### Home calling Leonardo

MILAN, Italy, Nov 17: AC Milan's Brazilian star Leonardo wants to return to his homeland in January, hopefully returning to the Rio de Janeiro club Flamengo where he began his career, it was reported Friday, reports AFP.

Leonardo, a member of his country's 1994 World Cup winning squad although he was suspended for the later stages. told journalists he hoped the Italian first division team will | night, reports AFP. allow him to depart in the new contract expires. "My situation here is a bit strange", said l.eomakes no sense. Injuries have League stopped me playing with continuity so I have asked the club to let me go a few months early.

"Milan is still close to my heart, however, and whatever decision is taken will be taken in accordance with the club which I informed of my problems a few days ago.

"I merely informed the directors what my problems are and we will decide quietly together. If (coach Alberto) Zaccheroni needs me I will stay until the end of June.

Thirty-one-year-old nardo - full name Leonardo Nascimento do Araujo - made it clear he would not be looking he would return ideally to Fla-

He has had a much-travelled career playing in his homeland with Flamengo and Sao Paulo. in Spain with Valencia and with Japanese outfit Kashima Antlers. He also played in France with Paris St Germain before moving to Milan

### Curbishley may be offered England role

LONDON. Nov 17: Charlton have given the Football Association (FA) permission to speak to Alan Curbishley about joining the England coaching setup, reports AFP.

The London Premiership club denied reports here Thursday that they had already agreed to allow their manager to take up such a role, after Leicester boss Peter Taylor and Manchester United number two Steve McClaren took charge of the team who lost 1-0 in Italy on Wednesday night.

But with new England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson unavailable until next July because of club commitments with Lazio, the FA are expected to again turn to some of the country's bright young coaches for the friendly with Spain in February.

"The position is that we have given Adam Crozier of the FA lengta retaining dominance formal permission for Howard albeit with a mere six-point Wilkinson to speak to Alan cushion over 10th-placed side about any role that he might | Oviedo, reports AFP. want him to play." said Charlton chief executive Peter Var-

tion takes place and if after that | fixtures which has five of the Alan wishes the matter to pro- | top seven clubs travelling away. ceed, the FA would then have to make a formal approach to the has been reached.

"Obviously it is flattering to both Alan and to Charlton that the FA are interested in him. but we have to consider the interests of our club before

those of the national team. The FA later confirmed that they had made an official approach to Curbishley for him to become involved in their newlyestablished part-time group of emerging English coaches.

An FA spokesman revealed: "Alan Curbishlev has been approached by the Football Association with Charlton's approval with a view to him joining the FA's coaching programme at all

taken as to what exactly his involvement would be."

#### Xavier ban reduced

LAUSANNE. Switzerland Nov 17: The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Thursday reduced the nine-month suspension of Portuguese defender Abel Xavier to six

months, reports AFP. The original suspension was imposed by European football's governing body UEFA over an incident following Portugal's

finals last June. Zidane went on to convert deserved 3-2 scoreline. sending France to the final and

appeal the decision.

Portugal into a rage.

mitted to a team of three CAS | over second-placed Bayern.

Lausanne headquarters.

aren't as serious as they ini-

statement that they were satis-

Serie A preview

### Lazio wait for Milan



Lazio again top the Italian First likely to make way. Division bill this weekend when

year six months before his at Juventus Lazio will this time have home advantage as they battle with the other surviving nardo. "Staying here at Milan Italian team in the Champions lems at the San Siro since it

on Saturday evening will take out the sun - mean good centre stage another match taking place a few hours earlier at the San Siro may yet prove a more significant encounter.

less than a week after losing on home soil to another of Serie A's less glamorous sides Lecce and Zaccheroni has already had a a further setback might start the clock ticking on the reign of from the club's vice-president coach Marco Tardelli who has Adriano Galliani continued only been in the job for five good form in the continental

While it is probably too early even for Inter's notoriously trigger-happy president Massimo Moratti to eject Tardelli if Perufor another Italian club, saving gia prevail it would certainly leave the coach in the uncomfortable position of knowing that unless he turns the team around soon that he may yet be out of the door before Christ-

Moratti - after all - has fired eight coaches in his five-year period at the helm of the club and the festive season - with Italy's midseason break and the reopening of the transfer market - is a logical time for a president to wield the dagger if he feels change is needed.

Tardelli also knows that Perugia have also accounted for one coach this season - last week's 1-1 draw was sufficient for Napoli to sack their coach Zdenek Zeman.

Victory of course would mean Tardelli can start working on his fancy dress outfit for the San Siro Christmas bash and Christian Vieri, still easing his

MILAN. Nov 17: way back after long-term injury left in the division. Italian champions problems, may yet play the full 90 minutes with Robbie Keane visit Napoli with praise coming

is the San Siro quagmire that Mondonico can turn Zeman's they host AC Milan at the makes flowing football an im-Olympic Stadium on Saturday possibility and often means on his debut as coach. more modest teams can more A week after they drew 1-1 easily cope with their theoreti- Verona, who have a tradition of

cally superior hosts. The pitch has been relaid this week but enduring probhad another tier added for the But while the clash in Rome 1990 World Cup - thus blocking pitches have an even shorter shelf life than coaches at Inter.

AC Milan have also been struggling in the league but Inter Milan will host Perugia unlike Inter are still in the Champions League.

Although their coach Alberto couple of raps on the knuckles competition is likely to keep the wolf from his door for the time-

week has also boosted their domestic plight and confirmed the excellent goalscoring touch Ukrainian Shevchenko who is level with AS Roma's Argentinian forward Gabriel Batistuta as Serie A's top scorer with six goals.

The 3-1 victory over Bari last

Shevchenko is being touted as the likely winner of the European Golden Ball and FIFA World Player of the Year award - France's Zinedine Zidane is his only serious rival - and a winner against Lazio would do his cause no harm.

Lazio. meanwhile, are having injury problems with Hernan Crespo and Marcelo Salas not certain of facing Milan. With Claudio Lopez a long-term absentee that would open the door for an all-Italian front pairing of Perugia. Lazio v AC Milan Simone Inzaghi and Fabrizio (19:30)

matches is Napoli's home Bari, Napoli v Atalanta, Udinese match with high-flying Ata- v Reggina. Verona v AS Roma

The Bergamo-based side in from all quarters but Napoli Another problem for Tardelli will be hoping that Emiliano underperformers into winners

> Leaders AS Roma visit getting good results at home against the fat cat sides of Italian football, and will be encouraged by the health problems that may yet rule out Roma's Francesco Totti and Batistuta.

Udinese's brief stay at the top of the First Division - the first in their 104-year history is over but it is not inconceivable that they could return if Roma slip up in Verona and Napoli follow the longestablished football tradition of winning the first game under a new coach.

Udinese are home to Reggina, whose opening day win over Inter has been followed by five consecutive defeats.

Juventus visit Brescia where they will meet their former star Roberto Baggio. If transfer speculation in Italy proves correct winless Brescia may soon be making a move for another former Juventus star Ravanelli although Lazio are holding on until they find out how long Lopez will be injured.

Lecce hope to continue where they left off against Inter with a home win against archrivals Bari while Fiorentina will be bidding for all three points in their home game with Vicenza.

Sunday night sees a resurgent Parma, who knocked Udinese off the top last week, chase another three points at Bologna.

FIXTURES (1400GMT un less stated): Saturday: Inter Milan v

Sunday: Brescia v Juventus, The pick of Sunday's Fiorentina v Vicenza, Lecce v

### lanta. the only unbeaten team Bologna v Parma (19:30) Primera Liga preview

### Valencia's task cut short



premacy continnes in the top half of the Spanish league with Va-

That gives an indication of how tight things really are in the Primera Liga, but they could "If and when that conversa- | prove tighter after a weekend of The top fixture pits Valencia,

sitting top on 20 points thanks club. No such approach has to goal difference, against 4thbeen made and no agreement | placed Alaves. A win for Valencia would secure top spot and keep Alaves at bay from the top in the league with 22 goals, but

An Alaves win, however, coupled with unfavourable results from the league chasers. could spell disaster for Hector Cuper's side, who only escaped from the jaws of defeat with a second equaliser through Diego Alonso at Rayo Vallecano last

the knowledge that six players are returning to action, among them French defender Jocelyn Anglouma and Romanian forward Adrian Ilie.

But at the end of the day Alaves could well prove the "No decision has yet been least of Cuper's worries as a

more voracious pack snarls at misery on Sunday when a 1-2 Valencia's heels, with Spanish home defeat to Villareal was champions Deportivo and Real Madrid making the most ons League elimination, throwthreatening noises. Deportivo also sit on 20 into question too.

points after a 2-0 win against Osasuna, sitting 19th, Deportivo might consider the points already in the bag despite some poor away form at the start of Syndrome' the season.

5-1 thrashing of Las Palmas their top scorer last season. Villareal

The European champions duty with Brazil. currently have the best attack are among those teams who are not averse to conceding a few goals themselves - 14 from 10

Villareal, meanwhile, have already scored a memorable victory over Barcelona at the Nou Camp, and will be looking for similar performance to lift them from the relative dol-

Cuper can at least travel in drums of ninth position, albeit only five points from top spot. Barcelona, whose critics have leant the side a new name after disappointing performances at home, are looking for a way out of their recent slump

as they travel to Real Zaragoza.

added to their recent Champiing their domestic campaign Since the demoralising loss

Real Zaragoza last week, and of their captain Louis Figo to with an away encounter to bitter rivals Real Madrid in the close season pundits have observed a phenomenon that has become known as the "Rivaldo It would seem that the

Real Madrid are also on the Catalan giant struggles without road, and hoping to follow their world player of the year Rivaldo. last week with full honours at who missed Sunday's 1-2 defeat as he was away on national

Zaragoza, sitting in lowly 17th, have a unique chance to pounce on the wounded side while they are down.

Then again, the fickle Barcelona fans demand nothing less than top spot and after humiliation in the Champions League, and surprise defeat to Villareal, Zaragoza would do well to prepare for a Catalan backlash

Saturday's remaining fixtures are Las Palmas - Mallorca, while on Sunday Oviedo play host to Valladolid, Rayo Vallecano host Malaga, Athletic Bilbao head to Espanyol, Celta Vigo host Racing Santander and Real Sociedad welcome Numan-Barcelona suffered more cia.

## Berlin face on-fire Schalke



visit of

Schalke 04 is a guaranteed three points this Saturday, reports AFP.

The northern German outfit played host to champions Bayern Munich last week and came away with full honours after showing character to come

Berlin, meanwhile, are still kicking themselves after losing Xavier and his club English | 2-0 to Borussia Dortmund last Premiership side Everton had Friday. This week, they will be failed in their previous bid to looking for home advantage to work wonders as they attempt However the case was sub- to extend their two-point gap

All eyes this weekend, howcision on November 13 at their ever, will be on third-placed Leverkusen, who welcome for-A statement issued by CAS | mer national coach Berti Vogts said the reasons behind the to the helm after Rudi Voller decision would be made known jumped ship to manage the German national side last week.

> surroundings but certainly spent some of that time getting

The 53-year-old coach, who and led Germany to European took place without notable inci-

leaders matches. And with the knowledge that his side have not been would be mis- beaten at Hamburg since Septaken in thinking tember 1. 1993. Vogts can

### **PSG** fined

PARIS. Nov 17: A French league inquiry on Thursday fined Paris Saint German 500,000 Francs (65,000 dollars) and imposed a suspended fifth spot only four points adrift punishment of having to play a of league leaders Berlin, host game behind closed doors following an incident which occurred after the October 13 win formality. match between PSG and Marseille at Parc des Princes, reports AFP.

Dilly suffered a serious head injury after being hit on the head by a chair thrown from a terrace above.

commission Thursday heard reports from the Parisian security forces present at the match.

into account the gravity of the situation they had to impose a penalty, although they found that preparations for the match had been well laid by security on both sides.

"For the first time in a long dent, until this thrown chair 22:40 when the match was over

worry about

Bayern Munich, if recent stats are anything to go by, should collect full honours at home on Saturday to visiting

five wins and 17 points, have failed to win a single match away from home and face a formidable task in attempting to reverse that trend in Bayaria.

Kaiserslautern, sitting in lowly Freiburg, sitting in 16th, for what should also be a home

celebrating last weekend's win over champions Bayern despite Young Marseille fan Geoffroy the midweek news that striker Helko Herrlich is suffering from a brain tumour.

Herrlich, 28, had already been absent from the match against Hertha Berlin last Fri-The League disciplinary day after complaining of eye problems.

> Undoubtedly, all thoughts will be with Herrlich as Dortside Bochum on Sunday. Friday night's match fea-

the 15th-placed side. Saturdays's Cottbus.

Blanc Marseille's next general manager?

MARSEILLE, Nov 17: Marseille chief Robert Louis-Dreyfus announced here Friday that former French international Laurent Blanc will be the next general manager of the crisis-ridden club, according to representatives from Marseille's supporters' groups, reeports If Blanc retires next June, he

will be sought out for the post. Blanc, a former Marseille player who now plays with Inter Milan. retired from the international side following France's . victory in Euro 2000 in July. -At the same meeting Louis-

Dreyfus, the majority shareholder at the club, confirmed that former French international Luis Fernandez was his "priority" to replace outgoing Brazilian coach Abel Braga.

Fernandez, a former player and coached at bitter Marseille rivals Paris St Germain, would give his answer to the job offer either "tomorrow, or after tomorrow", namely Saturday or Sunday.

He did not attend the meeting, at which Louis-Dreyfus assured that Friday night's home encounter to Metz, who sit one place and four points ahead of Marseille, sitting in 16th, would be Braga's last.

in the event of Fernandez turning down the hottest coaching seat in French football, Louis-Dreyfus proposed two other options to the demanding supporters' groups current Lorient (French second division) coach Christian Gourcuff and Yugoslav Ivica Osim. currently in charge at Austrian outfit Sturm Graz, who have qualified for the second phase of the Champions League.

### Second analysis opposes Daum's positive test

KOBLENZ, Germany, Nov. 17: Disgraced former Bayer Leverkusen coach Christoph Daum, sacked for suspected use of cocaine, has carried out a fresh analysis of a hair sample - this time proving negative according to German daily Bild, reports AFP.

Daum was due to take over as German national coach in June 2001, but was ruled out. then sacked from his chib post after a hair sample he volunknown as "Zico", caused all teered for analysis following sorts of problems for the Malayadverse media reports showed sian defence, teasing them and traces of cocaine.

He then fled to Florida in the United States on October 21, where he carried out a second analysis by an IOC-accredited doctor at the American medical laboratory on November 6 in a bid to prove his innocence. The result, revealed on No-

vember 10, proved negative. According to Daum's lawyer, Dr Stankewitz, this is enough to deem Daum as "rehabilitated". "The result is clearly negative," said Stankewitz, "Daum is

rehabilitated". The 46-year-old Daum. meanwhile, declared to Bild "That result proves I am clean. He added: "For me the result was expected because I knew that the first analysis had

nothing to do with me." Before returning to Germany Daum is investigating other avenues which could help clear him entirely, and help him continue working as a coach.

German legal sources, however, said that the new test would have no consequences on the case against

"There is no way we will ask to see this test result, because we do not know under what conditions it was carried out. said the Koblenz prosecutor Regine Appenrodt.

#### Asian youth soccer Japan escapes with a draw

TEHRAN, Nov 17: A last gasp goal from defender Soto Nakazawa saved Japan from defeat at the hand of Oman at the Asian under-19 youth championships here Thursday. reports AFP.

Nakazawa's volley in injury time put the scores level at 2-2 after Hassan Sarim had put the Gulf side ahead in the 90th

Japan had taken the lead in the 10th minute when Yamase's Frankfurt, sitting ninth with left foot drive went in off the

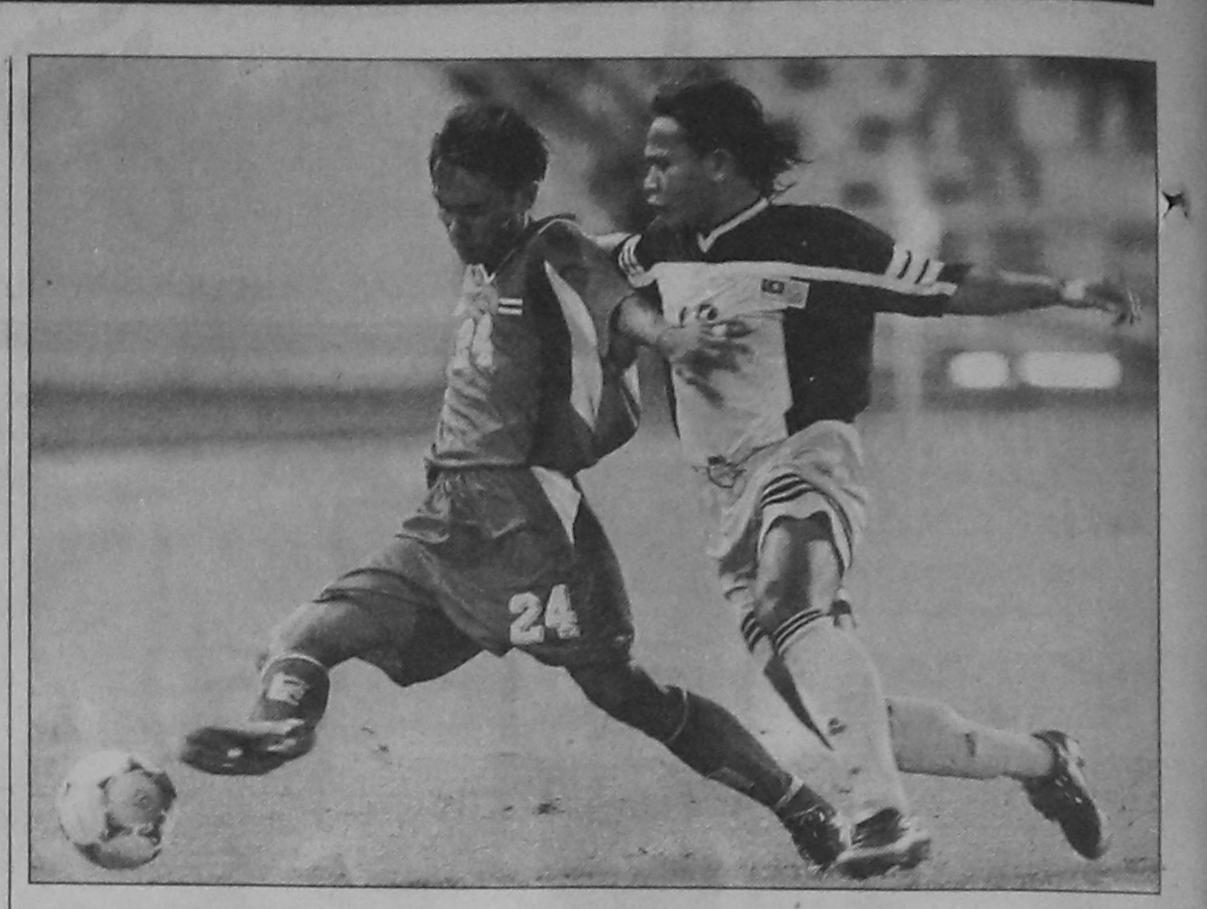
> The Japanese were well on top at that stage and should have gone further ahead, but the Oman defence managed to

hold firm. Oman coach Jorvan Viera's half-time talk worked wonders as it was a different side that came out for the second period. They were rewarded in the 53rd minute with an equaliser from man of the match Ahmed Khalid Ba Alawi.

> Van der Sar vows to stay and fight

TURIN. Italy. Nov 17: Juventus goalkeeper Edwin van his place with the Italian First Division giants despite a series that have made his position

men, while Sunday's second goalkeeper while Uruguayan match sees second-bottom side goalkeeper Fabian Carini is Unterhaching host 13th-placed expected to join Juventus in January



Thailand's Tananchai Boriban (L) struggling to keep possession against Muhammdad Anuar of Malaysia during their Tiger Cup semifinal clash on November 16. -AFP photo

Tiger Cup

### Hosts march into final



ended Malaysia's hopes of a place in the final of the Tiger Cup compe tition with two goals in the first half of play in their semi-final match at the Rajamangala Stadium Thursday night, reports

17: • Thailand

The Thais, who were definitely the superior side, could have won by a bigger margin but missed some easy goals as Malaysia put up a gallant fight in the second half. Thailand, urged on by more

than 20,000 screaming fans went into the offensive with some terrific moves on both flanks that had the Malaysian defence backpedalling in desperation to keep the Thai strikers at bay. Kiatisuk Senamuang, also

wrong-footing them at every

The crowd screamed every urged him on to score. He nearly did so in the 14th and defence. 16th minutes, when he missed goals by inches.

when he hammered in a cross chan from the right, past Malaysian goalkeeper Kamarulzaman Has-Thailand continued their on- gained its footing in the game slaught and in the 34th minute

who hit the mark with his shot. Thailand could have led by more goals but the Malaysian the scoreline down.

effort just skimmed the bar.

time Zico touched the ball and strung some fine passes to-

Hairuddin Omar saw a header go wide of the right post However in the 30th minute and Anuar's free kick saved by he put Thailand in the lead the Thai keeper Wirat Wang-

and mounted some dangerous they led 2-0 after Senamuang dribbled past a defender on the the unmarked Tawan Sripan

match both sides' play slowed goalkeeper worked hard to keep scoring was in the opening their two-goal margin. minutes of the second half, but

Malaysia, who were completely outplayed in the first half, stepped up their game and gether to pressure the Thai

But Malaysia, who dominated for a 10-minute spell, lost momentum as Thailand re-

But the Malaysian defence left before passing the ball to held firm and created some good chances with striker Azman Adnan testing the Thai's goalkeeper on two occasions. Towards the end of the

considerably and hosts Thai-The closest Malaysia came to land appeared content with The Thai's face Indonesia in Muhammad Anuar's long range the final of the Cup this week-

Premiership preview

# All eyes on Manchester derby



From the moment Paul Dickov slid

Manchester City last May, the thoughts of all their supporters turned to the following month's publication of the fixture list.

reports AFP. When the moment arrived there was only one name and one date the City faithful were looking for - the Manchester clesfield. derby. Their agonising wait comes

to an end Saturday morning

when City play host to Manchester United in front of a sellout crowd at Maine Road. The last time the teams met in the Premiership was on April 6 1996. United won 3-2 that day to complete a double over

their local rivals and a month later they lifted the title. For City, however, fortunes could not have been more contrasting. They were relegated to the First Division before falling further from grace two years

The once mighty City, who won the European Cup Winners Cup 28 years earlier, were condemned to the Second Division anything can happen and even in May 1998 - despite the efforts of coach Joe Royle, appointed three months earlier

after Frank Clark's sacking. die' spirit endeared him to the City supporters whilst playing predictable. for the 'Blues', worked his magic and United's poor relations found themselves rubbing shoulders with the cream of English football two seasons

later after successive promo-Little has changed for United since City's sojourn in the lower divisons. After 13 matches, the reigning champions are sitting manager Ferguson immediately pretty at the top of the Pre- ruled him out of England's (2000GMT)

miership with 30 points, two friendly with Italy on Wednesahead of second-placed Arsenal. day. City, meanwhile, have strug-

behind their illustrious neigh- for showdown with City But despite the poor start to ous as we first thought," he the campaign. City could have said only dreamed of facing United

And it is for that reason that well City fans are counting down the hours to Saturday's eagerly- the squad for the derby match

four of the last 35 Manchester very good news." derbies. Northern Ireland manager Sammy McIlroy, who rep- Norwegian international Ronny resented both clubs in his Johnsen is back in training playing days, believes an upset following his ankle injury and

pean champions.

should not be ruled out. "United go into the match struggling," he said.

goes out the window when it thigh problem. comes to derby matches. red-hot favourites and rightly so, but in a two-horse race

red-hot favourites have an off should win, but it wouldn't But Royle, whose 'never-say- surprise me if City got a result because derbies can be so un-

"City will be champing at the bit to try and unsettle United."

United's young defender Wes

Brown is set to make a surprise

comeback from his knee injury

came off during last weekend's

in time for Saturday's clash.

However United's assistant gled on their return to the top bass Steve McClaren said flight, currently languishing Brown's right knee has settled fifth from bottom, 14 points down and that he should be fit "Fortunately it is not as seri-

It turns out that he just 24 months earlier when they shook the knee up a bit after were travelling to places such landing awkwardly on it. He as Wycombe. Lincoln and Mac- has had a couple of days' rest and it has settled down very

awaited visit of the 1999 Euro- against Manchester City on Saturday morning. We're Although City have won just hopeful he'll be fit and that's In a further boost for United.

"Wes is now looking to be in

could figure on Saturday. Skipper Roy Keane should top of the league, while City are also shrug off his tight hamstring while Paul Scholes is "But I think the form book expected to recover from his

Andy Cole is definitely out "Of course United will be after having an Achilles operation, while Norwegian striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is

doubtful with an ankle injury.

Rvan Giggs is making good

progress following a hamstring "Of course I think United injury but he does not expect to

(kick-off FIXTURES 1500GMT unless stated):

Saturday: Charlton v Chelsea. Derby v Bradford, Everton v Arsenal, Leeds v West Ham. Manchester City v Manchester United (1130GMT), Middlesbrough v Leicester. Newcastle v The club feared Brown could Sunderland. Southampton v

be out for several weeks after he Aston Villa Sunday: Tottenham v Liverwin over Middlesbrough and pool (1600GMT) Monday: Coventry v Ipswich

# Friendlies irks Brown



Scotland coach Craig Brown on Thursday pulled the plug on World Cup warm-up friendlies follow-

Brown was shocked by his side's lack of application against a lively Socceroos side that clearly showed more desire

ing the dismal Hampden Park

defeat by Australia, reports

Now he has concluded that

a lucrative tournament in India plus an offer from Wales to play in Cardiff before Belgium visit the national stadium in March.

Scotland have turned down

begin level on points at the top of the group. Now the Scots will make do with a squad gathering in February to prepare for the visit of

Robert Waseige's Belgium team. Brown said: "We have got to up the level of enthusiasm and effort. It's a subconscious thing for a lot of the guys because they are playing in Europe and

but the incentive is not there

when it's not for points. They are only human. After the 1-1 draw in Croatia last month, a number of Croat

stars declared they would win

at Hampden because Scotland were a counter-attacking team that could not dictate the game in front of their own crowd. So far, the Scots have all lost,

But Brown insisted: "Up until the play-off game with England we had a very good record at home. Then we lost to the

Czech Republic and broke it. "Hopefully we can get back to that. The games that we lost against England and France we "It's not a deliberate thing played OK and were unfortu-

such behaviour.

Bundesliga preview

controversial exit to France during the Euro 2000 semi-The 27-year-old was accused of "violently grabbing the arm of the linesman", Austrian Gunter Benko, who awarded an extratime penalty which Zinedine from behind twice to register a

judges who deliberated the de-

"Although the circumstances | Vogts undoubtedly spent all of the case, of which the blame | week getting used to his new points decidedly at Abel Xavier, tially appeared to UEFA to know his players, and authorities, the CAS group has sounding out those of Hamhowever decided to impose a burg, who host Leverkusen this tough penalty to discourage the | Saturday. repetition of such behaviour against referees," the statement | won the World Cup as a player while this PSG-Marseille match

UEFA added in a separate glory in 1996, has his work cut out against the league's most resulted in a serious injury at thed that the CAS had decided formidable attack, on 29 goals. to impose tough measures for Leverkusen, however, can for several minutes," the LNF boast the best defence, having said in a statement.

BERLIN. Nov 17: conceded only 11 goals in 12 travel without too much to

The LNF decided that taking

Frankfurt.

Borussia Dortmund are still

mund travel to bottom-placed der Sar Friday vowed to fight for tures Stuttgart at home to 1860 of blunders in recent games Munich, with the Bavarian out-

fit in with a chance of a positive insecure at the Stadio Delle away result, at least a draw, at Alpi, reports AFP. The Dutch goalkeeper has remaining faced calls from supporters for matches are Cologne - Rostock | reserve Michelangelo Rampulla and Wolfsburg - Werder Bre- to replace him as first-team

and ran out comfortable 2-0 winners on Wednesday.

> his players have trouble motivating themselves for anything other than the big matches and has therefore scrapped plans for more non-competitive games.

That crucial World Cup qualifier is sure to have a big bearing on the destiny of Group 6 as both sides are likely to

the Champions League and this

was billed as a friendly.

three matches in the revamped Hampden, all by 2-0 scorelines. to France, England and now Australia.