

**Primera Liga  
Ronaldo in  
Real line up**

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque has named Ronaldo in his 21-man squad to face league opponents Alaves on Sunday.

Ronaldo, who joined Real from Italian giants Inter Milan at the start of September after a long, drawn-out transfer saga, has not yet played for the nine-time European champions.

He also said midweek he would not play if he was not 100 per cent fit, following a slight problem with his thigh which forced him to postpone his scheduled debut against Genk of Belgium in the Champions League last week.

The 26-year-old Brazilian is expected to be a substitute for the home fixture at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium and could make a second-half appearance.

And he said despite not being fully fit, he would give his all en route to staking a more regular place in the team.

"It's obvious I'm not 100 per cent fit. On the other hand I'm okay to play. Not for 90 minutes, but I'm sure I can come up with something positive during the time I'm on the pitch.

"To be picked is a step forward for me and now I just have to slowly approach playing and start fighting for a place in the team," said Ronaldo on hearing his selection.

He added: "I had my best training sessions so far yesterday and today (Friday and Saturday) which has given me a bit more belief in myself."

Ronaldo, the top scorer at this year's World Cup, has not played an official match since the World Cup final on June 30 in Yokohama, where he scored both goals in Brazil's 2-0 victory over Germany.

He finished the tournament's top scorer with eight goals in total

**Fergie eyes  
Gudjohnsen**

INTERNET, London

Sir Alex Ferguson is planning a fresh bid for Chelsea's Icelandic striker Eidur Gudjohnsen when the transfer window reopens in January.

The Manchester United boss would have to pay around 10 million pounds to get his man, who has struggled to hold down a first-team place this season.

Ferguson hopes to persuade Old Trafford's money men to raise the cash needed to prise Gudjohnsen away from Stamford Bridge.

He failed to land him in the summer after blowing his budget on £29.1m Rio Ferdinand from Leeds.

Gudjohnsen, 24, insists he is happy at Chelsea despite starting only three games this season thanks to in-form Gianfranco Zola.

Chelsea say the Iceland star is not for sale and have rebuffed offers from Barcelona for Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink - but they are battling debts of more than 90 million pounds.

**Di Canio's  
mixed signal**

BBC ONLINE, London

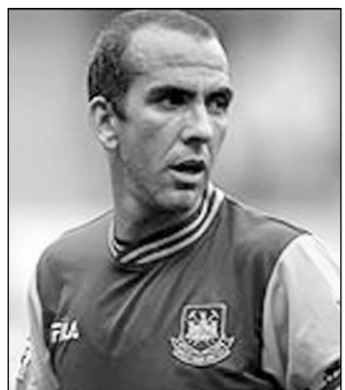
Paolo di Canio wants to stay at West Ham once his playing days are over, according to his agent.

The 34-year-old Italian striker joined the London club from Sheffield Wednesday in 1999 and has since become a firm favourite with Hammers fans.

It is no secret Paolo wants to stay at West Ham and finish his career there - he loves the club," said Di Canio's agent Moreno Roggi.

"In fact, he would be interested in seeing if there could be some role for him at the club after he retires." However, Roggi warned that if talks over Di Canio's contract did not begin this month, the Italian could seek a move.

Di Canio's contract runs out at the end of the season and Roggi said he had spoken with West Ham managing director Paul Aldridge

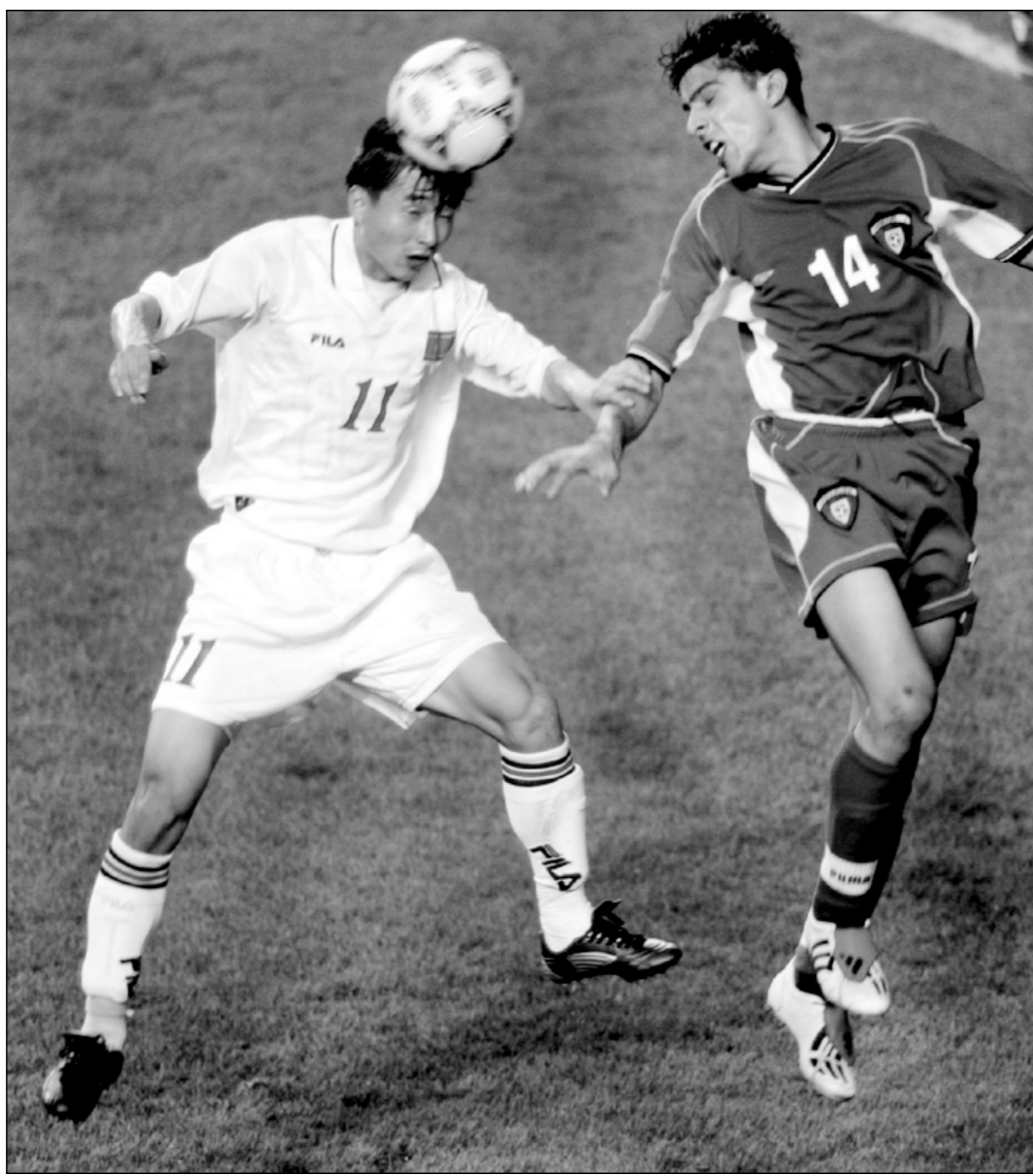


and given the club a deadline for West Ham to offer an extension.

"He (Aldridge) told me he wasn't sure if West Ham wanted to keep him on after this season. He said he would check with his manager," said Roggi.

"So I told Aldridge they had until the end of October to decide if they wanted to talk to us about a new deal or not.

"Paolo wants to play somewhere and if West Ham aren't willing to discuss a contract extension then he has no choice but to look elsewhere."



North Korea's Han Jong Myong (L) goes up for a header against Kuwait's Mohammad A Jarragh during their match in Busan yesterday.

**Iran, Kuwait replay**

14th Asian Games  
BUSAN 2002

AFP, Busan

Kuwait earned themselves a chance of revenge for their 1998 final defeat when they booked an Asian Games quarterfinal clash with football champions Iran here on Saturday.

Kuwait beat North Korea 2-0 while Iran were fortunate to grab a 1-1 draw with Qatar.

Both Kuwait and Iran move into the last eight where the Gulf side will be hoping to avenge their 2-0 defeat in the final of the last Asian Games in Bangkok four years ago.

Elsewhere on Saturday, Japan beat Uzbekistan 1-0 to clinch their

spot in the last eight where they will face China, while Bahrain's 5-0 demolition of Palestine meant they went through as a best runner-up at the expense of India on goal difference.

They will face hosts South Korea while North Korea clinched the other best runner-up spot and will now meet Thailand in the quarterfinals.

Two breathtaking goals in a minute were enough to give Kuwait their win and top spot in Group F with Khalaf Al Mutairi on target after 25 minutes before skipper Bashar Abdullah almost immediately settled the match.

Iran put in a lacklustre performance in their 1-1 draw with Qatar but it was enough to top Group E while the Qataris were eliminated.

Ibrahim Al-Ghanim opened the

scoring for the Gulf side after 32 minutes but their joy was short-lived as Ali Badavi levelled two minutes later.

Japan defeated Uzbekistan 1-0 to win Group D with a perfectly struck 40th-minute spot-kick from striker Satoshi Nakayama sealing the victory which was achieved despite some rough-house tactics by the Uzbeks.

Japan also had a goal disallowed and saw a shot hit the woodwork midway through the first half.

Bahrain clinched second place with their 5-0 win over Palestine and that was bad news for India who had been hoping to slip through as a best runner-up in Group C where they had finished second to China.

**Salas an unhappy sub**

Football

REUTERS, Rome

Striker Marcelo Salas says he is growing tired of warming the Juventus bench while his teammates forge ahead without him.

"Everyone is asking me whether I'm satisfied," Salas was quoted as saying in Corriere dello Sport. "A player who doesn't play or plays very little cannot be satisfied.

"I'm calm, yes," he added. "But it's also true that my patience has a limit."

In August, Salas returned from knee injury to help the Italian champions overcome Parma in the Italian Supercup Final, but since then he has barely had a game due to Juventus' embarrassment of riches in attack.

The club already owns in-form striker Alessandro Del Piero, French international David Trezeguet and rising star Marco Di Vaio, and the team selections of coach Marcello Lippi make it clear that the Chilean is his fourth choice.

Salas missed Juventus' latest Champions League successes against Dynamo Kiev and Newcastle and played for just 25 minutes in the club's Serie A draw against Parma last weekend.

Now the rumbles of discontent are growing more audible.

According to Corriere, Barcelona and English Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur have made inquiries into buying the striker, but Salas cooled speculation that he was set to leave Italy when he transferred to Juventus in the winter.

"I know that Spain or England could be possible destinations," he



MARCELO SALAS said. "But right now I play for Juventus, which is one of the greatest clubs in the world. "I'll wait for my moment, and hope it arrives soon. From here to January there's plenty of time to think things over."

**Tunisia getting Lemerre**

Football

BBC ONLINE, Paris

Roger Lemerre has finally agreed terms which will see him take control of the Tunisian national team until after the African Cup of nations in 2004.

Lemerre, who was released as coach of France after their disastrous first round exit at the World Cup this year, is expected to join up with the

Tunisian squad in time for a friendly against Portugal in Lisbon on 12 October.

He is not expected to take full control of the side though until after the match.

Lemerre was released from his role as France coach in July but the 61-year-old had remained on the payroll of the national team until striking an agreement with the French Football Federation last month to free him from all contractual ties.

The president of the Tunisian

Football Federation, Hamouda Ben Ammar, finalised the contract with Lemerre in Paris on Thursday.

The deal will see Lemerre take control of the national team through to the African Nations Cup in Tunisia in 2004.

Meanwhile Tunisian caretaker coach Youssef Zouaoui has named the squad for the friendly against Portugal.

He has included in form striker Imed Ben Younes who has been in the international wilderness for many months.

**Baptism by goals**

14th Asian Games  
BUSAN 2002

REUTERS, Busan

Afghanistan said goodbye to the Asian Games soccer tournament after their week-long journey was followed by three matches in which they conceded 32 goals on their return to international sport.

Their 11-0 defeat by Lebanon put them bottom of group E after similar high-scoring defeats by defending champions and group winners Iran (10-0) and Qatar (11-0).

But, more importantly, the players made their return to the international sporting arena for the first time since the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima and for their maiden tournament since the Taliban regime, who banned sport of any kind, came to power.

Afghanistan were founding members of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) in the 1950s and were readmitted earlier this year. But they were only invited to take part in the 14th Asian Games after Mongolia pulled out in August.

The Afghans quickly scraped together a team to send to the Asian Games but they were short of funds for kit and transport so FIFA, world soccer's governing body, came up with a contribution of 40,000 dollars and their journey to Busan began.

The 19-man squad, who had not trained together after being separated for years, took a one-day bus journey from Kabul to Pakistan, where they had to negotiate entry

before finally being allowed to carry on to Islamabad and then by plane to Karachi.

They slept in airport terminals on stopovers in Southeast and East Asia, including Bangkok, before arriving in South Korea's capital Seoul and Busan following their five-day odyssey. After one day's training they faced champions Iran.

At a news conference following his team's defeat, head coach and former national team player Mir Ali Asghar made his country's isolation from all international football abundantly clear by protesting that Iran had brought three over-aged players.

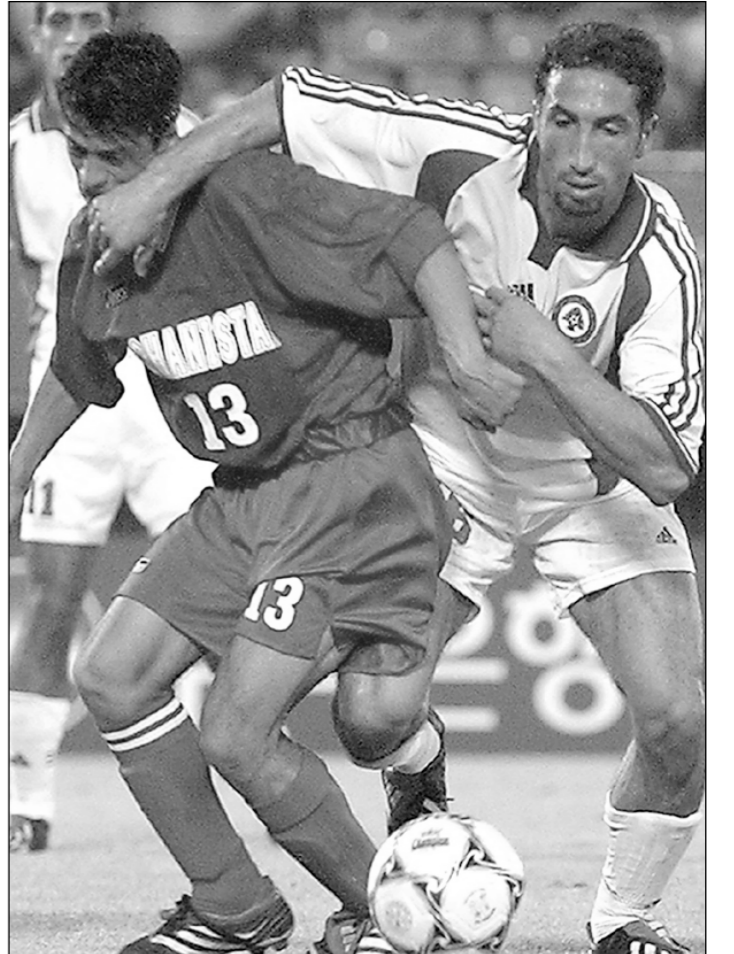
He was apparently unaware that this had been normal practice in international Olympic-style events since the 1990s.

"We were told to bring all under-23s," Asghar told the reporters. "Many of our good players are over 23. All we did was abide by the international rules that were told to us."

By then, of course, it was too late to bring in any of the country's over-age from their far away capital.

The young squad soldiered on but conceded one more goal to Qatar in an 11-0 drubbing, partly due to some awful goalkeeping, followed by the 11-0 defeat to Lebanon on Saturday. The players remain undeterred, however, and have high hopes for the future.

"Afghan people are strong," said Basher Ahmad Saadat after the Iran defeat. "If we get help we can be good at sports. With a good coach, in three to five years we will have a strong team."



Rahman Ali Nzari (R) of Lebanon and Hussein Mustapha (L) of Afghanistan wrestle for the ball during qualifying match in the 14th Asian Games at Changwon yesterday. Afghanistan lost 11-0.

**Premiership  
Houllier on  
Chelsea alert**

AFP, London

Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier has warned his players to beware of a backlash from Chelsea in Sunday's Premiership clash at Anfield.

Chelsea travel north trying to overcome the humiliation of being dumped out of the UEFA Cup by Norwegian minnows Viking Stavanger.

That loss came just a few days after Chelsea lost to bottom-of-the-table West Ham. But Houllier insists the Blues are still championship rivals, despite their up and down form.

"I do regard Chelsea as a rival for the championship, on their day they can be very good," Houllier said.

"But on other days they can be not very good and sometimes you don't understand why they don't perform as you would expect them to. I'm sure that's the same for a lot of teams."

Houllier, who will have Stephane Henchoz and Steven Gerrard available despite both being withdrawn near the end of Wednesday's European triumph over Spartak Moscow, has some sympathy for Chelsea's plight in Norway.

He said: "They may well be disappointed after what happened to them in Norway, but a Premiership game is nothing to do with what happens in Europe."

"You tend to put things like that to the back of your mind, and I'm sure Chelsea will do that."

"I actually felt they were a bit unlucky at the end, but we understand that because it has happened twice to us recently."

Houllier believed Chelsea blew their UEFA Cup chances in the first leg.

He said: "Your first leg is always the most important, wherever it is played, in terms of the final result."

"You either secure your chance or you lose your chance. Chelsea had that, maybe they lost their qualification at Stamford Bridge."

**Thierry hails  
Arsene**

INTERNET, London

French international Thierry Henry has hailed Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger as transfer king of the world.

The Gunners striker believes no one is better at buying talent at a bargain than the Highbury boss.

And he insists Wenger has never landed an expensive dud in eight years with the club.

Henry said: "Some teams have spent a hell of a lot of money on their squads. Arsene doesn't spend anywhere near that but the money has gone on players who produce the goods and who can fit into his team. But, sometimes, you can buy an amazing player who will never fit in."

"He has bought Kolo Toure, Pascal Cygan, Gilberto Silva, Sylvain Wiltord, me, Emmanuel Petit, Nicolas Anelka, Patrick Vieira, Robert Pires and everyone was asking 'Who are these nobodies?' And now you have the answer."

"But Arsene knew years ago who he wanted and where he wanted to take his Arsenal team."

Henry was struggling in Juventus' reserves three years ago when Wenger took him to Highbury. The striker admitted: "Arsene brought me back."

**Band like Beck's**

Football

INTERNET, Manchester

England and Manchester United star David Beckham has revealed his latest fashion gaffe - a girly hairband.

Hunky David, 27, may be worth 20 million pounds but his hairband costs a fraction of the huge sums he commands.

The zigzag piece of plastic stuck out like a sore thumb on Friday as he strolled along a busy street in his expensive designer gear.

Onlookers stopped and stared and some openly giggled as he walked past, chatting on his mobile phone.

Beck's famous for sporting a sarong and painting his nails seemed blissfully unaware of the fuss.

And pals reckon his hairband, called a Flexicomb, could quickly become the next big thing.

One said: "David loves making fashion statements and likes to be a trend-setter."

"Although this may look a bit strange, everyone will start copying him."

The 27-year-old's hair-raising fashion gaffe was seen by hundreds of people in Manchester's King Street.

One shopper said: "It's not the sort of hairdo you'd expect to see on a top footballer."

"I bet he'll get a lot of stick about it in the Manchester United dressing room."

But the star midfielder is used to the ribbing.

He once said: "People will always make comments about my hair. You just have to laugh along with it."

Beck's who earns 13 million pounds a year regularly goes into

Manchester city centre to buy jewellery for wife Victoria, 28, and clothes for their children Brooklyn, three, and baby Romeo.

Despite the cheap plastic band in his blond locks, the England skipper was mobbed by fans.

And he signed more than 200 autographs before driving off in a macho Ford pick-up truck.

The Flexicomb fiasco is the latest in a string of fashion disasters for Beck's.

In July, he turned up for the baptism of actress Liz Hurley's baby with pink fingernails.

Three months earlier, he wore rouge and black nail varnish for a magazine photo-shoot.

And in 1998 he stunned onlookers by donning a sarong on a date with Posh.

Victoria later revealed her hubby not only wears skirts he also wears her knickers.



DAVID BECKHAM

**Jimmy going nowhere**

Football

BBC ONLINE, London

Chelsea striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink insists he has no regrets about staying at Stamford Bridge, despite the interest in him this summer from Barcelona.

The Spanish club are understood to have made an initial inquiry about the 30-year-old striker, only to be rebuffed by Chelsea chairman Ken Bates.

Hasselbaink publicly admitted at the time he would have listened to what Barcelona had to offer if they had been given permission to speak to him.

Barcelona now top their Champions League qualifying group, but Chelsea are out of Europe after being dumped out of the Uefa Cup by Norway's Viking Stavanger.

But Hasselbaink insists his comments in August did not mean he was unhappy at Stamford Bridge.

"What happened in the summer is that I had an operation and then I went away on holiday, and I read in the paper that I was being linked with Barcelona," said Hasselbaink.

"That was it. Then, just before the transfer deadline closed, it was a little bit more serious. I was asked 'would you be interested?'"

"I said, like a normal professional, that I would listen to what they had to say."

"It's not that I wanted to go, but if a club the size of Barcelona comes in, you have to always listen

"It's not that I'm not happy here. I am. It's not that I don't like it here. I do. It's not that I don't love the fans. I do."

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink "I feel happy and I feel good in a blue shirt and playing for Chelsea, and everybody knows that I give 200 per cent for the club."

"And that was it. The transfer deadline passed and I am still here. "I am happy that I am still here. It was not my fault that the stuff was in the papers."

"I think everybody knows that football is a business and sometimes it is not up to the players what is going to happen to them."

Hasselbaink added that Chelsea needed to qualify for the Champions League.

They feel relieving Keane of the captaincy would alleviate much of the pressure on him and allow him to concentrate on producing his best form.

**Keane may  
lose MU  
captaincy**

INTERNET, London

Roy Keane has been left sweating over whether he will stay as Manchester United skipper when he makes his return from injury.

United boss Sir Alex Ferguson fuelled speculation that stand-in skipper David Beckham will retain the captain's armband when Keane makes his comeback.

Keane is on the brink of resuming training after undergoing an operation to cure a long-standing hip problem and could be back in action in three weeks.

Ferguson passed up the chance to give Keane his full support over the captaincy issue.

"I don't want to get into that situation," said Ferguson, whose refusal to publicly endorse Keane's captaincy points to the fact that that midfielder's future in the role is far from assured.

The double FA disrepute charge Keane faces over remarks made in his autobiography, coupled with his poor disciplinary record, has left senior figures at Old Trafford questioning whether he should be captain.

They feel relieving Keane of the captaincy would alleviate much of the pressure on him and allow him to concentrate on producing his best form.