VADUZ. Apr 1(Reuters/ Internet): Portugal crushed the part-timers of Liechtenstein 5-0 in their European soccer championship group seven qualifier on Wednesday but made heavy weather of it.

The scoreline flattered Portugal, whose first four goals came from set-pieces as their strikers struggled to find a way through a packed Liechtenstein defence.

Despite the vociferous support of a crowd made up mainly of Portuguese emigrant workers, the visitors had difficulty in playing their usual fluent, attacking game on a bumpy pitch.

The victory kept them top of the group with 12 points from five games, one point more than Romania who scrambled to a 1-0 win over Azerbaijan.

"These games are often difficult. The state of the pitch did not help," Portuguese coach Humberto Coelho said after the game.

Fiorentina midfielder Rui Costa, one of four Italian first division players in the squad, opened the scoring after 16 minutes with a penalty. But Portugal then had to

wait 33 minutes before Barcelona winger Luis Figo added a second with a finely struck free-kick from the edge of the box. In between, striker Joao Vieira Pinto squandered sev-

eral chances, including a missed header virtually on the goal line. Pinto's Benfica team mate Paulo Madeira helped calm

Portuguese nerves with two headed goals in the 54th and 60th minutes, both from corners.

Portugal's only goal from open play came in the 79th minute when Costa sent a thundering shot into the roof of the net after a fine move started by Deportivo Coruna striker Pedro Pauleta.

#### Chapuisat double lifts Swiss bid

ZURICH, Apr 1(Reuters/ Internet): Stephane Chapuisat scored once in each half to fire Switzerland to 2-0 victory over Wales on Wednesday that got their European championship qualifying bid firmly off the ground. The Swiss, who managed

only a draw and a defeat in their first two group one games, have now won twice in five days following their 1-0 win over Belarus on Saturday.

Switzerland are now second with seven points behind Italy on 10, both teams having played four games.

"We had a great 10 days together, with a lot of solidarity," said Swiss coach Gilbert Gress. who had come under attack by the Swiss press for his team's previous poor results.

"It was a remarkable first half but perhaps we didn't play aggressively enough. I was very nervous. But perhaps now the journalists will put their pens away for a while."

Chapuisat thrust the Swiss ahead after four minutes when he gathered a long pass over the top of three Welsh defenders and drove home a left-footed

Wales' best scoring chance came late in the opening half when Andy Johnson's wellstruck header off John Robinson's cross came off the left

The Swiss continued to have the better of the exchanges in the second half. Chapuisat putting the match out of reach in the 70th minute with his 17th goal for his country.

Taking Patrick Muller's cross in the goalbox, Chapuisat neatly volleyed it past a helpless Welsh substitute keeper Mark Crossley, who had replaced the injured Paul Jones midway through the opening

"It was a great match but most importantly we got the win and moved up in the rankings," said Chapuisat. "Before this week a lot of people thought we were finished but we have raised some hope with two great

"Our next game against Italy in Lausanne will not be easy but if we continue the calibre of play we have shown here, we can do something."

## Six Indonesian soccer fans killed by train

JAKARTA, Apr 1(Reuters/ Internet): At least six Indonesian soccer fans were killed on Thursday when they were hit by a train in Jakarta, police said.

They were among a group of fans who leapt off a convoy of trucks that were taking the fans back to their villages. The six died when they ran into the path of an oncoming train.

Security forces were returning the fans out of fear they would stir up trouble during soccer matches in the city later on Thursday, trouble that could lead to riots, city police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Zainuri Lubis told Reuters.

"From initial reports, about six people were killed after they were run over by a train," he

The death toll was not final,

he added. About 200 soccer fans were being trucked by the military to police barracks on Thursday before being returned to their respective villages in central and east Java.

During the journey, the truck stopped at a traffic light and the fans jumped off and ran towards the train.

Riots are common during Indonesian Football League matches where opposing soccer fans fight each other and vandalise their surrounding areas.



Striker Christophe Dugarry (No 11) being congratulated by France teammate Marcel Desailly after scoring the second goal in the world champions 2-0 Euro 2000 qualifying win against Armenia at Saint-Denis on March 31. France won AFP photo

# France struggle past Armenia



PARIS, Apr 1 (Reuters/Internet): France dominated a weak Armenia side but only

managed to beat them 2 0 in their Euro 2000 group four qualifier on Wednesday despite fielding a trio of central strikers throughout the second half.

The world champions joined Ukraine at the top of the group -- both sides have 11 points and the same 8-3 goals record after five qualifiers.

But the French, who scored through Sylvain Wiltord and Christophe Dugarry at either end of the first half, are indebted to third-placed Iceland, who shocked Ukraine by snatching a 1-1 draw in Kiev. France went ahead inside

three minutes when Patrick Vieira won the ball and sent his Arsenal team mate Nicolas Anelka away on a jinking run over to the left where he laid the ball off for fellow striker Wiltord.

The Girondins Bordeaux player rifled the ball past Armenian keeper Roman Bere-

ROME, Apr 1 (Reu-

Dino Zoff's Italy

were derided as

"unwatchable" on

after

ters/Internet):

Thursday

they escaped with an embarr-

assing 1-1 draw at home to

ual players, notably goalscorer

Filippo Inzaghi and goalkeeper

Gianluigi Buffon, but overall

Zoff was told to sort out things

before the Italians face Wales in

their next European champi-

side," crowed Gazzetta dello

Sport. "Zoff takes one step for-

the paper said in its front page

given the Italians a perfect start

to the group one match in An-

cona when he headed a cross

past Belarus goalkeeper Gen-

nady Tumilovich after just 46

seconds. But his effort was ruled

were every bit as dangerous as

their opponents, created six

From then on the visitors

"An unwatchable national

"Little Italy, super Inzaghi,"

Inzaghi appeared to have

onship qualifier in June.

ward and two steps back".

Newspapers praised individ-

Belarus.

headline.

out for offside.

zovsky for his first France goal in his third international.

Despite a shot on target two minutes later from Vieira and chances for Anelka and Dugarry before the half hour, France did not increase their lead until first half injury time. An inswinging corner by

Youri Djorkaeff to the far post found defender Alain Boghossian, who headed across goal. Laurent Blanc connected but his header came down off the crossbar and bounced high in front of Dugarry who headed the ball in from one metre. With David Trezeguet replacing his World Cup team mate Dugarry after the interval, France had three strikers in attack but the massed Armenian defence made it difficult for them to create clear chances.

Berezovsky saved from Dorkaeff at close range in the 48th minute and superbly tipped over a drive from outside the box by substitute midfielder Robert Pires in the 73rd.

Wiltord also blasted just over the bar after a fine cross from well out on the left by Djorkaeff in the 55th. ...Trezeguet headed into the net

scoring chances to Italy's three

and almost grabbed a winner

when Maxim Romashchenko

forced a fine save from Buffon

embarrassing because Belarus

had two key players suspended.

another injured and their na-

tional league has yet to emerge

"I warned before the match I

"I thought this would be a

was worried but unfortunately

this went beyond our worst

difficult match because I'd seen

Belarus cause Wales a few prob-

lems but, frankly, I didn't think

we would suffer quite as much

and I was sure that one way or

another we would emerge with a

ally bad. We were making mis-

takes with even the simplest

passes. In the second half we

found a better rhythm but we

didn't have enough shots on

goal. We were dangerous only on

every aspect of their game but

three successive wins in com-

Italy were disappointing in

Zoff, perhaps buoyed by

a couple of occasions."

particularly in attack.

"In the first half we were re-

Italy's draw was all the more

in the last minute.

from its winter break.

fears," a gloomy Zoff said.

victory.

in the 78th minute but the ball was ruled to have just crossed the byline before the cross came

Three minutes later Boghossian had a volley tipped onto the bar by Berezovsky and in the dying seconds, captain Didier Deschamps' chip was struck a little too hard and went

Armenia, held at bay by the sound French defence throughout the 90 minutes, also spoilt some promising counter-attacks with wayward passing.

Their first shot at goal, not until injury time, came from defender Sarkis Hovannisyan and sailed over the bar. A minute later, winger Kara-

pet Mikaelyan had their only shot on target from a free kick but it went straight into the arms of Fabien Barthez. France coach Roger Lemerre

said: "The crowd asked for more goals but that does not take into consideration the Armenians. who defended well.

"We must do a lot more work up front. Not everything is right, especially with the final

#### Disappointing Italy petitive matches since the start of the qualifying campaign. fielded three forwards -- Inza-

ghi, Parma's Enrico Chiesa and

AS Roma's Francesco Totti. But the tactic backfired and the Italy coach hastily rearranged his formation at halftime, taking off the disappointing Totti and reverting to a two-

man front line. "We had only tried playing with a three-man attack in training and that's not enough." Parma centre back Fabio Can-

navaro complained. "We really felt the lack of an extra midfielder. We couldn't stop their breaks down the wings," lamented captain Paolo Maldini who for once was caught out of position when Valentin Belkevich stole in on

the right to score Belarus's goal. On the positive side Buffon proved again he is a fine replacement for injured first choice goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi while Inzaghi confirmed himself as Italy's in-form striker.

He has now grabbed five goals in his last five international appearances and helped propel Juventus back towards the top of the Italian league.

# Germany back on track



NUREMBERG. Germany, Apr 1 (Reuters/Internet) Germany put their campaign for Euro 2000 firmly on track by beating

Finland 2-0 on Wednesday to seize the lead in group three. Midfielder Jens Jeremies showed the European champi-

ons the way in the 31st minute when he concluded a solo run from the halfway line with a powerful shot from eight metres which left Rangers goalkeeper Antti Niemi no chance. Oliver Neuville, beautifully

set up by fellow striker Marco Bode, sealed Germany's victory six minutes later.

Germany, who had started their qualifying run in worrying fashion, recorded their second convincing win in just a few days days as they had crushed Northern Ireland 3-0 in Belfast on Saturday.

The three-times world champions now have nine points from four games, just like Turkey, but they have a better goal difference.

This is another step forward after the match in Northern Ireland," said Germany coach Erich Ribbeck. "Today was our best game for quite some time. The players gave their all and showed what they are capable off."

Ribbeck played an unchanged team to the one which impressed at Windsor Park and again fielded three strikers. Cheered on by a capacity

crowd of just over 40,000 on a

mild evening, the home side started the match in promising fashion and after three minutes, central defender Christian Woerns hit the back of the net from a Neuville free-kick. But he was clearly offside.

The Germans then briefly showed the sort of sluggish form which led to their World Cup quarter-final defeat by Croatia last summer in France, and more recently to an embarrassing 3-0 demolition by the United States in a friendly last month in Florida.

But after Jeremies's goal, they took control of the game

#### Ireland to host Special Olympics DUBLIN, Apr 1: The Special

Olympics will be staged outside the United States for the first time in 2003 when Ireland will host the Summer Games, officials announced, reports AP.

The 10-day event in Dublin will bring together 7,000 developmentally disabled athletes and at least 30,000 fans, Special Olympics President Timothy Shriver said Wednesday evening.

The Games are likely to open on June 26, 2003, with a ceremony at Croke Park, the national stadium for Ireland's Gaelic sports, and competitions in 19 events will be held at locations around Dublin.

Founded in 1968 in Chicago, the 1999 games will be staged in and around Raleigh, North Carolina, in July.

erning body UEFA and police

decided after a quick meeting

that the match should continue.

often at internationals," said

German Soccer Federation

(DFB) spokesman Wolfgang

guard at times and in the 60th

minute, the visitors came close

to scoring but Woerns cleared

off the line under pressure from

Finland's Ajax star Jari Litma-

nen, who had a rather indiffer-

or two more goals," said Wo-

erns. "We played really well at

times but there were periods in

the game during which we were

Moeller-Nielsen acknowledged

against such a team," he said.

"We saw a great German team

tonight, especially in the first half. They controlled the game

and there was little we could

on Ribbeck, whose men enter-

tain Moldova on June 4 in Lev-

erkusen in their next qualifier.

They will have to do it without

Woerns, who collected his sec-

ond yellow card in the competi-

tion on Wednesday. He was also

booked in Belfast.

The pressure has now eased

Finland coach Richard

"There is no shame in losing

not careful enough."

Germany's superiority.

"We should have scored one

Germany dropped their

Niersbach.

ent game.

"Those things happen quite

footballer, playing in the professional league here, has staged a lone on-field protest and looked more like the mighty footballing nation they calling on NATO to end air were not that long ago. strikes on his homeland, reports AFP. There was a bomb threat during the break but officials from both sides, Europe's gov-

Drakulic Sasa flashed a "NATO stop assault" message to he crowd after scoring the winning goal for Suwon Samsung in their 2-1 victory over Puchon SK Electronics on Wednesday night.

The English language protest was written-in bright red on a T-shirt Sasa wore under his blue club jersey. Sasa, one of six Yugoslavs

playing professionally in South Korea, had earlier said he was very worried about his parents and sister. "I have spent sleepless nights

thinking about my family," the Chosun daily quoted Sasa as saying. "I have been calling home every day but since March 28, I have not been able to get through," he said. An official of another team

ers, and hope the crisis will end as soon as possible. "I see the players standing inside the phone booths trying

to get through. As phones have been cut, they know they can't but they keep trying just hoping," the official was reported saying.

Yugoslavia's football union have called all their foreignbased players and coaches to boycott their teams because of NATO airstrikes launched against their homeland over the Kosovo crisis.

But this has not affected those playing in South Korea.

# Euro 2000 scorelines



LONDON, Apr 1: Iceland, who upset Russia earlier in the competition and drew with World Cup cham-

pions France, shocked powerful Ukraine with a 1-1 draw Wednesday in one of 16 European qualifying matches across the continent, reports AP. Also in Group 4. Russia

picked up their second straight victory - after losing their first three matches - with a 6-1 thumping of winless Andorra.

Latvia took over the leadership of Group 2 with a 0-0 draw against Greece. Group 2

In Riga, Greece and Latvia's scoreless draw was enough to give Latvia the group lead over Norway on goal difference. Latvia, who began playing internationally only eight years ago, upset Norway earlier 3-1. New Greek coach Vassilis Daniil had said his side needed a win to gain a place in the 16team final. Latvia and Norway have seven points in four games, but Latvia have a twogoal difference to one for Norway. Greece remained No 3 with six points in five games.

Group 3 In Chisinau, Moldova, Northern Ireland drew 0-0 with Moldova in a lacklustre match. The closest chance came early in the second half when Northern Ireland's Steve Lomas blasted a shot that Moldova goalkeeper Ivan Dinov saved. The Irish claimed it counted, saying the save came after the ball crossed the line. Moldova have only two points in five games and Northern Ireland have five in as many games.

Group 4 In Kiev, Ukraine, Ukraine settled for a disappointing 1-1 draw with pesky Iceland. Ice-land earlier beat Russia 1-0 and drew with world champions France 1-1. Ukraine's Vladyslav Vaschuk got his side a 1-0 lead in the 57th but Iceland equalised in the 66th on Larus Siguradsson's goal. Iceland, a country of only 250,000, have

nine points in five games and Ukraine has 11 in five. In Moscow, Russia got their second victory dispatching Androrra 6-1 as striker Vladimir Beschastnykh scored twice. Viktor Onopko, Ilya Tsym-balar, Dmitry Alenichev and Yegor Titov also scored for Russia with Andorra's lone goal from Julio Sanchez. Group 5

In Luxembourg, veteran captain Hristo Stoichkov scored in the 17th and Ivailo Iordanov added another in the 37th as Bulgaria kept their slim hopes alive. Bulgaria have four points in four games. Luxembourg have lost all

Group 7 In Baku, Azerbaijan, Romania defeated Azerbaijan 1-0 as Florentin Petre scored in the 49th to five Romania 11 points from five games. Azerbaijan have lost each of their five qualifiers.

In Bratislava, Slovakia, Slovakia and Hungary fought to a 0-0 tie to give each side eight points in five matches.

Group 9 In Vilnius, Lithuania, Estonia picked up two goals from Sergie Terehkov in the 49th and 77th to beat Lithuania 2-1. Arturas Fomenka scored for Lithuania in the 83rd. Estonia have seven points from five games and Lithuania have four from five games.

Three matches were postponed because of NATO airstrikes against Yugoslavia: Slovenia vs Albania in Group 2. Croatia vs Malta and Yugoslavia vs Malta, both in Group 8.

# Czechs stop Scotland



Sweden forge

five points

clear

(Reuters/Internet): Sweden beat

Poland 1-0 in their European

championship qualifying

tain their 100 percent record in

group five and go five points

clear of nearest rivals England.

Sweden lead the group with

12 points from four games, fol-

lowed by England with seven

Midfielder Fredrik Ljung-

berg put Sweden ahead in the

36th minute, capping a long run

down the flank with a hard shot

which went through the Polish

Sweden were rarely threat-

ened and could have added to

their lead several times in the

second half, with several oppor-

tunities created by the headers

of lanky forward Kennet An-

talise further, with top marks-

man Henrik Larsson, whose 25

goals for Celtic are the most in

the Scottish league this season.

tough start everything went ac-

cording to plan. We gained an

important three points but still

these are not the points which will decide on advancing to the

finals," Sweden's assistant

the tie to have a realistic chance

of qualifying for the Euro 2000

finals, could not get their attack

going despite making five

changes in their starting line-

up after a 3-1 defeat in England

the match at Wembley we sim-

ply ran out of steam in the sec-

ond half," said Tomasz Wal-

doch, whose first half header.

which sailed just over Magnus

Hedman's goal, was Poland's

best scoring opportunity of the

Merk stopped the match for

about a minute midway through

the first half as Polish fans

started fighting among them-

selves but police quickly re-

Poland's Radoslaw Michal-

Sweden travel to England for

ski and Dariusz Adamczyk were

booked as well as Sweden's

their next group match on June

5, while Poland entertain Bul-

Yugoslav

booter's

protest

SEOUL. Apr 1: A Yugoslav

German referee Markus

"We were focused but after

last Saturday.

stored order.

Joachim Bjorklund.

garia a day earlier.

Poland, who needed to win

coach Lars Langerbaeck said.

"We are satisfied. After a

rarely touching the ball.

But Sweden could not capi-

and Poland with six.

goalkeeper's legs.

dersson.

match on Wednesday to main-

CHORZOW, Poland, Apr 1

GLASGOW, Apr 1: The Czech Republic beat Scotland 2-1 on Wednesday to take a huge step towards another appearance in the European Championship — and end

Scotland's long unbeaten home record, reports Reuters. An own goal from Scotland's Matt Elliott and a fine strike from Vladimir Smicer at Celtic Park gave Scotland coach,

Craig Brown, the first competitive defeat at home in his sixvear reign. A second-half goal from Eoin Jess could not prevent the Scots losing at home for the

first time in 13 games. The Czechs, who lost the final of Euro '96 to Germany notched up their fifth successive win of the qualifying campaign.

Jozer Chovacecs' side now have a maximum 15 points and hold an eight-point lead over Estonia and Scotland. The Scots have played one match less than the Czechs who they meet again in Prague on June 9. Chovanec said afterwards: "I

that's our first win on Scottish "We now need to perform as well in the second half of the qualifying campaign to ensure

am pleased to have history -

we make the finals. Brown, though, remained defiant, insisting Scotland's hopes of reaching their third successive European Championship, were not finished. "We have six games left and

we can win them all, provided we have a full strength team to choose form, I believe we can win in Prague," he said. The injury problems which

wrecked the Scots' preparations were plainly evident. Scotland, without a recognised striker, and using mid-

fielders Neil McCann and Jess. were simply too lightweight in Raul rules over

San Marino SAN MARINO, Apr 1Reuters, Internet): Real Madrid's Raul Gonzalez scored his second international hat-trick in a week on Wednesday to help Spain to a 6-0 win over San

Marino and take their goal tally to 15 in the past five days. Raul scored on the stroke of halftime and then grabbed two in the space of seven minutes in the second half as a relaxed Spanish side cruised past the part-timers from the world's smallest republic.

But Jose Antonio Camacho's side failed to match their astounding 9-0 thrashing of Austria on Saturday, in which Raul scored four times.

Spain top the group on goal difference with nine points from four matches. Cyprus also have nine points but have played a game more while San Marino are rock bottom having conceded 20 goals in their five attack to cope with a physical Czech defence.

Rengers player McCann had an excellent first-half causing endless problems and Czech keeper, Pavel Srnicke, made a vital save in the 10th minute to push McCann's shot over the

Ten minutes later, Srnicke clawed David Hopkin's header off the line.

But the Scots were unlucky to concede an own goal after 28 minutes when Pavel Nedved's free-kick missed target Jan Suchoparek, and instead struck the side of Elliotts head and went past goalkeeper Neil Sullivan. Eight minutes later, Patrik

Berger played a superb reverse pass to allow Smicer to beat the offside trap, and the Lens forward steered a right foot shot in off the far post to make it 2-0. Virtislay Loknenc missed a golden chance to increase the

lead in the 58th minute before

Jess pulled Scotland back into the game in the 67th minute. A long throw-in-David Hopkin came off Suchoparek and Jess pounced with a diving header for his second goal in 15

internationals. Substitute Don Hutchison almost netted in aspirated late fightback, but a sour note came when Scotland captain Gary McAllister was substituted after being continually jeered by some of the 44,513 crowd in what could his 57th and last appearance for his country.

# Argentina, Holland draw



AMSTERDAM. Apr 1: Gabriel Batistuta made amends for first half misses, net-

ting in the 84th minute to earn Argentina a 1-1 draw against the Netherlands after Dutch scorer Edgar Davids had been sent off, reports Reuters.

The match was billed as a friendly. The reality was anythings but that. Scores of niggling challenges culminated in a crude chop by

Davids on Batistuta in the 73rd minute and his dismissal for a

### Venezuela hold Colombia

MARACAIBO, Venezuela, Apr 1: Sixteen-year-old midfielder Johnnie Montano saw the start of his international career Tuesday night, helping Colombia to a 0-0 draw with Venezuela in a Copa America prep match for both sides, reports AP.

Montano, a member of the Colombian side which finished next-to-last at the South American U17 Championship in early March, entered the game in the 54th minute as a replacement for Frankie Oviedo. Both sides started quickly

but the game degenerated more or less into a series of errors that stunted the attack of the two teams.

second bookable offence. An altercation between several players followed minutes

defeats.

Valencia left winger Claudio Lopez cut a ball back from the line and Batistuta charged in to With a minute to go, he might even have got the winner

later and, shortly afterwards,

against the Dutch, co-hosts with Belgium of the 2000 European Championship finals. Earlier Davids had appeared the hero with a solo in the 10th

minute. He hustled AC Milan defender Roberto Avala from the ball and, ignoring Marc Overmars who appeared free on the left, unleashed a fearsome shot into the top left corner.

Argentina had three good opportunities to equalise. Dutch 'keeper Edwin van der Sar made a point-blank save from Juan Veron in the 24th minute but the best chances fell to Batistuta.

In the 28th minute, Veron put Batistuta through but the striker scooped the ball over the net, two minutes later, with plenty of time and only Van der Sar to beat, "Batigoal' hit the In the second half the Dutch

again emerged the sharper side and coped easily with Argentine counters, particularly as Davids mopped up in the centre. Dutch coach Frank Rijkaard

strong side ... we had our

chances, chances to make it 2-0

said it was a fair result. "We played against a very

but they had theirs to score and then we had to play the last 20 minutes with 10 men." he said. Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa said his side had improved in the closing stages of the second half.

"We missed many chances in the first ... in the second we really started to play deeply, although of course our equaliser came partly because they were a man short," he said.

The game featured 16 players who had fought out a heated World Cup quarterfinal in the cauldron of Marseille and at times Wednesday's match, with nothing at stake, competed for it in tetchiness. July's game. which the Dutch won 2-1, saw two players sent off.

"It was very tough out there today but it was also pretty attractive football." Dutch player Clarence Seedorf said.

#### Yang signs for Eintracht

BEIJING, Apr 1: Chinese international striker Yang Chen has signed a permanent deal with German First Division club Eintracht Frankfurt, Chinese media said today, reports

The 25-year-old, who scored six goals in a loan spell with the German side, signed a two-year contract for a transfer fee of 3.65 million yuan (440,000 US dollars). China's national

broadcaster CCTV reported.



in a tussle during their friendly at Amsterdam on March 31. The game ended 1-1. - AFP photo