UEFA to

video refs AFP, Nyon,

review

The executive committee of European football's governing body UEFA has been debating the regulation of the use of video in its disciplinary hearings here on Thursday and

"In the light of recent events the executive committee requires that the use of video be regulated so as to guarantee a logical application of this technological tool." said Friday's **UEFA** press release

The case of Real Madrid striker Raul's goal against Leeds in the Champions League on March 6 was evoked to highlight the case.

Raul scored a goal after deliberately using his hand but the match referee missed the incident. The player was later handed down a one-match ban after video evidence was considered, later overturned in

It is specifically this type of incident that UEFA is seeking to rationalise with a standard for referral to

The committee also discussed a possible solution to players deliberately seeking yellow cards during a competition so as to be free of disciplinary measures for important

The 2000 European footballer of the year Luis Figo is suspected of having employed this very tactic, for which there is no rule, in the same game against Leeds Figo then sat out the final mean-

ingless match of phase two. Madrid having already qualified, and is now free for the quarter-finals.

UEFA hope to find some kind of solution to this tricky question.

"It's an unsatisfactory situation, we need to analyse it and if possible J-League

Jubilo widen the gap

AFP, Tokyo

The 1999 Asian club champions Jubilo Iwata edged past FC Tokyo 1-0 for a third straight win to take a three-point lead in the 16-team J-League on Saturday.

Japanese international forward Naohiro snatched the ball and was brought down in the area in the 29th minute to earn a penalty chance which Toshihiro Hattori duly netted for the decider.

Iwata stood with a 3-0 win-loss record for nine points, ahead of Nagoya Grampus Eight, Consadole Sapporo and Shimizu S-Pulse, who had six points.

Brazilian striker Ueslei dribbled through to beat a defender to put Nagoya one up in the 61st minute, only to see Yoshiharu Ueno fire a middle shot equaliser for Yokohama Marinos before goalless extra time for 1-1. Sapporo, newcomers to the First Division league this season, suffered their first defeat of the Hiroshima 1-0 to give the opponents their first win of the season

Shimizu overwhelmed Verdy Tokyo 2-1 with Takayuki Yokoyama dyving for a 41st-minute header on a Brazilian Alex cross and then striking a right-footer for a decisive lead in the 66th minute.

Defending champions Kashima Antlers had to fight hard in the extra time second half but were held to a goalless draw by Cerezo Osaka.

"It was really an exciting match," said Kashima coach Antonio Carlos Cerezo of Brazil. "But the referee made too many mistakes today although he can judge everything on the pitch.

Gamba Osaka overcame a 10men disadvantage to beat Vissel Kobe 1-0 when Hiromi Koiima fired a left-footer on a Hitoshi Morishita pass from the right to put an end to sudden death extra time in 94th minute.

Kashiwa Revsol also won in extra time when Naoki Sakai gave his side a 3-2 victory over JEF United Ichihara in the 98th minute.

Soccercide

REUTERS, London

Former Arsenal and England midfielder David Rocastle has died from cancer at the age of 33, the club said. He was diagnosed in February as suffering from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a disease wich attacks the immune system, and underwent chemotherapy.

An Arsenal spokeswoman said that a minute's silence would be held before the start of Saturday's north London Premier League derby against Tottenham at Highbury.

A statement from Arsenal said: "It is with extreme sadness that Arsenal Football Club have today learned that Gunners legend David Rocastle passed away in the early hours of this morning after his battle

with cancer. "He was a consummate professional and an outstanding talent and it is a terrible shock to everyone associated with Arsenal that David's life has been taken at such a young

"Our thoughts and deepest sympathy are with David's family at

this extremely sad time. Rocastle twice won the League Championship with Arsenal and also won 14 England caps.



Liverpool's double impact

Football

REUTERS, Liverpool

Superb goals from Steve Gerrard and Robbie Fowler gave 10-man Liverpool a 2-0 win over leaders Manchester United in the Premier League on Saturday.

Gerrard scored after 15 minutes with a stunning 30-metre drive into the left-hand corner and Fowler blasted in a half-volley five minutes before the break as Liverpool did the double over the English champions. Liverpool midfielder Danny

Murphy, who scored the only goal when these two sides met last December, was dismissed for a second bookable offence in the 68th

United failed to get into their usual stride, despite an improvement in the second half when they

However, the upset will have not affect United's title hopes, as they are still 16 points clear of secondplaced Arsenal, who face Tottenham Hotspur later on

The win moved Liverpool up to provisional third place, and firmly in contention for a Champions League United struggled from the off and

fell behind when Gerrard, back in action after missing England's midweek trip to Albania, unleashed his piledriver from a central midfield position, giving United keeper Fabien Barthez no chance despite

Patrik Berger very nearly made it 2-0 five minutes later, when shot just

United survived another squeak on the half-hour when Murphy fed a defence-splitting pass for Emile Heskey, whose shot bobbled underfrom the right and Fowler had time to control the ball with his first touch before hammering it into the roof of the United net.

Heskey should have punished United's static defence again in the 44th minute after running on to a Gerrard through-ball, only for Barthez to tip his near-post shot round for a corner. There were fewer chances in a

less frenetic second half, with Murphy blasting a free shot high over the bar in the 62nd minute. Four minutes later Yorke tapped in a Phil Neville cross but was ruled

Liverpool were reduced to 10 men after Murphy was given a second vellow card for a rash chal-

lenge on Republic of Ireland international Denis Irwin Although Liverpool then sat back

to defend it did not stop Heskey coming close to adding a third on the break in the 80th minute, his low shot from just outside the



but admitted that there was a com-

pensation fee payable, which has

what clauses had been inserted into

was a compensation element - there

is a big difference - and there was

Asked if there was another

"It wasn't an easy decision to

"I have heard there is some

clause in his Spurs contract, Hoddle

declared: "Not in the same way. It is

leave Southampton because I have

bitterness and resentment towards

have left them in a very strong

"I could understand it if they were

And, after his unhappy experi-

ences as England manager, Hoddle

will be used to the glare of publicity,

which is sure to accompany his

England job but there is as much

pressure on me as there is on any

other Premiership manager.

"Nothing is as pressurised as the

me from the Southampton fans but

put in a lot of hard work.

nothing in there about Tottenham."

his new deal.

private.

at the bottom.

Tellingly, he refused to reveal

There was no escape clause, it

now been agreed by the two clubs.

Inspectors from FIFA examine the pitch at Kashima Stadium in Tokyo yesterday. It will host one of next year's World

Welcome Hoddle

Football

AFP, London

Glenn Hoddle was finally unveiled as Tottenham's new manager at a White Hart Lane press conference on Friday evening, the Press Association reported.

The former England midfielder quit as Southampton boss on Wednesday, with Saints chairman Rupert Lowe demanding 800,000 pounds (1.13-million dollars) compensation for the loss of Hoddle who had 15 months left on his contract at

Spurs director of football David Pleat is expected to be at the helm for Saturday's Premiership clash with arch rivals Arsenal at Highbury.

It had looked as though the deal would drag on over the weekend as negotiations failed to reach a con-Suggestions that an announce-

ment would be made through the City of London before a supposed 6pm (1700 GMT) deadline proved unfounded and it looked increasingly likely that Spurs would go into Saturday's north London derby against Arsenal at Highbury without the new man being in position

However. Hoddle and assistant John Gorman - who has also moved from Southampton - finally confirmed their arrival over three hours after the City had officially closed.



GLENN HODDLE

Hoddle has agreed a five-year contract with Spurs. Everything has been agreed between Spurs and Southampton and the paperwork

will be finalised on Monday morning. Hoddle said there was no escape clause in his Southampton contract

federation decided to wait until the ten teams are known". The ten teams will be divided into two groups and the games will be played on a home-and-away

AFP, Nicosia

Saturday.

SPÖRT

basis". he added. The group winners will qualify automatically for the finals in Japan and South Korea, with the two runners-up meeting home and away to decide who will face the fifteenth

Draw for Asian

qualifiers June

The draw for the final phase of the

Asian qualifying for the 2002 World

Cup finals will take place in Bangkok

on June 1, an Asian official said

on May 27 Rahif Alame, executive

member of the Asian federation said

that the "draw was initially scheduled

for May 9 in Singapore, but the Asian

The final Asian zone qualifier is

European team in a play-off. The first leg of this match is scheduled for November 15, 16 or 17 and the second leg on 22, 23 or 24 of the same month.

He added that the ten teams will be divided on five levels according to their results in the last three world cup finals and Asian cups, to avoid clashes between big teams in the same group. The final phase will kick off on

either the 17, 18 or 19 of August and will finish on October 19, 20 or 21. The two seconds in each group

will play the first leg on Ocotber 26, 27 or 28 and the second leg on November 2, 3 or 4. The four teams which have

already booked their ticket for the final phase are Iran (Gr2), Qatar (Gr3), Bahrain (Gr4) and Saudi Arabia (Gr10).

WC final stadium checked

AFP, Yokohama

The stadium that will host next year's World Cup final was given the thumbs up by a visiting FIFA delegation here on Saturday.

FIFA executive members Abdullah K. Al-Dabal of Saudi Arabia, Peter Velappan of Malaysia and Walter Gagg of Switzerland are inspecting the six stadiums to be used during the finals, which Japan is co-hosting with South Korea.

Al-Dabal, 48, said after the inspection of the Yokohama stadium that the team was "very impressed" and the three of them had "no complaint whatsoever." "Hopefully this is going to be a

masterpiece, because the final of the World Cup is always a masterpiece and the world will talk about the final forever," he said.

Rui Costa not for sale

AFP, Florence

Italian Serie A club Fiorentina slapped a hands-off warning on Portuguese playmaker Rui Costa here on Friday.

The 31-year-old, who arrived in Florence in 1994 from Benfica, has been one of the best players in the league during the past decade and a club press release said he was going nowhere.

Batistuta not pleased

Football

AS Roma's Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta Saturday criticised a decision to change the date of the forthcoming match in Florence with his former club Fiorentina because of crowd trouble.

In an interview with Corriere dello Sport the Argentinian, who will return from injury in Sunday's match with Verona, said he believed police were being unnecessarily severe authorities have yet to rule out playing the game rescheduled for Monday, April 9 behind closed

Asked about playing behind closed doors Batistuta first made a iihe at the Fiorentina president Vittorio Cecchi Gori who he believes pushed him out of the door last summer after a record-breaking stint at the Florence club.

"Does that mean Cecchi Gori will be kept out of the ground too?" he joked. "Anyway I don't think my return to Florence means a lot to him. But for the match I wish only one thing - to see the stadium full. I would not want to deprive the people of Florence their own stadium but I want the Roma fans to be accommodated too. Otherwise what has sport come to?

"For this game the ideal solution would have been to play the game as it was planned."

Normally away fans at Florence are given an allocation of 3,000 tickets but up to 15,000 Roma supporters were expected to make the journey to Tuscany to cheer on the league leaders.

Roma fans will travel as they would have work commitments but the 'zero option' - closing the stadium has not been ruled out.

Emotions will be high for Roma fans - chasing a first title for 18 years

By rescheduling the game to

Monday afternoon police hope less

- while Fiorentina will see their former icon - who scored a club record 152 Serie A goals in nine seasons at the club - return in the iersev of another club for the first In the game between the clubs at

Rome's Olympic Stadium earlier

this season Batistuta settled the

match 1-0 with a brilliant late strike but refused to celebrate out of respect for his former club. He was given a standing ovation

before and after the game by Fiorentina fans.

Regarding his return to fitness after a niggling knee injury Batistuta said: "I am fine, I am well. Roma has not yet seen a Batistuta like this."

Against Verona the injury to Marco Delvecchio means Roma coach Fabio Capello will not have to make what would have been a difficult selection decision and is likely to play Batistuta alongside inform Vincenzo Montella up front with Francesco Totti just behind the

A Chinese prayer



China will be looking to their overseas stars for "a miracle" in their quest to qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time.

On paper, the East Asian power-

house's only serious workout in group nine of the Asian qualifying competition should come from Indonesia. Minnows the Maldives and Cambodia, the other teams in the

Sunday. China made the Asian Cup semifinals in Lebanon last year before losing to Japan 3-2, letting a

group, kick off the group in Male on

1 second-half lead slip. Despite that disappointment, the Chinese team looks the strongest outfit in group nine.

It's crammed with talented players such as Fan Zhiyi of English first division Crystal Palace and Yang Chen who makes his living with Eintracht Frankfurt in the German Bundesliga.

National captain Zhang Enhua plays for English first division side

And Serb coach Bora Milutinovic will be looking for a double-digit score when his side hosts the Maldives at the Shianxi Provincial Stadium on April 22 in their first group match "I have told them to trust them-

create a miracle," he told Xinhua, adding that he would be working on raising morale at training camps in Kunming and Xian. In an indication of how seriously

selves and to trust me so we can

China is taking its World Cup campaign, the sina.com website said the Football Association had

already sent two people to the Maldives to check on facilities there. The FA will form a delegation of 40 people, including 22 players, for

the clash there on April 28. Bora meanwhile will watch in person the Indonesia/Maldives and Maldives/Cambodia matches.

Indonesia, runners-up in last year's Tiger Cup, were beaten 4-0 by China at the Asian Cup last year. But Milutinovic admitted at the time that it was a difficult match.

Indonesia now have a new man

at the helm in Benny Dollo and their hopes of an upset will rest with the PSM Makassar trio of Hendro Kartiko, Bima Sakti and Kurniawan Dwi Yulianto. They open their campaign at

home to the Maldives on April 8 before heading to China on May 13. Indonesia host the group favourites two weeks later.

All matches in the group will be played on a home and away basis from April 1 until May 25. In addition to host nations Japan and South Korea, two or three

nations will qualify from the Asian Football Confederation. While Cambodia will struggle to take the points in their opening clash, their real problems start a

fortnight later when they play host to the Maldives. At this stage, it's not certain that

they'll have a stadium. Renovations on the capital's premier Olympic Stadium ceased a month ago when the contractor walked off the job claiming lack of funds, leaving embarassed football officials scouring the city for another

They settled on the crumbling, derelict French colonial-era Lambert Stadium on the banks of the Tonle Sap river and workers have begun hand planting the grass pitch -- blade by blade.

April 15 home game against the Maldives. We will also play China here on May 6," says Khek Ravy, president of the Cambodian ootball Federation.

Despite the optimism, the task looks all but impossible. With the clock ticking, there's twisted metal and rubble everywhere. Although few expect a victory on

Sunday, Cambodian officials are

confident the young team with no "We have been training in Thailand to help bring up our standard, to try reach an international

level of play," says Kul Sophana, executive secretary of the Cambodian Football Federation. "We can't say we expect to win.

But if we look at history, especially the last Tiger Cup, we are getting better," he said.

"Cambodian football is on the move. Cambodia had a reasonable team in the 1960s but progress was halted when the brutal communist Khmer Rouge took the capital

Phnom Penh in 1975, beginning a nearly four-year reign of terror. The nation began to pick up the pieces in the mid-90s and stunned everyone by holding Indonesia to a

1-1 draw in the qualifying round for the 1998 World Cup. The winners of the 10 Asian group qualify for the next round where the teams will be divided into

two groups of five. The winners of these groups will play in the finals with the runners-up fighting it out in a two-legged play-

off for the right to challenge a European team for a third finals

Cambodia counting down



Football officials in Cambodia are racing against time to have a stadium ready to host their World Cup qualifiers

Just two weeks before this desperately poor country is scheduled to host the Maldives in a group nine match of the Asian qualifying competition and grass is still being planted at the crumbling French colonial-era Lambert Stadium.

Renovations on the capital's premier Olympic Stadium were halted completely a month ago with the contractor claiming lack of funds, leaving embarrassed football officials scouring the city for another

"It will be ready in time for the April 15 home game against the Maldives. We also play China here on May 6," says Khek Ravy, president of the Cambodian Football Federation and secretary of state for commerce.

"We tried again a month ago to get Olympic Stadium ready, but could not. We knew if we had one month we would be able to renovate Lambert in time." He said the stadium had a capacity to hold 10,000 fans, but for security reasons only 4,000 tickets would be distributed through sponsors.

Despite the 110,000 dollar effort to fix-up the stadium -- partly funded by Khmer-Chinese businessman Teng Bunma, the country's richest

head start in football compared to many of its neighbours with French colonists introducing the game earlier this century. By the 1960s Cambodia had developed a strong side, and in 1972 they finished fourth in the Asian Cup. But progress was halted when the brutal communist Khmer Rouge took the capital Phnom Penh in 1975, beginning a nearly four-year reign of terror taking the country

and Brunei in the 1997 Southeast Asian Games. They followed this up with an unexpected 1-1 draw against

Indonesia in the qualifying round for the 1998 World Cup.

their opening match on Sunday (April 1) in the Maldives, Cambodian football officials are confident the team, which is young with no seasoned internationals, will do itself

dard, to try reach an international level of play," says Kul Sophana, executive secretary of the Cambodian Football Federation.

But if we look at history, especially the last Tiger Cup, we are getting better. Cambodian football is on the move.



FIELD OF DREAMS: Two Cambodian women plant grass at the Lambert Stadium in Phnom Penh yesterday, two weeks before their country's opening match against Maldives in an Asian World Cup qualifying match.

They settled on the near-derelict and twisted metal and rubble Lambert Stadium on the banks of the Tonle Sap river where workers remains strewn everywhere. are hand planting the grass pitch --The vast peeling edifice, with its two tall towers bearing the Olympic blade by blade. circles, looks like something out of

the Oscar-winning Roman epic "Gladiator" A closer inspection of the pitch reveals an inch or so of bare dirt surrounding each newly-planted blade of grass as dozens of workers

rush to finish the job. Ready or not, for many Cambodians this stadium harks back to better days.

This small Southeast Asian nation of 11 million people had a

back to "Year Zero." Cambodia began to pick up the pieces in the mid-1990s and recorded victories over Myanmar

Although few expect a victory in

"We have been training in

Thailand to help bring up our stan-

"We can't say we expect to win.

