

Fergie's another change of heart



AFP, London

Sir Alex Ferguson has changed his mind about retiring at the end of the season and offered to stay on as manager of Manchester United, the club revealed on Tuesday.

The 60-year-old, the most successful manager ever in British club football, had said the end of this campaign would be his last but United have found it difficult to find a successor to fill the hotseat at the two-time European Cup winning side.

The revelation that Ferguson, who had said he was retiring to spend more time with his family and watch his growing stable of racehorses perform, would probably be staying on immediately boosted the club's share value by two percent.

His decision could also have a beneficial effect on playmaker and England captain David Beckham, who has been holding out on sign-

ing a new contract amid concerns about who would succeed Ferguson.

"The board of Manchester United PLC confirms that it was recently approached by Sir Alex Ferguson on Sir Alex remaining as manager of the club beyond this season," the club said in a statement.

"The board has entered into discussions with Sir Alex and his advisors on a new contract.

"These discussions are continuing and a further announcement will be made in due course," it added.

Ferguson took over the United job in 1986 after a successful term in charge at Aberdeen, whom he led to among other trophies the 1983 Cup Winners Cup.

After a nervy start when United flirted with relegation and his position became shaky he launched the Red Devils on the most trophy-laden period in their history.

The club has garnered four FA Cups, seven championship crowns, the 1991 Cup Winners Cup and the jewel in the crown, the epic 2-1

injury-time win over Bayern Munich in the 1999 Champions League emulating Sir Matt Busby's feat in 1968.

When Ferguson signs his new



SIR ALEX FERGUSON

contract he will once again probably become the best-paid manager in the Premiership.

Last summer his salary increased from 1.67million pounds to 2million pounds for his final

season in charge.

However, this was eclipsed when Arsene Wenger signed his new deal at Arsenal, which is worth a reported 2.5million pounds a year.

Ferguson, who has always felt underpaid by United during much of his reign, will want at least that figure to carry on.

United, though, will consider him worth every penny and chief executive Peter Kenyon has been trying since his first day in the job to persuade him to stay.

Virtually all of the contenders for the job had ruled themselves out, including England coach Sven-

Goran Eriksson, Leeds United's highly-rated Irishman David O'Leary, Arsenal's Arsene Wenger and Italian duo Marcello Lippi and Fabio Capello.

Celtic boss Martin O'Neill expressed interest at first but then changed his mind while Bayern Munich boss Ottmar Hitzfeld, the man in charge at that 1999 European Cup final, was also linked with the post.

Italian Cup Juve v Parma most likely

AFP, Milan

Barring unforeseen circumstances Juventus and Parma should book their places in the Italian Cup Final this week as they defend what look to be winning positions in their semi-final second leg matches with AC Milan and Brescia respectively.

Juve, still on course for a treble of *Serie A*, Italian Cup and Champions League, are favourites to progress in Wednesday's semi when they defend a 2-1 lead against AC Milan at the Stadio Delle Alpi.

Throughout the Cup competition Juve have fielded their reserve players but the pairing of Nicola Amoroso and Uruguayan Marcelo Zalayeta have proved as prolific in Italy's lesser competition as first-choices Alessandro Del Piero and Frenchman David Trezeguet have in *Serie A*.

But it was substitute Del Piero's late goal in the San Siro in the first leg that gave Juve the advantage and they must fancy their chances of progressing against a Milan side that has looked demoralised in recent weeks and has not won since the 1-0 defeat of Lecce on January 6.

Parma, who on Thursday face Brescia for the third time in a week, are looking home and dry already as they take a 2-0 lead to Brescia's run-down Stadio Mario Rigamonti.

If any club is entitled to feel cursed at the moment it is Brescia who have tumbled deep into relegation trouble after a series of misfortunes.

Their two key players Josep Guardiola and Roberto Baggio have been sidelined, the Spaniard by a four-month ban for doping and the Italian by the injury that will keep him out of the World Cup.

But those two blows pale into insignificance when compared to the car crash that killed defender Vittorio Mero.

Carlo Mazzone, at 64, the oldest coach in *Serie A* has never won a major prize in his 34 years on the touchline and this year's Cup looks like eluding him too with the first two installments of the Brescia-Parma trilogy finishing 2-0 and 4-1 to Parma.

FIXTURES	
(1st leg scores in brackets)	
Wednesday: Juventus (2) v AC Milan (1) at 19:45 GMT	
Thursday: Brescia (0) v Parma (2) at 20:00 GMT	

Senegal, Cameroon in semis



AFP, Bamako

Senegal beat 10-man DR Congo and Cameroon defeated Egypt on Monday to complete the African Nations Cup semi-final jigsaw which saw hosts Mali and three World Cup qualifiers through.

Senegal's 2-0 victory continued their success on the international scene since their surprise qualification for football's showpiece event in South Korea and Japan later this year.

Defending champions

Cameroon, also the Olympic winners, merely confirmed their pedigree as one of the established giants of African football with their 1-0 victory.

Senegal face Nigeria on Thursday at 1600 GMT with hosts Mali tackling defending champions Cameroon three hours later in the second semi-final, both in Bamako.

Cameroon advanced after Patrick Mboma scored the decisive goal. African footballer of the year Mboma netted his third goal of the tournament midway through the second half at Sikasso's Babemba Traore Stadium.

The Parma star's winner came from a Geremi Njitap corner on 62 minutes, Mboma outjumping Salah Al-Hosni to glance his header past Egypt keeper Essam Al-Hadary.

It was a sorry exit for four-time champions Egypt, whose strategy of defending in depth and looking for chances on the counter-attack made for a lacklustre encounter.

Cameroon, the more adventurous of the two sides, had chances to increase their tally late on but in the end had to settle for victory by a single goal.

Egypt were unable to respond to Mboma's strike, their only attempts at an equaliser coming from an Ahmed Hossam header that flashed well wide of the post and a Yaser Radwan freekick that flew over.

In the other semi-final, Congolese Alexis Tekumu became the first player to be sent off in the biennial African championship after the second brawl of the match erupted with full-time beckoning.

Tekumu made a two-footed lunge at Bouba Diop just after his team had fallen two goals behind, triggering ugly touchline scenes as Italian referee Domenico Messina battled to separate players.

Once order had been restored, Tekumu was shown a red card, marking the sad exit of a team that caused the surprise of the group phase by finishing ahead of Ivory Coast.

A headed goal by Alassane Dia from French club Sedan put the 'Teranga Lions' ahead after 31 minutes and Al-Hadi Diouf struck a simple second with four minutes of normal time left.

Baggio's chances bleak



AFP, Bologna

Brescia striker Roberto Baggio's chances of playing in this year's World Cup finals were all but extinguished on Monday when he was ruled out of action for the rest of the season.

The 34-year-old veteran, who has played in three World Cup finals, underwent surgery on Monday to reconstruct the cruciate anterior ligament of his left knee and will now be sidelined for the rest of the campaign.

A statement put out by Brescia refused to give any time limit on how long Baggio will be absent from the field but the Italian season ends on May 5 and national team coach Giovanni Trapattoni has already made it clear that he will not select any players whose fitness is unproven.

Trapattoni, on hearing of Baggio's injury, refused to address

the World Cup question, telling journalists: "I am very sorry for him but please forget about the World Cup: when we are talking about an



ROBERTO BAGGIO

injury as serious as that Japan does not interest me much."

Operating surgeon Maurilio

Marcacci said that three and a half months would be the minimum recovery time.

"That time span is the best-case scenario," said Marcacci. "Although it is difficult to say what the precise likelihood is because Baggio does not seem like a 35-year-old (he turns 35 in a fortnight) and has the recuperative powers of a 20-year-old." Baggio injured his knee in last Thursday's 2-0 Italian Cup semi-final defeat by Parma continuing his miserable run of injuries which dates back to November.

Brescia's veteran coach Carlo Mazzone had admitted on Saturday that he feared the worst.

"The injury is certainly a serious one. We still hope for a miracle. But I think that this unpleasant incident will end up closing the road to the World Cup for Baggio," Mazzone said.

Baggio, once the world's most expensive player when he joined Juventus from Fiorentina, has had a glittering career but is best remembered for his penalty miss in the 1994 World Cup Final penalty shoot-out that handed victory to Brazil.

Bergkamp loses red card appeal

AFP, London

Dennis Bergkamp's appeal against his dismissal during Arsenal's FA Cup fourth round tie against Liverpool was turned down Monday, following recommendations by the Football Association's video advisory panel.

The Gunners striker, dismissed for a two-footed lunge on Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher at Highbury on January 27, will receive a three-match suspension for violent conduct.

The ban will see the Dutch international ruled out of this Sunday's Premiership trip to Everton, the following weekend's FA Cup tie with Gillingham or Bristol Rovers, and the February 23 league clash with Fulham at Highbury.

A date remains to be arranged for Thierry Henry's hearing, with regard to his behaviour at the end of Arsenal's Premiership match with Newcastle at Highbury before Christmas.

Tv GUIDE

BTv	
3:10	News Headlines
3:15	Deshar Gaan
3:20	Open University
3:45	Shashatathya
4:00	Khabar
4:05	Cartoon: Zoomanji
4:20	Shukhi Poribar
4:40	Khelte Khelte Computer
5:00	News Headlines
5:20	Shikkhangon
5:45	Pushtitathya
6:00	Khabar
6:10	Geet Bitan
6:35	Programme from Chittagong station
7:00	News Headlines
7:05	Mati O' Manush
7:25	Procheshta
8:00	News in Bengali
8:25	Ekush Amar Ohonkar
8:35	Drama Serial: Bhalobashar Shukh Dukho
9:00	News Headlines
9:05	Chayachanda
9:30	Drama Serial: Tomar Kachei Jabo
10:00	News at Ten
10:30	Anandaloke
11:30	Khabar: The News
EKUSHEY TV	
12:00pm	Ekushey Midday
12:30	Charidike
1:00	Expedition to the Animal Kingdom
1:30	Documentary Programmed: Japan Video Tropic
1:50	Classic Cartoons
2:10	Deho Tore
2:30	Drishhti
3:00	Ekushey Headlines
3:05	Drama Serial: Ek Cup Cha
3:30	Khelay Khelay
4:00	Chirontonee
4:30	Expedition to the Animal Kingdom
5:00	Documentary Programmed: Japan Video Tropic
5:30	Drishhti
5:50	Ajker Potrikay
6:00	Ekushey Headlines
6:05	Classic Cartoons
6:30	Deshjure Songlap
6:55	Ekushey Headlines
7:00	Chips & Bytes
7:30	Ekushey News
8:00	Drama Serial: Bondhon
8:45	Programme of Song : Anondo
9:00	Ekushey News
9:05	Drama Serial: Attoprokash
9:30	Drama Serial: Sundoree
10:00	News: Simulcast From BTv
10:30	Chittrogetee

ATN BANGLA	
5:30am	Islamic Prog
7:00	ATN Music
7:35	Dance prog: Dance Dance
8:00	ATN Bangla News
8:25	Musical prog
9:00	ATN Computer Projukti
9:35	Drama: Matrichaya
10:50	Drama serial: Bondhon
11:20	Bengali feature film: Kabin
12:00pm	ATN Bangla News
6:07	Health care prog: Sustha Thakun
6:45	Film Song's Prog: Surchoibi
7:00	ATN Bangla Evening News
7:35	Musical Prog
8:10	Film Magazine: Dhallywood Bichitra
8:35	Drama serial: Bhalobashi Sudu Tumakee
9:20	Drama serial: Brither Bhalobasa
10:00	ATN Bangla News
10:35	Drama serial: Bondhon
11:15	Bengali Feature Film: Protidheha
11:30	ATN Bangla News
HBO	
6:30am	The Fury Within
9:00	The Next Karate Kid
11:00	Raven
12:00pm	Hush
2:00	Look Who's Talking Too
3:45	Wayne's World
5:45	The Next Karate Kid
8:00	Falcon Down
10:00	Psycho
12:12	The Relic
2:30	White Palace
4:30	Wayne's World
STAR GOLD	
7:00am	Kismet (Biswajeet, Babita)
10:30	Bollywood News
11:00	Geet Bahar
12:00 pm	Vishwasghaath (Sanjeev Kumar, Shabana Azmi)
3:00	Bollywood News
4:00	Madhumati (Dilip Kumar, Vyjayantimala)
7:00	Geet Bahar
7:30	Rang Birangi Biwi Ho To Aisi (Rekha, Farouque Sheikh)
11:00	Bollywood News
11:30	Paikoni Ki Chhaon Mein (Rajesh Khanna, Hema Malini)
STAR PLUS (INDIA)	
6:00am	Sanskriti
6:30	Geet Bahar

7:30	Hum Saath Aath Hain
8:00	Aatma
9:00	Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet
9:30	Fox Kids Daily
10:10	Hit Geet
10:25	Kya Film Kya Geet
10:30	Small Wonder
11:00	Main
11:30	Meri Saahil
12:00pm	Shanti
12:30	Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet
1:00	Hum Saath Aath Hain
1:30	Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
2:00	Sanskriti
2:30	Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
3:00	Shagun
3:25	Film Toppers
3:30	Kasauti Zindagi Kay
4:00	Kabhi Sauten Kabhi Saheli
4:30	Kaathin Kissil Roz
5:00	Meri Saheli
5:30	Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet
6:00	Small Wonder
6:30	Fox Kids Daily
7:10	Aaj Ki Baat
7:25	Film Toppers
8:00	Hum Saath Aath Hain
8:30	Son Pari
9:00	Kasauti Zindagi Kay
9:30	Sanjivani
10:30	Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
11:00	Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
11:30	Kaahin Kissil Roz
STAR WORLD	
6:00am	Happy Days
6:30	3" Rock From The Sun
7:00	The Oprah Winfrey Show
8:00	MacGyver
9:00	JAG
10:00	The Pretender
11:00	The Oprah Winfrey Show
12:00pm	Law & Order -- SVU
1:00	Caroline In The City
1:30	The Bold & The Beautiful
2:00	Mork & Mindy
2:30	Happy Days
3:00	Baywatch
4:00	The Simpsons
4:30	3" Rock From The Sun
5:00	Star News Asia
5:30	Friends
6:00	The Drew Carey Show
6:30	Whose Line Is It Anyway
6:55	Asianews Update
7:00	Ally McBeal
8:00	The Practice
9:00	Friends

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS	
	EKUSHEY: 9:30p.m. <i>Shundori</i> . Last Episode: Gofur Sherwani has been murdered. In the court Jahir says that when he saw that someone was setting the jungle on fire and the tigers, deer and other animals are running for their lives, as a forest officer what else was there to do. He also said that he ordered his men to fire and later he fired the gun himself.
	STAR WORLD: 6:00 & 9:30p.m. <i>The Drew Carey Show</i> . As the name suggests, the show is a humorous outlook on Drew Carey's life. This lovable comedian and author has inspired this fast-paced comedy depicting the life of a single "every guy" who's just trying to have some fun along the way. In tonight's episode Drew tries to be more assertive, but it gets Larry fired.
	AXN: 10:30p.m. <i>America's Sweethearts</i> . For an awkward, self-conscious girl like Kiki (Julia Roberts), being the personal assistant to a beautiful mega-star like Gwen (Catherine Zeta-Jones) isn't easy. But when she dutifully accepts the task of helping Gwen and her estranged mega-star husband Eddie (John Cusack) make it through one last public appearance masterminded by legendary press agent Lee Phillips (Billy Crystal), forever devoted Kiki finds that her job is about to get even harder.
9:30	The Drew Carey Show
10:00	Whose Line Is It Anyway
10:30	Ally McBeal
11:30	The Practice
7:00am	Comedy: Benny And Joon
9:00	Action: Rocky IV
10:30	Comedy: Just A Little Hamless Sex
1:45	Drama: He Got Game
4:00	Thriller: Motel
5:45	Drama: Instinct
7:45	Comedy: Coupe De Ville
9:30	Hollywood Action Night: Deadly Passage
11:00	Action: Queen's Messenger
STAR MOVIES	
7:00am	Comedy: Benny And Joon
9:00	Action: Rocky IV
10:30	Comedy: Just A Little Hamless Sex
1:45	Drama: He Got Game
4:00	Thriller: Motel
5:45	Drama: Instinct
7:45	Comedy: Coupe De Ville
9:30	Hollywood Action Night: Deadly Passage
11:00	Action: Queen's Messenger
STAR NEWS	
6:30am	NewsHour
7:30	Breakfast News English
8:00	Breakfast News Hindi
9:00	Breakfast News English
9:30	Breakfast News Hindi
10:00	Breakfast News English
10:30	Breakfast News Hindi
11:00	Breakfast News English
11:30	Breakfast News Hindi
12:00pm	Star News Hindi
12:30	Star News English
6:30	Bollywood News
7:00	Star Bazaar Hindi

PICK OF THE DAY	
	Psycho on HBO at 10:00 Marion Crane (Heche) commits the ultimate crime, by robbing her employer in a desperate attempt to change her life. Her crime will not go unpunished, and she'll certainly find her life changed. Irreversibly. By checking into the Bates Motel, she also makes the ultimate mistake. Norman (Vaughn, Jurassic Park: The Lost World) will be waiting. It is here that she will be punished. Starring: Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche, Julianne Moore.
7:30	The Tree and The Ant
9:30	Family Hour
10:30	Adventure One
11:30	Wild
12:00pm	Wild
12:30	Building Big Dam
1:00	Family Hour
2:30	Wild
3:30	Out There
4:00	Africa From The Ground Up
4:30	People And Places
5:30	On Assignment
6:00	India Diaries
6:30	Swimming Elephant
7:30	Family Hour
8:00	Wild
9:30	Out There
10:00	Africa From The Ground Up
10:30	People And Places
11:30	On Assignment
12:00	India Diaries
CHANNEL [V]	
7:30am	[V] Hit Machine
8:00	[V] Back To Back
8:30	[V] Jumpstart
9:00	Goals!
9:30	Bloopers
10:00	Australia Cricket Vb Series Melbourne, Australia 1" Final, Highlights
11:30	Sportscenter Hindi
12:00pm	Nba Basketball Washington, DC USA Toronto Raptors @ Washington Wizards
2:30	Sportscenter Hindi
3:00	Winter X Games
4:00	Football Focus
5:00	Sportscenter Bristol, CT USA
6:00am	Rugby 7's Irb World Series 2001/02 Durban, South Africa Highlights
7:30	Sportsline Today
8:30	Spanish Football League 2001/02 Spanish Football League La Corona, Spain Alaves @ Deportivo La Corona
9:30	Pga Tour Golf At@T Pebble Beach
10:30	National Pro-Am Pebble Beach, CA USA Final Round
11:00	Sportsline Today English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2001/02 Leeds, England Liverpool @ Leeds United
12:00	Sportsline Tonight
1:00	South Africa Cricket South Africa, England, Zimbabwe Tn Series Cape Town, South Africa Zimbabwe @ England 4" Odi, Highlights
2:00	Sportsline Tonight
3:00	South Africa Cricket South Africa, England, Zimbabwe Tn Series Kimberly, South Africa Zimbabwe @ England 5" Odi, Highlights

9:30	[V] Hit Machine
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