



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 player's signature...

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 Brazilian teammate Robinho...

Goalkeeper turns violent

REUTERS, Bucharest

Steaua Bucharest Portuguese goalkeeper Carlos Fernandes broke a photographer's camera during the Champions League second preliminary round...

Materazzi extends Inter contract

Football

INTERNET, undated

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

Turkey to probe new match-fixing allegations

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.

Nike keeps faith with Juventus

Football

REUTERS, Milan

US sportswear group Nike will still sponsor Juventus despite the club being demoted to Italian football's second division, a Nike spokesman said on Thursday.

agreement will now expire 12 months later and include a small rise in salary.

Inter wanted to give a tangible sign to Materazzi, added technical director Marco Branca.

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.

WC items up for auction

REUTERS, Berlin

A bench Germany used at the World Cup, one of Franz Beckenbauer's ties and Germany midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger's boots are among 4,000 items of World Cup memorabilia being put up for auction by FIFA.

Cashing in on Zidane head-butt

AFP, Beijing

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.

Lens criticise Milan admission

INTERNET, undated

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.

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Foreign stars snub Bundesliga

Football

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich's failed attempt to land Ruud van Nistelrooy epitomised a frustrating off-season in the transfer market for Germany's top-flight clubs.

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Gallas in deeper trouble

Football

AFP, London

Chelsea's French international defender William Gallas' days with the Champions League, but will not appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

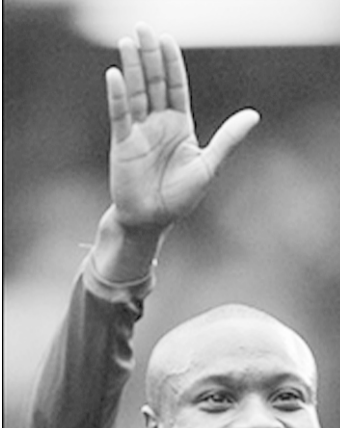
Director general Francis Collado was furious after Wednesday's final verdict was confirmed, finding the reasons behind why UEFA failed to kick out the Italian outfit hard to digest.

He has a year left on his present contract but talks had been going on prior to the World Cup finals about a new four-year one -- however the stylish former Marseille star has no end of suitors including Italian giants AC Milan.

Gallas has played more than 200 times for Chelsea since joining from Marseille five years ago for six million pounds and has been a

pivotal part of their two title winning sides.

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.



WILLIAM GALLAS

up with Chelsea on the pre-season tour of the United States," read a statement from the club on Tuesday.

Angeles on the date previously agreed with him. He did not report and further action will now be considered by the club as a consequence.

"Pre-season training and the tour is about building team spirit among our squad and extra leave is only granted for valid football-related reasons."

Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho

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AFP, Berlin

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they were relegated for match-fixing, 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 at Euro 2004.

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involved moves between 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 Nelson Valdez, the Paraguayan striker, from Bremen to partner Frei.

German clubs however argue they are putting their faith in the homegrown product.

Nine of the 11 players who 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 week.

Only Ballack, and goalkeeper Jens Lehmann, who remains at Premiership club Arsenal, will play abroad.

Miroslav Klose, the top scorer 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 relegated FC Cologne.

Otherwise, most of the summer transfers in Germany

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a 10x10 grid of letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP B S K P H Q N I Y R K R K Q O R Q H Q E Q Z R Z Y Y R Z X O D F M Q X E C P Z B C X B E E A S Y H Q N Y DOQMO BF QIYO CAY-B-EQP. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS AN AVIATOR BECOMES AN ACE PILOT, I BELIEVE HE MIGHT MOVE TO A HIGHER PLANE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T 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.