The Daily Star

Mexico condemns racist insult

REUTERS, Mexico City

The Mexican football federation condemned the racist insults aimed at a black player in a first division match at the weekend but said it was too early to announce any punishment.

Monterrey's Panamanian international defender Felipe Baloy was greeted with monkey chants when he touched the ball during his side's match at Santos Laguna in Torreon on Saturday.

Baloy scored Monterrey's first goal in a 2-2 draw. "There's no room for racism in

Mexican football," the federation's general secretary Decio de Maria said on Tuesday.

"This sort of situation should not happen in football, nor in any other part of society," he was quoted as saying on the federation's official website

"What happened in Santos is shameful but we will have to wait for an analysis and to hear those involved before making a decision." Balov's team mate Jesus Arellano

added that his team and their fans always got a hostile reception in Torreon.

"It's something that they must not be allowed to get away with," he told the Notimex news agency.

"When the Monterrey people go there, they are badly treated, the police even hit and tear-gas the supporters of our team," he said. "On the other hand, they come

here without any problems because the Monterrey people are not aggressive.'

Arellano said players were used to being insulted by rival fans. "But when they do what they did to

Felipe, it's wrong," he said.

J Cole injury fears ease

INTERNET, undated

Chelsea coach Steve Clarke has confirmed that Joe Cole looks set for a rapid recovery from his knee injury. Cole limped out of Saturday's pre-

Benitez backs Gerrard season friendly against the MLS All-Star in Chicago after twisting his right Football knee. Boss Jose Mourinho feared the

worst but there is thought to be no serious ligament damage and assistant manager Clarke says the England midfielder is already making good progress

is backing Steven Gerrard to succeed Clarke said: 'Joe is okay. He has got the brace off his leg. He is moving around on his own.

'He still feels a little pain which is normal but we are hopeful he will progress very, very quickly.

Cole will miss the start of the season and England's friendly against Greece, next week, but could be back before the end of the month.

The Blues, who beat Feyenoord 1-0 in Rotterdam yesterday, play their second friendly in successive days

had a clear idea, a plan, and he knows David Beckham as England captain what he wants to do. He is clever and ahead of new national boss Steve knows how to handle this. McClaren's announcement expected later this week England captain, but was told nothing, McClaren is due to choose he just smiled at me. between front runners Gerrard and Chelsea defender John Terry when he Gerrard even if it is more work for him. unveils his first squad since taking over we will have to wait for a decision. from Sven-Goran Eriksson on Friday. The England manager spent more mature and understands how

AFP, Liverpool

Monday at Liverpool's Melwood training ground, meeting Benitez and



IN ENEMY TERRITORY: Watford's Marlon King is surrounded an tackled by Inter Milan defenders during their friendly match in Watford on Tuesday.

Maicon's shot was pushed out

Watford had already caused the

Watford tie Inter

several English clubs

Football

INTERNET, undated

Adrian Boothroyd's Watford held Italian champions Inter Milan to a decent draw at Vicarage Road to fill the Hornets with hope for the new Premiership season.

Maicon combined to good effect. Marlon King, the top scorer in the Coca-Cola Championship last and Stankovic's follow-up was firmly season, gave the home side the struck but wavward. lead after an hour's play, but substitute Marco Andreolli drew Inter level Inter defence some concern, with with 15 minutes remaining.

Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez

King and Ashley Young looking In their penultimate pre-season threatening. friendly, Watford coped well with the Adriano saw an effort from obvious threat of the Serie Agiants.

Santiago Solari's cross well stopped Inter fielded a strong starting XI, by Richard Lee before the break, which included Brazil World Cup

League qualifier against Maccabi

future for England, the team, it was a

good conversation between two

friends about football." Benitez said.

"Steve and me talked about the

"What was interesting was that he

"I asked him who would be the next

"But it would be good for Steven

"He thrives on responsibility, he is

important it is to be captain and he

striker Adriano, and Obafemi while Martins also threatened to Martins, who is reportedly a target of break the deadlock.

Inter made several changes at Watford gave a debut to newlythe break - taking off Adriano, Olivier Dacourt and Julio Cesar - and they recruited defender Danny Shittu, continued to substitute players who signed from QPR on Sunday. during the second half. Of their The first good chance to come starting XI, only Stankovic finished Inter's way arrived just before the half-hour mark when Deian the match. Stankovic and Brazilian midfielder

Watford went in front when King beat Walter Samuel and then fired past Francesco Toldo. However Inter had a riposte and

Andreolli converted David Pizarro's cross to earn the visitors a draw. Martins came close to a winner

Gerrard is already Liverpool cap-

tain and is renowned for pushing his

club side to famous victories almost

single-handedly, most notably in the

2005 Champions League final and last

would be very good for him but at the

moment he must think about the next

game and it's importance to us,"

job, but in the end it is not our decision

and he should just be focused on what

thing is to see Steve concentrating on

our next game because it is so impor-

"I think Steven would do it well, it

"He can certainly do the England

"But for me the most important

season's FACup final.

Benitez said.

tant to us.

Liverpool are doing.

stages.

for Roberto Mancini's side before he too was taken off in the closing

Lamps special | Toni decides for Fiorentina seals win **INTERNET**, undated REUTERS, Rotterdam

SPORT

Frank Lampard put his England woes behind him to score Chelsea's winner in a 1-0 pre-season victory over Feyenoord on Tuesday. The midfielder, who suffered

poor form at the World Cup, profited from a moment of brilliance from Andriy Shevchenko after 52 minutes to clinch victory for the English champions.

Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho started with virtually a full-strength side, barring goalkeeper Petr Cech who was not in the squad and defender John Terry who was a substitute

Michael Ballack, Shevchenko and Didier Drogba all missed good chances for Chelsea, who play the Community Shield against Cup winners Liverpool on Sunday in Cardiff Lampard made no mistake

however, flicking the ball into teh net after a great pass from Shevchenko Feyenoord's best chance came in the final minute when a free kick from Pierre van Hooiidonk hit the

post with goalkeeper Carlo Cudicin beaten. "It was a very good training session for us and for them.

Mourinho told reporters. "It was a serious match and I am happy with it. We are now training

for 10 days and there is a revolution going on in my team. "At this moment we are only short at the back and are looking for

one more player. Asked if Chelsea were any nearer to signing Arsenal's England left back Ashley Cole, Mourinho said: "Arsenal received an offer from

we have to wait for their decision, and possible transfer of Jose-

Antonio Reves, he can console himself that his best young prospect

AFP, Paris

work to do to make it into the knockout stages of the UEFA Cup after losing 1-0 to Serbian side OFK Belgrade on Tuesday.

In Tuesday's other second preliminary round first leg fixture Omonia of Cyprus held Litex Lovech to a goalless draw after the Bulgarian visitors had a goal disal-

20 minutes.

Auxerre had a fine chance to

about any economical aspects." added the patron.

with the plaver

on Tuesday.

The industrialist attended a

Press conference with Toni himself

and sporting director Pantaleo

Corvino, seemingly putting an end

to a lengthy saga and dismissing

once and for all rumours about the

"Luca understood our reasons

"The player knows that he is

"It only took us five minutes to

reasons to be

cheerful after a

sparkling two-

essential for our future projects, I

appreciate his understanding," he

clarify all the previous misunder-

standings, with no need to speak

goal performance in the Gunners 3-0 Champions

As Wenger contemplates the

imminent departure of Ashley Cole

League romp over Dinamo Zagreb.

and will stay, he is a great player and

will continue to be an asset for

player's imminent move to Inter.

Fiorentina," said Della Valle.

AFP, Zagreb

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CHAMPIONS

Luca Toni will not "It isn't common to see a player give more importance to the affecleave Fiorentina. tion for the shirt he wears than to the confirmed Viola chief Diego Della money, these things happen very Valle after a rarely. crisis meeting

Toni also wished to clarify the reasons of this decision, totally

Cesc starts brightly

and guile

glances from Real Madrid after an impressive World Cup, but the 19-Cesc Fabregas year-old has gone on record as saying gave Arsenal that he wants to stay with Arsenal for the foreseeable future. manager Arsene Wenger plenty of

target is to try to play the same way as last season and defend better." Fabregas struck in the 63rd and Tuesday's match was Fabregas' 79th minutes. his goals coming either 100th senior appearance for the side of a 65th minute effort from Robin Gunners, and he marked it with two van Persie. sublimely taken goals that indicates he

"It was very difficult, they made it is ready to start weighing in with imporvery hard." Fabregas said. "I think we tant goals from midfield as well as steel did very well in the second half." Only a miraculous performance

And Fabregas revealed that he from Dinamo in the second leg of this feels physically stronger than ever final qualifying tie match at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium in a fortnight will before as the Premiership season deny Wenger's men a place in the approaches. group stage.

"Every season you try to get better and better," Fabregas said. "I feel physically stronger than last year.

is justified but it cannot be achieved

because we play against teams that

pack their defence and because the

pitch conditions. for instance in

January and February, do not allow it.

Bayern Munich to play a great match

attacking football has grown since the

national team advanced to the semi-

final of the World Cup with a positive

approach and as one of the few lead-

ing teams to play with two strikers.

Bavern Munich have won the last two

Bundesliga championships but solid

defence rather than frontline sparkle

under such conditions.

"No reasonable person can expect

Pressure in Germany for more

Negativity irks Bayern

REUTERS, Berlin

Bayern Munich coach Felix Magath said he would like his team to play a more open, attack-BUNDES ing style than in the past but feared it would not be possible because so

many other teams are committed to

"We want to play a more attractive style -- the players, the coach and the board all want that," Magath said in an interview published on Wednesday in the Passauer Neue Presse newspa-

"The wish for a more attractive style

Champions League even though club executives appear to have lowered sights after early exits the last two seasons

"I'll say it again: we too can win the Champions League," he said. "But everything has to fit together perfectly because the performance of the top teams are so close to each other.

"That means you can't have a (unjust) penalty called against you, as happened to us against AC Milan (in the 1-1 quarter-final match on Feb. 21). We've seen Chelsea invest huge sums but still not succeed in winning the title."

WERDER!

Magath also said Bayern have not given up their goal of winning the

has been their trademark.

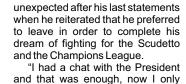
"If you feel stronger then you can

go forward and you can defend. My

his Viola teammates in San Piero a Sieve, where he held his first training session of the season before leaving for the clarification meeting with Della Valle.

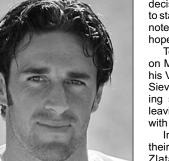
Inter are now expected to pursue their interest in the Juventus duo of Zlatan Ibrahimovic and David Trezeguet.





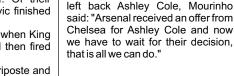
to start training with my teammates, noted Toni as he shattered Inter's hopes of netting him. Toni returned from his vacation on Monday and immediately joined

want to play and try to achieve important results with Fiorentina,' said last year's Serie A top scorer. "I am totally convinced of my decision to stay here and am eager









Auxerre fall at **Belgrade**

-- Fabregas -- is happy in London. Fabregas has attracted admiring

French side Auxerre were left with

lowed. The only goal of the night in Serbia came from OFK captain Milo Bajalica whose 12 metre header off an Aleksander Kolarov free-kick hit the cross bar with the ball then bouncing over Fabien Cool's line on

grab a precious away goal after just six minutes only for Lionel Mathis to miss from close range off a corner. And the French kept up the pressure after the break with sec-

spoiling tactics

verder.de

CROSSWORD

34 Historic

time

short

35 Detail, for

today when they take on Celtic.

Mourinho used 17 players in Holland and will rotate the same squad to face the Scottish champions at Stamford Bridge.

Mourinho has said he will start with Shaun Wright-Phillips and Didier Drogba - both second-half subs in Rotterdam - plus one other striker in a three-man attack.

Chelsea's big summer signings -Andriy Shevchenko and Michael Ballack and Salomon Kalou - will appear before the home fans for the first time.

Captain John Terry said: 'I am looking forward to getting back in front of the home fans and against Celtic as

'They have proved a good side over recent years and have great support who follow them everywhere.'

Newcastle monitor Kyut, Martins

INTERNET, undated

Newcastle boss Glenn Roeder is refusing to rule out a swoop for £10million-rated Feyenoord striker Dirk Kuyt after watching the player in action in Amsterdam on Sunday.

Kuyt was unimpressive in his side's 2-0 LG Tournament win over Middlesbrough - but Roeder believes the Dutch international is well worth another look.

Roeder said: 'I would have no reason to remove him, or a couple of other targets, from my list. We will be studying him again at the weekend as we are two or three other strikers.

'He played well and I did not see any reason why we should not go and watch him again. But that does not mean we are going to be bidding for him, or that he is coming here,' Roeder told Newcastle's official website

Roeder is certainly likely to be put off by Feyenoord's prohibitive valuation of the player and with time running out before the start of the new season, is also turning his attention elsewhere.

Chief on his list of alternatives is Obafemi Martins, who has handed in a transfer request at Inter Milan. Roeder admitted: 'Martins is a good player. He is different - very quick and strong.

must be an example for the rest of the watching the club's English players players.' train for this Wednesday's Champions

volley.

Haifa

Ronaldo shows character

And the Oxford United fans

ensured the winger was given a

rowdy reception on his first game

back on English soil, but he

brushed it off with aplomb, swerv-

ing home a brilliant 14th minute

Ronaldo's return, 38 days since

he helped get Rooney sent off and

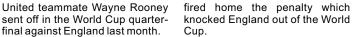
Much had been made of

Football

AFP, London

Cristiano Ronaldo shrugged off jeers from rival fans to star in Manchester United's 4-1 win over Oxford United in a pre-season friendly on Tuesday. The Portugal international was

made public enemy number one for his preceived role in getting



But the security concerns expressed over the former Sporting Lisbon star appeared to have been greatly exaggerated.

There were no police inside the stadium at all and, while the number of safety officers present had been beefed up, it was only in response to the arrival of a United side containing nine internationals rather than the reserve team which had originally been expected when the fixture was agreed a couple of months ago.

Even the boos were more routine than venomous and the 21-year-old felt relaxed enough to offer team-mate Kieran Richardson a broad grin as he ran out for the second half.

The contest was only six minutes old when Ronaldo made his first imprint on the game, touching a pass to Ole Gunnar Solskjaer inside the Oxford box which allowed the veteran striker to blast a shot into the roof of the net.

Ronaldo's opener followed not that long afterwards. It was Louis Saha, also making his first appearance since heartbreakingly missing the World Cup final through suspension, who provided the cushioned lay-off to Phil Bardsley's cross.

The right-foot finish was exquisite, starting off wide of Turley's far post before curling in.

Darren Fletcher added another two minutes later and while Robert Duffy powered home a farpost header before the break, Ronaldo quickly restored United's three-goal lead after half-time.

Yet again, the finish was rightfooted, curling a shot into the bottom corner this time after David Jones had fed him with a short pass.

There was to be no hat-trick, even though Ronaldo was pushed into a more orthodox striker's role until he was replaced by Giuseppe Rossi.

PHOTO: AFP

Manchester United winger Cristiano Ronaldo rides a tackle from an Oxford United player during a friendly match at Kassam Stadium in Oxford on Tuesday.

ond half substitute Luigi Pieron forcing Nenad Ilic into action in the 53rd minute.

But the young home side held firm to give themselves a narrow advantage going into the August 24 second leg.

Auxerre coach Jean Fernandez said: "We were pretty tired after the league game against Valenciennes and perhaps that was to blame for our poor start.

"Belgrade scored on the only opening they created. "Our chances of qualifying are

50-50." His opposite number, Slobodan Krcmarevic, said: "I agree that the

chances of going through our 50-50. We played well, I'm satisfied with my players. If they play like that in Auxerre we can be optimistic." On a sweltering night in Nicosia the tie between Omonia and Litex

Lovech ended all square after Litex striker Milivoje Novakovic's header was ruled offside in the 76th minute.

Dutch clubs cleared of fixing

AFP, The Hague

Three first division clubs have been cleared after an investigation into alleged match-fixing in Dutch football, the ANP news agency reported Wednesday. A court in The Hague found no

evidence of match-fixing against the sides - ADO The Hague, FC Utrecht and Willem II Tilburg. The inquiry was sparked after the former partner of a player alleged

cases of match-fixing. Investigators examined the lifestyles of certain players whose lavish spending seemed incompatible with their take home pay.

Some players for average clubs from the Dutch first and second divisions were reported to have splashed out on villas for cash and drove luxury cars while their income was relatively low.

But ANP reported that there was no proof that they players had been bribed or had been approached to influence the result of matches. The Dutch authorities estimate

that at least five illegal gambling syndicates generating some 40 million euros a year were in operation in the Netherlands.

WERDER W BREMEN



German international defender Per Mertesacker poses with the jersey of his new team Werder Bremen alongside coach Thomas Schaf (L) and general manager Klaus Allofs (R) during a press conference at Bremen's stadium on Tuesday.

ACROSS 37 Neces 57 Back 17 "Do the 1 Sailors Right sary talk slangily 39 Roulette Thing" 5 Computer DOWN bet director 41 Air from 19 Family acronym 1 React in 8 African a pair horro membe 42 Evening nation 2 Last 22 Covered 12 Touch affair write-up in muck 13 Altar affir-45 Proof of 3 Future 24 Billboards who you mative tulip 25 Jazz 14 Patriot say you 4 Subordistyle 26 "Desper-Nathan are nate 15 Missile 49 Swanteam ate shelte son's fare House membe 16 Music 5 Despot 51 Lone wives' room Ranger's 6 Peculiar cast "Giddyapparatus 7 Former member 18 JFK's 27 Got frosh "109," e.g. 52 Favorable 8 Patic 29 Anger 20 Young 30 Young furniture votes 53 "- Got a COW mavbe man 21 U.S.-9 Pollinosis Secret" 33 Colored 54 Paradise owned 10 Sheltered 36 Shade 11 Author Pacific 55 Sea island eagle Earl ----23 Language 56 Old man Biggers suffix 40 Lair Solution time: 24 mins. 24 In --- (not 42 Eyelid there) woe 28 Satan's 43 Finished specialty 44 Okla-31 Homer's interjec-46 Verdi tion opera 32 Liberty's 47 Deli handful

