### The Daily Star

### Aragones receives backing

#### AFP, Madrid

Under-fire Spain coach Luis Aragones on Monday got the dreaded vote of confidence from the national football federation despite his team having lost two of their opening three Group F Euro qualifi-

Federation president Angel Maria Villar said Aragones, whose team suffered a shock 3-2 loss to Northern Ireland and a 2-0 defeat by Sweden, "would see his contract through to the end".

"The team still has a chance to qualify (for Euro 2008)," said Villar. "I think that the coach must see out his contract.'

A 2-1 win over Argentina in a friendly gave Aragones, who has been in charge of Spain since 2004. some breathing space and Villar denied that he had been in contact with coach Miguel Angel Lotina as a possible replacement for Aragones.

### Carbone to **leave Sydney** AFP, Sydney

Italian Benito Carbone's tenure at Sydney FC is over after three games when the Australian A-League champions failed to reach an agreement to extend his four-match guest contract,

the club said Tuesday. Sydney FC were initially keen to make the 35-year-old striker's stay more permanent, but a recent hamstring injury and big wage demands made it too difficult to keep him, the club said.

Sydney FC chief executive George Perry said the club believed it had put together a package strong enough to keep him, only to fall well short of Carbone's asking price.

"We entered into negotiations with Benito's management to keep him for the season and put to them what we thought was a very attractive offer to keep him at the club until the end of the season as our marquee player, but we are miles apart," Perry said in a statement

"Even before Benito suffered the injury it was apparent we wouldn't be able to come to financial terms, but the extra time he will spend off the pitch has made it difficult to justify the deal.

"It is unfortunate that we can't come to a deal because the coaching staff was happy with his contribution and he would have been an asset to the team but we won't be financially irresponsible.'

Carbone suffered a hamstring injury during last Friday's 3-1 loss against Central Coast Mariners after scoring his second goal for the club with a free kick in the first half.

Carbone was sought as a quest player following the departure of Trinidad and Tobago striker Dwight Yorke to English second-tier club Sunderland.



Charlton Athletic striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (L) shrugs off the challenge of Fulham midfielder Michael Brown in their Premiership clash at Craven Cottage on Monday.

# Fulham continue **Charlton misery**

AFP. Londor

BARCLAYS 😋 Londoners 2-1 to record their first win

Two goals in two minutes from veteran American international Brian McBride and Claus Jensen against his former club - gave Fulham breathing space while Charlton got one back late on through Darren Bent, who has London club

Defeat for Charlton was their fifth

Fulham manager Chris Coleman goalscorers, especially McBride. Coleman.

"He is not quick but he is strong in the air, knows the game and can when McBride opened the hosts account in the 65th minute as he shot home from Jensen's freekick which had been awarded after a foul by Amady Faye on Wayne Routledge.

Charlton had barely recovered from that blow when they were hit by the killer one as Jensen volleyed brilliantly past Scott Carson.

and now we need to look for the Darren Bent then gave the positives," said Dowie, who left visitors some hope 13 minutes from former club Crystal Palace in contime with a right footed shot from troversial fashion having told owner inside the penalty area but it was to Simon Jordan he wanted to move prove too little too late for the embatnorth but instead opting for another tled London side.

Indeed they were fortunate not to "We have to make sure everyone lose by more as Carson had to save sticks together and stands up to be smartly from Tomasz Radzinski in the final minute. "We are in a dark time at the

Aston Villa 8 3 5 0 10 5 14

Argentine striker Hernan

Crespo, who has been out of action

### **Bremen not** complacent

AFP, Bremen

German international midfielder Torsten Frings says Werder Bremen should be wary of overconfidence going into Wednesday's vital Champions League match with Levski Sofia

Bremen crushed VfL Bochum 6-0 to move to the summit of the Bundesliga over the weekend but Frings does not want a European comedown against Sofia with the three points vital for the 2004 German champions. "We have all made it perfectly

clear that we need to carry on working and keep our feet on the ground," Frings said.

"The Bochum performance was good but it would not have the same impact ithe Champions League. What happened at the weekend is not important - if we lose on Wednesday we will be a laughing stock in Germany.

"The Sofia game is our most important in the Champions League so far."

Bremen have just one point from their first two Group A matches but they now face Sofia home and away while the group favourites Chelsea and Barcelona tussle for top spot in their own double header. "We can get six points from the

next two matches and the others (Barcelona and Chelsea) will take points off each other," Frings declared.

"Then we can beat Chelsea at home and see how the table looks going into the final match." Bremen's final group match is at

the home of reigning champions Barcelona who they almost defeated in their last outing with Argentine teenager Lionel Messi scoring a late equaliser in a 1-1

last 16 mathematically, with three draw wins out of three they would move It is a big week for Bremen who to within touching distance of the tackle Sofia before coming up second round. against reigning champions Bayern Munich in the league on Saturday.

### Manchester directors resign

finance director Nick Humby and commercial director Andy Anson, have resigned from their posts.

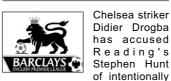
The Old Trafford outfit confirmed the news to staff early Tuesday before making a formal announcement that both men, who have formed a key bridge between the previous board and the new ownership structure under Malcolm Glazer, will leave in February to take up fresh challenges.

As two of only three non-Glazers heavily involved in the running of United, the departures of Humby and Anson would appear to isolate chief executive David Gill, although

## **Drogba accuses Hunt**

DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18, 2006

**REUTERS**, Paris



injuring goalkeeper Petr Cech during Saturday's Premier League match.

The 24-year-old Czech international suffered a fractured skull when Hunt's knee hit his head in a collision minutes into Chelsea's 1league win at the Madejski Stadium.

"Don't tell me tall stories, this was not an accident," Drogba was quoted as saying by French Sports Daily L'Equipe on Tuesday. "He (Hunt) saw that he was going to collide with Petr and he didn't try to avoid it.

"The worst came after that. When Petr was carried out of the ground, he (Hunt) was laughing...," Drogba was quoted as

Sporting Lisbon

will be aiming to

prevent Bavern

Munich from

marching into

the second

round of the

Champions

**INTERNET**, undated

 $\mathfrak{S}$ 

CHAMPIONS

November 22.

Estadio Alvalade.

Jornal Sporting

fortnight

League on Wednesday.

Although a win for Bayern

would not secure their place in the

However, Sporting also har-

bour ambitions of sealing their

place in the second round before

travelling to Internazionale on

Portuguese leaders will be out to

claim another notable scalp at the

"Let's fight to beat Bayern,

was the headline in the latest

edition of the club's magazine

CROSSWORD

saying

Cech underwent surgery and has since regained full consciousness and is improving, Chelsea said on Monday.

Cech's replacement, Carlo Cudicini, was also knocked out later in the game going for a high ball in the goalmouth. He, too, was taken to hsopital but discharged later that night and resumed light training on Monday.

"I'm not paranoid but they hate us", Drogba was quoted as saying. "Some people will use any means to beat us."

"We went there to play a match, but we soon realised that the guys facing us were out for the dame of the season," L'Equipe quoted Drogba as saying.

"From the first minute, he (Hunt) tried to intimidate us, to show that he didn't fear us and that we'd better be ready for one hell of a challenge for 90 minutes," he said.

victory to Petr and Carlo." Hunt said on Monday that he

Bayern currently lead Group B

with six points having beaten both

Inter and Spartak Moscow and

have yet to concede a goal, while

**Bayern aim for top spot** Sporting are at full strength as would be difficult to leave the key midfielder Nani is expected to Dutchman out for such a big overcome a minor knock to start fixture

had written to Cech wishing him a

quick recovery and was adamant

the collision in the opening minute

attempt to injure Petr and I am

very upset that the collision has

resulted in such a bad injury," he

that the collision was a complete

accident and I'd like to think that

my team mates and opponents

throughout my career in football

would say that I'm not the kind of

person to deliberately hurt an

Reading also issued a state

L'Equipe also asked Drogba

about the Champions League's

showcase match against

European champions Barcelona

on Wednesday and Drogba said:

'We are going to try to snatch the

three points and dedicate the

ment supporting Hunt.

"I think the TV pictures show

"I can guarantee that I did not

was accidental.

said

opponent."

With Mehmet Scholl ruled out of the trip due to a pulled muscle, Magath will have little choice but to stick with a very attack-minded formation

"If we can play like we did in the

first hour against Hertha, then we

can achieve something important

this season." Van Bommel told the

"It is going to be a great game,

This may be the first encounter

between the two sides, but

Bayern have been to Portugal

before, and invariably returned

In their last seven trips to

club's website fcbayern.de.

with a smile on their faces.

first against second.'

Their full-back Philipp Lahm is That suits former Barcelona aware of the importance of makmidfielder Mark van Bommel ing it three wins from three on down to the ground.

Wednesday. He was a Champions League "If we can take three points winner with the Spanish giants from Lisbon, we are as good as last season and sees no reason through," said the Germany interwhy he cannot repeat that experience with Bayern this term.

Bayern warmed up for the trip with arguably their most impressive attacking performance of the season on Saturday.

Coach Felix Magath fielded This will be a crucial doublethree strikers for the first time this header for both sides in Lisbon on year and was rewarded with Wednesday and Munich in a Claudio Pizarro, Roy Makaay and Lukas Podolski all finding the Having already beaten the back of the net in a 4-2 win over Italian champions, the joint Hertha Berlin.

for Paulo Bento's side.

scoring six.

national

Pizarro and Podolski saw off Inter three weeks ago at the San Siro and are currently Magath's in-form strikers

However, Makaay has already Portugal, they have yet to lose a proved himself in Europe and, with his wealth of experience, it

game



#### hold the ball up. I'm delighted he has started to score goals for us this Fulham ensured season," added the former Wales nternational defender. Charlton stayed Charlton boss Iain Dowie, who bottom of the J""/->> succeeded Alan Curbishley in the

counted.

striker.

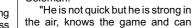
Premiership on summer after he resigned, said that Monday as they everyone at the club had to stick beat their fellow together "We've have some difficult times

in four league matches

scored six of their seven

Premiership goals this season. in a row and leaves them with just three points after eight matches, one adrift of Watford

was full of praise for his two "Brian is an absolute dream. His attitude is fantastic," purred

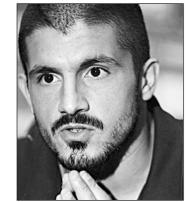


AFP. Milan

8 6 1 1 17 5 19 8 6 1 1 13 4 19

PHOTO: AFP

AFP, London Two Manchester United directors,



**RINO GATTUSO** 

### Gattuso dismisses **Rangers talk**

#### AFP, Rome

AC Milan and Italy midfielder Rino Gattuso has dismissed reports that he wants to end his career with Scottish giants Glasgow Rangers.

Gattuso, who played for Rangers in the 1997-98 season before returning to Italy, said he was misquoted in an interview he gave to the British

"It's my fault because I should learn to keep my mouth shut," Gattuso told AC Milan's official website, www.acmilan.com.

"The problem is that journalists wrote the contrary to what I said. I have always said that Rangers gave me a great opportunity as a professional, but my desire is to finish my career with AC Milan.

"I don't see any reason why I should leave the best club in the world as long as they treat me as they have always done and the fans continue to support me.

League victory over Bayern Munich "Everybody knows that I like the in Barcelona. style of Scottish football, but after more than a century of goals during years at AC Milan I am not looking his 10 years at the club and beyond finishing my career with Ferguson believes he is the perfect them. I will not forget what Milan have example for young players Rooney aiven to me."

and Ronaldo to follow Gattuso, 28, joined AC Milan from Salernitana in 1999. He helped them Portugal winger Ronaldo already win the Champions League in the made impressive starts to their 2002/03 season and the Serie A title in the 2003/04 season. careers

Gattuso, nicknamed 'Growler', was outstanding for Italy in their triumphant World Cup campaign this sary in charge of United next month, said: "Both Wayne and Cristiano year. can learn from Ole.

Champions go top of Serie A. League aspirations could be shot to pieces if

CHAMPIONS they lose hopeful. Wednesday's delicately poised Group B match at is Adriano. The Brazil international's

home to Spartak Moscow. last goal came against Villarreal in The current Serie A leaders have the Champions League on March already lost to Sporting Lisbon and 29, but Moratti refused to slam the Bavern Munich and are lagging 24-year-old striker. behind in the race to advance from

It's a difficult moment for him, Group B to the knockout stage. but he is not the only player in the Bayern have six points from their team who is having trouble scoring," two matches played, followed by he said. "I'm sure he will turn it Sporting on four, Spartak on one, around soon. with Inter propping up the table Inter, who have not lost to

model: Fergie

without a point Inter now need a good return from their back-to-back meetings with Spartak or they could face early elimination from a competition many tipped them to win. "The Spartak match on

Football

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Sir Alex Ferguson believes Wayne

Rooney and Cristiano Ronaldo can

become even better players if they

follow the example set by long-

serving Manchester United striker

folklore is guaranteed after scoring

in United's epic 1999 Champions

Solskjaer's place in Old Trafford

The Norwegian international has

England striker Rooney and

But Ferguson, who is getting

ready to celebrate his 20th anniver-

AFP. Londor

in the 2-0 home defeat to Bayern -Wednesday is crucial, just like all of are ruled out.

for two weeks with a left thigh strain Catania on Sunday which saw them could return for Inter if deemed fit.

It was no surprise, though

Inter's hopes in the balance

our four remaining group games."

midfielder Patrick Vieira from sus-

pension, but left-back Fabio Grosso

and Swedish striker Zlatan

Ibrahimovic - both shown red cards

"Ole has kept his feet on the

"Ole, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes

"From a technical point of view

around and has retained his humility

all his career which is a wonderful

and Gary Neville are without ques-

Wayne and Cristiano only need to

look at videos of the different type of

goals and quality of goals that Ole

always been of the highest quality

him it could take two years to break

game against Leeds it was clear he

against Blackburn and scored twice,

and hasn't stopped scoring since.

was ready for the first team.

from the day he came to the club.

"The standard of his finishing has

When he first came here we told

"But after Ole played a reserve

"He came on as a substitute

"He's a great example for the

likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and

Solskjaer says he is now enjoy-

He has only just returned from

ing his football more than any other

tion from the same stock.

has scored over the years.

quality to have

into the team.

Wayne Rooney."

ime at United.

Inter Milan's after the club's 2-1 home win against

said Inter owner Massimo Moratti

Spartak have a poor record There are only four games to against Italian teams in European win, not 40. The squad need to be competition, with three defeats and fully focussed to do it, but we are three draws in six visits to the penin-One player who is not at his best sula

The Russian side may not be considered among the Continent's most feared teams, but they have reached the last four of three European competitions.

They were knocked out in the last four of the 1990-91 European Cup, losing 5-2 on aggregate to French side Marseille, and they reached the semis of the now defunct European Spartak in four previous meetings, Cup Winners' Cup in the 1992-93 welcome back dynamic French season.

> Spartak also reached the semis of the 1997-1998 UEFA Cup where they were beaten by eventual winners Inter.

a premature end.

successful," said Solskiaer.

"The older you get and the closer

"As you get older you realise

"When you're young you think it's

vou aet to the finishing line, the more

you start to enjoy and appreciate

your career is not going to last

going to go on and on. But I'm just

trying to enjoy my football at the

career

every moment.

forever.

moment."

#### there is no belief Gill has any plans to leave

**Chievo sack** Pillon

AFP, Rome

Chievo have sacked their coach Giuseppe Pillon, the struggling Serie A club confirmed on Monday. Pillon paid the price for the club's poor start to the season with five defeats in their six matches played

Cup. Chievo wasted no time in replacing him, immediately turning to Luigi Del Neri, who coached the Verona club between 2000 and 2004.

and a first round exit in the UEFA

### First goal Solskjaer should be role crucial: Gudjohnsen

#### **REUTERS**, Madrid

Barcelona's Icelandic striker Eidur Gudjohnsen has warned his team two years out of the game with a mates of the dangers of allowing serious knee injury which threat-Chelsea to score first in ened to bring his illustrious career to Wednesday's Champions League clash at Stamford Bridge.

Solskiaer admits there have "Chelsea are tough, well organbeen moments over the last few ised opponents. The biggest danger months when he has considered is that they take the lead because it retiring, but says he is relishing his is very hard to come back against time back in the team as he them." Gudiohnsen told a news approaches the twilight of his conference on Monday. "We have to be focused at all "I'm just happy to be part of the moments because they will make team again because I am confident the most of the slightest lapse." this crop of players are going to be

The Iceland international spent six years at Chelsea before being sold to the European champions in June for 12 million euros (\$15.01

million) but does not feel under pressure to perform against his former employers. With Cameroon striker Samuel

Eto'o out injured Gudiohnsen is likely to lead the line for Barca. He has scored two league goals so far this season. "I know what I am capable of

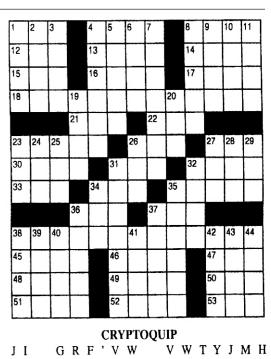
achieving, as do the people at Chelsea because I played more than 250 games for them," Gudjohnsen said.



PHOTO: AFF Sporting Lisbon's rising star Nani (L) controls the ball on his chest during a training session at the Sporting Academy in Lisbon on Tuesday. Sporting will face Bayern tonight.

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Pick a 2 "Music 20 Roadie's 1 "Great target Man' burden, 38 Features Expectavenue sometions" hero of old cars 3 One times 4 Under-45 Hydrox 23 "Platoon" of the goes rival Avengers setting recession 46 Plays 4 With no 24 Mischief 8 "Star Trek Simon? trouble maker 47 Erstwhile II" villain all 25 Yule 5 Lose a 12 Caviar quaff acorn 48 Culture 26 Eviscerate base staring 13 Shaving medium contest 27 Filch cream 49 Russian 6 Connors 28 Swelled additive city competitor head 50 Brewery 29 Watch 14 Verdi Oozing product 8 Greek chain opera 15 Have bills 51 Apportion 31 Lincoln conso-16 Paddock 52 Capone nant SUCCESSO parent foe 9 Take on 32 Shangri-17 Beseech 53 Conden 10 Hebrew La monk 18 Dismissal sation month 34 Chi 21 Sort 11 Unfavorpreceder 35 News-22 "- Little DOWN able Teapot" 1 Figurevotes stands 23 Fool head's 19 Eccentric- 36 Sleep 26 Econ place ity soundly? indicator 37 Chasm Solution time: 27 mins. 27 Ump 38 Wander 30 Frenzied 39 Incite 31 Moon-40 In good shine order container 1 Set 32 Tradecomponent mark 2 Hopesymbol 33 Gas stat Crosby 34 Kitty path 35 Skewered 43 Roy's entree Mrs. 44 Distort 36 "Quiet"



"SFDABWEWVVG IJMM" KSJBW

RM TCXVTA, GRF CTG EW

#### XTAJMH T XKTJM VJYW Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MOVIE IN WHICH AN UNDERHANDED ACTRESS BECOMES HEMMED IN ON ALL SIDES: "WALL ABOUT EVE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals R 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.