Solskjaer furious

England MANCHESTER. Jan 4: In-form Manchester United hitman Ole Gunnar Solskjaer slammed Norwegian football chiefs Wednesday after being barred from internationals in a row over sponsors, reports AFP.

Solskjaer, who has been banned along with Red Devils team-mate Ronny Johnsen and Tottenham Hotspur compatriot Steffen Iversen, said he had been treated "extremely un-

The three players were dropped from their country's international set-up after refusing to sign a four-year sponsorship deal with the Norway

Solskjaer - who is on fire for his English employers at the moment with six goals in his last seven appearances - said on the Manchester United official website he was desperate to maintain his international career.

"I've been treated extremely unfairly. I can't sign a contract that I can't live with.

"I would love to keep playing for Norway, and will keep promoting things for free if they feel that is the right thing to do.

"That is the opposite of greed. I'd say," said Solskjaer, who has netted 14 goals in 35 appearances for his country.

Lazio opt for Poborsky

ROME. Jan 4: Defending Italian champions Lazio are set to concede defeat in their bid to bring forward Stefano Fiore's summer transfer from Udinese and are poised to sign Czech midfielder Karel Poborsky to till their vacancy on the right side of midfield, the Italian press reported Thursday, reports AFP.

Fiore has agreed to move to the Roman club in the summer but his present outfit has resisted the overtures of Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti to bring forward the move.

Lazio had also considered a swoop for West Ham United's Italian midfielder Paolo Di Canio but that move also fell through.

Thursday's press said that Lazio were now resigned to biding their time for Fiore and would instead sign Poborsky from Portuguese giants Benfica to fill the gap.

An announcement could even be made later Thursday in Prague where negotiations in-

volving Benfica. Lazio and the player are taking place.

Poborsky's compatriot Pavel Nedved, a favourite at Lazio. has been instrumental in persuading the club to swoop for the former Manchester United player.

"He is exactly the player we have needed at the club since (Portuguese international) Sergio Conceicao left (for Parma in the summer)," Nedved told journalists.

"He did not have a good time at Manchester United but that is because there was a certain player called (David) Beckham ahead of him."

Furore over Effenberg antics

MUNICH. Germany. Jan 4: Bayern Munich captain Stefan Effenberg has landed himself in hot water once again over remarks concerning the club's stadium -- and by wearing red leather trousers to a function. reports AFP.

Effenberg has been warned over his behaviour following the two incidents, weekly magazine Kicker reported Wednesday. Effenberg's comments and

dress at Bayern's Christmas party outraged club president Franz Beckenbauer and brought stern words from Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, club vicepresident.

Kicker did not give details of what Effenberg said over Bayern's plans for the Olympic stadium.

But an angry Rumenigge was quoted at length by the weekly.

"Stefan must ask himself whether he thinks he is behaving in the correct manner for a Bayern Munich captain." Ru-

menigge said.

"He must ask himself if his might return to Pittodrie - move away from management," behaviour reflects the image of where he enjoyed major success Kenyon told BBC Radio Five a club he wants to represent. during the 1980s - were non- Sportsweek recently. Bayern is different from all sense. other German clubs and if the players make a gaffe we must ruled out any possible move to

bring them down to earth." And on Effenberg's clothes. Rummenigge said: "If the players don't know how to dress we will have to give them directives."

Rummenigge added he did not expect Effenberg to be fined, as he was in October after a women complained of an assault in a nightclub. The 32-

year-old woman said she was hit and injured after an argument about a reservation.

According to Bild's Sunday newspaper. Effenberg now only goes out with bodyguards, and. in the same article, he said he had paid about 20,000 euros (18,800 dollars) in fines during

his career. Effenberg caused one of the biggest scandals at the 1994 World Cup and was sent home in disgrace after making obscene gestures to supporters during one of Germany's first round group matches.



Welshman John Toshack displays a Real Sociedad jersey as club president Luis Uranga looks on during a press conference at San Sebastian in Spain on January 3. Toshack joined the Basque team after he was released from French First Division side St. Etienne the day before. —Internet photo

Henry's ambitious plan



sights on stopping ond place. Manchester Uni-

Henry said despite Arsenal's full support of his squad. disappointing sequence of redetermined to prevent the Man-

chester giants from romping to a third consecutive title. "It's like when Ajax always used to win the Dutch league by five, 10 or 15 points. I want to keep the gap very close between Manchester United and

us." he told BBC London Live

radio station. "We have to try our best because it's a bit boring all the time with Manchester United always being in front. If you ask anyone in the country whether they will win each Saturday everyone has to say 'ves'.'

United - 11 points clear of Arsenal at the top of the table -were successful because of a fear factor present in most of their opponents. Henry said.

"Some teams don't even try against them because they are scared. They just say how many are we going to concede today - one, two, three?' But while United have

LONDON, Jan 4: moved from strength to dence in me when I left Juvenry has set his sistent threat despite their sec- enough.

"When I was 17, he took me eration but he did. cent results, the Gunners were from the youth team at Monaco to play my first game for the first-team ahead of the reserve team players." Henry said.



THIERRY HENRY

Fowler recuperating

ROBBIE FOWLER

Aberdeen not on Fergie's mind

retires from Old Trafford, re- would be for him to continue rial role for Manchester United."

but he's made a decision that

"So we've moved onto stage

"We're talking about that

"To be fair, we've all agreed

that the one thing Sir Alex has

made clear is that he doesn't

SIR ALEX FERGUSON

two, which is about ensuring

that he will continue with Man-

chester United in some role.

down the road.

has rubbished retirement from management.

Ferguson said reports he after the age of 60, he wants to

boss was spotted at a Don's with him and we're a long way

ss Alex Ferguson remain at Old Trafford after his with a new manager coming in.

bbie Fowler was the incident, witnesses are be- injuries."

recovering Wed- ing interviewed and statements

land. Jan 4: Liv- injuries to his face.

erpool striker Ro-

nesday after being

attacked outside a bar in the

city's nightlife district, police

injuries in the attack, which his

club later described as "com-

international did not need hos-

pital treatment according to

police, who arrested a 39-year-

old man in connection with the

morning police were called to

the Wonder Bar in the Slater

Street area of Liverpool," a po-

footballer, was seen outside the

premises having been as-

Fowler received minor facial

The 25-year-old England

Shorth after 2am this

"Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool

chester United bo-

rumours he could

be lured back to his struggling

former club Aberdeen when he

Aberdeen also on Wednesday

"The Board of Aberdeen

wishes to make it clear that it

has had no discussions what-

soever with Sir Alex regarding

either his engagement in the

management of the club or of

his becoming an investor in

Aberdeen Football Club plc," a

many friends at Pittodrie and,

because of this and the fact he

attended our game against

Hearts vesterday, this type of

unfounded speculation is not

creating false hopes in the

minds of our supporters, which

just thought I'd take in a game

but you can't go anywhere

without speculation. It's just a

Ferguson told ITN News: "I

"However, all this is doing is

"Sir Alex obviously still has

entice Ferguson back to Scot-

tish football after the Red Devils

match on Tuesday.

club spokesman said.

entirely surprising.

is disappointing.

load of nonsense."

ports AFP.

said, reports AFP.

pletely unprovoked."

lice spokesman said.

LIVERPOOL, Eng. saulted. He was suffering slight taken. A 39-year-old Liverpool

Arsenal's French strength in recent weeks, Arse- tus, he was the only one and I star Thierry Hen- nal have struggled to be a con- will never be able to thank him "When Patrick Vieira left

That has seen the pressure Milan, he wasn't that well in his ted run away with the English mount on manager Arsene mind, but Arsene Wenger did Premiership crown, reports Wenger, even though Henry was the same for him. I don't know adamant the manager had the any other manager who would have taken Kanu after his op-

"The same is true for Dennis Bergkamp when he left Inter Milan, as it is for Manu Petit and Nicolas Anelka as well.

"He has something special with his players. He is like a father figure. There is something special there. But unlike his close friend

Anelka, Henry has taken to life in England. used to living in big towns.

What I like in London is that you can go out shopping and no one bothers you as there's respect," he said. "When you go out to restau rants, you can't do it sometimes in France and certainly you can't do it in Italy. But London

is very special, there is always something to do. I like it. "Here, also, if you don't fight to get the ball, you will not exist and that reminds me of when used to play in my neighbour

hood without referees." he

man has been arrested on sus-

In July last year a 24-year-

old man admitted punching

Toxteth-born striker Fowler in

He was jailed for 18 months

after a court heard how Fowler

suffered a broken nose, a

chipped tooth, a black eye and

bruising to the back of his

Fowler was upset and shocked

tim of a completely unprovoked

assault in Liverpool. Although

the player's injuries are not

serious, he is obviously upset

hands of the police and every-

body at the club is fully sup-

portive of Robbie at this time.

by the latest incident.

and shocked.

Manchester United chief ex- want to manage anywhere else

"Sir Alex has been our most be on the football side in any

ecutive Peter Kenvon recently and he wants to ensure that his

revealed that Ferguson will role at United does not conflict

successful manager. We recog- way, shape or form. It will be

nise that and our first wish much more of an ambassado-

Liverpool said in a statement

"Robbie Fowler was the vic-

"The matter is now in the

"It's fair to say that it won't

Bundesliga star

tests positive

for marijuana

DORTMUND, Germany, Jan

4: Bundesliga giants Borussia

Dortmund have terminated the

contract of Ghanaian striker

lbrahim Tanko after he tested

positive for marijuana in No-

vember, the club announced

Dortmund since 1992, failed

the dope test after a German

Cup match against Schalke O4

to join SC Freiburg next sum-

mer, now faces a lengthy sus-

news and have taken appropri-

ate action." Dortmund sporting

Tanko, who has been with

The 23-year-old, who is due

"We are shocked by this

Wednesday, reports AFP.

on November 29.

pension.

Wednesday.

on Tanko.

the toilets of a Liverpool hotel.

added.

Detectives are investigating picion of having inflicted the

head.

for Sociedad SAINT-SEBASTIAN. Spain.

Toshack signs

Jan 4: Former Real Madrid coach John Toshack completed his controversial move from French club St Etienne to Spanish First Division strugglers Real Sociedad on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Real Sociedad twice before from 1985-89, leading them to the 1987 Spanish Cup, and from 91-95, only took over at St Etienne in October and was under contract till the end of the season.

However his close ties with bottom club Sociedad - he is a close friend of club president Luis Uranga and still has a house near the club - lured him back for a three-year contract.

Toshack, who has also coached Swansea, Sporting Lisbon, Deportivo La Coruna, Besiktas and Real Madrid for two spells, winning the title in 1990, held his first training session with the squad after signing.

"The side is in a difficult situation but there is still enough time to rescue it." Toshack said.

Sociedad have already sacked two coaches this season firstly ditching former Spanish national coach Javier Clemente. who guided the Basque side to the 1981 and 1982 titles, was shown the door on October 24 and Periko Alonso followed on

Spanish Cup

Night of shockers

MADRID, Jan 4: Spanish league leaders Valencia and defending league champions Deportivo La Coruna were both knocked out of the Spanish Cup by lower division opposition on Wednesday night, reports AFP.

Valencia, also the European Cup finalists last season, were beaten by Third Division Guadíx 6-5 on penalties following a 4-4 draw after extra

Valencia, with the best defence in the Spanish league, "I come from Paris so I'm were 3-0 down five minutes before the break.

Deportivo led 1-0 against division two league leaders Tenerife but the Islanders rallied to win their last 32 match 3-2. Five other First Division

clubs were knocked out at the

same stage.

Las Palmas and Villareal who played on Tuesday, fell at Third Division clubs Torrelavega and Grenada, and Osasuna, Numancia and Real Valladolid were defeated by Second Division clubs Atletico Madrid, Leganes and Compos-

In the previous round, live ! per Eagles in Tunisia before the First Division clubs were knocked out - Real Madrid, crucial World Cup game against tap. Alaves. Malaga. Real Oviedo Sudan later this month has and Real Sociedad.

Barcelona, knocked out of NFA. the Champions League at the In the meantime, most of the first hurdle earlier in the seacountry's top Europe-based son, managed a 3-0 victory over | stars will arrive late for training Third Division Cueta with two prior to the match against goals from Allonso and another by Patrick Klinvert

Houllier eyes decade's stay

LIVERPOOL, England, Jan Liverpool boss Gerard Houl-

Houllier, who has coached France and was the country's FA technical director when they lifted the World Cup. had been involved with the national team in a coaching capacity for 10 years before being lured to Anfield.

But he feels comments he made in an article published in France have been misinterpreted to assume he wants to return home when his five-year contract at Liverpool runs out.

"As far as I'm concerned I'd like to stay with Liverpool for the next 10 years," said Houlher, who used to stand on the terraces at Anfield while a student in Liverpool.

"I was asked if I would ever consider returning to the French national team, but my answer was taken out of con-

text. "I hope I will still be Liver pool manager at the end of my contract and beyond that. No one can say what will be hap pening in five years' time, but we are building a project here We are building for success."

FIFA not scrapping 'Golden Goal'

LONDON. Jan 4: Scrapping the golden goal rule is not on the agenda of world football's governing body FIFA unlike European body UEFA, FIFA communications director Keith | ports AFP. Cooper told the Press Assocation on Wednesday, reports

who scores first in extra-time immediately wins the match. has decided the finals of the last two European Championships but it may be replaced for next season's Champions League final and Euro 2004

The move to abolish the golden goal rule is being urged director Michael Zorc said by leading technical advisors to UEFA, including Liverpool boss Freiburg officials said they Gerard Houllier, former Blackwere unconcerned by the drug | burn and Inter Milan manager test and still intended to take Roy Hodgson and former Scotland manager Andy Roxburgh.

AFP WORLD FOOTBALL BRIEFS

briefs on Thursday

BONFRERE RENEWS UNPAID SALARY BATLE

LAGOS: Nigeria's Dutch coach Jo Bonfrere insisted here on Thursday he is yet to receive The Welshman, who coached four months' pay despite claims to the contrary by the Nigeria Football Association (NFA). "No. it's not true that I've been paid my salary," he said.

"I'm yet to receive my pay for four months as well as outstanding payments for the month of August." Bonfrere told a local radio station on arrival from holidays in his native country.

He added: "Who wants to work without a salary? I have to talk with the NFA.

The secretary general of the NFA Tijjani Yusuf said last month the coach had been paid up to date and dared the Dutchman to lodge a complaint with world soccer governing body FIFA if it were not true. Bonfrere has been on a collision course with Nigerian soc

Jan 4(AFP): World football Roda JC has asked to be excused for a couple more days so as to enjoy a brief honeymoon with his new bride Zainab.

Nigeria's Arsenal star in terms of merchandise. Nwankwo Kami was dropped from the squad against Bonfrere - wishes at the misistence of the sports munster.

ROMA LAUNCH NAKATA-TOUR

ROME: Potential visitors to Rome who are unimpressed by the attractions of the Colosseum, the Circus Maximus and the Vatican City will soon have another incentive to visit the Eternal City. Corriere dello Sport reported Thursday.

Italian league leaders AS Roma are launching package tours directed in particular at Japanese visitors to allow them access to Japan's most famous footballing export. Hidetoshi

of the Serie A standings but as ciation said Thursday. far as the Japanese are concerned it is Nakata - and not Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta or

He cost 20.5 million dollars from Peruga but it is thought that he has already recouped s 7.3 million dollars for his team

Nakata joined Roma from Italian Serie A rivals Perugia where he also created some-

thing of an industry. The city's economy was boosted by the arrival of Japanese supporters to watch their

hero in action. Perugia, who also have a Korean and Chinese player on the books, have their website translated into English. Japanese and Korean unlike most clubs whose sites are only translated into English.

COVENTRY TO MISS MOROCCANS

LONDON: English Premiership side Coventry will be without Moroccan duo Mustapha Hadji and Youssef Chippo for He may have played only a two key matches later this peripheral part in the Olympic month because of international Stadium's outfit rise to the top commitments, the Press Asso-

Hadji, now playing regularly as a striker, and midfielder Chippo will be required to play for their country in the African Nations Cup qualifying ties against Tunisia on January 14

and Egypt 12 days later. That will mean the pair are unavailable for the Premiership match at Newcastle on January 13 plus the fourth round of the FA Cup on January 27, assuming Coventry triumph over Second Division Swindon in the third round.

Hadji and Chippo had also been called up by Morocco last month for two friendly internagramme.

will not be available to them for the two Nations Cup matches.

FOR 10 WEEKS

national striker Kennet Andersson will be out of action for two and a half months after fracturing a bone in his right foot, Turkish newspapers repored Thursday.

Kocaelispor on December 24. Hurrivet said. He will undergo an operation in Sweden. Hurriyet quoted club doctor

more likely me six weeks. Andersson signed a two-year contract to play for Fenerbahce



KENNET ANDERSON



LONDON, Jan 4: The FA Cup final is to be staged outside England for the first time at the Millennium

Ivan Zamorano runs during his first training session with

Mexican side American Eagles in Mexico City on January 3

The Chilean superstar quit Serie A giants Inter Milan

The NFA overruled him on the biggest star in Italian foot-

also been thrown out by the have the chance to buy a pack-

Training for the game began the evidence of the season so

been fleeting.

on Wednesday but players like far Nakata's appearances have

English Premiership, will only sold 60,000 replica shirts with

recently to join the Mexican club.

the selection of players for the

Linuary 13 African Nations

Cup qualifying match against

Zambia mainly because of club

Celestine Babayaro and Taribo

West, who both star in the

Garba Lawal of Dutch club it.

join the team early next week.

cer authorities recently

Zambia in Lagos.

engagements.

Stadium in Cardiff this season and for the following two years while Wembley is being rebuilt. the Press Assocation reported while Wembley is being rebuilt. football and rugby teams. play host to the next three Eng-

lish League Cup finals and

Charity Shield games, as well

as the league play-offs. The England national team will meanwhile continue with will be confirmed that the FA groundstaff and European turf their plans to embark on a tour and Football League have experts.

country until the new Wembley six months' negotiations, which ball League, considered a numhas finally been completed. Football League hope Wembler well as the cost.

will be ready to host matches. Fears have been raised re- across the country, including again from the 2004 FA Cup cently over the state of the pitch Old Trafford and Villa Park.

in the troubled project could' that no other events, such as result in future renegotiations pop concerts, can be held in the with Cardiff.

FA head of communications final, Paul Newman said: "The FA The FA have meanwhile rehave always made it clear that ceived assurances over the the Millennium Stadium in state of the pitch in the 72.000-Cardiff is our preferred option capacity stadium, which also for staging the FA Cup final plays host to the Welsh national

The Welsh venue will also lengthy negotiations are now on Thursday."

At the news conference it suitations with Wembley of club grounds around the reached a three-year deal after were needed to resolve issues ber of potential alternative ven-The Football Association and with the council and police, as nes such as Twickenham. Mur-

14 days prior to the FA Cup

A completely new surface near to a successful conclusion will be laid three weeks before and we expect to make an offi- the match, with giant rolls of cial announcement at midday turf installed on top of the existing pallet system after con-

> The FA. as well as the Footrayfield and club grounds

Pacheco trains at Inter



day trained with his new Inter Milan team-mates Wednesday

after signing a four-and-a-half year deal with the First Division underachievers, the club website revealed Wednesday, re-

cal to complete on Thursday again." Pacheco did not take part in The rule, where the team any serious exertions at the Pinetina training complex but undertook some light exercises. that the deal was now official tory over Atalanta before

> wear the number seven shirt to the deal. previously worn by Irish striker Robbie Keane before his departure to Leeds United, is now were chasing him," insisted contracted to Inter until June 30, 2005. In an interview with Inter

Channel to be screened later narol's Montevideo arch-rivals the nerazzurri from Montevideo denied that Pacheco, who likes Alpi

giants Penarol, said: "I want to to play in a creative role behind Uruguayan for- win things with Inter. El Chino an out-and-out striker, would ward Antonio Pa- the nickmame of fellow Inter be a threat to his place even checo on Wednes- and Uruguayan striker Alvaro though he has yet to formally Recoba) told me we have eve- sign the extension verbally rything we need here to do well. agreed before Christmas. "We are struggling in the table but by winning the derby

Siro on Sunday) we can relaunch ourselves among the big clubs and can hope to get With the formality of a medi- back 'among the big players Recoba - who this week was fined by a committee of his team-mates for storming out of

(Inter play AC Milan at the San

Bergamo Stadium after being AFP. But the website confirmed substituted during the 1-0 vicand the 24-year-old, who will Christmas - gave his approval "We are lucky to have him as Juventus and also Barcelona

Pacheco's team-mate for club and country. Recoba, who placed for PeAthirson comes to Juventus

TURIN, Italy, Jan 4: Brazilian defender Athirson arrived here Wednesday to begin his new career with Italian First Division club Juventus, reports

Athirson - full name Athirson Mazolli Oliveira - has joined the Zebras from Rio de Janeiro outfit Flamengo and will play at left back assuming he passes the formalities including a medical which is scheduled on

Thursday. The 23-year-old will be wailable for selection for Saturday evening's match with Wednesday Pacheco, who joins Nacional before joining inter. Fiorentina at the Stadio Delle

tionals against the Basque national side and Andalucia, but pulled out to concentrate on the Sky Blues hectic festive pro-But that option to withdraw.

-Internet photo

Italian Francesco Totti - that is

An estimated 800,000 Japa-

nese visit Italy yearly and of

leaving an enormous market to

age that will include flights.

accommodation. a visit to

Roma's Trigoria training ground

to watch Nakata train with his

colleagues and, of course, a

ticket for a Serie A match at the

Olympic Stadium - although on

It is claimed that Roma have

Nakata's name and number on

And those tourists will now

ANDERSSON OUT ISTANBUL: Swedish inter-

The 33-year-old Andersson injured the foot while playing for his side Fenerbahce against

Omer Taser as saying Andersson would be out for at least two and a half months but Swedish doctors said it would

in July 1999. The club are cur-Turkish First Division



4: Liverpool boss Gerard Flourlier has dismissed speculation he might return to France at the end of his contract insisting he wants to stay in charge at he wants to stay in charge at final onwards, but extra delays in Cardiff but part of the deal is