SA dismisses joint bid

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 25: The head of South Africa's bid for the 2006 World Cup on Saturday described as nonsense the notion of a joint bid to co-host the event by Germany and England, reports AFP.

Danny Jordaan, on his return from Geneva to canvass support for South Africa's tender for the football extravaganza, said: "One of the English journalists approached me and told me there was talk about this issue.

"My own view is that it is nonsense. I can't even consider it - there is no way it can happen," Jordaan told AFP.

Japan and South Korea are joining forces to host the World Cup in 2002, a first for the soccer showdown.

"FIFA has made it clear that further consideration of joint bids will take place after determination (after the 2002 World Cup) if it can work.

Therefore, for anyne to suggest a joint hosting of World Cup (2006) would be premature." He added that FIFA had also said it would accept only single

country bids.

"They can't change the rules Jordaan said South Africa's

bid was "pretty strong." "If one must read anything into this rumour, it is clearly that some people recognise South Africa is a formidable candidate for 2006," he said. The five candidates are Brazil, England, Germany, Morocco and South Africa.

'The Animal' & the circus

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 25: Brazilian striker Edmundo celebrated his son's first birthday by holding a circus, complete with chimpanzees and two ele-phants, in his own back garden, reports Reuters.

Television pictures on Fri-day showed the lavish party laid on for Edmundo junior, attended by dozens of guests including fellow soccer players.

Edmundo, himself nicknamed "the Animal", said he hired a local circus, which put up a tent in the garden, to provide the entertainment at

Thursday's event. Pictures showed Edmundo cuddling a chimpanzee and feeding it a glass of beer, while the two elephants proved too big to get into his garden and were

left in their cage. "As a father, I may have left a lot to be desired as I have been away from home too much, said Edmundo.

Edmundo returned to Vasco in July after 18 months with Italy's Fiorentina where he up-set fans by returning to Rio for carnival at a time when the team was challenging for the championship.

The player has a long history of bust-ups on and off the pitch and, despite his extraordinary talent, is not being picked by Brazil coach Wander-

ley Luxemburgo. Four years ago, when Edmundo started a brief spell at Vasco's rivals Flamengo, he was met at Rio airport by the mayor and taken through the city in a parade which also featured circus animals.

McCarthy backs Keane, Irwin

DUBLIN, Sept 25: Republic of Ireland coach Mick McCarthy named Manchester United duo Roy Keane and Denis Irwin Friday for their crucial European Championships qualifier with Macedonia on October 9 in Skopje, reports AFP.

Both players have been injured recently but McCarthy is hoping the two key players will inspire his team to win a place in next year's finals in Holland and Belgium or at least a playoff berth.

Should Yugoslavia fail to win their Balkan grudge match with Croatia in Zagreb the Irish would win Group Eight, assuming they beat Macedonia.

Evergreen striker Tony Cascarino, who plays for French first division side Nancy and David Connolly of Belgium's Mouscron, are the only men in the squad who do not play club football in England.

SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Alan Ke-

lly, Dean Kiely. **DEFENDERS:** Denis Irwin. Stephen Carr, Jeff Kenna, Gary Kelly, Steve Staunton, Ken Cunningham, Gary Breen, Phil

MIDFIELDERS: Roy Keane, Mark Kinsella, Alan McLoughlin, Lee Carsley, Damien Duff, Mark Kennedy.

FORWARDS: Niall Quinn. Tony Cascarino, Robbie Keane, Kevin Kilbane, David Connolly , Keith O'Neill.

Davids to

undergo eye surgery

TURIN, Italy, Sept 25: Dutch international Edgar Davids is to undergo eye surgery for glaucoma Juventus confirmed on Friday, reports AFP.

The operation on the midfielder's right eye will take place in the coming days in a Dutch clinic.

Juventus had been given the all-clear from UEFA, FIFA and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to field Davids after he used medicines containing banned substances to

treat the eye problem. However, the deadline on IOC authorisation runs out on October 3.

Davids played in the Juventus clashes against Cagliari and Udinese earlier his month wearing swimming goggles to protect the affected eye.



Hamburg's Iranian international Mehdi Mahdavikia (L) is challenged by a VFL Wolfsburg player during their Bundesliga encounter on September 24.

Bundesliga

Stuttgart end Bayern's run



MUNICH, Sept 25: Seventy two hours after scrambling a last minute draw against Glasgow Rangers in the Eu-

ropean Champions' League, Bayern Munich found their good luck wanting Friday evening as lowly VfB Stuttgart produced their best performance this season to beat them 1-0, reports AFP

Bulgarian World Cup star Krassimir Balakow posted the winner with a 75th minute penalty, having been denied earlier before the break when he hit the bar.

It was the seventh occasion in just six games this season that the Bulgarian star has hit the woodwork instead of the net but his penalty was enough to condemn the German champions to their first home reverse for 33 matches. The penalty was awarded

when Bayern's Ghanaian defender Samuel Kuffour locked

arms with Romanian striker Viroel Ganea as the pair battled alone for a long incoming ball out of the midfield. Ganea succumbed to Kuf-

four's challenge and blew a kiss to the Munich crowd when referee Lutz-Michael Frohlich pointed to the spot. It was a momentous victory

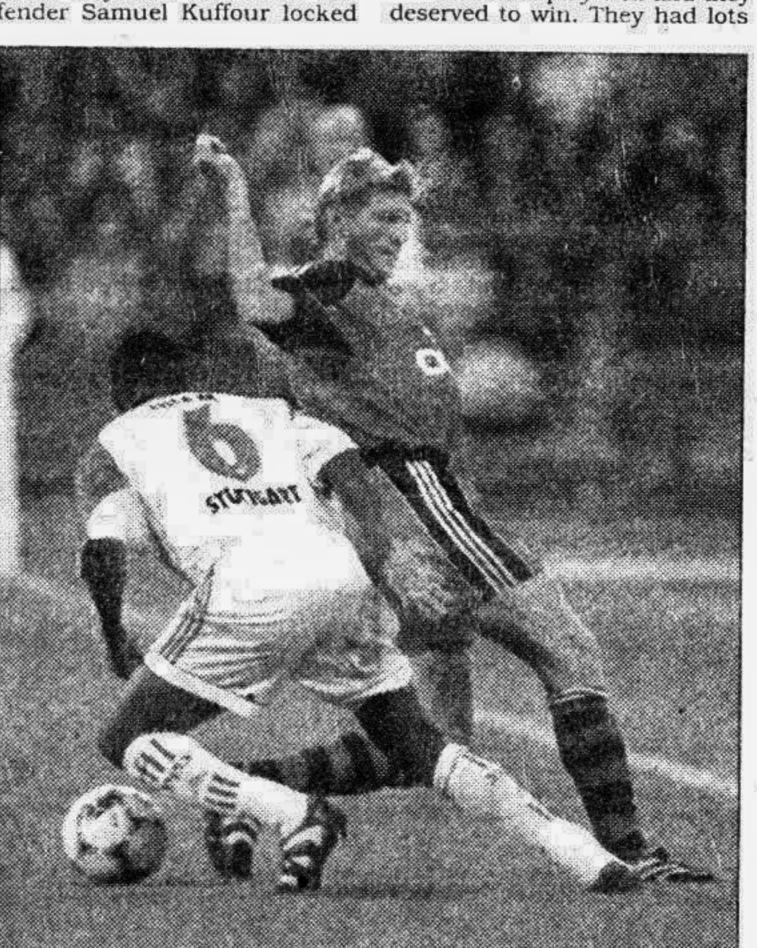
for Stuttgart who have only taken full points in Munich's Olympic stadium on one occasion in their last 27 appearances there. More significantly though

Friday's performance was a to-

tal form turnaround for a club on the verge of cracking under the pressure of mounting fail-Prior to Friday evening Stuttgart had taken just four points from their five games and were resting helplessly in

10th while Bayern, for the time being, remain fourth. "We didn't play well and they

17th place. They now rise to



Stuttgart's Pablo Thiam (L) goes past Bayern Munich's Steffan Effenberg. -AFP photo

LUANDA, Sept 25:

Namibia will lack

four foreign-based

players when they

meet Angola here

on Sunday in the

first leg of the Castle Cup South-

ern Africa championship final,

and midfielder Robert Nauseb

from Kaizer Chiefs in South

Africa and midfielders Razun-

dura Tjikuzu from Werder Bre-

men in Germany and Quinton

Jacobs from Partick Thistle in

Scotland are needed by their

However, they will be avail-

able for the return match in

Windhoek on October 2 as

Namibia seek their first trophy

since the country achieved in-

final without winning a match.

A defeat in Lesotho was fol-

lowed by penalty shootout vic-

Sensible!

COVENTRY, England, Sept

25: Coventry City have become

the first English Premier

League side to launch an official

"This is not a joke product,"

"We have been very careful to

Coles said the condoms, to be

said Paul Coles, controller of

the Sky Blues' retail operations.

make sure that the product

passes all statutory standards.

We are confident of consider-

sold at vending machines at the

club's Highfield Road stadium

and in two city supermarkets.

are a regular brand but the

packaging is Coventry City's.

"We are a responsible club."

able demand."

club condom, reports Reuters.

Namibia have reached the

dependence eight years ago.

Defender Mohammed Ouseb

reports AFP.

of shots on goal and hit the crossbar twice -- they deserved to win and we have to accept that," Bayern playmaker Stefan Effenberg summed up, adding that no-one should try to use the extra burden of playing the Champions League midweek as an excuse.

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld was not so sure though. "Stuttgart were much fresher." he said. "You could see that my guys were playing their third game in sixth days. We lost a lot of energy in Frankfurt and in Glasgow and today Stuttgart were just that little bit faster than we were."

Strikingly Balakov's penalty was Stuttgart's first away goal this season and the win their first away points. Both may just have saved coach

Ralf Rangnick his job.
"I think we realised today we are in fact able to play the way we want to," Rangnick said optimistically. "The whole debate about whether we should play a 4-4-2 or 4-5-1 system has to stop occause if we can play this way in Munich's stadium we ought to be able to do it anywhere."

The last time Bayern lost at home was in February 1998 (33 matches ago) at the hands of FC Cologne but, as a bad omen for Stuttgart, that same season Cologne were relegated for the first time in the club's history. Northern pair Hamburg and

Wolfsburg shared the points in Friday's other Bundesliga game with a 2-2 draw. Rodolfo Cardoso put the home side ahead twice in the 10th and 56th minutes but Wolfsburg struck back quickly

on both occasions through

Jonathon Akpoborie with goals

STANDINGS

in the 12th and 65th minutes.

Bundesliga table after games played Friday (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points): Hamburg 2 1 15, 8 11 Leverkusen Borussia Bayern Bremen 1 13 Freiburg 1 12 5 Wolfsburg Eintracht Schalke 0 Stuttgart Arminia Unterhaching 1860 Munich K'slautern Duisburg 5 0 2 3 2 10 2

Castle Cup

Nambia face stiff task

tories over Malawi in a losers

play-off, South Africa in the

quarter-finals and Swaziland

from South African champions

Sundowns has been a key figure

in the tense finishes, flinging

his long frame in various direc-

Huge striker Eliphas Shivute

tions to block spot kicks.

Goalkeeper Ronnie Kanalelo

in the semi-finals.

Ajax atop

AMSTERDAM, Sept 25: Ajax Amsterdam came from behind to beat Vitesse Arnhem 3-1 and go top of the Dutch First Division on Friday, reports Reuters. Vitesse drew first blood in

the 13th minute when striker Pieere van Hooijdonk shot home from close range. But Ajax found the net

through Brian Laudrup in the 22nd minute. In the second half Laudrup struck again to put Ajax ahead in the 62nd minute. Vitesse tried to find the equaliser but Shota Arveladze

clinched the match for the Amsterdam team in the 84th minute when he cut inside the box and pushed the ball into the corner.

Ajax have a one-point lead at the top with 14 points from six games ahead of the other weekend fixtures.

Defending champions Feyenoord, who play RKC Waalwijk on Sunday, are second with 13 points from five matches.

Fourth-placed PSV, the only team with a 100 per cent record, face third placed Willem II Tilburg today.

LEAGUE FIXTURES Sunday

Sparta Rotterdam v MVV Maastricht Cambuur Leeuwarden v

AZ'67 Alkmaar Den Bosch v FC Utrecht De Graafschap v NEC Ni-

Feyenoord v RKC Waalwijk SC Heerenveen v Twente En-

Pirates fight for survival

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 25: Leading South African club Orlando Pirates are facing a shock exit from the African Cup Winners Cup quarterfinals in Guinea this weekend, reports

The 1995 Champions' Cup winners defeated African debutants ASM Sangaredi 1-0 in Johannesburg through a soft goal from Sibusiso Zuma, whose timid shot went between the legs of goalkeeper Jonathan Taylor.

But hopes of defending the lead in Conakry have been dealt a series of blows with influential midfielder Thabo Mngomeni and strikers Phumlani Mkhize and Simon Makhubela ruled out by injuries. 'This leaves the Buccaneers

with only 14 players, including two goalkeepers, as 11 of the 30 registered players have joined other clubs, one has retired and one has a long-term injury. Pirates also battled to reach

Conkary, leaving South Africa only on Thursday because flights to West Africa were packed with athletes and officials returning from the All Africa Games in Johannesburg.
"We must come back with a positive result. We are a big club

and there are a lot of expectations among our supporters,' Pirates manager Lawrence 'Big Bear' Ngubane told his squad. Sangaredi are the first Guinean club to reach the quarter-finals since 1983 and defeated LPRC Oilers of Liberia 1

0 and Al-Shatte of Libya 3-0 at home in previous rounds. Power Dynamos of Zambia, the other Southern Africa survivors, face an even tougher task than Pirates after being

held 1-1 at home by Club Africain from Tunisia. Midfielder Alex Namazaba has been included in the Zambian squad after a lengthy absence due to an injury sustained in the first-round triumph over Saint Michel United from Sey-

chelles. Club Africain or Power Dynamos play Al-Masry of Egypt and ASM Sangaredi or Orlando Pirates meet Africa Sports of Cote d'Ivoire in the semifinals next month.

FIXTURES At Tunis

Club Africain (Tun) v Power Dynamos (Zam) 1st leg: 1-1 At Conakry ASM Sangaredi (Gui) v Orlando Pirates (Rsa) 0-1

Dortmund fine Ikpeba

COLOGNE, Sept 25: German Bundesliga outfit Borussia Dortmund on Friday fined frustrated striker Victor Ikpeba 5,346 dollars after he accused the team of trying to ruin his career by keeping him on the bench, reports AFP. The 25-year-old Ikpeba

Monaco this season but has had trouble breaking into the team. He was substituted at half time during last week's Bundesliga game at Freiburg and never got a run in the Champions' League against Feyenoord Rotterdam and Boavista Porto.

moved to Dortmund from AS

"I am going through the blackest period of my life, they want to ruin my career in Dortmund," Ikpeba complained, pointing out that at Monaco he was treated like a mini-god'. "First they did everything

possible to sign me but now they have dropped me like a hot potato. The other new guys have had a chance to play 90 minu es when things were tough but not me," Africa's 1997 footballer-of -the-year told German magazine Kicker. Ikpeba has suggested that

unless he gets a regular place in the side he may look for greener pastures. So far Fredi Bobic, Giuseppe Reina and Andreas Moller have assumed forward duties with such success that a change has not been necessary. Dortmund, who are enjoying a good start to the season after

two years of drought, were quick to respond. First came the 10,000 Mark (5,346 dollars) fine and then president Gerd Niebaum added a few firm words.

"It's a matter of course that, in a team with so many big.

Rangers riding high



GLASGOW, Sept 25: Scottish Premier League leaders Rangers ta-

ckle St Johnstone at Ibrox on Saturday in buoyant mood after restoring their European reputation in midweek, reports Dick Advocaat's side were

unlucky not to collect all three points from their Champions' League clash with Bayern Munich on Tuesday, conceding a deflected equaliser in the final minute of the 1-1 draw. But the performance overall was heartening for a team which had, not for the first

time, looked out of its depth against Europe's finest when they lost their opening game in Valencia. Chairman David Murray said: "Normal service has been resumed. It was exactly what we were aiming for and proved

once again that we can compete

with the very best teams in the

world.

"We have now shown with our win over Parma, who were the UEFA Cup winners last season, and the convincing draw against Munich who were just a couple of minutes away from picking up the Champions' Cup last May, that we are equal of the top European teams."

Last weekend's first Old Firm derby game at Celtic clash of the season was called off to allow Rangers to concentrate on their European endeavours.

Next Tuesday the Glaswegians travel to PSV Eindhoven for a game they cannot afford to lose, so Advocaat may rotate his squad on Saturday.

St Johnstone, currently fourth, seven points behind Rangers, have placed contract rebels John O'Neil and John MacQuillan on the transfer list ahead of next week's UEFA Cup return against Monaco.

Second-placed Celtic, three points behind Rangers, visit Hibernian who find themselves second bottom after a poor run.

Aberdeen bid to score their first point of the season at

Motherwell. The Dons have been boosted by the news that Slovak rightback Jozef Valachovic is expected to complete his move to

Pittodrie in time for the match. "I was pleased with the reception I received from the club and in comparison to other Slovakian clubs, Aberdeen are at a much higher level," insisted

the 24-year-old. Hearts visit third-placed Dundee United relieved to hear that manager Jim Jefferies has agreed to stay on at Tynecastle.

Jefferies spent this week trying to clarify his position at the club following claims he was almost sacked in March this year.

"You could not expect me to be happy at all the public comment on this issue but I am satisfied that I have the board's wholehearted support in taking this club forward," said Jefferies.

will take into account "the

massive reform" which the or-

ganisation has embarked upon

much more than the critics ever

expected," executive board

member Jacques Rogge said.

"We did not act under pressure

from anybody, not the US Sen-

ate, the sponsors or the critics.

We reformed because we thought

ident Bill Hybl, a member of the

IOC 2000 group, said, "The

changes will be substantive, not

cosmetic. The reforms are sig-

nificant and, if implemented,

will mean a new look encom-

passing the traditional values

views with members of the

panel, here is a look at some of

issues is the age limit. In 1995.

the IOC voted to raise the limit

from 75 to 80 in order to allow

Samaranch to win another

The reform working group is

proposing lowering the limit to

70, but apparently only for fu-

ture members. Still unclear is

what age limit will apply to cur-

Based on numerous inter-

* One of the most sensitive

of the Olympic movement."

US Olympic Committee pres-

"I think we've implemented

in recent months.

we needed reform.

the key proposals:

term in office.



Action from Arab Club Championship match between Olympic Baji and the Syrian Army in Cairo on September 24.

IOC shake-up nearing end



procedures.

LONDON, Sept 25: The International Olympic Committee is entering the final stages of a reform process designed to reshape the organisation after its worst crisis, re-

ports AP. Nearly 10 months after the IOC became engulfed in a votebuying scandal that battered its image and credibility, a special panel meets this weekend to review proposed changes in the committee's structure, rules and

New rules on age limits, term limits, member selection and the Olympic bidding process will be discussed by the executive committee of IOC 2000, a reform commission set up in the wake of the Salt Lake City bribery affair.

The IOC purged 10 of its members (six were expelled and four resigned) in connection with 1.2 million dollars worth of cash, gifts, travel and other inducements stemming from Salt Lake City's successful bid for the 2002 Winter Games.

But the house-cleaning was seen only as a short-term response, with observers and critics waiting to see whether the IOC enacts lasting reforms to make the organisation more

Rising golfer Sergio Garcia of Spain exults during his Ryder

Cup match on September 24.

accountable and less open to corruption.

The executive's recommendations will be put to the full reform commission on October 30-31. They will then be submitted for a vote by the entire IOC at a special session in Lausanne on December 11-12. "These will be very impor-

tant changes," IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch said in a recent interview. "It means we will enter the new millennium with a renovated International Olympic Committee." The weekend meetings come at a time when the IOC is facing

fresh scrutiny amid allegations of vote-buying associated with Atlanta's winning bid for the 1996 Summer Games. A report delivered to Congress this week detailed how Atlanta bidders lavished

gifts, college scholarships, job offers and other inducements on IOC members and their families. The House commerce subcommittee on oversight and in-

vestigation will hold hearings into the bid process next month. Rep Fred Upton, R-Mich, said the panel will subpoena Samaranch to testify if he doesn't appear voluntarily.

IOC vice president Dick Pound said he hopes Congress

rent members and how it will be phased in. . The panel has recommended instituting term limits for the first time, with members facing re-election after eight * The IOC president would be limited to a single, eight-year term. That would be a major change from the present system, under which Samaranch has been in office since 1980 and reelected by acclamation three times. He is scheduled to step down after completing his latest term in 2001. Traditionally, IOC members have been essentially handpicked by the president. The reform panel proposes the creation of a special nominating committee, which would screen potential candidates and put names forward to the executive board for consideration. * Fifteen contemporary athletes, elected by their peers, would be appointed to the IOC. "I believe this will be the most important short-term and pired.

-AFP photo

long-term change," Hybl said. * Also represented on the IOC would be heads of 15 international sports federations and leaders of 15 national Olympic committees. They would lose their IOC membership once their administrative terms ex-

* The IOC will have a maximum of 115 members once all the new rules are phased in.

* A large majority of IOC delegates (70) should be "independent members" chosen as individuals and not elected to represent constituent bodies. * On the Olympic site-selec-

tion process, a "bid acceptance procedure" would be introduced, requiring cities to meet certain technical criteria, before being allowed to mount a bid.

from Chinese club Shengzen is another major influence among the Brave Warriors with his physique particularly effective in away matches as he can retain possession when heavily

outnumbered. Angola qualified with narrow away victories over Malawi, Lesotho and title holders Zambia, who surrendered a

Results

Zambia 0 Angola 1

Leading scorers

The Brazilian has adopted a different selection approach to his predecessors, using only local players instead of mixing them with Portuguese-based professionals.

52-match unbeaten home

this year inherited a team that

had fared badly in 2000 African

Nations Cup qualifiers with

only one victory in six matches

and a humiliating home loss to

Coach Djalma Cavalcante

record spanning 13 years.

minnows Mauritius.

Although Angola will lack long-serving defender Helder Vicente, who misses the first leg after being sent off in Zambia. they are expected to build a winning lead at the 60,000-seat Citadela Stadium.

FACTEILE

First round Lesotho I Namibia 0 Botswana 1 South Africa 2 Malawi 1 Angola 2 Swaziland 3 Mozambique J Losers play-offs Malawi 1 Namibia 1 (Namibia won 4-2 pen) Botswana 0 Mozambique 2 Quarterfinals Lesotho O Angola 1 Swaziland 1 Zimbabwe 1 (Swaziland won 4-3 pen) Namibia 1 South Africa 1 (Namibia won 4-1 pen) Zambia 1 Mozambique 1 (Zambia won 4-3 pen) Semifinals

Namibia 1 Swaziland 1 (Namibia won 4-2 pen)

2: Dube (Swz) 1: Kutonda, Campos (Ang), Monteiro, Trigo (Moz), Kanalelo (Nam), Khoboli (Les), Manda (Maw), Mohlala (Rsa), Sichone (Zam), Tembo (Zim) **Previous winners** 1997, 1998 - Zambia

2: Masina, Nkambule (Swz), Ferreira (Ang), Ndlanya (Rsa) Man-of-the-match awards

names, statements like this are made by players to prop up their