

Dutch First Div Feyenoord down leaders

AMSTERDAM, Feb 4: A goal by Patrick Paauwe gave defending champions Feyenoord a 1-0 win over league leaders PSV Eindhoven in the Dutch First division on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Feyenoord played the last 18 minutes with 10 men after midfielder Jan de Visser was sent off for receiving a second yellow card.

PSV looked the stronger team at the start but it was Feyenoord who scored in the 23rd minute when Paauwe hit home a free kick from 25 metres.

After the goal Feyenoord pulled back to defend their lead.

Most of the remainder of the match was played in Feyenoord's half with PSV getting 18 corner kicks against Feyenoord's three but PSV were unable to score.

Despite the defeat PSV stayed in the league lead on 41 points, three ahead of nearest rivals Heerenveen and Vitesse Arnhem. Feyenoord are sixth with 36.

Night club owner moans Burkina's exit

KANO, Nigeria, Feb 4 (AFP/Internet): Burkina Faso's exit from the African Nations Cup has left a night club owner ruing the departure of one of his venue's biggest patrons.

Tim Mbango, co-owner of the Makosa club sited in the hotel where the team were staying, said business had almost ground to a halt since Burkina Faso's exit from the championship.

The Burkinabes love Makosa music and they did not hide it as they usually flooded the club to dance. It was fun throughout while the championship lasted for them," Mbango said.



Real Madrid's Roberto Carlos claiming that he was fouled by a Real Zaragoza player during their Spanish King's Cup clash at Madrid on February 3. — Internet photo

Primera Liga preview

Real worry for Deportivo



MADRID, Feb 4 (AFP/Internet):

Deportivo La Coruna has a clearly-defined medium term goal

— to win their first ever league title come May.

But their short-term aim — to cast off the suspicion they are lame duck leaders — will prove no less difficult as Real Madrid are in town this weekend.

The match has come just at the wrong time for 'Super Deportivo', who have been anything but in recent outings.

Following hot on the heels of a 1-1 thrashing at modest Valladolid last week came a Spanish Cup exit to second division Osasuna and the vultures in the shape of Barcelona and Real

as well as fellow challengers Real Zaragoza and Celta Vigo.

However, Deportivo hope that Brazilian star Djalminha will be recovered from a thigh injury to take his place and plot Ourense's downfall to keep his side's challenge burning brightly.

It was midfielder Djalminha who found the net in a 1-1 draw between the sides earlier in the season. Raul levelling late on.

Real, who reached the fifth round of the Spanish Cup on Thursday night with a 2-0 home success over Zaragoza, have struck a rich vein of form and last week waltzed past Athletic Bilbao 3-1 at the Bernabeu.

The three points garnered put the Meringues' up to fifth in the table seven points off the pace after a generally dismal autumn and they also have a game in hand after a six-match unbeaten streak.

Furthermore, the club have taken the loss of Nicolas Anelka through injury in their stride — even though he was belatedly starting to find his form in the World Club Championship last month.

Ironically, if Real do themselves a favour with a win they will also do no less of one to bitter rivals Barcelona, who could go top of the heap as long as Real take full points and Barca oust Alaves, going well in sixth place, at the Nou Camp.

Barcelona have to go for the jugular as they dropped two points last week in their derby with Espanyol which finished

1-1.

Barcelona almost stooped to lame duck level themselves as they scraped a 2-1 aggregate win in midweek over third division Ourense after a goalless home draw albeit with an understrength team.

On Saturday the Catalan club will be without midfield inspirations Luis Figo and Luis Enrique, leaving Rivaldo to room free.

Zaragoza will endeavour to keep pace with an away game at Atletico Madrid, who gained a shock 1-0 success last week at Celta Vigo, who are just hanging on to fourth place.

Valencia, who have fond hopes of a place in Europe, open the action with Saturday's match at home to relegation-threatened Betis, who have just appointed former Dutch national coach Gus Hiddink.

The 53-year-old Hiddink, who spent a solitary season at Real in 1998-99, took over in midweek from Argentine Carlos Timoteo Griguel, who was sacked Monday.

FIXTURES:

Saturday: Valencia v Real

Betis

Sunday: Rayo Vallecano v Celta Vigo, Atletico Madrid v Real Zaragoza, Seville v Racing Santander, Real Oviedo v Espanyol, Barcelona v Alaves, Real Mallorca v Real Sociedad, Malaga v Real Valladolid, Atletico Bilbao v Numancia, Deportivo La Coruna v Real Madrid

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Spanish Cup Real make it to last eight

MADRID, Feb 4: Real Madrid, boosted by a first minute goal by Jose Maria Gutierrez, moved confidently into the Spanish Cup quarter-finals with a 2-0 win over Real Zaragoza on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Gutierrez set Real on their way after being teed up by Fernando Morientes in the first attack of the game.

Yugoslav winger Perica Ognjenovic struck the second early in the second half to give Real a comfortable victory following the goalless first leg in Zaragoza.

Real join Barcelona, Atletico Madrid, Espanyol, Rayo Vallecano and three second division sides — Compostela, Merida and Osasuna — in the quarter-final draw to be made in Madrid on Friday.

Gutierrez's early strike left Zaragoza chasing the game and although Txetxu Rojo's side enjoyed a lot of possession they rarely threatened the Madrid goal.

Their clearest chance fell to Luis Helguera midway through the first half. The young midfielder sent a stinging shot just wide as the home defence backed off.

Real's second came after 55 minutes as Ognjenovic, sliding in at the far post, finished off a sweeping breakaway move involving Raul Gonzalez and Fernando Morientes.

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