



Photographers clamour to shoot pictures of Bolton Wanderers' manager Sam Allardyce as he leaves his home in Bolton yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Rummenigge blasts Magath

AFP, Munich

Bayern Munich coach Felix Magath received a broadside from the German giants director-general Karl-Heinz Rummenigge on Tuesday over what he saw as poor excuses for their shock 2-1 loss to Arminia Bielefeld last weekend.

The former German international striker said that it was time to stop making up excuses when the team played as badly as it did on Saturday.

"It is imperative that these excuses over why we lost stop," said Rummenigge, who was a member of the West German team that reached the 1982 and 1986 World Cup finals.

"I cannot do anything but demand that all the players give the best of themselves as we are entering a decisive part of the championship (Bayern are third a point off leaders Hertha Berlin)."

Magath, who has guided Bayern to the domestic double in the past two seasons, had said that the reason for the reverse -- their first of the season -- was down to the German Cup and the first group match of the Champions League being in the same week.

However Rummenigge said that was simply not the reason for the poor performance.

"When one plays a team like Bielefeld who are clearly inferior in every department of play to us, we have to show more quality than we did on Saturday."

## Mirza starts off solidly

AFP, Kolkata

Indian star Sania Mirza survived a bad day for seeded players to advance to the second round of the 175,000-dollar WTA Kolkata Open here on Tuesday.

The 20-year-old fifth seed, hoping to improve her ranking after slipping to 70 from a personal best of 31 last year, scored an emphatic 6-0, 6-4 win over local qualifier Rushmi Chakravarty in the first round.

Mirza, cheered by some 500 home fans that included former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly, said she was delighted to be back in the sports-mad city of Kolkata.

"I am here after a year and obviously there was pressure on me to perform in front of Indian fans," said Mirza, who is expected to meet top-seed Martina Hingis in the semifinals.

"It's great to play in Kolkata. People love their sport and we are treated like movie stars. But I think the crowd was more excited about Ganguly being there than about the match."

There were early exits for second-seed Karolina Sprem of Croatia, third-seed Yuliana Fedak of Ukraine and the eighth-seeded Russian Anastassia Rodionova.

Casey Dellacqua of Australia, with a WTA ranking of 180, created the biggest upset of the tournament by ousting world number 50 Sprem 2-6, 7-6, 6-2.

Fedak lost to Alberta Brianti of Italy, who served strongly to win 6-4, 6-2.

Rodionova failed to build on a 6-1 win in the first set against fellow Russian Alla Kudryavtseva and lost the next two sets by identical margins of 3-6, 3-6.

Hana Sromova of the Czech Republic ousted India's Shikha Uberoi 6-4, 6-3, while Indonesian Angelique Widjaja defeated another Indian hopeful, Sanaa Bhabri, 6-2, 6-3.

## Lid lifted on corruption

AFP, London

English football authorities are set to launch an investigation into allegations that Bolton manager Sam Allardyce took bribes to agree transfers.

The accusations were made by two agents in a BBC television programme broadcast on Tuesday that aimed to expose corruption in English football.

The programme makers mounted an undercover operation to find evidence of bribery among top clubs, with one agent, Teri Yerima, claiming he had given 'bungs' to Allardyce -- who was interviewed for the England manager's job earlier this year -- to ensure transfers involving his clients went through.

A second agent, Peter Harrison, was caught on camera revealing that he had paid Allardyce's son Craig to get access to the Bolton manager and agree transfer deals.

Harrison was filmed telling the covert programme makers: "If I say 'Listen Sam, I'll give Craig some money'... he'll say 'Yeah, OK, we'll do a deal.'"

The English Football Association (FA) has asked to see all the evidence amassed by Panorama so they can look into the highly-damaging claims.

An FA spokesman said: "We have watched the programme with great interest and have asked the BBC if they will share the findings from their investigation with us."

"If we have evidence of possible breaches of rules and regulations we will of course investigate that."

Bolton's deals to sign Israel defender Tal Ben Haim, Japan midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata and the Oman goalkeeper Ali Al-Habshi all came under close scrutiny in the programme.

Panorama claimed those three transfers included undisclosed payments to Craig Allardyce even though he is contractually obliged not to be involved in any Bolton deals because of his father's position at the club.

The Premiership outfit claimed not to know about the payments but Craig Allardyce was secretly filmed saying that his father knew what was going on: "Yeah, course he knew, course he knew. I've never hidden anything," said the agent.

Allardyce and his son deny any wrongdoing and the Bolton boss insisted he would take legal action if he felt the claims were unjustified.

He said: "If there are things said that are wrong about Sam Allardyce believe you me, I will be fighting them."

Bolton released a statement on Wednesday that said: "We are reviewing the Panorama programme carefully and we may request further information from the

BBC. We will make further comment in due course."

English champions Chelsea also came under the programme's spotlight when Panorama claimed Frank Arnesen, the club's director of youth football, had offered 150,000 pounds (282,000 dollars) to a young player to join the London side.

Middlesbrough's England youth international Nathan Porritt was represented by Harrison, who the programme claims was also offered money by Liverpool to persuade his client to sign for them.

Chelsea, who deny any misconduct, are already being investigated by the FA and Premier League over claims from Leeds that they 'tapped-up' three of their youth academy players.

But, although Chelsea have a suspended points penalty hanging over them after they were punished last year for illegally approaching Ashley Cole, that would not be activated by this accusation because it falls under a different Premier League rule.

Sports minister Richard Caborn believes the Panorama findings must be handed over to Lord Stevens, who is currently conducting a separate investigation into transfer corruption for the Premier League.

Stevens is due to announce the results of his probe on October 2 and Caborn told the BBC: "The

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## Fergie dreams of Makelele

INTERNET, undated

United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has reportedly told a question-and-answer session with guests at a charity dinner that his dream signing would be one of Chelsea's top talents.

Claude Makelele, such an important cog in Jose Mourinho's Blues machine, is the man that Ferguson most covets, according to The Daily Express.

The experienced Frenchman has been outstanding at Stamford Bridge since trading Real Madrid for London and is generally acknowledged as the best holding midfielder in the world - even at the age of 33.

United have been sadly lacking a midfield general since Roy Keane's departure last year and they failed to sign Owen Hargreaves from Bayern Munich in the summer.

Ferguson still feels Hargreaves would be a viable alternative as Makelele is clearly unavailable.

"Makelele and Owen Hargreaves," the Scot reportedly replied when asked which players he would most like to purchase.

Ferguson also revealed his regret at failing to tie up a move for Paul Gascoigne when the former England international was available at Newcastle United in the late 1980s.

"Gazza" opted to join Tottenham despite United's interest and has also expressed his disappointment, in hindsight, that he was never able to work under Ferguson.

## Britain's soccer scandal at a glance

REUTERS, London

Britain's sports minister Richard Caborn said on Wednesday that allegations of illegal payments in English soccer should be thoroughly investigated.

Here are some details of the allegations following an investigation by a BBC television programme on Tuesday.

**WHAT IS A BUNG**  
A bung is an irregular or illegal payment made to managers by agents to facilitate the process of transferring a player from one team to another.

**THE ALLEGATIONS**  
The BBC Panorama programme said that sources told them of 18 unnamed past and present managers in the Premier League who had received the "bungs" from transfers with two agents implying Bolton Wanderers manager Sam Allardyce had taken them.

Allardyce, considered earlier this year as a potential England manager, is also accused by agents of being corrupt.

Allardyce's son Craig is accused by the programme makers of receiving secret payments for the transfer to Bolton of three players.

Allegations of indirect approaches being made to players involving Portsmouth manager Harry Redknapp and Chelsea's director of youth football, Frank Arnesen.

All of those named in the BBC programme have denied any wrongdoing.

## Ancelotti aims for the top

INTERNET, undated

A win against Ascoli will take Milan past the zero mark and Carlo Ancelotti warns they're chasing the leadership now.

"We're not basing our progress on that of Inter. There are other strong sides like Roma and Palermo, so we are aiming for the head of the table. The Giallorossi aren't bit-part players in this race and it won't be easy to claw back an eight-point deficit against them."

The Rossoneri's title hopes were hit hard by the eight-point penalty inflicted in the Calciopoli scandal, but a victory against Ascoli tomorrow evening would wipe that handicap out, putting them on one point.

"Our psychological status right now is excellent, as we're very motivated. We want to do well over the next few games to secure our position in Serie A and the Champions League. So far we've proved nothing, only that we are a competitive side."

Ascoli held Milan to a 1-1 draw last season at the Stadio Del Duca and were only narrowly beaten 1-0 at San Siro, so it won't be an easy prospect.

"They've changed a great deal, but at the same time maintained the ideals set out by Marco Giampaolo last year," noted Ancelotti. "They're aggressive and organised, but we have the opportunity to take that minus sign off our table."

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

## Managers' association slams claims

Football

REUTERS, London

England's League Managers Association (LMA) on Wednesday dismissed a BBC investigation into alleged illegal payments to coaches, saying the programme had a complete lack of evidence to back up its claims.

Tuesday's BBC Panorama programme said sources told them of 18 unnamed past and present Premier League managers who had received the payments or "bungs" from transfers, with two agents implying Bolton manager Sam Allardyce had taken them.

Allardyce has denied any wrongdoing, while Bolton said on Wednesday it was "reviewing the Panorama programme carefully" and may request further information from the BBC.

"As the organisation which represents professional football managers in this country, we were very disappointed with the BBC Panorama programme screened last night," the LMA said.

"There was a complete lack of substance and evidence to the pre-programme assertions and claims which were being made."

"If the BBC has any hard evidence then it should hand that evidence to The Football Association and Lord Stevens."

Former London police chief John Stevens has been leading a long-running Premier League inquiry into allegations of "bungs" and is due to deliver the findings on Oct 2.

The LMA said it "supports any full and thorough investigation into these issues and welcomes the publication of the Lord Stevens report in the near future."

"If there is any evidence of financial misconduct within football then let it be brought out into the open and the guilty parties treated accordingly."

Frank Clark, the vice-chairman of the LMA, told Sky Sports News: "Let the relevant authorities deal with it because at the moment every manager is tainted with the accusation."

"There's a widespread misconception that all managers are on the take and until this thing is properly resolved, that is not going to go away. It's very disappointing."

British sports minister Richard Caborn said on Wednesday that allegations of illegal payments should be thoroughly investigated and called on the BBC to hand its evidence over to the Premier League's inquiry.

"The integrity of sport needs to be upheld and there are proper rules for managers and agents," Caborn told BBC Radio Five Live. "These allegations damage the integrity of football and need to be looked at properly."

"The programme... should give all their findings over to the Stevens inquiry."

"This reinforces what I have been trying to do to bring in greater regulation into football through the European Football Review."

The Premier League said in a statement after Tuesday's programme it had asked the BBC to pass on the programme's evidence to the Stevens inquiry, adding that it "takes all allegations of this nature seriously."

The Panorama programme, entitled "Undercover - Football's

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## FA promises exhaustive enquiry

Football

THE GUARDIAN

The Football Association and Premier League today promised an "exhaustive and thorough" inquiry into the "serious allegations" made by BBC Panorama programme: Undercover: Football's Dirty Secrets.

The allegations, the result of a nine-month undercover investigation, centred on the Bolton manager Sam Allardyce, who was accused by three agents of being willing to accept illegal payments over the transfer of players.

It was also alleged that Chelsea had tapped up Middlesbrough's England youth international Nathan Porritt - a clear breach of FA rules. Both Allardyce and Chelsea deny any wrongdoing.

However every agent, manager and club named by the programme for alleged wrongdoing will be investigated, with FA chief Brian

Barwick admitting: "These are serious allegations which have been made by Panorama and we are determined to investigate them fully. It is vital for the integrity of the game and for every football supporter that we do this."

"We will work in close co-operation with the Premier League. As with any investigation, we will ensure that our inquiries are exhaustive and thorough," he added. "If we find evidence of corruption we will act on it. We recognise our responsibility."

One probe relating to players' agents and connected activities will be carried out by the FA alone, and another investigation by the FA and Premier League jointly. Among those being investigated by both bodies will be Frank Arnesen, Liverpool, Newcastle United and Harry Redknapp - who were all accused by the programme of making illegal approaches to players.

Other allegations, such as those

relating to players' agents and connected activities, will be investigated by the FA alone. They will cover the allegations against Sam Allardyce, Craig Allardyce, Peter Harrison, Charles Collymore and Kevin Bond.

Meanwhile Bolton are considering asking the BBC for further information on the programme, which also accused Allardyce's son Craig of accepting money for his part in two deals, even though the sums were never registered with the FA - an allegation he denies. "We are reviewing the Panorama programme carefully and we may request further information from the BBC," said a club statement released this morning. "We will make further comment in due course."

Speaking after Bolton's win at Walsall last night, Sam Allardyce promised to fight the allegations. "I'm aware of the situation," he

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Juventus players congratulate teammate Jean Alain Bounsong (not seen) after he scored against Crotona during their Serie B match at Ezio Scida Stadium on Tuesday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

## Deschamps happy

Football

INTERNET, undated

Didier Deschamps has praised his Juventus players for finally understanding what's needed to succeed in Serie B.

"The lads interpreted the game perfectly against an opponent that put a lot of pressure on us and were very aggressive," commented the Coach after their 3-0 victory at Crotona.

The Bianconeri started the campaign with a dismal 1-1 draw at Rimini, but have now notched up two wins on the trot against Vicenza and Crotona. This was also their first clean sheet in Serie B.

"The first match was tough because we realised exactly what awaits us throughout this whole year. Now our attitude has changed and there is more desire to battle away. Apart from scoring the three goals tonight, I'm particularly happy

we didn't concede."

Summer signing Valeri Bojinov scored a brace, while the third goal came from Jean-Alain Bounsong, who had been bitterly criticised for defensive errors in his appearances for Juve so far.

"Bojinov has great quality and I am counting on him, just as I am everyone in the side," noted Deschamps.

"Bounsong had done well in the last game. It's not easy for the defence, because we play attacking football and lose some solidity at the back, so the teammates have to help each other."

Crucially, this result was achieved without injured stars David Trezeguet and Alessandro Del Piero, but they are set to return on Saturday in the intriguing clash with Modena in Turin.

"I hope Del Piero will be back by the weekend. We have to evaluate his condition," said Deschamps. The Juventus captain is struggling with an inflamed tendon.

## Lux signs for Mallorca

INTERNET, undated

Mallorca team page Real Mallorca have signed Argentina international goalkeeper German Lux from River Plate for €1.6 million, it was announced on Tuesday. The 24-year-old shot stopper will join the Primera Liga club in the January transfer window and will compete with Antonio Prats for the number one jersey.

Lux was first choice for Argentina in the victorious 2004 Olympics campaign, although was surprisingly dropped by then coach Jose Pekerman for the 2006 World Cup after an indifferent Confederations Cup the previous season.

Lux will be seen as a long-term replacement for Antonio Prats, who turned 35 ten days ago and only has 22-year-old Miguel Angel Moya as back-up.

Lux has also won the Argentine national championship and the FIFA World Youth Cup in 2001.



Sania Mirza of India rejoices after her win over compatriot Rushmi Chakravarty in a first round match of the Sunfeast Open tennis tournament in Kolkata on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP