



WELCOME TO CHINA: Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho (C) arrives amid tight security at his hotel in Guangzhou yesterday. World Champions Brazil will play China on 12 February in a friendly international.

Bundesliga Champions stunned

Reigning champions Borussia Dortmund crashed to a 1-0 defeat to VfB Stuttgart on Sunday which saw them drop further behind Bayern Munich in the race for the German title.

What to WATCH - BTU Cricket World Cup 2003 Preliminary Round Bangladesh vs Canada Live at 6:15 pm

ESPN English Premier Football League Man United vs Man City Repeat at 10:30 am

STAR Sports Asia Sport Show Int'l Sports News Repeat at 11:00 am

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19 Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19 Name who became AFC's team of the month in January

Hamburg at the Munich Olympic Stadium after recent Japanese recruit Naohiro Takahara scored with an injury-time header past Bayern keeper Oliver Kahn.

Bayern took the lead through Peruvian international Claudio Pizarro after 11 minutes but as the seconds ticked down Takahara, who moved to Hamburg from Jubilo Iwata in December, grabbed his first Bundesliga goal when he connected with a cross from Iranian international Mehdi Mahdavian.

TOP SCORERS - Leading scorers in the German Bundesliga after Sunday's matches: 14 - Ailton (Werder Bremen) 12 - Thomas Christiansen (VfL Bochum)

African solidarity FROM PAGE 16 income coming from the proceeds of international matches, the effect of a South African withdrawal opens up an even more appalling prospect for the ECB.

WC dessert! FROM PAGE 16 Seebaran, Fazal Samad, Ishwar Maraj, a top order batsman from Trinidad, Nick Ifill, also from the West Indies and Ian Billcliff who has played in New Zealand.

Jayasuriya's fear FROM PAGE 16 Smith stoked the debate still further, suggesting in his book, to be published on Saturday, that Muralitharan was breaking the game's rules.

Bochum administered a 2-1 away defeat on Saturday. A double strike from Bochum's Iranian international Vahid Hashemian completed Leverkusen's journey from Champions League finalists last season to relegation candidates.

Next week, we are at home in the derby (against Barcelona) and three points there will go a long way to getting us out of danger," said the former Spain coach.

TOP SIX - German league table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against): Bayern 20 13 5 2 40 15 44

Always cricket FROM PAGE 16 Pakistan at Centurion Park at a group match of the just-started World Cup tournament.

Nothing than FROM PAGE 16 England. Logie, however, was confident his team has come a long way since.

Aussies are FROM PAGE 16 what they have seen and, as far as we are concerned, we have no reason not to trust their decision.

Primera Liga No Barca antics

Football AFP, Barcelona The arrival of Radomir Antic as Barcelona's new coach made only a minimal difference to the fortunes of the Catalan giant as they squandered a two-goal lead to finish 2-2 against Athletic Bilbao on Sunday.

Barca were two up after just 11 minutes with goals from Javier Saviola and Marc Overmars. However, Athletic tightened up at the back and thwarted Barcelona for the rest of the first half before getting quickly back on level terms after the break.

Santiago Ezquerro got one back for the Basques from the penalty spot after 49 minutes after new signing Juan Pablo Roman had brought down Tiko Martinez.

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Valencia lost ground on the leading duo in Spain after drawing 1-1 with lowly Recreativo Huelva.

Inter Milan returned to the top of Italy's Serie A on Sunday after thrashing Reggina 3-0 at the San Siro while city rivals AC Milan crashed to a surprise 1-0 defeat at Perugia.

credit for Perugia's win which lifted them to ninth place. "I'm always happy to score but today is all about the squad," he said.

Christian Vieri gave Inter a 10th-minute lead against Reggina with a crisp volley before being substituted on the half-hour mark after injuring his right knee.

The Italy international, who looks likely to miss Italy's friendly against Portugal on Wednesday, needs just one more goal to reach the 100 mark in Serie A.

Victory for Sese Cosmi's men came three days after the teams drew 0-0 in their Italian Cup semifinal first leg clash and was their second famous scalp this year having thumped Inter 4-1 last month.

Inter have 45 points from 20 matches, three more than Milan and third-placed Juventus, who won on Saturday.

Match referee: Gundappa Vishwanath (Pak)

Premiership Top two held

Football AFP, Milan Manchester United missed a golden opportunity to close the gap on Arsenal at the top of the Premiership, conceding a late goal to draw 1-1 against Manchester City while the Gunners were also held 1-1 by Newcastle.

In a day of high drama in the top English division, United took an early lead against their local rivals through Ruud van Nistelrooy, and looked to be cruising to an easy win, which would bring them level with Arsenal on points.

But they missed a host of chances, living to regret their mistakes when Shaun Goater nodded home an 86th minute equaliser - nine seconds after he took the pitch as a substitute.

Passions were equally high in the later game at St James's Park where Newcastle were looking to push the leaders all the way to the wire by re-taking third place from Chelsea.

In a bizarre twist Robert then got himself sent off within five minutes of his equaliser, picking up a pair of bookings inside two minutes, the latter for preventing Dennis Bergkamp taking a free kick.

However Arsenal failed to take advantage of their numerical superiority as Newcastle defended heroically with a series of last-ditch clearances.

They might even have snatched a win after Craig Bellamy's stoppage-time cross forced a desperate save from Seaman.

The Gunners thus ended the day with the same three-point lead over Manchester United that they began it with.

Despite their host of missed chances at Old Trafford, the Red Devils could even count themselves lucky with such an outcome.

In an astonishing last few minutes, after equalising, Goater put the ball back in the United net again, only to see it disallowed for a handball by Nicolas Anelka.

Blues manager Kevin Keegan, so often criticised as tactically naive, was the architect of United's downfall as late substitutes Shaun Wright Phillips, Ali Benbarba and Goater combined to snatch the goal.

"If it worked like that every week you would be delighted," Keegan said of the substitutions.

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City then crumbled after just 17 minutes. Roy Keane - playing his first Manchester derby since his infamous foul on City's Alf-Inge Haaland in April 2000 - spotted Ryan Giggs on the left and hit a first time ball through.

With the City defence in disarray, Giggs fired in a first time cross which van Nistelrooy gleefully smashed home for his 27th goal of the season.

However City came out fighting after the break. Marshalled by a superb Eyal Berkovic they battled back into the game.

Still United could - and should - have finished it. Beckham narrowly missed with three close range free-kicks, while in the 55th minute van Nistelrooy dithered too long when clear on goal.

But City began to smell an upset, and Keegan sent on Wright Phillips as a substitute, soon followed by Benbarba and Goater.

The trio combined perfectly, with Wright Phillips knocking on Benbarba's free kick for Goater to head powerfully home.

"It's a derby, it means everything for our fans," Goater beamed afterwards.

At St James's Park the frantic and often bad-tempered game was changed by the controversial sending-off.

Newcastle players were visibly angry after Bergkamp took his free kick early, when Robert stood in the way.

"Laurent was just a yard away, what could he do?" fumed former England captain Alan Shearer.

TOP SCORERS

- Leading scorers in the English Premiership after Sunday's matches: 18 - Thierry Henry (Arsenal) 16 - James Beattie (Southampton) 14 - Alan Shearer (Newcastle) 12 - Ruud van Nistelrooy (Manchester United)

TOP SIX

English Premiership table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points): Arsenal 27 17 6 4 57 29 57

Serie A Inter break clear

Football AFP, Milan Inter Milan returned to the top of Italy's Serie A on Sunday after thrashing Reggina 3-0 at the San Siro while city rivals AC Milan crashed to a surprise 1-0 defeat at Perugia.

credit for Perugia's win which lifted them to ninth place. "I'm always happy to score but today is all about the squad," he said.

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Match referee: Gundappa Vishwanath (Pak)

TOP SCORERS

- Leading scorers in the Italian league after the weekend's matches: 18 - Christian Vieri (Inter Milan) 12 - Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus) 11 - Francesco Totti (AS Roma), Adrian Mutu (Parma)

TOP SIX

Italian football league table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points): Inter Milan 20 14 3 3 42 20 45

CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 37 - So 2 Fruit fancier? 22 Corral 1 Knight's Fine 23 Ms. 5 Firmament 38 Three, so 3 Disarray 24 Chovy 4 How down 25 Longing 26 Behar of "The View" 12 Impression 42 Zip-a-Dee- 6 Former surgeon 27 Aye under 13 Overly 45 Emanation 46 Chess general 28 Place for 21-Down (Abb.) 7 Thinner 8 Flamenco accompaniments 29 Keep tabs on 17 Antitoxins 49 Torah 9 Give a deposition 31 Antlered beast 18 Type squares 50 Finished 10 Aaron's daughter 34 Paul Newman 20 Remove paint 52 Susan of "L.A. Law" 11 Trade 16 Writer 35 Dismissed 21 Cornfield comment 53 Camp 20 Vast 17 Expansion and pals, e.g. 39 Hold the elevator 22 Royal insomnia cause 21 Gilligan 38 Item in Dracula's closet 39 Hold the elevator 40 Evangelist Roberts 41 Ur-aborted 42 La Scala soloist 43 Change for a fin 44 Shrek, e.g. 46 Two-timer 47 Ping-Pong 36 Fishing bird

CRYPTOQUIP L R M Q P C Q - B A Q R D B A P T E A T A D U B B P M T U D D O Q U K T H B K Z H O P E C L M P A K P R E . P K ' B B Z A Q U H M U C . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ONLY DIRECT THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PART-TIME. YOU COULD CALL ME A SEMICONDUCTOR. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals S

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, it will equal Q throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.