Juve ready to

part with

Delle Alpi

TURIN. Italy, Nov 4:

Juventus are preparing to quit the Delle Alpi here and build a

with Turin city council contin-

grounds are owned by the local

cil meeting on Monday night,

just 24 hours after this week-

March that they wanted to de-

molish the 100 million dollar

Delle Alpi and build their own

200 million dollar stadium.

cinema, restaurant and confer-

along with the idea but are now

planning to make the non-sta-

dium part of the development a

Tuttosport: "We cannot allow a

third party to exploit our in-vestment in the stadium."

enough land at Borgaro for the

former world champions to

world of local Italian politics,

city officials are already laying

banana skins in the way of

of Borgaro that: "The city of

Turin certainly couldn't pro-

vide its traffic police or build

new tramlines in order to guar-

antee that supporters could get

are hoping to have their demol-

ished Filadelfia stadium re-

built, are expected to make their

positions clear during

Monday's council vote on the

The unloved stadium has

Along with the building cost,

been an expensive flop and

dubbed "The Monument to

which was triple the original

estimate, its annual running

costs of 1.75 million dollars

and unused athletics track have

made it unpopular with club of-

ficials and soccer fans alike.

Waste" by the Italian press.

future of the Delle Alpi.

Juventus and Torino, who

Councillor Ugo Perone said

build whatever they like.

Juventus.

there."

But a Juventus official told

And the club have now found

However, in the tit-for-tat

public invitation to tender.

The council appeared to go

ence complex 50 metres away.

Juventus revealed last

end's derby in the Serie A.

In a country where soccer

ues, reports AFP.

past five years.

another seed in the shape of

Karol Kucera, the Slovak 16th

flag flying high fourth seed

Todd Martin took the number

of ousted seeds to ten as he

crashed in three close sets to

Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, the

A long hard season of wear

and tear took its toll on the top

names, meanwhile, as seven

seeds, including Sampras and

Rusedski, were scattered in the

third day of the tournament,

joining Gustavo Kuerten of

Brazil, who lost Tuesday to

There were further shocks

after Hewitt's coup de grace

against Kafelnikov as veteran

Michael Chang, who had to

qualify, swamped moody

Chilean ninth seed Marcelo

pion Jim Courier bludgeoned

his way past former world

number one and 14th-seeded

Spaniard Carlos Moya 6-3, 6-1.

ever even made the semifinals

Courier next plays Enqvist.

speakers as British tenth seed

Tim Henman forced his way

through against Juan Carlos

Ferrero, a 19-year-old Spa-

success when Mark Phi-

lippoussis powered past eighth-

seeded Dutchman Richard

Australia enjoyed a second

Philippoussis's reward is a

Paris double champion and

third seed Sampras, coming

back after some nine weeks out

with a herniated disc injury

which forced him out of the US

Open, slept on it before deciding

to call it a day with a back

muscle problem despite edging

out Spain's Francisco Clavet in

a three-set thriller on Tuesday

departure Britain's sixth seed

Rusedski, who saw off Sampras

in straight sets in last year's

final, withdrew with hamstring

trouble after losing the first set

on the tiebreak in his second-

round match against Albert

although world number three

Sampras still hopes to make

Rusedski's year is now over

Just two hours before his

niard, in three sets.

Krajicek 7-5, 6-3.

match against Henman.

It was a bad day for Spanish

Neither Moya nor Rios has

Double French Open cham-

Russian teenager Marat Safin.

1996 title-winner.

Rios 7-5, 6-2.

While Agassi kept the US

Sparta thrash Spartak, Real win, Porto go down

UNDATED, Nov 4: In the European Champions League pools E-H contested Wednesday night, already qualified teams like Spain's Real Madrid, Portugal's FC Porto, France's Bordeaux and the Czech Republic's Sparta Prague tcok the field in matches which had very little or no interest left, reports AFP.

In Group G. Bordeaux's match in Holland with Willem II Tilburg was a drab goalless affair.

But Sparta top the group after a 5-2 victory in Prague. They took control of their match with Spartak Moscow with early goals from Vratislav Lokvenc and Tomas Rosicky.

After 34 minutes Viktor Bulatov pulled one back for the Russians before Artem Berzodny squared the match on half-time.

Milan Fukal put the home side back in front four minutes after the restart before a penalty converted by Vladimir Labant after 63 minutes made it 4-2. Lokvenc struck a fifth four minutes later. With Real Madrid and FC

Porto already qualified Group E also had a marginal interest. Real, aiming for an eighth continental crown, took a 43rd minute lead in Norway against Molde through French World Cup winner Christian Karembeu and held on to win 1-

Karembeu's goal ensured the meringues topped the pool at the expense of FC Porto, who lost to Olympiakos in Athens thanks to a Stelios Giannacopoulos goal after 56 minutes.

It was enough for the Greek outfit to book the consolation prize of a UEFA Cup spot at Molde's expense.

On Tuesday Groups A-D were wrapped up. Italy's Lazio and Fiorentina, Spain's Barcelona, Ukraine's Dynamo Kyiv. Norway's Rosenborg. Holland's Feyenoord, England's defending champions Manchester United and France's Marseille qualified from those groups.

Pain is better than surgery for Petit

LONDON, Nov 4: Arsenal's French midfielder Emmanuel Petit believes he can play for the rest of his career with the aid of pain-killing injections in order to avoid surgery on his knee ligament injury, reports

Doctors have advised Petit that he needs an operation to fully repair a damaged cruciate ligament which has already kept him out for nine weeks and 13 games this season.

But with three comeback matches now under his belt, the pony-tailed Petit insists he is ready to battle on against Tottenham in the big North London derby at White Hart Lane on Sunday, and for the rest of the season.

Petit, 29, looked to be back to his all-action best for Arsenal in their 3-2 Champions League win over AIK Solna in Stockholm on Tuesday. His performance followed two tentative comeback attempts against Chelsea and Fiorentina last

At the weekend he missed Arsenal's goalless Highbury draw with Newcastle to fly back to France for specialist treatment to his left knee including a surgical-injection similar to the technique which repaired Gunners' skipper Tony Adams' back problems last season.

Petit said: "I don't want an operation. I want to stay on the pitch and I believe I can go on for the rest of my career with pain-killing injections.

"Doctors have said an operation is the only real solution but lots of players I know go on and on despite strains in their

"It was a frankly awful pitch in Stockholm and sometimes it still hurts when I kick the ball. but then the pain can go away. "I know it will probably

come back from time to time but I feel I have to carry on. That's what I want and I think I can live with some pain now and then. It was important to prove that to myself.

"You never know what can happen with an operation. It can take a long time to recover and I just want to keep playing because we still have so much to achieve at Arsenal."

penalise Ruddock

Football Association (FA) are to take no action against West Ham defender Neil Ruddock over remarks he made about Arsenal midfielder Patrick Vieira following their infamous Upton Park bust-up, reports

Ruddock met FA compliance officer Graham Bean on Wednesday to discuss the comments made on television in the aftermath of his being spat on by the Frenchman in the Premiership clash on September 3.

lic on his breath."

some quarters as a racist comment but after Wednesday's meeting FA media relations manager Steve Double said: "It was never the FA's contention that Neil Ruddock made racist remarks and we fully accept that he is not racist - as his many black friends in the game will testify.

matter is now closed."



Real Madrid's Roberto Carlos (R) is about to execute a lunging tackle on Molde's Trond Strande during their Champions' League match on Wednesday. - AFP photo

New format disturbs Keane

LONDON, Nov 4: Manchester United captain Roy Keane said on Wednesday CHAMPIONS the new format

the Champions League had made the competition less intense than last year, reports AFP. Although United finished top of Group D, they have strug-

gled to motivate themselves for games against the likes of Sturm Graz and Croatia Zagreb whereas a year ago they were playing Barcelona and Bayern The new format, which in-

cludes two round-robin stages before the quarter-finals compared to one last year. "I think the buzz hasn't been

the same this year and the intensity has not been there," said the United skipper. "That's because of the fact

that if you lose a game you always have a chance of getting back into it, whereas before if you lost a game you were

MANCHESTER,

England, Nov 4:

Denmark keeper

Peter Schme-

beitends, ledici

Wednesday for

football's gov-

erning bodies to sit down to-

gether and work out a fixture

list which is fair on the players,

Schmeichel left English

Premiership side Manchester

United in the summer because

of the rising number of games

and the burden has increased

further this season because of

the expanded Champions

for Portuguese side Sporting

Lisbon, welcomes the changes

to the Champions League, but

claims the game's administra-

tors should not forget about the

promoting his new autobiogra-

phy, believes the increased fix-

ture burden is taking its toll on

several clubs around Europe

and that FIFA. UEFA and the

various national associations

looked like they could do with a

rest after they struggled to beat

Sturm Graz in their final

Champions League group game

games would be non-stop," said

"I could foresee this that the

"Also internationally with

the European Championships

and the World Cup there will be

more games as well because

Several of United's players

Schmeichel, in Manchester

The 35-year-old, who plays

reports AFP.

players.

need to act.

last night.

Schmeichel.

straight out.

"Sometimes when you play the lesser teams you lack concentration and give the ball away too easily because you know you will get it back again quite quickly.

"That maybe has been in the back of our minds during these

"You have to raise yourself against the better players because you know that you will get pushed and I think with the next stage, the intensity will come back "The so-called big boys will

be meeting each other and hopefully that will get the players up for it. "With no disrespect to the teams in our group we've strug-

gled against them and against Zagreb at home and Marseille at home it was hard to get going. "I think the fans are looking forward to playing some of the so-called big boys and so are the

players. Of the big teams among the

Schmeichel for a fair fixture

"All this means more games

and I think what has to happen

there were 10 years ago.

remaining 16 teams, Keane is most wary of Barcelona.

The Spanish champions finished top of Group B, which contained Arsenal and Fiorentina, with 14 points.

Louis van Gaal's side recorded four wins and two draws in their six games and they also scored an impressive 19 goals.

Without a shadow of a doubt they will be there or thereabouts and they seem to be hitting top form," he said.

"If you get a chance to watch the other Champions League games on television you do to try and pick up a few pointers. "But from what I've seen, Barcelona don't seem to have any weak points at the mo-

Keane has also identified Lazio as another serious challenger to United's title, although they will avoid the Italians for the moment because both teams will be among the top seeds in Pot A for Friday's second-phase draw in Geneva.

Euro 2000 play-off Turkish squad

for Ireland

ISTANBUL, Nov 4: Turkey manager Mustafa Denizli on Thursday announced his squad for the Euro 2000 play-off games against Ireland later this month, reports AFP.

Dropped from the squad are Besiktas Ayhan Akman who recently returned from Germany where he was under treatment for a heel injury, and Oktay. Derelioglu of second division's Siirt Jet-Pa Spor.

Once a star striker with Besiktas, Derelioglu made surprising move earlier this year to Jet-Pa Spor, with whom he now says he has been "disillusioned".

Claiming the club went back on its word to send him to play in a European club, Derelioglu has abandoned his team and is hiding in Istanbul.

while, are Galatasaray's Tugay Kerimoglu and Saffet Akyuz, who has been mostly kept in the substitute bench in the top Turkish outfit's league matches.

ties will be on November 13 at Landsowne Road and the return on November 17 in Bursa.

Goalkeepers: Rustu Recber. Engin Ipekoglu Fenerbahce)

Ogun Temizkanoglu, Saffet Akbas (all Fenerbahce). Ali Eren Beserler (Besiktas), Fatih Akyel, Hakan Unsal (both Galatasary), Mert Korkmaz (Gaziantepspor) Midfielders: Abdullah

Ercan, Tayfun Korkut, Sergen Yalcin (all Fenerbahce). Tayfur Havutcu (Besiktas), Okan Buruk, Tugay Kerimoglu, Ergun Penbe, Umit Davala (all Galatasaray) Strikers: Arif Erdem, Hakan

Sukur, Saffet Akyuz (Galatasaray). Umit Karan (Genclerbirligi)

Valderrama pledges one more year to Tampa Bay

TAMPA BAY, Florida, Nov 4 Colombia's veteran midfield magician Carlos Valderrama re-signed with Major League Soccer (MLS) on Wednesday and will play for the Tampa Bay Mutiny in 2000, reports AFP.

"Carlos is one of the most recognizable symbols in MLS. More than that, he is an elegant and incisive player," MLS Executive Vice-President Ivan Gazidis said.

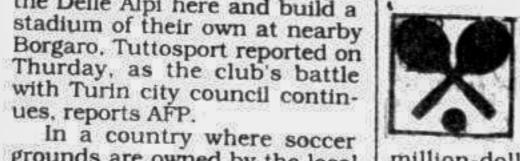
three fruitless World Cup final appearances, said he was de-lighted to be remaining in the league. "My family and I have en-

joyed the time we've spent in Tampa Bay, and I'm very pleased that the league has worked out an agreement that allows me to stay with the Mutiny next season, and hopefully beyond", Valderrama said.

for the Mutiny after coming from Miami Fusion in April this year scoring three goals.

Sampras sidelined

Seeds tumble at Paris



Some of them had their excuses, but the top names were scattered asunder at the 2.5million-dollar Paris Open at the Palais Omnisports on

PARIS, Nov 4:

authorities. Juventus and neighbours Torino have talked Wednesday, as title holder Greg about leaving the shared Delle Rusedski and the man he beat Alpi for their own stadia for the in last year's final. Pete Sampras, packed their bags for But a tug of war with Turin home alongside six other seeds. city officials is now expected to reports AFP. reach breaking point at a coun-

Both Sampras and Rusedski had a decent excuse for their early demise, as they withdrew through injury -- but amid their misfortune one man rose above them all.

Andre Agassi has little left to achieve in the game after

Kafelnikov's nemesis once

The second-seeded Russian, who could have caught Agassi by year's end, crashed out in three sets as his Davis Cup conqueror advanced 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 and cannot now catch the flamboyant American.

Hewitt now plays the final French survivor Cedric Pioline -- whom he will also face in the Davis Cup final next month in

Agassi's ascension to the year-end top spot for the first time in his career marks the end of a record six unbroken years of Sampras dominance.
Agassi, the French Open and

US Open champion as well as Wimbledon runner up to



conference where he announced his pull-out from the Paris Open on November 3. - AFP photo Sampras, is the tenth man to

winning all the Grand Slams and 43 tournaments but the shaven-headed Las Vegan not only ousted Younes El Aynaoui of Morocco to reach the last 16 here -- he more importantly achieved one of his few remaining sporting ambitions -- ending a year as number one.

Agassi, who won his tie 6-4. 6-3, had Australia's Lleyton Hewitt to thank for that after the teenager proved Yevgeny

hold the year-end top slot in the 27 years since the rankings were introduced. "It's something really

special," he said after savouring his moment before coming off court after his match. "It's been a great year -- it's been just the sheer enjoyment of playing," added Agassi.

the season-ending ATP Tour Championship in Hanover later this month. "I haven't made any decision yet. For now it's best to take a Agassi now faces Dutchman listen to my back and play it Sjeng Schalken, who ousted yet

safe," said Sampras.

Costa of Spain.

night.

Agassi top of the world



(AFP): Two years the depths and it almost looked like tennis didn't matter to him any more as he slid to 141st on the world

rankings. The time he spent down among the also-rans and the has-beens suddenly seems a long time ago because Andre

Agassi didn't want to be a has-On Wednesday the 29-yearold Las Vegan with the touch of a genius on court was able to celebrate a double triumph and

achieve one of his few remaining sporting ambitions -- end a year as number one. He didn't need much of a leg up having spent most of the past three months in top spot but Australian teen Lleyton Hewitt gave him one anyway, beating

number two Yevgeny Kafelnikov in their second-round match at the Palais Omnisports. The pressure was off Agassi therefore when he greeted the Parisian crowd on the other side of town from his stupendous achievement in June,

when he won at Roland Garros to capture the only Grand Slam eluding him and become only the fifth man in history to win all four Grand Slams -- and the first to win them on different surfaces.

21 Trans-

28 Pref-

30 Pack

33 Equi-

away

count

37 "- pass"

38 Pedestal

39 Early

occupant

action

But his quest for perfection ago he plumbed pushed him to write another appendage to that chapter of tennis history in the knowledge that he cannot dwell on his

French Open triumph, a special but fading memory. "I think what happened here in June was so special for what

it was of that time and I'll never try to re-live that on any level. That deserves a special place," Agassi said. "For me to play here (at the

Paris Open) is not about me trying to win again, it's about



me going out there and giving something back to a place that's

been very special to me." Agassi regretted the fact that US rival Pete Sampras had had to pull out earlier Wednesday with back problems, meaning the two will not now meet in the semis to pursue their special rivalry as two of the greatest talents of not just their own but

of any generation "I wish he was injured during Wimbledon," joked Agassi tongue in cheek in a reference to how Sampras had denied him another Grand Slam at the All England Club in July.

Agassi's desire to keep improving and not rest on his laurels as he powers towards a fifth title of the year mark him out as a true champion.

"It's been a great year and now is a time to assess a lot of things. I don't know what will motivate me now," he admitted "But I've been very much

enjoying the challenge of accomplishing things I've never done before and I haven't done a lot of things. I haven't won Australia twice. I do care a lot about being better." He hasn't yet won the Paris

Open twice either -- but he is well on the way this week as he prepares for Thursday's thirdround match against unseeded Dutchman Sjeng Schalken. Come Sunday night, a

second Paris title could be in the bag -- and that'll be one thing less missing on the evergrowing curriculum vitae.

25 26 27 40 43 44 47 48 49 51 52 53

LOIQQD

AW TICX Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I CAN CONFIRM THE

another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe

FA wont

LONDON, Nov 4: The English

When asked in a television interview about the spitting incident, Ruddock had quipped: "Vieira missed but was near enough for me to smell the gar-That was interpreted in

"However, he was reminded of his responsibilities towards his fellow professionals and the there are more countries in the qualification groups now than

> MADRID, Nov 4: Claudio Ranieri. Jorge Valdano, Radomir Antic. Jose Antonio Camacho, Victor

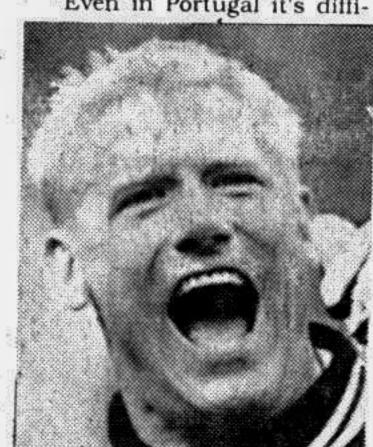
Fernandez and Daniel Passarella are just some of the names to be linked with the job as coach to fallen Spanish giants Real Madrid, reports AFP. In fact Welsh coach John

Toshack is still in charge of 'the meringues' but as far as the Spanish press is concerned it is only a matter of when rather than if Real president Lorenzo Sanz dispenses with the services of the former Liverpool player.

Sports daily Marca has linked Spanish national team boss Camacho with the job but that is an unlikely scenario as his previous stint as boss in 1998 lasted 22 days after a row with Sanz.

Camacho has also been a great success in his new role since replacing the unlamented Javier Clemente at the reins of the national team guiding them to next year's European Championship finals. Ranieri, coach to city rivals Atletico, has had his position

boosted by his side's 3-1 win in the Madrid derby last Sunday. Radomir Antic also made his reputation with Atletico. steering them to the Primera liga title thre vears ago. Argentina s 1978 World Cup



cult for teams that are in the Champions League. They are having to play a lot of games like Boavista, who

Champions League. "We've seen AIK Stockholm,

coach Valdano, a World Cup

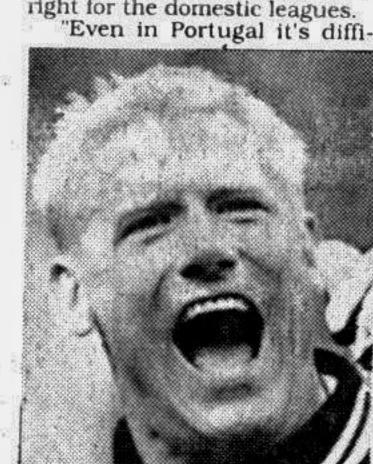
winner with Argentina in 1986.

who have been dominant in Sweden for years, and they have

are a very, very good team, but who are suffering at the moment for being in the

now is that everybody has to sit down around the table and negotiate the right format for the their league. domestic leagues, the Champions League, the European and it takes time. competitions and the World Cup The likes of United have learnt to cope with the crippling

so that everybody gets the right "Because it might be right for the Champions League, but not right for the domestic leagues.



PETER SCHIMEICHEL

just faded away.

"They were seven points in front when they started playing in the Champions League and they have ended up third in "It all has to be worked out

fixture list by assembling huge squads, but Schmeichel feels this has a down side. "United and AC Milan started it about 10 years ago and they have two teams now," he

"In many ways that's a shame because it takes some of the quality of the domestic leagues away. Teams take players away

from other teams to have as cover players or whatever you want to call them." Schmeichel believes another way to help the players would be to harmonise each country's

domestic season as far as possible to provide proper breaks. "I've said many times that the Premiership should synchronise the starting point and finishing points of the season to the rest of Europe because that would help so much," he

"It would give players an actual break during the summer and would fit in with the European Championships and the World Cup."

"It's a question of communications and the domestic leagues need to sit down with the domestic FAs and UEFA and FIFA and find out a way of fitting it all in," he added

Press plots Toshack's downfall ban team who are currently winning skipper Passarella. leading the Primera liga could now coach to Uruguay, is on a determine his fate. huge contract and would not Real are 11th in the Spanish come cheap while former Real

is another favourite. team in the Spanish capital be-Toshack at least knows his team is guaranteed a place in the next phase of the European Champions League but Sunday's trip to Rayo Vallecano, the newly promoted Madrid subur-

pions.

withdraws from FIFA chief's tour DUBAI, Nov 4: A Saudi delegate due to accompany FIFA chief Joseph Blatter on a Middle East tour has decided to withdraw from the trip because it included a stop in Israel, the

Emirates' Al-Khaleej newspa-

per said Wednesday, reports

Saudi delegate

Abdullah al-Dibl, a member of the Asian Football Federation, was due to be part of the tour party during its visits. which also include Jordan and the Palestinian territories. Blatter was expected to ar-

rive in Saudi Arabia on

Thursday for talks with Prince

Sultan bin Fahd bin Abdel Aziz,

who holds a post equivalent to

minister of sports.

hind Rayo and Atletico. They have not won a domestic league fixture since August 29. Toshack will be well aware Sanz judges his coaches by a domestic yardstick. In 1998 he sacked German Jupp Heynckes hours after victory in the European Cup Final.

Last year he fired Dutchman

Guus Hiddink just weeks af er

Real became world club cham-

first division and - in spite of

being reigning world champi-

ons - are only the third best

Both went because Real were being eclipsed domestically by Barcelona and Toshack knows the knives are being sharpened. But the fact that Real are now the third best team in, Madrid represents a new low point in the team that statistically is the most successful in

Toshack also has to justify

the huge overhaul of the team

European football history.

he began in the summer.

He offloaded players such as Davor Suker (to Arsenal) and Predrag Mijatovic (to Fiorentina) and spent a fortune on players including French striker Nicolas Anelka, who joined the club from English side Arsenal for 37 million dol-

Anelka has yet to score a goal for his new team.

Called to the squad, mean-

The first leg of the playoff TEAM

Defenders: Alpay Ozalan,

Valderrama, a veteran of

Known as "El Pibe" (The Kid), Valderrama, who was named most valuable player in the league in 1996, started 27 games

That alone "will change my life for ever" said Agassi after ANDRE AGASSI CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 41 Grand-2 Itsy-bitsy 22 Greatly 1 Weirs 23 Glove 5 Recede 43 Beetle 3 Uncategothread 8 Songrizable 25 Irish 46 Drug writer (Abbr.) folk Jacques clinic 4 Quick dance 12 "Take goings-on 5 "The 26 "Born in 50 Sharpen 13 Bill's 51 "Scarof the 27 Eponypartner borough Rose" mous 14 Sported Fair" herb author sitcom 15 Pasadena 54 "Rule, 6 Violinist 29 lodine event Britannia" need source 17 Not 31 "Four composer 7 Audafixed 55 Northern cious score and 18 Host diver 8 Safari seven 19 Recip-56 Landed years ---57 Gardener's ients 9 City near

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> FACT THAT ALERT CORN FARMERS ARE ALL EARS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals E The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

up there give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.