



Albacete's Laurent Viaud (C) and Oscar Montiel (R) having a tough time in containing Barcelona superstar Ronaldinho at Carlos Belmonte stadium of Albacete on September 14.

Primera Liga

Raul rules but Deportivo atop

Football

AFP, Madrid

Spanish international striker Raul smashed through another record when he hit a hat-trick in Real Madrid's 7-2 demolition of Real Valladolid on Saturday.

He has now reached 158 goals for the club and has passed the mark set by Hungarian legend Ferenc Puskas to stand as the fourth highest scorer in Real's history.

"I knew nothing of passing the Puskas mark until I was told when I came off the pitch," said Raul.

"It makes me very proud because he was such a magnificent player. To go past it is a great thing for me and for Real Madrid."

"The only shame is that the result hurts my family, because my parents and my grandparents come from Valladolid and I have many relations still there."

Raul's next target will be Mexican Hugo Sanchez who found the net 164 times.

But despite Saturday's win at the

Bernabau, it wasn't enough to claim pole position in the Primera Liga as Deportivo La Coruna won 2-1 at Seville kept their 100 percent record intact.

Uruguayan striker Walter Pandiani put Javier Irureta's men in front seven minutes before the break with his third goal in three games.



RAUL

But after another Uruguayan, Dario Silva, had levelled six minutes after the restart, came Diego Tristan to net his first goal of the new

league campaign from close range on 77 minutes.

Deportivo lead Real by two points with a maximum nine-point haul to date.

On Sunday, Ronaldinho provided one of the few bright spots for Barcelona who struggled to beat Albacete 2-1 - a win that moved them into third place in the table alongside Real Madrid and Valencia on seven points.

The Brazilian World Cup winner was in imperious form and was unlucky not to get on the scoresheet after smashing a free-kick against the crossbar midway through the first half.

Dutchman Philip Cocu had opened the scoring for Barca after just 90 seconds with a fierce 30-yard left foot drive to grab his second goal of the season before skipper Luis Enrique found the net to make it 2-0 after 66 minutes.

That was the veteran's 99th career goal in La Liga.

Valencia moved into fourth place with a 1-0 win at home to Malaga with the only goal of the game coming from Carlos Marchena just before half-time.

Europe's best on battle front



AFP, Paris

Reigning champions AC Milan and record nine-time winners Real Madrid kick-off the new Champions League season on Tuesday as most people's bets to win the title.

Few would be surprised to see either Real Madrid's flamboyant array of stars or AC Milan's more disciplined collection of talent in the May 26 final at Schalke 04's stadium in Germany.

Real Madrid's purchase of David Beckham and AC Milan's buying of exciting Brazilian Kaka in the pre-season will add spice to their midfields in a further quest for European supremacy.

Questions remain over the defensive capabilities of Madrid, particularly after they sold tough-tackling, defensive midfielder Claude Makelele to Chelsea two weeks ago.

English Premiership side Chelsea, who took their spending to over 111 million pounds (177 million dollars) after being bankrolled by Russian oil billionaire Roman Abramovich, are also in action.

Real Madrid host Marseille, AC Milan entertain Ajax, Chelsea visit Sparta Prague and Manchester United play at home to the Greeks of Panathinaikos in the pick of the day's ties.

In other matches, Scotland's Rangers host VfB Stuttgart, Partizan Belgrade meet FC Porto, Besiktas of Turkey host Lazio and FC Bruges are at home to Celta Vigo.

REAL VS MARSEILLE
Real have not signed a replacement for Makelele, whose absence in the second leg of last season's semi-

final against Juventus played a decisive role in the Italian club's victory. The resilience of Fernando Hierro, who was let go by the club, will also be missed.

President Florentino Perez might say players such as Luis Figo, Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo, David Beckham, Raul and Roberto Carlos would make up for a shaky backline as long as they score lots of goals.

Certainly Madrid's stars warmed up for midweek action in goal-scoring style on Saturday with a 7-2 blitzing of Real Valladolid.

Madrid's game is also a homecoming for midfield maestro Zidane who was brought up in the Riviera city of Marseille.

"Playing Marseille is very special for me," Zidane said.

"I am a Marseille supporter as I come from there and I have family and a lot of friends in the city. Nevertheless it's an important tie and I can't think about that too much."

"Once I'm on the pitch, I'll forget my affection for the city and the club. To return to the Velodrome stadium in the return leg will be really special."

AC MILAN VS AJAX
AC Milan boss Carlo Ancelotti, whose side have won both of their Italian league matches to date, would surely disagree and assert the need for defensive rigour.

Ancelotti's purchase of veteran Brazil international defender Cafu from Roma to add to Paolo Maldini, Alessandro Nesta and rugged defensive midfielder Gennaro Gattuso shows his insistence on a solid backline.

Added to that the buying of attacking midfielder Kaka from Sao Paulo, just 21 but who proved his pedigree by scoring in Brazil's World Cup victory over Colombia last weekend, Milan's chances in the

world's most prestigious club competition must surely be boosted.

SPARTA VS CHELSEA
Chelsea's new purchases meanwhile are an unknown quantity at the highest level and coach Claudio Ranieri is demanding they combine as a team.

"I have built Chelsea for three years," Ranieri said.

"Now we are born again, and we must build to be like Real Madrid, the Italians and Bayern Munich, for sooner or later one of them arrives at the Champions League final. Chelsea have fantastic players, but we must work to be a team like those clubs."

Makelele apart, Chelsea's main buys were Cameroon's Geremi from Real Madrid, Damien Duff from Blackburn, Argentina's Juan Sebastian Veron from Manchester United, Joe Cole from West Ham, Adrian Mutu of Romania from Parma and Inter Milan's Argentinian Hernan Crespo.

Chelsea should not have too much trouble in the Czech capital but European losses to Israel's Hapoel Tel Aviv and Switzerland's St Gallen in recent seasons should prevent overconfidence.

MAN UNITED V PANATHINAIKOS
"All the big names are there," Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said. "There's a lot of quality."

United have reached the last eight for seven seasons in a row, winning it in 1999. And with Panathinaikos, Stuttgart and Rangers also in Group E, United look likely to advance again.

Panathinaikos visits Old Trafford on Tuesday, but Ferguson hopes the match is not overshadowed by the two matches against Scottish champion Rangers in October and

TUESDAY FIXTURES

AFP, Paris

Champions League first round Group Phase fixtures on Tuesday:

GRUPE
At Glasgow
Glasgow Rangers (SCO) v VfB Stuttgart (GER)
At Old Trafford
Manchester United (ENG) v Panathinaikos (GRE)

GRUPE
At Madrid
Real Madrid (SPA) v Marseille (FRA)
At Belgrade
Partizan Belgrade (SEM) v FC Porto (POR)

GRUPE
At Prague
Sparta Prague (CZE) v Chelsea (ENG)
At Besiktas
Besiktas (TUR) v Lazio (ITA)

GRUPE
At Milan
AC Milan (ITA) v Ajax (NED)
At Bruges
FC Bruges (BEL) v Celta Vigo (SPA)

Bayern's threat to FIFA

AFP, Munich

Bayern Munich president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has launched a scathing attack on FIFA and its president Sepp Blatter, warning football's governing body there could be a strike if players continue to return from international duty injured.

Bayern, missing several key players through injury, suffered a shock 3-2 reverse against VfL Wolfsburg at the weekend and Rummenigge insisted the German champions would stop releasing their stars for international duty if they returned to the Olympic Stadium carrying knocks.

"If FIFA do not want to sort out the problem then there will be a strike," Rummenigge told the German daily Bild. "No players will be released."

"International matches must be on Saturday so that players can recuperate and shake off minor injuries. After all, we pay their wages."

Rummenigge also hit out at FIFA president Blatter for wanting to make as much money as possible.

"He is not interested in the clubs whatsoever," added Rummenigge. "He just wants to swell the coffers, but we have had enough."

The comments from Rummenigge come in the wake of criticism from coach Ottmar Hitzfeld who wants international matches played earlier in the week after seeing Michael Ballack, Sebastian Deisler, Jens Jeremies and Claudio Pizarro return to the club injured following international duty.

No MU takeover bid?

AFP, London

Manchester United have told the Stock Exchange they have received no multi-million pound takeover approaches.

United issued the statement in response to a weekend press report of a potential 600 million pound bid from a trio of foreign billionaires.

"The board of Manchester United PLC notes weekend press reports about potential bidders for the company," United said in a statement.

"The board wishes to make it clear that it has had no approaches from any parties and therefore regards the reports as pure speculation."

Speculation over United's financial position increased in the wake of chief executive Peter Kenyon's move to Chelsea.

As chief executive he made United 400 million pounds (633 million dollars) in the last three years by tying up deals with US sports-wear makers Nike and mobile phone company Vodafone.

Sunday's report in The Observer claimed there are three separate individuals - one like new Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich from Russia, one from the Middle East and one European - preparing to launch 600 million pound bids for control of United.

Shares in United, priced at around 168p, are thought to be overvalued. But the scale of wealth available to individuals like Abramovich, reported by Forbes magazine this year to be worth 5.7 billion dollars, mean a takeover would not be beyond them.

Serie A Top guns all win

Football

AFP, Rome

Reigning champions Juventus came from behind to win 2-1 at Chievo on Sunday to ensure a five-way tie at the top of Italy's Serie A after the second round of matches.

French international David

Roma coach Fabio Capello said he was delighted to see his team back on top after last season's disappointing mid-table finish.

"This time we've got off on the right foot and we have players who are learning," said Capello, who took Roma to the league title in 2001.

"We've made important changes and we're better prepared. This season Milan, Juve, Lazio and Inter

audacious chip just before the hour mark for his 80th Serie A goal.

Norwegian striker John Carew, a summer loan signing from Valencia, came off the substitutes' bench to score Roma's fifth from the penalty spot a minute from time.

Materazzi scored his second goal in two matches as Inter beat newly promoted Siena in a bad-tempered match in Tuscany.



Roma's latest recruit John Carew (R) scoring from the spot during the rout of Brescia at Rome's Olympic stadium on September 14.

Trézeguet scored the winner four minutes into the second-half with a sweetly struck right-foot shot after Nicola Legrottaglie's header had cancelled out Lorenzo D'Anna's 22nd minute penalty.

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want to be the main players, but they'll have to take Roma into account."

Inter coach Hector Cuper admitted his side's performance wasn't pretty but saluted his players for taking home three valuable points.

"We played how we had to play today and fought like Siena did," said the Argentinian.

"We were under pressure for the first 15 minutes and after that we were on top. We understand that we can't always play the way we want to, that we can't always play in the same way."

Roma took the lead in the 11th minute at the Olympic stadium with a goal involving all three strikers.

Totti's intelligent reverse pass found Antonio Cassano free on the right and his neat cut-back was swept into the net by Vincenzo Montella.

Five minutes later Roma doubled their advantage through Chivu. Totti was brought down just outside the penalty box and Chivu curled the resulting free-kick past Luca Castellazzi off the underside of the crossbar.

Brescia fell further behind in the 23rd minute when Totti exchanged passes with Cassano before slotting the ball low inside the far post.

Totti doubled his tally with an

the former Everton defender netted the decisive goal in the 29th minute, meeting Andy van der Meyde's right-wing free-kick with a powerful header which deflected off Leandro Cufré on its way into the net.

Parma defeated Perugia 3-0 at the Ennio Tardini stadium. Mark Bresciano's brilliant individual goal put the home side on their way before further goals from Adriano and Alberto Gilardino killed off the visitors.

Late goals from Mirko Vucinic and Marco Cassetti gave Lecce a 3-1 win at home to Ancona in the battle of the newly promoted teams at the Via del Mare stadium, while David Pizarro's late spot-kick gave Udinese a 1-0 win at Modena.

In the day's other early match Empoli were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Reggina.

On Saturday Milan and Lazio secured hard-fought 2-1 victories against Bologna and Sampdoria respectively.

A late individual effort by Filippo Inzaghi gave European champions Milan the three points at the San Siro, while Demetrio Albertini's penalty saw Lazio edge newly promoted Sampdoria in Genoa.

Williams sister killing Suspect arrested

AFP, Los Angeles

Los Angeles police have arrested a suspect in the shooting death of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams, police said Monday.

Aaron Michael Hammer, 24, was being held without bail after his arrest late Sunday, Deputy Bill Spear of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department told AFP.

Price, 31, was shot early Sunday in the crime-ridden Compton suburb of Los Angeles, where the tennis stars grew up, authorities said.

Pak co assures

FROM PAGE 13
"Getting insurance for its team has been a problem for the UCBSA, but hopefully this...can now be worked out." PCB chief executive Rameez Raja said on Monday.

The UCBSA raised concerns over playing in Karachi and Peshawar, following advice from its foreign ministry and High Commission in Islamabad, and has sent a three-member delegation to Pakistan to assess security arrangements.

The delegation, which includes the director of the South African police service, held discussions on Sunday with Karachi police officials.

It also visited the National stadium in Karachi, where South Africa are scheduled to play a one-day practice game, the first one-day international on September 26 and then the third Test in October.

"So far the response we have got from the South African delegation is very positive, and they have voiced no concerns," Raja said.

The South Africa tour includes three Tests and three ODIs.

Zim versus

FROM PAGE 13
October).

CA CHAIRMAN'S XI: Jo Angel, Ryan Campbell, Adam Gilchrist, Brad Hogg, Michael Hussey, Justin Langer, Geoff Marsh, Shaun Marsh, Damien Martyn, Colin Miller, Brad Williams, Peter Worthington.

Tendulkar battles

FROM PAGE 13
Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, wicket-keeper Parthiv Patel, Zaheer, Kumble, Harbhajan and Murali Kartik.

"I think this is just the game we needed to prepare for the New Zealand series," said Ganguly.

"You tend to play your best when you are pitted against the best."

The Indian team has enjoyed a rare break from international cricket since the three-nation tournament in Bangladesh in April.

Tendulkar used the lay-off to undergo surgery in the United States on the ring finger of his left hand, which was damaged while attempting a catch against the West Indies last year.

The injury, however, did not prevent him from scoring a record 673 runs during the World Cup in February-March where India reached the final before losing to Ricky Ponting's Australia.

Two interested spectators at the Irani Cup match will be New Zealand's stand-in coach Ashley Ross and his video analyst Zach Hitchcock.

The duo are flying in ahead of the rest of the squad, which arrives on September 23, specifically to watch the match.

SL cricket

FROM PAGE 13
currently headed by Colombo-based businessman Thilanga Sumathipala, is one of the richest sporting bodies in the country.

Army athletes

FROM PAGE 13
BKSP's Taznil Akram brought glory for the country's lone sports institute in the men's 400 metres.

A total of 525 athletes from across the country are taking part in the annual three-day gathering of local track and field stars.

Heavy security

FROM PAGE 13
great help to the police and the organisers.

"They have previously provided their equipment for cricket matches against England, Australia and New Zealand," officials said.

Meanwhile, match organisers have announced that entry into the road leading up to the stadium would be permitted only to those having tickets which go on sale from Tuesday.

Rawalpindi does not enjoy a good reputation when it comes to holding cricket matches. In 1992, the first ever game staged at Rawalpindi Stadium between Pakistan and Sri Lanka was marred by crowd trouble that prompted the police to use tear gas.

Similarly the same happened in a match against England while the last time when New Zealand toured in May 2002, there were again unruly scenes outside the venue.

But the organisers claim they are determined this time not to let that happen again as they bid to salvage Rawalpindi's reputation of being a trouble spot.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Height of fashion?
- Syndicate boss
- Name for a Dalmatian
- Mind-over-matter
- Culture medium
- Waterloo is there
- Brooch
- Spiny critter
- Crouch
- Rock concert prop
- Point
- Danger
- Gilbert Stuart creation
- "Thank You"
- singer
- Actor Tognazzi
- Roast host
- Solidify
- Donna Reed's TV husband
- Some of them

DOWN

- Brewery requirement
- Actor LaSalle
- Cavito
- Chess move
- Past
- Standard
- Killer whale
- Noshed
- Buckeye
- Stato
- Luau offering
- Trinity
- Animated character
- Whom
- Watson aided
- Resort
- Performance
- Coarsely ground corn
- Ever-lasting
- Gemstone
- Exploit
- Born
- Bloopers
- Glaswegian girl
- TV's warrior princess
- Cauldron
- "Eurokal"
- Carnival city
- Expert

Solution time: 21 mins.

ACROSS

1 APEL 2 DUFF 3 ZIP 4 SEER 5 ROLL 6 ODE 7 KAL 8 AM 9 ZIO 10 GLE 11 GAME 12 REPEL

DOWN

13 UKON 14 PITH 15 ATAN 16 RAINCOAT 17 PAZ 18 BOXER 19 BRA 20 SH 21 OULDER 22 WIMP 23 RI 24 AT 25 GRIPS 26 E 27 VA 28 ZO 29 LANDER 30 DIN 31 EWES 32 CUTE 33 ODO 34 NERO 35 HOAX

CRYPTOQUIP

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18			19				20					
		21		22	23		24		25	26	27	
28	29	30				31		32				
33				34				35		36		
37		38		39				40				
41				42		43						
				44		45		46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54		55			
56						57				58		
59						60				61		

Q Q K S A K H S Z C S R Q M M Q W M
G A C L A Z H L A V K H S Y S H J
X W L H A Y F S R , Q M X S U U
Y F S J ' C S U Y C Q K - V Q W Q W M .
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN A WOMAN IS WALKING IN BULKY WOODEN SHOES, I'D SAY SHE'S LUMBERING AROUND.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: M equals G
The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.