AFP, Rome

on Wednesday.

the Cup.

Buffon.

**Del Piero Juve's** 

Juventus may be down but they are

clearly not out as club legend

Alessandro del Piero came off the

bench to score the decisive goal in

their come from behind 2-1 victory

over fellow Serie B outfit Cesena in

the Italian Cup second round clash

While Juve's lawyers carry on

earning their wages by appealing

their demotion over the match fixing

scandal the players are earning

theirs by recording their second

successive win in a matter of days in

However the remaining stars

from the 'old lady' had to work hard

for their win as even with the likes of

French international striker David

Trezeguet, Czech great Pavel

Nedved and del Piero on the bench

they made hard work of overcoming

Indeed the hosts Cesena were in

front thanks to an own goal by

Federico Balzaretti as he deflected

Luigi Pagliuca's free-kick past

Italy's number one 'keeper Gianluigi

Juve struck back with a fine

individual effort from Valery Bojinov

as he turned and inched through

two defenders to strike the ball

when del Piero - who came on as a

substitute in the World Cup final

victory over France and had scored

the second in the 2-0 semi-final win

over Germany - showed his preda-

tory instincts as he was on hand to

prod home after Trezeguet had a

However it was Buffon who

ensured Juventus progressed as he

produced a typically classy save in

the last minute from a close range

While one club disgraced by the

matchfixing scandal survived to

fight another day it was not the case

for one of the others as Fiorentina

who at least earned a reprieve from

being demoted on appeal - lost 1-0

to Serie B outfit Genoa with Greco

sides found guilty of matchfixing -

AC Milan enter the competition later

this year - went through as Lazio

scraped past Serie C side Monza 4-

3 on penalties while Reggina too

had nervy moments against

another Serie C side Cremonese

The other two of the five Serie A

the scorer 13 minutes from time.

header repelled.

Their comeback was complete

unheralded Cesena

### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RESULTS

AFP, Paris

Results of UEFA Champions League third preliminary round second leg matches on Wednesday:

Arsenal (ENG) 2 (Ljungberg 77, Flamini 90) Dinamo Zagreb (CRO) 1 (Eduardo 12) Àrsenal win 5-1 on aggregate

At Verona, Italy Chievo (ITA) 2 (Amauri 49, 82) Levksi Sofia (BUL) 2 (Telkiyski 36, Bardon 47)

Levski Sofia win 4-2 on aggre-

At Mlada Boleslav, Czech Republic Mlada Boleslav (CZE) 1 (Palat

88) Galatasary (TUR) 1 (Hasan Sas 72) Galatasaray win 6-3 on aggre-

### At Bucharest

Steaua Bucharest (ROM) 2 (Badea 35, 52) Standard Liege (BEL) 1 (Jovanovic 3) Steaua win 4-3 on aggregate

At Moscow Spartak Moscow (RUS) 2 (Mozart 23, Pavlyuchenko 78) Slovan Liberec (CZE) 1 (Hodur 72-pen)

Spartak Moscow win 2-1 on aggregate At Skopje

Rabotnicki (MKD) 0 Lille (FRA) 1 (Audel 20)

Lille win 4-0 on aggregate At Amsterdam

Ajax (NED) 0 FC Copenhagen (DEN) 2 (Silberbauer 59, Vermaelen 77-og)

FC Copenhagen win 3-2 on aggregate At Warsaw

Legia Warsaw (POL) 2 (Wlodarczyk 17, 88) Shaktar Donetsk (UKR) 3 (Marica 22, 45, Fernandinho 27) Shaktar Donetsk win 4-2 on aggregate At Ruzomberok, Slovakia

Ruzomberok (SVK) 0 CSKA Moscow (RUS) 2 (Carvalho 4, Vagner Love 28) CSKA win 5-0 on aggregate

At Istanbul Fenerbahce (TUR) 2 (Appiah 35, Kerim 56) Dyanmo Kiev (UKR) 2 (Shatskikh 5, 41)

Dynamo Kiev win 5-3 on aggre-

#### At Athens

AEK Athens (GRE) 3 (Julio Cezar 79-pen, 86, Lyberopoulos 82) Hearts of Midlothian (SCO) 0 AEK win 5-1 on aggregate

### **Juventus** unveil Boumsong

Juventus officially unveiled new signing Jean Alain Boumsong on Thursday.

The 26-year-old central defender joined the Italian giants from English Premiership side Newcastle United on Tuesday for 3.3 million pounds (4.9 million euros).

Boumsong, who cost Newcastle 8.5 million pounds (12.5 million euros) when they bought him from Scotland's Rangers in January 2005, endured a torrid spell at St James' Park and is hoping for happier times in Turin.

"I'm joining a mythical club," said the France international, a nonplaying member of the squad which reached last month's World Cup final only to lose to Italy.

Juventus were stripped of last season's Serie A title and relegated to the second division with a 17point penalty for match-fixing last month, but Boumsong believes the club will quickly bounce back.

"Juventus are a great team and together we will return to the top," he

Boumsong said Juventus coach and fellow Frenchman Didier Deschamps was a big factor in him

deciding to come to Italy. "The coach played an important part in me reaching this decision," he said.

"I know him well and I am sure we

will work well together." Deschamps believes

Boumsong's experience will help stabilise his back four. "He is an important player who will strengthen our defence," said

the former France international, a World Cup winner in 1998. "Knowing him well as I do, I am

convinced that he has the characteristics that will give us that something extra we need. He has a lot of experience, at club and international level, and has played in the English Premiership.

Boumsong insisted he felt no pressure coming into a defence that has lost the services of World Cup winning-captain Fabio Cannavaro and France international Lilian Thuram in recent weeks.

"When players of their quality leave a club there will always be a void, but I am here to honour this shirt," he said.



Manchester United's French striker Louis Saha celebrates his goal against Charlton Atheltic with teammates Mikel Silvestre (R) and Rio Ferdinand at London on Wednesday.

### Fergie's fledglings flying

AFP, London



Sir Alex Ferquson believes his Manchester United youngsters are now mature enough to end Chelsea's

Premiership dominance. United manager Ferguson has built his team around young talents

like Cristiano Ronaldo, Wayne Rooney, Darren Fletcher, Patrice Evra and John O'Shea and they are beginning to repay his faith in them. After two years of struggling to match the relentless standards set

by Chelsea, Ferguson's side have

begun their Premiership campaign in fine form and sit top of the table after two matches. While Jose Mourinho's champions lost at Middlesbrough on Wednesday, United followed up

their opening weekend win against Fulham with a clinical 3-0 victory at United were without the suspended Rooney and Paul Scholes, one of the original 'Fergie fledglings'

they were still far too strong for And Ferguson insisted that was a

who helped the Scot restored

United's fortunes in the 1990s, but

sign his 'kids' had finally grown up. "We have been a maturing team in the last couple of years but now

you can see the maturity there more

France's most capped international

footballer Lilian Thuram is set to

extend his record number of caps

after announcing on Wednesday he

is to prolong his career with the World

capped defender was left out of last

week's friendly with Bosnia and

Herzegovina while he made up his

back into the international set up for

the latter stages of the 2002 World

Cup qualifiers - having announced

his retirement from international

football - when he was selected

without being informed beforehand

by coach Raymond Domenech this

because of all the affection and

compliments I have received since

"I really didn't have much choice

Reigning champions Bayern

Munich take on

local rivals FC

Nuremberg on

unlikely top of the

table clash at the

Both Bayern and

Allianz Arena

Nuremberg, who top the Bundesliga table on goal differ-

ence, have a perfect six points after

two opening wins so something

yet to drop any points, travel to Schalke 04 on Friday in the game

can do no wrong on the domestic

front they were hammered 4-0 in a

friendly by Spanish champions

Barcelona on Wednesday to crush

confidence ahead of the

we are at international level and at

the moment we are far behind

Barcelona," concluded manager

In the German top-flight Bayern

winners of seven titles in the last

10 seasons - are way ahead of the

rest and hope to make it a perfect

"The game showed us where

Werder Bremen, the other team

While double winners Bayern

has to give in the Bavarian derby.

Saturday in an

However while he was bounced

mind about his future.

time he had no doubts

BUNDES

of the weekend.

Nuremberg game.

Felix Magath.

The 34-year-old 121 times

**■** Football

"The likes of Fletcher, Ronaldo and Park Ji-sung are all growing up. Ronaldo was fantastic and has really matured.

"We have an advantage because Chelsea have lost but there have only been two games and you can't talk about winning the "Of course we have the will to do

it, we have the players to do it and, without question, we have the spirit in the camp to do it. United pounded away at

Charlton for 45 minutes without breaking the deadlock but finally took the lead when Fletcher punished a slip by Charlton defender Jonathan Fortune France striker Louis Saha added a second with a superb turn and shot

before Ole Gunnar Solskjaer came off the bench to score his first goal for three years in the 90th minute. With a potent combination of youth alongside the experience of Ryan Giggs, Rio Ferdinand and

Scholes, United now look capable of

winning the league for the first time Ferguson, who sent on Michael Carrick in the second half for his debut after an 18 million pounds pre-season move from Tottenham. took encouragement from the way United refused to be frustrated by

"It was a great performance and

Thuram to keep on playing

the World Cup from French support-

ers whether it be in Africa or in New

York," said Thuram, who was a

LILIAN THURAM

member of the 1998 World Cup and

wait for the emotions to pass before

taking my decision with a clearer

head because originally my decision

"I tried to take a step back, and

perform because we had a few players missing with injuries and suspension. ...We had to wear them down, We

could have got frustrated after hitting the bar and post then the keeper made a great save.

"It was a great moment for United fans and staff when Ole scored. He's had a tough few years but we never lost faith and now he has got Charlton manager lain Dowie

had no doubt about United's title credentials but bemoaned the way his south London side had conceded three goals. "When they play that well they are a match for any team in the

country. I thought they played great but the manner of the goals was disappointing. "I was at their game against Fulham on Sunday and they do

move and rotate fantastically well. "The most impressive thing is that they are resilient. Eventually they get a chance because they move the ball so well and when they are ahead that is the worst time to play them.

"It's taken a slip from Fortune and Fletchers taken advantage. From there you are chasing the game. "They've got players that can

hurt you but we didn't work hard enough at passing the ball. At key moments we switched off defen-

was originally not to return to the

Thuram, who moved from dis-

raced Italian giants Juventus to Barcelona after the World Cup, said

that he hoped he could maintain his

outstanding level of play which saw

him and fellow central defender

William Gallas inspire France to the

2008 qualifier (on September 2

against Georgia with a second one

four days later in a revenge match

with world champions Italy)," said

Thuram, who was first capped in

1994 and whose only two goals came

in the come from behind 2-1 victory

over Croatia in the 1998 World Cup

still be at the top of my game.

"I will be there for the first Euro

World Cup final.

### Ze Maria, Berson ioin Levante

before prevailing 1-0.

AFP, Madrid

Recently-promoted Spanish Primera Liga side Levante have announced the signings of Brazilian defender Ze Maria and French midfielder Mathieu Berson.

The 33-year-old Ze Maria has signed a one-year deal with a second year option while 26-year-old Berson signed a three-year con-Berson signed for English

Premiership side Aston Villa from Nantes in 2004 but spent last season out on loan at French top-flight side Auxerre.

Ahead of their bid to stay in the Spanish top flight Valencia-based Levante have also signed French trio Frederic Dehu (Marseille), Laurent Robert (Benfica) and Olivier Kapo, who has been loaned by Italian side JuventusTurin.

Italian Damiano Tommasi has also been signed from Roma.

### Roeder tips **Martins for** greatness

Nigerian striker Obafemi Martins is already being tipped as a Newcastle legend - even before he takes over the famous number nine shirt. last

Magpies boss Glenn Roeder is prepared to allocate the shirt number, which has been available since Shearer's retirement last year, to the Nigerian once he has completed a 10-million-pounds move from Inter

tant it is for the fans to have a number nine, but what is more important is to have a number nine who fills the shirt and can do the job.

look down over the years and there have been plenty of number nines number that scores the goals. "If he wants the shirt. I would be

more than happy to let him take it if that is what he wants. I am sure he is a big enough man to carry it. "If he has got a preference for another shirt that is available, he can

the person wearing them; it's not the shirt, it's the person that is wearing

Thursday was flying in to undergo a medical and finalise his deal.

# Keane tipped for Sunderland job



Former Manchester United midfielder Roy Keane could be unveiled as the new manager of Championship

strugglers Sunderland in the coming days. Club chairman Niall Quinn last night declared that the club would soon appoint "a winner", although

he stopped short of naming Keane as the man to take over at the Stadium of Light It is understood talks have taken place between Sunderland and Quinn's former Republic of Ireland

appointment. Sunderland confirmed talks with

"a high-profile figure" were ongoing, with Quinn eager to relinquish the coaching responsibilities he reluctantly took on after failing to lure a top-class manager during the

The Black Cats slumped to a 2-0 defeat at Bury on Tuesday in the first round of the Carling Cup, after four straight league losses which have left them bottom of the Championship

Although Keane lacks managerial experience, Quinn said only a "winner" could help restore the players' belief after what he called a norrendous past few years.

"If you look at the games Sunderland have lost in the last few years, it's horrendous, it makes awful reading. Psychologically there teammate, with a view to a swift is no way the players couldn't be

"We have to bring somebody in who can lift all that and bring a winning mentality into that dressing room and then to let it flow into the stadium itself

"The fans have to see evidence of a winning mentality returning. When the fans start to believe, the whole thing lifts. Sunderland said in a statement:

"The club is in discussions with a high-profile figure and is hopeful an announcement will be made in the near future.'

Keane, 35, retired as a player in

Should he be installed at Sunderland, his likely managerial debut will be against West Brom's Brvan Robson, the man he once succeeded as the dominant personality in the United midfield.

## Copenhagen stun Ajax

REUTERS, Amsterdam



said afterwards.

score a stunning 2-0 win at Aiax Amsterdam on Wednesday and qualify for the Champions League

FC Copenhagen

struck twice in the

second half to

for the first time with a shock 3-2 aggregate win Ajax, the four-time European champions, won the first leg 2-1 in Denmark two weeks ago and expected a relatively easy night with

a place in the group phase there for

the taking, but they squandered

chances and were hit by two late goals from the Danish champions. "Tonight we had the luck we missed out on in the first game." Copenhagen coach Stale Solbakken

"After our first goal they started to strike from the edge of the penalty hand the long pass to our big central defenders, and that made it easier for

"Over two games it was an even contest. We were better in Copenhagen and I think they were better toniaht but I don't think our qualification is completely undeserved."

Ajax coach Henk ten Cate told NOS-TV afterwards: "The immaturity of some of my players let us down.

"We created several chances in the first half and got nothing. Being a goal down was no problem but we ailed to keep it simple.' Although Ajax dominated the first

utes when Ryan Babel's deflected shot hit a post, they squandered a hatful of chances. Spaniard Gabri twice headed

wide from close range, while a fierce

half and went close after eight min-

But just as in Copenhagen a fortnight earlier the Aiax defence proved vulnerable at set pieces. A 59th minute free-kick from the left

Jesper Christiansen

area was saved by goalkeeper

flank was netted at the far post by the unmarked Michael Silberbauer. Aiax defender Thomas Vermaelen then put through his own net after 77 minutes when he changed the direction of a cross from the right flank to put Copenhagen 2-0

the two legs. Ten minutes before time Klaas-Jan Huntelaar headed against the bar, but Ajax could not find the goal that would have taken the match into extra time and Copenhagen held on for a famous win.

up on the night and 3-2 ahead over



Ajax defender Jaap Stam (L) consoles striker Ryan Babel after their 2-0 loss against Copenhagen in their Champions League qualifying match at the Amsterdam Arena on Wednesday.

21 Couturier

Vera

23 Compas-

sion

24 Lavers

critter

26 Odd-

27 in due

28 Tear in

29 Driving

31 Nose

34 Pick

**35** Gem

props

on the

comic

materia

37 Scrooge's

38 Skewer

39 Well- -

40 Press

41 Catch

44 Ms.

45 Gorilla

Gras

VIP

with a

47 Stick

46 Mardi

sight of

Thurman

22 Notion

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

DOWN

1 Bumped

into

2 Hurly-

burly

3 Zodiac

4 Printer

type

5 Despot

6 That lady

transport

7 Usurer's

fee

8 Christ-

9 Secular

10 Gumbo

11 Rid of

rind

20 Snap-

Solution time: 21 mins.

16 Standard

shots

inaredi-

33 "Scream

35 Region

36 Comes-

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37 Ties

38 Viscid

41 Listener

belly

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49 Ref

51 Color

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53 Adjoining

52 Put into

43 Vendor's

barrel or

42 Word

2" actress

Rebecca

**ACROSS** 

1 Bamako's

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8 Feed

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12 Paradise

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42		T			43	44		1	T	45	46	47
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51	+-	$\dagger$	+-		52	$\vdash$	+-	П	53	1	t	$\vdash$

**CRYPTOQUIP** 

AHBLNJ WLNJ SRJQ

NJHMBZL NWZL BR NSHHJLNE,

SLMZI MKJE JYJLMSBIIE

IZYHJABZISHJ Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF POLITICIAN PEROT ALLUDES TO SOMETHING, I GUESS YOU MIGHT

SAY IT'S ROSS-REFERENCED. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals A

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for r. 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.

### The Bavarian derby AFP, Berlin nine points with victory over Nuremberg

Euro 2000 winning sides.

back wins to leave their coach Hans Meyer in high spirits. "Six points and no goals conceded. Who is going to stop us?" asked Meyer somewhat tongue-in-

Nuremberg finished last season

like an express train and have

started this season with back-to-

"The fact that this derby is being taken more seriously is credit for what my players have achieved." Neverthless Bayern go into the match as strong favourites despite

tions off the field. England international Owen Hargreaves continues to anger the club with his angling for a move to

the Barcelona defeat and disrup-

lodged a 25 million euro bid. Hargreaves has sat out the last two matches with a supposed bout Bremen, the main contenders to

Bayern's throne, have also started

the season well with six points but face a tricky trip to Schalke on "We have started well with two wins and just need to push on now," said Bremen coach Thomas Schaaf. "But it will be difficult

against Schalke.

There is added spice to this fixture with Bremen angry at Schalke for poaching several of their stars on free transfers.

In the past two seasons Schalke have captured Mladen Krstajic, Fabian Ernst and Ailton from Bremen without paying them a single euro. SV Hamburg, an outside title

shot, are counting the cash after

joining Bremen and Bayern in the Champions League after a 1-1 draw in Osasuna on Wednesday helped them qualify on away goals. "You could see the emotions afterwards and there were a few

tears rolling down the cheeks,' manager Thomas Doll said. "We have Hertha Berlin this Sunday and it goes without saying that the players are raring to go."

Saturday Bayern Munich v FC Nuremberg, Bayer Leverkusen v VfL Wolfsburg, VfB Stuttgart v Borussia Dortmund. Borussia Monchengladbach v Arminia Bielefeld, Hannover v Alemannia Aachen, VfL Bochum v Energie Cottbus

Schalke 04 v Werder Bremen

Friday

### in two years time I will still be at the same level," added Thuram, who has been linked with a move into politics.

Roeder said: "I know how impor-

"I was a player at the club and you who could not do the job. It's not the

have that one as well.

the shirt. That is what counts." After admitting he was keen on a move to England, Martins on

worn by Alan Shearer.

"But it's not the football boots, it's

### "After that I hope that France will qualify for the finals and I hope I will "Because it is not a done thing that AFP, Newcastle