DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 16, 2003



Raul, the Real Madrid ace, is ecstatic after scoring the winner against Deportivo la Coruna at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on December 14.

Primera Liga **Raul decides Depor's fate**

Football

FP, Madrid

Real Madrid's apparent quest to lure the cream of world football to the club was kicked into touch Sunday when Arsenal sent a clear message to any interested parties that Thierry Henry is not for sale.

But with the likes of Ronaldo and Zinedine Zidane - who along with Henry are contending FIFA's player of the year award - ably assisting their bid to retain the Spanish league title, Real may not even need the prolific Frenchman, who has been the subject of a reported 40 million pound (70 million dollar) bid from Chelsea.

On Sunday Ronaldo was one half of Real's stellar strike force, the other being Raul Gonzalez, who scored a goal apiece to ensure they stay top of the Liga after an entertaining 2-1 win over Deportivo la Coruna

Raul maintained Real's perfect home record in the league this season with the winner five minPandiani to latch on to and the Uruguayan striker found the net week when we have hardly had time to catch our breath," said with a perfect finish. Valencia coach Rafa Benitez. Osasuna continued their

The Galican visitors then looked set for a share of the points until Raul's late strike. Apart from Raul, Deportivo goalkeeper Francisco Molina had good claims to be the unofficial

Ian of the Match'. The former Spanish interna-tional was not to blame for Real's two goals and produced an out-standing display, including a point-blank save from Oscar Ainambres in injury time, to press his claims for a recall ahead of the Euro 2004 finals.

TOP SCORERS

Leading scorers in the Spanish league after the weekend's matches:

13 - Ronaldo (Real Madrid) 9 - Fernando Torres (Atletico Madrid)

Salva Ballesta (Malaga) 8 - Mista Ferrer (Valencia), Samuel Eto'o (Real Mallorca) 7 - Raul Gonzalez (Real Madrid), Walter Obscene **Beckham!**

AFP, Madrid

Deportivo's Argentine winger Lionel Scaloni accused David Beckham of making an obscene gesture at him towards the end of Real Madrid's 2-1 win over the visitors on Sunday.

The England captain and Scaloni tangled in the dying seconds of the match with Beckham appearing to kick his opponent's heels from the rear.

Both men ended on the floor and Scaloni tried to hit and stamp on Beckham while being restrained by Real's Roberto Carlos.

"After that Beckham offered to shake my hand but I refused it because it was a false gesture," the former Argentine under-20 international said

"At that moment, when he was walking away, he touched his genitals," added Scaloni, using more diplomatic language than he had appeared to use on the pitch.

Scaloni then appeared to confront Beckham after the whistle, and pushing and shoving then ensued between the pair before they were ushered into the dressing rooms.

"It was because of this (gesture) that I went after him after the end of the game," explained Scaloni.

Deportivo midfielder Aldo Duscher also jumped into the fray to lay his hands on Beckham after the game.

Whether Duscher, who is also Argentine, was trying to tell Beckham to back offor whether he was backing up his compatriot, remains unre solved.

However, the appearence of Duscher in the melee added, if not a chapter then at least a footnote to his controversial history with Beckham. A wild tackle from Duscher infamously broke a bone in Beckham's left foot in the Champions League

quarter-finals two seasons ago, when the England captain was a Manchester United player.

The injury, which thanks to an avid English press led to most people discovering what a metatarsal bone was for the first time, almost caused Beckham to miss last year's World Cup and he was still far from fully fit during England's games in Japan.

Matthaeus takes over

New coach Lothar Matthaeus believes he can end Hungary's 20year exile from World Cup action and lead the country to the 2006 finals in Germany

Matthaues, who garnered a record 150 caps for the German national side, quithis post at Partizan Belgrade to succeed Imre Gellei as

Premiership **Bergkamp's timely magic**

Football

AFP, London

Sport

Arsenal rounded off a successful week by returning to the top of the English Premiership after Dennis Bergkamp's first-half goal proved enough to beat Blackburn on Sunday.

The 1-0 win at Highbury lifted Arsene Wenger's side a point clear of champions Manchester United and two ahead of Chelsea who

slumped to a shock 2-1 home defeat to gutsy Bolton on Saturday. Arsenal's victory came four days after they beat Lokomotiv Moscow to reach the last 16 of the Champions League.

They could could have added to their lead by half time when Robert Pires hit a post but they eventually needed a series of saves from goalkeeper Jens Lehmann to preserve their advantage.

Markus Babbel had the ball in the net for Blackburn after the break but his effort was controversially disallowed by referee Andy D'Urso after the German was deemed to have climbed on Kolo Toure.

Blackburn boss Graeme Souness said Arsenal had reaped the benefit of home advantage. "I can see how it has been disal-

lowed but it's a question of how you see it," Souness said. "If that had been at the North Bank, Stretford End or Kop for the home side, it might have stood. "Markus got up early and he had

his arm over Toure's shoulder but then he is 6ft 4in (1.95m) tall." Blackburn, who remained just three points outside the relegation

zone, almost took the lead in the opening minute when Sol

Campbell failed to cut out Lucas Neill's volleyed cross and Dwight Yorke clipped his shot narrowly wide from 12 yards.

Arsenal went ahead when Toure pushed the ball past Vratislav Gresko before cutting back to Bergkamp, who stabbed his shot inside the near post.

Pires was unlucky to see his curling shot beat Brad Friedel but not the post.

In the second half Blackburn

TOP SCORERS Leading scorers in the English Premiership after weekend's matches:

15 goals - Alan Shearer (Newcastle) 12 - Ruud van Nistelrooy (Manchester United) 10 - Thierry Henry (Arsenal), Louis Saha

(Fulham) 8 - Nicolas Anelka (Manchester City),

Michael Owen (Liverpool) 7 - Frederic Kanoute (Tottenham)

James Beattie (Southampton) 6 - Mikael Forssell (Birmingham), Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Chelsea), Hernan Crespo (Chelsea), Teddy Sheringham (Portsmouth)

5 - Robbie Keane (Tottenham), Kevin Davies (Bolton), Harry Kewell (Liverpool), Les Ferdinand (Leicester), Alan Smith (Leeds), Robert Pires (Arsenal), Andy Cole (Blackburn), Luis Boa Morte (Fulham), Steve Watson (Everton)

showed renewed purpose typified by Babbel's disallowed effort and Barry Ferguson was then denied by Lehmann who then saved Craig Short's header from a corner and Yorke fired the rebound over the

At the other end Thierry Henry the subject of a reported 40million-pound (70-million-dollar)



unbeaten.

three matches.

Matteo scored with a header. Leeds are still second from bottom in the table but just a point away from Leicester who are cur-

TOP SIX

for, goals against, points):

Arsenal

Man Utd

Chelsea

Fulham

bid by Chelsea which Arsenal said they had rejected - missed two chances to kill the game but the

Gunners did enough to remain

Sunday, struggling Leeds threw away a two-goal lead before beat-

ing Fulham 3-2 to make it seven

priceless points from their last

At the other end of the table on

"Houllier spent 20 million rently outside the relegation zone pounds on El Ĥadji Diouf, Salif on goal difference alone. Fulham Diao and Bruno Cheyrou and they remained fourth. have not got the ability to play in Juan-Pablo Angel's scored twice our side, especially in the

his first Premiership goals since Premiership." October - to inspire Aston Villa to a However Smith thinks it would crucial 3-2 victory over bottom be wrong to remove the manager. club Wolves. Villa coach David "There has been a lot of disap-O'Leary was left underwhelmed.

pointments over the last couple of years, but if you look at the big picture and what the guy has done, Houllier has put Liverpool back on English Premiership table after Sunday's the map. matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals

"But he has made a rod for his own back by winning early in his time at the club. Everybody 161150301138161213321037 expected the league title to follow and it has just not happened.

The Paily Star

Houllier

AFP, London

spoiling Liverpool?

Two of Liverpool's greatest former

players believe Gerard Houllier has

wasted money on assembling a

squad that is not up to the stan-dards once set by the four-time

Tommy Smith and Ian St John,

team-mates in the Bill Shankly era,

spoke out after Southampton

inflicted Liverpool's sixth defeat in

Liverpool, not just an ordinary

team. It is the history of what is on

Merseyside and this team are just

We have some really good players,

but when we have one or two inju-

likes of Southampton and Bolton.

And we cannot scuff a win at

Newcastle. Something is drasti-

"The squad is not good enough.

"We get beaten at home by the

Smith told BBC Radio: "This is

European champions.

16 games this season.

not good enough.

ries we cannot cope.

cally wrong.

16 11 3 2 30 12 36 "Liverpool have got to stick with 16 7 4 5 28 22 25 Houllier because he has been Newcastle 16 6 6 4 25 20 24 successful, but when the transfer Southampton16 6 5 5 15 12 23 window opens in January we have to buy three or four players.

> "Some of the players at Liverpool just should not be there. St John however wants the

Frenchman to go.

He said: "He came with a fiveyear plan, that five years is up and we are no nearer winning the championship, never mind getting back to European champions status

"He has had a go at it, failed to do it and I think he has to stand aside and let someone else take over.

"This is not something that has just happened today or yesterday. This is something that has been on the boil for two seasons. Last season we had a disastrous run of results, shocking.

"But it is also the quality of the football being played. We went from a very defensive, boring team to this season when we have opened up.

Hungary

The Spanish football federation has historically taken a tough stance on such infractions and on AFP, Berlin

utes from time.

"The work of Raul was very important for us. Today we saw a fantastic Raul, and when he's on form he's almost certain to score, said Real coach Carlos Queiroz.

"In the first half, we played some of the best football of the season and we could have scored more goals. In the second half, we had the ball less and suffered unnecessarily.

"With the game at 1-0, I think we might have felt that we had got to grips with Deportivo, but that wasn't the case," reflected Queiroz.

In a thrilling game Raul and Deportivo's Alberto Luque had goals disallowed for dubious rea-sons before Ronaldo opened the scoring seconds before half time.

Zidane sent in a long cross from out on the left wing and the Frenchman's inch-perfect cross found the Brazilian World Cup winner in front of goal.

Deportivo equalised just after the hour mark when Sergio Gonzalez provided a long-range defence-splitting pass for Walter

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 35 Oater star 55 Golfer 24 On the -1 Train Tom Ernie (souabcompo-36 Put an bling) DOWN 25 Smoke nent end to 4 Beatles 37 Witch's Last few detector 26 Rebuff a movie brew notes 39 Drag 8 Witticism 2 Belliger come-or 12 Mine along ent aod artist 40 Cranberry 27 Mexican output 3 Guns the 13 Out of the territory engine money 41 Each 28 Bridge 4 Enmity storm 5 The 400 14 Radius' 45 "West position 29 West-Side 6 Writer neiahboi 15 Earnest Story Buscaglia heimer attachgang 7 Fine topic 8 Still 32 Realm 48 Removal ment 33 On the 17 Agenda of a stripe 9 Last (Abbr.) entry 50 Soothing up-and-up 18 Classify 10 Chemical 35 Jane adent 19 Expert 51 Examinasuffix Smilev 11 Nonstick 21 End tion type novel 36 Dome 52 Scepter of a spray "Sesame 16 Leaked 38 "Ghosts 53 Singer Campbell Street slowly playwright 20 Demure 39 "Renelesson? 54 Arizona 22 Sunblock. citv 23 Thought gade' e.g star Solution time: 25 mins 42 Green 26 Court a land ticket 29 Pigpen 43 "Groovy 30 Pair 44 Tackles team-31 Go first 32 Indispen mates able 45 Binge 33 Reply to 46 Right "Shall angle we?" 47 Pirouette 34 Foolish pivot 49 Before one

andiani (Deportivo La Coruna) 6 - Sonny Anderson (Villarreal), Rodolfo Bodipo (Racing Santander), Dario Silva (Sevilla), Ariza Makukula (Valladolid), Savo Milosevic (Celta Vigo), David Villa

(Real Zaragoza) The game however ended on a sour note when Real's David

Beckham and Deportivo's Lionel Scaloni started a pushing match after the whistle had blown. The pair hand tangled minutes

remain second from bottom. earlier, earning each a vellow card, with the Deportivo winger lucky

TOP SIX

Real now have 36 points from 16 Spanish league table after Sunday's games, two ahead of Valencia who won 1-0 at Real Betis on Sunday hanks to an own goal from Betis for, goals against, points): defender Juanito Gutierrez.

The 17th-minute blunder will be of little consolation to Juanito but Valencia still deserved the three points.

not to get sent off for attempting to stamp on the England captain.

"I have got to give my players ten out of ten for for the their effort and work rate. This has been a

ΡV

Raul Valbeuna had fumbled an Hungary boss on Sunday and now has his radar fixed on returning to his attempt to gather in a Libero Parri homeland in June 2006 free kick Real Mallorca's five-game winning streak came to an end at

Serie A Malaga as the Costa Del Sol side ran out 3-1 winners over their **Roma do the** visitors from the Balearics while Murcia got a useful away point with a 0-0 away draw at Valladolid but minimum

Football

on Sunday.

dium

matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals

impressive start to the season with

a 0-0 away draw at Racing Santander to consolidate fourth

the late winner for Osasuna with a

spectacular overhead shot just

before the whistle but it was disal-

lowed for apparent dangerous

However, the Pamplona-based side may yet be awarded the win as

Racing had four non-European

Union players on the pitch for two

two similar occasions in the last decade the offending side has

Albacete eased their relegation

fears with their first away win of the

season, winning 1-0 at fellow strugglers Real Zaragoza.

of the game after Zaragoza keeper

Mikel Aguirre got the only goal

At the other end of the table,

Pierre Webo looked to have got

place.

minutes

forfeited the game.

Real 16 11 3 2 33 17 36 Valencia 16 10 4 2 30 12 34 Deportivo 16 9 3 4 24 13 30 Osasuna 16 7 6 3 18 12 27 Atletico 16 8 2 6 21 20 26 Bilbao 16 7 3 6 21 19 24 AFP, Rome Roma may have lacked their recent Balestri swagger but they still managed to scrape a 1-0 win over a stubborn

Modena side to open up a threepoint lead at the top of Italy's Serie A With AC Milan excused from duty due to their Intercontinental Cup

match against Boca Juniors in Japan which the European champions lost after a penalty shoot-out, Roma threw down the gauntlet to their closest title rivals with a deserved but stadium. nervy victory at the Olympic sta-

Talismanic captain Francesco Totti scored the decisive goal from the penalty spot for his seventh goal of the campaign as Roma maintained their unbeaten start to the

matches played, three more than Milan who have a game in hand on the 2001 champions.

Modena remain in ninth place

SCORERS

Leading scorers in the Italian championship after the weekend's matches:

12 - Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan)

7 - Christian Vieri (Inter Milan), Adriano (Parma), David Trezeguet (Juventus), Marco Di Vaio (Juventus), Dino Fava (Udinese), Francesco Totti (Roma) 6 - Andrea Caracciolo (Brescia), Ernesto Chevanton (Lecce), Fabio Bazzani (Sampdoria) 5 - Julio Cruz (Inter Milan), Fabrizio Miccoli (Juventus), Bernardo Corradi (Lazio), Simone Inzaghi (Lazio), Alberto Gilardino (Parma), Francesco Flachi (Sampdoria), Enrico Chiesa (Siena), Vincenzo Montella (Roma) 4 - Obafemi Martins (Inter Milan), Pavel Nedved (Juventus), Rodrigo Taddei

(Siena

but are only seven points clear of the

Rovers at Highbury on December 14.

eighth minute when Totti surged into the box after a one-two with Mancini only to be scythed down by Jacopo

picked himself up to slot the penalty

give up their title without a fight after thrashing Parma 4-0 at the Delle Alpi

back of successive league defeats to Inter Milan and Lazio, but a home win rarelylooked in any doubt

Fabrizio Miccoli, enjoying a rare start in place of the injured David Trezeguet, scored twice in the first half pefore Alessandro Del Piero and Pavel Nedved, architecht of Juve's first two goals, completed the rout in Turin.

Inter Milan, dumped out of th Champions League in midweek, kept up the pressure on the top two after winning2-0atBologna.

Gonzalez's cross to give Inter a 30th minute lead and the Nigerian teenager set up Alvaro Recoba for an easy second just before half-time.

failure, leapt above Parma into fifth place after a 1-0 victory at bottom club

(0PSI)

Italian football league table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Roma Milan Juventus Inter Lazio	12 13 13 13	9	3 3 2 4 1	0 2 1 4	24 21	4 14 7 16	33 30 29 28 25
Lazio	13	8	1	4	21	16	25
Parma	13	7	3	3	21	16	24

"We are now attacking and that PHOTO: AFP is great, Harry Kewell was signed Arsenal's French international playmaker Robert Pires (R) is sent flying by a challenge from Craig Short of Blackburn

and that is great. But we have got bad defenders now."

relegation zone. Roma were gifted the lead in the

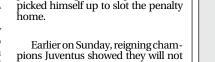
Referee Domenico Messina pointed straight to the spot and Totti

Earlier on Sunday, reigning cham-pions Juventus showed they will not Juve came into the match on the

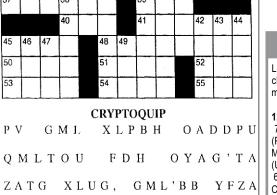
Juve's victory kept them in third place, four points behind Roma.

Obafemi Martins converted Kily

Lazio, another Champions League



Roma have 33 points from 13



OATTPVPQ DAO JTMVPO Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LAST MONTH, I SAW SOME GUYS GO SIT DOWN UNDER AN OAK TREE AND MAKE A SHADY DEAL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals R The Cryptoquip 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