravesen would not be a problem because he was one of the players likely to be leaving the club, Capello responded: "We shall see."

Gravesen joined Real from Everton in January 2005 but dropped out of favour last season, and the recent arrival of Brazilian midfielder Emerson is a blow to his chances of making it back into the first team.

He is one of a number of players Spanish media report are considered surplus to requirements at Real along with the likes of Pablo Garcia, Diogo and Francisco Pavon.

Goalkeeper turns violent

REUTERS, Bucharest

Steaua Bucharest Portuguese goalkeeper Carlos Fernandes broke a photographer's camera during the Champions League second preliminary round, second leg match against NK Gorica of Slovenia on Wednesday.

Nike and Libva's Tamoil -- have Television pictures showed the keeper hitting the camera of local been expected to renegotiate their contracts with the club after it sport daily Gazeta Sporturilor's was relegated for seeking an photographer who was trying to take shots of Carlos sitting on the bench unfair advantage in the appointment of referees after twisting his ankle during the pre-match warm-up. tinue to sponsor Juventus," the

Last month Carlos accused Romanian journalists of having a "hostile attitude" against him because he was a foreigner.

Steaua players have shown their support to their goalkeeper by also refusing to talk to local media in the past three weeks

Football

AFP. Ankara

The Turkish Football Association (TFA) on Thursday announced an investigation into claims that a federation official offered to rig a match last season to save first division side Samsunspor from relegation. The TFA also said it had toughened

sanctions against match-fixing at a time when claims of corruption have cast a pall over Turkish football just before the start of the new season this weekend.

"The Association's executive board has set up a new committee to look into allegations of match-fixing regarding the Samsunspor-Ankaragucu match," near the end of the 2005-2006 season, a brief statement from the TFA said

Following the football scandal in Italy, the Turkish media unleashed a flood of match-rigging claims going back several years and involving a number of clubs, including the country's top teams. The current probe came after

Football

US sportswear group Nike will still

sponsor Juventus despite the

club being demoted to Italian

football's second division, a Nike

Juventus' main sponsors --

"We sponsor and we will con-

spokesman said. Nike has a 12-

year sponsorship contract, for 12

million euros (15.36 million dollars)

declined to comment on whether

the terms would be renegotiated.

However, the spokesman

a year, which started in 2003.

spokesman said on Thursday.

REUTERS, Milan

former Samsunspor president Adnan

the match claims. Unusual was with Bulent Yavuz, former head of the TFA central board racism were also toughened. of referees, when he made the offer during a meeting at an Ankara hotel, language during matches will be Olmez claimed. He said he turned

fined 10,000 to 250,000 Turkish lira (6,700 to 167,000 dollars, or down the offer. Samsunspor went on to defeat the 5,250 to 131,000 euros) on a first Ankara team 2-1 on home turf, but violation, face a doubled fine on the failed to escape relegation when it second and risk point deductions for subsequent violations, the TFA

completed the season with 36 points and second from bottom. Olmez resigned soon after.

"I resigned because I couldn't stand all this filth." Olmez told Vatan. This is the second such investiga-

tion launched by the TFA, which

announced last month that it was

looking into allegations that

Denizlispor also rigged a match to

avoid relegation.

Nike keeps faith

Valencia in 2004. Wednesday, any person involved in

Spanish club before the arrival of Patrick Kluivert and David Villa reduced his chances of playing in the first team.

WC items up for auction

ties and Germany midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger's boots are among 4,000 items of World Cup memora-

bilia being put up for auction by FIFA. World soccer's governing body are giving fans around the globe the chance to own a piece of soccer history. "The first favourites are already emerging," said Jan Broeker, director at the auction house Dechow, which gives interested buyers the chance to inspect items and tender advance bids for

their favourite lot over their Web site. "Demand has been highest for anything with an autograph on it," he

added. The auction includes a wide range of lots from German national coach Juergen Klinsmann's warmup suit to players' sweat-stained jerseys, or even the 32 qualifying

nations' flags hoisted during matches Even the potted plants that adorned the media centres at the 12 World Cup venues are being auctioned off.

"We even have the original goal posts from the opening game in Munich during which our squad scored four goals against Costa Rica," said Broeker. The auction -- the proceeds of

which will go toward a range of nonprofit projects -- will be split in six locations where lots stemming from the surrounding World Cup stadiums will be sold

Broeker has his own personal favourite. "I would love to sit with the boys on the bench Klinsmann and his assistants sat on in my garden, have a few beers and watch some Bundesliga games," he said.

"But unfortunately I don't think I have the space.'

Bayern's general manager Uli Hoeness insisted that the club had chosen to drop out of the race for Van Nistelrooy.

"If we had offered what United wanted, we would have got the player. But we would have had to do things that go against Bayern's philosophy," Hoeness said.

The free transfer of the biggest-name German player of the moment, Michael Ballack, from Bayern to cash-rich English Premiership champions Chelsea has diminished the star quality of the Bundesliga.

In a summer when Europe's biggest clubs picked off the cream of Juventus's squad after

ACROSS

1 "Holy

cowl

8 Saucy

5 Shadowy

12 Neighbor-

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18 Sprite

19 Irritate

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer DOWN 38 Type of 20 The word? card 1 Stare 21 Pear-tree 41 Chic, to stupidly occupant Austin 2 Exam 22 Do some Powers format weeding 23 Raggedy 42 Larry's 3 Unpaid pal worker one 45 Bygone. 4 Possess 24 Afternoon to Burns ed affair 14 Unoriginal 46 Root 5 "Singin 25 Pitch 26 "Friends" vegeta in the Rain' bles cast 48 1960s director member 6 Mountain 27 Coexist dance goat 49 --- -tac-28 Zero toe 7 Central 29 First St. 50 Weapon 8 Diploma 31 Crimson of mouse materia 34 Swat destruc-9 Grand 35 "Bye Bye tion story Birdie 51 Raced 10 Take it song 52 Pub from the 37 Impel request top 38 Insane 53 Sacro-11 Low card 39 Modern sanct 16 Finished money 40 Astigma Solution time: 21 mins. tism effect 41 "You've Got ---42 Artist

44 Catch

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sight of

degree

at Premiership side Aston Villa. Hamburg did however suc-

at Euro 2004, Baros opted to stav

ceed in bringing in Vincent Kompany, the highly rated 20vear-old Anderlecht centre-back. for eight million euros. Borussia Dortmund may have

got one of the deals of the summer by landing Alexander Frei -whose goals helped Switzerland to the World Cup last 16 -- from French club Rennes in a deal worth four million euros.

Schalke 04 pepped up their front line with the capture of Peter Lovenkrands, the Danish striker who scored 18 times for Scottish giants Rangers last season, and Werder Bremen added Brazilian midfielder Diego to their squad from FC Porto and brought in out-of-favour Cameroonian defender Pierre Wome from Inter Milan.

Otherwise, most of the summer transfers in Germany

> 23 24 CRYPTOQUIP HQNIYRKRKQO B SKP HQEQZ RZYY RZXODF MQXEC PZBCXBEEA SYHQNY DOQMO BF QIYO CAY-B-EQP Joan Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS AN AVIATOR 43 October BECOMES AN ACE PILOT, I BELIEVE HE MIGHT birthstone MOVE TO A HIGHER PLANE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for 46 Sch. org. 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.

with Juventus Tamoil has not commented on its deal with Juventus. Shares in Juventus were up 7.8 percent at 1.82 euros on Wednesday. The stock has been

extremely volatile, and shares have lost about one-fifth of their value since the scandal broke, recovering slightly over the past weeks.

Juventus potentially faces years of financial problems, with sponsorship income, television rights deals and ticket sales hit by the scandal over rigged matches. The club was stripped of its last

two Italian league titles and there has been an exodus of top play-

Italy's World Cup winning captain Fabio Cannavaro. midfielders Emerson and Patrick Vieira, plus defenders Lilian Thuram and Gianluca Zambrotta have all left.

Cashing in on Zidane head-butt

AFP, Beijing

said

press said Thursday

trademark with local authorities for 2,000 yuan (250 dollars) and is asking up to 1.0 million yuan from those seeking to use the image, the Beijing Daily reported.

> viciously head-butting Italian defender Marco Materazzi, an act which earned the French captain a red card in his final professional match of an otherwise illustrious career

Zhao, a manager of a Beijing media marketing company, registered the trademark for use on clothing, shoes, hats, beer and other consumer products, the paper said.

A Chinese entrepreneur has registered as a trademark the silhouette of French football star Zinedine Zidane head-butting an Italian player during last month's World Cup final, state

Zhao Xiaokai registered the

The silhouette captures Zidane

He scored 11 goals for the

REUTERS, Berlin A bench Germany used at the World Cup, one of Franz Beckenbauer's