



PHOTO: AFP

Iraq's Karrar Muhamed (R) is challenged by Qatar's Mesaad Ali Al-Hamad during the final of the Asiad football event at Al-Sadd Sports Club in Doha on Friday.

## Simeone wants Lazio job

INTERNET, undated

Diego Pablo Simeone has announced that he is confident of one day becoming the Coach of Lazio.

The former midfielder has just led Argentine side Estudiantes to their first title for 23 years, after their win over Boca on Wednesday during his first full season in charge.

"It was an incredible success," said Simeone to Radio Incontro following the match in Buenos Aires, which ended in a 2-1 victory.

"Now I want to enjoy this moment, but I already know that sooner or later I will start coaching in Europe," added the former Lazio and Inter man.

"I am sure you will one day see me on Lazio's bench," added Argentina's most capped international, who compared his triumph to the Scudetto won with Lazio along with Juan Sebastian Veron, who also joined Estudiantes in the summer.

"I told my men in the locker room the incredible experience Veron and myself lived with Lazio under Sven Goran Eriksson," said Simeone referring to the title won in 2000.

"When the final whistle came, I remembered the Swedish Coach's reaction and I was able to keep my cool, which wasn't easy to do.

"I told my players before going on to the pitch that Finals must be won, not played. And they deserved to win.

"Someone said in Italy that this is a success of former Inter players. I confess this win is coloured in white and blue, I played for Inter only two years but I stayed at Lazio four years, winning everything," concluded Simeone.

## IRAN FINISH THIRD

# Qatar grab soccer gold

AFP, Doha



Hosts Qatar ended the Asian Games in style here on Friday collecting the last title on offer by beating Iraq 1-0 in the final of the men's football.

A scrappy 63rd minute goal by Bilal Mohammed Rajeb settled the match, allowing Qatar to become only the second Arab country to lift the title - Iraq won it in 1982.

A cagey opening by both sides lived up in the sixth minute when Uruguayan-born striker Sebastian Soria beat his marker to a corner but it cannoned off the post with the keeper Mohammed Khadam well beaten.

However, the same incident saw some nervy moments for the hosts as Khadam rolled around on the ground in apparent agony having been knocked by Wesam Abdulmajid, who had followed up when the ball came back off the bar.

Abdulmajid had just been booked but the Iraqi players were left disappointed as Japanese referee Hiroyoshi Takayama didn't send him off for a second bookable offence but instead gave him a stern talking to.

Qatar were putting together the better football in a mediocre opening first-half and Khalifan Ibrahim Al Khalifan produced the best individual skill of the match till then.

He went on a run down the right wing and turned two Iraqi defenders, only for his low cross to be turned away for a corner.

Qatar should have gone ahead in the 30th minute as a beautifully floated freekick by Ali Nasser Saleh found Abdullah Obaid Koni totally unmarked five metres out and with a free header.

But the 27-year-old failed to even connect with the ball and slapped the post in frustration.

Iraq finally threatened the Qataris with 10 minutes remaining in the first period as Alaa Khashen went on a mazy run cutting into the heart of the defence but he was greedy and failed to pass to Karrar Muhamed who was unmarked in the area and the chance went askew.

Qatar nearly made them pay immediately as Quintana got himself free at the far post but with a clear header he could only watch as it went over the bar.

The second-half started in the same fashion as the first one with both sides tentative in going forward, though former Manchester City striker Yaser Hussain did get free in the box but skied his shot over the bar.

Qatar finally got the goal they overall dominance merited in the 63rd minute in bizarre fashion as Majdi Abdulla's Sidiq's corner was flicked on at the near post by Abdulmajid and tamely palmed out by Khadam.

The ball struck Majed on the shoulder with his head turned away and went into the net.

Qatar looked to have scored a second a couple of minutes later as Quintana prodded into the net but the linesman correctly called him for offside.

Quintana should have all but wrapped it up with 20 minutes remaining when he was set free on the right of the box but with just the keeper to beat

his shot hit the side netting.

Earlier on the day, Iran sealed the bronze medal with an extra-time 1-0 win over Korea at the Al-Gharrafa Stadium. It took until the 114th minute for the deadlock to be broken in a bad-tempered match.

Adel Kolahkaj took the ball past Jung In Whan and hit a powerful strike between two defenders and past Korean goalkeeper Kim Young Kwang to clinch the bronze medal for the Iranians.

## Talabani cheers on booters

AFP, Baghdad

Iraq's President Jalal Talabani said Friday he would cancel his schedule for today to watch the football finals of the Doha Asian games in which Iraq takes on hosts Qatar.

"I cancelled my whole schedule for today to have time to watch your game," he said in a telephone call to the team. "We are waiting for your safe return with a win, God willing."

"All Iraqis await your victory in this sports battle and we are full of confidence that you would hold up Iraq's name and send happiness into the house of every Iraqi from farthest Kurdistan to the deepest south," he said.

The victories of Iraq's football have been a rare bright spot and moment of national unity for the war weary population of the divided country.

## Hoyzer verdict upheld

AFP, Leipzig

A former referee convicted for match-fixing in Germany failed on Friday in his appeal against a prison sentence of two years and five months.

German Robert Hoyzer, 27, had taken his case to Germany's highest judicial court in the eastern city of Leipzig in a bid to seek a reduction in his sentence.

Hoyzer admitted fixing matches for financial gain in a scandal which rocked German football ahead of this summer's World Cup.

The severity of the sentence handed down last year surprised many observers because prosecutors had only called for a suspended jail term.

## Sevilla draw Bucharest

AFP, Nyon

UEFA Cup holders Sevilla face a tricky trip to Romania after drawing last year's semifinalists Steaua Bucharest in the last 32 of the European competition here on Friday.

Sevilla finished runner-up in their Group C behind AZ Alkmaar of the Netherlands, and travel to Bucharest for the first leg which takes place on either February 14 or 15 before hosting the Romanians on February 22.

English side Newcastle's reward for leading Group H is a two-legged match against little-known Belgian side Zulte Waregem, while Scottish side Rangers travel to Israel first after being drawn against Hapoel Tel Aviv.

Tottenham and Blackburn open with tough ties at Feyenoord and Bayer Leverkusen respectively.

Of the teams joining from Champions League, Germany's Werder Bremen have the most difficult task after drawing Dutch side Ajax, with the winner meeting either Spartak Moscow or Celta Vigo in the last 16.

Celta Vigo face CSKA Moscow, while Osasuna visit Bordeaux and French side Paris Saint Germain travel to AEK Athens.

The last-16 ties are played on March 8 and March 14-15.

## Draw for the last 32

Zulte-Waregem (BEL) v Newcastle (ENG)

Braga (POR) v Parma (ITA)

Lens (FRA) v Panathinaikos (GRE)

Leverkusen (GER) v Blackburn Rovers (ENG)

Hapoel Tel-Aviv (ISR) v Rangers (SCO)

Livorno (ITA) v Espanyol (ESP)

Feyenoord (NED) v Tottenham (ENG)

Fenerbahce (TUR) v AZ Alkmaar (NED)

Werder Bremen (GER) v Ajax (NED)

Spartak Moscow (RUS) v Celta Vigo (ESP)

CSKA Moscow (RUS) v Maccabi Haifa (ISR)

AEK Athens (GRE) v Paris St Germain (FRA)

Benfica (POR) v Dinamo Bucharest (ROM)

Steaua Bucharest (ROM) v Sevilla (ESP)

Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR) v Nancy (FRA)

Bordeaux (FRA) v Osasuna (ESP)

First legs held February 14-15, second legs February 22.

# Sevilla look to cash in

AFP, Madrid



Sevilla are looking to take advantage of the absence of Spanish league leaders Barcelona this weekend to win at Recreativo Huelva and go to the top of the first division on Sunday.

Barcelona, who will play in the World Club Cup final in Japan on the same day, have a two point advantage which Sevilla could overhaul if they can beat their local rivals from 60 kilometres away.

However, it is unlikely to be an easy task for Sevilla, despite the obvious incentive.

The current UEFA Cup champions have a 100 percent home record but have rarely impressed away while Recreativo lie seventh and have only lost two games in their Nuevo Colombino stadium.

"We've shown that we can compete with those teams that people think are the big guys. The self-belief that this squad has is enormous," said Sevilla coach Juande Ramos.

Another positive note for Ramos is that his striker Frederic Kanouté has recovered well from the bruised ribs he suffered in last Saturday's 2-1 win over Real Madrid, in which he scored his 11th goal of the season.

He missed Thursday's UEFA Cup match against AZ Alkmaar but Sevilla medical officials said he could be fit to face Recreativo.

Ramos has bigger problems at the back with Ivica Dragutinovic and Enzo Maresca definitely out through injury, Antonio Puerta doubtful with a knee problem and Javi Navarro suspended.

Real Madrid lie third after losing at Sevilla, two points further back from their fellow championship challengers, and have a tricky trip to Espanyol on Sunday.

The modest Barcelona-based club are unbeaten in their last 10 games and have also embarrassed Real in the last two seasons, beating them 1-0 on both occasions.

Nevertheless, despite the defeat in Sevilla and the task ahead of them, Real coach Fabio Capello has started to feel optimistic about the Spanish giants' prospects this season.

"I've said to the players that they can start to think about winning the league because they played well against Barcelona, Valencia and Sevilla," said the Italian coach earlier this week.

"They are now motivated, working together and helping each other. More importantly, when things go wrong, their heads don't go down."

"It now seems to be fashionable to say that we are boring but it's easy to have an opinion. Everybody's a professor and knows more than the coaches."

"But we play modern football and

"If we are going to avoid relegation then we have to start here," said Real Sociedad striker Gari Uranga, knowing that there will be few easier opponents.

"Not getting a result at home means we are going to suffer all the more because many of us live in Donostia (the Basque name for San Sebastian)," added Uranga, remembering that Sociedad's sorry streak is currently standing at 14 games without a win.

## FIXTURES

(Kick-off times in GMT)

**Saturday**  
Real Mallorca v Racing Santander (1900), Deportivo La Coruna v Athletic Bilbao (1900), Real Zaragoza v Valencia (2100)

**Sunday**  
Levante v Celta Vigo (1600), Real Sociedad v Gimnastic Tarragona (1600), Villarreal v Osasuna (1600), Recreativo Huelva v Sevilla (1800), Espanyol v Real Madrid (1800), Atletico Madrid v Getafe (2000)

# Inter eye new record

AFP, Rome



Italian league leaders Inter Milan go for their ninth consecutive victory against Messina at the San Siro on Sunday as they look to start the forthcoming winter break with an impressive lead.

Second-placed Roma, seven points adrift, and third-placed Palermo, eight points behind, meet this weekend and with points guaranteed to be lost by at least one team, Inter have a chance to get further ahead.

Following the weekend, there are two more rounds of matches till the winter break which runs from after December 23's matches to January 14.

Inter beat Empoli 3-0 last week for their eighth consecutive league win this season and 16th match unbeaten if you count the matches at the tail end of last season.

Roberto Mancini's men have already beaten Messina in the Italian Cup this season and therefore ought to be confident of getting a good result, particularly as Patrick Vieira and Maicon Douglas return from bans.

The striking partnership of Hernan Crespo and Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been in golden form and could cause problems for Messina's rearguard.

Of course Roma and Palermo will be highly motivated to gain the win on Saturday, knowing a draw could see both of them lose ground to mighty Inter.

Palermo have always said they are just gunning for Champions League football, however Roma, a bigger club with higher expectations, must realise they have a good chance this season to add to their last title five seasons ago.

Luciano Spalletti's men however might still be smarting from their 3-0 defeat to city rivals Lazio last weekend and be having confidence problems as a result.

Visitors Palermo visit the Olympic stadium after a 3-0 win over Livorno last week though they have injury absences in Aimo Diana, Cesare Bovo, Fabrizio Biava and Franco Brienza, though only Diana will be sorely missed by Palermo coach Francesco Guidolin.

AC Milan travel to Fiorentina in Saturday's early match though there is a bizarre feel to the game as the

two big clubs, who both have an impressive history and fan base, are languishing towards the bottom of the table following their points deductions for match-fixing.

Barcelona's Brazilian striker Ronaldinho is expecting a rough ride from Brazilian fans when his side face Internacional in Sunday's Club World Cup final.

"When I was a schoolboy at Gremio I remember there was a plaque which read 'We are the World Champions' on the wall," said twice world player of the year Ronaldinho.

"As a boy I wanted to win all the titles Gremio had. It's always been an ambition to win the Club World Cup."

Ronaldinho said he was anticipating a typically hostile reception from Internacional's supporters on Sunday but said it would only make him more determined.

"I know the Inter fans will boo me," he smiled. "I will support Gremio all my life. Gremio fans will want Barca to win."

"It's important for us because it's a final -- not because it's Inter."

**FIXTURES**  
(1400 GMT kick-off unless stated)

**Saturday**  
Fiorentina v AC Milan (1700), Udinese v Cagliari (1930)

**Sunday**  
Ascoli v Torino, Catania v Empoli, Inter Milan v Messina, Livorno v Lazio, Parma v Chievo, Reggina v Sampdoria, Siena v Atalanta, AS Roma v Palermo (1930)

## Ronaldinho expects tough fans

REUTERS, Yokohama

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# TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

## News Bulletin

**BTV**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.  
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.  
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

**CHANNEL-i**  
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.

**ATN BANGLA**  
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.  
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm  
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

**ntv**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.  
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

**CHANNEL 1**  
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am.

**BANGLAVISION**  
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm  
News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm

**RTV**  
News (Bangla) at 7:00am, 3:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm.  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30am

## BTV

08:30 Esho Gaan Sikhi Parade  
08:45 Drama: Porichoy  
11:15 Maa O Shishur Kotla  
12:30 Mati O Manusher Kotla

02:15 Sisimpur  
02:40 Bangla Feature Film  
05:30 Special Children's Programme

07:00 Special Programme  
09:00 Special Drama: Prottoy

**ATN BANGLA**  
09:10 Victory Day Parade (live)

11:40 Special Programme: Sriticharon  
12:15 Special musical Programme: Gonoshongitay Mukti Judho

12:50 Special Programme: Omlan Odhoy  
01:30 Special Musical Programme: Shonali Shurjo

02:30 Special Programme: Bijoer Kotla  
05:45 Business Programme

06:20 Special Programme: Ekatturer Shilpi Shoinik  
08:00 Special Programme: Bengo Chitrey Mukti Shongram

09:00 Special Programme: Asha Oporazoe  
10:40 Special Programme: Kemon Achiho 71

## CHANNEL-i

09:00 Victory Day Parade (live)  
09:50 Tritiomatra  
11:10 Special programme: Jonmo Amar Dhonyo Holo

12:30 Citycell Taroka Kothon  
01:15 LUX Channel i Performance Award  
07:50 Special Drama: Ei To Mader Bari

09:35 Farmers File-1  
10:00 Special Discussion Programme: Mukti Judher Shei Dinguli Grameenphone  
12:00 Ajker Shabdadpotro

**ntv**  
08:35 Ajker Shokal  
09:30 Bangladesh Swapno Dekhey  
10:05 Ahonkarey Chiro Jagroto

10:30 Aktel Hip Hip Hurrah  
12:05 Choloচিতrey Muktijudho  
02:35 Closeup 1 Tomakei Khujchhey Bangladesh

03:50 Megh Bolechhey  
04:25 Jabo Jabo  
05:15 Puppet Show  
05:15 Din Dorpon/ Itihasher Ei Diney Shoronarhi Shibirer Gaan

06:50 Bhinyo Shur  
08:25 Drama Serial: Ramizer Aaina  
09:10 Special Drama: Rupokar



**Amader Bijoy**  
On Channel 1 at 5:15pm  
Talk Show  
Host: Shahin Samad

11:25 Din Darpan  
08:00 Ei Shokal  
09:05 Aj Potrikay  
09:10 Children's Programme  
09:35 Bangla Namer Desh  
10:00 Bedona Bidhur Atyo Tayag

01:35 Islamic Programme  
03:45 Special Programme  
06:00 Ajker Bangladesh  
06:35 Recitation  
08:00 Special Programme: Making of Stop Genocide

08:50 Special Dama: Topur Bhoy  
10:50 Special Programme: Bongo Amar Jononi  
**CHANNEL 1**  
09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi  
10:00 Bijoyer Gaan  
10:30 Prerona  
11:00 Cine Tune  
11:30 Telefilm: Mohor  
01:30 Drama: Chhochha Kodom  
03:30 Drama  
04:30 Special Programme  
05:15 Amader Bijoy  
06:00 Saaj Bela  
07:00 Judhahoto Mukti Jodha

08:15 Special Drama: Tumi Amar Ahonkar  
09:30 Musical Programme  
**BANGLAVISION**  
08:35 Shubho Shokal  
09:00 Agamir Kantyo  
10:10 Tomake Paor Jonno Hey Shadhinoata  
11:00 Cinebit  
02:30 Bangla Feature Film: Alor Michhil  
05:00 Shadhinoata Tumi  
05:30 Din Er Sheshey  
05:40 Tomakey Paor Jonno Hey Swadhinoata  
06:30 Poem Recitation  
07:30 Programme: Hulla  
08:00 Special Drama: Daag

09:15 Mukti Judher Pata Thekey  
**HBO**  
08:30 The American President  
11:45 In Good Company  
12:30 The Perfect Score  
02:00 Tales From the Crypt 38: Whirlpool  
02:30 The Forgotten  
04:30 Twelve Monkeys  
07:00 Tales from the Crypt 36: Let The Punishment Fit the Crime  
07:30 Nowhere to Run  
09:30 Kicking and Screaming

11:30 Babe: Pig in The City  
01:30 Tales from the Crypt 34: Half-Way Horrible  
02:15 In Good Company  
04:30 The Making of Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow  
04:45 Nowhere to Run

**STAR MOVIES**  
08:00 Opening Night: Eragon  
08:30 Heavyweights  
10:15 Commando  
11:45 Jurassic Park  
02:15 Baywatch: Hawaiian Wedding  
03:45 Avp: Alien Vs. Predator  
05:25 Today You Die  
07:00 Just Friends  
08:45 Raising Helen  
10:45 Truth About Charlie, The

12:30 Raging Sharks  
**STAR PLUS**  
09:00 V First Day First  
Show-Starlu  
09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus  
09:30 Saans  
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus  
10:12 Antanksh  
12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus  
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus  
12:55 V First Day First  
Show-Starlu  
01:00 Mirch Masala  
01:30 Golu Ke Goggles  
01:55 V First Day First  
Show-Starlu  
02:00 V Trailers - Star Plus  
02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus  
02:30 Kalash  
03:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii  
05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus