# Sport

the 33rd minute when Nakamura's

inswinging corner found Miyamoto unmarked on the edge

of the six-yard box only for the

central defender to steer his effort

Ashley Cole denied Tamada and Japan might have had a penalty just before the break when the

Brazilian-born midfielder Alex

waltzed past Terry on the left of the

England area and appeared to be brought down by Scholes's tackle

The equaliser finally came eight

minutes after the interval. Nakam-

ura's neat pass released Alex into

space on the left of the England box

from where he picked out Ono,

whose side-footed shot slid

through Terry's legs and past an

came when James spilled a shot

from Alex but, as in the first half, Japan's forwards failed to follow-

up. Henry and David Trezeguet are

In La Paz, Bolivia coach Ramiro

Blacut got off to a winning start

with the 2-1 win over Paraguay

latching on to a rebound following

Paraguay hit back though and

equalised after 32 minutes, Bayern

Munich striker Roque Santa Crux

setting up Jose Cardozo who

With Paraguay beginning to

look tired in the thin air, the winner

picked his spot coolly to score.

a goalmouth scramble.

unlikely to be so generous.

And it was Japan who went

Only a last-ditch tackle from

wide of the upright.

from behind.

unsighted James.

### Salgado sidelined for two weeks

### **REUTERS,** Madrid

Spain defender Michel Salgado is likely to miss his side's first two games in Euro 2004 after tests confirmed that he would be out of action for up to 15 days because of a torn thigh muscle.

"He has a small tear in his thigh muscle," team doctor Genaro Borras told a news conference at the team's training base in Las Rozas on Wednesday,

"It is a low level tear that will take between 10 and 15 days to heal and from then on he will be able to continue training full-out with the rest of the team

"It is good that it is only a small tear, but more worrying is the area it affects which makes it more complicated.

Borras said the Real Madrid defender, who sustained the injury during training on Tuesday, was confident he would make a rapid recovery, but that the final decision as to whether or not he would remain with the squad would be made by coach Inaki Saez.

"He (Salgado) has a tremendous desire to play and is sure he will be able to, but it's not my decision as to whether he remains with the squad, that is down to the coaching staff.'

Spain play their opening match in Group A against Russia on June 12, they face Greece four days later and then meet hosts Portugal on June 20.

# **Queiroz eyes Old Trafford** return

### AFP, London

Sacked Real Madrid coach Carlos Queiroz looks set to turn his back on the manager's job at Tottenham in favour of a return to Manchester United.

Queiroz, who was sacked after a shines, so do France. disappointing first season as Real coach, was linked with the Spurs

post. But reports said Wednesday the Portuguese coach was keen to return to Old Trafford as Sir Alex

Ferguson's assistant. The 51-year-old will take over as Ferguson's right-hand man from Walter Smith, who left the club last

month. Queiroz left Manchester United for the Bernabeu last summer on a two-year deal to become Real head

coach. But his failure to win a trophy saw him relieved of his duties after just one season.

He was linked with the vacant managerial post at White Hart Lane although Spurs director of football Frank Arnesen said they were still running the rule over different

possibilities. Spurs have Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni, Celtic manager Martin O'Neill and sacked Chelsea boss Claudio Ranieri since Glenn Hoddle was sacked in September.

PHOTO AFF

England's Michael Owen is under pressure from Japan's Yuji Nakazawa during their friendly match at the City of Manchester Stadium in Manchester on Tuesday.

# ZZ in a hurry

EUCO 2004 PORTUGAL

"The thing that takes the hardest knock is your morale. If France are to become the first country in 44 years to successfully

June 13 - England.

defend their European title they had an easier time of it physically need more than anything for the talismanic Zinedine Zidane to be at difficult times are behind me.'

the very top of his form. There's a feeling that when ZZ The Marseille born Real Madrid playmaker was one of the principal

architects in France's 1998 World Cup win, putting two past Brazil in the final. At the 2002 World Cup his injury-enforced absence was

sorely felt with the titleholders crashing to Senegal and drawing 0-0 with Uruguay. He was fit to play for the third

match against Denmark but by then it was all too late. Coach Jacques Santini's 4-4-2

system may place slightly less emphasis on the 31-year-old's shoulders - France succeeded in winning the Confederations Cup last year without his help - but he is still an indispensable cog in their machine.

past few months. Despite a wretched last two FIFA's Footballer of the Year months when Real Madrid's seamade his France debut almost ten son fell apart Zidane says he's years ago to the day against the feeling good - which is bad news for zecł enublic wh their first Group B opponents on the first of his 20 international

### goals.

"My end of season was terrible -Considered one of the true I've had two really hard months," footballing greats Zidane has won every title worth winning and his said Zidane two bullet headers past Brazil

goalkeeper Cladio Taffarel at the Stade de France six years ago "But now I'm feeling great. I've ensured his place in French hearts.

than in the past few years. The

ZINEDINE ZIDANE

17th birthday, two years later he was on the international stage. After a spell at Bordeaux Zidane moved to Juventus who splashed out four million dollars to secure his artistry.

In Italy Zidane's stock rose sharply as he won the European Super Cup, two Intercontinental Cups and two Italian championships.

After helping France win Euro 2000 Real Madrid got out a cheque and wrote the figure 63.6 million dollars on it - then the highest transfer ever.

His club career took off under

Luis Fernandez' Cannes before his

Two years later he scored a superb left-footed volley in Real's win over Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League final. He added: "I'm in a hurry to

After earning the dubious disstart the Euro. I want to rediscover tinction of becoming the first the taste of winning and all the reigning World Cup champions feelings that I've missed over the not to even score a goal in the next edition France and their inspirational midfielder will be hungry to atone for that debacle.

And a hungry Zidane is a dan-

# **Japan frustrate England**

# Football

Sven-Goran Eriksson has got some serious thinking to do between now and June 13, when England's Euro 2004 campaign begins against France.

On the evidence of their lacklustre display in a 1-1 draw with Japan here on Tuesday the rendezvous with Thierry Henry and co. will be anticipated by England with the kind of enthusiasm normally reserved for dental appointments. But Eriksson, who has never

been one to set much store by friendly performances, remained defiantly confident that everything will be all right on the night in the Stadium of Light.

"I think we played excellent football for 30, 35 minutes. I have not seen my team playing attacking football like that in a long time," he

England's positive opening yielded a Michael Owen goal mid-way through the first half.

A boost for

Haan

AFP, Beijing

against Malaysia.

But that was cancelled out by Shinji Ono eight minutes after the break and, with a few more breaks and a little better finishing, Japan might easily have claimed a memo-rable victory.

"We got a little tired, especially in the second half but I think that is normal. We had a hard session yesterday and we practised rather long this morning," said Eriksson.

"Of course the reason we practised is because we want to be as fit as possible (for the Euro 2004 match against France) on the 13th of June.

"I'm sure then we will be much better physically than we were today

In reality England's shortcomings were as much tactical as they were physical. Eriksson's experiment with Frank Lampard playing in the holding midfield role normally occupied by Nicky Butt proving distinctly unsuccessful.

England have a final chance to get their preparations for France back on track when they face Iceland here on Saturday.

England captain David Beckham, who emerged from the dress-ing room with his ankle in ice, said, I cut my ankle a few weeks ago and got an infection in it so I've been taking it easy and I hardly trained last week.

"I don't think there should be any long term problems but I will just have to be very careful."

Japan coach Zico rejected suggestions that his team had been flattered by a below-par England performance.

"We should not take anything away from Japan. The fact that we were able to create so much space and so many chances was created by the imagination and movement of Japan," the former Brazilian midfielder said.

"Our defence neutralised the threat posed by Michael Owen and Wayne Rooney and I think that was one of the reasons we were able to play so well.

"This will have given us a lot of confidence going into our World Cup qualifier against India. I'm sure we will have a good match and get the three points.

closest to claiming a winner. Japan were under pressure from Nakamura had the ball taken off the start and it took a goal-line his toes on the 18-yard line by Gary clearance from captain Tsuneyasu Neville's well-judged tackle and Miyamoto to deny Terry his first England goal from a Beckham then saw a crisp drive deflected narrowly wide by Terry. The final scare for England

England's early pressure paid off in the 22nd minute when goalkeeper Seigo Narazaki spilled Steven Gerrard's long-range drive into the path of Owen, who duly tucked away his 25th England goal.

Japan should have equalised in

**Peru shock Uruguay** team goes into a two-leg playoff Brazil.

against the winner of the Oceania Zone, likely to be either Australia or New Zealand

Nolberto Solano and Claudio which lifted his side off the bottom Pizarro gave Peru the best of position in the league table. Playing at an altitude of 3,600 possible starts in Montevideo scoring in the 14th and 19 minutes metres and beaten 2-0 at home by before Uruguay had defender Gonzalo Sorondo sent off in the Chile last month, Bolivia opened the scoring through veteran Luis Cristaldo after eight minutes,

Reduced to 10-men, Uruguay had a mountain to climb and they fell further behind when Jefferson Fanfan netted after 62 minutes.

a consolation goal heading in a free-kick for the hosts after 71 minutes, but the Sky Blues were fortunate not concede more goals with Peru missing several giltedged chances.

The Peruvians are attempting to reach the World Cup finals for he first time since 1982 when Feofilio Cubillas was rated one of the best players in the world and the side rivalled Argentina and

came after 71 minutes when substitute Roger Suarez headed home from Julio Baldivieso's free-kick. Apart from the Argentina-Brazil showdown on Wednesday, the

final game opposes Ecuador and

Colombia in Quito.

AFP, Montevideo Arie Haan hailed his players after China's controversial 2-1 win over Hungary, which gave the underfire coach a well-timed boast ahead of a crucial World Cup qualifier

"We needed this win as a boost before the match against Malaysia," he told reporters in Tianjin, some 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of Beijing.

The win also proved a shot in the arm for the build up towards China hosting of the Asian Cup, which they kick off against Bahrain in Beijing on July 17.

China have been far from impressive so far this year, losing 6-0 to Barcelona and being held to a goalless draw by minnows Andorra on a recent European tour.

But they appear to be finding their groove, with the Hungary victory following a narrow a 1-0 win over Algeria. They take on Malaysia in Tianjin on June 9.

Hungary took the lead after just four minutes when Beijing forward Krisztian Kenesei struck home from the penalty spot to punish a foul inside the area by Li Weifeng. China levelled on the stroke of

half time when Zhou Haibin's superb header from Zheng Zhi's curled cross found the top lefthand corner of the net. They scrapped the win courtesy

of an 88th minute penalty after striker Li Jinyu was brought down

qualifiers for the 2006 World Cup.

games, one point behind leaders Argentina, who take on arch-rivals Brazil on Wednesday.

with a 2-1 win in La Paz, while Uruguay slumped to a shock 3-1 home defeat against Peru which leaves them struggling to qualify for the finals in Germany.

A winner from Mauricio Pinilla seven minutes from time was enough to give Chile all three

The win hoists Chile into second place overall in the 10-team zonal league with 10 points from six

In Tuesday's other games, Bolivia dented Paraguay's hopes

The top four teams at the end of the league competition qualify for the finals, while the fifth placed

points away to Venezuela Tues-day in South American zone

32nd minute.

Substitute Diego Forlan scored

Ferguson was keen to have Oueiroz back in his bid to reclaim the Premiership title from Arsenal.

## Lacklustre Dutch

### **REUTERS,** Amsterdam

Three days after a 1-0 home defeat against Belgium, the Netherlands disappointed again on Tuesday by failing to impress in a 3-0 victory over the Faroe Islands in a Euro 2004 warm up match in Lausanne.

Coach Dick Advocaat paired strikers Ruud Van Nistelrooy and Patrick Kluivert up front together for the first time since the 1-0 play off first-leg defeat against Scotland in November, with Rafael van der Vaart supporting as an attacking midfielder.

The front two failed to click, with an out-of-sorts Kluivert producing a performance that could persuade coach Dick Advocaat to leave him out for the Netherlands' first Group D game against Germany on June 15.

Van der Vaart opened the scor-ing after half an hour with a shot from just outside the box.

Advocaat made 10 substitutions at halftime and his new-look side carried a greater threat after the break with wingers Marc Overmars and Andy van der Meyde providing much-needed width.

Overmars played a major part in the second goal and scored the third.

His cross on 51 minutes was converted by Roy Makaay and eight minutes later his shot was deflected in to seal victory.

Advocaat said he was happy enough with his side's perfor mance.

"We had a serious training session this morning and I consider this match as instructive," he told reporters.

"The Faroes played with a tight defence but my players kept con-centrating, even though we didn't play well.

The Dutch squad will return to the Netherlands on Friday and host Dutch midfielder Edgar Davids (R) tries to keep possession against Atli Danielsen of Faroe Islands in Tuesday's Ireland a day later. friendly in Lausanne.

e scored gerous species - England beware

**Mourinho Chelsea coach** 

"He represents the new genera-

tion of football coaches and we are

convinced he can take us up to the

next level, both in England and

Europe.

Football

### **REUTERS**, London

recognised as the best league in the world and I'm really excited about Jose Mourinho has been named as the prospect of competing week in manager of Chelsea, ending weeks and week out at the highest level in of speculation that the former England as well as in Europe." Porto coach was joining the pre-Chelsea chief executive Peter

mier league club. Kenyon welcomed Mourinho to Stamford Bridge. Mourinho, who led the Portuguese side to victory in the "The appointment of Jose Mourinho is all about building on the foundations which we have already established at Chelsea," Champions League final last week, has signed a three-year contract with Chelsea, who fired Claudio Kenyon said.

Ranieri as coach on Monday. "Chelsea represents a fantastic challenge for me," Mourinho said in a statement on Wednesday. "It is a great club with a world-class squad of players. The plans and ambitions for Chelsea excite me "His record of sustained success makes him perfect for what we want to achieve at Chelsea."

and I am sure they will do the same for the fans whose incredible support I have already witnessed. Newspapers reported that Chelsea's Russian owner Roman Abramovich would make Mourinho the highest-paid coach in world football, though the club declined to reveal the figures involved "The English Premiership is nvolved.

Mourinho led Porto to successive Portuguese league titles and the 2003 UEFA Cup before last week's Champions League final victory over Monaco.

Italian Ranieri's four-year reign at Stamford Bridge ended after he led Chelsea to second place in the premier league and the Champions League semi-finals in Abramovich's first season at the

in the Hungary box. Shenzhen's Zheng Zhi thumped the ball home but Hungarian coach

Lothar Matthaus, the German legend who won a record 150 caps for his country, was far from happy. "Games should be played fairly otherwise Chinese football won't

make progress," he said referring to the Hong Kong referee. "Although China won the game,

my players worked hard today. China still have a lot of things to improve.'

Haan felt Matthaus, who has been linked with a job at Turkish club Besiktas, was over-reacting. Hungary next play Germany, on

June 6

**Bad luck** Onopko

**REUTERS**, Moscow

Russia captain Viktor Onopko has been ruled out of the Euro 2004 finals starting in Portugal on June 12 with a knee injury.

"Onopko is out, he has already left the squad and has gone home," Russia's general manager Alexander Chernov told Reuters on Wednes-day.

The 34-year-old central defender suffered the injury play-ing for his club Saturn Ramenskoye in last month's Russian premier league match against Rubin Kazan.

"We tried everything possible to help Onopko overcome his injury but just ran out of time," Chernov addéd.

Onopko's withdrawal means that the Russians have now lost both of their starting central

lem, left the squad on Tuesday and is due to undergo key-hole surgery next week.

Meanwhile, Onopko will now have to wait for a chance to break Russia's all-time appearance record.

He equalled Oleg Blokhin's 112-match record in a friendly against Norway in April. Former European Footballer of the Year Blokhin played for the Soviet Union between 1972 and 1988.

begin their Euro 2004 campaign against Spain on June 12 before taking on hosts Portugal and Greece in later Group A matches.

PHOTO: AFF



Jefferson Fanfan of Peru celebrates after scoring against Uruguay during their South American qualifier at the Centenario stadium in Montevideo on Tuesday.

# **Injection saves** Monaco

A 50 million euro cash injection by

new backers has wiped out

Monaco's debts and cleared the

way for the Champions League

finalists to keep star players

Ludovic Giuly and Jerome Rothen.

#### hard for most of the first half. AFP, Paris

Madaschi scored in the sixth minute when Fiji's goalkeeper Laisienia Tuba fumbled a Brett Emerton free kick, allowing Madaschi to toe-poke home.

Socceroos maul Fiji

A headed hatt-

2006 World Cup

But Fiji's Laisiasa Gataurua shocked Australia in the 19th minute equalling Madaschi's goal with a brilliant strike on the counter-attack.

football qualifier here on Gataurua sprinted past Hearts defender Patrick Kisnorbo to get on Defender Adrian Madaschi the end of a long ball out of scored twice and home-based wide defence, then weaved past another player Ahmad Elrich scored in the defender and into the penalty box, final minute as the Socceroos before rolling a low shot past goalremained unbeaten at the top of keeper Zeljko Kalac. the tournament standings after

Australia swept to victory after leading 2-1 at halftime and scored four times in the second half.

in last month's FA Cup final loss to The first- and second-placed Manchester United, has now nations -- expected to be Australia scored five goals in three appearand New Zealand -- will meet next ances for Australia after scoring twice in Australia's 9-0 win over year with the winner advancing to the 2006 World Cup finals playoff against the fifth-placed South Fiji, second on the table heading American team

Oceania's top two will also meet later this year for the right to represent the region at the 2005 FIFA Confederations Cup.

Club sources told l'Equipe sports daily the side had convinced the French league's financial watchdog it was debt-free and able to continue in the first division. Last year the club was initially relegated to the second division because of its debt mountain and

appeal. "We're going to keep the core of the side," Monaco club president Pierre Sava said

only stayed in the top flight after an

"We don't need to sell anybody to balance the books."

Last week Giuly was said to be on the verge of signing a three-year contract for Barcelona, while Rothen was on his way to Paris St Germain.

And Sava said it was 99 per cent certain Didier Deschamps would stay as coach.



defenders. CSKA Moscow's Sergei Ignash-evich, who also has a knee prob-

Tahiti on Monday. Russia coach Georgy Yartsev is due to name his 23-man Euro squad later on Wednesday. They into the match, were understrength preferring to rest their top players for their remaining two matches but made Australia work

AFP, Adelaide

Wednesday

three matches.



Cahill, who played for Millwall