BARCELONA, Dec 2: Leading Japanese international striker Akinori Nishizawa completed his loan signing to the Spanish Cup winners Espanyol on Friday, reports AFP.

The 24-year-old, who was one of the stars of Japan's recent Asian Cup triumph scoring five goals, became only the second Japanese player ever to play for a top Spanish side international teammate Shoji Jo played 15 times for Valladolid during a six month spell in 1999-2000 - when he signed a contract that will take him up to June 2001.

Nishizawa, who was accompanied by 50 Japanese journalists, said he was honoured to be getting the chance to play for Espanyol, who are currently eighth in the Primera Liga but look like exiting the UEFA Cup having lost 2-0 at home to Portuguese giants Porto in their third round first leg tie last

"It's an honour to come to Espanyol and to have the chance to play in a team such as this," said Nishizawa.

"Playing in Spain is the best thing that could ever happen for my career.

Australia From page 13

his innings to be missed by a diving Daren Ganga, at backward point, off fast bowler Mervvn Dillon, at a decisive stage, with Australia in an uncertain position with 159 for four.

That was one of four catches to go to ground on a horror day in the field for the demoralised tourists.

Early in the day, opening batsman Matthew Hayden (69) was missed at 53 and 58, and in the final session Gilchrist survived a chance at 43.

Hayden's first "life" came when he cracked the ball back to veteran fast bowler Courtney Walsh, who was unable to hang on to the low chance as the ball bent back the ring finger of his right hand. Walsh was rushed to hospi-

tal in severe pain for X-rays. which revealed no damage apart from bruising. The 38-year-old was able to

resume in the afternoon session when he produced his best spell of the tour as he trapped Steve Waugh and Gilchrist. The two successes boosted

his Test wickets tally to 486. leaving him needing only 14 more to become the first bowler in the game's history to collect 500 scalps.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second Test between Australia and the West Indies at the WACA Ground on Saturday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 196 (R Jacobs 96 not out. W Hinds 50. M Dillon 27: J Gillespie 3-46. G McGrath 3-48. S MacGill 2-47. B Lee 2-52)

AUSTRALIA: First innings (72 for two overnight) Hayden b Black Slater c Campbell b Dillon Langer c Sarwan b McLean Gillespie c Lara b McLean M Waugh c Adams b Dillon S Waugh c Campbell b Walsh Ponting b Black Gilchrist c McLean b Walsh Lee not out MacGill not out Extras: (w-2, lb-10, nb-7, b-2) 21 Total: (For 8 wkts decl in 108 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-52, 2-62, 3-111, 4-123, 5-188, 6-208, 7-303. 8-348

Bowler Walsh Black 29 4 130 Dillon McLean Adams WEST INDIES: Second innings

Campbell e Gillespie b Lee Ganga not out

Dillon e Gilchrist b McGrath Total: (For 2 wkts in 6.3 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-16

Badani bails

From page 13

Carlisle not out A Flower st Dahiya b Tendulkar G Flower c Yuvraj b Agarkar Whittall c Agarkar b Prasad Streak b Prasad Viljoen run out Friend not out Extras: (lb-8, nb-6, w-9) Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 253 | reports AFP. Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-142, 3-168, 4-206, 5-231, 6-245, 7-

Bowler Zaheer Prasad Agarkar Joshi 0 43 0 0 31 Sodhi 0 22 Tendulkar INDIA Ganguly c Campbell b Viljoen Tendulkar e Streak b Viljoen Dravid run out Yuvraj Ibw b Murphy Badani not out

Sodhi run out Dahiya c and b Murphy Joshi Ibw b Streak Agarkar not out Extras: (lb-10, w-11, nb-5) Total: (For 7 wkts in 47.2 overs) 255 Fall of wickets: 1-102, 2-109. 3-122. 4-129. 5-144. 6-

204. 7-205 OMRW Bowler 0 36 Friend 10 0 55 Olonga 9.2 0 38 Streak Murphy 0 45 9 0 46 Viljoen

Result: India won by three wickets. Man-of-the-match: Hemang Badani.

Next match: December 5.

G Flower

6 0 25



Wenger voices his concern

Wenger the validity of the Football Association's controver

sial video panel as he waits for the verdict on whether Arsenal's French midfielder Patrick Vieira will be charged with misconduct, reports AFP.

Referee Dermot Gallagher booked seven Arsenal players in the Gunners' 1-0 defeat at Leeds last Sunday but took no action against Vieira over two incidents which involved the hosts' Olivier Dacourt and Eirik Bakke.

Even so the Football Association (FA) has called in its panel, comprising former players and other famous football figures, to recommend whether or not Vieira has a case to an-

The panel, whose names are not made public when they sit on particular issues, was brought into operation before the start of the season to act on incidents which referees miss but which are shown up on

But Arsenal boss Wenger. who fears Vieira could be hit with another three-match ban. said: "I thought the idea of the panel was to make a judgement on something the referee

But I have watched the film of the Leeds game which seems to come up every 15 minutes on Sky Television, and it is clear that the referee's posi-

perfect - spot-on. "I have always said that video reviews are fine if all 10 games in a weekend are taken. but not just one.

"Second, if you are going to judge something which the referee has already seen you



The FA say that, five days after the Elland Road match. the recommendation from the video panel has not yet been received and that there will be no further announcement until tioning in both incidents is Monday at the earliest.

But it is understood that Gallagher, criticised by Wenger straight after the match for being unfair with the number of bookings he handed out to Arsenal players, is not convinced there was any malicious intent in either incident.

Vieira is shown on film in a head-to-head confrontation with Norwegian star Bakke and flicking an outstretched foot from a sitting position towards his fellow Frenchman Dacourt. No matter what the video

panel decide, the final choice whether to charge Vieira is with FA chief executive Adam Crozier, and Wenger said: "I don't want to interfere in this matter until the decision comes out. "All I can say is that I will be

happy if Patrick is not charged but sad if he is."

It is understood that Wenger, who has an appeal lodged against his own 12-match touchline suspension imposed

earlier this season, is in the mood to fiercely dispute any punishment that might b meted out to his midfield star. ARSENE WENGER

lennart expresses doubts will prove that."

tches in the 2002 World Cup was quoted as saving.

in Saturday's Korea Times in an what have you. interview at a symposium on pan, reports AFP.

cer official, chairman of the Tokyo and Seoul. international organising committee for the 2002 finals, ex-right decision," he said. "history 2002.

SEOUL. Dec 2: pressed pessimism however. "If people try to be realistic. FEFA president Lennart Johans- it will not be easy to all of a North Korea this month to son said it may be sudden, at such a very late study its football facilities. The

Think of the ticketing, the cuss the possible joint hosting. For me it is two minutes transportation, the accommo-

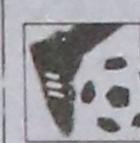
the co-hosting of the 2002 fi- was very much in favour all the cember I next year. nals by South Korea and Ja- time. But time has passed by and for me, its too late.

A FIFA delegation is to go to too late for North moment, go with one or two world body's president Joseph Korea to stage ma- matches in North Korea." he Blatter has said he may go to Prongrang next spring to dis-

He has said a decision must before twelve," Johansson said dation, the media services and be taken before the draw for the finals is made in the South "I would have loved it and I Korean city of Pusan on De-

North and South Korea have South Korea has offered to Johansson expressed confi- made a remarkable breaklet the rival North take at least dence that the first joint hosted through in relations since a one match and world governing World Cup finals and the first summit between their leaders body FIFA has agreed. But staged in Asia would go ahead in June. Athletes from the two North Korea refuses to give an smoothly though he said there sides marched together at the were concerns that there were Sydney Olympics opening The influential Swedish soc- not enough flights between ceremony. And there has been a proposal for a joint team at "I'm sure we have made the the Asian Games in Pusan in

Rivera enters the race



Italian football legend Gianni Rivera emerged on Friday as a possible compromise can-

didate to head the Italian Foothall Federation (FIGC) with the presidential elections for the 23 governing body deadlocked. A new vote will be held on

December 18 after a meeting on November 20 failed to pick a O M R W winner despite four separate ballots in a contest between incumbent president Luciano Nizzola and his challenger Giancarlo Abete.

> Abete upped the ante on Friday by proposing Rivera - a former President of AC Milan and a former Italian Senator as a unifying candidate but the former "Azzurri" international said he would only consider standing if unanimously supported. Rivera said: "I am grateful

for the nomination but I will not be available - as I have not been on other occasions - for a candidature against someone else or one that is not unanimous and does not have the support of the different components of the FIGC electoral base.

Rivera formed a great striking partnership with Luigi Riva. Rivera scoring 14 times in 60 appearances while Riva netted 35 in 42, but he was discarded for the World Cup final against Brazil in 1970.

While he enjoyed huge success at club level inspiring AC Milan, whom he had joined

aged 16, to 1962 European nine men, and then humiliated Cup glory at the home of foot- by North Korea four years later. ball Wembley the World Cup rarely gave him the rewards he merited despite appearing in that having scored in the quar-

the most violent games of foot- Mazzola at halftime, and then ball ever to disgrace a World the winner against West Ger-Cup finals in 1962 the 'Battle of many in their epic semi-final Santiago' against Chile, which win that he would at last reap the Italians ended with just just reward for his talent.

It looked, however, in 1970 terfinal against Mexico, he re-He was involved in one of placed the ineffective Sandro



An AFP file photo of Cameroon forward Patrick Mboma who yesterday was voted the African-player-of-the-year by African Football Federation.

nables will not be returning to management with Middlesbrough after talks broke down with the English Premiership strugglers on Friday, reports

The former England coach had been touted as a new face at the Riverside Stadium to help beleaguered boss Bryan Robson.

ecutive Keith Lamb admitted high by guiding Shimizu Sthat talks had foundered over Pulse to victory in the Asian Venables' commitments to television, and that he would not be joining the club.

Lamb said: "We have confuture television commitments are incompatible with the role we were offering him here at Middlesbrough.

"We have now brought our discussions to a close. We wish him well in his role as a televimy last game," said Perryman. sion football pundit.

"We can assure our supporters that everyone at Middlesbrough will now continue to focus on the Premier League challenge that lies ahead."

It now appears that Robson will continue in charge into next year. Middlesbrough are currently sitting third from bottom in the 20-team Premier

Before the announcement. Robson had said: "If he (Venables) doesn't take a position here I would be in charge until the end of the season."

Shevchenko gets EU status

MILAN. Dec 2: Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko has been awarded European Union status, meaning his Italian Serie A side AC Milan will no longer have to field him as a foreigner, the club's vice-President Adriano Galliani said on Friday, reports AFP.

"AC Milan are happy to announce that the FIGC (Italian Football Federation) has today agreed to the request to add Andriy Shevchenko to the list of European Union players for

Italian teams," Galliani said. Shevchenko, whose request was granted on the basis of an agreement between the Ukraine and the EU, becomes the latest in a long line of players from non-EU backgrounds to be given such a status although the rules for such a move are confusing.

Galliani had recently joked that he would have to find the Ukrainian bachelor a wife from the EU.

But the move is bound to be seen as an attempt by the FIGC to stave off the threat of legal action made by Galliani after a recent court ruling in a case involving Nigerian player Ikpe Prince Ekong.

Sagnol can't believe it

PARIS, Dec 2: Bayern Munich's French international defender Willy Sagnol said on Friday he had been deeply shocked at seeing Marseille assistant coach Christophe Galtier take his place on the bench for the match with Bastia last Saturday, reports AFP.

Sagnol, who played for Monaco last year, was speaking out on his website against Galtier's appointment as fulltime assistant coach following the latter's involvement in the infamous Marseille-Monaco half-time tunnel fracas with Monaco's Argentine midfielder Marcelo Gallardo on April 8.

Sagnol said: "I'm profoundly shocked. I couldn't believe my

Galtier, who was drafted in as caretaker coach for last Saturday's away trip to Bastia but has reverted back to assistant following the appointment of Javier Clemente as coach, was suspended by the club last April for the assault on Gal-

Sir Alex hails Graham

LONDON. Dec 2: Sir Alex Ferguson has praised his old friend George Graham for keeping his nerve while under constant criticism from some Tottenham lans, reports AFP. Ferguson claims the Totten-

ham boss will never be accepted by a section of the club's supporters because he managed their north-London rivals Arsenal and that they use that as a stick to beat him with when results go badly. Graham has had to endure repeated calls for his head this

season from some trate fans and Ferguson admires the way he has not flinched despite this intense pressure. And the Manchester United manager believes Graham Is now beginning to turn Totten-

to Old Trafford on Saturday. "It's difficult for George with him having been at Arsenal and I think that's the crux of the matter as far as I'm concerned, said Ferguson.

ham around ahead of their visit

"I think that's a lot of the reason why some of the fans vent their feelings against George if they feel the team is not doing as well as they feel it should be doing. "But what he has done well

is held his nerve, he's kept his

cool, he's not panicked and his

experience has shone through. "He's a smashing manager, a terrific manager and we've had in November, has been put some great battles when he was back indefinitely. at Arsenal.

Venables' Boro deal falls thru' Perry Velondon, Dec 2: Terry Velondo

Asian Super Cup final today



England defender Steve Perryman is

Super Cup, the first leg of which takes place here on Sunday, reports AFP.

cluded that Terry's present and holders face Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia, the Asian club champions, with a place in the second World Club Championships. due to take place in Spain next time. year, on offer for the winners. "The second leg is definitely

> months ago not to renew his contract with the club. good people, a good club and some good players after a very happy five years but I've no

who decided a couple of

Shimizu are seeking to become the third club from Japan

SHIMIZU. Japan. to lift the trophy following Yo- the season. 2: Former kohama Flugels in 1995 and J-Tottenham and League champions Jubilo Iwata a former star -- international

in the Asian Club Champion- sign for a professional club in But Middlesbrough chief ex- Japanese coaching career on a ship final earlier this year to England when he joined first regain the title they first won in division Wolves in September. 1991, are hoping to repeat their Asian Super Cup victory of Khamis Owairan, who has been

The Asian Cup Winners Cup of the Asian Cup final in Octo- Sergio Ricardo who scored all ber in Beirut, where the Japa- four of the goals in the semi-

suffered setbacks recently.

Shimizu, the highest scorers serious knee injury. in the J-League last season. managed to finish third in the domestic league first stage but "I'm sad to be leaving some then shumped to a lowly 13th in the second stage

Their poor form meant defender Rvuzo Morioka was their doubt I have made the right only player to make it to the Japan squad for the Asian Cup. Brazilian midfielder Santos was allowed to leave at the end of

At Hilal will also be without striker Sami Al Jabet, who be-Al Hilal, who defeated Iwata came the first Saudi player to

They will also be without suspended by the Saudi foot-It will be a rematch of sorts ball federation. Brazilian striker nese national team defeated final and final victories that Saudi Arabia 1-0 to become the took them to the Asian Club Asian champions for a second Championship, who was only playing on loan from Galata-However, both teams have saray, and Kuwaiti striker Jassem Al Houwaidi, who has a

But national team goalkeeper Mohammad Al Daeyea. a veteran of two World Cups and the most capped active player currently in the Saudi side, is ready to avenge his side's loss to Japan in the

The second leg will be held in Rivadh on December 11.

if Bobby was still with us now

could do some of the things Rio

pace Rio possesses. Rio is good

in the air and exceptionally

comfortable with the ball on the

everyone was in his reading of

the game, because his mind

was so sharp. Bobby had this

aura about him that made him

West Ham, but in terms of abil-

ity Rio has more going for him

Redknapp is convinced that

Ferdinand will become the

mainstay of England's defence

over the next decade, just as

than Bobby did."

Where Bobby outscored

Revolving round Rio



ing to Harry Redknapp.

LONDON. Dec 2 knapp. ager Peter Taylor that he should be the cornerstone of the England team in the forthcoming friendly against Spain, accord-

The West Ham manager sold Ferdinand to Leeds for 18 million pounds (27 million dollars) a world record fee for a defender.

Saturday, the club managed by

Taylor, who will pick the England team until Sven-Goran Eriksson takes charge next summer. England face Spain on Febultimate tribute when he ruary 28 and although some of the old guard will return to the team. Taylor will be keen to

players he blooded in the friendly against Italy. Redknapp believes Ferdinand should be give the chance to establish himself at the heart of the defence, and reckons he is Lazio boss Eriksson's kind of

stick with many of the younger

player. "I am sure the new England manager will have watched Rio against Italy and been impressed with him." said Red-

Eriksson has Alessandro he'd be saving he wished he Nesta at Lazio who is very similar. Rio is the same type - does. Bobby didn't have the tall, elegant, quick, an outstanding player. I would have thought that he'll be right up

the new man's street. "I don't think we realise what we have got. Given a run in the team and a bit of confidence he could be so special to England. "He is a confident boy who the guy nor of this club. He was

comes out and plays. England Leeds visit Leicester City on have got to pass the ball if we are going to be a football team and Rio is the man who can play in that central position." Redknapp is such a huge fan of 22-year-old Ferdinand.

that he recently paid him the

claimed he was a better player than Hammers legend Bobby Moore. Redknapp played in the same West Ham side as Moore. who skippered England to World Cup victory over West Germany in 1966. But he rates

better all-rounder than Moore. "Rio has much more ability than Bobby Moore," said Redknapp. "I idolised Mooro and he was the absolute top man at

"We were big pals but I know

Upton Park.

centre-back Ferdinand as a

Moore was when he led the country to World Cup glory in "I'm not knocking former England coach Kevin Keegan, but if Glenn Hoddle had re-

mained in charge of the na-

tional side, Rio would be

pushing 30 caps already." said

Redknapp. "Rio is the man to build the England team around -- that is how good I think he is. He is what English football has been crying out for years, someone who can come out from the back with the ball."



Shunsuke Nakamura (L) of Yokohama Marinos is in quest of the ball against Kashima Antlers' Mitsuo Ogasawara during their J-League Final first round encounter in Yokohama - AFP photo vesterday. The match ended goalless.

Wembley not cashing in



the 410 million pounds (615 milhon dollars) needed to construct a 'new' Wembley Stadium are running into difficulties, it was revealed Friday, reports AFP.

Michael Constant, managing director of merchant bankers Chase Manhattan, is trying to collect the cash from the City of London on behalf of Wembley National Stadium Limited

convinced that the money will be found for the ambitious project and that WNSL's business plan stands up, he has had a tough time convincing his hard-nosed counterparts in London of the strength of his difficult and we have to keep argument.

Despite circulating WNSL's prospectus, the required funds have not yet been drawn in and demolition work on the 'old' Wembley, originally due to start hotel and office accommoda-

It is believed that two un-

with the overall repayment package - including interest reaching the Ibillion pounds concerns about a couple of (1.5 billion dollars) mark, there are fears that the whole scheme will be dogged by the kind of negative publicity which has

nium Dome. "The problem for us is that we are not used to doing deals in public," said Constant.

surrounded the ill-fated Millen-

reach a deal with us when they Although Constant remains are reading so many things about the whole scheme "Some have taken the atti-

> risk no matter how much they stand to get back. "It is making life extremely going back and convincing peo-

> tude that it is not worth the

ple that the scheme is right." Though Chase Manhattan have themselves agreed to stump up 50 million pounds (75 million dollars) for the ambitious project, which includes an 80,000-seater stadium, plus

tion, it is the first public admis-LONDON. Dec 2: named banks have pulled out sion that difficulties are being Efforts to raise of discussions altogether and experienced in drumming up support. "It is a tough market just now and banks have expressed

> aspects of the deal," said Constant. "They want to know whether the business plan is robust enough. We believe it is but these concerns still have to be

"We are talking to WNSL and It is very hard for a bank to the Football Association and we are confident that we will get there. It will just take a bit longer than we expected." WNSL officials still confidently predict that the entire

project will go ahead as planned. They have pointed out that the 30 million pounds (45 mil-

addressed.

lion dollars) annual interest payment on the loan - should they receive it - is covered by long-term contracts with the Football Association, Football League and Rugby Football League for their major events to be held at the new stadium for the next 30 years.