**WACKY FOOTBALL!** 

### Comfortable lead for Milan



AC Milan moved a huge step closer to the last four of the Champions League, defeating city rivals Inter Milan 2-0 in the home leg of their all-Italian quarter-final here Wednes-

Dutch defender Jaap Stam broke the deadlock in first half stoppage time before Andriy Shevchenko, playing his first game since fracturing his left cheekbone on February 19, doubled Milan's advantage 16 minutes from time.

The goals, both headers, were created by Andrea Pirlo's superbly delivered free-kicks.

Inter were denied a precious away goal in the closing stages when substitute Giorgios Karagounis' angled shot rattled the

Milan, who knocked Inter out in

the semi-finals of the same competition two years ago before beating Juventus in the final, are now firm favorites to reach the last four. Milan, joint top of Serie A with

clear of Inter, have not been beaten by their neighbours since March AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti

Juventus and a massive 16 points

was pleased with the result, but insisted the tie was far from over. "It's certainly a good advantage

to take into the second leg, but it won't be easy as Inter are still alive and they have showed they can cause us plenty of problems," he

"We will approach the game as if it were still 0-0 and try to build on this result. We won't think about the semi-finals until we actually go

Inter coach Roberto Mancini was disappointed not to have something to show for all his team's possession

than us because the game was pretty even," he said.

season if they are to have a chance in the return match - score a goal against AC Milan.

"In three matches, we haven't scored a single goal against them and let's hope something changes in the fourth," Mancini added.

With Brazilian striker Adriano ruled with out with a left knee injury and Christian Vieri still not 100 per cent fit, Argentine forward Julio Cruz partnered livewire Nigerian Obafemi Martins in Inter's attack.

Before the match a minute's silence was observed in memory of John Paul II, who died last Saturday.

Inter enjoyed the better start and a superb strike by Serbian dead-ball specialist Sinisa Mihajlovic almost gave them an early lead, but his curling left-footed free-kick from 25 yards was tipped over the bar by

Several surging runs by Brazilian midfielder Kaka proved fruitless as Milan slowly imposed themselves, before Dida's hands came to the rescue again, palming Juan Sebastian Veron's free-kick away for a corner.

Cruz was denied by Dida for a second time before Stam struck with a rare goal.

Pirlo swung over a free-kick from the right and the giant Dutchman leapt highest to plant a firm downward header wide of Francesco Toldo's despairing reach.

Shevchenko almost doubled Milan's lead 10 minutes into the second half, but his outstretched boot just failed to put the finishing ouch to Paolo Maldini's low cross.

Milan retained the momentum and their more positive approach to the second half reaped rewards with a second goal in the 74th minute.

Pirlo's free-kick from wide on the right wing was curled into the box and Shevchenko showed that his engthy lay-off hadn't affected his reflexes by flashing a header past a helpless Toldo.

After Karagounis had been thwarted by the woodwork, Toldo prevented Milan from putting the tie further out of reach, tipping Shevchenko's rasping drive over

#### and first half superiority "Milan weren't two goals better Mancini's side will have to do something they have failed to do this 'We will kill them, just

like they killed us'



Turin police force will have a major security operation in place for next Wednesday's emotionallycharged Champions League match between Juventus and Liverpool

Fears for the safety of the 4.000 Liverpool fans have been heightened by threats of reprisals for the Hevsel disaster 20 years

On 29 May 1985, as Liverpool and Juventus were preparing to contest the European Cup final in Brussels, a wall collapsed killing 39 people as Juventus fans tried to escape a surging mass of Liverpool fans.

Hundreds of Juve supporters, including many from the hardcore 'ultras', have swamped internet chatrooms with threatening messages following the quarter-final, first leg at Anfield which Liverpool won 2-1.

Before Tuesday's match, a large section of the visiting Juve supporters rejected the hand of friendship offered to them by Liverpool, turning their backs in protest when a banner promoting

peace between the two clubs was paraded in front of them and raising their middle fingers to the home fans in the section above

The Gazzetta dello Sport disclosed Thursday a sinister message on an internet chatroom: "We've waited 20 years for this and now its time for

"We will kill them, just like they killed us. Honour those at Anfield who turned their backs and refused Liverpool's friendship.

Sharpen the knives and bring your

Gazzetta they would be leaving nothing to chance.

peace that worries us," he said. "We are in constant contact

with the Liverpool police to try and prevent trouble. "It won't be treated like an ordinary match and we are prepared for any situation. Security

is that many Liverpool have reportedly bought tickets in areas occupied by Juve fans on the

"The Liverpool fans will not leave the Delle Alpi stadium alive.

A Turin police officer told the

"More than the threats, it's the rejection of Liverpool's offer of

will be reinforced at the stadium and in the whole of the city. Another concern for the police

quarter-final, starting at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday where the Blues cruised to a 4-2 victory.

Chelsea's Didier Drogba (2nd R) blasts in the fourth goal from close range past Bayern Munich custodian Oliver Kahn at Stamford Bridge in London on April 6.

# Blues baffle Bayern



AFP, London

Chelsea showed they can perform even without their talismanic manager Jose Mourinho as Bayern Champions League quarter-final first leg at Stamford Bridge here

Mourinho, who is serving a twomatch touchline ban handed down by UEFA for accusing referee Anders Frisk of improper conduct in the last round against Barcelona, will only be disappointed by the fact that four-time European champions Bayern grabbed a lifeline for the second leg with an injury time pen-

England midfielder Joe Cole's deflected shot got Chelsea off to flying start four minutes in but Bayern substitute Bastian Schweinsteiger equalised on 52 minutes before Frank Lampard hit a left-footed double.

The England midfielder scored from the top of the penalty box seven minutes later before firing in a skilful shot on the turn in the 69th

Didier Drogba thought he had sealed affairs in the 80th minute, stabbing the ball in after a

goalmouth scramble. But an injury-time Michael

**►**CHÂMPS LEAGUE

Chelsea refused to dismiss rumours

their manager Jose Mourinho

cheated his touchline ban by con-

tacting his assistants during their

Champions League win over

ished from the touchline and the

dressing rooms for both legs of the

The Portuguese boss was ban-

Coach Rui Faria, on the Chelsea

AFP, London

Bayern Munich.

Ballack penalty gave Bayern hope for the second leg in Germany next

"I'm disappointed because of that last minute goal," said Lampard. "We switched off a little and they

fouled but he was looking for it. "Two goals is a good lead although three would have been better. We are in a good position for the second leg and we feel we can score anywhere in the Champions

League.

scored. I don't know if Ballack was

With Chelsea assistant boss Steve Clarke directing operations from the touchline, Ivory Coast striker Drogba came in for the suspended Mateja Kezman while Ricardo Carvalho replaced Bayern transfer target Robert Huth at Peru striker Claudio Pizzaro

and Netherlands hitman Roy Makaay were both out injured forcing Bayern boss Felix Magath to start with Jose Paolo Guerrero and Hasan Salihamidzic in attack. Mourinho claimed beforehand that he would not even be at the

stadium but he would barely have settled in his seat before man-ofthe-moment Cole gave him the John Terry launched a long ball

upfield for Drogba but though his marker Robert Kovac won the challenge, the Croat's weak header dropped for Damien Duff.

bench, appeared to put his hand to

his ear at several points, as if listen-

ing to an earpiece, but rather than

dismissing the rumours outright, the

Blues repeatedly blanked sugges-

tions any underhand moves had

UEFA at all. We've got nothing to

say about it," said Director of

Communications Simon

Greenberg, suggesting the matter

would only become a problem if

European football's governing body

felt there was sufficient evidence to

handed down by UEFA for accusing

referee Anders Frisk of improper

Mourinho is serving a ban

"We've not had anything from

Was there something

fishy going on?

The Republic of Ireland winger played in Cole, whose shot from outside the penalty box took a big deflection off Lucio's heel, leaving goalkeeper Oliver Kahn stranded.

Bayern were rattled but England midfelder Owen Hargreaves soon led their resurgence with a menacing run and a free kick that forced Blues goalkeeper Petr Cech into his first

The visitors should have levelled in the 30th minute courtesy of a woeful Glen Johnson error.

The right-back slipped as he attempted to clear a cross, his lame header falling straight to Ze Roberto. However, the Brazil midfielder's shot flashed across the face of goal. Lampard seved Kahn notice in

the 34th minute with a curling blast after a corner that just bent away from the Germany stopper's goal. Chelsea almost started the

second half in the same fashion as the first, but Duff's shot was cleared off the line by Willy Sagnol after Kahn deflected the shot. It was Bavern who struck early

this time thanks to Schweinsteiger,

on for Salihamidzic for the second France defender William Gallas was booked for hacking down Schweinsteiger on the edge of the box and the substitute soon pun-

Ballack's free kick rebounded

conduct in the last round against

The relationship between the

English Premiership leaders and

UEFA is already at breaking point

and the consequences of any such

further spat, so soon after Mourinho

Greenberg admitted he was

"Yes, but we haven't had any-

aware of the rumours but would not

deny Mourinho was in contact with

thing from UEFA so we've got noth-

ing to say about it. We've got nothing

to say about it. Next question

please. We're not going to get into a

and the club were sanctioned, could

be extremely serious.

his touchline team.

debate," he snapped.

Barcelona.

parry Ze Roberto's follow-up into the substitute's path for a simple cross-shot. The stalemate lasted just nine

off the wall and Cech could only

minutes before Lampard restored Chelsea's lead. Joe Cole launched a long pass

for Drogba, whose header found Lampard on the edge of the box and the England midfielder lashed in a left-foot strike. Lampard scored his second ten minutes later thanks to Claude

found him in space in the penalty The France midfielder capitalised on a loose clearance to pick Lampard out with an excellent pass and the England man chested the

Makelele's excellent pass that

ball down and swivelled before firing across Kahn. Lampard took the corner from which Drogba scored. Kahn kept out Gudjohnson's close-range effort but the Ivorian reacted first to

However, Bayern won a dubious penalty in injury time when Ballack tumbled in the box under mimimal pressure from Carvalho.

seemingly give Chelsea one foot in

The Germany midfielder then scored the resultant spot kick that keeps Bayern's Champions

## Robinho's day

Santos forward Robinho scored two goals and gave a virtuoso performance as the Brazilian champions revived their Libertadores Cup hopes with a 3-1 win over Ecuador's

Five-times winners Boca Juniors celebrated their 100th birthday in style and put themselves back on course for the last 16 with a 4-0 home win over Pachuca in Buenos Aires, one of two ties between

UANL salvaged Mexican pride with a 3-0 win away to nine-man Banfield in the night's other match.

Boca both avenged painful defeats last month.

Santos, who lost 2-1 away to LDU earlier in Group Two and were knocked out of the Copa nents last year, fell behind after only two minutes when Patricio Urrutia deflected a Roberto Palacios shot into the net.

Pele's former club fought back and Robinho equalised in the 20th minute as he left two defenders in his wake to score from the edge of Midfielder Ricardinho put Santos

ahead in the 48th minute with a

looping free kick which went in off the bar, and Robinho struck again 14 minutes later as he headed home Deivid's shot. Robinho, 21, tormented the LDU

defence and could easily have added to his tally Santos, LDU and Uruguayan

champions Danubio are level on six points with Bolivar on three

Group Eight with seven points, one more than Pachuca and Peru's

#### 3 changes

ets for us." he said.

FROM PAGE 16 the innings but can also get wick-

one-dayers in which he has taken nine wickets at 42.44. Inzamam said Shahid Afridi

Kaneria has so far played 10-

would continue to open the innings because the wickets suit his style of batting and that he can be more destructive on top of the order

#### Both WI

FROM PAGE 16 him to prove his fitness in a domestic match before dispatching him to the Caribbean, but there are adequate bowling choices for Smith with Makhaya Ntini and Andre Nel to

#### lead the way. **TEAMS**

WEST INDIES (from): Shivnarine Chanderpaul (captain), Courtney Browne (vice captain), Dwayne Bravo, Pedro Collins, Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Reon King, Brian Lara, Donovon Pagon, Daren Powell, Ramnaresh Sarwan, **Dwight Washington** 

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (captain), Nicky Boje (vice captain), Mark Boucher, Abraham de Villiers, Boeta Dippenaar, Herschelle Gibbs, Andrew Hall, Jacques Kallis, Charl Langeveldt, Andre Nel. Makhaya Ntini, Ashwell Prince, Jacques Rudolph, Monde Zondeki.

#### KCA chairman charged with \$3.3m theft

REUTERS, Nairobi

Kenya Cricket Association (KCA) in a Nairobi court on Thursday with

and June 22.

corruption police on Tuesday. Three months ago the government disbanded the KCA and

Ghai successfully challenged the move but the government registered a rival body to run cricket in Kenya. Both matters are pending in Kenvan courts.

Ghai, who was arraigned before principal magistrate Wilbroda Juma, denied both two charges. The first charge stated that he conspired with others between April

charged him with the actual theft. Juma ordered Ghai be released

Ghai was arrested by anti-

chairman Sharad Ghai was charged stealing 3.3 million dollars belonging to the sport's governing body.

and December 1999 to steal the money, which was set aside for a quadrangular tournament held in Nairobi that year. The second count

on a bond of 62,500 dollars. Further hearings are scheduled for April 21

installed an interim committee to run the association.

Scene from the third round board of the Seventh United Insurance and Leasing Grand Master's Chess Tournament board between Reefat Bin Sattar (R) and Prathamesh Sunil Mokal yesterday.

#### Inzy unhurt FROM PAGE 16

for any extra security. We would prefer to forget it and get on with the Pakistan's first tour of India since

1999, which began on February 28, had gone off peacefully till Wednesday's stone-throwing incident. Meanwhile Reuters adds, security has been tightened around the Pakistan cricket team, officials said

on Thursday.

#### 1st Test heads FROM PAGE 16 **BRIEF SCORES**

**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 561 (H Marshall 160, Astle 114, McCullum 99, Franklin 55, J Marshall 52; Malinga 4-131; Herath 2-91, Vaas 2-125) and second innings 64 for 2 (J Marshall 33 not out: Malinga 2-25) SRI LANKA: First innings 498 (Jayawardene 141, Atapattu 127,

Samaraweera 88; Franklin 4-126

#### Prize-giving ceremony

SPORTS REPORTER

The prize distribution ceremony of Keya-Bangladesher Khela Sportsman-of-the-Year 2004, organised by sports website Bangladesher Khela, will be held on April 11.

The event, sponsored by Keya Cosmetics, will be telecast live on Channel i from the Shilpakala Academy auditorium

The Sportsman-of-the-Year, elected by 149 sports journalists, will receive a trophy and cash award of Tk 50,000.0

#### Fominyh

FROM PAGE 16 Mohammed Javed drew with K

Ramu, Rishipal Singh beat Sohel Chowdhury, Ram Krishnan beat Monir Hossain, Debaraj Chatterjee beat Hasan Emam, Mainuddin Ahmed drew with Nikhilesh Kumar, Uten beat Saifuddin Lavlu and Aminul Islam Polash beat Shamima Akter Liza.

The fourth and fifth round games will be held today.

#### Ronaldinho scare for Barca

AFP, Madrid

**ACROSS** 

1 1960s

dance

5 Spot on a

domino

8 Trade

13 Historic

shout

spined

36 Claiborne

**37** Cow

of fashion

headed

goddess

15 Sharp-

fish

17 The

Barcelona's Brazilian maestro Ronaldinho could miss out on Sunday's top-of-the-table clash with Real Madrid striker at the Bernabeu with a stomach bug which forced him

to miss training on Wednesday. With Portugal international Deco suspended Barca were relying more than ever on Ronaldinho's magic as they seek to preserve a nine-point lead over their bitter rivals with just eight games to go.

The bout of gastroenteritis was the result of the player eating something which simply disagreed with him, Barca medical staff said, adding they expected the player had a good chance of being fit by the weekend.

38 Quarry

micro-

wave

39 Use a

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer DOWN

23 Honda

model

25 Solidify method 41 Burn a 3 Singleton 26 "--- Blue? 12 Top-notch 43 Minimum 4 Literary 27 Piece of 46 Ornery categories jargon 5 Apiece 29 "Live at 14 Urbanite's 50 Full of 6 Keogh excite Rocks' 7 Picks up musician ment 51 Beatles the check 31 Tramcar sona 8 Brown load

1 Speedy

2 Memori-

zation

54 Thonged ermine 32 Snoop yoke's on sandal 9 Food 34 Hula hoop **55** Clay, support 18 Aquarium today 10 Skating 38 Supplifavorite 56 Relaxa 19 Office tion 11 Christmas 40 Sponsor holder? 57 Remnants tree, 21 Grand-58 Symbol of

16 Hiatus scale tale intriaue 24 LAX info 59 1/8 of an 20 Links 25 Ties up gadgets ounce the phone Solution time: 21 mins 28 Quick 30 Burst 33 Ostrich's cousin 34 Bee spots 35 Mess up

42 Idolater's often feeling 43 Discon-44 Painter Schiele 45 Spring rence 47 Practice pugilism 48 Tower city 49 Appear 52 Bullring

# **CRYPTOQUIP** GXRGPARNRT

QZAEBI:

WE END UP WITH A CRUMBY MUMMY?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals G The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the

puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Michael Owen may have been called a 'midget' by Azerbaijan manager Carlos Alberto last week, but his predecessor as England's nice guy goal machine is suffering the greater indignity of having to dress up as a sunflower to mark his tenth anniversary of selling crisps!

Gary Lineker is set to appear in a new advert for Walkers dressed as a giant sunflower, to highlight the fact that its core range of crisps are now cooked in a new blend of cooking oil, which contains vegetable oil and sunflower oil, which is apparently better for us.

The ad sees our undercover hero in the ultimate flowery disguise making his way through acres of sunflower fields to try to sneak his way into the Walkers Research Centre. Gary then peers through the factory window and haphazardly reaches towards the crisps, setting off the alarm in the process. Gary is forced to flee the area and is seen running through the fields in his

sunflower costume only to encounter a combine harvester. Despite Gary's best efforts to escape, the audience is left wondering whether he has met a tragic end. It wouldn't be the first time, as anyone who remembers his last appearance for Commenting on the new ad, which marks Gary's tenth year of working with Walkers, he said; "I have never been what you would call a 'shrinking violet' or a

#### **BAD MEDICINE**

'wall flower' but I never thought that I would be a great big sunflower! Still, one thing

I have learnt to expect over the years from Walkers is the unexpected. I just hope

anything that they come up with in the future is a little more comfortable than this

one... and possibly a little less embarrassing!"

Kashimawo Laloko, the technical director of the Nigerian Football Association last week admitted that he believes 'juju' (witchcraft) can be used to influence matches. Mind you, it was hardly a surprise, as in 2000 he was sent off before the start of an African Nations Cup clash with Senegal for removing a talisman from the pitch: "I had to pick whatever I found there and I left," he said.

"I believe that it does exist," he said of juju. "As an African, we have our customs and traditions. Before the match [the Senegalese] came onto the pitch and started performing some rituals. An executive member of Caf then asked me if I was going to allow what was happening. If I had not done what I did and we had lost, journalists would have written all sorts of nonsense. Nonsense or not, there are many in African football who believe in it, and it's

not any more silly than some of the superstitions in football around the world.

Argentinian goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea had a special tradition before penalty

kicks, where he would hitch up his shorts and urinate on the grass, while Barry Fry one did a similar thing in all four corners of the pitch to lift a curse. Perhaps Jose Mourinho should try a similar thing (maybe with a talisman rather than urine) to make sure he can still influence Chelsea's Champions League quarter-finals against Bayern Munich...

#### **DIEGO IN LOVE**

It certainly makes a change to see a footballer actually learning from his mis-

One ex-footballer who will seemingly never learn is Diego Maradona, who has been in the news again recently when he had a stomach-stapling operation in Colombia to help him lose weight. Now he has announced that he is in love... with Venezualan president Hugo Chavez.

"I like women, but I've fallen in love with Chavez," said Maradona, who has already planned a first date, seemingly. "I say to Chavez, I'm available for whatever he needs me for. I told him I'll teach him soccer if he teaches me baseball.' Perhaps American football or sumo wrestling would be more appropriate Diego?

#### **APRIL'S FOOLS**

An April Fools Day joke in Croatia almost caused a riot when angry football fans took to the streets. An online news agency claimed that the country could be banned from the 2006 World Cup unless they handed over General Ante Gotovina, who is wanted for war crimes. The story quoted Sepp Blatter as saying: "It is clear that Croats care about football more than about anything else. In contact with EU Council of Ministers, we have decided to ban Croatia from World Cup before the country extradites the fugitive general Ante Gotovina."

Unfortunately, fans failed to look at their calendars and headed into the streets to protest all over the country, including Pakostone, where Gotovina was born. Local police spokesman Zlatko Mehun said: "There was a large gathering outside his former home. It was very heated but peaceful, and I have heard that there were also large gatherings in Zagreb and angry scenes, but I don't believe there

LIBERTADORES CUP

Football REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

LDU on Wednesday.

Argentina and Mexican clubs.

Santos, who gave away only three free kicks in their game, and

Boca's win took them to the top of Sporting Cristal.

DXRT

QYX ZBQZID

QPZANRT XM HYP TANR. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PHARAOH SNACKS ON LOTS OF CRACKERS IN BED, WILL