

Buffon back

Goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon

returned to training with

Juventus on Tuesday following

almost six months out with a

World Cup match in South

Africa in June but was substi-

tuted at the break after suffer-

ing a herniated disc.

Buffon started Italy's first

He underwent surgery four

The 32-year-old, the undis-

puted Italy number one before

his injury, arrived at Juve's

Vinovo training ground on

Tuesday morning and did

some exercises on his own

with one of the club's coaches,

not due in until the afternoon.

Italy and was part of the 2006

World Cup winning team. He

joined Juve in 2001 from

Parma where he won the UEFA

two league titles, a Serie B

crown and play in a

Champions League final

while he was also part of the

side that was stripped of the

Serie A titles in 2005 and 2006

after the Calciopoli match-

goalkeeper in Serie A eight

make his first team return in

Bayern won't

Bayern Munich chairman

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge

insisted Monday the German

giants will not sell Bastian

sell Bastian

He has been named best

Ansa claims he will be fit to

fixing scandal.

times.

January.

AFP, Berlin

an extension.

At Juve he went on to claim

Cup and Italian Cup in 1999.

The rest of the squad were

Buffon has 102 caps for

in training

AFP, Rome

back injury.

months ago.

Ansa reported.

Manchester United centreforward Dimitar Berbatov executes a side volley during training at their Carrington Complex yesterday. United take on Glasgow Rangers in a Champions League clash tonight.

Del Bosque blames himself

AFP, Madrid

Coach Vicente del Bosque admitted Monday he was "probably" the main guilty partner in Spain's two friendly defeats to Argentina and Portugal this autumn.

Del Bosque's World Cup winners came unstuck 4-1 to Argentina in September and then suffered a 4-0 embarrassment at the hands of their Iberian neighbours last Wednesday.

"The main guilty person, it's probably me. I don't say that to come across as a martyr but because I couldn't find the necessary motivation for the players," the Spaniard said

here Monday. Speaking at the launch of a book, "The Del Bosque method," written by journalist Joaquin Magroto, he added: We've had two serious warnings in two international matches which don't supply

points or prestige." Del Bosque suggested the status of world champions "imposes more responsibil-

ity" on a team such as Spain. The Spanish press slammed their national team

over its "worst match" in years against Portugal in Lisbon. "Was this the Reds?" the sports newspaper Marca

asked of the World Cup win-"Death blow" by Portugal,

said its rival AS.

SPORTS POLL WEEKLY QUESTION Which Tigers opening pair

the Zimbabwe series? Visit the sports page of

you think will be ideal in

www.thedailystar.net to cast vote Follow The Daily Star Sport on





TEN Sports

Asian Games Day Twelve Live from 8:00am Sri Lanka v West Indies Second Test, Day 2 Live from 10:30am **UEFA Champions League** Rangers v Man United Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

Pakistan v South Africa

TEN Cricket

Second Test, Day 5 Live from 12:00pm

ESPN

Sportscentre India Sports News Live at 8:30pm

TEN Action

UEFA Champions League Penathinaikos v Barcelona Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

Japan, UAE in final

RESULTS

Iran 1 (Afshin 6) Japan 2 (Mizunuma 38,

Nagai 60)

South Korea 0 UAE 1 (Ahmed Al Abry 120)

after he ran after and kicked an

The sporting authorities

explained that his harsher

punishment was because he

had also insulted the referee,

thrown his shirt at him and

then continued to argue with

Champions League tie against FC Twente.

60 minutes.

AFP, Guangzhou



Japan will meet the United Arab Emirates in the Asian Games football final after the unheralded Gulf side knocked out South Korea with the last kick of extratime in their semifinal.

South Korea, the gold medallists in 1986, had wasted the best opportunities of the game, and they were made to pay when centre-forward Ahmed Al Abry slotted the ball past substitute goalkeeper Lee Bum-Young.

Penalty specialist Lee had replaced starter Kim Seung-Gyu just moments earlier with Korea expecting the game to be decided by a shootout.

But it is the UAE, who have never appeared in an Asiad final, who go on to Thursday's

gold medal decider against Japan who came from a goal down to beat four-time champions Iran 2-1.

South Korea had the best of the early chances and UAE keeper Ali Housani needlessly put his side under pressure when he opted to punch rather than catch a teasing

But Hong Jeong-Ho was off target with his long-range response.

Amer Al Hamadi then shot wide in 19th minute as the UAE looked to use their pace up

Hong Jeong-Ho should have broken the deadlock in the 37th minute, but despite being unmarked, he tamely headed straight into the

Inter Milan

striker

Samuel Eto'o

banned for

matches for headbutting

Chievo's Bostjan Cesar after

TV evidence was used to prove

also hit with a 30,000-euro fine

for his action in the 2-1 defeat

to the Verona-based team on

The 29-year-old had been

fouled by Cesar in the 36th

minute of the game, but he got

up and ran over to Cesar

before headbutting him in the

chest in an attack reminiscent

of France legend Zinedine

Zidane's infamous headbutt

on Marco Materazzi in the

by referee Gianluca Rocchi

and Eto'o even went on to

score an injury time consola-

said the ban was for "premedi-

lished their intention to

tated violent conduct".

appeal on their website.

action.

similar affair.

Italy's sporting justice body

Inter immediately pub-

Cesar escaped any sanc-

tion after hitting Eto'o with his

forearm before the incident as

the referee had given a free-

kick against him for that

incident lowly Lecce's

Ernesto Chevanton was hit

with a five game ban for a

against Sampdoria on Sunday

Chevanton was sent off

However, in a separate

The incident was not seen

2006 World Cup final.

The Cameroon captain was

AFP, Rome

his guilt.

Sunday.

Eto'o punished

arms of a grateful Al Hamadi.

Monaco's Park Chu-Young then showed off his creativity with a smart pass into the path of the sprinting Yun Suk-Young who blasted the ball over the bar to leave the semifinal scoreless at the interval.

Housani again flapped at a cross in the 70th minute but he escaped when substitute Seo Jung-Jin missed the target.

At the other end, Omar Al Amoudi sent a fierce, left-footed drive just over the top of Kim Seung-Gyu's goal as the tie drifted into extra-time. Japan inched closer to their dream of win-

ning a first Asian Games football gold medal by

coming from behind to beat Iran. Striker Arash Afshin opened the scoring for Iran on

six minutes before Kota Mizunuma drew Japan level seven minutes before halftime with the classy Kensuke Nagai grabbing the winner on "After Iran scored we had some difficult

moments, but we always knew we had time to come back," said Japan captain Kuzuya

Yamamura. Fard Ansari put the ball into the net 16 minutes from time only to be judged offside.

The Iranians were throwing everything they had at the Japanese goal and Hamidreza

Akiasgaridehaghi hit the post and they had a penalty appeal turned down, but Japan held on for a narrow victory. Iran were furious with the offside decision.

"There was no offside and the referee made a mistake," said Ansari. "If the score had become 2-2, we would have won the match."

dismissal.

13 matches.

the fourth official after his

in Serie A with nine goals after

games in all competitions in a

stunning start to the season.

Eto'o is the joint top scorer

He has bagged 18 in 19

Inter struggling AFP, Paris Rafael Benitez has experi-

FIXTURES

Inter Milan (ITA) v FC Twente (NED),

Tottenham (ENG) v Werder Bremen

(GER), Schalke 04 (GER) v Lyon (FRA),

Hapoel Tel-Aviv (ISR) v Benfica (POR),

Rangers (SCO) v Manchester Utd (ENG),

Valencia (ESP) v Bursaspor (TUR), Rubin

Kazan (RUS) v Copenhagen (DEN),



enced the finest moment of his professional career as a coach in the Champions League but defeat for holders Inter Milan at home to unglamorous Dutch side FC

Twente on Wednesday could bring him his

The 50-year-old has singularly failed so far to maintain Inter's remarkable form of last term under Jose Mourinho - who has little regard for Benitez and has gloated from afar at his discomfort - and the wise money is that anything but a win for Inter will see his tenure end after just months in the job.

A Twente victory would even place Inter's chances of reaching the second round in jeopardy as they would go a point ahead of them with just one match remaining.

Group A leaders Spurs can seal their place in the second round in their first appearance in the Champions League with a home victory over struggling Bundesliga side Werder Bremen, whose own coach

with them having lost five of their last six matches.

Manchester United too can progress with a point away at Scottish side Rangers sufficient but their hosts need to beat the 2008 winners to have any hope of making the last 16 as secondplaced Valencia are at home to pointless and goalless Turkish outfit Bursaspor.

Valencia are presently two points ahead of

Raul used to terrorise the Valencia defence in his days as a Real Madrid star but the veteran Spaniard will have his sites focussed on inflicting damage on France's semifinalists last season Lyon and showed he is approaching his former level with a hattrick for German side Schalke in their 4-0 humbling of Bremen on Saturday.

Lyon still top Group B by two points from Schalke, though they missed a chance to seal their place in the last 16 with an away defeat to Benfica earlier this month and Raul will be keen to extend his record as Champions League alltime top goalscorer.

Benfica, who looked outstanding against Lyon before almost letting slip their 4-0 lead and ended up winning 4-3, can keep the pressure on the top two by beating hapless Israeli side Hapoel Tel-Aviv away.

Should 2009 champions Barcelona and Danish outsiders Copenhagen just draw against Panathinaikos - who have just hired a new coach in Portuguese Jesualdo Ferreira and recently deposed Russian champions Rubin Kazan respectively they will take the two qualifying spots in Group D.

Benitez - who guided Liverpool to the 2005 Champions League trophy with an extraordinary comeback against AC Milan accepts that Wednesday's match is hugely important coming on the back of a 2-1 defeat to Chievo on Sunday.

Defeat left them sixth in Serie A and nine points off AC Milan at the top.

Spurs manager Harry

Redknapp is keen to wrap up Thomas Schaaf is under increasing pressure their place with a game to go but acknowledges that Werder Bremen may not be on form but they are still capable of pulling off a good result with the quality of players they have.

Schaaf was kept in his post after the Bremen directors held two rounds of talks including with the players after the Schalke defeat which came soon after a 6-0 hammering by Vfb Stuttgart. The Rangers players would love to give

manager Walter Smith something extra in his final season as their boss and nothing would be sweeter than beating United and somehow grabbing one of the two qualifying spots. Their in-form striker Kenny Miller, whose

hattrick saw them edge to a 3-2 away win at Kilmarnock in the domestic league accepts it will take a performance far above the ones they usually have to come up with domestically.

Jose tips for Carlo



INTERNET

Jose Mourinho told Carlo Ancelotti he must not make his mistake and overstay his welcome at Chelsea.

quitting Stamford Bridge but his most successful predecessor reflected on his time at Chelsea to warn the Italian that he should go when he wants to, rather than being shown the door.

our at the League Managers Association Hall of Fame Dinner, said: "When I did the six fingers in the air at Wembley, to mark the six trophies at Chelsea when we won the FA Cup in 2007, it could have been my last night at Chelsea.

"Probably I should've said yes at that time. I decided to stay and four months later I had no job - so I should've left at that moment."

the long-haul at the Bernebeu and build a dynasty - his spells at Porto, Chelsea and Inter Milan have lasted less than four seasons - he maintained his next move after Spain will be a return to the Premier League.

"I'm probably missing you more than you are missing me," added the Special One.

"I love everything here. It was a great experience for me as a professional but also as a person. My family loves it here. We have a house

everything. "I want to finish the job at Madrid. The job is an impossible job, to stay for a long time and

build something, not just for me but for the to the ambition the club has.

in England again. "One day I will leave Real Madrid and then I want to live in England again."

London job, Mourinho was far more equivocal, leaving open the door to moves to Manchester or Liverpool if the opportunities arose. He added: "Give me a good football pitch

and good players and I'm raring to go. "This season I read the most intelligent quote.

I can't say it's mine, but from Sir Alex Ferguson, the No 1 in the history of the Premier League, who said he doesn't want to retire. That's exactly what I want to say when I get to 60. I want to live my football life as long as I can."

Everton midfielder Mikel Arteta is euphoric after scoring the equaliser against Sunderland during

his head.

Arteta rescues a point



Spanish midfielder Mikel Arteta forced a 2-2 draw with in-form Sunderland in their Premier League clash here on Monday.

A fine double by Sunderland striker Danny Welbeck - taking his total to three in two matches - had looked to be enough for the Black Cats to build on their superb 3-0 hammering of Chelsea in their previous match.

had levelled the game at 1-1 after Australian Tim Cahill had given the visitors an early lead. The result leaves Sunderland with just one

defeat since August while Everton have won just one match in their last seven since beating bitter city rivals Liverpool.

Schweinsteiger before his contract expires in 2012, regardless of whether he signs "I've always said that we

want to extend Bastian's contract," said Rummenigge. "We are working on it, but if that fails, then it is sure he will

stay at Bayern until June 30 2012," said Rummenigge. Rummenigge cancelled out Bayern coach Louis van

Gaal's comments that

Schweinsteiger, 26, should be

sold at the end of the season, if he failed to sign an extension, rather than Munich risk losing him on a free transfer. "He can not decide that. In that case, I'm exercising my

right to have the last word," insisted Rummenigge. Schweinsteiger is one of Bayern's top stars and the

club's bosses have always said they are eager to keep him for the rest of his career, if they can. One of the stars of the

World Cup and a candidate for the FIFA Ballon d'Or, Schweinsteiger must decide early next year whether or not to sign the contract extension with improved salary that Bayern's directors have offered him.

PHOTO: AFP According to the Italian Inter Milan striker Samuel Eto'o warms up during a training press, Italian champions Inter session in Appiano Gentile yesterday on the eve of their Milan would be ready to spend | injury. 30 million euros to sign him.

Ancelotti insisted last night that he is not

Real Madrid boss Mourinho, guest of hon-

"I had the chance to go to Real Madrid then

and I said no.

While Mourinho insisted he wants to stay for

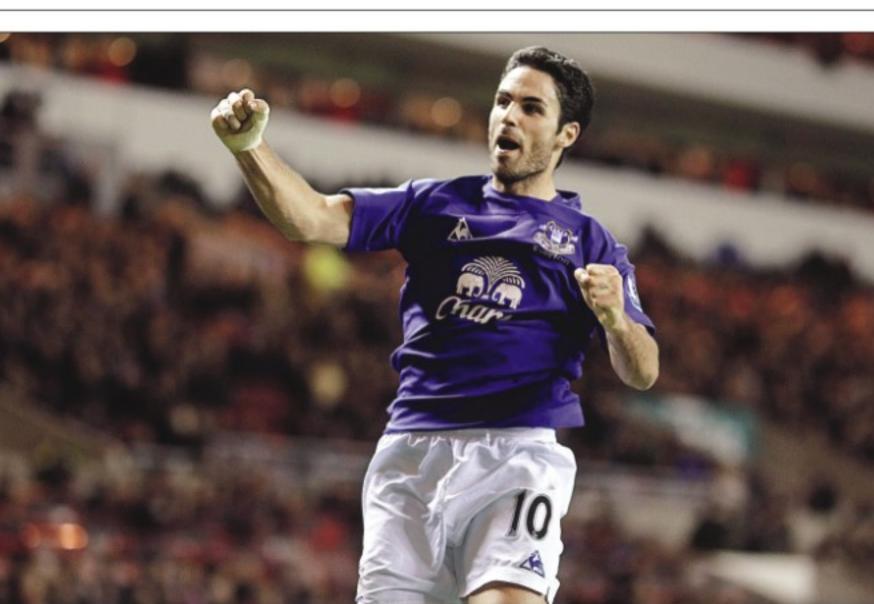
here and they come to our house month after month.

"The kids grew up here. I love the emotion, respect, and fair play here. I love absolutely

future and bring Real Madrid, footballistically "That will not take six months or a year. It will take a long time.

"But I want to live in England again and my family wants to live in England. I want to coach

Asked if that necessarily meant another



their Premier League encounter at the Stadium of Light on Monday.

AFP, Sunderland



late goal by Everton's

Welbeck, on loan from Manchester United,

Ghanaian World Cup star Asamoah Gyan sat out the match through injury after an outstanding performance in the humiliation of Chelsea but manager Steve Bruce was able to bring England international Darren Bent back after

It was Everton, though, who got off to the one on one with Gordon.

was appearing for Everton in defence - and from his cross Welbeck was on hand to knock it past Tim Howard. Welbeck added his second in the secondhalf scoring from former Manchester United

midfielder Kieran Richardson's cross, though,

flying start as excellent work down the flank

by Leighton Baines saw him deliver a great

cross for Cahill to tuck away neatly with

for the hosts equaliser as he was turned

inside out by Dutch veteran Boudewijn

Zenden - who had a more rewarding night

than his brother-in-law Johnny Heitinga who

Baines, though, was on the receiving end

there was a hint of offside about the goal. Everton fought hard to at least grab a point and Arteta duly delivered it when his weak shot took a deflection off Phil Bardsley and beat Craig Gordon.

Both sides had chances to get a winner but first Welbeck miscued when well set up by Steed Malbranque and then former Leeds United marksman Jermaine Beckford was released by England international defender Phil Jagielka, but he completely messed up his shot when