DHAKATUESDAY MARCH 19, 2002



# The Daily Star

given the weekend off from league

duty by the Turkish Football

Association as they aim to upset the

Barcelona will be without injured

Brazilian star Rivaldo, who suffered a

recurrence of a knee injury after the

1-1 derby draw with bitter rivals Real

The 1999 World Player of the

Year strained ligaments in his left

knee and was not named to

Barcelona's 18-man squad that will

officals did not say how long they

inflamed right knee which requires

Philip Cocu will also be missing

through suspension and Barcelona

coach Charly Rexach has called up

reserve team midfielder Roberto

In Group A meanwhile, old spar-

ring partners Bayern Munich and

Manchester United, who have

already booked their places in the

last eight, will both be playing for top

spot when they face Nantes and

against Boavista in Portugal will

guarantee them first place, regard-

less of Bayern's result in Munich

be made easier by the fact that

Boavista coach Jaime Pacheco is

expected to rest several of his first-

choice side for what is in effect a

meaningless match against the

favours from Nantes in Munich.

Coach Angel Marcos, whose side sit

in the bottom half of the French

league table, has made no secret of

The championship is the priority

Goalkeeper Mickael Landreau

defender Mario Yepes, midfielders

Frederic Da Rocha, Olivier Quint and

feisty forward Pierre-Yves Andre are

the fact that domestic commitments

Similarly Bayern can expect a few

United's quest for victory should

against bottom-side Nantes.

A win for Alex Ferguson's United

Boavista respectively.

English champions.

for us now." Marcos said.

all expected to be rested

take priority.

Trashorras to augment the squad.

expect Rivaldo to be out of action.

The Catalan club's medical

He is also suffering from an

Dutch international midfielder

travel to Istanbul on Monday.

constant medical attention.

Catalans

Madrid on Saturday.

# Serie A **Recoba double propels Inter**

## Football

#### AFP, Milan

A fine individual performance from two-goal Alvaro Recoba saw Inter Milan win 2-1 at Lecce Sunday and ioin champions AS Roma at the top of Italy's Serie A.

The Uruguayan's two goals put Inter joint top with Roma who overcame Atalanta 3-1 on Saturday at the Olympic Stadium.

But the fight for the title remains a three-way battle with third-placed Juventus staying within a point of the co-leaders with a home 1-0 win over Verona sealed by Pavel Nedved's first-half goal.

With seven games remaining it is too close to call with Inter and Roma set to meet at the San Siro next week against the backdrop of a possible and eventual play-off, as goal difference is not taken into account, for the title if two teams finish joint top

If all three teams finished level then a mathematical formula would eliminate the weakest side and the other two would contest the play-off. Southerners Lecce had made in

tough for Inter at the Stadio Via del Mare with some stout defending early in the match but after 41 minutes Recoba outpaced marker Lorenzo Stovini and beat Lecce goalkeeper Antonio Chimenti.

Midway through the second period Recoba, who also scored twice at Lecce last season, pounced again after a move instigated by his Dutch team-mate Clarence Seedorf. Inter goalkeeper Francesco

Toldo saved a late penalty from Lecce's Croatian striker Davor Vugrinec who did belatedly get on the scoresheet in injury time.

"When a team is not playing well you need individual players to produce something out of the ordinary," said Inter's Argentinian coach Hector Cuper. "Recoba and Toldo did that for us today.

At Turin it was Czech international Nedved who settled the match for Juve at Verona's expense when he fired the hosts in front with his trusty left foot.

Juve coach Marcello Lippi said: "We are still disappointed about being knocked out of the Champions League but although we did not play at our usual level we still got the result we needed.

Eugenio Corini hogged the limelight at Verona as Chievo met bottom club Venezia. The Chievo playmaker scored an early own goal but redeemed himself after the interval from the penalty spot and the match finished 1-1.

Also 1-1 was Fiorentina's match with high-flying Bologna

Premiership

# 3 Alvaro RECOBA 0 35 GOL IN SERIE A namea PHOTO: INTERNE

Inter Milan's Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf (L) hugs team-mate Alvaro Recoba after the Uruguayan international striker scored his second goal against Lecce on March 17.

Fiorentina's Argentinian midfielder Ezequiel Gonzalez gave the struggling outfit from Florence a surprise ead but his compatriot Julio Cruz hit back after the break for Bologna who are looking likely candidates for next year's Champions League.

Bologna coach Francesco Guidolin, in reference to the nickname of il fenomeno (phenomenon) given to Inter Milan's Brazilian striker Ronaldo, said: "We are not a team made up of 'phenomenons' - we have to rely on teamwork and graft we were not at the level of previous weeks but still came home with

something to show for our efforts." A late header from substitute Massimo Ambrosini gave AC Milan a 2-1 win over Torino at the San Siro in the Sunday evening match. Georgian international Kakha

Kaladze had given Milan a some-

what fortuitous lead early in the second half before experienced striker Marco Ferrante squared the match for Torino from the penalty spot.

AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti said: "We deserved to win this match - anything else would have been a travesty of justice.

Lazio were held 1-1 at struggling Brescia who grabbed a point with an injury-time penalty from Argentinian Andres Yllana.

Earlier Argentinian Hernan Crespo punished a defensive mistake to put the visitors ahead but the late sickener means Lazio - who had to flee Rome for their own safety after the 5-1 derby defeat by Roma last week - face another hot welcome home

Perugia defeated Parma 2-1 to

# Serie A's top six

Italian football league table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

-	-							
AS Roma	27	15	11	1	43	17	56	
Inter Milan	27	16	8	3	48	24	56	
Juventus	27	15	10	2	50	21	55	
Bologna	27	13	6	8	31	27	45	
Chievo	27	11	9	7	45	38	42	
AC Milan	27	10	11	6	37	29	41	

worsen the relegation fears of the visitors. Early goals from Greek striker Zisis Vryzas and Fabio Bazzani made it 2-0 and although Emiliano Bonazzoli replied after the interval for Parma it was not enough.

Piacenza had to settle for a 1-1 draw at Udine. Carmine Gautieri oave Piacenza a first-half advantage away to Udinese when he diverted Dario Hubner's cross into the home goal.

Piacenza's Pierpaolo Statuto was sent off after the interval and Roberto Muzzi grabbed a late equaliser for Udinese - his 14th of the season

In-form Vincenzo Montella was again the inspiration for Roma in their 3-1 victory over Atalanta on Saturdav

Montella scored two of his side's three goals and forced Atalanta defender Massimo Carrera to concede an own goal as Roma roared into a 3-0 lead before Cristiano Doni's 16th of the season gave the scoreline a more respectable look for the visitors from Bergamo.

Liverpool bid to upset pride of Italy in Champions League

# Romario suffering from dengue?

Brazil striker Romario has fallen ill with high fever and pains, raising suspicions he may have dengue fever, his team's doctor said Romario, who plays for Vasco da

AP, Rio de Janeiro

Gama, could have a viral infection with similar symptoms or dengue fever, Vasco doctor Fernando Mattar said on O Globo Online's Web site. Mattar prohibited the 1994 World

Cup-star from playing in Sunday's league match against Guarani. Vasco officials were not immedi-

ately available for comment. Last week, Romario complained of dizziness and collapsed on the sideline at a game against Flamengo, hurting his chances of being recalled to Brazil's national team ahead of this year's World

Cup. Almost 90,000 people have fallen ill with dengue fever in Rio de Janeiro state since its outbreak in January and 37 people have died Scottish League Cup

Cannigia fulfils Rangers fairvtale

AFP, Glasgow

First Division Ayr United's romantic cup run ended here at Hampden Park Sunday, Rangers comfortably winning the Scottish League Cup Final 4-0. Goals from Tore Andre Flo, Barry

Ferguson and a double strike from Argentina's Claudio Caniggia gave



the Glasgow giants the first trophy of the Scottish season. Ayr, who had already beaten Premier League Hibernian, Kilmarnock and Dundee this season might have really frightened the men from Ibrox had they taken one of their first-half chances. But Flo's goal a minute before the

break took the edge off Ayr and in the second half a penalty from captain Ferguson and Caniggia's brace made sure of victory. The result ended a 22-month

trophy drought for Rangers. For Ayr it was their first major final in the club's 92-year history.

And Gordon Dalziel's team could yet have a chance for revenge before the season finishes. Avr face Celtic in the se

CHAMPS LEAGUE

Italian footballing pride will be at stake at Anfield on Tuesday when Liverpool seek to hurdle over AS Roma into the quarter-finals of the UEFAChampions League.

With Juventus, Lazio and Parma all falling by the wayside in earlier rounds, it has been another arim season in Europe for teams from Serie A, which proudly regards itself as the world's strongest league.

A Group B exit for Fabio Capello's Roma on Tuesday would leave Italy without a representative in the last eight of the Champions League for the second season in a row, a once unthinkable prospect.

Roma could have sewn up their guarter-final berth last week but were held 1-1 at home by Galatasaray in a stormy match that saw ugly brawls erupt on the final whistle

That result, and Liverpool's hardearned draw against Barcelona in the Nou Camp, leaves all four teams in the group with everything to play for heading into Tuesday's final round of matches.

A win for Liverpool and a positive result for either Barcelona or Galatasaray in Istanbul, will ensure Roma's elimination. A draw for Roma however would

be enough to take the Italians through and Capello is in no doubt his team will safely negotiate their trip to Merseyside.

"It will be tough but I think we will do it," said Capello, who was unable to resist adding his thoughts to the debate over Liverpool's style of play, dismissed as boring by several Barcelona players last week.

"It's going to be a very hard game and difficult for both sides." Capello added. "Liverpool are a side with great character. Their style of play may or may not be pleasing on the eye - but they're still a great side.

"The fans may be disappointed about the type of football but when they see Liverpool win so many cups they must think that maybe this is the key to a return to winning ways."

Although Liverpool have been talking up their chances of getting the result they need to go through, Phil

# All to play for in Group B home in Europe this season, were

Thompson's side are only too aware that they lost to Roma 1-0 at Anfield in last season's UEFA Cup. Midfielder Danny Murphy insists

Liverpool are confident of notching up their first win of the second phase, and said pressure would not be a factor

"I think we showed last year we can cope with big-pressure matches vou don't win a treble like we did if you can't handle pressure," Murphy said.

"We certainly all believe we are going to go through. Maybe we are a little bit fortunate to still have it in our own hands, but that is the situation and we have to make the most of it."

Murphy said Liverpool were determined to prolong their involvement in the competition as a tribute to manager Gerard Houllier, who is close to returning to work following heart surgery last October.

"We all know how much doing well in Europe means to him, Murphy said. "Just having him in and

# FIXTURES

#### Tuesday's fixtures Group A At Nantes Nantes v Bayern Munich

At Lisbon Boavista v Manchester united

Group B At Liverpool AS Roma v Liverpool At Istanbul Galatasaray v Barcelona

around the training ground has been a great boost to us and it would be brilliant to progress not just for the club, ourselves and the fans, but for him especially."

European Footballer of the Year Michael Owen is not expected to have recovered in time from a hamstring injury, leaving Emile Heskey and Jari Litmanen likely to be paired in attack.

In Istanbul meanwhile. Barcelona travel into Galatasarav's Ali Sami Yen Stadium with both sides chasing a victory that will take them through to the final round

Galatasaray, who are unbeaten at

Primera Liga Vallecano shock Valencia

Football

### AFP, Madrid

Spanish champions Real Madrid retained their place as league leaders after Valencia went down 2-1 at Ravo Vallecano on Sunday.

Madrid moved to the top of the Spanish First Division on goal difference, after their 1-1 draw at bitter rivals Barcelona on Saturday

Spanish football federation annuled one of the two yellow cards he recieved last weekend - headed Valencia into the lead after 24 minutes

However, the tide turned when Valencia defender Mauricio Pellegrino headed into his own net a minute before the break.

Ravo's Sergio Corino got the game's third headed goal after 57 minutes to give the home side an upset victory.

Diego Tristan.

Sunday

season Celta beat relegation-threatened Las Palmas 3-2, but only after salvaging a late victory from their Russian international Valery Karpin.

Athletic ran out 3-2 winners in a bizarre Basque derby at Alaves. Jordi Cruyff scored twice in the first 13 minutes for the hosts, but then Alayes ended the game with just eiaht men

In a wild final few minutes to end the first half, Alaves striker Magno Deportivo La Coruna moved up Mocellin got his marching orders to third with 51 points, following their five minutes before the break. 3-1 win at Osasuna on Saturday, Athletic then reduced the deficit helped by a first half hat-trick from with just over a minute to go when Tiko Martinez scored direct from a free kick, followed quickly by Ismael Real Betis dropped down to fourth when they could only draw 1-Urzaiz heading Athletic's equaliser 1 at struggling Real Zaragoza on from another of Tiko's special efforts from dead ball situations. Celta Vigo and Athletic Bilbao Roberto Olabe's tenure as the moved up to fifth and sixth respec-Real Sociedad coach started on a tively, pushing Barcelona down to positive note when the San seventh and out of the slots that Sebastian side beat Espanyol 1-0 guarantee European football next on Sunday, and climbed out of the relegation zone thanks to a 16th minute goal from Luis Garcia. Tenerife returned to the bottom of the Spanish First Division despite drawing 0-0 with Real Mallorca, but the Canary islanders remain unbeaten over four games since former Spanish national coach Javier Clemente took over a month



# Gunners hot on MU's heels

Villa park, Birmingham on March 17.

the pitch. We are under pressure but

following a controversial free-kick

with Hassan Kachloul harshly

Wenger's side took the lead

Dennis Bergkamp rolled the ball

The Denmark great recovered

we handle it well.

## Football

#### AFP, London

Arsenal moved to within a point of leaders Manchester United with a 2-1 English Premiership victory against Aston Villa on Sunday that maintained their unbeaten away league record this season.

Arsenal's goals came from Edu's close range effort and Robert Pires' sublime chip over Villa goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel after the break.

But the Gunners were equally indebted to England 'keeper David Seaman who saved a Gareth Barry penalty at a crucial stage in the second half.

In the 69th minute, Villa pulled one back through veteran striker Dion Dublin but Arsenal held out to go second behind reigning champions United with one game in hand.

Pires' wonder goal drew praise from fellow match-winner Seaman "Robert's had a fantastic season and if we keep going to the end it'll be great.

"When he scores a goal like that he's great for the team. It was a great touch and the defender went for a very big cup of tea - and the finish.'

And of his own spot-kick heroics Seaman added: "It's a case of looking at the player's run-up and guessing and flying one way or the other - and luckily I got one hand on

adjudged to have brought down Edu Arsene Wenger's men are still in 25 yards out. the hunt for a trophy treble -Premiership, FA Cup and to Sylvain Wiltord and the Champions League - and Seaman Frenchman's shot proved too hot for said the value of this latest victory Schmeichel to hold. could not be overstated.

"It was a massive win for us. It was hard but it's a great result." Wenger said his team's charac-

ter had received its just reward. "It was tense, of course, but

we've shown again we have magnificent team spirit and strength of character.

"We had to battle in the last 20 minutes. The quality of the players we have made the difference - when you look at the quality of our goals and the penalty save," the Frenchman added.

"I'm proud - we have great belief, and I think we demonstrated that on



of the Scottish Cup while Rangers are up against Partick.

Ferguson, who needed a painkilling injection to overcome a rib injury, played Caniggia in early on but the forward's finish was weak.

But at the other end Ferguson had to make a last ditch block in the box to get in the way of a James Grady shot.

Rangers were put under pressure from a series of set-pieces before Stefan Klos made a magnificent save from Brian McLaughlin's chip. Eventually Rangers' extra class

told. Caniggia played in Flo and the striker's shot across goal went in off the far post.

Then four minutes after the break Russell Latapy was brought down in the box and Ferguson made it 2-0 from the penalty spot.

And in the 75th minute Caniggia made sure of the silverware. Winger Neil McCann, who had come on for Peter Lovenkrands, crossed from the last and Caniggia volleyed home Then, just to show his versatility,

Caniggia headed in Fernando Ricksen's cross in stoppage time to set the seal on a well-deserved win.

but pundits expected Valencia to regain pole position after the topversus-bottom clash in the Spanish capital's suburbs

> Rayo had not read the script though and came from a goal behind to get all three points.

Real Madrid have 53 points from 30 games, the same number of points as second-placed Valencia, but a vastly superior goal difference. Miguel Angel Angulo - only

playing because on Friday the

# *Primera Liga*'s top six

Spanish league table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points);

Real Madrid	30	15	8	7	57	32	53
Valencia	30	14	11	5	36	24	53
Deportivo La Coruna	30	15	6	9	45	35	51
Real Betis	30	13	11	6	35	26	50
Celta Vigo	30	12	12	6	50	36	48
Athletic Bilbao	30	13	9	8	43	43	48

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PATIENT: "MY CLOGGED-UP SINUSES ARE HURTING ME." DOCTOR: "IT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals S

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Brazilian Edu's effort from 12 yards. At half-time it was still 1-0 to Pires flicked the ball inside Arsenal but 10 minutes after the restart Villa should have been level. On his 38th birthday full-back Lee Dixon, on as a substitute for Igor

Stepanovs, was ruled to have brought down Barry, who got up to

But Seaman guessed correctly, dived to his left and made a superb one-handed save.

quickly to block Patrick Vieira's Then, on the hour mark, Pires follow-up but could do nothing about struck after Freddie Ljungberg

take the spot-kick.

# Premiership's top six

English Premier League table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

found him with a raking cross-field

George Boateng and then calmly lobbed the giant Schmeichel for one of the goals of the season.

But nine minutes later Villa were back in the match when Dublin, a half-time substitute, headed home a cross from Moroccan international Mustapha Hadji

Earlier Sunday Leeds United revived their Champions League hopes with a 3-1 win over Blackburn at Elland Road.

A quick-fire first-half double from Robbie Fowler put Leeds 2-0 up inside eight minutes and Harry Kewell's second-half strike set the seal on a result which gave their Irish manager David O'Leary an ideal St Patrick's Day present.

Blackburn, battling to stay clear of the relegation zone, got back into the game four minutes after the break through Matt Jansen but could not force an equaliser

#### Pele joins Viagra makers PHOTO: INTERNET AFP, Paris David Seaman (R), the Arsenal custodian, diving to his left to save a penalty by Aston Villa's Gareth Barry (2nd L) at

Brazilian football legend Pele has been signed up by the US firm Pfizer, makers of the erection drug Viagra, to promote an antiimpotence awareness campaign, Pfizer announced here Monday. Pele will take part in a news conference in Tokyo on Tuesday to give a boost to the campaign, which

urges men not to be coy about seeking treatment for impotence. "Fear and embarrassment prevent many men from speaking to their doctor about erection prob-lems," a Pfizer statement quoted

"I hope that my personal commitment to this campaign will help to motivate men to seek medical help. If I suffered from ED (erectile dys-

doctor. Financial details were not disclosed. Pfizer said it estimated more than 140 million men suffer from

impotence Viagra has been used by more than 15 million men, it said.

Pele, now aged 61, played in 1,363 matches and scored 1,282 goals. His best season was 1958, when he scored 139 times

Pele as saying.

function), I would speak with my