

Zagallo one more time

Football
REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro



Mario Zagallo (R) stands next to another former Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira holding the 2002 FIFA World Cup Trophy during a reception in Rio de Janeiro on November 4.

Mario Zagallo, who coached Brazil at three World Cups, has been called out of retirement to lead the five-times world champions in this month's friendly against South Korea. Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) president Ricardo Teixeira announced that the 71-year-old would take charge on an interim basis for the match in Seoul on November 20. Zagallo, known as "Old Wolf", will have only one day to name his foreign-based players as FIFA rules stipulate that clubs are only obliged to release them if they are given 15 days notice. Brazil were beaten 1-0 at home by Paraguay in August in their only match since they won the World Cup. The CBF are expected to name a long-term replacement for Luiz Felipe Scolari, who resigned after the World Cup, at the start of next year. Zagallo's one-off appointment is being regarded as a tribute to the man who was present in the first four of Brazil's five World Cup triumphs. Zagallo played as a left-winger when Brazil won the 1958 and 1962 World Cups, coached the team in 1970 and was assistant coach to Carlos Alberto Parreira in 1994. He also led the team to fourth place in 1974 and the runners-up spot in 1998.

Although few would begrudge Zagallo his tribute, Brazilians had been baffled by the CBF's handling of the national team since the World Cup. Brazil are due to play another friendly in December but neither their opponents, the venue or the coach has been decided. The CBF was fiercely criticised for its handling of the Paraguay friendly in August, when Ciro Gomes - a candidate in Brazil's presidential elections held last month - was allowed to take photographs with the players. Teixeira was accused of turning the match into a political rally for Gomes and tainting the image of his team, many of whom were still in the early stages of pre-season training at the time. Favourites to take over on a permanent basis include Sao Paulo coach Oswaldo Oliveira, whose team leads the Brazilian championship, and Vanderlei Luxemburgo, who was sacked in disgrace two years ago and subsequently grilled by a Congressional commission over his tax returns. Zagallo's appointment was announced during the official unveiling of the CBF's new headquarters in Rio de Janeiro. Bellini, captain in 1958, Carlos Alberto Torres, captain in 1970, Parreira and Scolari were also present. World Cup co-hosts South Korea finished fourth at this year's finals after the best performance by an Asian side in the tournament's 72-year history.

Lula delighted

AFP, Sao Paulo

Brazil's new president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has warmly welcomed Ronaldo's offer to help his government fight hunger in Brazil. The Real Madrid player sent a message Thursday to the landslide winner of last Sunday's election saying he wanted to help in his campaign to improve the living standards of his countrymen. "That would be an extraordinary contribution," was Lula's enthusiastic reaction in an interview with the Record television station. "We need to refine the sense of solidarity," said the former factory worker. Ronaldo said he had been heartened to hear of Lula's initiative to set up a Department of Social Emergency. "I'm putting myself at the disposal of the president to offer my help so that the lives of many Brazilians is as dignified as possible." Lula has said his number one social policy in his government's first year is to tackle the hunger crisis. "If at the end of my mandate (2006) each Brazilian is able to eat three times a day then I'll have achieved my life's ambition," he said the day after his sweeping electoral triumph.



RONALDO

Italy's faith in Trap

Football
REUTERS, Rome

Under-pressure Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni has received the backing of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) and been told his contract will be honoured. Amid speculation he could lose his job, Trapattoni met with FIGC president Franco Carraro to discuss Italy's recent poor results, including last month's defeat by Wales in a European championship qualifier. "Trapattoni is staying as coach of the team and his position is not based on any time restriction," FIGC vice-president Giancarlo Abete said. "This was never a meeting to discuss Trapattoni's job, this was to clarify our respective positions. Trapattoni is and remains linked to the FIGC and has a contract we intend to honour." The hour-long meeting between Trapattoni and Carraro at the FIGC's headquarters in Rome concluded a frantic period of speculation in the Italian media. Since Italy's 2-1 loss to Wales three weeks ago the media have debated the merits of possible successors, including former Chelsea coach Gianluca Vialli, ex-Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari and England coach Sven Goran Eriksson. The large number of potential candidates, however, masked the fact that there was not an obvious choice available. Trapattoni, meanwhile, has always maintained he will not resign and the FIGC have shown little desire to sack him. He certainly did not look like a man facing the sack when he

arrived at the FIGC's offices on Monday. "I'm very calm," he told reporters before his meeting with Carraro. At the press conference afterwards, Abete denied that the FIGC had been actively searching for a replacement. "I don't think that any other coach has been contacted by the Federation," he said. "If we had looked for a substitution the logical step would have been to contact somebody - up to this point nobody has been contacted." "No Italian or foreign coach has been contacted as a possible sub-



GIOVANNI TRAPATTONI

stitute to the current one," said Abete. The FIGC had earlier issued a statement dismissing specific reports that Eriksson had been targeted to replace Trapattoni. Carraro has written a letter to the English FA to clarify the matter and assured them there was no contact with the Swede. Italy face a tricky friendly against Turkey on November 20 in Pescara and the pressure clearly remains on

Trapattoni to get a positive result. "It is a friendly match, obviously it is a very important friendly match because Turkey are a team who finished third in the World Cup and we want to do our best. We will obviously have to look at things as they happen," said Abete. Italy's defeat in Wales and their 1-1 draw at home to Yugoslavia last month leaves them third in European championship qualifying group nine, behind the Welsh and the Yugoslavs. But Abete said the FIGC was backing Trapattoni, whose contract runs up to the European championship in 2004, to turn the situation around. "There is a faith and conviction that we can make up the ground in the matches ahead of us. We will continue to work hard towards the Finland match in March," said Abete. Trapattoni said he too was confident his team would recover and reach the Euro 2004 finals, which will be held in Portugal. "I am convinced that qualification won't be easy but that we can get there," he said. "We can weather the storm. "I haven't discovered anything new from any of these situations - I feel the same as I did three months ago after the World Cup or even before the World Cup. I feel we can do it." As a club coach with Juventus, Inter and AC Milan, the experienced Trapattoni won more honours than any other Serie A manager and said the criticism he has received in recent months had not upset him. "As I've always maintained, after so many years in football, it is not a strange or new fact if you criticise me," he said.

Premiership Caldwell's dream return

Football
AFP, Newcastle

Steven Caldwell celebrated his first Premiership match in 20 months in style here Monday ensuring Newcastle's fourth successive victory with the second in the 2-0 win over Middlesbrough. Caldwell's first ever Premiership goal three minutes from time, courtesy of a mistake by the previously superb Middlesbrough keeper Mark Schwarzer, supplemented Shola Ameobi's first-half effort and saw them go above Boro in the table. Boro, who have only won one of their last four Premiership matches, had dominated large parts of the game but had their nightmare evening completed when French defender Frank Queuedrue was sent-off for the second successive game after receiving a second yellow card. Newcastle manager Bobby Robson managed to smile despite nursing four broken ribs suffered in a domestic accident. "We're doing somersaults in the dressingroom. "The players have given their all and ground out a result. "We were in and out of it for a while and scored against the run of play. "We've played three games in seven days and now face three games in six days. "What the players are doing here is superhuman. "Caldwell was a hero tonight and never put a foot wrong," enthused the 69-year-old former England manager. Ameobi scored against the run of play in the 20th minute and enjoyed

a fair slice of luck as intending to lay the ball off behind him to Nolberto Solano the ball got tangled up between his legs and fell in front of him. However to his credit he reacted quicker than Gareth Southgate and the 21-year-old Nigerian-born England Under-21 international took his opportunity with aplomb shooting into the far corner of the net with Schwarzer well beaten. Boro's Italian striker Massimo Maccarone was inches away from levelling in the 55th minute as his rasping right-footed shot from outside the box beat Shay Given but came back off the post. Shortly after Maccarone's bad luck Schwarzer proved his worth saving his side twice. Alan Shearer was denied his 100th Premiership goal for Newcastle by a stunning save from Schwarzer with just 10 minutes remaining. Schwarzer again reacted brilliantly when he spilled a shot by Hugo Viana and turned away for a corner Jermaine Jenas's follow-up - sadly for the Australian it was from the resulting corner that he dropped the ball and Caldwell seized on it. Newcastle's only other worthwhile chance in the first-half Middlesbrough dominated, with Cameroon international Geremi outstanding, came in the 34th minute with a vicious left footed volley by Laurent Robert which just went whizzing past the post. Shearer looked to have scored a perfectly good goal to bring up his century in the 39th minute but Ameobi was judged somewhat harshly to have fouled Ugo Ehiogu in getting to the ball first. Newcastle's only other worthwhile chance in the first-half Middlesbrough dominated, with Cameroon international Geremi outstanding, came in the 34th minute with a vicious left footed volley by Laurent Robert which just went whizzing past the post. Shearer looked to have scored a perfectly good goal to bring up his century in the 39th minute but Ameobi was judged somewhat harshly to have fouled Ugo Ehiogu in getting to the ball first. Newcastle's only other worthwhile chance in the first-half Middlesbrough dominated, with Cameroon international Geremi outstanding, came in the 34th minute with a vicious left footed volley by Laurent Robert which just went whizzing past the post.



PHOTO: AFP

BARTHEZ THE ALLROUNDER! French national custodian Fabien Barthez leaves his goal-keeping gloves to play forward during a charity match in Nimes, southern France, against Olympique Marseille on November 4.

Spanish Cup preview Real wary of Oviedo

Football
AFP, Madrid

European champions Real Madrid, just sixth in the Spanish league, on Wednesday have a tricky Spanish Cup match at Real Oviedo who have often played the role of giant killers. Madrid, who played out a 0-0 draw with Deportivo La Coruna at the weekend after losing 1-0 at home to AS Roma in Europe, can try and take out their frustrations on the side that are currently bottom of the Second Division. The dip in form of the nine-time Champions League winners, despite their galaxy of stars, also leaves hope for Oviedo, who were relegated from the Spanish top flight

in 2001. Oviedo, who survived for 13 consecutive seasons in the top flight till their relegation, have a chance to show the big guns their mettle though they are in a desperate sporting and economic crisis. Their chances have taken a boost by comments from Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque that he may rest some of his first-choice players for the last 32 fixture. Defending Spanish Cup champions Deportivo meet Second Division Racing Ferrol in a Galician derby on Tuesday in another eye-catching fixture while Novelda, the giantkillers of the last round, are ousted Barcelona, have a great chance of progressing at home to unheralded Tarrasa on Tuesday. Hercules also have a chance to claim the scalp of another big gun in Real Mallorca after taking out Villarreal in the previous round also on Tuesday.

Serie A preview Leaders' easy outing

Football
AFP, Rome

Italian league leaders Inter Milan aim to stretch their unbeaten league run to eight games when they travel to Tuscany to face newly-promoted Empoli in one of nine rearranged fixtures on Wednesday. The matches were due to be played on September 1 but had to be postponed because of a dispute over transmission rights between eight of Italy's top flight clubs and two pay-per-view television companies. Inter have dropped just two points in Serie A as they seek to erase the memory of last season's final day heartbreak by winning their first championship since 1989. The 'Nerazzurri' were the best team for 33 weeks of the last campaign, but were pipped to the title by Juventus after losing their last match at Lazio. Just as they did last season, Inter have started like a train with six wins out of seven. But their performances continue to draw criticism from certain sections of the Italian media who feel Hector Cuper's side have compromised on entertainment to grind out results.

Midfielder Dominic Morfeo says he can't understand why the table-toppers have received such bad press for not playing more attractive football. "I think there should be euphoria surrounding the team's success, but instead we are always taking stick for the way we play," he told the club's website, www.inter.it. "I don't know, I can't find any explanations. The criticism doesn't bother us, but we read it, and we can't understand it." Inter defender Fabio Cannavaro

that's why I lasted the whole 90 minutes," said the Brazilian World Cup winner after the match. "I am still not at my best but I'm working hard to reach my peak physical condition. "I won't have problems playing again on Wednesday." Title-holders Juventus, currently in third place a point behind Milan, are expected to welcome back injured duo Lilian Thuram and Igor Tudor for the trip to Piacenza. Both resumed training after missing the 1-0 win at Modena because of flu. Juventus midfielder Antonio Conte meanwhile dismissed talk that the team are dependent on Alessandro Del Piero. The champions struggled on Sunday against a well organized Modena side until the Italian international came off the bench to score a precious winner with a rare headed goal. "Certainly, he has given us a big hand, but on other occasions so have Marcelo Salas, Marcelo Zalayeta and Marco Di Vaio," Conte said. "I believe we have a squad equipped to tackle every situation. "Take Sunday's game at Modena. They were the better team than us, but we came away with a victory on a difficult day which shows we have tremendous character."

Charity match '98 world champs mauled

Football
AFP, Nimes

France's World Cup winning side of 1998 went down 4-1 here Monday to Marseille but it was the families of the 24 people killed in September's floods in the south-east of France that benefitted from the tune of 1.2million euros (1.2million

dollars). Over 18,000 spectators turned up to watch the majority of the '98 winning-side including Zinedine Zidane, scorer of two goals in the 3-0 win over Brazil, and the man who had been the inspiration behind the match Laurent Blanc, who comes from the region but who missed the final because he was suspended. Zidane treated the crowd to just 20 minutes - he has been suffering from leg problems - while

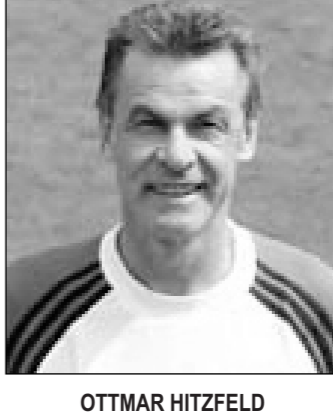
Manchester United goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, famous for having his bald pate kissed by Blanc before every match, shed his gloves to become a striker for the closing minutes. Zidane's best friend and former room-mate Christophe Dugarry was the man on target for the '98 heroes while Ibrahim Bakayoko, who notched a double, Djamel Belmadi and Cameroon international Salomon Olembe were the Marseille scorers.

Rally around Hitzfeld

Football
AFP, Munich

Bayern Munich's under-fire coach Ottmar Hitzfeld received public backing Monday from two quarters - general manager Uli Hoenes and Bayern's talismanic keeper Oliver Kahn. Hitzfeld is under pressure after four time winner's Bayern were knocked out of the Champions League last week and cannot even take third place in their group which at least would have given them a place in the UEFA Cup. It was followed by a 2-0 defeat at the hands of Werder Bremen in the Bundesliga. But Hoenes, in an interview in Tuesday's Abendzeitung newspaper, pledged that "We're going to continue just like we are". He said to criticise Hitzfeld for Bayern's humiliating elimination from Europe's top club competition in the first round for the first time in their history was "a big mistake". He then took a swipe at Bayern Munich supremo Franz Beckenbauer, who had attacked Hitzfeld's side for lacking "life" and

"determination". "What else could we expect?" he asked. Beckenbauer's criticism, which also questioned the team's lack of communication, also stung Kahn, who had been fined 10,000 dollars for being at a nightclub when he was meant to be recovering from a leg injury. "It is one thing to use the words 'shame' or 'the team is dead' to try



OTTMAR HITZFELD

and shake things up but it's another thing to suggest there are internal problems," said Kahn, who was judged the player of the World Cup

finals for his performances as Germany surprised many in making the final. "We are convinced that we are going to win both the German League and Cup this season under Ottmar Hitzfeld." He described the attitude of Hoenes as exemplary. "He says things to your face and that's why the players accept and respect him." Kahn denied Bayern were going through a crisis. "It's just a difficult situation but that is always possible during a season. It's a bad patch." Hitzfeld's contract ends in 2004, but not even Beckenbauer is suggesting he should be replaced prematurely. "Hitzfeld's position at Bayern Munich is not in doubt," he told German radio station FM Network last week. On Saturday Bayern square up in a vital top of the table clash with champions Borussia Dortmund, after which a meeting will be held between Hoenes, club president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Hitzfeld. "We're not going to let ourselves panic," Hoenes said.

Keane given Friday deadline

AFP, London

Roy Keane will have until this Friday to appeal against the five-match domestic game ban and 150,000-pound (£233,000-dollar) handed down by England's Football Association (FA). On Monday, an FA spokeswoman told AFP that Manchester United captain Keane, 31, "would have until close of business on Friday, November 8" to register his appeal. Over the weekend there had been disagreements regarding the double guilty verdict registered against Ireland midfielder Keane over comments made in his book relating to his tackle on Manchester City's Alfie Haaland. The FA announced on Saturday the deadline to appeal had passed without reply, only for Keane's advisors to immediately claim they were in possession of an official letter which stated clearly the deadline was November 8. Keane was handed the double punishment at an FA disciplinary hearing after claiming in his autobiography he deliberately set out to hurt Haaland in April 2001. The second accusation was he also benefited financially by describing the horror tackle and his thinking about it in graphic detail in his book. Keane is currently out of action as he battles to regain fitness following a September hip operation. And on Sunday Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson admitted, "He isn't as far forward as we thought he would be. He is still a few weeks away."

German Cup preview Bayern's work cut out

Football
AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich host Hanover 96 in the second round of the German Cup on Wednesday as they attempt to put aside on-and-off-pitch crises which have threatened to wreck their season. Champions League elimination, a 2-0 defeat at Werder Bremen at the weekend plus a 10,000-dollar fine for keeper Oliver Kahn for visiting a nightclub has kept the Bavarians in the limelight for the wrong reasons. Bayern, who have won the German league 17 times, are still top of the table however with 23 points, two ahead of defending title-holders Borussia Dortmund whom they meet at their Olympic Stadium on Saturday. Dortmund were European cham-

pions under Hitzfeld in 1997 and had a poor season following their win. For Bayern, the 2001 Champions League winners, they have found things tougher than usual two seasons following their triumph. Some critics have pointed to the departure of Stefan Effenberg as a turning point, leaving Bayern without a sufficiently strong-minded midfielder general despite the signings of Bayer Leverkusen talent Michael Ballack and Ze Roberto. Meanwhile Bayern will have to do without top scorer Giovane Elber in the German league, for the Hanover game though Hitzfeld is hoping to have Ballack, absent against Bremen because of an ankle problem, back in the side.



OLIVER KAHN

FIXTURES Tuesday: 1860 Munich v VfL Wolfsburg, Hansa Rostock v Eintracht Frankfurt, Hamburg SV v MSV Duisburg, SC Freiburg v Borussia Dortmund, RW Oberhausen v Arminia Bielefeld, SpVgg Unterhaching v Union Berlin, TSG Hoffenheim v FC Cologne Wednesday: Bayern Munich v Hanover 96, Energie Cottbus v Kaiserslautern, Bayer Leverkusen v VfB Stuttgart, Schalke 04 v Borussia Monchengladbach, St Pauli v Werder Bremen, Holstein Kiel v VfL Bochum, Kick Offenbach v Nuremberg, LR Ahlen v SSV Reutlingen, Bahlinger SC v SVW Mannheim