#### ROK striker Lee joins Bremen

SEOUL, Jan 11: South Korean striker Lee Dong-Kook is to join top German side Werder Bremen, becoming the fifth Korean to move to the Bundesliga, reports AFP.

His South Korean side, Pohang Steelers, said Thursday that Lee would go for an initial six month contract and if this was successful. Werder would pay a 1.5 million dollar trans-

Yonhap news agency said the South Korean international would get a two year one million dollar contract if the move becomes permanent.

### Kahn Bayern's until 2003

BERLIN. Jan 11: German international goalkeeper Oliver Kahn has said he will leave Bayern Munich when his contract expires on June 30, 2003. reports AFP.

Kahn told Kicker magazine Thursday that "I will do something else, playing in another country.

"However. I have no intention of leaving before my present contract runs out," added the 31-year-old Kahn. who joined Bayern from Karlsruhe in July, 1994.

### Lombardo Interests Dundee

GLASGOW, Jan 11: Italian winger Attilio Lombardo could be set for a move to Scottish Premiership side Dundee, the Press Association reported Wednesday, reports AFP.

Player-manager Ivano Bonetti will move for the former Crystal Palace star if he becomes surplus to requirements at Serie A giants Lazio in the wake of Sven-Goran Eriksson's departure for England. The new England manager

signed the 35-year-old at the start of the season and Lombardo will face an anxious wait to discover who the new boss will be.

The former Italian international is close friends with Bonetti and is believed to have expressed a wish to join him at Dens Park.

A Dundee spokesman confirmed Wednesday: "Attilio is a good friend of Ivano Bonetti and the club and the fans would be delighted to see him playing for Dundee at any time.

"We're always interested in attracting top-quality players to the club and someone with his experience and track record certainly fits the bill."

That would be another major coup for the club with Argentinian legend Diego Maradona. a friend of Dundee striker Claudio Caniggia, reported to be set to turn out at Dens Park in a glamour friendly next month.

Dundee midfielder Giorgi Nemsadze claimed an agreement has been reached for Maradona to play in a friendly for the club against Serie A side Napoli.

"As far as I know, Maradona has already sent his agreement by fax and is being paid 250,000 pounds (373,000 dollars) for one game," said Georgian star Nemsadze.

"He is great friends with Claudio Caniggia, and I can't wait to play with a living leg-

## Eagles stand by Keshi

LAGOS, Jan II: Nigeria's football stars, led by captain Sunday Oliseli. Wednesday urged football authorities not to act on a demand by national coach Jo Bonfrere that they drop his assistant Stephen Keshi, reports AFP. Bonfrere, a Dutchman, has

fallen out with former Nigerian captain Keshi and called earlier this week for his assistant to be moved to the youth team.

"Why should Keshi be dropped?." Oliseli asked reporters Wednesday. "We want him to be with us because we think he has a lot to offer this team. he said.

Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Austin "Jay Jay" Okocha said the players respected Keshi who played for Belgian club Anderlecht and Strasbourg of France as well as captaining the national side for over ten years.

"We have always respected Keshi since his playing days. He is a good leader and has done a lot for this country. He is also a good coach. It will be a pity if he's asked to go," he said.

for Turkish club Gencerbirligi added: "We love Keshi and Keshi loves us... We hope to get Keshi and Bonfrere together to

resolve this problem," he said. Bonfrere told reporters earlier lie had asked Keshi to be redeployed because he is a bad | influence on the players and still behaves like a player him-

Keshi earlier this week defled Bonfrere by showing up at the team's training ahead of the African Nations Cup encounter

against Zambia Saturday. He insists he has a contract

with the full international team and no other team.

A panel set up by the Nigeria Football Association (NFA) recently recommended Bonfrere be sacked or his Nigerian assistants be redeployed because of a deep-seated distrust be-

tween the coaches. Nigeria, traditionally one of Africa's strongest nations, were Olympic champions in 1996 and were runners-up in the last African Nations Cup tournament early last year.

## English League Cup

# Palace perplex Liverpool



first defeat in cup competition in a year when they beat them 2-1 in their League Cup semifinal first leg match here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Andreas Rubins and man-ofthe-match Clinton Morrison were Palace's heroes though

into the box and fellow substitute Smicer sidefooted it past Palace's Latvian international 'keeper Alex Kolinko.

Liverpool coach Gerard Houllier was left shaking his head at how his side had lost the match.

"No I can't believe we lost but that happens," the former French national coach said.

the first-half and I feel sorry for the players as they tried their



Crystal Palace's Clinton Morrison (in the foreground) shielding the ball from Stephane Henchoz of Liverpool during their English League Cup semifinal first-leg at Selhurst Park in London on January 10. -- AFP photo

Liverpool, who missed a host of best but we made one mistake chances, grabbed a potentially at the back and it cost us one of vital away goal through Slova- the two goals. kian international Vladimir Smicer.

onto Mikael Forsell's knock- added down and sending it past Liverpool 'keeper Sandor Westerveld. However, within a minute Liverpool reduced the deficit as Jari Litmanen, making his first appearance since his move from arcelona last week, passed

tion chief execu-

tive Adam Crozier

will begin his England reign

this weekend with a two-

his 3-million-pound-a-year (4.5-

job six months ahead of sched-

ule having quit as boss of Ital-

last October on a five-year con-

tract to coach England from

July 1, the first foreigner to

Sunday at Ipswich where care-

taker England coach Taylor

takes his Leicester City side for

son the opportunity to take a

look at Ipswich left-back Jamie

Clapham, whose outstanding

high-riding East Anglians.

There is an ideal chance on side.

take the job.

Eriksson had been named

ian Serie A side Lazio Tuesday.

assignment, reports AFP.

match Premiership scouting ture.

"Our team is a little bit young and they have to learn Morrison struck 13 minutes but in terms of finishing we are from time, latching unmarked not up to it at the moment," he

Houllier's Crystal Palace counterpart Alan Smith. who is in his third spell at the club. reflected on what might have

"It should have been 2-0 but we aren't used to being in this

Ericksson going fishing

Eriksson could also run the

Marcus Stewart who is now

being popularly touted as an

England marksman of the fu-

one top game in England this

Saturday is being kept secret

but he could kick off his new

job at Villa Park - the venue for

England's May 28 friendly

against Spain which is ear-

marked as the Swede's first

game in charge of the national

pool would also provide him

with an early look at no fewer

front men, Liverpool's Emile

Robbie Fowler - assuming he

plays - as well as Villa's resur-

gent Paul Merson and defender

Villa's encounter with Liver-

Crozier has revealed that

Eriksson's destination on

LONDON, Jan 11: made him a strong contender to

Football Associa- fill one of England's main

has hinted Sven- rule over Town's 13-goal striker

The Swede is set to take on Eriksson will certainly attend

a Premiership clash with the than three potential England

performances this season have Gareth Southgate.

six-million-

That game also gives Eriks- Heskey. Michael Owen and

million-dollar) England coach's weekend and probably two.

problem positions.

position." he said.

"However, we stuck to the

job and it bodes well for the

future," he added. Rubins, Kolinko's international teammate, had given Palace a deserved lead in the 56th minute with a spectacular 25-yard effort that zipped past Westerveld for the 22-year-old former Arsenal target's second "We should have sealed it in of the season, the other goal coming against Leicester City in

an earlier round. It came only a minute after out of sorts England interna-Michael Owen had missed another golden opportunity when the ball broke kindly for him after being tackled by Chinese ace Fan Zhyi, but his dreadful chip rebounded to safety off Kolinko's head.

With Liverpool unable to convert their chances coach Gerard Houllier sent on Smicer and Litmanen although the Finnish ace will want to forget his first chance at striking at goal for his new club which resulted in him treading on the ball with the goal at his mercy.

England striker Emile Heskey started the Liverpool quest for an early goal on two minutes. The big forward robbed the defender of the ball but his square pass in to the area was blocked.

The resultant throw-in left Owen with a golden chance to open Liverpool's account but his side-footed effort spliced sideways.

Houllier's men looked determined to take the initiative and Heskey was at it again five minutes later, running down the right flank to send a square ball in although again it was blocked. Heskey then ran on to a

through ball two yards after the halfway line. Beating two defenders he cut an angled pass inyto the path of Owen, but again Owen's shot flailed wide. For all their pressure and

positive moves, worse was to come for Liverpool and Heskey's miss on 22 left Houllier wringing his hands in despair. Through on Kolinko as he

kept the defender at bay, Heskey lobbed the ball five metres over the bar. Palace had shown that they were not overawed by Liver-

pool's early barrage when Clinton Morrison forced Westerveld into a spectacularfull stretch save to turn away. his 15 yard shot over the bar. Westerveld saved them sec-

onds later from the resulting corner when only his body came between the hosts and a goal as he blocked Forsells's shot before the ball was cleared for another corner with a header off the line from Dean Austin's header.

Eriksson wants to get down

to work in England as soon as

possible, with the must-win

World Cup qualifiers against

Finland and Albania both

The Villa-Liverpool game

looks a much more productive

opportunity for him than Lon-

don's match of the day between

cosmopolitan Arsenal and Chel-

sea or Manchester United's trip

Ham v Sunderland, with the

chance to see the Wearsiders'

striker Kevin Phillips, who be-

lieves he could take over in the

national team from Alan

Shearer. The Upton Park clash

would also give him the oppor-

tunity of watching Hammers

starlet Joe Cole and the club's

Maine Road, where Manchester

City entertain a Leeds side

containing the likes of Rio Fer-

dinand, Alan Smith, Lee Bowyer

and goalkeeper Paul Robinson.

A third alternative could be

other young talent.

But he could decide on West

to bottom of the table Bradford.

coming up in May.

# US rookie joins Leverkusen

DENVER, Colorado, Jan 11 fielder Joey DiGiamarino confirmed Thursday that he has signed a two year contract with German Bundesliga outfit Baver Leverkusen reports AFP. The 23-year-old DiGiama-

rmo, meknamed "DiGi", told the press here that he had reached agreement with the club which includes a option for a third year and would join them at the end of the month.

"I always dreamed of going to Europe and playing with a high level team." said DiGiama-

Considered one of the upcoming talents in American DiGiamarino has played for the past three seasons with the Colorado Rapids in the United States league (MLS)

However, he missed the Olympics because of injury and underwent an adductor operation in November and will continue his recovery in Germany.

Leverkusen, currently sitting fourth in the Bundesliga three points behind leaders Schalke 04. have been recruiting heavily during the winter break adding Brazilian international Lucimar Lucio Da Silva Ferreira (Porto Alegre). Argentine Diego Placente (River Plate), and Bulgarian international Dimitar Berbatov (CSKA Sofia) to their

## Tit for tat!

JERUSALEM, Jan 11: Seven Israeli under-21 international players, accused of having a sex romp with a girl the night before a game on October 10 have been suspended for two years. the Israeli Football Federation (FIF) announced on Wednesday. reports AFP.

The young players appeared in front of a disciplinary tribunal and were suspended from playing international football for two years.

Each player was also handed a two-year suspended ban, as well as a 1,000-dollar fine payable to the federation. The under-21 side hit the

headlines in October when they allegedly enjoyed a romp with the woman before their Euro 2002 Group 7 qualifier against Bosnia on October 10, a match they went on to win 2-1. But allegations were also rife

that at least 15 players had sex with the same woman at a Tel Aviv hotel after the match, which became the subject of the police investigation. The Israeli football team has

notched up a string of off-field results which have attracted all the wrong kind of attention. In March 2000, several

members of the national team narrowly escaped disciplinary action after claims they were involved in group sex on the eve of their humiliating 5-0 thrashing by Denmark in a Euro 2000 play-off in November

However, the national team coach Shlomo Sharf paid with

Sharf was replaced by former Denmark and Finland coach Richard Moller Nielsen.

# Brazilian finalists given official

gave the official go-ahead for and Vasco da Gama to play a third match on January 18 to determine who takes the title after the return leg was abandoned when a fence collapsed. injuring some 160 people, reports AFP.

Their decision ratified the

Fabio Koff, the president of the 13, said the deciding match would be played in Rio's legendary Maracana stadium. Koff said fans would be al

He added the committee had carefully analysed evidence from the referee of the December 30 game. Roberto Godoi. and decided the only way to break the deadlock was to hold

mother match. "We could not punish either team because we had no proof. explained Koff.

dent Eurico Miranda had said he was prepared to have a re-However, Sao Caetano had

"It can take a Brazilian for a Portuguese passport, not insisted that the rules of the competition stipulated that in case of a game being suspended the host club would be declared the loser 1-0. That would have given them

> then eventually abandoned by Godoi on the orders of Rio de Janeiro state governor Anthony Garotinho after 23 minutes of the return leg with the score at

The clubs had drawn 1-1 in the first leg at Sao Caetano's Palestria Italia stadium in Sao Paulo and had the 0-0 second leg result stood. Vasco Da

awarded to his team.



training session with the team in Naples on January 10. -- AFP photo

Passport probe

### Monaco sideline Contreras

MONACO. Jan 11: Monaco's Chilean international defender Pablo Contreras has been sidelined by the French champions until the conclusion of a judicial inquiry into his Italian passport, the club confirmed Thursday, reports AFP.

Public Prosecutor Daniel Serder said that the probe had been under way for several days after the club, prompted by the National Football League (LNF), questioned the origin of the player's passport.

The LNF has launched a league-wide inquiry to check the validity of all 'European' passports held by players originally from outside the European Umon.

The 22-year-old Contreras signed a five-year contract with Monaco in July 1999 from Chilean side Colo Colo after being recuited by Monaco technical director Henri Biancheri at the same time as Mexican defender Rafael Marquez. Biancheri said that at the

time he had carried out extensive inquiries into both players. "I had long reports on the two players ... but the deal was done with the club. I didn't look at the passport. I'm not a po-

liceman," he added.

Monaco director general Emile Rossi said that following a request from the LNF on December 18 they handed over all the documents and were now awaiting a response.

# France on passport alarm



rocked the sport.

said the league competition be reviewed. would not be wrecked by the row, which took an explosive ducted from St Etienne's total it twist on Tuesday when could leave one of the most Ukrainian player Maxim Levyt- famous names in French footsky was held by police.

The former Saint Etienne goalkeeper, who signed for heads Wednesday in the wake Spartak Moscow late last of the latest development in the month, was taken into police saga. custody after appearing at a hearing of the French league's of the moment can make people ethics commission.

his team's training camp in the season." Simonet said. Israel to appear at the hearing. now faces possible court pro- speculate on what action would ceedings for deception over the follow if matches involving in- European Union attempting to use of a fake passport.

The 28-year-old Ukrainian have taken place. 'keeper, signed from Chernomorets in the summer, was sults of the league are not valid. questioned by a St Etienne we will have to discuss what magistrate on Wednesday eve- action to take." Gerard Bourning and while he remains under investigation for his part in the saga he was released and will be able to fly back to Israel and a training camp with his mate Alex were less clear. The vestigating a suspected false new teammates.

"My client (Levytsky) is relieved and delighted to be able to leave." the Ukrainian's lawyer Andre Buffard said.

"This has been a difficult time for him but he is willing to return if he is required to to answer more questions," he Levytsky and former Brazil- 1995 Bosman ruling, which

Wednesday the results of sev-

If points are eventually deball on the brink of relegation. Simonet called for cool

"Unfortunately the passion lose their heads," he said. "But I Levytsky, who travelled from don't think this is going to ruin

> eligible players were found to bypass limits on the number of "If it turns out that some re- teams,

goin, president of the French league said. The whereabouts of team-

at Tuesday's ethics commission hearing in Lyon. Alex is believed to have faxed

had to remain in Brazil with his

dal was a direct result of the

French domestic football limits the number of non-EU players clubs are able to field to three per-team. Buffet called for police to be

gation into the use of false passports in French football. "The police must be allowed to do their work and catch those who are truly responsible. This affair affects two or three

able to carry out a full investi-

professional clubs." Buffet said. The false passport affair was prompted by the revelation that Strasbourg's former Argentinian forward Diego Garay played in the French league last season

with a false Italian passport. The French investigation is the latest twist in an increasing League officials declined to number of cases across Europe of players from outside the non-EU players allowed in

> The most high-profile case involves AC Milan's Brazilian goalkeeper Dida, who is under investigation for using a false Portuguese passport to secure a work permit.

Dutch investigators are intalented striker failed to appear Portuguese passport held by Fevenoord's 17-year-old Brazilian winger Leonardo

English Premiership giants league officials saving that he Arsenal have also suffered embarassment, with Brazilian Edu originally being turned away by Meanwhile. Marie-George British immigration officials 11-1. minister of youth and after the passport he was travsport, said the passports scan- elling with was found to be

Velappan said AFC hopes to

Gurcharan said FIFA had

"FIFA will also conduct fre-

Gurcharan said two common

"But you also get strange

ones who end up addicted to

potent drugs like cocaine." he

said, adding that "our task is to

protect the health and mental

England to play

integrity of the players."

drugs used by football players

endurance and

increase further the pool of

Asian doctors qualified to con-

conducted random urine tests

during the preliminary World

Cup matches. "So far there

quent drug tests during the

were steroids and stimulants to

have not been any incidents."

World Cup matches," he said.

duct tests.

improve

strength.

# AFC for drugs free qualifiers



2002 World Cup finals to be cohosted by Japan and South Korea. the Asian football body Thursday vowed to ensure that Asian

players in preliminary rounds are drug-free. reports AFP. "We are doing random doping tests. We hope they will be free of drug problems. But we can never be sure what is in the minds of the players," said Gurcharan Singh, chairman of the

(AFC) medical committee. Gurcharan is also one of the doping control coordinators for FIFA, football's world governing

Asian Football Confederation's

He told AFP a total of 15 doctors in Asia are qualified to conduct doping control tests following a two-day FIFAsponsored seminar in Malaysia this month.

Korea, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia,

KUALA LUMPUR. Nepal. Qatar, Taiwan. Bangla-Jan 11: With the desh, Sri Lanka and Thailand attended.

> Gurcharan said the seminar enabled anti-doping coordinators to keep abreast of new developments especially in Asia where "there is a lack of awareness on the dangers and also drugs cross borders freely."

> FIFA, he said also hopes to increase the number of doping test facilities in Asia and worldwide. "Although doping incidents

> in football are minimal, it cannot be ruled out. We have to increase the frequency of doping tests." he said. AFC secretary-general Peter Velappan said Tuesday that

FIFA would conduct more drug

tests in the future both during

and out-of-competition. "This is expecially so with FIFA World Cup 2002 Asian qualifying round. The AFC fully supports FIFA's initiative to Doctors from Japan. South ensure fair play in football," he

said in a statement.

friendlies before qualifiers LONDON. Jan 11: Incoming England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson gave the go-ahead on Wednesday for friendlies against Mexico and Holland later this year as warm-up games ahead of the World Cup qualifiers away to Greece and Germany, reports AFP. England will play Mexico. who reached the last 16 at the 1998 World Cup finals, at Derby County's ground Pride Park on May 25, while they will take on the Dutch at White Hart Lane on August 15 - the last time England played Holland in London they thrashed

The announcements of the friendlies were made after 52- Wil vear-old Eriksson and Leicester coach Peter Taylor, who is on his backroom staff, had been consulted about the best preparations for the World Cup qualifiers.

them 4-1 at Wembley in Euro

Eriksson, who left his post at Italian champions Lazio on Tuesday faces his first test in the friendly against Spain on February 28

# A longer wait for Edu

Arsenal fans may have to wait until next season to get their first glimpse Tijjani Babangida, who stars | pound (8.9 million-dollar) Bra-

zilian star Edu even if his on-off move is completed this week. reports AFP. The six-foot midfielder, who will be 23 in May, arrived in England last weekend to meet Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger and has now travelled to

Portugal in pursuit of a European Union passport. Six months ago Edu was caught with false documents by customs officers when he tried to enter the country and sign for the Premiership club.

Edu - real name Eduardo Cesar Daud Gaspar - has since been trying to prove he is entitled to a legitimate EU passport through his Portuguese born grandfather and has told Wenger he believes it is now a formality that he will be issued with one. Wenger is still reluctant to

accept that Arsenal's recruit-

ment of the player - who should

not be confused with another

Brazilian also nicknamed Edu

and currently playing with

Celta Vigo in Spain - is con-

Wenger insisted here Tuesday: "Even if we do sign him it is unlikely he will play a real part in our plans for this sea-

player as much as six months to adapt to life in England and the Premiership.

Wenger still wants to com- before, we are not prepared to plete the signing even though the initial deadline mutually agreed for the move between Edu's Brazilian club Corinthi-

# Chiesa doubtful for Milan clash

FLORENCE, Italy, Jan 11: Housebound Florentina and clash against AC Milan, reports player. Chiesa, who scored two ble for Arsenal's next European

tus in a match which finished 3-3, was prevented from train- at Highbury he will be heavily ing Wednesday due to a fever, reliant on Silvinho as he speaks according to club officials. In the event of Chiesa's absence. Fiorentina's Turkish coach Fatih Terim could call on Yugoslav international Pedrag'

Mijatovic to partner Portuguese

striker Nuno Gomes.

goals Saturday against Juven-

ans of Sao Paolo and Arsenal passed on December 31. But the Gunners boss said:

"Up to now he only has a play. document entitling him to apply the passport itself. That could still take some time. "Considering what happened

are sure the right passport is in his possession. Under British Government regulations Edu cannot work in Britain until he has a valid EU passport or has played regular

take the matter further until we

senior international football. In July 1999, Arsenal signed another Brazilian star, left-back Silvinho from Corinthians for 4 million pounds but he had duel nationality with Portugal and Italy striker Enrico Chiesa is has now represented his coundoubtful for Saturday's home try six times as an international

Champions League date against

Lyon in February, finally arrives

If Edu, who will not be eligi-

no English. Arsenal today refused to either confirm or deny a report that Edu was given a full medical examination at the weekend by their doctors in preparation for an imminent signing.

# go-ahead for replay

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 11 Brazil's Superior Tribunal of Sporting Justice on Tuesday league finalists Sao Caetano

announcement made on Monday by the so-called club of 13 a committee which runs the Brazilian domestic game.

lowed in for free.

Vasco de Gama club presi-

the title. The match at the Sao Januario stadium was halted and

Observers said that the 35,000-capacity stadium was too small for a match of such significance and that too many spectators had been allowed entry.

Afer the match was abantelevision footage showed Miranda demanding police clear the pitch so the winners' trophy could be

Gama would have won on away



superstar testifying before the Brazilian Senate's Parliamentary Investigation Committee in Brasilia on January 10. -- AFP photo

