

## European final venues to be named earlier

GENEVA, July 3 (Reuters/Internet): The venues for the European and UEFA Cup finals are to be chosen a year in advance in future, European soccer's governing body said on Friday.

"It was decided we should nominate the venues of the finals in a two-year rolling system so that we always have two venues pre-determined," UEFA general secretary Gerhard Aigner said at the end of two days of executive board meetings.

"Later this year we will designate the venue of next year's final and at the same time the venue for the following year."

UEFA, which previously decided towards the end of each year only the venues for the finals the following May, said it made the move to help remove organisational problems and ensure the smooth running of its two showcase events.

"This gives us the advantage that the organisers of the second year can be involved in the organisation the previous year and we don't have to undergo the same learning process every year," said Aigner.

UEFA also announced the formation of an advisory board that will work with the governing body on the revamped Champions' League and UEFA Cup.

Manchester United, Juventus, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Ajax and Bordeaux were named directly to the board while FC Porto, Spartak Moscow and Olympiakos were drawn from a list of clubs ranked 7-15 in the UEFA rankings.

UEFA also said it will introduce more out of competition doping controls and increase the number of controls in all competitions in the coming season.

## Anelka will be Lazio's by next week

ROME, July 3: The transfer of Arsenal's French international forward Nicholas Anelka to Italian Serie A giants Lazio will be concluded early next week, Italian television reported here on Saturday, reports AFP.

This follows a lightning visit paid to London on Friday by Lazio director Vincenzo Morabito to finalise deals with Gunners officials for the transfer of Anelka to the Roman side.

"We're waiting for the green light from the English club bosses to finalise the deal. With Anelka everything is already sorted out. I think that we will announce the conclusion of the transfer next Tuesday or Wednesday," said Morabito.

Arsenal have been accused of stalling on the 16th draw-out deal -- and the Roman club have made it clear they are running out of patience.

Meanwhile, Claude Anelka, brother and adviser to Nicolas, told AFP on Friday, that the 20-year-old was ready to go on strike if the deal wasn't concluded speedily.

Under the deal struck with Anelka's agents it is reported that the player will receive an annual salary of 6 billion lire (3 million dollars) and Arsenal 63 billion lire (32.5 million dollars) to break his contract.

Anelka was signed by Arsenal in 1997 for 500,000 pounds and has since established himself in the French international side and was voted young player of the year by his fellow professionals in England.

## Russell's new landmark

LONDON, July 3 (Internet): Jack Russell claimed his 1,000th first-class catch as Gloucestershire battled to maintain the upper hand at Bristol.

Former England wicket-keeper Russell reached the milestone when diving full length to the leg side to dismiss Tim Robinson off Jon Lewis at the start of Nottinghamshire's second innings.

Russell's landmark put him in an illustrious group of only seven wicketkeepers to have claimed 1,000 first-class catches, headed by Bob Taylor who took 1,473 in his career.

## Job for Lens

LENES, France, July 3: Cameroonian international Joseph-Desire Job has signed a five-year deal with French First Division side Lens from rivals Lyon, it was confirmed here on Saturday, reports AFP.

The transfer sum for the 21-year-old striker is reported to be in the region of 3.5 million dollars.

A club spokesman said that Job after undergoing a medical test in the club's headquarters in northwestern France and will join his team during a training session at Aix-Les-Bains in the Alps on Sunday.

The signing of Job completes the Lens lineup for the coming season, where he will play in attack alongside Daniel Moreira, Pascal Nouma and Lamine Sakho.

## Karatekas off to Japan

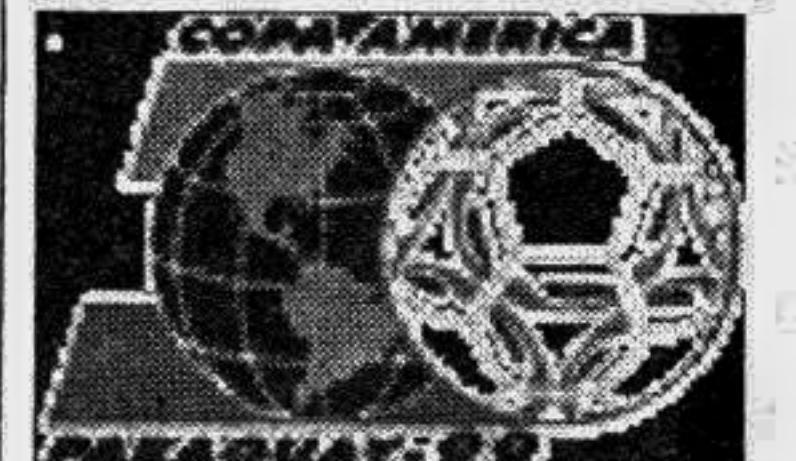
A two-member team left for Japan yesterday to participate in the third ladies' International Karate Do Cup to be held from July 10-11 in Tokyo. The team is sponsored by Rangs Group, Mono Financial Consultancy & Securities Limited, Mohd Shahidullah (Shaymol) & Co, Premium Securities and Bengal School of Shotokan, says a press release.



Paraguay's Roque Santa Cruz (C) sidefooted the ball past the Japanese goalie during their Copa America encounter on July 2.

— AFP photo

## Peru enter quarters



ASUNCION, July 3: A goal two minutes from time by Israel Zuniga handed Peru a 1-0 win over Bolivia on Friday to send the Peruvians through to the quarterfinals of the Copa America, reports AFP.

The Peruvians, who now have a two-point lead, will now try for top spot with Paraguay when the two meet Monday in their final group game.

Bolivia, runners up at high altitude and on home ground two years ago, can only squeak through into the second phase if Peru beat Paraguay and they

themselves beat Philippe Troussier's disappointing

**GROUP A TABLE**  
ASUNCION, July 3 (AFP):  
Copa America Group A table after matches played Friday (Played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Peru 2 2 0 0 4 2 6

Paraguay 2 1 1 0 4 0 4

Bolivia 2 0 1 1 0 1 1

Japan 2 0 0 2 2 7 0

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