



Bayern Munich star Franck Ribery wipes his brow following a training session in Munich on Sunday.

## Queiroz under fire

Football

REUTERS, Lisbon

The Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) is investigating allegations that coach Carlos Queiroz insulted members of Portugal's anti-doping authority during the World Cup training camp in May, Secretary of State for Sports Laurentino Dias said.

"The facts that have been discovered in an inquiry oblige the federation to ponder them," Dias told Radio Renascença. "If they were not grave facts there would not have been an inquest or it would have been archived."

Queiroz guided Portugal to the second round of the World Cup finals in South Africa last month, where they were knocked out by eventual winners Spain.

"It is an extremely delicate matter, which the FPF will analyse in depth and will inform on at

an opportune time, after having heard all the parties," the federation said in a statement.

The federation last week said Queiroz's team had met its minimum target by reaching the second round and that he would remain as coach for the next two years, but local media said the inquest could raise calls for him to leave the job.

The Diário de Notícias daily reported on Friday that an initial inquiry had revealed Queiroz had allegedly insulted Luis Horta, president of the Portuguese Anti-Doping Authority, and doctors from his organisation when they visited the Portugal squad in Covilha to test several players.

It added that all of the players passed the tests, but Queiroz was allegedly angered by the unexpected interruption of the squad's training programme.

The FPF is expected to formally announce next week the opening of an inquest, which will be handled by its disciplinary committee, the newspaper said.



Corinthians coach Mario Menezes attends a news conference in Sao Paulo on Saturday. Menezes accepted an offer to take over as coach of Brazil on Saturday.

## Mano faces huge task

Football

REUTERS, Sao Paulo

Mano Menezes, a specialist in leading big clubs out of the doldrums but little-known outside his own country, became the coach of Brazil on Saturday when he accepted an offer from the five-times world champions.

The 48-year-old, currently coach of Corinthians, confirmed he had said yes to the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), which had been turned down by Muricy Ramalho on Friday when his club Fluminense refused to release him.

"For the whole of Brazil, I say that I officially accept the invitation," Menezes told a news conference at his club. "I'm very proud and happy."

"We must have 30, 40 or 50 excellent professionals in Brazil, so if I'm second on the list, that's fine by me."

Menezes replaces Dunga, who quit after Brazil's shock quarterfinal defeat to Netherlands at the World Cup three weeks ago. Both men hail from the south of Brazil, regarded as the more European part of the country.

Menezes, who did not play professionally, will have the huge task of trying to rebuild Brazil's national team, discredited after a lacklustre display in South Africa, and win a sixth world title when they host the 2014 World Cup.

Winning their own World Cup is seen as an obligation by Brazil's 190 million inhabitants. With Brazil's failure to win on home soil in 1950 still being mentioned regularly, the pressure on Menezes and his team will be greater than ever.

He will also be under pressure to restore a more attractive playing style which many felt was missing under Dunga's leadership.

One of his biggest problems could be that Brazil will qualify automatically as hosts and will be short of competitive football, with only next year's Copa America and the 2013 Confederations Cup to test the team.

Otherwise, he faces a long run of friendlies, starting with a match away to United States on Aug. 10.

Menezes, 48, made his name in 2005 when he led former South American champions Gremio out of the second division.

In an extraordinary decisive game, Gremio had four players sent off, survived a penalty miss by opponents Nautico and then snatched a goal to win 1-0 and clinch promotion.

Two years later, he took them to the final of the Libertadores Cup, the South American equivalent of the Champions League.

He then joined Corinthians, another hugely popular team, and led them out of the second division in 2008.

Since then, his side have won the Copa Brasil and signed former Brazil World Cup winners Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos.

CBF president Ricardo Teixeira said in a statement that the team would depend less on foreign-based players, a risky strategy which has not succeeded when it has been tried in the past.

"Brazil, as the new coach told me, will have a significant presence of players who play for Brazilian clubs, Mano Menezes is the right person to lead this process," said Teixeira.

"I am a certain he will do a great job until 2014. He showed courage and pride in having the opportunity which every coach in the world dreams of."

## Villarreal granted Mallorca's spot

REUTERS, Madrid

La Liga club Villarreal have been given Real Mallorca's place in this season's Europa League pending a Mallorca appeal.

"Villarreal CF this afternoon received official notification from UEFA that certifies classification for the 2010/11 Europa League following the non-admission of Real Mallorca," the club said on their website (www.villarrealcf.es) on Saturday.

Villarreal finished seventh in La Liga last season, two spots behind financially-troubled Mallorca, who were informed of their exclusion from European competition by UEFA on Thursday.

The governing body ruled the Balearic Islands club, who are in administration, had not fulfilled the admission criteria as the requisite licence had not been granted.

Mallorca's lawyer, Luis Huerta, said in a statement on Saturday (www.rcdmallorca.es) an appeal against UEFA's decision would be lodged on Monday.

Huerta noted that the club's exclusion from the Europa League would deprive them of revenue needed to pay off their creditors.

## Do or die for Altintop

SOCCERNET

Bayern Munich midfielder Hamit Altintop has revealed that next season could be his last with the club should he not manage to make the breakthrough into the first team.

Altintop signed a new one-year contract for this season, turning down several lucrative offers to leave, but he says the term of his new deal is no coincidence as he has set himself an ultimatum to succeed next season.

"I don't always want to be a spectator," he said. "Therefore, I told myself 'come on, give it a go for one more year'. I am grateful to the management team that they accepted my wish."

Nevertheless, the 27-year-old, who spent much of last season on the bench, is not putting himself under too much pressure.

"I know that I am the challenger," he told the Süddeutsche Zeitung newspaper. "Therefore, I cannot lose, which keeps me relaxed. Bayern Munich is top, the team is intact and I have settled in well in Munich. This is a team which can challenge again for the Champions League. And, as stupid as it may sound, you can always leave here."

## Cole staying says Carlo

TELEGRAPH

Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti is confident Ashley Cole will stay at Stamford Bridge despite persistent rumours linking him with a move to Real Madrid.

Speculation that the England international is set to reunite with former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho at the Bernabeu has been rife, but Ancelotti is confident enough that Cole wants to stay and that he does not feel the need to speak to him about his future.

"Ashley is a Chelsea player and nobody wants to sell him," Ancelotti said. "We want to keep him in our squad. I am 100 per cent sure he will be at Chelsea this season."

"I consider him to be the best player in his position in the world."

"I don't need to talk to him. He is happy to stay at Chelsea. He never said he wanted to go. There is no chance he will go. No way."

Chelsea are having a few issues defensively at the moment, with goalkeeper Petr Cech and centre-back Alex both sidelined by injury and Ricardo Carvalho claiming he has a clause in his contract which allows him to leave Stamford Bridge this summer.

Meanwhile, the club has suffered another blow with news that Didier Drogba will miss the start of the season after undergoing surgery on a groin injury.

The striker will be out of action for about three weeks and will miss the Community Shield against Manchester United on August 8 and almost certainly the club's season opener against West Bromwich Albion.

## End of an era for Real

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid midfielder Guti is leaving the La Liga giants after a quarter of a century and mulling an offer from Turkish club Besiktas.

The 33-year-old former Spain international, who joined Real's youth setup in 1985 and made his first-team debut a decade later, helped Real win five domestic league titles and three European Champions League titles.

A hero among hard-core fans and a club captain, he would be coached at Besiktas by German Bernd Schuster, who was in charge at Real between 2007 and 2008.

"I am leaving with the knowledge that the Real Madrid family loves me and that's very important," Guti said at a news conference at Real's Bernabeu stadium on Sunday.

Asked about his future, he added: "I have an interesting offer from Besiktas but I haven't decided yet. What I know



RAUL &amp; GUTI

for sure is that wherever I go I will give my best."

Reports in Spain in recent days have said that another of Real's long-term servants, striker Raul, is also set to leave the Bernabeu and will announce his departure for Bundesliga club Schalke 04 on Monday.

Raul, 33, another club captain and a talisman for the fans, made his debut for Real in La Liga in October 1994 at the age of 17 and has won six league titles and three

Champions Leagues, twice finishing top scorer in the Spanish league.

In October last year, he equalled German Gerd Mueller's record of 66 goals in the three main European club competitions when he scored against AC Milan in the Champions League.

He holds the all-time scoring record for Spain with 44 goals in 102 appearances, one more than his successor in the number seven shirt David Villa.

## Torres' beef with Liverpool

Football

SOCCERNET

Liverpool boss Roy Hodgson has given the clearest indication yet that Fernando Torres could be heading out of Anfield by suggesting the player has a long-standing gripe with the club.

Hodgson, who on Saturday saw his new team lose 1-0 to Kaiserslautern in Germany, said after the game that he was still hopeful Torres would follow captain Steven Gerrard in committing his future to the club. But now it appears something that went on behind the scenes when Rafael Benitez was in charge which may ultimately prevent that.

Chelsea are believed to be waiting in the wings with a big money offer should Torres decide he wants to leave Anfield, although the striker is currently out injured with a thigh strain sustained in the last moments of the World Cup final with Spain.

Hodgson told the News of the World: "Unfortunately, I cannot do much more. His beef is with the club and not me. Fernando's situation has nothing to do with me, he made that perfectly clear over the phone during the World Cup and when I met him face-to-face."

"He knows what I would like to do with the

club. He knows how much I value him. But his issues are with what has gone on in the past rather than the future. If he has problems with the club for things in the past, it is difficult for me to dismiss that."

"People forget he is a Liverpool player. One year ago he signed a four-year contract. I hope he will commit himself by honouring his contract."

Former Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish is confident the capture of Joe Cole and retention of Gerrard will show Fernando Torres just how serious Hodgson is about moving the Reds forwards.

Dalglish, who is now the club's Academy ambassador, said: "When Torres sees that [Cole signing] and talks with Roy I am sure he will give us good news. I hope Torres stays. Only Fernando knows what is going to do. Unfortunately for him he is injured, but he is a fantastic player and is very happy around the club and the city."

"The fact that Stevie is staying will be a great help and players like Joe Cole, Milan Jovanovic, Jonjo Shelvey and Danny Wilson means there is buying for the present and the future. Roy is going to stamp his own authority on the club - but it is difficult at the moment because the players are coming back in dribs and drabs after the World Cup and you don't have everyone coming back together."

## City tie up Kolarov

Football

TELEGRAPH

Manchester City took their summer spending spree over the £75 million mark on Saturday when they completed the signing of Serbian Aleksandar Kolarov, the Lazio left-back, for £17 million after he passed his medical.

The 24 year-old's arrival has led to speculation Wayne Bridge, himself a £12 million capture from Chelsea just 18 months ago, would be sold after failing to impress in his spell at Eastlands. But yesterday Roberto Mancini, the Manchester City manager, denied this was the case. "We need two quality players in every position," he said after watching a weakened side lose 2-0 to Sporting Lisbon in New York. "The left-backs will be Kolarov and Bridge."

Kolarov's signing would appear to clear the way for Chelsea to sign the Brazilian defender David Luiz from Benfica. City were reportedly interested in buying him too but club sources have confirmed that signing Kolarov would mean they would not pursue Luiz.

Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti looks in need of a defensive signing with Alex out for the start of the season with a thigh injury, goalkeeper Petr Cech out for a month with a calf problem and Ricardo Carvalho hankering for a move to join up with his old manager Jose Mourinho at Real Madrid. Carvalho yesterday

revealed he has an agreement with Chelsea which will see him leave Stamford Bridge this summer and described a possible move to Madrid as a "dream". "Chelsea have a commitment with me to let me go this summer, for reasons which those responsible at the club and I know. If there was a possibility to sign with Real Madrid, I would go there right now swimming or running," he said.

"It would be a dream to be able to play for Madrid, which I consider to be the best club in the world, and follow the orders of the best coach in the history of football."

Regardless of Carvalho's movements, Ancelotti seemed determined to sign Luiz. It is understood that they have already approached Benfica over a possible £20 million deal for their midfielder Ramires, and it is thought that Roman Abramovich has also sanctioned his manager to return for Luiz, who is valued at £27 million.

Ancelotti is also likely to be without Didier Drogba for the start of the Premier League season after Chelsea confirmed that the striker underwent surgery on Friday for a groin injury. He will be sidelined for around three weeks.

Drogba, 32, will certainly miss the Community Shield against Manchester United on Aug 8, and it is likely that the Ivory Coast international will be unavailable when Chelsea begin their title defence against West Bromwich Albion on Aug 14.



Benfica's Paraguayan striker Oscar Cardozo celebrates after scoring against Monaco in a pre-season match at the Luz Stadium in Lisbon on Saturday.

## Rio to miss season start

TELEGRAPH

Rio Ferdinand is set to miss the start of the season and be sidelined until September after suffering a setback in his battle to recover from the knee injury that ruled the Manchester United defender out of the World Cup.

Ferdinand, 31, had expected to be fit in time for United's opening game of the Premier League season against Newcastle on Aug 16 after Old Trafford medical staff suggested he faced a ten-week recovery period from the ligament injury suffered at England's Rustenburg training camp on Jun 4.

The England captain had missed United's tour of North America, where they play Kansas City Wizards this afternoon (Sun), in order to complete his rehabilitation at the club's Carrington training base.

But United manager Sir Alex Ferguson confirmed last night (Sat) that Ferdinand's return date is at least six weeks away and that Michael Owen will also miss the big kick-off, six months after suffering a hamstring injury.

He said: "Rio should be six weeks, maybe. It was a knee ligament injury and you've got to be careful with those."

"I would think he'll be back playing in six weeks, but Gary Neville is training now after his calf injury and he started football training on Friday."

"Michael Owen is behind in that although he's doing terrific work. I'm not sure Michael will make the start of the season but he won't be far away. Gary will make the start."

"With the defensive injury problems we had last season, it was important to stock up at the back and we have done that by signing Chris Smalling and resolving Nemanja Vidic's future."

## Juve see off Lyon

INTERNET

Juventus warmed up for their Europa League qualifier with Shamrock Rovers by defeating French acers Lyon 2-1 in Cosenza.

Lyon, who reached the Champions League semifinal last term, were downed 2-1 thanks to goals from Alessandro Del Piero and new signing Simone Pepe.

New Bianconeri coach Gigi Del Neri actually saw his troops fall behind after Giorgio Chiellini conceded a penalty, duly converted by Ederson.

It may have been a pre-season warm-up but that did not mean the players held back, and before the break Lyon defender Aly Cissokho - a one time Milan target - was dismissed for a reckless challenge on Jorge Martinez.

Before the break Juve made their man advantage count when Del Piero converted a spot-kick, earned when his own shot was blocked by the hand of Brazilian defender Cris.

The winner came from a magical one-two between Diego and Pepe, finished off with a right foot effort from the former Udinese man.

## Lee staying on at Bolton

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korea's Lee Chung-yong has not considered leaving English Premier League club Bolton Wanderers to cash in on his impressive World Cup campaign but would like to play in the Champions League one day. The 22-year-old midfielder scored twice for his country as they reached the World Cup second round for the first time on foreign soil in South Africa and has been linked with a move across Lancashire as part of Liverpool's rebuilding programme.

"There's still much for me to learn in Bolton, so I haven't given any serious thought to the matter of a transfer," he told the Yonhap news agency before leaving for England on Sunday.

Lee's flair and five goals made him a firm favourite in the first season of his three-year deal with Bolton but the winger said he would like to play for a bigger club eventually.

"As I do my best to work with what's given to me, chances will come and I will take them," he added.

"Money is important, and it'd be good to play for a big team like one in the Champions League, but most of all I want to go where I can develop myself."