## Scolari shuffles charges



In Wednesday's collective training of the Brazil national squad, the reserves drew 2-2 with the first

equalised from the spot.

The fans watching the training backed the Reserves and even booed the A-team.

The collective training session

Approximately 13,000 supporters turned up to watch the training at the Pinheirao stadium.

The session began with a quick the collective training.

minutes, Luiz Felipe Scolari started with the same formation as in the first training session: Marcos, Roberto Carlos, Juan, Edmilson, Lucio, Cafu; Vampeta, Emerson, Rivaldo; Denilson, Elber, Roberto Carlos and Denilson in his first team, while Belletti and Edilson were put into the Reserves.

tive training, 'BigPhil' make several modifications, which left those

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari (R), instructs Elber (L) and Rivaldo during a practice session in the city of Curitiba, southern Brazil on October 3.

watching with the certainty that absolutely nothing is 100 percent certain: Belletti took over from Cafu. Juninho Paulista from Juan: França substituted Elber and Ronaldinho took Denilson's place.

About tem minutes into the second half. Marcelinho Paraiba opened the scoring, slipping one past Marcos. Then it was Flber's turn, scoring the Reserves' second gaol with a great bicycle kick.

In the 29th minute, after a pass from Ronaldinho. Vampeta scored the first for the A-team. In a dubious move in the 42nd minute, 'Big Phil'

blew up for a penalty in favour of the first team. Rivaldo took the spot kick and equalised.

The Brazilian team will be back in training again on Thursday in two sessions: at 0900 GMT and 1530 GMT in Atletico Paranaense's Training Center

### Primera Liga

# Barca sail to top

Football

AFP, Madrid

quick-fire feats.

Fans of the Catalan giants are not used to such a long absence from pole position of the top flight of Spanish soccer but Barcelona beat Real Mallorca 3-0 to bring a smile

stepping off the gas in the second

However, their time at the top may only last a day, if Celta Vigo can win at home to Valencia on Thurs-

Barcelona were also left to coun

give you a bad diagnosis," the Barcelona club doctor Ricardo Pruna told reporters, who revised his initial estimate of a few weeks' absence to two months by the end of

friendly international against Mexico on November 14.

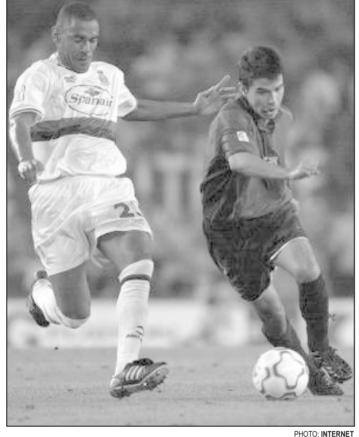
The luckless defender, 29 and with 55 caps to his name, also missed Spain's final two World Cup qualifiers against Austria and Liechtenstein last month due to a severe

Barcelona were not the only men quick of the mark on Wednesday.

Mariano Armentano, nicknamed The Shark, bared his teeth immediately and scored for Osasuna after just 13 seconds, one of the quickest ever goals in

the Spanish First Division. It proved to be decisive as the Pamplona club hung on to beat

Ravo Vallecano 1-0. Armentano weaved his way



Barcelona's Argentinian star Javier Saviola (R) is being followed by Vicente Engonga of Real Mallorca at Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium on October 3.

around three Rayo players straight from the kick off and then slotted the ball past Julen Lopetegui, the former Spanish international goalkeeper having the worst possible start following his recall, after

spending the first five games of the season on the bench.

Ravo remain one place off the foot of the Spanish First Division. with only one point to their name. Like Rayo, Real Sociedad remain

*Primera Liga*'s top six

Spanish First Division table after Wednesday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Barcelona Real Betis Villarreal 13 Celta Vigo Deportivo

bottom of the table on goal differ-The Basque club's sorry season

winless after six matches and are

continued at Real Zaragoza where they went down 3-2, despite taking the lead after 18 minutes from their Turkish international midfielder Tayfun Korkut

Zaragoza grabbed all three points after an injury time winner from Martin Vellisca, who found the net from the right edge of box. Tenerife's Bruno Marioni will be

less proud of his achievement in getting his name in the Spanish First Division's record books. He was given his marching

orders after just 38 seconds of the match against Sevilla for a wild challenge on Fredi Lobeira. Reduced to ten men Tenerife

struggled to contain the Andalusian side and they went down 2-0 to goals from Jose Antonio Reyes and a Nico Olivera penalty. Real Betis squandered their

chance to stay ahead of Barcelona and slipped to second after drawing 0-0 at Athletic Bilbao.

Real Madrid's mediocre league form continued at Las Palmas. losing 4-2 in their first league defeat by the Canary island club for 16 seasons

Pablo Lago got Las Palmas off to a good start, scoring after eight minutes when he capitalised on a defensive error by the Spanish champions' captain Fernando

Pedro Munitis got Real Madrid level on 32 minutes before a penalty from Jorge Larena put the home side in front again two minutes later.

The Las Palmas lead only lasted six minutes before World Player of the Year Zinedine Zidane scored his fourth goal in as many league games, an outstanding freekick from 30 metres.

However, Munitis was sent off early in the second half for scything away the legs of Tomas Olias and Real Madrid's misery was compounded by two late goals from Ruben Castro, his second coming three minutes into injury time thanks to a 35-metre chip over the head of Real goalkeeper Iker Casillas.

### Cruzeiro throw Edmundo out

Colourful Brazilian striker Edmundo has been thrown out of the Cruzeiro squad for what has been described by a club official as appalling behav-

Cruzeiro vice-president Alvimar Perrella de Oliveira Costa said after their 3-0 defeat by Vasco da Gama on Wednesday: "Edmundo behaved appallingly by supporting the opposing fans and by missing a

penalty in the final minutes."

Edmundo, dubbed 'The Animal' for his off-the-wall antics, said afterwards in defence of the club where he started his professional career: "Vasco Da Gama had been almost 22 years of my life."

The 30-year-old began at Vasco in 1992 before joining fellow Brazilian clubs Corinthians, Flamengo and then re-signing for Vasco da Gama. In 1997, he was transferred to Fiorentina whom he left in 1999 after a row with club officials.

They found out Edmundo had

deserted them at a crucial stage of the 1998/99 Italian league season to play the drums in a marching band

He went on to play for Santos and Napoli before joining Cruzeiro.

### **England lose Seaman**

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA APAN

REUTERS, Manchester

England goalkeeper David Seaman has failed to recover from a shoulder injury and will miss his side's final World Cup qualifier against Greece at Old Trafford on Saturday, accord-

ing to team officials. An English Football Association (FA) spokesman said the 38-yearold's right shoulder was still sore when he trained on Thursday. The Arsenal player had left the squad,

Leicester's Ian Walker has been

called up as cover but Leeds

start the European group nine game with Richard Wright, Seaman's understudy at Arsenal, on the bench. Seaman missed Arsenal's 2-0 win at Derby County last Saturday after aggravating the shoulder injury

in the club's 1-0 Champions League defeat by Panathinaikos in Greece three days earlier.

England manager Sven Goran

Eriksson said on Wednesday that he was not unduly concerned about the injury as he had absolute faith in his other goalkeepers.

Martyn has been in great form for his club in recent seasons but on the few occasions he has replaced Seaman for England he has strug-



**DAVID SEAMAN** 

In August he failed to hold a straightforward shot by Boudewijn Zenden, allowing Ruud van Nistelrooy an easy goal in the

Netherlands' 2-0 friendly victory at White Hart Lane.

West Ham United goalkeeper David James was injured in the same match and has not played

In the 2000 European championship Martyn was given a last-minute call-up when Seaman was injured in the warm-up against Romania and promptly gifted Doriel Munteanu the Romanians' second goal in a 3-2 defeat that ended England's interest in the tournament

Wright, who moved from Ipswich Town to Arsenal for 6.6 millions pounds (\$8.81 million) in July, made his first appearance for the club against Derby.

Manchester United midfielder Nicky Butt remained Eriksson's main injury doubt for Saturday's game with with bruised ribs from last weekend's 5-3 win over Tottenham

As on Wednesday, when he did not train with the rest of the squad. Butt did light field work with an England physiotherapist and will be assessed on Friday.

### Real trouble

Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque finally admitted on Thursday what the rest of Spain. and indeed the football-loving world, had known for weeks.

"Yes, we have a crisis in the league. We can't hide things anymore, This certainly isn't the best moment of recent times," the moustached coach told the Spanish radio station Radio Marca, in the wake of his team's 4-2 loss at Las Palmas on Wednesday night.

It was Real Madrid's first loss to the Canary island club in 16 sea-

"But we have to have serenity and patience. The league is very long. I know we are nine points off the lead, and that's enough, but I can remember years we have recovered from a larger deficit," added Del Bosque.

Real Madrid now lie in 14th place but have conceded 12 goals which, along with Espanyol, is the worst record in the Spanish First Division. However, Del Bosque leapt

quickly to defend - unlike the men he has usually been selecting to play at the back - his much-criticised rear-In a poll by one Spanish sports

daily newspaper last week, Real Madrid's Spanish international central defender Ivan Campo was named by nearly two-thirds of the respondents as the squad member they would most like to see transferred.

questions for all the team not just the

last men. That's only fair," said Del Some of the players though

couldn't hide their disappointment at their dismal domestic form after the "Not in my worst dreams did I expect things to turn out this,"

blurted out French international midfielder Claude Makelele. The Spanish newspapers on

Thursday did not attempt to be so diplomatic either. "Real Madrid played with insult-



**VICENTE DEL BOSQUE** 

"Statistically, this league has been the worst for 72 years.

With five points from six games this season, only four points at the same point in the 1929/30 season

"And the origin of the problems is the defence," added As, which thumbed through its record books to so many goals after six games. Real Madrid's despair on

Thursday was made even more embarrassing by the fact that Las Palmas had not even scored a solitary goal in its previous four

One of the few redeeming things Del Bosque can point to is that World Player of the Year Zinedine Zidane is now proving his worth, after initial doubts over the wisdom of paying a world record transfer fee of 66 million dollars for him in the summer, with his fourth goal in as

many league games

However, Real Madrid's problems at Las Palmas were compounded by the unnecessary sending off of Spanish international Pedro Munitis, who was shown the red card early in the second half after he scythed down the Las Palmas defender Tomas Olias well after the ball had gone.

It was the player's first dismissal in 117 league games but will still earn him a two match suspension.

Also out of action for the next two games will be Tenerife's Bruno Marioni, who set the dubious record of becoming the fastest sending off in Spanish First Division history on Wednesday. Marioni was off the field in just 35

seconds flat in Tenerife's match at Sevilla, which the home side won 2after taking away the legs of Sevilla's Fredi Lobeiras. The Argentine striker, beat by

nearly half a minute the best or. perhaps more appropriately, the worst mark on record which had been held by the former Italian international defender Marco Lanna when he played for Salamanca, albeit very briefly in this particular

### in doubt AFP, Rome Lazio's Argentinian midfielder Diego

Simeone's

**World Cup** 

Simeone was Thursday ruled out of action for six months after medical tests on his injured knee, ANSA news agency reported.

Tests on the injury that Simeone picked up in the 1-0 Champions League defeat by PSV Eindhoven of



**DIEGO SIMEONE** 

Holland revealed that he needed surgery in the form of reconstruction work on the cruciate ligament of his right knee.

His comehack date has been set

for early April which would, however, give Simeone time to stake his claim for a place in his country's World Cup squad. Better news came for Lazio in the

news that three more of their injured players - Italian internationals Alessandro Nesta and Angelo Peruzzi and Argentinian Hernan

to his senses

England midfielder Steven Gerrard

Gerrard

comes

**REUTERS**, London

### China on seat's edge



AFP, Beijing

Bars are frantically ordering extra supplies and the nation is bracing for a blow-out perhaps bigger than when Beijing won the Olympics -football-mad China looks set to qualify for its first World Cup.

A win over minnows Oman in the northeastern city of Shenyang on Sunday will guarantee the world's most populous nation a berth in next year's tournament in Japan and . South Korea. Despite the sport's popularity in

China and the potentially huge pool of players, the only major football event the country has ever qualified previously for was the 1988 Olympics. Along the way China have acquired an unenviable reputation

as one of the global game's big "chokers" after a series of qualification near-misses. However this time, guided by charismatic Yugoslav coach Bora Milutinovic qualification seems all but guaranteed, and the years of frustration are set to be ended in a

"We have ordered in three times as many supplies of beer and liquor as we would on a normal weekend, said the manager of Shenyang's popular Topaz bar, who identified himself as Tian.

drink-fuelled celebration.

"We are expecting a very big

Francesco Totti Thursday fired a

Brescia striker would only be wel-

comed back in the national side

news agency reported.

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP

(OREA]APAN

out game in Shenyang are reaching 1,000 yuan (120 dollars), according to some newspaper reports, nearly double the average monthly wage in impoverished Liaoning province, of



**BORA MILUTINOVIC** 

which Shenyang is the capital. In view of this, some supporters are taking particular care to catch the game on television.

"We have already had quite a few customers reserving their seats in the bar," said Tian. "Everybody wants to get a good view of the television.

The players will receive bonuses estimated in Chinese newspapers at anything from several hundred thousand to a million yuan each should they qualify. There is little reason to doubt

they will on Sunday, given that

Baggio, in outstanding form, was

among the 30-35 players in his mind

for his World Cup squad should Italy

Oman have just two points and a single goal from their five Asian Group B qualifying games so far.

State television is planning to broadcast pop star-studded aftermatch celebrations if all goes well. the China Youth Daily newspaper

the team, and in particular Milutinovic However it is a situation with which the much-travelled Serb is

coach ever to take five different countries to football's biggest tournament and would also cement his Despite this, as recently as

August the knives were out for Milutinovic after China's progress through the first stage of Asian qualifying was deemed by some fans to be insufficiently barnstorm-

"I never said I wanted to jump off the Wall myself," he said.

"What I said was that if I don't take China to the finals, the people of China will hang me on the edge of the Great Wall and throw me off."

Totti's reservations about Baggio's potential selection could be linked to allegations that the 'divine ponytail's' presence in the 1996 World Cup squad in France

Italy defender Fabio Cannavaro said that Baggio was a particularly destabilising influence on his fellow strikers, saying: "Four years ago it

**STEVEN GERRARD** has apologised to national coach

Sven Goran Eriksson for going on a late-night drinking session just five days before his country's World Cup qualifier against Greece.

Southport, north-west England, in the early hours of Tuesday morning. With Eriksson's hard line on the behaviour of his squad members well-known, Gerrard offered an

immediate apology which an English Football Association (FA) spokesman said was accepted by the Swedish coach. "Steven Gerrard has given a full explanation to Sven and apologised

for any embarrassment caused," Paul Newman, the FA's director of communications, told the Daily Mail. "As far as Sven is concerned the

attacks on the United States. Asked at the time how he would deal with a frontline player in similar circumstances, he said: "We will see when it happens."

a day after the September 11

miss Tuesday's first England training session to rest.

### 'Witch doctor' to turn chemist! Football choice squad to pick from. Strikers Akinori Nishizawa and "It will give me a further sounding

continent has performed much better on the World Cup finals stage than the Asian teams. "The fact both sides we play have also qualified for the World Cup makes it all the more of a challenge The Frenchman, whose moniker as we could be in their group next

on how much the team has come on

in the past year and it will be particu-

larly interesting to gauge our status

against two African teams whose

vear." he added. Based on their recent performances, including a 1-0 defeat by France in the Confederations Cup final in the summer, the Japanese should start red hot favourites despite Senegal's achievement in seeing off African giants Egypt and Algeria to reach the World Cup finals

for the first time. However, despite Nakata's absence with an ankle injury he picked up playing for Parma in the UEFA Cup last week, and which was

nade worse in the league battle with

Lazio, Troussier can take heart from

Such has been the emergence of Japan under his wing - despite at times mutterings that the Japanese chiefs wanted Arsene Wenger to take over and Troussier himself



PHILIPPE TROUSSIER hinting at stepping down before the

World Cup finals - that now several players have exchanged the wellpaid J-League for the more competitive arena of European and South

Naohiro Takahara have both got off the mark for their respective clubs **Bolton Wanderers and Boca Juniors** while high-flying English First Division outfit Portsmouth signed goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi this week and, based on his outstanding keeping in the Asian Cup, they should be well rewarded for the investment. However, Troussier's thunder

Metsu, who worked wonders to push Senegal to the finals. Long-haired and usually donning smart jacket over his tracksuit, Metsu will have to do without Strasbourg's right back Habib Beye,

who is out for four weeks after crack-

and achievements could be stolen

by his 47-year-old compatriot Bruno

ing his fibia last weekend. However, he does have the formidable striking skills of another France-based player Lens's Hadji El-Diouf, whose eight goals in the qualifiers were a huge part of their going through to the finals

ing mediocrity," commented El Pais. been a disaster for Real Madrid," said the sports daily As, which went on to point out that the start has

compares less favourably.

find that only once before in the last

# Black market tickets for the sold-

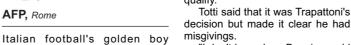
With all the weight of expectation, the pressure is well and truly on

familiar. He has already guided four other nations, Mexico, Costa Rica. the United States and Nigeria, to World Cup qualification. Victory in Sunday evening's match would make him the first

status as a popular hero in China.

The Yugoslav told Chinese reporters earlier this week he was fully aware of the pressure, though denving reports he would "jump off the Great Wall" if China did not

### Totti wary of Baggio Giovanni Trapattoni indicated that most loved players, he would surely



accept to being the 23rd member of warning shot at 34-year-old veteran the squad," said Totti. "The impor-Roberto Baggio, saying that the tant thing is that everything be made lems later." under certain conditions, ANSA

AS Roma skipper Totti issued his Baggio would be a popular choice,

"I don't know how Baggio would

clear first so as not to create probweighed very heavily (on us). The Roma skipper admitted (Alessandro) Del Piero was dead."

saying: "In Japan he is one of the warning days after Italy coach

create enthusiasm.

caused disharmony in the team.

Newspapers reported that the 21-year-old Liverpool player was seen drinking with friends in a bar in

matter is closed.' Eriksson, who has often spoken of the importance of lifestyle off the pitch, left Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard out of the squad after his involvement in a hotel drinking session that upset American tourists

He had been given permission to

# INTERNET, Curitiba

Marcelinho Paraiba and Elber, both scored in the second half to put the reserves 2-0 up. But Vampeta reduced the arrears, scoring the first goal for the first team 29 minutes into the second half. Rivaldo then

on Wednesday, scheduled to begin at 1530 GMT, finally got underway at

warm up: the players stretching, passing the ball around and, finally, getting into position for the start of In the first half, which lasted 30

In the second half of the collec-

Barcelona went to the top of the Spanish league for the first time in nearly two years on Wednesday, while the Argentine pair of Osasuna's Mariano Armentano and Tenerife's Bruno Marioni made Spanish football history for their

back to their supporters' face. They rattled in three goals in barely half an hour before noticably

the cost of the victory after their Spanish international Sergi Barjuan limped off midway through the second half with a torn hamstring. "It's a serious injury. I can only

The injury is likely to keep Sergi out of the reckoning for Spain's

migrane.

AFP, Paris

Japan's unpredictable coach Philippe Troussier declared ahead of his side's two-match tour to Europe that he would treat it like a laboratory test exercise though he will have to do it without injured star playmaker Hidetoshi Nakata

of 'white witch doctor' earned from a

successful spell in African football

has worked wonders with the World

Cup co-hosts landing the Asian Cup last year, faces his first test in Lens on Thursday against African surprise packages Senegal. Troussier will then face one of his former teams Nigeria in Southampton on Sunday though he will not be shaking hands with too many of their senior officials given that he walked out three years ago when they failed to pay him his

"This tour will be like a laboratory