ROK friendly

#### Troussier calls up old warriors

TOKYO, Dec 14: Japan coach Philippe Troussier on Thursday called up two 33year-old strikers. Kazuyoshi Minra and Masashi Nakayama, for a friendly with South Korea here next week, reports AFP.

But as expected the Frenchman spared AS Roma midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata from the international duty as the 23-year-old playmaker was currently out of favour at the Scrie A club.

The call-up was a boon for Miura who has just been dumped by his d-League club Kvoto Purple Sanga.

"I will give all I have I am particularly happy in view of the situation I am in." said Miura, a former Asian Football Player of the Year, known as King Kazu to his tans. He has scored 56 goals in 91 international appearances.

"If you look at what he's done for Japanese soccer. Kazu is like a Zico or a Platini or a Beckenbauer." Troussier told the Kyodo news agency. "How can I leave out a player who brings so much light to the team?

It was Miura's first international call-up since the King Hassan Cup in Morocco last

Meanwhile. Nakavama earned a recall after finishing as the J-League's top scorer in 2000 with 20 goals for Jubile

#### SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi (Yokohama). Seigo Narazaki (Nagova)

Defenders: Toshihiro Hattori. Makoto Tanaka (Iwata). Rvuzo Morioka (Shimizu), Naoki Matsuda (Yokohama), Koji Nakata (Kashima)

Midfielders: Toshiya Fijita. Hiroshi Nanami, Daisuke Oku. mokazu Mvojin (Kashiwa). Shunsuke Nakamura (Yokohama). Masashi Motovama (kashinna). Tomovuki Sakai (lchihara). Junichi Inamoto (Osaka ) Gl. Shinji Ono (Urawa)

Forwards: Kazuvoshi Miura Masashi Nakavama (Iwata). Tatsuhiko Kubo (Hiroshima). Atsushi Yanagisawa (Kashima). Hideaki Kitajima (Kashiwa)

#### Ref who reported Wenger charged

LONDON. Dec 14: Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger's forthcoming appeal against a touchline ban could be boosted with the news that the fourth official who reported him - referee Paul Taylor - has himself been charged by the Football Association (FA) for allegedly using "insulting language". reports AFP.

Taylor, new to the top flight' list of match officials this season, reported the Arsenal boss over an incident in the players' tunnel at the end of the Gunners' opening Premiership game at Sunderland on August 19.

Wenger was handed a 12match touchline ban for the incident but has claimed all along that Taylor overreacted and immediately lodged an ap-

Wenger said: "All I have heard is that I can have a second hearing. My appeal has been accepted but I don't know when it will be heard.

Asked whether he was hopeful of the punishment being rescinded or cut, he said: "Cut - it would be a nice Christmas present."

Taylor was charged by the FA following a complaint brought against him by Notts County after a confrontation during a Second Division game at Meadow Lane on October 14.

An FA spokesman confirmed: "The complaint claimed that Mr Taylor used insulting language towards a Notts County player during the home match against Wigan Athletic on October 14, 2000.

"He has 14 days to respond to the charge." A Premier League spokes-

man added: "It's in his own hands at the moment "We note he has 14 days to request a personal hearing. If

and when that happens, we will look at it and take appropriate action if it is deemed neces-Taylor is the first Premier League referee to be charged

with misconduct, although Rob Harris was suspended for a month in the wake of a substitotion mix-up at Tranmere last January and, in September, Steve Lodge was charged by the FA with a "technical irregularity" after failing to book Arsenal duo Patrick Vieira and Silvinho for removing their shirts in goal celebrations.

#### Saddam's son reelected

BAGDAD. Dec 14: Uday Saddam Hussein, the powerful eldest son of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, has been unanimously reelected head of the Iraqi Olympic Committee. the press reported here Thurs-

Uday won the backing of 185 of the 223 members of the body during their annual general

meeting. Last November 36-year-old Uday was also reelected head of 11 Pacific nations with voting the Iraqi Football Federation | rights at a meeting in Vanuatu

And the heir apparent to 99 99 percent of the vote.



Paulo Sergio (C), Bayern Munich's Brazilian forward, finds himself sandwiched between SV Hamburg's Andrej Panadic (L) and Tomas Ujkalusi during their Bundesliga game at Munich - AFP photo on December 13.

#### Bundesliga

### Schalke in pole position



Schalke claimed the unofficial accolade of autumn champi-

ons" in Germany as they lead the way at the season halt way mark after previous leaders Bayer Leverkusen slid to a 3-2 defeat Wednesday at second bottom VfL Bochum. reports AFP.

Schalke, 2-0 winners Tuesday at lowly Unterhaching, have 33 points from 17 matches, two more than Leverkusen, who went down to a hattrick from Bochum's Croatian star Marijo

Marie, 23, was on target on 40 minutes and then netted a pair of second half penalties to nullify second period efforts from Ulf Kirsten and Oliver

ran Kirsten bagged his 163rd goal on his 300th league appearance for the club - but that was scant consolation.

German international vet-

above Stuttgart and out of the rough win." bottom three despite Stuttgart's 4-1 success over Emiracht Pagelsdorf was furious to have

Leverkusen coach Berti

tought hard and gave everything. I can't level any criticism

Munich meanwhile thanked two goals in five second-half minutes from Brazilian sharpshooter Giovane Elber for a 2-1 home success at the Olympic Stadium over Hamburg, who had taken a first-half lead Hirough Sergei Barbarez.

Hamburg have not-won in the Bavarian capital since now in the top six.

Hitzfeld said any kind of win the drop after a 5-2 home suc-

chances to settle ourselves consolidated their position in down. But in the second half we midtable with a 3-2 win at The win moved Bochum did better and wrung out a tailenders Energie Cottbus.

Hamburg counterpart Frank come close to a good result.

"If you get your nose in front Vogts was reluctant to criticise in Munich you have to hold onto it. They hit us with two "We were very unlucky. We catastrophic goals out of noth-

Bayern moved up two places to third, within three points of Reigning champions Bayern Schalke and ahead of Borussia Dortmund on goal difference after Dortmund drew 0-0 at Cologne.

The stalemate put an end to Cologne's run of five straight home successes. Fourth-placed Hertha Berlin slipped back one spot after a 4-

2 home loss to Kaiserslautern. Hansa Rostock eased their Bayern coach Ottmar fears of a long struggle against cess against Werder Bremen "We started off badly and while veteran Thomas Hassler should have taken more of our was on target as Munich 1860

#### French First Division

### Aussie brings PSG down



PARIS. Dec 14: Paris Saint Germain saw their title hopes take a further dive on Wednesday

they lost 2-0 at high-flying Lille, who moved joint second with two goals from Australian star Mile Sterjovski, reports AFP.

Sterjovski, a 21-year-old youth international, scored after 13 and 71 minutes to hand PSG their eighth league loss of the campaign and dump them back in midtable.

home success over Metz would signal an upturn in their fortunes after a disastrous run at home and away.

But there was no such luck for new coach Luis Fernandez as they remain six points behind leaders Bordeaux. "I have ayoung team and

they are still learning," said Fernandez. "We came up against a very confident opponent and we had a few chances. If we'd taken one

of them things would maybe have worked out differently." Wednesday's match was a replay of the sides' match two weeks ago, abandoned due to

rain with the score at 1-1. PSG would have settled for that but Sterjovski had other ideas, firing a rasping effort past Lionel Letizi in the PSG goal and then heading home the

second to clinch the points. Nicolas Anelka and Laurent Robert tried to lift PSG's spirits but they drew a blank against a tightly knit home defence.

#### Scarsella elected OFC president

SYDNEY. Dec 14: Soccer Australia chief Basil Scarsella was Thursday elected president of the Oceania Football Confederation, reports AFP. He replaces controversial

Charlie Zealander Dempsey who quit the post after sparking international football outrage with his nonvote in the 2006 World Cup hosting decision.

Dempsey abstained from the vote to determine who would stage the cup, effectively handing world sport's biggest event to Germany, ahead of favourites South Africa.

He claimed he had been put under intolerable pressure by both nations. Scarsella was elected by the

and immediately took charge. Vanuatu's Johnny Tinsley succeed his father as Iraqi Lulu was the only other con-President. Uday kicked off his tender after Samoa's Tautulu political career last March, win- Roebuck and Adrian Wickham ring a seat in parliament with from the Solomon Islands pulled out prior to the vote. .

through the first half and the Bordeaux having wasted their Parisians luck went from bad game in hand. to worse as Peter Luccin was booked after fouling Edwin Mu- from 20 matches with Sedan

The vellow card means a goal difference on 33. one-match suspension for the tempestuous PSG midfielder.

just like PSG, suffered an at- fifth after a fine 4-1 home win Thursday threatened to lodge a tack of nerves. Having led the over Toulouse. table two weeks ago they suffeat, losing 3-1 to Bastia.

PSG had hoped last week's Marseille was Nantes' first in Edmilson headed the second off the league since October 29. a corner just after the break. but Bastia showed up the Canaries' shortcomings again as sub for Steve MArlet, bagged the Corsicans won with goals the third on the hour and Belfrom Cyril Domoraud on 38 gian Steed Malbranque minutes. Piotr Swierczewski two wrapped things up with the minutes before the break and a fourth on 71 minutes before Nestor Fabbri own goal on the Colombian Victor Bonilla scored

consolation for Nantes, who relegation doglight,

Robert hit the post midway stay a point behind leaders Bordeaux have 34 points

and Lille ahead of Nantes on

Lyon, still harbouring dreams of further Champions Nantes, meanwhile, have, League progress, moved up to

a fine angled drive on five min-Last weekend's defeat to utes and Brazilian defender

Tony Vairelles, just on as a a last-gasp penalty for Tou-Sebastien Mace scored a late louse, who remain deep in the



Mile Sterjovski (L), Lille's Australian striker, exults after scoring one of his two goals against Paris Saint Germain during their French First Division match on December 13. - AFP photo

#### Italian Cup Fiorentina, Milan confirm last four spot

MILAN. Dec 14: Fiorentina and AC Milan joined Udinese and almost certainly Parma in the last four of the Italian Cup Wednesday, reports AFP.

In Bergamo Atalanta won 2-I but missed two penalties and failed to overturn the 4-2 firstleg lead established by Milan at the San Siro. Striker Marco Nappi gave the

home side hope after 13 min-

utes with 'a left-foot shot after

turning on the edge of the Milan

But six minutes later it was Croatian veteran Zvonimir Bo-

ban who restored parity. Cristiano Doni missed a penalty for Atalanta, well saved by Cristian Abbiati and the same goalkeeper denied Nicola Ventola from the spot two minutes from time after Milan's Brazilian central defender Roque Junior was dismissed.

Doni then scored in stoppage time but the match finished 5-4 on aggregate.

Fiorentina lost 3-1 at Brescia but given the fact that the Florence side had won the first leg 6-0 meant that the result was never in doubt.

Argentinian Andres Yllana gave the home side the lead only for Fiorentina's Brazilian striker Leandro to level the score on the night eight minutes after the interval.

Gianluigi Orlandini put the home side back in front from the penalty spot before Uruguayan Alejandro Correa made it 3-1, but given the huge first leg margin there was little celebration for any of the goals.

Udinese had grabbed their place in the semis with a 4-1 victory over Italian champions Lazio on Tuesday night, overturning a 2-1 first leg deficit for a 5-3 aggregate win.

On Thursday Parma will hope for an easy night at the San Siro, having trounced Inter Milan 6-1 in the first leg at the Stadio Ennio Tardini.

#### Hollywood touch for Rome derby

ROME. Dec 14: Hollywood screen stars Leonardo Di Caprio and Cameron Diaz will be faces in the crowd when Lazio face AS Roma in this weekend's Serie A crunch derby match, reports

The actors are in Rome director Martin Scorsese's forthcoming movie 'Gangs of New York' the ANSA news service reported. blighted with drugs and other

#### Bonfrere threatens to go to FIFA

Dutch coach Jo Bontrere on complaint with world football Under-21 international Sid- governing body FIFA over ufered their second straight de- nev Govou scored the first with regular payment of his salary and allowances, reports AFP.

> "When I return from un holidays. I will discuss with the FA officials I will give them some time to pay me It nothing happens. I will have to take my case to FIFA." Bourfrere told a local radio station.

> "We cannot continue to work like this. I have to be paid regularly." he added.

Bonfrere, who is in his second stint as Nigeria coach, is on a monthly salary of 30,000 dollars and recently complained he was owed four months' pay.

The Dutchman left his previous job in Nigeria over nonpayment of his salary after leading the country to soccer gold in the Olympics in 1996.

Several foreign coaches induding Frenchman Philippe Troussier and German Manfred Hoener were also owed several months' pay by the often cashstrapped Nigeria Football Association during their stints with the national squad.

#### Deschamps out until next year

VALENCIA, Spain. Dec 3: Injured Valencia defender Didier Deschamps will not play before the New year, the former France captain said on his website on Saturday, reports

cycling and swimming but it's still painful when I walk." Deschamps said of his badly inflamed ankle strain that he picked up in early November. The 32-year-old said that

"It's recovering slowly, I'm

Valencia, who lead the Spanish league and got off to a winning start in the second phase of the Champions league, were putting him under no pressure and that he felt calm and relaxed at the club he joined in the close Deschamps captained

European Championship victories, winning his 101st cap in the Rotterdamn Euro 2000 final. He also won the Champions League with Marseille and Juventus, where he spent five seasons.

### English League Cup

### Liverpool thru' to semis



tional Michael Owen scored the extra-time goal which put Liverpool on their way to a 3-0 League Cup quarter-final win

over Fulham on Wednesday. eports AFP Fulliam stretched Liverpool to the limit during normal time but the home side wrapped up the game when Czech international Vladimir Smicer and Nick

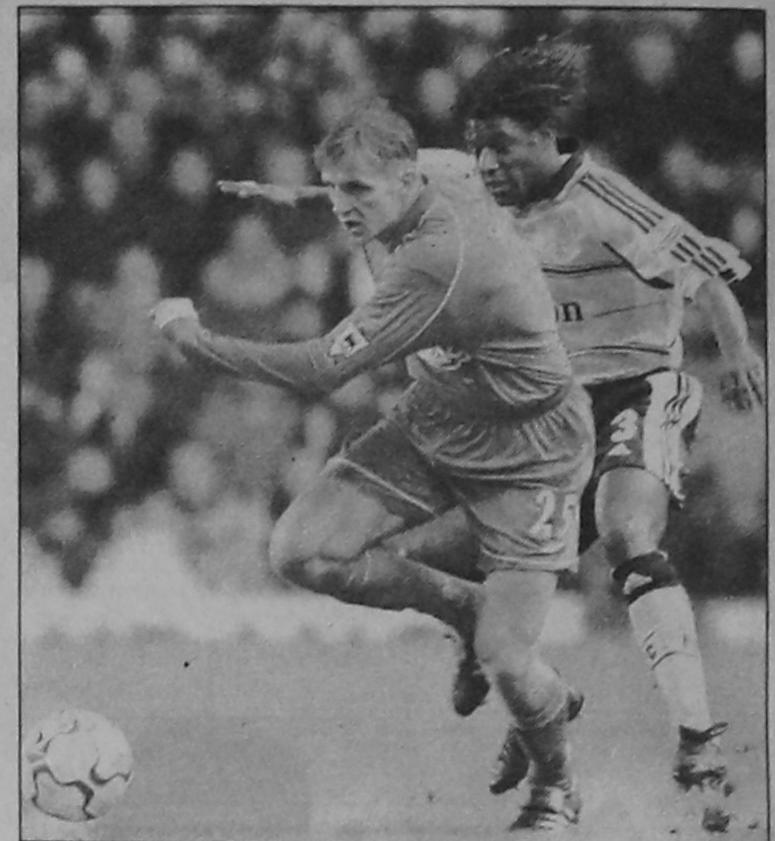
Barmby bagged further goals in the final minutes of extra-time. Liverpool will play the winner of the delayed quarter-final

tie between First Division Crystal Palace and Sunderland. Owen made the breakthrough when he fired in at the second attempt - his first header being blocked on the line by Andy Melville - after a smicer cross from the right. seconds before the extra time

ond with eight minutes remaining. Barmby raced away down the right wing before pulling the ball back for Smicer to place his shot high into the

Liverpool grabbed their sec-

Barmby then raced away to ell in the third in the dying seconds to give the scoreline a lattering look for Liverpool.



Liverpool's fresh recruit Igor Biscan (L) breaking free from Fulham's Rufus Biscan during their English League Cup quarterfinal at Anfield on December 13. - AFP photo

## Diego dedicates it to Cuba



dona, still smarting Brazilian ace Pele over a FIFA prize, flew back into Cuba late Wednesday, saving he hoped to show his newly won award to President Fidel Castro, reports Reuters.

legend Diego Mara-

"I dedicated it to the Cuban backing of FIFA's Football Fampeople, who have treated me marvelously... and especially to the living history that is Fidel Castro," a beaming Maradona told Reuters after landing in Havana, where he has been under medical treatment this

from Europe, where earlier in the week he controversially shared with his great Brazilian rival Pele FIFA's "player of the ate snub to Pele. Maradona left stand-off between the two gicentury" award in Rome.

Maradona was returning

ness," added Maradona, who his. plans to spend a week in Cuba before returning to Buenos Ai- dous pride to have beaten him res for Christmas and New Year (Pele), but I also have a feeling it. The 40-year-old-former soc- to win when he didn't win." he who argued the Web-based vote cer ace, whose career was said.

HAVANA. Dec 14. media spotlight to treat a life-Argentine soccer threatening heart condition. What would have been the

turned into vet another controversy, when Maradona thought Cuban flag in Havana airport. he was the sole winner of FIFA's "Player of the century" award defends his people. That's why I only to find he was sharing it think 50 per cent of this prize is

coaches - while the Argentine ary topped a poll of fans on the association's official Website prize at all. I went to Rome to year at the exclusive health spareceive it out of respect for the he is living in on the outskirts people who voted for me, but if of Havana.

there is a man who does not

Maradona insisted in Cuba. In what appeared a deliber- times and Brazilians and the Monday night's gala awards ants of world soccer came after "Before going back to Ar- ceremony in Rome early after weeks of rancor over the terms gentina. I wanted Fidel to see a taking his own prize and before of the awards. prize won with absolute clean- Pele took the stage to collect

of pity for someone who wants

2000 in Cuba where Castro hoof so they could put Pele's to swing the vote Maradona's

has often been critical of FIFA throughout his career.

Maradona and his manager highlight of his year, however. Guillermo Coppola proudly displayed their prize next to a

"I defended football as Fidel Cuban and 50 per cent Argen-The Brazilian won the tine, he added, paving tribute also to Cuban doctors who have ily - officials, journalists and been treating him since Janu-

Castro, whom Maradona

considers a personal friend, has "No. no. I didn't share the visited the Argentine twice this The parallel FIFA votes for know how to lose, it is Pele. Pele and Maradona sparked furious debate between Argen-

FIFA initially planned to name just one player of the "It really gives me tremen- century and Argentines were

That outraged Brazilians was unfair and claimed the "They had to invent another Argentine Football Federation scandals, has spent most of prize. They invented it on-the- had led a concerted campaign

convinced Maradona had won

### UEFA Cup Roma for settling scores

ghost of the 1983-4 European Cup Final after being

paired with English Premiership outfit Liverpool in the last 16 of the UEFA Cup, reports AFP. In that final - played in

Roma's home Olympic Stadium - Liverpool won the title on a penalty shootout after the match finished 1-1.

· Penalty misses from Italian World Cup winners Bruno Conti and Francesco Graziani aided by the "spaghetti legs" psychological tricks of Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar who wiggled his legs to distract the Roma penalty-takers handed the Cup to Liverpool for the fourth time.

looking to lay the cao was much criticised for games are difficult." refusing to take a penalty.

front of your own fans."

Roma - inspired by Italian very good coach." Francesco Totti and Argentinian Gabriel Batistuta - have estab-Italian First Division.

but this one is no less.

a lot of respect. They are no final.

Roma's Brazilian playmaker longer the team to beat in Eng-AS Roma are at the time Paulo Roberto Fal- land but at this level all the

Roma boss Fabio Capello

Conti said: "The memories said: "It is without doubt the are certainly not good ones be- opponent we least wanted to cause nothing is worse than face, the most difficult team we getting to a European Cup Final could have faced. They will be and then losing on penalties in two big matches in famous stadia. Liverpool are one of the Liverpool were the dominant three top English teams alongteam in Europe in those days side Arsenal and Manchester but now are also-rans even in United and trained by Frenchtheir own domestic league while man (Gerard) Houllier, who is a

Totti believed the match lished a six-point lead in the would be a good opportunity for Roma to put their 1984 flop Conti said: "The 1984 Roma behind them, saying: "I was team was a good one - we had only a child when that final was won the title the year before - played but I remember it all. It could be a good chance for us "But we must give Liverpool to banish the memories of that

### Radebe to sign fresh deal



agreed to a new deal with the club berg said Thursday: "As far as that will see him end his playing career at Elland we're concerned the contract Road, reports AFP

South Africa ahead of his Saudi prince

to Al-Hilal RIYADH, Dec 14. Billionaire

gifts 60 cars

Asian Super Cup, reports AFP. the players. Romanian trainer million-pound ministrative and technical staff. said the office for the prince lion dollars is ranked the world's lifth richest business-France to World Cup and

Al-Hilal claimed the Asian problem for me. Super Cup and a place at next year's FIFA World Club Cham- know I'm not a young man any pionship, drawing a second leg more and I want to be in the in Rivadh on Monday with Ja- first team. At this stage I can't pan's Shimizu S-Pulse 1-1 and afford to be on the bench. I've only got so many years left in taking the fie 3-2 on aggregate.

LONDON, Dec 14: country's African Nations Cup Leeds skipper Lu- clash with Liberia, is expected cas Radebe has to sign the new contract next Radebe's agent Gary Blum-

talks have been concluded. All The 31-year-old, currently in that remains now is for Lucas to sign the papers. "We hope that he will sign immediately on his return to Yorkshire and we hope that this

will be the last rolling contract Lucas needs to sign. "He loves the place, he loves the fans and he hopes that he will be there right to the end of his career.

Radebe, who was rested for businessman Prince Al-Walid Saturday's Premiership defeat bin Talal has presented the at Southampton as he was Saudi football club Al-Hilal with struggling with an ankle injury. 60 luxury cars for winning the had said Wendesday that he did not want to be frozen out on a The ears were awarded to regular basis following 18-(25-millionllie Balaci, and the club's ad- dollar) Ferdinand's arrival at Elland Road.

"I think the gaffer wanted to who with an estimated 20 bil- rest me a bit, but if he wants to play with two centre-halves and they are Jon (Woodgate) and Rio (Ferdinand), that could be a

"But I'm a professional I

player has been brought to the

Scottish Premiership

And Blumberg added: "Leeds

tans should have no concerns.

signing of Rio Ferdinand. Every

time he sees a new player arrive

he gets excited and phones us

to tell us that another quality

Lucas is encouraged by the

#### Rangers continue climb

GLASGOW, Dec 14: Scottish title holders Rangers came from behind to beat Aberdeen 3-1 at Ibrox on Wednesday and cut the gap behind league leaders Celtic to 10 points, reports AFP.

German Jorg Albertz earned the points after Dutch international Michael Mols had cancelled out Arild Stavrum's 11th-minute Rangers still have a game in

hand on their cross city rivals and the result also means Aberdeen still have not won at ibrox since 1991

# day, reports AFP.

Second-half strikes from substitutes Billy Dodds and