



### Irish finish with home game

Irish finish with home game Republic of Ireland manager Brian Kerr has been granted his wish for a home game as the final World Cup qualifier. Ireland will close their bid to reach the 2006 finals b...

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### Mutu to hold talks with Juventus

Mutu to hold talks with Juventus Disgraced former Chelsea striker Adrian Mutu is to begin talks with Juventus as he looks for a new club. "Mutu will be in our club's main stand to watch the match be...

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### Diageo to buy US wine firm

Diageo to buy US wine firm Diageo, the world's biggest spirits company, has agreed to buy Californian wine company Chalone for \$260m (B£134m) in an all-cash deal. Although Diageo's best-known brands...

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### Tottenham bid £8m for Forest duo

Tottenham bid £8m for Forest duo Nottingham Forest have confirmed they have received an B£8m bid from Tottenham for Andy Reid and Michael Dawson. Reid rejected a move to Southampton after Fores...

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### 'Post-Christmas lull' in lending

'Post-Christmas lull' in lending UK mortgage lending showed a "post-Christmas lull" in January, indicating a slowing housing market, lenders have said. Both the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and...

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## Quiksilver moves for Rossignol

Quiksilver moves for Rossignol Shares of Skis Rossignol, the world's largest ski-maker, have jumped as much as 15% on speculation that it will be bought by US surfwear firm Quiksilver. The owners of...

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## Absa and Barclays talks continue

Absa and Barclays talks continue South Africa biggest retail bank Absa has said it is still in talks with UK bank Barclays over the sale of majority stake in the group. In November, Absa said it was...

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## Burren awarded Egyptian contracts

Burren awarded Egyptian contracts British energy firm Burren Energy has been awarded two potentially lucrative oil exploration contracts in Egypt. The company successfully bid for the two contracts,...

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## Lufthansa flies back to profit

Lufthansa flies back to profit German airline Lufthansa has returned to profit in 2004 after posting huge losses in 2003. In a preliminary report, the airline announced net profits of 400m euros (\$5...

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## Durex maker SSL awaits firm bid

Durex maker SSL awaits firm bid UK condom maker SSL International has refused to comment on reports it may be subject to a takeover early in 2005. A Financial Times report said business intelligence...

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