



Real Madrid chairman Florentino Perez waits for the start the first G14 general assembly in Brussels on November 5.

## G-14 go for massive cuts

### Football

AFP, Brussels

Manchester United, Real Madrid and other top European football clubs agreed Tuesday to cap skyrocketing salary costs, which have been threatening their future welfare amid an economic downturn.

In a 10-point cost-cutting plan, the top 18 clubs set a staff payroll ceiling of 70 percent of each club's turnover from the 2005/2006 season, and also called for other clubs to respect their recommendations.

"In the last several years the costs associated with putting together a football team has increased dramatically," Manchester United chairman Peter Kenyon told a press conference.

"That level of increase could just not be continued and could not be allowed to continue," he added.

The belt-tightening guidelines, which also included a commitment to the principle of performance-related pay, fixed a firm cap on the costs of hiring players.

"For each 12-month accounting period as from season 2005-2006 onwards, subject to a minimum allowable amount for total staff costs of 30 million euros, the amount of total staff costs of each member club will be limited to 70 percent of its audited turnover," they said in a statement.

In addition the G14 clubs "favour implementation of the team performance related pay system."

"The G-14 will devise principles on performance related pay in due course," the statement added.

Wage demands and transfer fees have spiralled to enormous heights in the last decade and the effects were felt during the past

summer with transfer spending down due to money constraints.

The G14, which now comprises 18 teams, also includes such established giants AC Milan, Paris St. Germain and Liverpool.

Michael Van Praag, boss of Dutch giants Ajax, said the cost-cutting measures were crucial to secure the future of the game at the highest level.

"If nothing happened a lot of

clubs would have to go their municipalities to get support," he said.

World Cup star Ronaldo headed a list of players who voluntarily took a pay cut at Inter Milan this summer before moving to Real Madrid, and other players across Europe have followed suit.

Thomas Kurth, the general manager of the G14, told BBC Five Live ahead of the talks in Brussels: "Since a large part of the expenditure is salary costs, obviously that will be involved in these measures."

Kurth added: "The clubs do not envisage cutting the wages of the players with whom they have contractual agreements. It is just about how to handle the amount of money which they generate as revenue."

The Brussels meeting was also expected to discuss the reform of European competitions, players' club versus country availability, the clubs' congested fixture lists and the commercialisation of Champions League television rights.

The G14 was set up so that top clubs had an official mouthpiece which would be used mainly for negotiations with European football's governing body UEFA and their counterpart worldwide FIFA.

They have caused friction with UEFA in the past with plans for a rival unofficial competition to the Champions League but that is not their aim these days.

In August in Monaco, the G14 accepted four new members in Bayer Leverkusen, Valencia, Arsenal and Lyon.

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## Basel a point away

### UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Moscow

Basel need just a point from their decisive home clash with Liverpool next week to become the first Swiss side to make the second phase of the Champions League after beating Spartak Moscow 2-0 here Tuesday in the Group B clash.

Goals by Argentinian forwards Julio Hernan Rossi and Christian Gimenez lifted Basel into second spot one point ahead of Liverpool but five points behind the group winners Valencia - Spartak have no points.

Spartak started aggressively, pinning the visitors back right from the start and creating several scoring opportunities, but were unable to convert any of them.

In the 18th minute Rossi put Basel 1-0 up, sweeping the ball home from close range after his Cameroon team-mate Herve Tum

fed him from the left of the edge of the six-yard box following Swiss international Murat Yakin's precise long-range pass.

Spartak poured into attack but created little, which were easily stifled by the visitors, while Basel continued testing the hosts defence with rare but dangerous counter-attacks.

After the interval Spartak put even more pressure on the guests defence, peppering Basel keeper Pascal Zuberbuhler with long-range shots and forcing him into several impressive saves.

However, all the hosts attacking efforts led to nothing as they produced an avalanche of errors, while Basel's second half substitute striker Gimenez netted his side's second.

The Argentinian lobbed the ball into the net over Spartak keeper Max Levitsky with only a minute left to secure the visitors well-deserved win.

## STANDINGS

European Champions league Group B table after Tuesday's delayed match between Spartak Moscow v FC Basel (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Valencia (Spa)	5	4	1	0	14	4	13
FC Basel (Swi)	5	2	2	1	9	9	8
Liverpool (Eng)	5	2	1	2	9	5	7
Spartak (Rus)	5	0	0	5	11	5	0

## No Posh football!

### Football

AFP, London

Pop star Victoria Beckham, wife of England football captain David, is opposing a soccer club's attempt to register its nickname of "Posh" as a trademark, British newspapers reported Wednesday.

Bosses at Peterborough United, a central English club which plays in the unglamorous Second Division, said they were "absolutely stunned" by the challenge to its attempt to trademark its nicknames, "Posh" and "The Posh".

But Victoria Beckham - known as "Posh Spice" during her days with the Spice Girls band - claims her nickname has become globally renowned.

"The name Posh is inexorably

associated with Victoria Beckham in the public's mind," said her publicity company in a statement.

"The concern is that they (the public) would think she had in some way endorsed products she had no knowledge of."

Geoff Davey, Peterborough United's chief executive, warned that the soccer club faced serious financial implications if it was prevented from using the "Posh" name on its merchandising.

He said: "The name is part of the club's history and tradition. I was absolutely stunned when I got the letter."

Davey added he hoped that "common sense will prevail in the coming weeks."

But he admitted there was a possibility of litigation.

## German Cup Dortmund shown the door

### Football

AFP, Berlin

German champions Borussia Dortmund were knocked out of the German Cup on Tuesday after a humiliating 3-0 loss to Second Division SC Freiburg.

Borussia's second round downfall - the ninth time since winning the competition in 1989 they have gone out before the quarter finals - was masterminded by Freiburg's astute coach Volker Finke, rated a master tactician and a dedicated advocate of attacking football.

Borussia manager Mathias Sammer may well question his decision to rest a cluster of first choice players - among them keeper Jens Lehmann and the two Czech Republic internationals Jan Koller and playmaker Tomas

Rosicky.

But even so the Ruhr giants on paper at least had the better firepower with the likes of the Brazilian quartet Marcio Amoroso, Ewerthon, Dede, Evanilson, and German internationals such as Lars Ricken, Sebastian Kehl and Jorg Heinrich.

But shrugging off their underdog status Freiburg were quick to bloody Borussia's nose, taking the lead with a superb ninth minute strike from Mali international Soumaila Coulibaly.

Freiburg went 2-0 up just before half time thanks to Jan Manner with the knockout blow coming in the 54th minute with a close range attempt from Andreas Zeyer.

Bayern Munich will be hoping not to follow suit when the current Bundesliga leaders take on Hanover 96 on Wednesday.

In another Cup shock Tuesday Arminia Bielefeld were downed 1-0 by Second Division Oberhausen.

## Gilberto goes for legal action

### Football

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Arsenal midfielder Gilberto Silva has authorized his solicitor in Brazil to start legal proceedings against his old club Atletico Mineiro for unpaid wages and other debts, the player's agent has said.

The agent of Gilberto, part of Brazil's World Cup winning side earlier this year, said: "He wanted to come to an agreement because Gilberto has a lot of affection for the club. But it just didn't happen."

"Among other things, he barely got 50 percent of what we should have got paid for his transfer to Arsenal." Financial details for the transfer at the end of July had not been released by the club.

Club president Ricardo Guimaraes however told the Brazilian press they had honoured their part of the deal but that Gilberto was now making new conditions.

"We kept our part of the deal but now they want more," Guimaraes said.

Gilberto Silva played in every single minute of Brazil's seven matches during their triumphant

World Cup campaign in the Far East this summer and is regarded as one of the best midfielders in the world.

## End of Wilmots?

AFP, Gelsenkirchen

An ankle injury could end the career of Schalke 04 midfielder Marc Wilmots of Belgium, his club manager Rudi Assauer said on Tuesday.

"A decision on Marc's future will be taken in the coming weeks. This could mean the end of his career," said Assauer.

Wilmots, who has had two operations on the troublesome ankle, brought the curtain down on his 70-cap international career with Belgium after this summer's World Cup.

The 33-year-old, who joined Schalke from French outfit Bordeaux in 2001, has seven months of his contract to run. He has made 135 German league appearances since linking up with the Ruhr side, scoring 27 goals.

## Zagallo gets two Rs

### Football

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Rivaldo asked to be left out as Mario Zagallo named Brazil's squad on Tuesday for this month's friendly against South Korea 24 hours after being called out of retirement to take over as coach of the world champions. Ronaldo was included, even though he has lacked form and fitness since joining Real Madrid, but Zagallo also gave a chance to several players who missed out on the World Cup where Brazil won an unprecedented fifth title.

Rivaldo's request to be left out may fuel speculation about the international future of the AC Milan player, who had an outstanding tournament in South Korea and Japan after years of struggling to find his best form for country.

"We received a message from Rivaldo, saying that he had personal problems and asking us not to pick him," said team manager Americo Faria.

Zagallo, who coached Brazil at the 1970, 1974 and 1998 World Cups, recalled strikers Amoroso and Franca and midfielders Flavio Conceicao and Juninho

Pernambucano, who had all been in contention for World Cup places but were overlooked.

AC Milan left back Serginho was another player to be given a chance and Emerson, due to captain the World Cup team until he dislocated his shoulder on the eve of the tour-

nement, was also recalled.

The "Old Wolf" said he would revert to his preferred system rather than the 3-5-2 used by Luiz Felipe Scolari at the World Cup.

"It will be 4-4-2, there's no doubt about that," he said.

Zagallo said he would take the match seriously and avoid the carefree attitude adopted to the August game against Paraguay, when Brazil were beaten 1-0 in their only outing since the World Cup.

"We can have a party before and after the game but not during it," he said. "We don't want to see our little stained by a defeat."

Zagallo was fired by Brazil after they lost 3-0 to France in the 1998 World Cup final. He carried on coaching in club football until November last year, when he resigned as coach of Flamengo.

Zagallo named 19 foreign-based players on Tuesday. The remaining three, to be selected from local teams, will be announced next week.

Brazil - beaten 1-0 in their last meeting with South Korea three years ago - are due to replace a long-term replacement for Scolari, who resigned following the World Cup, at the start of next year.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeeper** - Dida (AC Milan, Italy)

**Defenders** - Belletti (Villareal, Spain), Cafu (AS Roma, Italy), Serginho (AC Milan, Italy), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid, Spain), Juan (Bayer Leverkusen, Germany), Lucio (Bayer Leverkusen, Germany), Edmison (Olympique Lyon, France)

**Midfielders** - Emerson (AS Roma, Italy), Gilberto Silva (Arsenal, England), Flavio Conceicao (Real Betis, Spain), Juninho Pernambucano (Olympique Lyon, France), Ze Roberto (Bayern Munich, Germany)

**Forwards** - Amoroso (Borussia Dortmund, Germany), Franca (Bayer Leverkusen, Germany), Denilson (Real Betis, Spain), Ronaldo (Real Madrid, Spain), Ronaldinho (Paris St Germain, France), Luizao

## Saviola, Riquelme in

### Football

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Argentina have named Barcelona duo Javier Saviola and Juan Roman Riquelme, who both missed out on the South Americans' miserable World Cup campaign, in their squad for this month's friendly away to Japan.

They have also dropped veteran midfielder Diego Simeone from a 20-man squad for the match in Saitama on November 20.

The match is Argentina's first since their shock first round elimination from the Japan/South Korea tournament in June and the start of what local media have dubbed "The Revenge" for coach Marcelo Bielsa, who has kept his job despite the debacle.

Bielsa also called up uncapped Deportivo Coruna midfielder Lionel Scaloni, left out veteran striker Gabriel Batistuta, who said after Argentina's World Cup exit that he was quitting the national team, and did not include a single home-based player.

Bielsa is in Europe to watch some of his players and was not available to comment on his selection which is likely to be questioned

on both sides of the Atlantic.

Argentine media are predicting a storm of protest from Spanish clubs Real Madrid and Barcelona, who meet four days after the friendly and had a total of four players picked between them, even though the

Japan match is on a date allocated by world body FIFA for internation-

als.

Argentines may also question the timing of his decision to finally give a chance to Riquelme, who is currently struggling to win a first team place at Barcelona yet was repeatedly overlooked when he was on song with local club Boca Juniors.

Saviola's inclusion is likely to be welcomed as the absence of the player known as "The Rabbit" is seen as one of the main reasons behind Argentina's World Cup failure.

The futures of Simeone, who has won an Argentine record 106 caps but not demonstrated any wish to end his international career, and Batistuta remain unclear after their exclusion.

Simeone is 32 and may feel he has another couple of years' service to give.

Batistuta, 33, said after Argentina failed to beat Sweden in their final World Cup group match and were eliminated from the tournament that he had played for his country for the last time, but there is speculation that he has had second thoughts.

## McCarthy's parting thoughts

### Football

AFP, Dublin

Former Ireland manager Mick McCarthy while announcing that he is stepping down, brushed off any ill effects from the controversial Roy Keane affair by saying it will now be a problem for the new man in charge of the national team.

Manchester United skipper Keane, who was sent home from the World Cup after a highly-publicised flare-up with McCarthy, declared he would never play for Ireland again while McCarthy was in charge.

The door now looks to be open for Keane to return in time for the team's next Euro 2004 qualifier in Georgia in March.

However whether that happens or not, McCarthy says he would not be losing sleep over it.

"You know something? It is no longer my problem," said McCarthy. "It doesn't interest me - it is the next guy's decision. The next person who takes over, it is his issue and his problem."

The Republic of Ireland will appoint a new manager in due time, with former players John Aldridge and Joe Kinnear topping the bookies list of contenders.

McCarthy, whose preparations

for the World Cup were roundly criticised by influential midfielder Keane before the team sent him home, said it was a regrettable affair which he did his best to handle for the sake of the collective.

"I dealt with it as best I could and I only ever did what I thought was right. If you can say that about yourself in every job you have done,

thing which hurts me is leaving without any points on the board, not what anybody else thinks.

"It is not the Republic of Mick McCarthy and it is not the Republic of Roy Keane, and what is a little bit sad is that one of the best players in the world didn't play in the World Cup for whatever reasons.

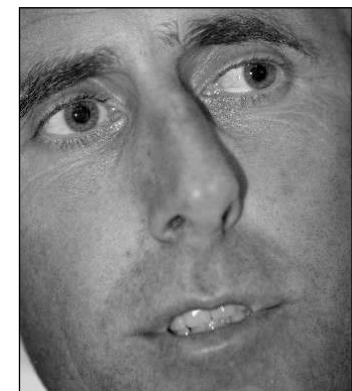
"What is also a little bit sad is that the set of circumstances affected a guy who has done his best for Ireland always as a player and as a manager - and that is me. But we get on with it, onwards and upwards."

McCarthy is thought to be looking for a job in club management, and he admitted football was the only thing he knew.

"I don't know what comes next," said McCarthy. "Of course I shall think about club management, it is what I do and what I enjoy doing."

"I don't really know anything else, unless somebody is going to take me on as a 43-year-old centre back, which I doubt very much, so that will be the next step. But that is up to somebody else, I shall just wait and see what happens."

Don Givens, the manager of Ireland's Under-21 team, will take charge for the friendly in Greece on November 20 and the FAI expect to have a new manager in place before that vital clash in Georgia.



MICK MCCARTHY

then you can walk away and be happy.

"There is no point being angry with anyone. I walk away with my head held high, my chin up and my chest out, and I think I am entitled to do that."

"Being angry with people is not going to achieve anything, the one

## Spanish Cup

## Luque carries Deportivo

### Football

REUTERS, Madrid

King's Cup holders Deportivo Coruna needed an injury-time goal from Albert Luque to beat 10-man Racing Ferrol 4-3 and make it through to the third round of the competition.

Depor took the lead in a furiously contested local derby with a Diego Tristan strike on 20 minutes but two goals from Angel Cuellar put the

Second Division side ahead by the 55th minute.

Tristan bagged his second on the hour and Javier Irueta's side took advantage of the sending-off of French defender Romain Rambier to take the lead through Luque on 74 minutes, the Spanish international converting a pass from Roy Makaay.

Japanese striker Sotaro Yasunaga equalised eight minutes from time but Luque popped up to send the top-flight side through with just seconds remaining.

Real Mallorca were also pushed to the limit by Third Division

Hercules, eventually coming through on penalties after 120 goalless minutes.

Third Division Novelda, who caused the shock of the first round with victory over Barcelona, were brought back down to earth as they suffered a 2-0 defeat at home to Second Division Terrasa.

Twelve of the remaining 13 second round ties are being played on Wednesday, the highlight being Real Madrid's trip to Second Division Real Oviedo, with the final match between Numancia and Celta Vigo set for Thursday.

## Worthington Cup Beck's show of character

### Football

REUTERS, London

England captain David Beckham was on target for Manchester United in their League Cup third round match on Tuesday just days after police foiled an alleged plot to kidnap his wife.

Beckham, making a rare start for United in the competition, slotted home an 80th-minute penalty in a 2-0 victory at Old Trafford over First Division high-flyers Leicester City.

Beckham was hailed as the "ultimate professional" after refusing to let the security scare surrounding his family affect his performance on the field.

Beckham was offered the chance to take some time off after the weekend revelation that a plot to kidnap his wife Victoria and young sons Brooklyn and Victoria had been foiled.

But he rejected the suggestion and insisted on playing in Tuesday night's match.

His composure drew praise from Leicester manager Mickey Adams.

"David is the ultimate professional," Adams said. "He has to cope with pressure few others have to and it is a great tribute to him that he can come out and perform the way he does."

Beckham is no stranger to playing under pressure. His sending-off against Argentina in the 1998 World Cup made him the scapegoat for England's exit and the subject of abuse at every Premiership ground.

But he emerged from that ordeal to become his country's captain and the kind of quiet determination which has helped him become a revered national icon has been evident again this week.

Gary Neville, Beckham's best man at his wedding to his popstar wife, says he is not surprised by the way his friend has coped with his latest tribulations.

"It's sad," Neville said. "It's not the first time he's had to deal with this kind of thing over the last few years and it won't be the last because of who he is."



Manchester United superstar David Beckham blows a kiss to the fans after scoring from a penalty during the Worthington Cup third round match against Leicester City at Old Trafford on November 5.