

## AC Milan to visit China in May

SHANGHAI, Apr 9: AC Milan will play China's top soccer team, Shanghai Shenhua, on May 28, an organiser of the match said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The two teams will play in Shanghai's Hongkou stadium, which has a capacity of about 30,000, the official from a Beijing company organising the visit said.

AC Milan has promised to bring its best team, he said, but declined to give financing or other details.

Later this month Shenhua begins the defence of the championship title it won in 1995.

AC Milan and other leading Italian teams are well known in China because of live broadcasts of games from the Italian league on national television on Sunday evenings.

## Caniggia inspires Boca

BUENOS AIRES, Apr 9: Striker Claudio Caniggia scored two goals, one a spectacular individual effort, as Boca Juniors beat Lanus 2-1 at the weekend to go top of the Argentinian championship, reports Reuter.

Caniggia, who has been out of favour with Argentina coach Daniel Passarella but is looking more and more worthy of a national team recall, beat three defenders and then scored with an angled shot for Boca's 70th minute winner.

He had opened the scoring with a first-half header but Lanus, unbeaten before Sunday's game, had equalised through Miguel Ibagaza in the 62nd minute.

Boca have reunited three members of Argentina's 1990 World Cup team - Caniggia, Diego Maradona and Joe Basualdo - with coach Carlos Bilardo and are one point clear of surprise packages Estudiantes and Gimnasia.

Of the other pre-season favourites, Racing Club were the only team to win and they only overcame Banfield thanks to a first-half penalty converted by Ruben Capria.

Champions Velez Sarsfield went down to their first defeat of the competition, 2-1 at home to Estudiantes, while San Lorenzo's 3-1 home defeat by Gimnasia Y Esgrima Jujuy left them fourth from bottom.

## Lewis fighting back

AUSTIN, Texas, Apr 9: Eight-time Olympic champion Carl Lewis was on Monday adamant he was not finished as a 100m Olympic contender following his victory over fellow American Jon Drummond, reports AP.

Lewis, who beat Drummond, fourth in the world last year, by 0.01 sec to clock 10.10 sec here on Saturday, said: "After the indoors, a lot of people said it was over. This shows that it isn't."

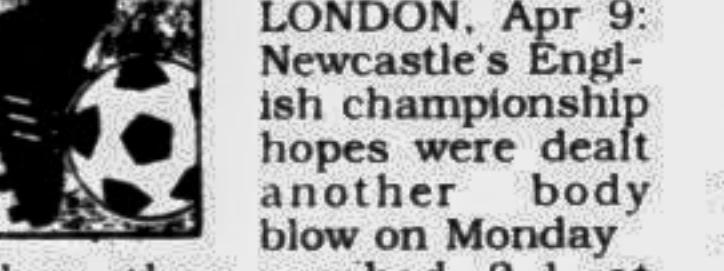
In the national indoor championships five weeks ago, Lewis finished in last place in the 60m.



Blackburn Rovers' Colin Hendry jumps over Newcastle striker Les Ferdinand to head during an English Premier League clash in Blackburn on April 8. Rovers scored two goals in the last four minutes to stun Newcastle 2-1.

— AFP/UNB photo

## Rovers rock Newcastle



LONDON, Apr 9: Newcastle's English championship hopes were dealt another body blow on Monday when they crashed 2-1 at Blackburn, reports Reuter.

Graham Fenton struck two goals in the last four minutes to cancel out David Batty's 76th minute opener against his former club.

The defeat kept Newcastle six points behind leaders Manchester United who beat lowly Coventry 1-0 earlier.

Eric Cantona's scored his seventh goal in eight games in the 47th minute to move United to 73 points with four matches to play. Newcastle have 67 with five games remaining.

Third-placed Liverpool, midweek conquerors of Newcastle, but defeated by Coventry on Saturday reached 65 points with a 2-0 win over West Ham.

Batty appeared to have repaid all Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan's faith in him with a sensational shot. 14

minutes from time. The 3.75 million pounds (5.72 million dollars) February signing from Blackburn drilled home a left-foot shot from 20 metres for only his second goal in more than three years.

But with just four minutes left, substitute Fenton was on hand to ram in the equaliser off Shaka Hislop following a Darren Peacock deflection.

Newcastle, needing a win, threw everything forward and were caught out with a minute remaining as Rovers pumped the ball upfield and Fenton was on hand to chip it into the net.

While the title now seems destined for Old Trafford, the battle to avoid the drop intensified as the bottom two teams both won.

Bolton improved their faint chances of staying up by coming from behind to beat Chelsea 2-1, while Queens Park Rangers climbed above Coventry on goal difference after beating Everton 3-1.

Bolton stayed bottom but moved to within a point of Coventry who slipped from 18th to 19th behind QPR after

their defeat. Wimbledon virtually guaranteed themselves another season in the Premier league after thumping strugglers Manchester City 3-0, while Aston Villa beat relegation-haunted Southampton by the same score.

Nottingham Forest won 3-1 at Leeds. Tottenham drew 1-1 with Middlesbrough - both sides scored in the last six minutes at White Hart Lane - and a 61st minute goal from Belgian international Marc Degryse ending Sheffield Wednesday's relegation fears after their 10 win over Arsenal.

There was a dramatic start at Old Trafford where Coventry defender Dave Bussell suffered a compound fracture of his right leg after colliding with United's defender Denis Irwin after only 80 seconds of play.

Bussell lay writhing in agony for 10 minutes while the medical men tied his legs together and carried him off on a stretcher. Before play restarted blood from Bussell's wounds was washed off the pitch.

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Chen Yipeng said, reports Reuter.

Chen said they were taking their cue from American Angel Martino, who has made an impressive comeback since she was suspended for two years after testing positive at the 1988 US Olympic trials.

Martino now 28, claimed a relay gold and 50 freestyle bronze at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and will be a strong contender in the 50 and 100 freestyle and 100 butterfly at the Atlanta Games in July.

Seven Chinese swimmers, including world champions Lu Bin and Yang Aihua, were banned for two years after failing drug tests at the Asian Games in Hiroshima in October 1994.

They might also consider how they played to the counter-attacking strengths of opponents who scored all three goals on the break.

Willy skipper Stefan Effenberg pulled the strings for Moenchengladbach and new United's defender Denis Irwin and the other banned swimmers would be back.

They'll definitely return, he said.

The doping scandal shook the sport and embarrassed China, though Chinese sports officials have vigorously denied allegations of systematic doping.

Bayern defender Thomas Helmer said: "We were clearly the better side and should have won the game but we failed to convert our chances."

Already without six key squad members including libero Matthias Sammer, playmaker Andreas Moeller and striker Heiko Herrlich, they now look like being without Brazilian defender Julio Cesar and striker Karlheinz Riedle on Tuesday.

And the injury problems are mounting for the champions, who have looked decidedly shaky of late, winning just three of their eight league matches since the winter break ended in February.

After Wednesday's clash with St Pauli, Bayern face a stiff challenge away to fourth-placed VFB Stuttgart on Saturday.

Just three days later they travel to Barcelona knowing that, to qualify for the UEFA Cup final, they must win in the feared Nou Camp Stadium after drawing 2-2 in the home leg.

Above all, they need to maintain their concentration.

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Last month, the China Daily newspaper unleashed a scathing tirade against the world swimming body FINA, saying a hypocritical and selfish tolerance of doping had replaced the Olympic spirit of fair play.

Australian world breaststroke champion Samantha Riley escaped with a strong warning from FINA after she tested positive for a banned painkiller at last December's World Short-Course Championships in Rio de Janeiro.

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