

Sport

Antlers J-League champs

TOKYO, Nov 29: Brazilian playmaker Bismarck scored and was sent off on Saturday as his Kashima Antlers regained the J-League title from Jubilo Iwata, reports Reuters.



Newcastle's Duncan Ferguson is trapped between two Wimbledon players in their Premiership clash. — AFP photo

Duncan's dazzling debut

LONDON, Nov 29: Duncan Ferguson scored twice on a stunning debut for Newcastle as Ruud Gullit's side beat Wimbledon 3-1 in the English Premiership clash at St James Park on Saturday, reports AFP.

top as West Ham moved into second with a 2-1 win over George Graham's Tottenham. Second-half goals by Julian Joachim, a late replacement for former Forest favourite Stan Collymore who pulled out with a stomach virus, rescued John Gregory's side from what seemed certain defeat.

Inter don't want to rush Ronaldo

MILAN, Nov 29: Italian giants Inter Milan insisted on Saturday that star Brazilian striker Ronaldo was fine even though he would not start today's Serie A clash with Salernitana, reports AFP.

Ferguson, who once served six weeks in Scotland's toughest prison for head-butting an opponent, was a cult hero at Everton and it took him just 59 minutes to win over Newcastle's famously fanatical supporters.

Wednesday. The 'Blues' were in control for the first 60 minutes taking the lead midway through the first-half through a rare header from Gianfranco Zola as the Italian scored his fourth goal in three games before Andy Booth leveled for the visitors.

Manager Gullit was delighted with the contribution from the man nicknamed "Duncan disorderly" and predicted he would predict havoc alongside Alan Shearer when the England captain returns from injury.

Manchester United can regain second spot and close the gap on Villa to one point if they beat arch rivals Leeds at Old Trafford today.

Petit for players' strike

LONDON, Nov 29 (Reuters/Internet): Arsenal's French World Cup star Emmanuel Petit said on Sunday that players should consider going on strike because of

the amount of soccer they are expected to play. Petit, who scored France's third goal in their 3-0 World Cup Final victory over Brazil in the summer but is currently out injured with a torn stomach muscle told The People newspaper that too much football is killing the game.

Italian spikers' double delight

TOKYO, Nov 29: Italy won gold and a place in the record books today by demolishing Yugoslavia 3-0 to become the first country to claim three consecutive men's volleyball World Championship titles, reports Reuters.



Italian spikers start to celebrate after beating Yugoslavia. — Internet photo

Diego dodges pressmen

ROME, Nov 29: Diego Maradona was questioned for more than two hours late Saturday in Turin by an Italian judge investigating drug-taking in the country's football scene, reports AFP.

Seedorf, Campo exchange punches

Vasco hope to rattle Real

TOKYO, Nov 29 (Reuters/AFP/Internet): Real Madrid team mates Clarence Seedorf and Ivan Campo came to blows on Sunday during a training session for their intercontinental club championship match against Brazil's Vasco da Gama.

ago. It was beaten by Penarol of Uruguay in 1966. Real Madrid arrived in Tokyo on Friday on a tight schedule after losing to Inter Milan 3-1 in Italy in the European Champions League on Wednesday, bringing 19 players from 11 different countries.

Coach Guss Hiddink immediately called the squad off the field to keep the two players from clashing again.

Hiddink, who coached the Netherlands to a fourth-place finish at the World Cup in France last summer, played down the trouble.

On a brighter note for Hiddink, his other first-choice defender, Fernando Hierro, came through the session unscathed.

Hiddink is seeking to avenge a decade-old defeat by beating Brazil's Vasco da Gama for the Inter-Continental Cup title.

Swamped by journalists and autograph hunters, he snarled: "I'm not talking," then kicked out at the press corps, making contact with a television journalist.

Real's 21-year-old golden boy Raul however is not reading too much into Vasco's early arrival. "On the first night I couldn't sleep well and my condition was not good in training on Saturday," Raul told reporters.

He was scheduled to return to Rome Saturday for a series of lucrative television shows, flying home next Thursday.

"This is a game I've always wanted to play in, and now I have my chance. If we can go back to Spain as the best team in the world, it will improve our self-confidence for the rest of the season."

He is hardly surprising we are injured now," he added.

"We have to play a speedy and compact game to beat them. We have to take the offensive with seven players attacking and we have to defend with nine players except one forward when we are on the defensive."

Earlier, on Saturday, Sicily Club defeated Madariet Mitali Sangha by 3-1 sets in the Second Division league at the same venue.

Both teams will have a 45-minute training session at Tokyo's National Stadium on Monday evening to complete preparations.

Monday's Premier League matches: Water Development Board vs Bangladesh Bank.

The game will kick off at 10:10 GMT Tuesday.

Rennes, Leon falter

PARIS, Nov 29 (Reuters/Internet): Rennes and Olympique Lyon scorned the chance to close the gap on French first division leaders Olympique Marseille when they both lost badly on Saturday.

five successive away defeats. Marseille are at home to Paris St Germain and second-placed Girondins Bordeaux, one point off the pace, entertain defending champions RC Lens on Sunday.

Earlier, on Saturday, Sicily Club defeated Madariet Mitali Sangha by 3-1 sets in the Second Division league at the same venue.

Bastia striker Pierre-Yves Andre scored twice in three minutes in the second half, his first a penalty, to bury Lyon. Andre took his tally to nine goals, one less than the division's top scorer Sylvain Wilford of Bordeaux.

Monday's Premier League matches: Water Development Board vs Bangladesh Bank.

The Corsicans saw the match out with 10 men. Substitute Francois Modesto was sent off in the 74th minute for a dangerous tackle on Lyon defender Patrice Carteron.

Monday's Premier League matches: Water Development Board vs Bangladesh Bank.

Defender Franck Jurietti put Bastia in front with a superb free kick in the 18th minute and striker Frederic Neut headed



Action from yesterday's Premier Division volleyball league encounter between Bangladesh Police and Azad Sporting Club. — Star photo

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq THE DECLARER SHOULD HAVE DUCKED THE FIRST DIAMOND TRICK (Corrected Hand # 139)

The diagrammed hand was played by the writer of this column partnered by wife Sheila while visiting Singapore recently. The East West cards were held by Sheila's uncle Aun and Aunt Shelly. This was competitive in the sense that both the ladies wanted to pay the bill of the Sea Food dinner to be held later. Finally it was decided that the winner would have the right to do so.

With 12 HCP but a solid long suit Sheila opened one Heart which was overcalled by Aun with two Diamonds. North jumped to three Hearts and East came in with four Clubs. North South were ultimately pushed to five Hearts in a vulnerable position.

THE PLAY

West led the King of Diamonds and when Shelly played Seven Sheila took her Ace. She cleared the trumps and took the losing Spade finesse. East returned a Diamond in which the defence collected two tricks for down one. Shelly was happy because she won the right to pay for the dinner, and Aun said that it was appropriate for them to buy the dinner as they were residents there and we were visiting.

When I mentioned that Sheila should have made the hand by ducking the first Diamond trick and winning the second Diamond, Sheila stated that the second Diamond might have been ruffed by East and the Spade finesse might not work (actually it did not work). And as West overcalled in Diamonds, he might have six cards in which case the hand could not be made by ducking the first Diamond trick. Sheila had a point, but she was unhappy because I overbid at the five level as five Clubs could be beaten without any doubt and she would have won the privilege to pay for dinner at the Sea Food Restaurant. And that was of course true.

Note: There was an error in this hand which was published on 29 November. Inadvertently, it was printed Club instead of Diamond. The hand is produced again today after the correction.

Rock star Bono joins Celtic bid

LONDON, Nov 29 (Reuters/Internet): Irish rock star Bono has joined a consortium hoping to take over Scottish champions Celtic, newspapers reported on Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes crossword grid and solution time: 21 mins.