Football

the Italian press reported.

(dollars) a season.

Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo

has accepted an offer to join Italian

giants AC Milan and will sign a

contract later Friday at Sao Paulo,

minister Silvio Berlusconi, are

reported to be interested in signing

the 30-year-old striker for a period of

three years at 4.5 million euro

Footballer of the Year, parted com-

pany with Spanish giants Barcelona

last weekend in a surprise move

with a year still to run on his contract.

Braida travelled to Sao Paulo

accompanied by two team officials

Thursday and the deal was struck

with the player's agents after seven

hours of negotiations, Corriere della

mind

Football

Zinedine Zidane, the world's most

expensive player, says he would be

prepared to accept a pay cut at Real Madrid if the club thought it was

"For the moment we have not

talked about the issue at Real

Madrid, but I would be prepared to

accept a lower salary if it was

thought necessary," Zidane was

quoted as saying on the club's

great deal of money in football, but it

is clear that things have changed

and it is now being affected by an

less about money," added the 30-year-old who signed for Real, the

European champions, for a world

comments come two weeks after

Inter Milan trio Ronaldo, Christian

Vieri and Alvaro Recoba said they

would be prepared to accept a

salary reduction to help their club

The French international's

record dollars 66 million last year.

"It might be better if we all talked

"In recent years there has been a

REUTERS, Madrid

website on Fridav.

economic crisis.

necessary.

Zidane won't

AC Milan director general Ariedo

Rivaldo, the 1999 World

The club, owned by Italian prime

AFP, Rome

Inter given tough draw



REUTERS, Nyon

Ronaldo's Inter Milan face a battle to qualify for the lucrative group phase of the Champions League after they were drawn against Sporting Lisbon in the third qualifying round.

Sporting were one of the unseeded teams that the top sides -among them seven former title winners -- had hoped to avoid in Friday's draw at UEFA headquar-

UEFA Cup holders Feyenoord of the Netherlands were also given a tough draw against Turkey's Fenerbahce but Manchester United, Bayern Munich, AC Milan and Barcelona were handed more straightforward ties.

Inter were knocked out by Sweden's Helsingborg in the final qualifying stage for the 2000/01 Champions League and they will need Brazilian World Cup hero Ronaldo to be at his best to over come Sporting.

"It will be a very difficult game," said Inter vice-president Giacinto

"Sporting Lisbon are one of the best possible opponents. But when we were in the Champions League the last time we drew with the weaker teams and we went out of the competition, so perhaps it's better to play a strong team.'

Inter's neighbours, five-times winners AC Milan, have an easier task against Slovan Liberec of the Czech Republic.

Manchester United, the 1999 European champions, will play Zalaegerszegi of Hungary or Croatia Zagreb who play each other in the second qualifying round on July 31 and August 7.

United, whose Old Trafford stadium is hosting this season's Champions League final on May 28, played Croatia Zagreb home and away in the first group stage of the 1999-2000 competition. They drew 0-0 at Old Trafford and won 2-1

away. The 2000 winners Bayern, who like United are forced to qualify after only finishing third in their domestic league last season, tackle Swedish side Hammarby or Partizan Belgrade of Yugoslavia.

Feyenoord's tie with Fenerbahce, with the first leg in the Netherlands, will raise security concerns given the reputations of

Football

INTERNET, Middlesbrough

Brazilian midfielder Juninho is set to

return to Teesside after

Middlesbrough agreed a four-year

been locked in talks with the 29-

year-old after agreeing a £6million

fee with his Spanish club Athletico

ations, Middlesbrough announced

they had finally come to an agree-

And following protracted negoti-

A statement on the club's official

website read: 'Middlesbrough

Football Club are delighted to

announce that last night they

agreed personal terms with Juninho

having already agreed a fee with

contract, subject to the player

passing a medical and obtaining a

work permit from the Department of

due to link up with his new team-

mates week commencing August 5

and it is hoped that he will make his

debut in the pre-season friendly

against Alaves on Wednesday,

spoke of his delight at the capture.

He said: 'I'm absolutely delighted

Juninho has agreed to join us. We

have a World Cup winner who is as

'I have spoken to him a couple of

times and he wants to help make

Middlesbrough successful. He is

very excited to be coming back to

Teesside and we look forward to

welcoming here. He feels he has

can unlock tight defences and

'Juninho is the sort of player who

ambitious as we are.

unfinished business.

Boro boss Steve McClaren

'The Brazilian international is

'The club has agreed a four-year

The Premiership outfit have

deal with the World Cup winner.

Madrid earlier this month.

ment with the midfielder.

Athletico Madrid

Employment

August 7.

Fenerbahce's vice-president Sadettin Saran said: "Feyenoord is a very difficult team. They were UEFA Cup champions last year but Fenerbahce have strengthened the team this year with some good

"It's going to be a difficult game but Turkish football is rising after the (semi-final) performance in the

Norwegians to win (their second qualifying round tie)," said Newcastle United chairman Freddy Shepherd.
"If it's Bosnia, it's Bosnia but

we're used to that part of the world. Neither team will faze us." Scottish champions Celtic will

"It could have been worse, we're

quite happy, we expect the

face either Zilina of Slovakia or

2002/03 UEFA Champions League third qualifying round First leg matches: 13/14 August 2002 Second leg matches: 27/28 August 2002			
	Fixture		
1	Sporting Clube de Portugal (POR)	v	Internazionale FC (ITA)
2	Milan AC (ITA)	v	FC Slovan Liberec (CZE)
3	Rosenborg BK (NOR)	v	Brøndby IF (DEN) v KS Dinamo Tirana (ALB)
4	FC Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR)	v	Club Brugge KV (BEL) v FC Dinamo B'resti (ROM
5	NK Maribor (SLO) v APOEL Nicosia FC (CYP)	v	AEK Athens FC (GRE)
6	FC Barcelona (ESP)	v	FK Vardar (MKD) v Legia Warszawa (POL)
7	FC Skonto (EST) v PFC Levski Sofia (BUL)	v	FC Dynamo Kyiv (UKR) FC Pyunik (ARM)
8	Lillestrøm SK (NOR) or FK Zeljeznicar (BHZ)	v	Newcastle United FC (ENG)
9	Hammarby IF (SWE) v FK Partizan (YUG)	v	FC Bayern München (GER)
10	KRC Genk (BEL)	v	AC Sparta Praha (CZE) FC Torp. Kutaisi (GEO)
11	Maccabi Haifa (ISR) v FC Belshina Bobruisk (BLS)	v	SK Sturm Graz (AUT)
12	Celtic FC (SCO)	v	MŠK Zilina (SVK) v FC Basel (SUI)
13	Feyenoord (HOL)	v	Fenerbahçe SK (TUR)
14	Zalaegerszegi TE (HUN) v NK Zagreb (CRO)	v	Manchester United FC (ENG)
15	Boavista FC (POR) v Hibernians FC (MLT)	v	AJ Auxerre (FRA)
16	FC Lokomotiv Moscow (RUS)	v	FC Sheriff Tiraspol (MOI v Grazer AK (AUT)

World Cup.

Boro get their man

Saran said he did not expect security problems. "We've played matches in other countries like England where the fans are boisterous. It comes with the territory."

The 1992 winners, Barcelona, will be relatively happy with a draw against either Vardar Skopje of Macedonia or Legia Warsaw.

Newcastle United were likewise content after being drawn against

create goals, which is something we

lacked last season. He will bring us

that something extra that we have

Stadium. He first arrived in England

from Sao Paulo for £4.75million in

November 1995 and set the Premier

Although Boro reached both the

FA Cup and League Cup finals in

1997, the little Brazilian could not

prevent the club from being rele-

Athletico Madrid for £12million, but

returned to Middlesbrough on loan

in September 1999 after failing to

hold down a regular first-team place

Brazilian sides Flamengo and

Vasco da Gama before catching the

eye at this summer's World Cup

Middlesbrough chief executive

Keith Lamb has been relentless in

his negotiations to bring the

playmaker back to the club, holding

finals in Japan and Korea.

Juninho was then farmed out to

He was subsequently sold to

gated to Division One.

in Spain

League alight with his electric runs.

Swiss team Basel, while France's Auxerre play Boavista of Portugal or Maltese team Hibernians.

The first leg matches of the third qualifying round will be played on August 13-14 and the return legs on August 27-28.

group phase.

The 16 winners will take their place alongside the 16 automatic qualifiers in the draw for the opening

length talks with Juninho's agent

pound fee with Atletico early this

terms when Giroldo flew to England

However, as he returned suggesting

the World Cup winner would resume

his career with Madrid next season,

the Teessiders upped their offer,

making it clear it was their best and

parties have now come to an agree-

ment which looks set to see Juninho

boost McClaren's squad - although

the deal remains subject to a medi-

cal and the Brazilian obtaining a

he first was at the Riverside, they

'He played exceptional well for

three or four games and he looked

like the Juninho of old. He spent two

or three years where he has not

been the same player because of

this really bad injury when he broke

Cup, playing on that stage as well as

he did. you have got to say he is in

fantastic nick and is a great asset to

'But if anyone saw the World

pre-season friendly last night.

And following more talks, the two

The Teessiders agreed a 6million

and father, Osvaldo Giroldo.

Juninho was a big hit during his month, but could not agree personal

final package.

work permit.

superb player.

any club.



RIVALDO

The Italian club had moved into

action following the announcement

that the Brazilian was leaving Barca

with Berlusconi reported to have

personally telephoned Real Madrid

president Florentino Peres request-

ing that the Spanish rivals not try to

his villa at Mogi Mirim and will travel

to Sao Paulo to sign on the dotted

Rivaldo is currently holidaying at

up the bidding for the Brazilian.

ZINEDINE ZIDANE

Italian soccer. Zidane and his Real Madrid team mates Luis Figo and Raul are reported to be the three highest paid players in Spanish football, each

million a year. Brazilian forward Rivaldo was released this month by Barcelona in an apparent bid to cut costs.

earning in excess of dollars 6

AC Milan, who are favourites to sign Rivaldo, said earlier this week they hoped the Brazilian World Cup winner would make realistic wage demands at a time when Italian clubs are tightening their belts.

through the financial crisis hitting Rovers rope in Yorke

Football

REUTERS, Blackburn

Blackburn Rovers have signed striker Dwight Yorke from Premier League rivals Manchester United for two million pounds.

The fee for the 30-year-old from McClaren and his players are Trinidad and Tobago could rise to currently in Austria, where they drew 2.6 million pounds, depending on 2-2 with Italian side Udinese in a appearances, which would still be 10 million pounds less than what They flew out having clinched a United paid Aston Villa for Yorke in season-long loan deal with Real

Madrid's Cameroon international He scored 29 goals in his first Geremi, who has had his application season to help the Old Trafford club for a work permit approved. win the Treble of Champions Former Middlesbrough defender League, Premier League and FA Gary Pallister believes Juninho can Cup, but struggled to maintain his once again have a major impact at form over the next three years and the north-east club lost manager Alex Ferguson's He told Sky Sports News: 'When confidence.

had some good times and some of am to sign for Blackburn and get this the football they were playing was great opportunity," Yorke told the superb. Now he is back to his best Blackburn website on Friday. and we saw in the World Cup he is a "There's a passion deep inside

me that wants to do well and I'm desperate to re-establish myself in the Premiership."

"I can't tell you how delighted I

Yorke slipped down the pecking order behind Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Andy Cole, and the 19 millionpounds signing of Dutchman Ruud van Nistelroov last vear restricted his first team opportunities still

Cole joined Blackburn last December and Rovers manager Graeme Souness will hope to rekindle the prolific partnership Cole and Yorke enjoyed with United in the



DWIGHT YORKE 1998-99 season, when they claimed

53 goals between them. "I had a fantastic few years at United, but it's been frustrating of late and coming to Blackburn just feels right," Yorke said.

"Everyone knows I'm a pal of Andy Cole but he's not the only player I'm familiar with in the squad and I'm looking forward to playing alongside them all.

Bayern fail to shine

REUTERS, Aue, Germany

Bayern Munich have failed to survive their opening match in the preseason German League Cup tournament, losing on penalties to Hertha Berlin.

The game was a 2-2 draw after 90 minutes and went straight to the shoot-out, which Hertha won 4-3 courtesy of three saves from Hungarian goalkeeper Gabor Kiralv.

Brazilian striker Elber opened the scoring on 17 minutes for Bayern, who were missing new signings Michael Ballack, Sebastian Deisler and Ze Roberto through injuries.

Hertha levelled just before the break through Brazilian striker Marcelinho, who then set up striker and captain Michael Preetz for a 2-1 lead for the Berlin club with three

minutes remaining. Elber equalised seconds later for Bayern, who desperately want a title after failing to win any silverware last season for the first times since 1995.

Hertha, who announced shortly before the match that Brazil's World Cup striker Luizao had joined them on a four-year deal, go on to meet Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday in the semifinals of the lucrative tournament featuring the top six teams

REUTERS, Paris

Football

Rivaldo Milan's? | PSG on sale

The owners of Paris St Germain have put France's most glamorous soccer club up for sale, casting a further shadow over the new season as European football grapples with a growing financial crisis.

French pay-tv group Canal Plus wants to sell the club, whose players include Brazil's Ronaldinho, as part of a break-up imposed by parent company Vivendi Universal, a source close to the debt-laden media group has said.

The French-American media giant announced the break-up of Canal Plus on Tuesday as part of plans to dig its way out of crushing debts left by rapid over-expansion.

It has not said whether the Paris club it bought in 1991 is on the list of assets up for grabs, but the source said Canal Plus would sell PSG as long as it could find a buyer.

"Paris St Germain was not on the list of assets Vivendi plans to keep and will be sold," the source told Reuters.

Emerging days before a new season, Vivendi's plans to dump PSG sparked outrage from the club's associates and supporters.

"It's not good news. The season is starting, the team is training and I'd have preferred it to have happened at another time or not all." said Alain Cayzac, head of the PSG Association, which manages the

"You can't play around with PSG," Cayzac, who is also a minority shareholder in the club, told France Info radio.

Bitter about PSG's recent performance, a fan writing on the club's web forum asked "who would buy a team which has been losing for years despite a budget which is always going up?"

Experts agree finding a buyer may not be easy due to the financial malaise sweeping through the European club game

After a World Cup in which France failed to defend their title -getting knocked out in the first round -- and most of the other top soccer nations flopped, soccer finances are shaky amid doubts over lavish TV rights and sky-high players' wages.

"The biggest question will be what PSG's debts are, which is a major factor in telling how much a club is worth," said Oliver Butler, editor of London-based Soccer

"PSG is one of the big two French clubs and is therefore judged to be one of the most valu-

"But another big concern is uncertainty over the next deal on TV rights for the French league and that may also determine at what price it is sold."

The current 380 million euro contract shared between Canal Plus and TPS -- a satellite service whose main owner is French commercial broadcaster TF1 -- runs to

That poses a dilemma for Canal

It could boost the price tag of the team it has bankrolled if TV rights hold their value, but only at the expense of forking out more cash and compounding its own financial

Little is known about finances at PSG, which had 1999/2000 turnover equivalent to some 55 million

Tabloid Le Parisien estimated the club's full value at 230 million euros in February when Canal Plus

denied it was up for sale. But Butler said that on a ballpark estimate PSG could be worth a quarter of Manchester United of the English Premier League, the world's richest club whose shares are worth a total 450 million euros.

Founded in 1973 through a merger of two smaller teams in a bid to give Paris a club to be proud of when the Parc des Princes stadium was rebuilt, PSG only really made an impact in the mid-1990s when they won the 1996 European Cup Winners' Cup.

They have not won the French title since 1994 despite heavy spending on players which touched 68 million euros in 2000.

Ronaldinho, one of several international stars to shine in the World Cup, confirmed this week he would stay.

Acknowledging PSG's financial constraints, trainer Luis Fernandez said new players have agreed to limit wage demands to help rebuild PSG as "a great club on the European scene".

Gilberto a Gunner to be

to play for the north London club.

side him." he said.

Football

REUTERS, London

Arsenal are reported to be on the brink of agreeing a transfer for Brazilian international midfielder Gilberto Silva from Atletico Mineiro.

The player's spokesman Paul Vilhena was quoted in the British media as saying that the 25-year-old midfielder was scheduled to arrive in London on Friday to discuss the terms of a possible 4.5 million pound move to Arsenal.

"Gilberto is happy with the prospect of playing in England," Vilhena said. "He just needs to tie up a few things with the contract."

Silva, who has played all his club soccer in Brazil, appeared in every game of his country's successful World Cup campaign in South Korea and Japan last month in place of Emerson Ferreira who pulled out at the last moment after dislocating his

"We're expecting Gilberto's transfer to be completed swiftly," Athletico spokesman Caio Ziller

Silva was quoted in Friday's Daily Mirror as saying that playing alongside French international Patrick Vieira was a huge factor in his desire

"Everybody loves a challenge and this would be a major one. Playing for a club like Arsenal sounds wonderful and I would like to make my name in England."

team. There was stiff competition to replace Emerson but I did my job well and we won. Having no guaranteed first-team place is nothing new. I've never received anything for free.'

"He has more international

Vieira is a tremendous player

and maybe I could even play along-



GILBERTO SILVA

experience than me, but that would just make me dig deeper. I couldn't be more calm. I've just won the World Cup.

"I could not join a side with the quality of Arsenal if I was afraid. If I go, I'll fight for my place in the first

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger has Silva on his list of midfield tar-

gets as he looks to sign one more top-class player before the Gunners begin the defence of their Premiership crown. Silva has emerged as a strong candidate after PSV Eindhoven

slapped a £14m price tag on Dutch midfielder Mark van Bommell who was Wenger's first choice. Silva, who starred in Brazil's 2-1 quarter-final win over England, caught Wenger's eye during the

World Cup and his agents have touted him round the Premiership. The hard-tackling Silva insists he can cope with the Premiership's congested fixture list and also

believes Arsenal's other Brazilian Edu can help him settle in. He added: "It would be fantastic to play against the likes of David Beckham again. We all want to play in a great league with great players.

be so good. "It would probably be difficult to settle in during the first year. But that's part of the job."

That is why going to England could

Curse of the cash

Football

REUTERS, London

After a World Cup at which most of its nations under-performed, Europe's new club season will kick off under the shadow of a growing financial

Amid the soul-searching in Italy, Spain, France and, to a lesser extent, England, concerns about the viability of the European club game are multiplying.

With television revenues uncertain, transfer activity has been sluggish as clubs across the continent nervously eye balance sheets that show player's wages as unrealistically high.

The situation is worst in Italy, where several clubs, including the Italian capital's two major teams. AS Roma and Lazio, have been threatened with exclusion from the new Serie A season that kicks off on September 1 unless they can meet financial requirements laid down by soccer authorities.

A survey this month estimated the combined operating loss of Serie A clubs in the 2000-01 season at a

staggering 702 million euros.
Three of the league's highest-paid players, Inter Milan trio Ronaldo, Alvaro Recoba and Christian Vieri even offered to take a pay cut. The problems are exacerbated by

a row over television contracts and Fiorentina, now in Serie B, are one of the biggest clubs at genuine risk of Transfer activity among the leading title contenders such as champi-

ons Juventus, Inter and AC Milan and

the Rome clubs has been almost nonexistent as a result. "The car has really hit the wall." was how Arsene Wenger, manager of English champions Arsenal, put it earlier this month, describing the financial situation for the game in

Europe as "disastrous" That did not stop Manchester United forking out a British record 30 million pounds to buy England defender Rio Ferdinand in what is sure to be Europe's biggest closeseason transfer.

Arsenal have barely ventured into the market at all but Liverpool have been busy, snapping up several players including Senegal's World

Cup hero El Hadji Diouf for 10 million

Ferdinand's purchase has ensured that United are the bookmakers' favourites to regain the Premier League title they lost to Arsenal last season when the new campaign kicks off on August 17.

Further down the food chain in

England, the situation is far worse. with the collapse of ITV Digital costing the 72 other professional clubs in England large chunks of muchneeded television revenue. Uncertainty over future television

Primera Liga is now considered the continent's best. European champions Real Madrid have not signed a single player, although president Florentino Perez insists that is down to a paucity of

revenue has also ended the recent

transfer free-for-all in Spain, whose

talent in the transfer market rather than a lack of funds. The big transfer news concerned a player discarded rather than one signed as Barcelona opted to save themselves around dollars 10 million in salary costs by releasing World Cup winner Rivaldo with a year still to go on his contract.

Bucking the trend, Atletico Madrid have brought in six players, including Javi Moreno from AC Milan for around dollars 15 million.

Deportivo Coruna have twice laid out in excess of dollars 10 million to sign Paraguayan World Cup midfielder Roberto Acuna and Portuguese centre-back Jorge Andrade.

When the season starts on August 31, the football should be fascinating. League champions Valencia have not added to their squad and, with the increased demands of a Champions League campaign, they may strug-

The top German teams report booming season ticket sales, partly on the back of Germany's unexpected progress to the final of the World Cup.

But for many clubs the uncertainty of television income after the collapse of media giant Kirch has meant spending freezes as the August 9

start of the new season approaches. Bavern Munich have been the only big spenders during the offseason, bringing in midfielders Michael Ballack and Ze Roberto from Leverkusen and Sebastian Deisler from Hertha Berlin.

Champions Dortmund have bought Torsten Frings and Argentine Juan Ramon Fernandez but commercial manager Michael Zorc says the club is now looking to sell excess

. Dortmund coach Matthias Sammer said Germany's successful World Cup would help the

players.

"It has assured the standing of the league. That's very import now at the time of the Kirch crisis," he said. Nonetheless, Hansa Rostock

have shed 13 players on free transfers and in the Second Division Eintracht Frankfurt narrowly avoided relegation to the lowly regional league due to the poor state of their

Turkey's national side came third

country's clubs are being battered by a deep recession, debts and the latest in a series of disputes over The local lira currency has collapsed in value, meaning only the

in the World Cup but at home the

very richest clubs can afford to pay hard currency for players. Champions Galatasaray, dogged by a reputation for sluggish wage payments, have picked up some

players on loan from Italian clubs, such as Turkish international Umit But the only big transfer splash was made by Istanbul rivals Fenerbahce, who have already made a major investment in new stands at

international Ariel Ortega from River Plate for more than dollars 7.5 French football will take some time to recover after the humiliation of the World Cup when, as holders, they failed to score a single goal or earn a

their ground. They bought Argentina

Amid fears over future television revenue, its clubs are also tightening their belts before the new season's start on August 3.

"We have to reduce our wage bill by 35 percent," said Olympique Marseille chief Christophe Bouchet. Marseille and Monaco have

declared spending freezes while Lens. last season's runners-up to champions Olympique Lyon, have vowed to continue their policy of buying, and selling on, talented African players such as Diouf.

Beckenbauers part

Football REUTERS, Berlin

Franz Beckenbauer and his wife Sybille are separating because he wants to spend more time with a son he had with another woman. "After a long and careful consid-

eration me and my wife have

decided not to live together any

more," the former World Cup-

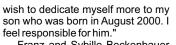
winning captain and coach said in a statement. "The separation results from a fair and friendly agreement," he added. "A decisive factor was my

son who was born in August 2000. I

feel responsible for him.

The youngest, Noel Maximilian, was born in August 2000 after the 'Kaiser' had an affair with a Bayern Munich employee.

Bayern Munich president and also chairs the organising committee of the 2006 World Cup in Germany.



Franz and Sybille Beckenbauer have been married for 12 years. The great libero, who lifted the World Cup as captain in 1974 and coach in 1990, had been married once

Beckenbauer, now 56, is the



before. He has four children.



A file photo of Franz Beckenbauer (R) and wife Sybille.

