

## Ancelotti signs extension

REUTERS, Milan

AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti has agreed to extend his contract for a further year, tying himself to the Serie A side until at least June, 2008, the club said on Tuesday.

Ancelotti, who is in his fifth season with Milan, had been linked with a possible move to Real Madrid at the end of this season. His original contract was due to expire in June 2007.

The former Milan and Roma player took over in 2001 and led the club to the 2003 Champions League title and the Italian title a season later.

Milan are currently second in Serie A and are in the quarter-finals of the Champions League, where they face French side Olympique Lyon.

## Dhoni downplays

FROM PAGE 12 giant screen displayed the 'run out' sign. Dhoni saw that and walked off," the Times of India said Tuesday quoting the source.

"Harirahan, however, did make an independent decision, ruling the batsman out. He was not influenced by the screen at all."

Dhoni did not believe he was a victim of a harsh decision, only saying he was disappointed to get out when his team badly needed runs.

"I was disappointed because had I stayed for another 10 or 15 overs the situation would have been completely different," he said.

"The ball was new and coming on to bat nicely. There were plenty of opportunities to score runs."

India were eventually bowled out for 279 in their first innings in reply to England's 400.

The hosts lead the series 1-0 following their nine-wicket victory in the second Test at Mohali. The opening match ended in a draw.

## A fighting draw

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attacks. They got their reward soon when Yusif tapped the ball home from a handshaking distance off a Barreto cross.

Brothers took the lead from a quick counter attack with Emily completing a fantastic run with a placing shot past Mahindra defender Deepak Mandal.

But Barreto, unmistakably the best player on the field, spoiled Brothers' party with a glancing header on a Rauf Sher Khan cross.

The visitor could have won the match had not country's number one custodian Aminul Haque made some spectacular saves during the last quarter of the match.

"Aminul actually saved the match for his side. He was brilliant under the goal post. We came from behind twice that's why we are satisfied with the outcome but our performance was not up to the mark," said Mahindra coach Derrick Pereira. Brothers coach Wajed Gazi however was disappointed with the result.

"We went into the match virtually without any practice which is not really fair. But it is really sad not to get full points after taking the lead twice. It was really frustrating for us," said the veteran coach.

Yellow cards: Faisal, Joy, Parvez and Aminul (Brothers), Surkumar, Siraj, Joy, Parvez, Pranatosh (Liton) (Tapu), Abul, Emily, and Monwar.

**MAHINDRA:** Sandip, Surkumar, Deepak, Samson (Subash), Rauf, Sushanta, David (Surajit), James (Venkatesh), Steven, Barreto and Yusif.

**Referee:** Sreesta Gyanu Raja (Nepal).

**Aussie angels**

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fact that she was such a fantastic friend to us all," said Wood.

Nathan O'Neill won the men's event.

Australian swimmers Ian Thorpe and Susie O'Neill hold the record of six gold medals each at a Commonwealth Games.

"I am enjoying every moment of it. The confidence goes up after every event," said the 36-year-old Jung.

Gagan Narang continued India's domination on the ranges by winning the men's 10m Air Rifle final.

Latia Yauhleuskaia of Australia and Diane Swanton of South Africa halted the Indian march by winning the women's 25m Pistol and Trap titles respectively.

Australia also swept the two weightlifting golds with Aleksan Karapetyan taking the men's 94kg gold and Deborah Lovelock the women's 75kg.

Canada grabbed three gymnastics golds on offer to equal the host nation's overall haul with six apiece.

## Towhid goes

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in the quarter-finals, and now faces Anderson Emmanuel of Barbados.

"I'm hoping for gold," said Singh.

"My confidence is high."

But Indian light-heavyweight Ajay Kumar was beaten on points in the quarters by Joshua Makonjo of Kenya.

Again, there was no joy on the track or in the pool.

So far, Asian nations have won 46 medals, including 12 gold. At the last Games in Manchester four years ago, they won 125 with 43 gold.



PHOTO: AFP

West Ham forward Dean Ashton is overcome by ecstatic teammates after scoring against Manchester City during their FA Cup fixture on Monday.

## Football

AFP, London

Peter Cech hopes Chelsea's FA Cup quarter-final at home to Newcastle United this Wednesday will ease the pain of last weekend's derby defeat against Fulham.

Despite a 1-0 reverse at Craven Cottage, the reigning champions remained 12 points clear at the top of the Premiership and continue their quest for what would be the west London club's first league and Cup double when their league rivals Newcastle arrive at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

"The best thing is that we have a game on Wednesday because that means we only have two days to be disappointed," said the Chelsea goalkeeper.

"If we win our next game then it's forgotten. So that's positive because last time we lost, to Middlesbrough, we had a long week. It's never nice to lose a game and it's not nice to dwell on it."

"We have to keep working, keep getting victories to be champions and we have to produce a big reaction for Wednesday."

None of the current team were involved when Chelsea won the last of their three FA Cups in 2000 and, for all the focus on the Premiership and the Champions League, Cech said winning world football's oldest senior knockout competition was a major target.

"It's a big trophy and the only

(domestic) one we haven't won yet. Newcastle are tough opponents but we are going on the pitch to win the game."

Chelsea, who denied Monday an

FA charge of failing to control their

players in an ill-tempered victory

over West Brom last month, are

facing further disciplinary action

after William Gallas responded to

his sending off against Fulham by

making crude gestures towards the

crowd in a game overshadowed by a

post-match pitch invasion.

In the meantime Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho tried to reassure fans by denying press reports he would be leaving the club at the end of the current campaign to take over at Inter Milan.

"We can be champions again

and we hope to get a trophy in the FA

Cup. We are waiting for success

and at the same time preparing for

next season already," Mourinho said.

"There are no problems between us. Of course, I will be here next season," added the Portuguese following a match where he responded to Luis Boa Morte's early goal for Fulham by substituting Joe Cole and Shaun Wright-Phillips after just 26 minutes. Newcastle, for all their fans proclaim them to be a 'big club', have not won a major trophy since lifting the now defunct Inter-City Fairs Cup in 1969. It is now 51 years on from the last of their six FA Cup triumphs.

This season's competition has

added poignancy for United followers as it represents the last chance

that club great Alan Shearer, who has said he will retire at the end of the current campaign, has to win a trophy as a player with his hometown team.

But last weekend's 3-1 defeat at home to Liverpool did little to suggest an end to the silverware slump was in sight.

"When you give quality teams a two goals start like we have done, against Manchester United and Liverpool, then more often or not we are not going to get back," said Newcastle skipper Shearer.

Any hopes United had of victory ended seven minutes into the second half when defender Jean Alain Boussong, trying to rectify his initial mistake, was sent off for bringing down Liverpool striker Peter Crouch in the box and conceding a penalty from which Djibril Cisse scored.

Former England striker Shearer also told Monday's Newcastle Evening Chronicle that the trip to London represented another tough test.

"This is the third of what have been three very hard games for us and not many people are expecting us to go there and win.

"But there have not been too many shocks in the FA Cup this season so we will keep our fingers crossed, work hard and see what happens."

Both Bayern and the German national team have backed Schweinsteiger saying he would never bet on rigged matches.

## Ashton hauls West Ham

INTERNET, undated

West Ham will be blowing their bubbles over an FA Cup semi-final for the first time in 15 years next month after a Dean Ashton double deservedly saw them through a last eight tussle with 10-man Manchester City.

Ashton, a one-time City transfer target, provided further proof of what a wise investment Hammers boss Alan Pardew made when he splashed £7.25million to lure him from Norwich during the transfer window, following up a powerful first-half opener with a tap-in second.

It took Ashton's tally to five goals in just seven games for the Upton Park outfit and ensured the Hammers had enough of a cushion to survive City's late assault after Kiki Musampa had volleyed home five minutes from time.

The result fully justified Pardew's decision to leave out half a team for the weekend Premiership defeat to Portsmouth but left opposite number Stuart Pearce to rule the injuries picked up by Georgios Samaras, Claudio Reyna and Trevor Sinclair during Saturday's defeat to Wigan.

Playing in a first quarter-final for 13 years themselves, City were disappointingly outgunned and their chances of victory were virtually extinguished by the harsh dismissal of Sun Jihai 10 minutes after the break.

West Ham will now await the winners of this week's other three quarter-final encounters - featuring Birmingham v Liverpool, Chelsea v Newcastle United and Charlton v Middlesbrough - before bidding for a place in the final.

## Schweini sues newspaper

AFP, Munich

German international Bastian Schweinsteiger has started legal action against the Munich newspaper TZ for defamation, his club Bayern Munich confirmed on Monday.

Two other players named by the newspaper on Friday as being held for questioning in a match-fixing scandal were Dutchman Quido Lanzaat and Australian international Paul Agostino.

The 21-year-old midfielder Schweinsteiger said the accusations were not true and has decided to take the TZ to court over their controversial report.

Both Bayern and the German national team have backed Schweinsteiger saying he would never bet on rigged matches.

## Frank wants Larsson to stay

REUTERS, Madrid

Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard says he has tried to persuade Swedish striker Henrik Larsson to stay for another season rather than end his career with hometown club Helsingborg.

"Everyone from the coaching staff to the directors tried to convince him to stay, but he made the decision to leave and we have to respect that," Rijkaard was quoted as saying on the club's website on Tuesday.

Larsson has been in impressive form recently, scoring in each of Barca's last five league matches to take his season tally to nine - despite rarely featuring in the starting line-up.

Rijkaard admitted the 34-year-old lack of minutes was behind his decision to leave the club.

"He is an exemplary sportsman," said the Dutchman. "Strikers want to play all the time and he has had some difficult times, but has shown that he is capable of putting them to one side."

Larsson, who joined Barcelona after seven successful years at Celtic, missed most of his first season with the Catalans after tearing his cruciate ligament in his left knee during a 3-0 win over Real Madrid in November 2004.

He returned from international retirement to help Sweden qualify for the World Cup and will play in the finals in Germany before moving back to his first club Helsingborg.

Rijkaard, who has rested the Swede for Barca's game at home to Getafe on Tuesday, warned against any premature euphoria at the club after stretching their lead to 11 points last weekend.

"I don't like phrases like 'the league is already won' because we all know that this isn't true in sport," he said.

"In any case as well as respect for our rivals, the Barcelona philosophy is that we have to get on with our work, look for the win and if possible play good football."

"I hope we can win something important this season. It is true we have a comfortable advantage but we have to keep working hard."

Barca are also hoping for success in the Champions League, where they Benfica in the quarter-finals.

## Germans look for respite

## Football

AFP, Dortmund

Deisler will miss the World Cup after a knee injury ruled him out for six months.

Bayern star Bastian Schweinsteiger has also been in the headlines after a local Munich newspaper claimed he was involved in match-fixing.

"Bastian needs to know that everyone is behind him," said Klinsmann.

The United States have had problems too and will be without their star player Landon Donovan.

"This match is a great chance for our players to show that they should be nominated for the World Cup," said US coach Bruce Arena.

The United States are pooled

with Italy, the Czech Republic and Ghana in a testing World Cup group.

At the 2002 World Cup the USA lost 1-0 to Germany at the quarter-finals and the match is being billed as a revenge mission.

Germany want to rebuild their flagging confidence and have just two more matches after the US game.

Klinsmann's troops face Japan in Leverkusen on May 30 with Colombia the next test in Monchengladbach three days later.

Germany then open the 64-match World Cup in Munich on June 9 against Costa Rica.

## Fergie believes in miracles

## Football

AFP, Manchester

Sir Alex Ferguson believes Manchester United could yet pull off a sensational comeback in a Premiership title race that has been considered all over since Christmas.

Chelsea retain a 12-point advantage over United with eight games left to play -- one more than Ferguson's men.

But the champions' unstoppable aura has been dented by a run in which they have dropped ten points in their last eight games, culminating in Sunday's stormy 1-0 defeat at Fulham.

Chelsea will not want their current advantage to be reduced any further, particularly as they must face United in the penultimate match of the season.

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