their creative works, built from the midfield, went in vain be-

cause of poor finishing. Bangladesh also suffered a big blow when midfielder Matiur Rahman Munna went out after suffering a head injury in the 29th minute following an aerial clash. He needed six

stitches. The Hungarians were quite cool in the first half playing mostly in the midfield in order to exhaust the home team. With their body advantage, the Hun-garians launched their rough and tough soccer in the second session and took the lead in the 48th minute when Sagi placed the ball home after being nicely fed by Gyula Hegeogs from the

right (1-0). Sagi doubled the margin by converting a penalty in the 72nd minute (2-0). Goalkeeper Rakib Mahboob earned the penalty as he illegally brought down Sagi inside the danger

After conceding the second goal, coach Samir Shakir made two changes bringing in Anwar and Shahajuddin to replace Parvez and Alfaz. That gave Bangladesh a fresh boost as they went all out from then onwards.

Bangladesh scored their first goal also from a penalty when Kerulet defender Cjaba handled the ball inside the danger area and Oman referee Ali Hassan Abdullah signalled the spot in the 86th minute. Skipper Jewel Rana did the rest with a power packed right footer (1-2) that the goalkeeper judged correctly

but in vain. Inspired by the goal, Bangladesh kept mounting the pressure on the Hungarians and finally came up with the equaliser in the second minute of the three-minute injury time when defender Masood Rana's rainbow shot from the left flank went home kissing the balding head of defender Cjaba

Cjaba, involved in both the Bangladesh goals, was later adjudged man-of-the-match due to his overall performance.

Yellow cards: Norret Kovacs, Tamas, Ciaba, Andres (Kerulet FC), Rakib Mahboob and Miza-Rahman Dawn nur (Bangladesh)

#### TEAMS

Kerulet FC: Jusjef Liptak. Norrert Kovacs, Gyula, Tamas, Cjaba, Tibok Markus, Andres (Witan Leccees), Rubert Morvay (Lajzlo Sjepessy), Attital Rajnay, Attila Sagi (Lajos) and

Bangladesh: Rakib Mahboob, Hasan Al-Mamun, Jewel Rana, Rajani Kanta Barman, Masood Rana, Matiur Rahman (Parvez/Anwar), Iqbal Hossain Monwar Hossain, Alfaz Ahmed (Shahajuddin), Nazrul and Mizanur Rahman.

Referee: Ali Hassan Abdullah (Oman)

Group A M W D L F APts 2 1 1 0 5 4 4 Kerulet FC Bangladesh 2 1 1 0 3 2 4 2 0 0 2 2 4 0

M W D L F APts South Korea 2 2 0 0 9 2 6 Rio de Janeiro 2 1 0 1 1 2 3 2 0 0 2 2 8 0

#### Gillespie might miss Euro clash

BELFAST, Sept 3: Northern Ireland manager Lawrie McMenemy is expected to stick with the side that ran France so close last month for Saturday's Euro 2000 qualifier against Turkey at Windsor Park, reports AFP. McMenemy has no serious

injury worries and is almost certain to keep faith with the team that lost 1-0 in a tight match against the World Cup winners. That means Blackburn

Rovers winger Keith Gillespie, who is regarded as the team's most talented player, is set to start on the bench as Birmingham's Jon McCarthy continues on the right wing. Northern Ireland's hopes of

qualifying are all but extinct as they trail joint group leaders Turkey and Germany by six points with three games remaining. Turkey, who are level with

Germany on 12 points at the top of Group Five, could be without star striker Hakan Sukur, dubbed the Bull of the Bospho-

#### Giggs all praise for Hughes

MINSK, Sept 3: Manchester United star Ryan Giggs has called for his old clubmate Mark Hughes to be appointed manager of Wales on a permanent basis, reports AFP.

Former United striker Hughes, who left to join Chelsea in 1995 and is now at Southampton, is in charge for Wales' next two games starting with Saturday's Group One clash against Belarus when winger Giggs will be winning his 25th cap in the Dinamo Stadium.

Wales, who beat Belarus 3-2 back in October, retain an outside chance of finishing runners-up and despite having several first choice players out

should prevail against the group's bottom side that will be missing five first team regulars. Giggs said: "He never gives up. That's the main quality he

will bring to international management. "He also has the experience

of playing at the very top level, you need that, too.

"Everyone knows the qualities he has got, hopefully he can take that on now to being a top manager. I would like him to get the job permanently, not just for these two games."

Hughes has injury problems for his debut in international management and will be without John Hartson, Robbie Savage, Craig Bellamy, Andy Johnson and Steve Jenkins.

### Bangladesh's futile Surrey reach summit

LONDON, Sept 3: Surrey were crowned English county champions for the first time in 28 years after beating Nottinghamshire by 10 wickets on Thursday,

reports AFP. Surrey's 12th triumph from their 15th championship match of the season ensured that Leicestershire, title-winners for two of the last three years, could not catch them at the summit.

England opener Mark Butcher (81 not out) rushed the county to victory with two days and two matches to spare to underline their summer-long supremacy.

Set to make 150 in a maximum of 27 overs to complete the win by the halfway point of the match, Surrey got the job done by 10 wickets with embarrassing ease in 95 minutes.

To celebrate the achievement, Surrey announced they will serve drinks in the Members Pavilion at The Oval at 1971 prices for their concluding match against Yorkshire - the year of their last title victory.

Surrey's last title came under the captaincy of club President Mickey Stewart, the former England coach and father of Surrey's former Test captain

Last summer Adam Hollioake's side could have won the title in the final match but were thrashed by eventual champions Leicestershire and finished

Crucial to Surrey's triumph was Pakistan's off spin master Saglain Mushtag, whose four for 100 on Thursday took his tally to 58 wickets in the last eight matches.

Surrey chief executive Paul Sheldon said: "This is one of the great moments in the history of Surrey cricket. To have won in such emphatic and dominant style is a tribute to a fabulous

Birkinshaw hailed what he

called Surrey's "magnificent

achievement "They have been the best side in the country by a long way," he said.

"They have been so consistent all season, even when their England players were away at the beginning of the summer for the World Cup and also for the Test series against New Zealand.

He added: "I think Saqlain has made such a massive difference to them because along with Muralitharan (of Lancashire and Sri Lanka), he is the best spinner in the world. He's been helped by a dry summer, but players like those two can spin it in any conditions,"

BRIEFSCORES

At The Oval: Surrey (16pts) beat Nottinghamshire (4pts) by 10 wkts.

Nottinghamshire 115 and 233 (U Afzaal 104, I Salisbury 4-66, Saqlain Mushtaq 4-100) v Surrey 199 (V Drakes 4-53) and 153-0 (M Butcher 81 no, I Ward 55 no)

At Eastbourne: Sussex (18 pts) bt Essex (4pts) by 8 wkts. . Essex 179 (N Hussain 61, R

#### Martin-Jenkins 4-58) and 155 (R Kirtley 6-37) v Sussex 271 (R Montgomerie 83, A Cottey 72)

and 64-2. At Taunton: Somerset 203 (G Rose 50, S Thomas 4-40, O Parkin 4-38) v Glamorgan 113

(G Rose 4-14). At Edgbaston: Gloucestershire 132 (J Snape 57, A Richardson 8-51) v Warwickshire 159-6.

At Old Trafford: Durham 226 (J Daley 66, J Lewis 61, C Schofield 5-66) v Lancashire 352-7 (J Crawley 117 no, G

Lloyd 86, N Phillips 4-142). At Leicester: Leicestershire 343 (P Nixon 72, V Wells 68, T Smith 5-87) and 81-4 v Derbyshire 308 (P DeFreitas 105, K Krikken 60, M Kasprowicz 4-

At Northampton: Hampshire 357 (W Kendall 98, R Smith 94, G White 55) v Northamptonshire 293-6 (R Bailey 92, R Warren 87 no, D Ripley 58 no).

At Scarborough: Kent 302 (M Ealham 59, M McCague 53, C Silverwood 5-67) v Yorkshire 290-7 (M Vaugham 133 no, R Harden, 64, D Headley 4-83).

### STANDINGS

Table after Surrey secured the title on Thursday (tabulated under played, won, lost, drawn, batting points, bowling points, match points): Surrey (5) Leicestershire (1) 50 176 Kent (11) 23 Sussex (7) 27 17 52 163 Yorkshire (3) 53 162 Lancashire (2) 160 Hampshire (6) 35 50 157 Durham (14) 29 156 Somerset (9) 29 35 45 154 Essex (18) 55 154 Warwickshire (8) 148 Derbyshire (10) 28 50 146 Middlesex (17) 141 Worcestershire (13) 57 136 Glamorgan (12)

Leicestershire coach Jack

### World champs in a tight spot

(Last season's final positions in brackets)

Nottinghamshire (16)

Gloucestershire (4)

Northamptonshire (15)

PARIS, Sept 3: France travel to Ukraine for Sat-2000 urday's crucial Euro 2000 Group qualifier

with their backs against the wall as the world champions struggle to recapture their form - but they have an ace up their sleeve with the return to action of Zinedine Zidane, reports

In Zidane's absence - he has not played for France since March and is only just back to fitness following knee surgery things have gone decidedly pear-shaped for Roger Lemerre's side with a home defeat against Russia at the Stade de France handing the initiative to the Ukrainians.

Defeat in Kiev could see France slide to fourth if Russia and Iceland win their home games with also-rans Armenia and Andorra respectively and even a draw would leave them teetering on the brink with

qualification for the finals then likely to come through only the back door via the play-

Ukraine, while they themselves have dropped points in cavalier fashion - notably at home to Iceland - will be the overwhelming favourites to take top spot in the group and a guaranteed slot in the finals next summer if they can merely avoid defeat.

If France play anything like they did in their last official outing against Andorra - officially the worst team in Europe whom they beat with a late Frank Leboeuf penalty - that should not prove beyond the hosts, despite Zidane's return. And the world champions

are well aware they were desperately lucky to escape with a 0-0 draw with Ukraine at the Stade de France in a game the visitors dominated. Only uncharacteristically poor finishing from Andriy Shevchenko and superb goalkeeping by Fabien Barthez prevented French defeat.

45

49

53

50

27

130

129

124

Ukraine's toughest obstacle after Saturday is an away trip to Russia, now improving after a dreadful start.

Lemerre said Thursday he would be preaching "defensive realism" meaning essentially that France would look first to contain Ukraine's attacking stars such as Shevchenko before going on the attack.

"We have to keep it tight to begin with and just because Zidane is back it doesn't mean we are automatically going to take

"We are expecting a very tense encounter and I have to decide on the best team to do the job. But if I have called up the players I have it means I have the utmost confidence in them," Lemerre told AFP.

He added a draw would not be satisfactory as "that would leave us in a dubious position. Only a victory will leave us masters of our own destiny."

# Luxemburgo to Juninho's aid



MIDDLESBROUGH, England, Sept 3(AFP/Internet): Brazilian national coach Wanderley Luxem

burgo sought to rescue midfielder Juninho's move to English Premier League side Middlesbrough on Thursday saying that he would be selecting the midfielder in the coming

Luxemburgo, who said he had not selected the inspirational playmaker since he took over last July because he had been recovering from injury, said he had written to English football's ruling body the Football Association (FA) explaining that Juninho was an important part of his team.

The Brazilian coach's move came only hours after Middlesbrough's bid to re-sign Juninho on loan from Atletico Madrid came under threat after British government officials indicated that his application for a work permit was almost certain to be rejected on the grounds he had not played in 75 percent of Brazil's matches in the past two

The English Premier League club announced on Wednesday that they had signed the 26year-old on a short-term contract until June next year with a view to offering him an extended deal at a later date. But the club have been told

The club will now have to persuade an appeals panel that the player should be allowed special dispensation to return to the club.

The criteria for qualification for non-European Community players are straightforward: The country of origin must be ranked in the top 70 and the player must have played in 75 percent of their competitive international matches during the two years before the date of the applica-

While Brazil qualify easily in the rankings table, Juninho's injuries and lack of club football mean that he is nowhere near meeting the second requirement and he will have to hope that he can be

treated as a special case. A spokesman for the Department for Education and Employment said: "Each case is

judged on its individual merits and the whole process takes around two weeks. Meanwhile Juninho ap-

peared unconcerned by the hold-up. Spaking at a press confer-

ence in Madrid, Juninho said

he was looking forward to put behind his unhappy days at Atletico and start regaining that the player does not satisfy confidence on the pitch. work permit criteria. "I am going to Middlesbor-

ough determined to triumph. "after my injury problems, I needed the support of my club when I returned to playing. I didn't get it.

"I'll have my confidence when I'm back playing in England. That's why I'm going--to be able to play. Juninho, who was not used

by new Atletico coach Claudio Ranieri in the first two games of the Spanish season felt it was in the best interest of the club that he was leaving. "They were obviously look-

ing for players with different abilities." Juninho said. "They have their system and they just don't suit me. "What I've decided on doing is good for the coach and for the

club. I'm leaving behind a lot of friends and a great atmosphere in the dressing room. "I had to look for a solution that worked for me. I couldn't spend another year on the

bench here." Juninho became an idol at Middlesbrough during his first spell at the club between 1995 and 1997 but he left when the club was relegated to the First



Juninho, the out of favour former Atletico Madrid playmaker, smiles during a farewell press conference at Atletico's training camp at Majahahonda on September 2. Juninho is expected to play in the English Premiership for Middlesborough. - AFP photo

### Cyprus okays Mossad's entry

NICOSIA, Sept 3: Cyprus has agreed to allow armed agents of Israel's Mossad foreign intelligence service to accompany the thousands of fans expected to travel here for their crunch European Championship qualifying tie on Sunday, the Phileleftheros newspaper re-

ported Friday, reports AFP. Seven agents have already arrived aboard a Cyprus Airways flight, the respected daily said quoting "official sources." Government spokesman Michalis Papapetrou would

lice to accompany the team. "Regarding the presence of Israeli police, the government, now as in the past, has granted temporary permission for a limited number of Israeli police officers for the purpose of guarding the Israeli football team," he told AFP.

had been granted for Israeli po-

"In taking this decision. taken into account was the sensitivity of the Israeli government towards its athletes, especially after the assassination of athletes during Munich," he

Sunday is the anniversary of the September 5 hostage taking at the 1972 Olympics -- 11 of those seized by Palestinian milmants from Black September were killed.

Israel asked for an allocation of 7,000 tickets for the game in the island's second city of Limassol but the Cyprus authorities are expecting as many as 12,000 to make the short trip across the eastern Mediterranean -- the largest number of travelling Israeli fans ever according to Tel Aviv press re-

### Germans need to impress

COLOGNE, Germany, Sept 3: German football pride is again on the line this weekend as the national team sets out to prove against Finland that July's Confederations Cup debacle really was just an abberration,

The Finns face a German team has a lot of face to save after that miserable summer foray to Mexico which brought with it crushing losses at the hands of Brazil and the United

States. That in itself came in the wake of other defeats by Turkey

and the US again. Germany's football image nosedived and, despite all the complaining by players and members of the German Football Federation (DFB) that they were forced against their will to take part in the tournament to keep alive Germany's bid for the 2006 World Cup finals, everyone in the German camp emerged battered and chastened.

Since then, however, the players' minds have moved off to other things, most importantly the bread and butter work of club games, and although the memory of Mexico is still raw the Germans won't be travelling to Helsinki Saturday with their tail between their

"We all know how serious the situation is, we have to win both games. We need to pick up where we left off in Leverkusen when we beat Moldova 6-1." captain Oliver Bierhoff said. looking back to Germany's last acceptable showing.

He was missing from the sacrificial B-team which showed such little character at the Confederations Cup. In fact there are only seven survivors from that squad.

The Finns are a small step up from tiny Moldova but their one true star, Barcelona striker Jari Litmanen, will be missing Saturday because of injury.Germany and Turkey head group 3 with 12 points followed by the Scandinavians on 7 leaving them only a small chance of reaching next year's European finals.

Their Danish coach Richard Moller-Nielsen refuses to get flustered though, especially since Antti Muurinen was announced Thursday as his successor once this Euro campaign ends.

"It's a similar situation to our defeat (2-0) in the first leg match in Nuremberg," Moller-Nielsen said.

Then too the German side had a lot of poor games behind it. I was able to send out pretty well my best team but the Germans were determined to prove they are a class side. It was bad luck for us. And it's the same this time - except we want to make it a bit tougher for them in front of our own home crowd."

Germany coach Erich Ribbeck says he has the team marked out in his mind except for two or three positions. Jens Lehmann will keep goal in place of Bayern Munich's in-jured Oliver Kahn. Lothar Matthaus will form the defensive backbone while much of the forward momentum will come from Oliver Neuville and

Christian Ziege on the wings. Ribbeck wants to seize the initiative in Helsinki and has promised attacking football. He is undecided though on tactics. Captain Oliver Bierhoff

is an automatic selection in the leap towards the European middle. The question is Championship 2000 Finals in whether or not to send in Bayer Holland and Belgium, reports Leverkusen's Ulf Kirsten as well AFP. because, although both have proven instincts, they tend to be goal finishers rather than goal creators. An extra playmaker from midfield might be the better option. The Germans have taken note of Finland's brittle de-

fence. In June they led Turkey

2-0 in Helsinki but, in a crucial win, who are both injured. result, ended up losing 4-2. The biggest obstacle however remains the psychological scars from Mexico - not to mention the constant reminder that German football is currently lagging at its lowest ever



Former England coach Bobby Robson speaking during a media conference at Newcastle United's base in Saint James Park yesterday. - AFP photo

### Robson asks for patience



NEWCASTLE. England, Sept 3 (Reuters/Internet) : Former England coach Bobby Robthe new manager of Newcastle United,

said on Friday he faced a massive job to turn the ailing English premier league club But the 66-year-old, replacing Dutchman Ruud Gullit who

resigned last week, told a news conference there was no need to "I have a massive job ahead of me. I thought Barcelona was quite big but I think this has just pipped it," Robson said. "We

are joint bottom...the club

needs a victory badly. "It's a great challenge but I'm up for it. I don't underestimate it, I'm not afraid of it. We have a fight on our hands but there's no panic. It's very retrievable.

I'm confident we can do it." Newcastle have just one point from six games -- their worst start to a season -- and are second from bottom in the table.

Robson, who comes from the north-east of England and has always dreamed of managing Newcastle, said his priority was to stabilise the club but added he would not head straight into the transfer market.

"We have to look at our present squad. The club has spent a massive sum of money (on players). My job is to ascertain what quality we have...It may be that we don't have to spend. Everybody has a chance, everybody starts afresh." Robson, who said he would

retain Gullit's number two

Steve Clarke as his assistant.

added: "There are no changes at

Newcastle football club until I

have had a really good look at

experienced fan pressure in Spain, when 110,000 fans at Barcelona waved white handkerchiefs while calling for his

Robson, who built his repu-

tation at Ipswich Town before

going on to manage England be-

tween 1982 and 1990, said he

was sure the Newcastle support-

fans in the whole wide world."

he said. "They're not too de-

manding, I don't think that's a

pressure point. I know the pub-

manage PSV Eindhoven, Sport-

ing Lisbon, Porto and

Barcelona before returning to

England, said he had already

"Then, you know it's time to

go," he said. "I won't get that

Robson, who went on to

lic will give the players a

"We have the best group of

the scenario."

chance."

resignation.

here, that's for sure."

ers would back him.

## England pin hopes on Owen



A string of in-EURO juries has dis-2000 rupted England's preparations for upcoming

Euro 2000 qualifiers against Luxembourg and Poland! reports AFP.

win to stand any chance of qualifying for the finals. Keegan's options for Saturday's clash with Luxembourg,

who have won just three times in the past 14 years, at Wembley were reduced during the week when Liverpool midfielder-

Jamie Redknapp and Chelsea he is fit to play after only just World Cup finals in France last year, said he is desperate to that the England boss will send on Owen as a second-half re-

Kevin Keegan (L), the England manager discussing something with striker Alan Shearer during a practice session at the Wembley on September 2.

But the return to international action of teenage World Cup star Michael Owen provides coach Kevin Keegan with a much-needed boost for the matches which England must

striker Chris Sutton were ruled

- AFP photo

Both, however, should be fit

But with goalkeeper David

for Wednesday's crucial contest

against the Poles in Katowice.

bell and Rio Ferdinand and winger Darren Anderton all forced to withdraw and midfielder Paul Scholes suspended, Keegan is left with a 20-strong aquad for Saturday. Despite the injury problems

Seaman, defenders Sol Camp-

elsewhere in his squad, Keegan is spoiled for choice as he considers who to play in attack. With captain Alan Shearer

almost certain to be named in the line-up despite poor recent form, Keegan will choose one possibly two - strikers from Owen, Robbie Fowler, Teddy Sheringham and Kevin Phillips. Owen seemed to have convinced Keegan in training that

returning to action as a late substitute for Liverpool against Arsenal last weekend following a four-month lay-off with a hamstring injury. The 19-year-old Owen, who made such an impact in the

feel match-fit and I'm ready to go," said Owen. "I'm available for selection and if the manager picks me I'd have no problems playing 90 minutes both against Luxembourg and Poland. The likelihood, however, is

placement for Fowler before then deciding whether to start him against Poland four days later in Warsaw. Fowler, whose form last season was badly affected by injury, has been in outstanding

form for Liverpool in the new Premier League campaign. Failure to win either of their remaining two games would be a disaster for England who have suffered a dreadful qualifying campaign under both Glenn Hoddle and Keegan, who replaced him at the start of the

year. England are currently third in Group Five on nine points behind the second-placed Poles who have 12 points and Sweden who lead the table on 13 points despite having played a game less than their closest rivals.

pounds striker Davor Suker.

the top scorer at last year's

a's attack having missed the 2-0

Influential midfielder Zvon-

Whatever happens on Satur-

defeat in Dublin a year ago

imir Boban is out, however,

through suspension and striker

Alen Boksic is also missing

day Ireland could benefit ulti-

mately from the political hos-

tility between Balkan rivals

Yugoslavia, Croatia and Mace-

through injury.

through injury.

donia in the group.

World Cup finals, leads Croati-

### Ireland to take things easy

DUBLIN, Sept 3: Republic of Ire-Republic of Ire-land boss Mick McCarthy may rest the heroes of the midweek victory over Yugoslavia for Saturday's trip to Croatia that could see the Irish take a giant

Both midweek goalscorers Robbie Keane and Mark Kennedy may be rested with McCarthy ready to make changes even though he is already without inspirational captain Roy Keane and Manchester United clubmate Denis Ir-

McCarthy is worried that 23year-old Kennedy, who scored with a spectacular strike to seal the 2-1 win over Yugoslavia, is at risk of running out of steam as he would be playing his fourth game in eight days if he

McCarthy virtually admits 'he would settle for a draw in Zagreb - a result which would almost certainly knock Croatia out of contention for the top spot in Group Eight which the

were to face the Croats.

Irish currently hold.

"I'm toying with the idea of playing with just one up front and five in midfield," he said. McCarthy said: "I won't be naming my team too early be-

cause I don't want the Croatians knowing it straight away. I've got to try to glean any small kind of advantage in these circumstances." Croatia are set to spring a

surprise by naming Everton's Slaven Bilic in the heart of their defence even though he could be on the verge of quitting the game after not playing club football for nearly a year and then a medical problem ruining his chance of a comeback move to West Ham last month.

Arsenal's new 3.5 million

Even teams with relatively little to play for will be guaranteed to try their hardest to prevent their rivals qualifying. Even if Croatia are out of contention after Saturday they will certainly do all in their

power to stop Yugoslavia when the two meet in Zagreb in what is one of the biggest grudge matches in international football.