

## Rehan City's hero

Sports Reporter

An all-round performance by Rehan Rafique helped City Club to record a three-wicket victory over Wari Club in a relegation League match of the Jankantha Premier Division cricket at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Rehan, the left-arm Pakistani spinner, took three wickets for 37 runs in the morning session to bowl out Wari for 223 in 50 overs. He then hammered an unbeaten 115 as City reached 224 for seven with nine balls to spare.

The one-down batsman, who took 54 balls to reach fifty and faced another 53 balls to reach hundred, hit one six and seven boundaries in his 120-ball sterling show.

Other notable scorers were Rawnak with 32 off 53 balls and Nuruzzaman's 29-ball 24. Earlier, put into bat, Wari's total was built around Sri Lankan Dilan Ramanayake's 55 and opener Anup Kumar who chipped in with 48.

City Club's other left-arm spinner Masood Rana took four for 36. It was City Club's fifth win in 13 matches that raised their tally to 10 points. On the other hand, it was the eleventh defeat for the century club that kept them second from the bottom in the six-team table with four points.

## Dravid smacks Zimbabwe

CANTERBURY, England, May 5 (AFP/Reuters): Zimbabwe endured a punishing day in the field as Indian batsman Rahul Dravid hit a brilliant unbeaten 182 to help Kent compile an imposing total of 380 for five on the second day of their four-day tour match on Thursday.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the four-day tour match between Kent and Zimbabwe on Thursday:

**ZIMBABWE:** First innings

**KENT:** First innings (Overnight 10-1)

E Smith lbw b Streak	4
R Key lbw b Streak	4
D Masters c Carlisle b Mbanga	0
R Dravid not out	182
A Wells c Johnson b Viljoen	58
J Hockley c sub b G Whittall	74
P Nixon not out	27
Extras: (w-2; nb-12; lb-10; b-7)	31
Total: (For five wickets)	380

Fall of wickets: 1-6: 2-11: 3-11: 4-115: 5-323.

To bat: M Fleming, J Golding, M Patel, D Scott.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Streak	22	7	49	2
Mbanga	9	3	14	1
Johnson	14	3	64	0
Nkala	13	0	62	0
G Whittall	20	2	75	1
Viljoen	9	0	48	1
G Flower	21	6	42	0
Gripper	2	0	9	0

## Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent  
RAJSHAH, May 5: Jubo Cricket School recorded a 91-run win over National Sporting Club in the second Siraj Memorial cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Medical College Campus playground today.

The winners made 204 for five wickets in the stipulated 25 overs. Jubair scored the highest 57 while Sajib followed him with 56.

In reply, National Sporting shot out for 123 in 20 overs. Salaudind with 50 was the top-scorer while Saiful and Pawel scored 13 each. Samrat took three wickets for 19.

In other match of the day, Damkura Krira Development Association beat Primary Krira Training Centre by 9 runs.

## India won't

From page 13

later this month.

"It is my personal opinion not to play because of the prevalent atmosphere," Kapil had said earlier in the day. You can understand what frame of mind the players will be in."

Kapil, however, stressed he will not desert the team if the BCCI sent the team to the tournament featuring India's arch-rivals Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

"I can't leave the team at this stage. I am with the boys," he said.

BCCI secretary Jayawant Lele said the team will take part in the May 28-June 7 tournament in Dhaka against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh since international commitments had to be honoured.

"What Kapil Dev says is his view, it is not our view," Lele said. "We have international commitments to honour and we will honour them."

Lele claimed the raging controversy had not affected the morale of the Indian players in any way.

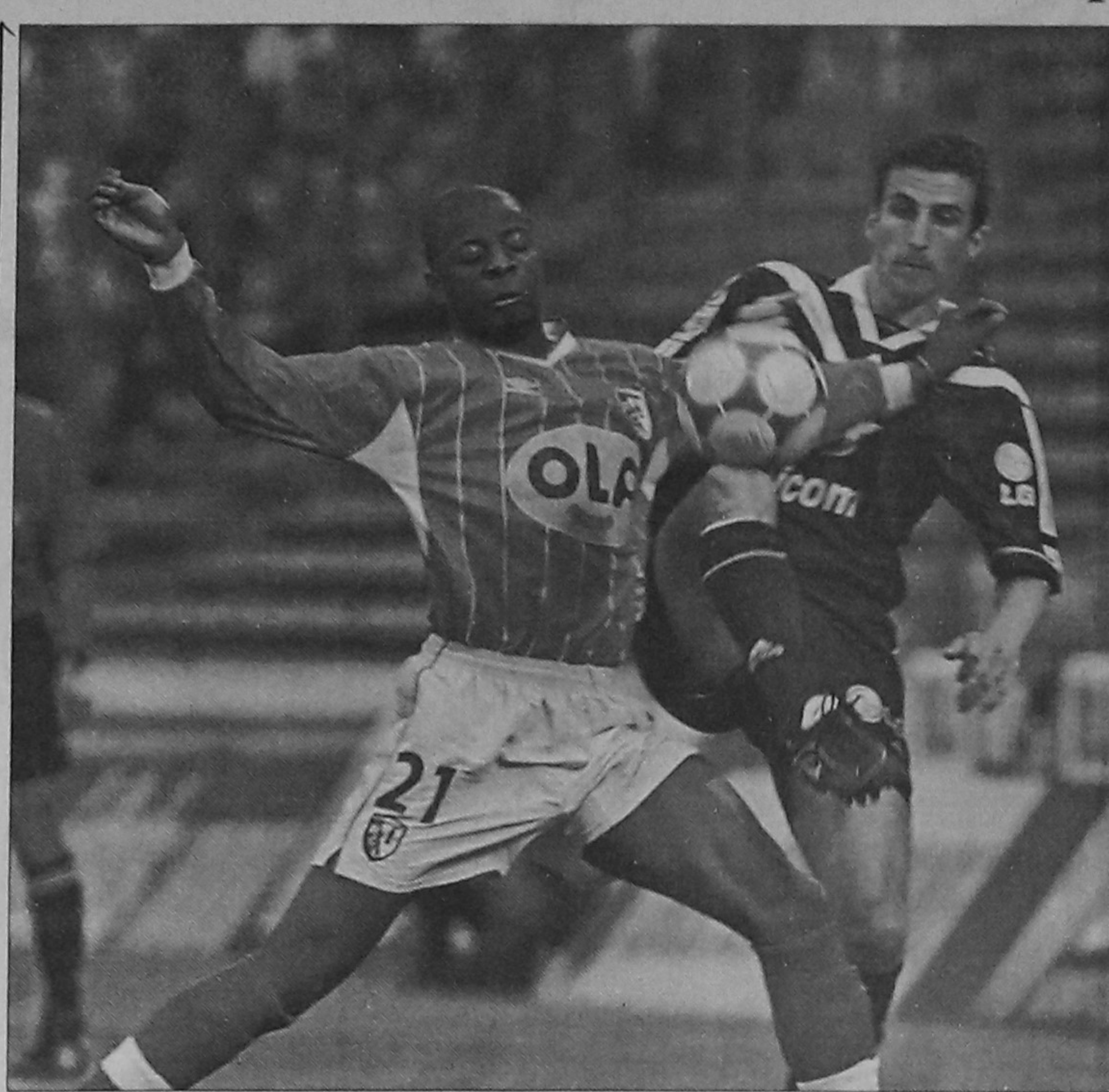
"It has not affected them. Why should it affect them? So many allegations have been raised against so many people."

## Kapil considers

From page 13

Cronje, who denied the charge, was later sacked as captain when he admitted receiving 10,000-15,000 to provide weather and pitch information to bookmakers during an earlier series in South Africa.

The International Cricket Council (ICC), who conclude 'an emergency session on Wednesday', said it would impose life bans on cricketers found guilty of betting or match-fixing.



Pascal Nouma (L), the Lens striker, trying to get the better of a Bordeaux defender during their French First Division match at Bordeaux on May 4. —AFP photo

## French First Division

# PSG book Champs' League seat



PARIS, May 5: French giants Paris Saint-Germain ensured they would play Champions League football next season as they downed Montpellier 3-0 on Thursday while impoverished Nancy fought back twice to hold Marseille 2-2 and leave the unloved aristocrats in real danger of relegation, reports AFP.

There was joy for 1995 champions Nantes, who face amateurs Calais on Sunday in the Cup final, as they moved out of the bottom three above Nancy with a 1-0 win over Sedan but unglamorous Le Havre saw their nine year stay end with a 5-2 hammering at the hands of champions Monaco, for whom disenchanted keeper Fabien Barthez played.

Nancy, who host Auxerre in the final match on May 13, are currently on 39 points one behind Nantes, who travel to Le Havre and Rennes, who will play Metz, while Marseille are on 41 but face a tough trip to Sedan for their final match.

even Troyes on 42 cannot feel assured of safety as their goal difference is the worst of the quintet and host PSG in the final match. PSG's brilliant but erratic midfielder Laurent Robert scored one of the goals of the season with a screaming 35 metres freekick in the first minute against his former club Montpellier, who were already condemned to the Second Division.

Robert added a second from a bizarre corner that bemused the Montpellier defence and Pierre Ducrocq added a third right on the final whistle to round off a fine win and a night of celebration for the Parisians - veteran keeper Bernard Lama celebrated his final home match for the club with a lap of honour at the end.

The final Champions League place will be decided between Lyon, who came from a goal down to beat Bastia 2-1 and leave their visitors without an away win this season, and Bordeaux who went down 2-1 at home to improving Lens and trail Lyon by two points.

Lyon went behind to Bastia as Fredric Nee netted from close range for the 11th of the season. However, Bastia were pegged back shortly before half-time when Fredric Violleau's long

range effort took a huge deflection and beat the keeper and bigspending Lyon were ahead within three minutes of the second-half when Pierre Laigle scored his first of the season sidefooting the ball past Eric Durand.

Lens took the lead in the 25th minute when Pascal Nouma headed home from Olivier Dacourt's spectacular bicycle kick cross - the former PSG striker added a second late in the second-half with another header.

However, last year's champions fought back against their predecessors as titleholders as Stephane Ziani scored from close range.

Monaco's Italian star Marco Simone, sporting like the rest of the team apart from shaven-headed Barthez dyed hair in the French national colours, opened the scoring against Le Havre with a stunning strike from 30 metres out.

Argentine master Marcelo Gallardo added a second early in the second-half slotting home after Simone's outstanding long ball from the centre of the pitch.

Le Havre, who have spent nine seasons in the elite without leaving any sort of mark after winning two titles at the turn of the 20th century, looked briefly to have given themselves hope as they reduced the deficit when Guillaume Beuzelin scored from just outside the area.

However, the effervescent Simone sidefooted home a third to leave Le Havre without a hope of salvation and leading scorer David Trezeguet added a fourth for his 21st of the season to move to within one of the league's leading marksman Sonny Anderson and then moved onto 22 with another goal five minutes from the whistle.

France's most controversial and least loved club Marseille, whose ambush of Monaco players during their 4-2 win last month left them in even more disgrace, took the lead against fellow relegation-threatened Nancy when Cyrille Pouget headed home.

Pouget scored a second in the 35th minute but it was ruled out for blatant handball by strike partner Ibrahima Bakayoko against a Nancy side that curiously left their leading scorer Tony Casarino, a former Marseille favourite, on the bench.

Nancy, though, grabbed a de-

served equaliser six minutes into the second-half when Samuel Wiat's delicious 30 metres shot beat Stephane Porato but Sebastian Perez restored Marseille's lead with 15 minutes to go when he tapped home.

However, Nancy refused to live up to their nickname of Nancy boys and levelled the match again when Mehdi Menri took advantage of a dreadful misjudgement by Porato, who left the ball thinking it was going out, and then shot past the keeper at his near post.

Aloune Toure struck with the goal that all the Nantes fans had been waiting for on the hour-mark running onto Nicolas Savinaud's superb long ball and shot calmly into the far corner of the net.

Nantes, who only won the championship as recently as 1995 and lost just one match, had a goal disallowed early on as Argentine defender Nestor Fabriti was adjudged to have pushed over his opposing number and then headed the ball home.

On a night of outstanding goals St Etienne's star Brazilian Alex capped a great season with a superb left footed volley from 15 metres out against Strasbourg late in the first-half for his 15th goal of the season - the match ended 1-0.

Auxerre handed veteran coach Guy Roux a leaving present as the wild old goat departed after 39 years in the post with a 4-0 thrashing of freefalling Rennes.

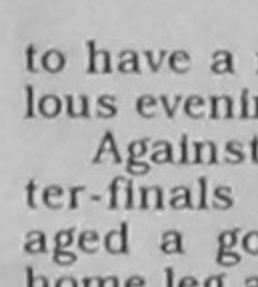
Former French international striker Stephane Guivarch struck twice the first from close range late in the first-half.

Steve Marlet sealed the three points as he shot home from close range for the home side's first win in nine matches and Guivarch, who appears to have found his level after two seasons of torture with Newcastle in the English Premiership and Rangers in Scotland, shot home minutes later for his 14th of the campaign.

Bernard Diomedé, like Guivarch a long forgotten member of the French World Cup winning squad, added a fourth on the hour to edge Rennes into deep trouble.

The portly 61-year-old Roux, who guided Auxerre to the 1996 double, ended the match by doing several celebratory laps and after 39 years in the job can look forward to the justifiable reward of tending his vines in retirement.

## McManaman feels at ease



STEVE McMANAMAN

season to hand the English Premiership champions a rare European home defeat.

To date, Real have managed to score in all their away legs this season and McManaman said he was confident the club could look forward to a place in

the final in Paris next month - probably against Primera Liga rivals Valencia, who lead Barcelona 4-1 in the other semi-final at the half-way point.

"Another good performance and we'll be in Paris if we stay calm. I'm convinced we'll score at least once in Munich and then they'll have to get four. That's difficult against Real."

although Bayern have in fact done that twice already this season," McManaman told Marca magazine.

"This time it will be different as the team now have much more confidence," said McManaman, who is now just two games away from achieving what he had once dreamed of doing with Liverpool - winning a European Cup.

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## Death threat on Beckhams

LONDON, May 5: Glamour couple David and Victoria Beckham have beefed up personal security after receiving a death threat, the Mirror reported on Friday, reports AFP.

The Manchester United football star and wife Posh Spice were sent a defaced newspaper photograph, featuring a bullet drawn on it directed towards her.

The image also showed blood pouring from her head, with an abusive message: "You are going to get what's coming to you," the Mirror reported.

The police were alerted and a probe has been launched. Security around the couple's two homes has been increased.

The family have been targeted by hate mail recently. Earlier this year a doctored picture of their son Brooklyn bleeding from a bullet wound to his head was sent to the home of Beckham's parents.

## Luzhny's advice for Rebrov

LONDON, May 5: Arsenal defender Oleg Luzhny has told his close friend Sergei Rebrov he can do better than join English Premiership outfit Tottenham, reports AFP.

George Graham, boss of the North London underachievers, is desperate to sign the Dynamo Kyiv forward within the next two weeks to bolster his ailing squad for next season.

But the Press Association reported fellow Ukrainian Luzhny saying, "Sergei should join a bigger and better club. He should come and play at Arsenal. I am surprised he has chosen Tottenham."

"He is a great player and a special goalscorer. We are good friends and when Sergei asked me about English football I told him how much I liked it here. But he didn't ask me about Spurs."

"I know these things depend on the deal and the prices involved - but he should have signed for a better club. It might not have depended on him, of course. If the price had been lower then I suspect he would have gone to a better club."

## Ginola's mission to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, May 5: French soccer superstar David Ginola will be celebrating the end of the English Premiership season with a trip to Cambodia on the anti-landmine campaign trail, the Red Cross said Friday, reports AFP.

The late Tottenham winger, who stepped into the shoes of the late Princess Diana as the public face of the Red Cross campaign to ban landmines, is scheduled to visit an artificial limb clinic in Phnom Penh and the western town of Battambang.

## Rain holds Enqvist up

MUNICH, May 5: Top seed Thomas Enqvist, a victim to rain, was unable to complete his second-round match against Ivan Ljubicic Thursday at the weather-plagued \$25,000-dollar BMW Open, reports AFP.

Despite sweeping the first set and leading a break point in the third game of the second, the Swede had to go into third set against the challenger.

Time ran out as rain arrived for the second time during the day, leaving Enqvist leading 6-2, 6-7, 3-1 when darkness fell. The 1998 champion was playing for the first time in three days here.

## Premiership preview



LONDON, May 5: The race for places in next season's European competitions and the battle to avoid relegation from the English Premier League come to the boil in the penultimate round of matches this weekend, reports AFP.

By the final whistle on Saturday afternoon, Wimbledon and Sheffield Wednesday could be doomed to the First Division with Bradford safe for another season.

Arsenal, Leeds and Liverpool, meanwhile, will have a clearer idea of which of them can look forward to Champions League football next season.

The financial stakes are high for the two groups at opposite ends of the table. Champions League football guarantees huge revenues from television, sponsorship and gate receipts while the crash in income that comes with relegation has pushed several clubs to the brink of insolvency in recent years.

Runaway champions Manchester United have already landed one of the automatic places for the Champions League while Arsenal are favourites to take the second, leaving Liverpool and Leeds scrapping for third place and entry to the competition's qualifying rounds.

Arsenal currently lie second with 69 points, two clear of Leeds with a game in hand on their two rivals. Liverpool slipped to fourth following Wednesday's 2-0 home defeat by Leicester.

## Serie A preview

# Juve's calibre put to test



MILAN, May 5: Juventus fans will find out just how good their team want to be this week end, when they flock to the Delle Alpi stadium in Turin to watch the Zebras take on Parma, reports AFP.

Juventus' seemingly unsailable nine-point lead of late March is now down to just two points over Lazio, with one match left to play after Sunday.

Lazio meanwhile need a victory at Bologna and a helping hand from Parma if they are to take full advantage of Juventus' sudden attack of the wobbles.

After losing only once all season Juventus have been beaten in three of their last six games - the most bruising being last Sunday's against lowly Verona.

Now they face a Parma side who must win if they want stay in the running for a slot in the preliminary rounds of the lucrative Champions League.

Juventus skipper Antonio Conte has no doubts about the outcome. "Before the match, I'm going to tell my teammates that there is only one possible result - victory," he said.

"We're two points in front and if we win both our last two matches, as we are quite capable of doing, then there's nothing anyone can do to stop us."

Juventus outplayed Parma when they met earlier in the season, but had to settle for a 1-1 draw when Hernan Crespo, the Serie A's second top scorer, walked through the Juve defence and rifled home a tightly angled equaliser in the 90th minute.

"We have to play as well as we did in the away leg, which we completely dominated, and should have finished off when we had the chance," said Conte.

"And anyway, who's to say that Lazio are going to win at Bologna? We could wrap everything up on Sunday."

To achieve that, striker Fil-

ippo Inzaghi could do with rediscovering his scoring touch. Though "SuperPippo" has bagged 26 goals this season between cup and league, he hasn't scored for the last seven Serie A matches - a personal record.

Strike partner Alessandro Del Piero hasn't scored in open play since October 1998, although he has converted all eight penalties he has taken this season.

The form of France's Zinedine Zidane will also be crucial, but at least coach Carlo Ancelotti has no injury or suspension worries.

Parma will be looking to Portugal's Paulo Sousa for a similar service to Zidane, playing behind Crespo and Brazilian striker Marcio Amoroso, the Serie A's top scorer last season with Udinese.

Parma had been shooting up the table before two consecutive 0-0 draws dropped them to fifth place, though level on 55pts with Inter Milan.

Coach Alberto Malesani said: "Juve risk suffering the same upset as Lazio did last season when they seemed to have the championship completely under control and then lost it at the very end, when nobody expected it."

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"But we too could suffer an upset if we missed out on the Champions League after what I think is an extraordinary comeback. In other words, there are handicaps for both sides on Sunday."

"Two things will be important for us, keeping our nerve and playing well in the opening minutes - because they can be decisive."

Lazio coach Sven Goran Eriksson would dearly love to see his team score in the opening minutes in Bologna.

Club president Sergio Cragnotti said: "Lazio are very concentrated and utterly convinced of their abilities. We will win at Bologna, even though it will be very difficult. I know that the lads really want to."

As for his team's chances, he said: "Eriksson and I believed we could still do it when we were nine points behind, so you can imagine how much faith we have now."

"I'm betting on Lazio," he said. "Juventus ought to be frightened."

Though the spotlight will be on the Serie A title, Parma are among four teams hoping for one of two tickets to the Champions League preliminaries.

Current favourites are reigning champions AC Milan, who are third on 57pts and who face rivals AS Roma (52pts) in a crunch match at the Olympic stadium.

Roma, whose coach Fabio Capello guided Milan to four league titles and the European Cup from 1991 to 1996, must win to have any chance of reaching Europe's top competition.

Inter, still without injured striker Christian Vieri, are at home to Gabriel Batistuta's Fiorentina.