# SPORT

## The Daily Star



Inter Milan superstar Ronaldo(L) outfoxing Patrick Pauwee of Feyenoord at Rotterdam on April 11.

# **Feyenoord oust Inter**

away a free-kick in Van Hooijdonk range in the 5th minute. The tall striker's free-kicks have saved Fevenoord's UEFA Cup dreams so often this season, but his shot was comfortably saved by Toldo. At the other end Ventola and

Ronaldo connected, and a dashing run from the former world player of the year was sent just to the right of the far post. One minute later and Zoetebier was called into action from a Ventola strike, but remained calm. Inter were coping well with the hostile atmosphere, and found themselves pushing ever further forward. However, they failed to remember Feyenoord's qualities in break-away raids. 18-year-old Robin van Persie was boldly handling the pressure, and amazing work from the left-sided player put Feyenoord ahead in the leg. Van Persie rounded a couple of Inter performance, that produced goals players and floated a pin-point cross onto that most reliable of heads - Pi-Air! Van Hooijdonk headed it home to the left of Toldo from five metres out, as De Kuip erupted.

Feyenoord floated on the confidence of the breakthrough for a few first 70 minutes, showed touches of minutes, and Tomasson came close with a long range effort. But the inevitable Inter backlash soon followed. Heroics from captain Paauwe, the highly impressive Gyan and Aros and even Van Hooijdonk, whose tall presence was now used to head clearances away from Zoetebier's goal were on hand to stop the pressure from reaping dividends. Inter were playing with virtually everybody bar Toldo and Materazzi in the Feyenoord half, and were taught a serious lesson from a fine breakaway. Kalou was Fevenoord's star performer at the San Siro last week, and was a prime The Kuip was as good as full, an candidate for man of the match

jubilant expectation as Emre gave still keeping Christian Vieri (whose transfer fee to the club was incidentally worth three times more than the whole Feyenoord line-up last night) on the bench, and not even bringing him on for the second-half when Fevenoord held that three goal

advantage over the two legs. Seedorf's game was clearly suffering by the hostile home support, but the midfielder finally showed an action of note when his cross floated dangerously over, and onto the top of the Feyenoord cross-bar. An Inter corner saw the Italians come very close, but Ronaldo headed just over. Frustration was evident when Zanetti, Emre and Ferraro were successively booked, with Emre lucky to stay on the pitch for a shocking tackle on Kalou. In the meantime Leonardo had forced Toldo's only real save of the game with a strike from the left edge of the area. Ironic cheers and waves flowed as Seedorf was substituted for Conceicao. Good interplay by Kalou and Van Hooijdonk, gave Tomasson the chance to put the definite nail in the Inter coffin, but he somehow managed to miss from point-blank

range. The resultant corner saw some silly time-wasting by Brett Emerton, whose booking meant that one of Feyenoord's key players will be suspended on May the 8th. Ronaldo had clearly ran all he could after such a long period away

through injury, and was brought off for Kallon in the 69th minute. As Mexican waves circulated around De Kuip, Ventola came through on goal, but Zoetebier was on hand to save. Just when it seemed that Inter couldn't possibly score, Cristiano Zanetti blasted one home into the top left corner with seven minutes remaining. Feyenoord now only held a one goal cushion, as if Inter could score twice, they would go through by virtue of the away goals again yesterday. The lvory coast

CUP CORNER

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

INTERNET, Seoul

There are only seven weeks before the start of the World Cup finals and Seoul's Incheon Interational Airport still has plenty of work to do to provide enough routes between Incheon and World Cup host cities, reported Korea Herald. Today's schedule will create certain inconveniences for the foreign visitors.

Now the airport has only two routes servicing Busan and Jeju cities twice or three times daily and no routes to such host cities as Daegu, Gwagiu and Ulsan.

Currently Incheon International Airport Corp. (IIAC) is requesting other domestic airlines to offer flights to such cities but Korean Air and Asiana Airlines are not excited to launch routes to regional airports as it will bring no real profit to them.

Asiana Airport official said: "We are considering operating special flights during the World Cup finals, when we see enough demand to do

So if the situation remains the same, foreign tourists will have to travel to Gimpo airport, which is 40km away from Incheon to watch games in regional cities

## CHINESE FANS SHOCKED

Chinese football fans flooded Internet sites Friday alarmed over the foot injury sustained by England captain David Beckham which could keep him out of the World Cup

"The man who injured Beckham should go to hell," said one man who signed himself a "super fan" on one of the most popular Chinese websites

The brutal two-footed tackle from Deportivo La Coruna's Argentine defender Pedro Duscher in Wednesday's European Champions League quarter-final with Manchester United was highlighted in all the Chinese

papers. "What if the World Cup has to take place without Beckham?" headlined the daily football paper on its front page, with a picture of Beckham, 26. being stretchered off in tears from the Old Trafford ground.

Beckham was left with a broken bone in his left foot and could be laid up for six to eight weeks, according to United manager Sir Alex Ferguson.

Ferguson said he was doubtful whether Beckham would make the World Cup Finals which starts on May 31 and is being jointly hosted by South Korea and Japan. China has for the first time won a berth in the finals -- and the championships are greatly anticipated here.

Beckham is hugely popular in China, especially among young women, who are also avid followers of the gossip columns detailing his private life with former Spice Girl Victoria in the tabloid papers which have mushroomed in recent years

He has been dubbed Xiao Bei or "little Bei" by the Chinese press, but is also known by the Chinese rendition of his name Beikehanmu.

"A lot of young girls are really, really sorry about the news," one Chinese lifestyle expert told the state news agency Xinhua.

Many of the young women even find it hard to share their pin-up idol with his wife, Victoria and young son, Brooklyn.

"I heard that Beckham does more of the housework than his wife. Will she really be able to take care of him, now he's been injured," asked one young fan Ling Ling, quoted by Xinhua.



programme Juve are the most successful side

in Serie A history with no less than 25 Scudetti out of the 96 contested next best are AC Milan with 16 titles. But it is Inter Milan who are the favourites this season to put an end to a title drought which extends back

to 1989 Nerves are beginning to show. Last weekend, they went down to a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Atalanta

while second placed Roma, two

box.

net.

## Milan go out fighting

forward Tomas Rosicky controlled the ball nicely on edge of area before unleashing a volley which

sailed just over Abbiati's bar. Milan then had a claim for a penalty turned away after Inzaghi appeared to be pulled down in the box, although his tumble failed to impress the referee

Marcio Amoroso, the hat-trick hero for Dortmund last week, then spoiled the first of numerous chances to put the game beyond Milan's reach, the Brazilian failing to

over the bar. However the visitors' chances after that were few and far between as Milan occupied their half in a bid

shot, after a chest-down, flew just

for goals First Kaladze had a shot on goal from a tight angle to the left of Lehmann's post but the big 'keeper

this time held the ball tight. Three minutes later the referee waved away another claim for a penalty when Dortmund defender Christian Worns appeared to clip



Andriy Shevchenko, AC Milan's Ukrainian striker, being tackled by Christoph Metzelder of Borussia Dortmund at Milan on April.

Inzaghi in deep.

rain-soaked first half with the shots connect with a right-wing cross coming thick and fast until Inzaghi's which bounced past his boot.

Milan then almost added another goal after a neat backheel pass left defender Kakha Kaladze to unleash a low, skidding drive on goal which Lehmann's cupped hands failed to collect. The ball bounced off his ankles and between his legs but veered away for a corner.

Andriy Shevchenko, who was Amoroso's second blunder grappled to the ground, prompting a came in the 38th minute when he freekick on the edge of the 18-yard got his head down low to meet a cross from the right, but his effort Lehmann saved the freekick but sailed over the bar. his careless rebound fell to

Dortmund came out with a tighter approach after the break, but still Milan continued to keep the pressure on

Amoroso was handed another At the other end the hosts almost chance to score when he picked up hit back as Czech international the ball on the edge of box but his

## effort was blocked. Milan's third bid for a penalty finally proved fruitful after Inzaghi was deemed to have been held up by defender Christoph Metzelder. Brazilian midfielder Serginho stepped up to bullet the ball past a helpless Lehmann.

Germans could start celebrating.

With eight minutes to play Milan

threatened again when Inzaghi

pivoted brilliantly and passed to

Andrea Pirlo who was just feet away

from Lehmann however the striker's

But on 90 minutes, Milan's third goal was too little too late. Moments later a low shot from Ricken from the edge of the box tricked Milan 'keeper Christian Abbiati and the

## Primera Liga preview Valencia on a mission

## Football

**UEFACUP** 

AC Milan's valiant efforts to overturn

a crushing first-leg UEFA Cup semi-

final defeat to Borussia Dortmund finally came to nothing despite a 3-1

win here at the San Siro Thursday.

Former European champions

Dortmund, who shocked the onetime kings of Europe 4-0 in

Germany last week, held on to win

the semi-final 5-3 on aggregate to

go through to the final against Dutch

side Feyenoord who drew 2-2 with

Inter Milan in Rotterdam to win 3-2

advantage the Germans came

under early pressure as Filippo

Inzaghi opened the scoring and

Cosmin Contra added a second

goal to give the hosts a 2-0 lead

were awarded a penalty in the last

minute of time which Brazilian

Serginho converted, only for

Dortmund to snatch a meaningless

last-minute consolation goal

Milan fought from the start of the

A cross came over from the right

Milan's second goal came only

of Jens Lehmann's post and Inzaghi

rose to head home as the Dortmund

eight minutes later thanks to a

probing run by Ukraine striker

Romanian international Contra

whose unhesitating shot took a

slight deflection before finding the

'keeper stumbled into the net.

After numerous claims, Milan

Despite Dortmund's first leg

AFP, Milan

on aggregate

within 20 minutes.

through Lars Ricken.

11th-minute opener.

error." commented Mallorca veteran defender Miquel Soler, a former Spanish internationalist, on Thursday./p Valencia coach Rafa Benitez is

His team take a seven-game unbeaten streak to Osasuna, who are in 17th place and have the worst home record in the Spanish First Division having only won four games in Pampiona this season.

Del Bosque's only worry is over who he will name at left back in place of suspended Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos. Reservis Raul Bravo is a possibility on what would be his 21st birthday, while Del Bosque could also opt for pulling back Argentine winger Santiago Solari and bringing in Brazilian international Savio to cover the left flank.

tables are turned.

Real Madrid player.

just five matches to go.

inferior goal difference.

son

AFP, Madrid Valencia have a golden chance to

back to the top of the table, in Janu-

"If we have any aspirations of winning the league then this is a

game we have to win. If we do, then

it'll certainly make Real more ner-

vous," said Valencia striker Mista

Ferrer on Thursday, himself an ex-

Real, who play struggling

Osasuna on Sunday, have 62 points

from 33 games as the Spanish

league enters the home straight with

the pressure on in second place with

the same number of points but an

Real Sociedad last Sunday pro-vided their best victory of the sea-

Mallorca meanwhile will have

their own agenda - the Balearic

places above the relegation zone

tion contenders after a five-year

we don't have much margin for

However Valencia are keeping

expected to retain the winning formula which excelled last week increase the pressure on league leaders Real Madrid when they but his Mallorca counterpart Sergio Kresic will surely ring the changes

line-up, and especially at former Ajax player, Clarence Seedorf. Inter on the other hand were only represented on the stands by a group of some 700 supporters. In fact an elated Feyenoord supporter told me afterwards, "how can such a big club, have so few real supporters they don't have a legion of fans at

**UEFACUP** 

Feyenoord Rotterdam booked a

place in their very own Kuip for the

UEFA Cup final, after holding Inter

Milan for a crucial draw despite a

late Inter surge that saw the score

from Van Hooijdonk and Tomasson

consolidated their 1-0 win at the San

Siro, and took them to their first

will be that Ronaldo, who played the

old and football fans around the

globe will be hoping that he can

return to his best for the World Cup.

But a teeming Kuip merely rejoiced

into breathtaking celebration as

their heroes were heralded. The

Feyenoord supporters truly were

the 12th man on the Rotterdam side

last night, as they were the inspira-

tion to the players, when their play-

ers found themselves under tre-

mendous pressure for lengthy

the midst of a cauldron when they

stepped onto the pitch to warm-up.

hour before kick-off and whistling

was heaped upon the star-studded

Inter knew that they would be in

The main consolation for Inter

European final in 28 years.

Feyenoord's battling first-half

**INTERNET**, Rotterdam

go back to 2-2.

periods.

A chorus of Feyenoord songs echoed into the Rotterdam night, including the reworking of a dance song into 'put your hands up for Pierre' and as the players came on to the pitch, it seemed that every Feyenoord supporter had a scarf with them, and you were left questioning whether Edwin Zoetebier's vision would be impaired by the smoke that surrounded the goalkeeper's net. The crowd clapped in

Premiership preview

player ran half the length of the pitch rule. It still seemed unlikely, but then without any serious tackles flying in. again Fevenoord were now clearly and with Tomasson to his left. But exhausted. A Van Hooijdonk free-Kalou elected to shoot himself, kick got rid of another few seconds. Toldo parried, and Kalou breathed a sign of relief when he saw that his Danish team-mate was there to place it home into an open goal in the 34th minute. Fevenoord manager, Bert van Marwijk immediatley re-acted by replacing Van Persie with Leonardo. A dejected Inter continued to push forward but Paauwe was a rock in the centre. Dalmot struck just to the left of Zoetebier's upright in the 40th minute. Ronaldo managed to round Zoetebier, but his on-target shot soon blew his whistle and tears of was cleared away for a corner by joy flooded the Kuip Stadium

Inter manager. Hector Cuper once again indicated where the UEFA Cup rates on his agenda by

#### but his shot went straight to Toldo. It was already injury time when son Leonardo brought down Dalmat in the area and Lopez Nieto pointed to the spot. Kallon blasted it into the heart of the net and the ball was hurried back to the centre-circle. As the crowd tried to help Nieto in deciding to blow his final whistle. Inter had that one last chance. Dalmat was free to roam most of the left side of the pitch, but he shot over the Feyenoord cross-bar. Nieto

Leverkusen with a hamstring strain

and is not expected to return to

Gerrard, meanwhile, has com-

Heskey's absence will mean

another opportunity for Nicolas

Anelka who was recalled to the

was also injured in Tuesday's sec-

ond-leg tie but should be available for the weekend after an x-ray

revealed he only suffered bruising

of his right foot and not a fracture as

as they press for a top four finish

and a place in next season's Cham-

face Aston Villa, Tottenham and

West Ham contest a London derby at White Hart Lane, and Charlton

first feared.

pions League.

host Southampton.

mproving Everton.

guarantee their safety.

England forward Michael Owen

France squad earlier this week.

plained of stiffness in his leg mus-

action for at least a week.

Paauwe.

coach, was sacked by the Turin giants last year, but finds himself under severe pressure with his team in fifth spot in Serie A and clinging onto an outside hope of making it to the Champions League next sea-

"I have regrets about Juve, but I have to beat them to gain access to next years Champions League, said Ancelotti as he tried to take the edge off what will be a highly charged encounter.

Carlo Ancelotti hopes to wreak

devastating revenge on Juventus on

Saturday and deliver a potential fatal

blow to his former club's hopes of

Ancelotti, now the AC Milan

lifting the Italian championship.

Football

AFP, Rome

However, this season's record is against him as Juve got a point in a 1-1 draw at the San Siro in the first meeting between the two sides and then were knocked out of the Italian Cup 3-2 on aggregate.

Despite his cautious approach to the game, the events of last season still rankle with Ancelotti, whose Juve team had been pipped to the title on the last day of the 1999-2000 season by Lazio.

He was then informed last May that he would be removed and replaced by Marcello Lippi even though at that time Juve were very much in contention for the 2000-2001 title. He chose not to tell the players

but in the end the news leaked out and despite a brave late rally by the Turin side, AS Roma held out to win their first title for 18 years, meaning Ancelotti was denied the perfect parting shot.

Juventus against AC Milan is the glamour fixture of the Italian

points behind on 60 points with four games remaining, could only draw 2-2 at relegated Venezia.

Juventus took full advantage ary, the defending Spanish champi-ons have played the day before beating Perugia 4-0 to move on to 59 points, three behind the leaders.

FIXTURES

Sunday: AS Roma v Parma, Atalanta v Torino, Bologna v Piacenza. Fiorentina v Lazio, Verona v Udinese, Inter Milan v Brescia, Juventus v AC Milan, Lecce v Chievo, Venezia v Perugia.

On Saturday, Inter, fresh from failing to reach the UEFA Cup final on Thursday as they were beaten 3-2 on aggregate by Feyenoord, entertain Brescia while Roma, the defending champions, are at home to Parma who are enduring their worst season in the league since

1990 and are hovering just above the relegation zone. At the foot of the table, fallen giants Fiorentina could have their relegation confirmed as they face Lazio where even a win may prove

not to be good enough to keep them islanders sit in 16th place, just two in the top flight. They will have to face the rest of and have gone from being Champions League participants to relegathe season without Portuguese international striker Nuno Gomes spell in the top flight."We have to whose injured left ankle has put him on the sidelines. raise our game against Valencia as

travel to Real Mallorca on Saturday. after last Saturday's 5-0 defeat at Most weeks since Real moved Deportivo La Coruna.

Kresic is expected to recall midfielder Vicente Engonga, and could also replace Cameroon international Samuel Eto'o with Valencia, however this weekend the

> **FIXTURES** (Kick off 1600GMT unless tated)

Saturday: Real Mallorca /alencia

Sunday: Barcelona v Alaves, Deportivo La Coruna v Espanyol, Rayo Vallecano y Valladolid, Real Sociedad v Malaga, Sevilla v Las Palmas. Villarreal v Celta Vigo. Tenerife v Real Betis (1700), Real Zaragoza v Athletic Bilbao (1700), Osasuna v Real Madrid

Valencia travel to Mallorca this Roberto Losada. weekend bidding to add to their goals tally after a 4-0 thrashing of

Real Madrid will fancy their chances of keeping pace with Valencia, but even after their morale-boosting gualification for the Champions League semi-finals on Wednesday coach Vicente Del Bosque is playing it cool.

"My only thoughts are about Sunday's game against Osasuna. I've always taken one game at a time and I'm not going to change just because we are facing Barcelona in a Champions League semi-final,' said Del Bosque

Spanish Cup winners Deportivo, out of the Champions League after two defeats by Manchester United, sit in third place and retain slim hopes of doing the double.

"We may have lost our chance of a historic treble but we will continue to fight to the end of the season for the league," commented Deportivo coach Javier Irureta.

The Galicians play host to Espanvol on Sunday and their mercurial Brazilian midfielder Djalminha could retain his place following his impressive performance, and late goal, against United at Old Trafford.

Fourth-placed Barcelona have admitted that their priorities now lie in Europe after qualifying for the Champions League semi-finals on Tuesday, but will still want to put up a good show on Sunday against visitors Alaves, who embarrassed the Catalans 2-0 in December.

At the foot of the table. Tenerife are fighting for their lives and can hardly relish the visit of Real Betis who have not been beaten in 14 games

AFP. London

Football

England defender Jamie Carragher believes Liverpool can overcome the disappointment of their European exit by pushing for the Premiership title

Liverpool, who play Sunderland on Saturday, were knocked out at the guarter-final stage of the Champions League by Bayer Leverkusen on Tuesday.

The Reds were beaten 4-2 in Germany and lost the tie 4-3 or aggregate.

Yet despite their disappointment at not making the last four, Carragher insisted Liverpool can bounce back by winning their remaining five matches to keep the pressure on league leaders Arse-

Liverpool are third in the table. four points behind Arsenal and are the only top three side in league action this weekend.

"We believe we are still firmly involved in the title race but obviously it's in Arsenal's hands and we have to hope that they drop points, Carragher said.

"The only thing we can do is win our next four games and we're confident we can do that.

"We are desperate to win the league, just as we were with the Champions League, and that is what everyone at the club wants."

Carragher, who is expected to

feature in Sven Goran Eriksson's World Cup plans this summer, insisted Liverpool can emerge a stronger team after their European

adventure. "We've done well to reach the

**Liverpool shift focus** 

cles following the Leverkusen match, although he has not yet quarter-final. We played 17 games and lost two and that is a good record for our first season," he been ruled out of Saturday's vital clash. added.

"But that's the way it goes and we're out. We are very disappointed, devastated, and we only have ourselves to blame.

"However, there's a lot of young players in this team and the experi-

ence we have gained is invaluable. "(Liverpool coach) Sammy Lee said after the game that the prepa-

### FIXTURES (1400 GMT unless stated) Saturday: Aston Villa v Leeds, Charlton v Southampton, Derby v Newcastle. Everton v Leicester Sunderland v Liverpool (1635 GMT), Tottenham v West Ham

rations start now for the Sunderland game and that's right - we have to

look ahead "The time to look back will be at the end of the season and we must forget the defeat against

Leverkusen Liverpool's task at the Stadium of Light has been hampered by inju-ries to Carragher's fellow England

Steven Gerrard. Heskey limped out of Tuesday's Champions League defeat in

internationals Emile Heskey and

**Bayern on Euro alert** Football

Bundesliga preview

#### Sunderland are not mathemati-AFP, Berlin

cally certain of staying up, but another three points from their remaining four fixtures should It has been a dramatic week on and off the pitch for German football but the possibility that champions Elsewhere, Derby must win at Bayern Munich could fail to qualify home to Newcastle if they are to stand any chance of survival, for next season's Champions although the vistors need points too

League is the big talking point. Bayern were eliminated at the quarter-final stage of Europe's top club competition on Wednesday Leeds United, also in search of a European slot, travel to Villa Park to after a 2-0 defeat to Real Madrid in the rain in Spain and face another torrid time on Saturday as the Bundesliga continues its unforgiving end-of-season countdown.

Ahead of their visit to lowly Leicester, who lost their Premier-Nuremberg, Ottmar Hitzfeld's side ship status last weekend after losing to Manchester United, visit sit fourth in the league, two points behind third-placed Schalke 04.

Only the top two teams get automatic places for the Champions League, while the third-placed side must go through the qualifying

vated for their visit to Werder Bremen, who sit in mid-table and have nothing but pride to play for in the remaining four league matches of

without a trophy for the first time since the 1994-1995 season.

defender Bixente Lizarazu attempted to put a brave face on their European exit.

defender said after their 3-2 aggre Wednesday.

"We're not going to ponder on our elimination for the next 200 years. There's still an end-of-season campaign to complete and we owe

it to ourselves to qualify for the Champions League.

Seasoned Bayern coach Hitzfeld insisted that the current squad had not reached the end of the road

## FIXTURES

**Saturday:** Borussia MonchengladbachvVflWolfsburg, 1860 Munich v SC Freiburg, SV Hamburg v Bayer Leverkusen, Hertha Berlin v Hansa Rostock, Nuremberg v Bayern Munich. Werder Bremen v Schalke 04. Cologne v St. Pauli

Sunday: VfB Stuttgart v Energie Cottbus. Kaiserslautern v Borussia Dortmund

"This is not the end of an era at Bayern, although we have to strengthen some sections (of the team) for next year," he said.

One player already sure of join-

ing Bayern for next season is German international midfielder Michael Ballack, but he could be leaving Bayer Leverkusen as champions

Their dream of a remarkable triple is still alive. Klaus Toppmoller's side sit top of the Bundesliga on 65 points, four ahead of Borussia Dortmund and are on course for their first ever league

Toppmoller's formidable side are also in the final of the German Cup and can look forward to a Champions League semi-final against Manchester United after ripping apart Liverpool's dreams of reaching the last four with a 4-2 victory at

the BayArena in midweek. But as Leverkusen prepare for what should be another easy three points away to lowly SV Hamburg, Toppmoller is still toying with the reality of a player exodus from his side after this season.

The coach confirmed after the Liverpool match that Brazilian international Ze Roberto was also in talks with Bayern. "This doesn't make me happy. It

hurts," he said. "When you see what we've done this year, we should be a team that attracts players and yet here we are losing players.

Overshadowing all Bundesliga clubs' ambitions is the collapse of German media giant Kirch, whose loss-making pay-TV business, Premiere, had secured the rights to the Bundesliga from the 2000-2001 season until 2003-2004.

Any new TV deal arising from the ashes of the group could ultimately mean less money from television deals

"Clubs and players must count on less money. Plavers who can't accept that will have to find another employer," warned Schalke 04 number two Rudi Assauer

stages So Schalke will be extra moti-

the season.

Bayern will finish the season

Their French international

"We've been successful for the past four years in Europe so we can't complain," the little Basque gate defeat to Real Madrid on