



Italian World Cup winner Filippo Inzaghi (c) runs with teammates as part of their training session at the Coverciano training ground on Tuesday, for their Euro 2008 qualifying matches against Faroe Islands on the 2nd and Lithuania on the 6th of June.

## McClaren pays tribute to Becks

### Football

AP, London

England coach Steve McLaren has not seen David Beckham play since he dumped him from the national team after the World Cup.

With his job on the line, however, McLaren is ready to recall the Real Madrid midfielder to England's starting line-up.

Beckham is set to start in a friendly against Brazil at Wembley on Friday and in a European Championship qualifier at Estonia on June 6. England needs to win at Estonia to keep its chances of qualifying for Euro 2008 on track.

When McLaren took over the England coaching job from Sven-Goran Eriksson in August, his first decision was to drop Beckham from the team. Beckham was seen as untouchable under Eriksson even as his celebrity off the field was threatening to overshadow his form.

Now, McLaren believes Beckham has played his way back onto the squad.

"David is the fittest I have seen him for a long time," McLaren said Tuesday. "He showed a great hunger and desire to get back. He didn't moan. He just got his head down and worked hard. I don't know whether it is a question of proving me wrong, but the statistics are there."

McClaren said he followed the

atty shootout against Portugal. It was his 94th international, and Beckham has long stated his wish to reach the 100 mark.

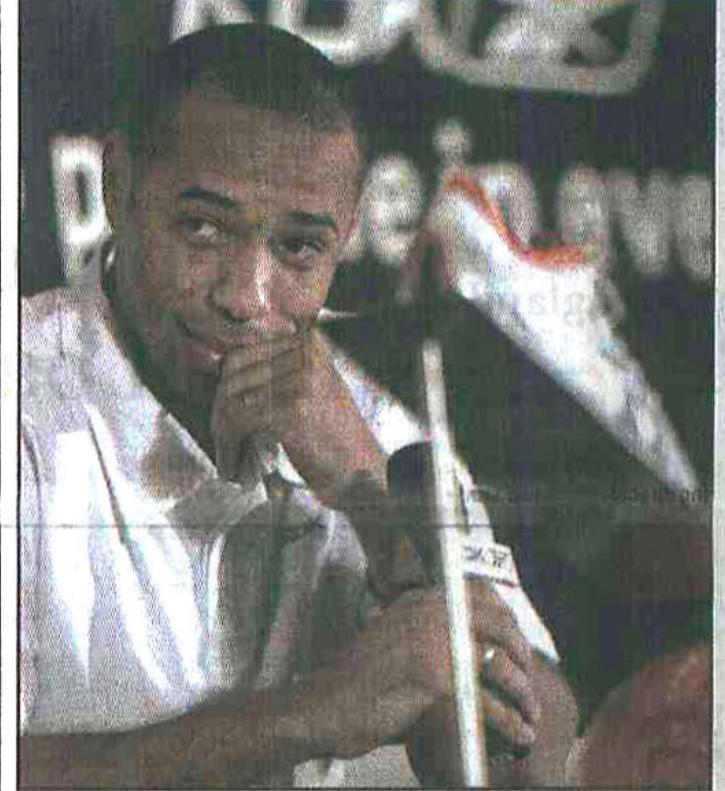
But McLaren, Eriksson's assistant for several years, decided last August he was taking England in a different direction, saying "it's a clean sheet of paper for everybody and that's why I decided not to pick David Beckham."

Nearly a year later, and after he was jeered by fans following England's last two lackluster games, McLaren is set to return with the midfield that largely underperformed at the World Cup.

"Leaving David out in the first place was a tough decision and he left a big void," McLaren said Tuesday.

England is fourth in Group E of Euro 2008 qualifying with 11 points from six games. Croatia leads the group with 13 points, followed by Israel and Russia with 11. Only the top two teams qualify for the tournament in Austria and Switzerland. Estonia is sixth in the seven-country group with no points after five matches.

"I have to be pragmatic," McLaren said. "Everyone knows we need to win in Estonia next week. The squad I have selected is designed to do that."



Arsenal and France star Thierry Henry attends a press conference for a promotional event in Beijing on Wednesday. Henry is in talks with Barcelona, according to a Spanish newspaper.

## American men slump

AFP, Paris



Robby Ginepri was left with the task of saving the reputation of American men's tennis on Wednesday after eight out of nine compatriots crashed out in the French Open first round.

Former world number one Andy Roddick, the third seed, and James Blake, seeded eighth, led the retreat from Paris as the Americans suffered their worst Roland Garros performance for what's believed to be around 30 years.

Roddick lost in the first round for the fourth time in seven Roland Garros visits going down to Russia's Igor Andreev who won 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

The statistics told a worrying story for the American with

Andreev hitting an astonishing 66 winners to Roddick's 19.

The French Open remains the 24-year-old's professional graveyard.

He has never made it past the third round despite reaching at least the semi-finals at the other three Grand Slams.

"I'm not going to give up. It's my biggest challenge. That's not a secret," said Roddick.

"I've been my own worst enemy here for a lot of times."

Blake also won the first set against Croatia's Ivo Karlovic before surrendering his first round tie 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, 7-5.

"It's no secret that we haven't done great on clay this year," said Blake.

"But I think we have the ability. Andy got a terrible draw. Andreev is probably the toughest non-seed here. I got a tough draw on Karlovic if he's serving well."

Andre Agassi was the last American man to win the French Open singles title in 1999, one of 11 triumphs for the United States in the history of the event.

Despite the gloom, Blake insists that his countrymen will continue to keep playing the French Open and resist the temptation to give the European clay court season a miss.

"I feel like I have the ability to beat top players on this surface. Playing Ivo is not a normal match, I didn't get the chance to get in the points and I didn't get the chance to step around and hit forehands or any of the things I would normally do on a clay court."

"I've beaten (Carlos) Moya on clay, I've beaten (Gael) Monfils on clay. It's not like I can't do it. I have the ability here. I just didn't today and I'm not going to stop coming."

"I put on 1.5kg from the age of 19 to 24. Now that they say I am more agile and lighter, I actually weigh more than I did back then."

"Most of the time appearances can be deceptive. I have always believed in hard work to better myself, in the gym and on the pitch. Some people are just stupid, though..."

"With all this talk of thieving they really are exaggerating now," snapped the Bianconeri captain on Repubblica TV.

## Ronaldinho gets one-match ban

AFP, Madrid

Barcelona star Ronaldinho on Tuesday received a one-match suspension from the Spanish league's competition commission for the red card he received after kicking out at an opponent in Saturday's win over Getafe.

Barca had appealed against the sending off at the Nou Camp which saw the Brazilian, who netted the only goal in the second minute, received his red card from referee Perez Burull for trying to kick Getafe defender David Belenguer, despite barely making any contact.

The commission, under chairman Alfredo Flores, found there had been provocation.

A two-game ban could have severely dented Barca's title hopes as they are level on points at the top with Real Madrid with only two games remaining.

Ronaldinho will sit out the game

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## Real renew Kaka hunt

### Football

INTERNET, undated

Reports in Spain claim that Real Madrid are ready to resume their campaign to sign Milan star Kaka.

The Brazilian has been a primary transfer objective for the Spaniards since last summer when the Rossoneri reported Real to FIA over their public courtship of the starlet.

However, we could be in for another summer of tension as the Spanish newspaper AS claims that Real chief Ramon Calderon intends to keep the promise made during his election campaign by netting the Golden Boy.

The Merengues are reportedly

ready to invest up to £43m for the Champions League top scorer and could include Emerson in the deal, a midfielder liked by boss Carlo Ancelotti, as well as Fabio Cannavaro.

The story adds that Kaka would also be willing to make the move despite his status as a Milan fan favourite.

"I don't want to start a war, but I would be happy to join Madrid," he is quoted as saying.

Although Milan Vice-President Adriano Galliani has insisted that the South American is untouchable -- no matter what offer is tabled -- Real are still keen.

It's understood that Madrid officials Predrag Mijatovic and Franco Baldini have already been

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

## বাবু নিয়ন্ত্রণ আর ক্ষেত্র, কখনো নয়

ঢাকা, চট্টগ্রাম, সিলেট, রাজশাহী, বরিশাল ও খুলনার বিভাগীয় মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে অবস্থিত ওয়ান-স্টপ ক্রাইসিস সেন্টার (ওসিসি) কর্তৃক নিম্নলিখিত সেবা প্রদান করা হয়ঃ

স্বাস্থ্যসেবা

পুলিশী ও আইনী সহায়তা

মানসিক ও সামাজিক কাউন্সেলিং

আশ্রয়সেবা ও সামাজিক পুনর্বাসন

ডিএনএ পরীক্ষার সুবিধা

ওসিসির ফোন নম্বরঃ

ঢাকা	০১৭১৩৪২৩৪৯০	রাজশাহী	০১৭১৩০৬৬৬৩৭
চট্টগ্রাম	০১৭১৩০৬৬৬৩৫	বরিশাল	০১৭১৩০৬৬৬৩৮
সিলেট	০১৭১৩০৬৬৬৩০৮	খুলনা	০১৭১৩০৬৬৬৩৯



নারী নিয়ন্ত্রণ প্রতিরোধকল্প মাল্টিসেন্ট্রাল প্রোগ্রাম  
মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার



## Six points a must for Loew

AFP, Berlin



Germany's head coach Joachim Loew insisted on Tuesday his injury-hit side have a duty to take six points from their double-header Euro 2008 qualifiers against San Marino and Slovakia.

Germany are top of Group D and level on points with the Czech Republic and Republic of Ireland, with a game in hand, but are missing their captain -- Chelsea midfielder Michael Ballack -- as well as striker Lukas Podolski and influential midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5