

# Mixed reaction to Luxemburgo

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Spain's sports media gave a guarded welcome to new Real Madrid coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo on Friday, highlighting the Brazilian's stellar record but bemoaning the merry-go-round of new faces at the club.

Real named former Brazil manager Luxemburgo, who has just led Santos to the Brazilian title, as their third coach of the season on Thursday in a bid to reverse a slump in their fortunes.

"Madrid De Luxe" was the headline in Marca, while AS dubbed the new coach "Iron Vanderlei", in reference to his insistence on the need for discipline during Thursday's presentation news conference.

Luxemburgo's surprise arrival ends the three-month tenure of Mariano Garcia Remon who in turn replaced former Spanish national coach Jose Antonio Camacho after just four months in the job.

"Luxemburgo, yet another whim," sighed Mundo Deportivo in a banner headline.

"Today is a bad day for a 'madridista' (Real fan) like me: with every day that passes this Real Madrid becomes less recognisable to me," moaned one of AS's columnists.

Real have accumulated a roster of star players unrivalled in club football that includes Brazilians Ronaldo

and Roberto Carlos as well as Zinedine Zidane, Raul, Luis Figo, David Beckham and Michael Owen.

But despite the line-up of "galacticos", as they are called half-jest these days, the club ended last season without a major trophy for the first time in five years.

They have been disappointing so far this season too, slipping to five defeats in the league and stuttering into the knockout stages of the Champions League.

It's a poor show from the most successful club in the history of European football, with 29 domestic league titles in addition to a record nine European Cups -- but there was a small sense of optimism Luxemburgo could recover the Real spark.

"I understand that many madridistas feel disoriented as if they had lost their compass in the middle of the desert," wrote AS columnist Tomas Roncero.

"But I have a good feeling about this. Luxemburgo will know how to motivate the troupe of galacticos who have lost their way."

As for Luxemburgo himself, who recently told reporters in Brazil "I'm a star", he looked set to make an equally confident start in his new job.

Marca described the dapper Brazilian getting emotional as he strolled through the cavernous Bernabeu on Thursday, and quoted him as declaring: "I am going to triumph in this stadium."



STRAIGHT TO BUSINESS: Real Madrid's new football coach Brazilian Vanderlei Luxemburgo (C) stands next to the goalkeeper's coach, Manuel Amieiro (L) and second coach, Marco Teixeira while the squad warms up behind them during his first training session in Las Rozas near Madrid yesterday.

# Premiership Reds guard against New Year Blues

Football

AFP, London

Rafael Benitez is confident his injury-plagued Liverpool squad can kick off 2005 in style by blowing a hole in Premiership leader Chelsea's current aura of invincibility.

The former monarchs of English football entertain the current sovereigns in the first game of 2005 on a high after stringing together three straight league wins for the first time in Benitez's reign at Anfield.

Such consistent form is exactly what Liverpool require if they are to have a chance of a top four finish in Benitez's first season in charge and a return to the Champions League next season.

"It is important to win when you know the other teams around you are fighting so hard and winning also," Benitez said.

The Spaniard, who is confident of adding Real Madrid striker Fernando Morientes to his squad early next week, admitted his side were below par in Tuesday's 1-0 defeat of Southampton.

But he was cheered by the way they dug in for a victory that allowed them to close the gap on Merseyside rivals Everton and Middlesbrough.

"This experience will help our confidence going into the Chelsea game," he said. "We have won three on the run, two good performances and one not so good but you have to learn from such situations for the future."

"If you want the supporters to stay behind you then you have to fight all the time, they are fantastic and as long as we play to our best and fight for everything they will be right behind us against Chelsea."

As well as potentially having a major impact on the evolution of a title race Chelsea currently lead by five points, Saturday's lunchtime clash at Anfield will provide an intriguing opportunity for direct comparison of the respective influence on their two teams of midfielders Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard.

The England duo, key figures for both club and country, would have been playing on the same team if Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho had succeeded in his summer bid to bring Gerrard to Stamford Bridge.

The Liverpool captain had appeared bound for London before a last-minute change of heart kept him at his hometown club, where his influence this season has been greater than ever.

Mourinho may have claimed this week that he regarded Lampard as marginally the better player of the two.

But he is well aware of Gerrard's ability to produce his best performances when the pressure is really on -- most recently in the recent win over Olympiakos that put Liverpool into the knockout stage of the Champions League.

Liverpool's desire for a positive result against Chelsea will be shared by both Arsenal and Manchester United, who desperately need Mourinho's side to start dropping points.

Both the leading chasers have

tough away matches on Saturday with Arsenal making the short trip to southeast London to face Charlton and United travelling to Middlesbrough.

Sir Alex Ferguson's United squad have hit form over the last two months, taking 22 points from a possible 24 in their last eight league matches. But the run has scarcely dented Chelsea's lead.

For once, the fine wine-loving Ferguson will be hoping to share a bottle of cheap plonk with former assistant Steve McClaren, who now manages Boro, after Saturday's match at the Riverside.

"If we win I'll be getting a nice bottle out; if we lose it will be something cheap," McClaren explained.

United will be without the injured John O'Shea for the trip as well as Wayne Rooney who is starting a three-match ban for violent conduct for shoving Bolton's Tal Ben Ham in the face during the December 26 win at Old Trafford.

## FIXTURES

**Saturday's fixtures (1500 GMT unless stated):**  
Aston Villa v Blackburn, Bolton v West Brom, Charlton v Arsenal, Fulham v Crystal Palace (1400 GMT), Liverpool v Chelsea (1245 GMT), Man City v Southampton, Middlesbrough v Man Utd (1730 GMT), Newcastle v Birmingham, Portsmouth v Norwich, Tottenham v Everton

## English giants for tsunami victims

AFP, London

Manchester United, Chelsea, Arsenal and other English Premiership clubs on Thursday pledged at least one million pounds (1.8 million dollars) in aid for victims of Asia's tsunami disaster.

All 20 clubs in the top flight have promised 50,000 pounds each to help provide relief to an area where English football is followed passionately.

"I think everyone has been taken aback by the sheer enormity of events following the Indian Ocean earthquake," said Richard Sudamore, chief executive of the Premier League.

"The Premier League and our clubs have strong connections throughout the region and there was a real feeling amongst the clubs that we should do something as a collective to try and alleviate some of the pain and suffering that is so evident across those areas affected by the tsunami."

"Our thoughts go out to those who are suffering as a result of this catastrophe and hopefully this donation will help make a real difference as the disaster relief operation gets underway."

Football's relief effort was kick-started by Everton's announcement it was opening a relief fund.

The Liverpool-based club decided to take the lead because of its sponsorship links with Thai brewers Chang, who will be responsible for distributing the money raised.

## FLASHBACK 2004

# The good, the bad and the bizarre

Football

REUTERS, London

A look back at some of the highs and lows of the last 12 months in soccer:

**Greatest upset:** Greece's victory in Euro 2004 when they beat hosts Portugal, twice, defending champions France and favorites Czech Republic to become European champions after starting the tournament as 80-1 outsiders.

**Most surprising international result:** Besides Greece's wins in Euro 2004, Andorra's first ever competitive victory; a 1-0 win over Macedonia in a World Cup qualifier in October was totally unexpected. Palestine's 8-0 victory over Taiwan in a World Cup qualifier in February couldn't have been predicted either.

And of course there was Maldives' unbelievable 0-0 draw against South Korea in a 2006 World Cup qualifier in Male.

**Least surprising international result:** Thierry Henry of Arsenal finishing second (again) in FIFA's World Player of the Year poll. The award went to Ronaldinho of Barcelona and Brazil. Perhaps the fact Ronaldinho broke a window in the cathedral at Santiago de Compostela while performing a scissor kick during the recording of an advert, tipped the vote his way.

**Best goal:** Any that wins a match for your team. But Czech Patrick Berger's strike for Portsmouth

against Charlton Athletic in the Premier League in August when he collected the ball with his back to the goal, turned and volleyed home from 20-metres out, took some beating.

Another contender came, almost inevitably, from Ronaldinho, scoring for Barcelona against Brondby in last season's UEFA Cup third round. He hit the bar with a free kick from the edge of the area then outraced every defender on the other side of the



AS CRAZY AS THEY GET! Rene Higuita executing one of his famous 'scorpion kick' saves.

penalty box to pick up the rebound -- which he volleyed straight into the net.

**Worst miss:** Two contenders -- both equally awful. Dario Silva of Uruguay probably deserves this non-accolade as his occurred in an international against Brazil in the Copa America semi-final when, unmarked, two metres from goal, he shot against the bar.

Nwankwo Kanu runs close. The Nigerian could have sealed a win

for West Bromwich Albion against Middlesbrough in the Premier League in November, when, one metre from goal and totally unmarked, he sent the ball over the bar.

**Best free kick:** Arnulfo Valentierra's 30-metre rocket which gave Once Caldas a 1-0 win over Santos in their Libertadores Cup quarter-final second leg.

**Maddest piece of goalkeeping:** Rene Higuita, playing for Aucas in the Ecuadorean championship,

went on a mazy dribble, taking him out of his penalty area all the way to where the halfway line meets the left-hand touchline.

He then passed the ball straight to El Nacional's Erik de Jesus, who floated the ball into the unprotected goal from 45 metres. The former Colombia keeper, now 38, was banned for six months shortly afterwards after testing positive for cocaine.

**Best brawl:** America (Mexico) v Sao Caetano (Brazil), at the end of their Libertadores Cup second round, second leg tie.

America striker Cuauhtemoc Blanco, sent off during injury time, came back onto the pitch and almost single-handedly instigated a brawl involving almost everyone on the field, plus officials. Dozens of fans invaded the pitch, others hurled missiles -- including wheelbarrows -- on to the field.

Blanco received a one-year South America ban and misses the Copa America.

**Strangest substitution:** 17-year-old defender Jonas came on in the 59th minute of Sao Caetano's Brazilian championship match against Sao Paulo to replace Serginho, who has collapsed and later died.

Serginho collapsed in his own penalty area during the game on October 27 from a cardio-respiratory arrest and died in hospital less than two hours later.

The match was suspended with the score 0-0. The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) contro-

versially ruled that the match should be concluded on November 3, starting at exactly the point where it stopped.

The 21 other players took the pitch and Sao Caetano officials, raised the substitution board with the number five worn by Serginho. Play re-started with the goal kick Sao Caetano keeper Silvio Luiz had been preparing to take one week earlier.

**Biggest flops:** Real Madrid's Galacticos. They lost the final of the King's Cup to Real Zaragoza, went out against Monaco (inspired by former player Fernando Morientes) in the quarter-finals of the Champions League and then lost six of their last seven league matches to finish in fourth place in the Primera Liga. On December 30 former Brazil coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo was named as their fourth coach of the year.

**Weirdest behaviour:** Atletico goalkeeper German (Mono) Burgos made what he called a "joke phone call" to Racing Santander forward Mario Regueiro asking him to throw a game against Celta Vigo because he had friends at the club. The game ended in a 4-4 draw. The Spanish FA didn't see the funny side of things and fined Burgos 2000 euros for his little prank.

**Most desperate act:** The Valencia fans who tried to sue a referee after he awarded a last-minute penalty against them that allowed Real Madrid to scramble a 1-1 draw against them at the Bernabeu.

## TV GUIDE

### PICK OF THE DAY



### Liar Liar

On Star Movies at 8:45pm

Genre: Comedy/Fantasy

Cast: Jim Carrey, Maura Tierney, Justin Cooper

Directed by Tom Shadyac

Plot Summary: Fletcher Reid is a fast talking attorney and habitual liar. When his son Max blows out the candles on his fifth birthday cake, he has only one wish, 'that his dad would stop lying for 24 hours'. When Max's wish miraculously comes true, Fletcher discovers that his biggest asset (his mouth) has suddenly become his biggest liability. Legal and emotional havoc ensue as Fletcher tries to keep his practice afloat and his ex-wife Audrey from taking their son and moving to Boston.

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

### News Bulletin

**BTV**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.  
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.  
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

**CHANNEL-i**  
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 7:15 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.  
Teletext of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

**ATN BANGLA**  
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.  
Teletext of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

**ntv**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.  
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.  
Teletext of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

**TARA BANGLA**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.  
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.  
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

**BBC WORLD**  
Every hour on the hour

### CHANNEL-i

09:45 Triljyo Matra  
10:30 Na Bola Kotha  
12:00 Chitthi Pelam  
12:30 Aaj Dupure  
01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan  
01:30 Public Reaction  
01:35 Bangla Film  
03:45 Banglar Gaan  
04:15 Dekhar Gaan Shonar Gaan  
04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma  
05:15 Janopader Khabor  
05:30 Cine music  
06:00 Music Plus  
06:30 Drama Serial: Ekjon Mastan O Ekti Meye  
07:50 Drama Serial: Dr. Mahataber Swapno  
08:25 Drama Serial: Boyosh Jakhon Ekush  
09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush  
10:00 Drama Serial: Banchey Je Ki Shukh

**ATN BANGLA**  
10:25 Annodrishtee  
11:15 Drama Serial: Rater Karina Bhorer Shishir  
11:50 Drama Serial: Mohona Asha Chhilo  
12:25 Dekhey Noyon Mella  
01:05 Shurer Madhuri  
01:35 School Bela  
02:30 Drama Serial: Shirsho Birdu  
03:10 Musical Programme Chalo Gaan Gai  
04:30 Shobar Jonno Chalochitra  
05:10 Auto Man  
08:00 Drama Serial: Lodjya  
08:30 Drama Serial: The New Shabuj Opera  
09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni  
09:30 Drama Serial: Ek Janome  
10:35 Natun Diganta

### ntv

08:00 Ajiker Shakal  
09:20 Amra Akkhon Unish Kuri  
10:30 Dhakar Cinema  
02:30 Ure Jay Bakpohi  
03:15 Pepsi Music Express  
03:40 Drama: Paribanur Kahini  
04:25 Sports World  
05:15 Iltashar Ei Diney  
05:20 Alokpat  
06:20 Shubho Shondhya  
06:55 Xmas Special: Muktir Ahojan  
08:15 Drama Serial: Jhut Jhamela  
08:50 Bhalobasho Mor Gaan  
11:25 Dindarpan

### STAR MOVIES

9:45 Deadly Betrayal  
11:15 Die Another Day  
1:30 Reign Of Fire  
3:15 The Princess Diaries  
5:15 About A Boy  
7:00 Daredevil  
8:45 Liar Liar  
10:15 Reign Of Fire  
12:00 Kung Pow: Enter The Fist

### STAR WORLD

10:00 Top Drive Getaway  
10:30 The Bold & The Beautiful  
12:30 Rendezvous With Simi  
1:00 Travel Asia  
1:30 The Kids From Room 402  
2:00 Roboroach  
2:30 Monster Farm  
3:00 Action Man  
3:30 The Kumars At No. 42  
4:00 Cops  
4:30 Koffee With Karan  
5:30 Britanna India's Child Genius

### Feature Film: Jesus

6:30 The X Files  
7:30 Dr Ramesh Richard  
8:00 When Hidden Cameras Attack  
8:30 Tna Wrestling  
9:30 Mutant X  
10:30 Coupling  
11:00 Absolute Power  
11:30 Baywatch Hawaii

### STAR PLUS

9:30 Fox Kids  
10:10 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M  
10:40 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M  
11:00 Meri Saheli  
11:30 Shaadi Number One  
12:00 Kora Kagaz  
12:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M  
1:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay Saara Akaash

### Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan

1:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan  
2:00 Bhabhi  
2:30 Kesar  
3:00 Saarthi  
3:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhu Thi  
4:00 Kahin To Hoga K.Street Pali Hill  
5:00 Maan  
5:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M  
6:00 Shaadi Number One  
6:30 Fox Kids  
7:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan  
8:00 Hello Dollie  
8:30 Dekho Magar Pyaar Se  
9:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay Saara Akaash  
9:30

### Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki

11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhu Thi  
11:30 Kahin To Hoga K.Street Pali Hill  
12:00 K.Street Pali Hill  
9:55 Sanyasi Mera Naam  
1:30 Jaan  
4:30 Kurukshetra  
8:30 Mujhe Meri Biwi Se Bachaao  
11:45 Lahu Ke Do Rang

### STAR GOLD

9:30 Extreme Engineering Tokyo's Sky City  
10:30 Countdown Unsolved History Boston  
11:30 Extreme Engineering Tokyo's Sky City  
10:30 Countdown Unsolved History Boston  
11:30 Extreme Engineering Tokyo's Sky City  
10:30 Countdown Unsolved History Boston

### Snake Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century

12:00 Snake Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century  
12:30 Snake Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century  
1:30 Snake Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century  
2:30 Snake Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century  
3:30 Snake Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century  
4:30 Snake Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century  
5:00 Snake Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century

### Energy In Action

6:00 Energy In Action  
6:30 Baby Story, A Baby Gabriel  
7:30 Ushuza Nature  
8:30 Wild Discovery Basic Instincts Need to Breed  
9:30 Discover India Ravi Shankar : Between Two Worlds  
10:30 Drama on Discovery Fake Business  
11:30 History In Colour British Empire in Colour Tryst With Destiny  
12:00 Terrorism Revealed Capturing Saddam  
12:30 Growing up Wild... Cheetahs  
1:30 The Crocodile Hunter Little Brother of the Elephant  
3:00 Water Vole Life on the Edge  
4:30 The Wild Man In Borneo  
5:30 Animal Miracles I-III One Tough Hero  
6:30 The Protectors Cell Dogs  
7:30 The Crocodile Hunter, The Crocodiles of the Revolution  
8:30 Little Brother of the Elephant  
9:00 Live on the Edge  
9:30 David Attenborough's 50 years of Television

### White Elephants

10:30 White Elephants  
11:30 Wild Encounters Jules' Most Dangerous : African Bush  
9:30 Tales From Belize  
10:00 Tales From Belize  
10:30 On Assignment  
11:00 Planet Wild  
11:30 Fire And Thunder  
12:00 Planet Wild  
12:30 Riddles Of The Dead S2  
1:30 On Assignment  
2:00 Planet Wild  
2:30 \$100 Taxi Ride  
3:00 Game For It  
3:30 Tales From Belize  
4:00 Tales From Belize  
4:30 Tomorrow's World  
5:00 Tomorrow's World  
5:30 Cry Of The Wolves  
6:30 \$100 Taxi Ride  
7:00 Game For It  
7:30 National Geographic Special  
8:30 National Geographic Special  
9:30 On Assignment  
10:30 On Assignment  
11:00 Cameramen Who Dared  
11:30 Six Experiments That Changed  
12:00 Gene Hunters

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

9:30 Tales From Belize  
10:00 Tales From Belize  
10:30 On Assignment  
11:00 Planet Wild  
11:30 Fire And Thunder  
12:00 Planet Wild  
12:30 Riddles Of The Dead S2  
1:30 On Assignment  
2:00 Planet Wild  
2:30 \$100 Taxi Ride  
3:00 Game For It  
3:30 Tales From Belize  
4:00 Tales From Belize  
4:30 Tomorrow's World  
5:00 Tomorrow's World  
5:30 Cry Of The Wolves  
6:30 \$100 Taxi Ride  
7:00 Game For It  
7:30 National Geographic Special  
8:30 National Geographic Special  
9:30 On Assignment  
10:30 On Assignment  
11:00 Cameramen Who Dared  
11:30 Six Experiments That Changed  
12:00 Gene Hunters

### India Tour Of England

2:00 India Tour Of England  
4:00 The Natwest Challenge 3rd Odi, Highlights (R)  
4:00 Dakar Rally 2005  
4:30 Telefonica Highlights(S)  
6:30 Tiger Cup Malaysia Vs Indonesia Semifinal #1, Leg 2(L)  
8:54 English Premier Football League Tottenham Hotspur Vs Everton (L)  
11:00 English Premier Football League Newcastle United Vs Birmingham City (S)

### ESPN

9:30 Here We Go (R)  
10:30 Hitz (R)  
11:00 Sportscenter Week In Review (T)  
11:30 Iska Karate 2004 Iska Karate - K1 (T)  
12:00 English Premier Football League Wanderers Vs Blackburn Rovers  
2:00 Nba Action (R)  
2:30 Nba Basketball Denver, Sportscenter Week In Review (R)  
5:30 Harsha Closeup Dream Job (R)  
6:00 Sportscenter Weekend (T)  
6:05 Premiership Saturday (L)  
6:40 English Premier Football League Liverpool Vs Chelsea (L)  
8:45 Premiership Saturday (L)  
8:55 English Premier Football League Charlton Athletic Vs Arsenal (L)  
11:00 Premiership Saturday (L)  
11:25 English Premier Football League Middlesbrough Vs Manchester United (L)