## Ronaldo to undergo final test

PARIS, Apr 21: Brazilian star striker Ronaldo of Serie A giants Inter Milan will consult with his surgeon Gerard Saillant for a final check on his injured knee before leaving his Paris hospital Friday, his entourage announced Friday, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old tore a tendon in his right knee just minutes after his return to action after a long lay-off in last week's Italian Cup final firstleg against Lazio which Inter went on to lose 2-1.

Saillant has prepared a rehabilitation programme for the first four months for Ronaldo who will return to Milan for treatment by Inter's physiotherapists for the next two months before continuing his recovery in Brazil.

### Gunners fans clash with police

LILLE, France, Apr 21: Two policemen and two Arsenal fans were injured after clashes at Thursday night's UEFA Cup semifinal game against Lens, a police source reported here Friday, says AFP.

A total of 27 visiting fans were arrested following the trouble, part of which blew up as a 200-strong group tried to break through a police cordon at the Felix Bollaert Stadium.

In a seperate incident fans, many without tickets attacked police with missiles outside the ground during the game, police spokesman Jean-Noel Humbert reported. According to Humbert seven

were arrested for drunkenness while the others were charged with violence against public order officers.

Three Arsenal supporters remained in police custody at Lens Friday morning.

## Jubilo face Al Hilal in final

RIYADH, Apr 21: Naohiro Takahara was the hero as defending champions Jubilo Iwata qualified for their second consecutive Asian Club Championship final with a 2-0 win over Iran's Pirouzi here Thursday, reports AFP.

The 19-year-old Japanese Olympian struck the vital opening goal midway through the second half to help take the club past Iranian opposition for the second time in two years Masashi Nakayama added his club's second with virtually the last kick of the game.

Jubilo Iwato meet Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal, 1-0 winners over Bluewings of South Korea, in the decider on Saturday.

Jubilo defeated Pirouzi's bitter rivals Esteghlal 2-1 in last year's final to become the first J-League club to lift the ti-

Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal equal the record number of linal appearances after their 1-0 win over Suwon Bluewings of South Korea. A goal by Brazilian striker

Sergio was enough to take the Rivadh-based club through in a game they dominated from start to finish.

The win means Al Hilal have reached the final of the competition for the fourth time in the championship's 19-year history, tying the record set by Ira-

nian club Esteghlal last year. French League Cup

### Gueugnon after PSG

PARIS, Apr 21: Second Division Gueugnon stand between Paris Saint Germain and a much-needed League Cup triumph on Saturday at the Stade de France, reports AFP.

After finishing ninth in the French league last season PSG have done far better this time round but never really posed a serious challenge to Monaco, who wrapped up the championship last weekend. However, having placed in

the top three for virtually the whole season, they are at least on target for a Champions League slot next season.

## Saglain boost

From page 13 none of the batsmen seemed able to batter the bowling into submission and they got thembatting.

All West Indies will be hoping the side can complete a win on Saturday and make both matches meaningful, since the tory. The hearts of 65 million finals will be played out even if a winner is decided after the first two matches.

This breaks from the common practice in competitions one of the privileged few at the like Australia's World Series game. Cup in which the third final is only contested if neither side has won after the first two matches.

SQUADS

PAKISTAN (from): Moin Khan (captain), Inzamamul Haq (vice-captain), Imran Nazir, Shahid Afridi, Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Abdur Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Arshad Khan, Saqlain Mushtaq. Wasti, Mohammad Wasim, Mohammad Akram, Naved over pay TV. Qureshi, Atiq-uz-Zaman, Shoaib Malik, Irfan Fazil.

WEST INDIES (from): Jimmy Adams (captain), Sherwin Campbell (vice-captain), Philo Wallace, Wavel Hinds. Chris Gayle, Ricardo Powell, Ridley Jacobs, Franklyn Ros Nixon McLean, Curtly Ambrose, Reon King, Sylvester Joseph, Laurie Williams, Mahendra Nagamootoo.



Galatasaray's Gheorghe Hagi (R) is airborne as he tries to avoid a tackle from Leeds United's Danny Mills during their UEFA Cup second leg semifinal at Elland Road on

## UEFA Cup

## Galatasaray, Arsenal in final



LONDON, Apr 21: Galatasaray became the first Turkish side to reach a European soccer final when

they drew 2-2 at Leeds United in a tense encounter at Elland Road on Thursday to go through 4-2 on aggregate, reports Reuters.

After the deaths of two Leeds fans during fighting before the first leg, Thursday's game attracted the heaviest police presence ever seen at an English match but, with no Turkish fans present, the night passed off with only minor scuffles between Leeds fans and police.

In the May 17 final in Copenhagen, Galatasaray will again face English opponents in the shape of Arsenal, who won 2-1 at Racing Lens for a 3-1 aggregate success.

Galatasaray had previously won away at Hertha Berlin. Borussia Dortmund and Real Mallorca and had lost only once since their 5-0 thrashing by Chelsea in the Champions League in October.

With that impressive away record and with so much attention focused on off-field issues it was perhaps no surprise that Leeds, who had lost their last six games, were caught cold at Elland Road.

Hakan Sukur to run at goal after just five minutes and England defender Jonathan Woodgate brought him down in the box. Veteran Romanian midfielder Gheorghe Hagi confidently dispatched the result-

ing penalty to stun the crowd,

from which visiting fans had

been banned. Norwegian Eirik Bakke headed an equaliser from a corner in the 16th minute and Ian Harte was denied a carbon copy goal soon after by a brilliant save by Brazilian world Cup keeper Claudio Taffarel.

But Leeds' Slim hopes were sunk in the 42nd minute when Sukur waltzed past two tackles, and off-balance, was still able to shoot past Nigel Martyn.

A minute later Leeds had their inspirational midfielder Harry Kewell sent off, only for 31-year-old Slovakian referee Lubos Michel to even things up seconds later by showing a red card to Emrie Belozoglu. Neither player appeared to make contact with an opponent.

The second half was far less fiery with Bakke's headed equaliser in the 68th minute a rare on-target effort.

Poor defending allowed flying the English Premier League flag.

They became the first English side to reach the UEFA Cup final since their north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur in 1984 and will have happy memories of the Parken Stadium final venue, having beaten Parma there to win the Cup Winners' Cup in 1994.

Leading 1-0 from the first leg. Arsenal looked the more adventurous from the start at Lens and were deserved win-

The vital away goal came in the 43rd minute when Silvinho and Frederik Ljungberg combined to set up Thierry Henry and the Frenchman turned well before firing high into the net for his 21st goal of the season. He has now scored in eight successive games.

Emmanuel Petit missed a great chance at the start of the second half and Henry hit the post soon after, then Lens' hopes were lifted after 73 min- have not stopped D.C. United utes when Pascal Nouma from taking three titles and headed in from close range to reaching four finals in the first make it 1-1 on the night.

Nouma then missed a great Leeds' defeat, coming after laid a goal on a plate for Commissioner Don Garber said the Champions League exit of Nwankwo Kanu four minutes | Thursday. "We have been confi-Manchester United and Chelsea from time to clinch Arsenal's

## Turks unite all over

into Taksim square, a tradi-

earlier in the week, left Arsenal



qualification for tional venue for soccer celebrathe UEFA final, a tions, and the place where Leeds first for Turkey, fans Kevin Speight and Chris has united not only the nation in celebration ago. but Turks worldwide, reports

ANKARA, Apr 21:

Thousands of Turks poured the early hours of Friday to Isinto city streets across the tanbul airport, where the country at midnight chanting Galatasaray players landed at and waving red-and-yellow 6:30 a.m. (0330 GMT) to be wel-Galatsaray flags as their team drew 2-2 with Leeds United at

Elland Road. place in the final next month.

Tension between Turkey and Britain had been running high since April 5 when two Leeds fans were killed in Istanbul in a brawl with Turkish supporters ahead of the first leg, which Galatasaray won 2-0.

UEFA's decision to bar Turkish spectators from the return leg was severely criticised here. but at the same time strengthened home support for Galatasaray.

A number of Turkish ministers and MPs were among only selves out to some ridiculous | 80 people from Turkey allocated seats to attend the match at Elland Road.

> "Galatasaray won a hard vic-Turks were there with them," said former prime minister and chairwoman of the True Path Party Tansu Ciller, who was

In Ankara President Suleyman Demirel and Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit issued messages of encouragement and congratulation.

Demirel said that "we expect a UEFA championship from Galatasaray to crown its suc-

The match had become a na-Razzaq, Wasim Akram, Waqar | tional occasion and streets were empty ahead of the evening kick off as people gathered in Shoaib Akhtar, Wajahatullah hotels, cinemas and cafes to watch the encounter, broadcast

Many supporters without reserved seats had to stand in the street to watch the event on specially installed giant television

With the referee's final whistle, which marked the first ever qualification of a Turkish team to a European Cup final, Turkish city centres erupted in joyful celebration.

In Istanbul, fans flooded Loftus were killed two weeks

The celebrations continued through the night and shifted in circulation Sabah.

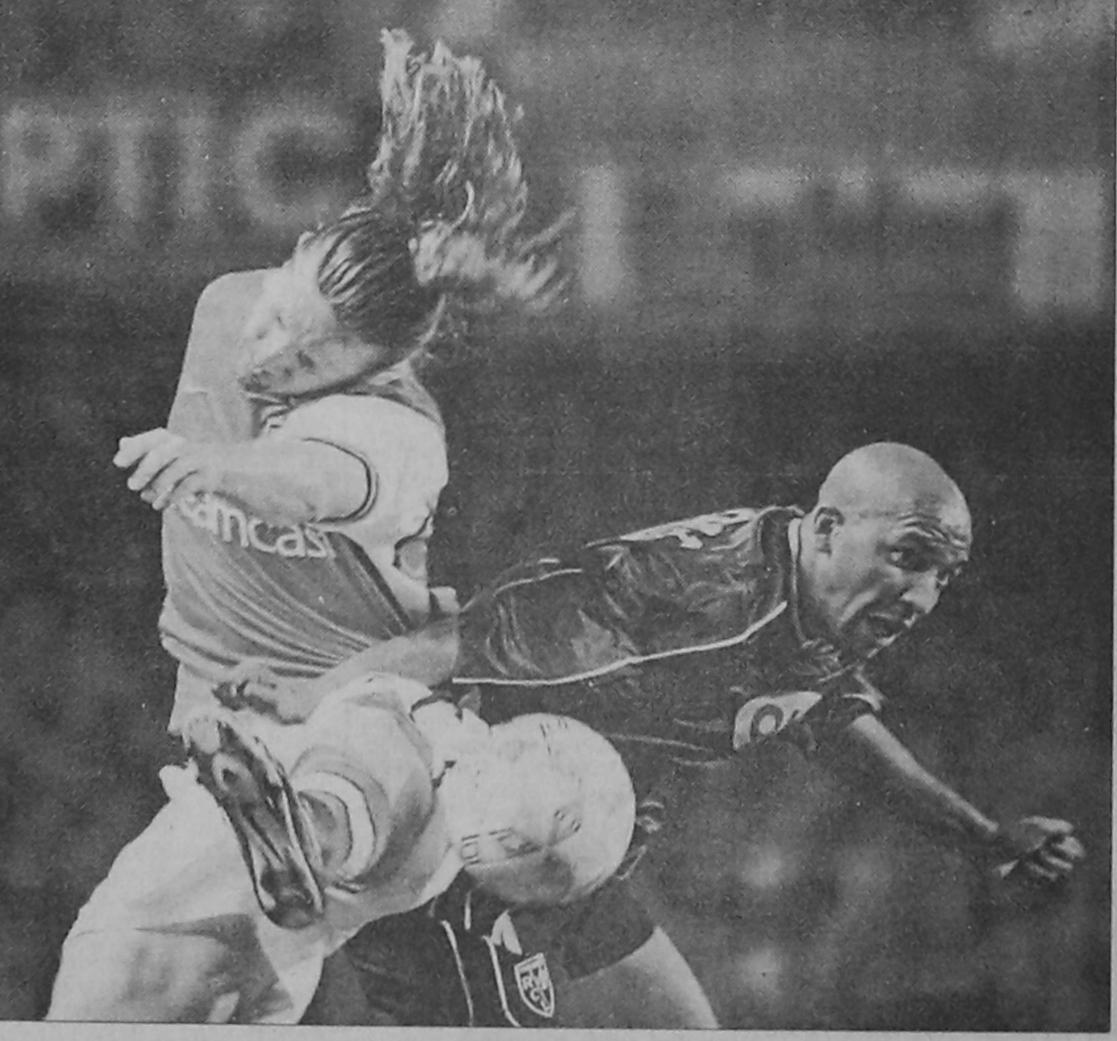
comed with flowers and songs. Turks around the world from Azerbaijan, Turkish The draw after a tense match Cyprus, Macedonia and Kosovo, from which Turkish fans were to Australia and western Europe excluded guaranteed them a joined in the match victory

celebrations, the agency said. Galatasaray's success also dominated the front pages of all Turkish daily papers Friday and overshadowed reports of attacks by angry Leeds fans on the Turkish team bus and Turkish television crews covering the

"It is not a dream. We are in the final," trumpeted the mass-

Politicians were quick to bask in the soccer glory, heaping praise and issuing messages of congratulations to the victorious team.

"I'm flying with joy," said Agriculture Minister Husnu Yusuf Gokalp. Health Minister Osman Durmus asserted that "we will be the champions," according to Anatolia.



Arsenal's French international Emmanuel Petit (L) and Olivier Dacourt of Lens are locked in an aerial tussle for the ball during their UEFA Cup semifinal second leg at Lens on April 20. -AFP photo

## Leverkusen

move ahead BERLIN, Apr 21: Bayer Lev-erkusen underlined their stranglehold on the Bundesliga title race on Thursday with a 3-1 win at Werder Bremen which sent them six points clear of holders Bayern Munich, reports

Ulf Kirsten and Paulo Rink with a header scored within five minutes of each other around the half hour and Ze Roberto added a third four minutes before the break before Dirk Flock netted an 86th minute consolation for outplayed Werder.

Christoph Daum's league leaders - who have never won the title - now have 67 points from 31 games with Bayern on 61 from 30.

"It's a lot of fun watching my team at the moment," said Daum afterwards.

Bayern, bolstered by their qualification for the Champions League semi-finals on Wednesday at Porto's expense, travel Sunday to a Borussia Dortmund who are currently in freefall just one point off the

drop zone. In Thursday's other match Eintracht Frankfurt boosted their chances of survival with an unexpected 3-0 home win over Champions League hopefuls Hamburg.

Frankfurt were docked two points earlier this month for signing new players when their finances do not permit any further transfer outlay and could go down as a result.

But they are refusing to throw in the towel and two goals from Congolese midfielder Rolf-Christel Guie-Mien after 6 and 76 minutes, coupled with another from Chinese international forward Yang Chen. produced a win which might yet keep them alive.

The result propelled Frankfurt out of the bottom six but they could go back into the bottom three after the weekend programme - even before they lose their two points.

### MLS wins lawsuit

BOSTON, Apr 21: After more than two years of court battle, Major League Soccer won its anti-trust lawsuit case against its players here as a US federal court judge upheld the league's "single entity" system, reports

US Judge George A. O'Toole ruled it was not unlawful for MLS to require that all players be signed by the league instead of individual teams.

MLS players are allocated to clubs in part to obtain a competitive balance, although such moves and league salary limits four MLS seasons.

"We are enormously pleased chance before Marc Overmars by the judge's ruling," MLS dent from the outset that the league's business structure was not only lawful, but the most efficient way for a professional soccer league in the country to be organized.

"For three years we have believed that our players' concerns should be resolved through negotiation, rather than litigation. We very much hope that in light of the Judge's ruling we can put this dispute behind us and work with our players to grow our sport and expand its attractiveness throughout the United States."

The case was filed in February of 1997 by eight MLS players representing all players in the league. The players claimed that the "single-entity" system was only created to keep the salaries at a minimum.

"Judge O'Toole's decision is a major precedent in sports law because it concludes that single entity leagues such as Major League Soccer cannot be sued as conspirators under the antitrust laws," said MLS attorney Michael Cardozo.

## Record British transfer

## MU rope in Nistelrooy



Manchester United Friday smatransfer record to sign PSV Eindh-

oven striker Rund van Nistelrooy, reports AFP. The Dutch international

will sign a five-year deal next week worth 19 million pounds (28.5m dollars) after completing the formalities for the transfer when he travels to Manchester for a medical next week, the Press Association reported

PSV spokesman Pedro Salazar said: "It is a done deal. The chairman of Manchester United was here yesterday and he talked to our president and they came to an agreement.

"We tried very hard to keep him. We were in a very difficult position but when a big club came in we did not have the power financially to hold out. For a good talent, a good player it is a dream to go to Manch-

ester United. "We had Ronaldo, Gullit, Romario here but they all went one day. For every player it is a dream to play for Manchester

The signing signals Sir Alex's determination to recapture the Champions League after being kicked out of Europe's top competition by Real Madrid at the quarter-final stage Wednesday night.

PSV president Harry van Raay said: "Sir Alex Ferguson is a very lucky man. We hate to lose Ruud and I was determined we would not give him away

like a gift to United. "But the player had made his mind up he was going to play in Manchester. He will certainly be a star in the European Championships this summer," he told British tabloid The Mir-

The fee smashes United's previous transfer record of 12.6m, paid to Aston Villa for Dwight Yorke in August 1998. It is also the second time the club

LONDON, Apr 21: have paid a seven-figure sum to PSV after they bought Dutch defender Jaap Stam - instrushed the British mental in this deal - for a then club record 10.75m in June

> PSV are expected to hold a press conference in Holland

Friday afternoon. Van Raay added: "Arsenal were the first to come to us but they kept asking us to name the player's price.



RUUD VAN NISTELROOY

"We refused and told them to come to us but they never did. That left the way clear for United.

"They had an advantage all along because Jaap Stam was able to discuss the situation with Ruud.

"I didn't like that but what could I do about it? I feared all along I would lose him.

"In the end I could not hang on to him. Van Nistelrooy is currently injured and misses Holland's friendly against Scotland in

Arnhem on Wednesday. It is the start of yet another Ferguson revolution at Old Trafford following the 3-2 Champions League defeat by

Ferguson believes he has a top class striking partnership in Yorke and Andy Cole but he power up front.

United striker Teddy Sheringham has still to make up his mind about his Old Trafford future. He has been offered a new one-year deal but is hold-

ing our for a second year. Ferguson has also been linked with Tottenham and England defender Sol Campbell and the White Hart Lane club's director of football David Pleat

admitted United had made contact over the player. The United chief is desperate to reclaim the European Cup be-

fore retiring in 2002. Salazar described the treble winner's latest big name signing as "a great guy, a good personality".

He added: "He came here two years ago and now is one of biggest strikers in Europe or the world in only two years.

"Everything together makes him a big person, a big personality. He will be one of the big names in football.

"He has a knee injury but in two or three weeks he can play one or two games and can be ready for Euro 2000."

Stam has emerged as a driv-

ing force behind the move. He gave United boss Sir Alex Ferguson a glowing report on van Nistelrooy and urged the striker, who has averaged a goal a game for PSV this season, to

come to Old Trafford. Stam has also entertained van Nistelrooy in Manchester and given him the lowdown about the club and English

The arrival of van Nistelrooy, who has scored one goal in 10 appearances in his so-far fleeting career for Holland, means United have spent a staggering 42.6m on their five

front-line strikers. This transfer, equalling the amount Barcelona splashed out to buy Rivaldo from Deportivo La Coruna, makes the Dutchman the fourth most expensive footballer in the world after Christian Vieri (31m), Nicolas clearly feels he needs more fire- Anelka (23m) and Denilson



Eintracht Frankfurt's Alexander Schur (in the foreground) is under pressure from Niko Kovac of Hamburg during their Bundesliga clash at Frankfurt on April 20. -AFP photo

## Primera Liga preview

# Catching up with La Coruna



MADRID, Apr 21: After the fabulous triumph of Spanish clubs in Champions League play this week, Barcelona, Real Madrid and Valencia all have the comfort of

attention to reeling in leaders Deportivo La Coruna, reports In a unbelievable week for Spanish football, Barcelona overcame London-based Chelsea in their dramatic quarterfinal second-leg while Real

home fixtures as they turn their

cia disposed of Serie A contenders Lazio. Barcelona probably saved the job of coach Louis Van Gaal with the win over Chelsea after a disastrous run, but all is forgiven now as they entertain relegation candidates Sevilla in what should be a routine vic-

Madrid stunned holders

Manchester United and Valen-

If Barca hope to rekindle their fading hopes of the treble it is imperative that world player of the year Rivaldo and his illustrious teammates Dutchman Patrick Kluivert and Luis Figo do not let their concentration slip as they look to turn up the pressure on La Coruna.

La Coruna lead by five points at the top as Real have pulled even with Barca and hold second spot on goal difference while Real Zaragoza lie fourth a further point back. Real turned in their best performance of the season as they

raced to a 3-0 lead at Old Traf-

ford before the English cham-

pions pulled a couple of goals

back, although the result was never in doubt. Spanish star Raul picked up a brace against United and is firing on all cylinders while recently suspended Frenchman

fold and earned the penalty which led to the 1-0 win over up their first Primera Liga title. Zaragoza in their last league outing. It is not a good time for

troubled Racing Santander to

visit the Santiago Bernabeu as

Real look to celebrate their European conquest in front of beto cost them the crown. their home fans. Santander have relegation fears on their mind as they lie just two points above a relega-

tion play-off position some-

thing they are desperate to

professional performance in Rome where they nursed a 5-2 were the surprise team of the lead from the first-leg to cruise season. through to a semi-final showgate win over Lazio.

in the face six points from safety while Valencia are pushing for the final Champions League spot for next season. Atletico will be without suspended Dutch striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink who had a disaster last week first missing a penalty and then getting him-

self sent off meaning he will

miss important relegation bat-

Hasselbaink who is the Primera Liga's joint top scorer could leave the club if they are relegated and has recently been linked with a move to newly crowned French Champions

Monaco. Deportivo will know exactly where they stand in regards to their rivals by the time they take to the pitch on Sunday when they host Real Sociedad. The Galacian side stumbled

last week when they blew a chance to open up a eight-point Sunday by losing 2-0 at Rayo Vallecano. Deportivo La Coruna v Real

Nicolas Airelka is back in the nightmares of previous seasons behind them as they look to sew Twice in the 1990's De-

portivo threw away the title on the last day of the season, most notably in 1993-94 when a penalty miss from Brazilian World Cup winning striker Be-Real Sociedad will finish

mid-table at best but showed

they can raise their game last week when they thrashed Athletic Bilbao 4-1 after spotting Bilbao a 1-0 lead. Real Betis are looking to Valencia return from their take all three points off Alaves who until their recent slide

Alaves who barely avoided down with Barca on a 5-3 aggre- relegation last season and had one on the worst defensive They host Atletico Madrid in records in the league have had a a crucial match for both sides: remarkable turnaround and Madrid are staring relegation crept up to a season best second

place just three weeks ago. A lack of experience and increased expectations on the little known club has seen them slip to fifth spot but they are still in the race for European spots for next season and a Champions Leagues place is not

beyond them. Real Zaragoza might have something to say about that as they currently hold the last Champions League spot and despite their narrow 1-0 defeat against Real last week have

#### been in fine form. FIXTURES

Saturday Malaga v Rayo Vallecano. Valladolid v Espanyol, Numancia v Real Zaragoza. Barcelona v Sevilla. Athletic Bilbao v Celta Vigo, Valencia v Atletico Madrid, Real Madrid v Racing Santander

With only five games to go Sociadad, Real Betis v Alaves, they are looking to put their Oviedo v Mallorca