SPORT

Asian U-18 TT qualifiers from Jan 26

BSS, Dhaka

The qualifying tournament of the south zone of Asian Junior (U-18) Table Tennis Championship will be held at the Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium in Mirpur from January 26

Seven South Asian countries India, the Maldives, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal and hosts Bangladesh - along with Afghanistan will take part in the meet which of them India, Maldives and Bhutan have already confirmed their participation. The champion team will qualify for the next World Junior Table Tennis Championship.

Before the meet, a weeklong training camp will be held at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratishthan (BKSP) under the supervision of Kamalesh Mehta, a former Indian table tennis player. Two players from each participating country and several players from the hosts will take part in the camp.

Metro chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Four players were leading the points table with full points in the Metropolis Selection Chess Tournament at the National Sports Council Auditorium yesterday.

At the end of the fifth round, Kazal Mahmud, Gyusuddin Ahmed Mithu, Hanif Mollah and Moniruzzaman were atop.

Tawhidul Anam was in second place only half a point behind. The sixth round begins today.

Magura soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Sataypur Sabuj Sangha defeated Mohammadpur Ekadosh 2-1 in the Econo First Division Football League at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Umar and Anutosh scored one goal each for the winners while Zia reduced the margin for the losers.

Razzaq ready to join Pakistan

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's hopes for success during next month's South African tour received a boost Sunday with allrounder Abdul Razzaq announcing his availability after recovering from a wrist injury.

"I have recovered fully from my wrist fracture and the temporary plaster will be removed on Monday before I start bowling in the nets, Razzaq said.

Pakistan's squad for the two-Test and five-match one-day international series will be announced on Friday.

The team are due to arrive in Johannesburg on December 2 from Zimbabwe, where they are currently play a one-day series. They play their first one-day international at Durban on December 8.

Razzaq's left wrist was fractured when he was hit by a delivery from Australian pacer Brett Lee during the second Test in Sharjah last month.

"Missing international cricket has been more painful than the injury and I just can't wait to get back into action," said Razzaq, who also plays for English county Middlesex.

Razzaq, with 23 Tests and 114 one-day internationals under his

belt, is a key player for Pakistan. The chairman of Pakistan's selectors, Wasim Bari, said Razzaq

had informed him of his availability. Pakistan's top wicketkeeper Rashid Latif has also recovered from a neck injury after missing

Pakistan's series against Zimbabwe.

44 Finished

50 "Kapowie!"

transport

Charles

46 3rd rock

53 Hired

56 Norse

57 Wood

sorrel

59 Longings

option

1 Michigan

2 Greek

vowel

13 Brazilian 55 Mrs. Nick

16 Under the 58 Layer

17 "Kiss Me, 60 Roulette

18 America's 61 Started

20 Harmon- DOWN

ACROSS

11 Actor

Calhoun

14 48-hour

period

related

Cup entry

ization

Joplin's

genre

24 Streisand

classic

message

quantity

34 Margarine

serving

36 Cougar

37 Croc's

22 Scott

28 Ruin

32 Online

33 Stationer

15 Ear-

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

43 Blackbird 3 McCor-

mack of

Will &

Grace"

day X-ray

method

stage

7 Bug-free,

a couple

5 Has a

bug

9 Snitch

have

19 Skater

Solution time: 24 mins.

them

12 Only men

Australia abase United States

Hockey

AFP, Perth

Australia ran out easy winners with a 4-0 victory over the United States in the third match in Pool B of the women's field hockey world cup here Sunday.

The outcome echoed the Australians' 4-0 victory over the United States two years ago, when US captain Tracey Fuchs commented, "Australia gave us a hockey lesson today."

The United States took until the second-half to learn the lesson Sunday.

First-half goals to Nicki Hudson (3rd minute), Hockeyroo captain Katrina Powell (9th minute), Wendy Alcorn (17th minute) and Karen Smith (26th minute) showed Australia have regained their sharpness in front of the goal.

The United States worked hard, while Australia sat back on their lead in the scoreless second-half.

"We were loose in the backfield in the first-half," said US coach, Tracey Belbin, former Australian goal-

England had slumped to 130 for

ducks in the first Test, scored his 41st

Englishman along with Graham

Gooch, David Gower and Geoff

injured John Crawley, completed a

wretched match when he was out for

one in the day's opening overs, only

lasting six balls when his team

Key, who scored one in the first

After Stewart's departure the end

innings, rashly played a pull shot

straight to Darren Lehmann at mid-

wicket to give Andy Bichel the fig-

was inevitable. Matthew Hoggard

was yorked off-stump by McGrath

for one and Steve Harmison played a

woeful attempted sweep to be lbw to

With England one wicket away

needed him to stay with Vaughan.

Boycott to reach 8,000 Test runs.

half-century in his 123rd Test.

Stewart, who endured a pair of

Stewart became only the fourth

Robert Key, who came in for the

FROM PAGE 13

keeper. "In the second-half we made some good scoring opportunities but we did not finish them."

"Australia became slack in the second-half and that helped us," Belbin said.

Australia's coach, David Bell, was happy with the win but was concerned at the lack of "buzz" in the second-half.

bit flat in the second-half," he said. "In the last 12 months that is certainly our best start to a tournament," Bell said. "If you had offered me 4-0 at the start of the match, I

would have taken it." After a lethargic first five minutes in the first match in Pool A between Spain and Japan, Spain earned two penalty corners by controlling the midfield and forcing errors in Japan's circle, but made basic errors of execution on the corners to deny themselves early goals.

Spain controlled the match for the scoreless first-half and through the first 10 minutes of the secondhalf, taking the lead with a goal by Maria Ramarosa (43rd minute).

Japan hit back with a dazzling midfield run by Kaori Chiba, finishing the run with the equalising goal

from defeat as Andy Caddick strode

because of back problems, rain

Dawson cracked McGrath for four

fours before he edged to Adam

Gilchrist for 19 to give McGrath the

figures of 4-41 off 17.2 overs.

257 minutes off 59.2 overs.

times for 905.

SCOREBOARD

When play resumed Richard

England were all out for 159 in

In the two Tests played, Australia

have scored a total of 1,340 runs in

two and a half innings, while

England have been bowled out four

Final scoreboard on the fourth day

of the second Ashes Test between

Australia and England at the

ENGLAND: First innings 342 (M

Vaughan 177, N Hussain 47; J

AUSTRALIA: First innings 552 for 9

declared (R Ponting 154, D Martyn

ENGLAND: Second innings (over-

95, A Gilchrist 54; CWhite 4-106)

Adelaide Oval here on Sunday.

Gillespie 4-78, SWarne 4-93)

to the crease, batting at No.11

Aussies victors as usual

again stopped play.

(46th minute). Both teams probed for the decider in the last quarter without

England outplayed Ireland 3-1 in the second Pool B match.

Lucinda Wright set up England's first goal, breaking through the right midfield and angling a centre to Helen Grant at the top of the circle "We have to look at why we were a who dived to deflect the pass into goal to the left of Tara Browne in Ireland's goal (9th minute).

Helen Grant set up England's second goal through the left side, opening up Ireland's defence, collecting a pass inside the attacking quarter line and deflecting towards goal where 17-year-old Alex Danson was at the right post to score with her first touch of the match and her first goal for England (15th minute).

Ireland gave England a wake-up call, scoring a penalty stroke to take the score to 2-1 with 30 minutes of the second-half to play.

England's coach, Tricia Heberle, accurately described the secondhalf as "workmanlike and grafting" as England worked for its third goal by Leisa King (56th minute) to give England its two-goal advantage and a 30th birthday present for King.

Trescothick lbw b Gillespie

Butcher lbw b McGrath

Key c Lehmann b Bichel

Stewart lbw bWarne

Hoggard b McGrath

Caddick not out

Bowler

McGrath

Gillespie

Warne

Africa).

Harmison lbw bWarne

Extras: (b-3, lb-4, nb-8)

Total: (All out in 59.2 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-17, 3-36, 4-40,

Result: Australia won by an innings

Man-of-the-match: Ricky Ponting.

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West

Indies) and Rudi-Koertzen (Spoth

and 51 runs and lead series 2-0.

OMRW

7 36

0 31

5-114, 6-130, 7-130, 8-132, 9-134

Hussain b Bichel

Vaughan c McGrath b Warne

White cLee (sub) b McGrath

Dawson c Gilchrist b McGrath

Primera Liga

Figo gets the treatment again

Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid failed to break their 19year hoodoo against Barcelona at the Nou Camp on Saturday walking away with a 0-0 draw from a match that descended into disgrace as former Barcelona playmaker Luis Figo was pelted with missiles.

On the field of play Real had to fight a rear guard action for much of the match - however it was the offfield events which will dominate the weekend headlines.

Real, missing Ronaldo because of a bout of 'flu and Zinedine Zidane with a bad back, found themselves on the rack as the match moved towards the final 20 minutes, with Barcelona creating repeated chances.

The encounter lacked some of the brutal ferocity of recent matches but that didn't detract from the excitement on the field, especially in the final 10 minutes when Barcelona threweverything they had at Real,

However, before then the match had to be suspended midway through the second half when Figo had various objects rain on him while he was trying to take a corner. Referee Luis Medina Cantalejo

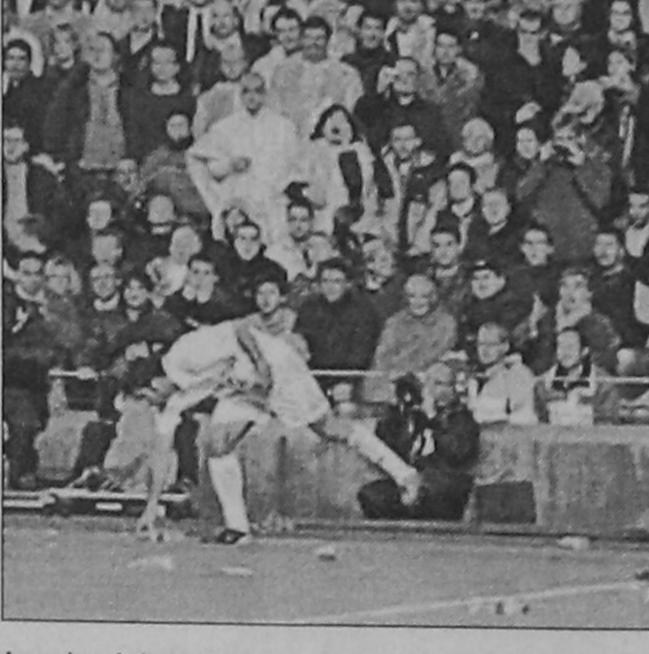
decided to send both teams to the dressing room in the 69th minute while things calmed down. Figo just minutes earlier had been pelted by water containers,

plastic cups and even a whisky bottle while trying to take a corner. Police and stewards had to surround him before his previous effort

and the referee asked the Barcelona players to plead with the crowd for restraint. Figo insisted on returning to the same corner after the restart, sym-

bolically showing that he had kept his nerve after revealing he'd lost it on the first occasion he returned to the Nou Camp two years ago. The Portuguese winger and current FIFA World Player of the Year

has become a hate figure at Barcelona following his move to: objects thrown from the stands. their bitter rivals in July 2000, for what was then a world record transfer fee of 59.3 million euros. Figo's treatment left Real officials





A combo of photos showing Real Madrid superstar Luis Figo picking up a bottle that was thrown at him by the Barcelona fans during their derby at the Nou Camp on November 23.

"This was a disgrace to Spanish football," commented Real's director general Jorge Valdano, who has experienced his fair share of derby matches as both a Real player and

"They broke the windows of our coach, and the abuse started as soon as we arrived. This has gone beyond the limits of rivalry," added the Argentine.

will the Spanish federation take against Barcelona?

The Spanish federation has taken a tougher line this year against crowd trouble, both inside and outside grounds, and several clubs in the top two divisions have had their stadia closed for varying periods this season.

Last season, UEFA fined Barcelona 136,400 euros after the referee of their Champions League quarter-final match against Greek visitors Panathinaikos was hit by

Before their final onslaught, Barcelona had the best chance to break the deadlock but Patrick Kluivert had his goal disallowed just three minutes after half time when

Gabri Garcia was judged to be offside, the Barcelona defender getting booked for protesting his inno-

six, well below the usual quota for the derby.

Kluivert also twice went close in the opening minutes of the first half, including a looping header from the edge of the box that required a save The question now is, what action at full stretch from Real goalkeeper Iker Casillas.

Rayo Vallecano and Real Sociedad also ended in a 0-0 draw. The point from their second trip in seven days to the Spanish capital

of the Spanish first division with 23 points from 11 games. However, their nearest challengers Real Mallorca are at home to Villarreal on Sunday and only two

means that Sociedad remain on top

points adrift. Sociedad had the best opportunities, taking the game down the flanks and Igor Gabilondo going close twice, and maintained their unbeaten streak since the start of

the season. The draw meant Rayo's fourgame losing streak came to an end

but they are still perilously close to the relegation zone. Sevilla and Deportivo La Coruna

also ended with honours even after Garcia's yellow card was one of their 1-1 draw on Saturday.

The hosts opened the scoring in the fourth minute when Antonito Ramiro found the net with a closerange right foot shot. Deportivo's equaliser came four minutes after the break when Roy

Makaay got his eighth goal of the season. The Dutch international striker

blasted home a Alberto Luque corner which fell to his feet.

TOP SIX

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

Sociedad	10	6	5	U	21	13	23
Mallorca	10	7	0	3	16	12	21
Valencia	10	5	3	2	18	7	18
Real	11	4	6	1	17	10	18
Deportivo	11	5	3	3	15	14	18
Betis	10	4	5	1	19	11	17

Pakistan flay

FROM PAGE 13

ures then of 2-1.

Warne for a duck.

Saglain Mushtag to the side following an ankle injury. Shoaib Akhtar Umpires: David Orchard (South | Glenn McGrath's spectacular catch was rested.

With Zimbabwe's prospects for a result next to nil, interest will centre more on Waqar, who needs two more wickets to reach 400 in this form of cricket.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Pakistan innings in the second of five one-day internationals against Zimbabwe at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on

PAKISTAN Umar c Rogers b Evans Elahi b G Flower Afridi c A Flower b G Flower Youhana not out Akram c G Flower b Evans Mahmood c G Flower b Ervine Akmal not out Extras: (lb-1, w-10, nb-1)

Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-159, 2-204, 3-252, 4-270, 5-310 Did not bat: Inzamamul Haq, Faisal Iqbal, Saqlain Mushtaq, Waqar

Bowler

Ervine 61 9 0 76 Nkala 74 Mwayenga 54 **GFlower** ZIMBABWE: Alistair Campbell, Stanley Matsikenyere, Grant Flower, Andy Flower, Barney Rogers, Craig

Evans, Tatenda Taibu, Sean Ervine,

28 | 29 | 30

50 |51 |52

BOFDZ

AITTFZP IBIK

THE HUNDRED-YARD DASH.

21 Once

23 Econ.

4 Modern- 25 One of

6 Jellyfish 27 Verve

life cycle 28 Incite

of years 30 Informa-

8 Computer 31 Petrol

10 Go blond 38 Clerical

language 35 Airline

Babilonia 42 Interior

known as

statistic

the Fab

ingredient

neighbor-

hood

tion

initials

(Abbr.)

Line" song

designer's

concern

45 Run

47 Stir up

48 Gene-

alogy

chart

49 Difficult

50 Twisted

51 Shade

52 Raggedy

one?

54 Michael

Jackson

album

40 "A Chorus

title

Four

26 Rickey

29 In the

Mluleki Nkala, Richard Sims, Waddington Mwayenga. Africa) and Ahmed Esat (Zimba-

Pak-Zim first ODI scoreboard

Final scoreboard of the first of five one-day internationals between Pakistan and Zimbabwe at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on PAKISTAN: 302 for 4 in 50 overs (Y Youhana 141, Inzamamul Haq 55, S

Elahi 53; GFlower 2-33)

ZIMBABWE

24

Campbell b Wagar Matiskenyere c Akmal b Akram G Flower run out (Umar) A Flower c Umar b Akram Rogers b Wagar Evans run out (Akmal) Taibu b Waqar Blignaut c Afridi b Akhtar Ervine run out sub (Sami) Sims not out Olonga not out Extras: (lb-4, nb-5, w-13) Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-16, 3-17, 4-32 5-167, 6-186, 7-8-261, 9-276 Akram Mahmood Afridi Umar

Result: Pakistan won by 7 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Yousul

40

CRYPTOQUIP

DJPFATVJW IDFZL ISPJAGFVL

WGVTK, GOZ SVK NVG

USE AN ENORMOUS PUNCTUATION MARK, PICK

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals R

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.

GZDDFLN

47 48 49

McGrath did it miraculously! AFP, Adelaide

to dismiss English opener Michael Vaughan on the final day of the second Ashes cricket Test here on Sunday has been hailed as a miracle.

The beanpole Australian fast bowler brought the Adelaide Oval crowd to their feet with a stunning diving catch in the outfield that ranks as one of the greatest in recent

The 32-year-old McGrath sprinted around the boundary rope at deep square leg to swoop full length and take a catch inches off the ground to end a stubborn rearguard partnership with Alec Stewart.

"It was a miracle. We weren't expecting him to catch it and neither was he," said skipper Steve Waugh, celebrating Australia's innings victory over England to go two-up in the Ashes series.

"It was a great catch. He gave it everything and he came up with the ball so it was pleasing, it was a pretty important wicket, they had a good partnership going and had some momentum.

Windies win

FROM PAGE 13 Jacobs not out Extras: (lb-6, nb-5, w-1) Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs) 315 Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-16, 3-132, 4 182, 5-291, 6-307

Did not bat: Vasbert Drakes Jermaine Lawson, Corey Collymore MRW Bowler Srinath 55 56 Agarkar Bangar 39 Kartik 69 Sehwag INDIA

Sehwag c Hooper b Lawson Mongia b Lawson 20 Laxman c Jacobs b Lawson Dravid c Sarwan b Lawson Yuvraj b Gayle Kaif b Collymore Bangar Ibw b Collymore Agarkar c Collymore b Gayle Kartik b Gayle Sarandeep c sub (N'mootoo) b Drakes 19 Srinath not out Extras: (b-3, lb-2, nb-1, w-9) Total: (All out in 36.5 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-56, 3-59, 4-67,

O F W | 5-99, 6-107, 7-121, 8-126, 9-158 OMRW Bowler Drakes 44 57 Lawson 0 30 Collymore 22 Hooper 6.5 0 22 3 Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU WANT TO Gayle Result: West Indies won by 135 runs

> Man-of-the-match: Marlon Man-of-the-series: Chris Gayle.

and clinched the 7-match series

Sri Lankans get | Serie A beaten by SAA

AFP, Potchefstroom

The touring Sri Lankans slumped to a disappointing defeat against South Africa A in a rain-hit match at the North West Stadium Saturday. The Sri Lankans, who start a five-

match one-day international series against South Africa in Johannesburg Wednesday, were beaten by 77 runs according to the Duckworth-Lewis method. They were struggling at 111 for eight when rain stopped play for the third and final time more than an hour after the scheduled finishing time.

Left-hander Robin Peterson swung the match for South Africa A with an innings of 61 off 69 balls. Peterson and tail-enders Charl Langeveldt (33 not out) and Monde Zondeki (23) enabled the home team to score 221 after they had crashed to 68 for five.

Sri Lankan opening bowler Pulasthi Gunaratne did the early damage after the South Africans decided to bat on a slow pitch. Gunaratne, 29, a one-day specialist who did not play in the recent Test series, dismissed Daryll Cullinan, Martin van Jaarsveld, skipper Neil McKenzie and Lance Klusener, all full international players. He finished with four for 44.

Fellow seamer Prabath Nissanka, another one-day specialist, took two wickets as South Africa A slid to 124 for eight. But Sri Lanka were unable to finish off the South African second string in windy, overcast conditions.

Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya, who missed the second Test last weekend because of an ankle injury, returned to action but failed with the bat.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard in the limitedovers match between South Africa A and the touring Sri Lankans at the NorthWest Stadium Saturday: SOUTH AFRICA A: 221 all out in 47.4

H Fernando 2-42, P Nissanka 2-57) SRILANKA Jayasuriya lbw b Elworthy Mubarak c Tsolekile b Elworthy 17 Sangakkara c McKenzie b Elworthy A de Silva c Ontong b Klusener

overs (R Peterson 61, C Langeveldt

33, M Zondeki 23; P Gunaratne 4-44,

Arnold not out Tillakaratne c Ontong b Klusener H Fernando c Kirsten b Klusener Samaraweera run out (Klusener) Nissanka not out

Jayawardene c Tsolekile b Zondeki

Extras: (b-2, lb-2, nb-1, w-2) Total: (For 8 wkts in 32 overs) 111 Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-36, 3-47, 4-72 5-74, 6-83, 7-90, 8-98 Bowler OMRW Elworthy 34

Langeveldt 22 Zondeki 8 19 Klusener 24 Peterson 0 Result: South Africa won by 77 runs.

Serginho makes the difference

AFP, Rome AC Milan beat city rivals Inter 1-0 in a fiercely-contested local derby to go top of the Italian first division on

Saturday. A first-half goal from speedy Brazilian Serginho ensured victory which took Milan level on 25 points with Juventus but ahead of the reigning champions on goal differ-

Juve lost top spot after a disappointing 1-1 draw at home to Bologna in Saturday's early evening Inter drop to third following their narrow defeat and are now two points adrift of the top two.

Serginho said it was a privilege to be part of such a wonderful occasion which was decided by his early

"It was a beautiful victory and to score the winning goal in a derby makes it extra special," he said. "It's such a joy to play in. The atmosphere is incredible and there s no other match like it."

Milan took control of the match in the 13th minute at a packed San Siro stadium.

Inter defender Nelso Vivas failed to cut out Rivaldo's raking pass for Sergingho which the Brazilian coolly controlled before closing in on goal. The South American ran beyond

a stretched Inter defence before

rounding Francesco Toldo and

rolling the ball into an unguarded

Ten minutes later Serginho almost added to his tally but just failed to get a toe to Filippo Inzaghi's

inviting cross, with Toldo all at sea. Serginho, who caused plenty of problems down the left flank for Inter in a one-sided first-half, again went close just before the break, his crafty chip from the edge of the penalty box landing on top of the

But despite dominating the match, Milan almost conceded an equaliser 15 minutes from time due to some sloppy marking. A cross into Milan's penalty box

Vieri, but the Italy international inexplicably volleyed over the bar from four yards out. Juve maintained their unbeaten

run but lost ground in the race for

fell nicely for Inter striker Christian

the Scudetto after being held by

A Guiseppe Signori penalty gave the visitors a deserved 65th minute lead at the Stadio Delle Alpi before Mark Iuliano's leveller five minutes from time rescued a point for

Marcello Lippi's side. Juve badly missed the creative talents of Alessandro Del Piero, who was being rested ahead of Tuesday's Champions League encounter against Spaniards Deportivo La Coruna.

Bologna moved provisionally into fifth spot, one point better off than minnows Chievo, who meet Empoli on Sunday.

TOP SIX Italian league table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against,

points):

Milan	11 8	1	2	26 8	25
Juventus	117	4	0	19 6	25
Inter	117	2	2	2112	23
Lazio	10 6	3	1	18 8	21
Bologna	115	4	2	13 9	19
Chievo	10 6	0	4	19 12	18

lation for the former England striker.

a cross that Fabien Barthez mis-

Newcastle's other scorers.

the Hammers.

zone.

west London club ended a run of with Paulo di Canio on the mark for

judged, and Craig Bellamy were

place after a 4-1 drubbing by Aston

Villa. Lee Hendrie, Oyvind

Leonhardsen, Dion Dublin and

against Manchester City thanks to a

Croatian striker Alen Boksic's first

goal of the season. Nicolas Anelka

pulled one back but Cameroon

Clinton Morrison's 89th minute

points in their battle with

home side six minutes from time.

Middlesbrough took control

Olivier Bernard, who scored with

West Ham slipped to bottom

Premiership Top two tormented

Football

AFP, London

The English Premiership title race is wide open after leaders Arsenal and second-placed Liverpool both crashed to shock defeats Saturday. Arsenal had England defender Sol Campbell sent off as they went down

But the Gunners retained their place at the top of the table thanks to Argentinian striker Fecundo Sava, who scored two goals and had a good claim to a third as Fulham sunk Liverpool by the same score at Loftus David Moyes' revitalised Everton

to a 3-2 defeat at Southampton.

thanks to Tomasz Radzinski's 35thminute winner against relegation candidates West Brom. The 1-0 win lifts Everton over Chelsea, who needed a last-minute equaliser from Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink to claim a point at

made it five league wins in a row

Bolton, and into third-place. Manchester United also took advantage of their rivals' slip-ups to move to within six points of the leaders after beating Newcastle with crucial games against Liverpool and Arsenal to come over the next two weekends.

Dennis Bergkamp had put Arsenal ahead with a stunning halfvolley from the edge of the area in the 36th minute.

But the Dutchman's masterpiece was cancelled out by James Beattie's 25-yard equaliser just before the

break and the wheels came off when for two clubs when he scored for Campbell clattered into Agustin Newcastle but that was scant conso-Delgado in the box just before the

Campbell was ordered off and Beattie converted the penalty. Delgado added Southampton's third and although Robert Pires got one back, Southampton were able to maintain their unbeaten record at St Sava was Fulham's hero as the Darius Vassell were Villa's scorers

only two points from their previous six games. A rare mistake by Jerzy Dudek led powerful Ugo Ehiogu header and to the first, the Polish keeper spilling Sean Davis' long-range effort to gift Sava an easy chance. Sava also got the final touch on a goal-bound Davis wingback Geremi made sure for the shot which put Fulham in control by the break. The goal was initially credited to the midfielder but was winner gave Birmingham the three

poor form which had seen them take

later credited to Davis. Dietmar Hamann pulled a goal Sunderland, moving Steve Bruce's back for Liverpool with a stunning side towards the mid-table safety free kick strike on 62 minutes.

Sava notched his second with a sweet half-volley six minutes later. Czech striker Milan Baros ensured a nervous finale for Fulham after Alain Goma was sent off but the west London side held on for the three points.

Earlier in the day, a makeshift Manchester United side overcame Newcastle 5-3 at Old Trafford, thanks in large part to a poacher's hat-trick from Ruud van Nistelrooy, who took his tally for the club to 50 goals in 67 matches. Paul Scholes and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer also hit the target. Alan Shearer became the first

player to score 100 Premiership goals

English Premiership table after Saturday's marches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against,

TOP SIX

points): Arsenal 15 10 2 3 33 16 32 Liverpool 15 9 4 2 26 13 31

15 9 2 4 18 15 29 Everton 15 7 6 2 25 13 27 Chelsea United 15 7 5 3 23 16 26 15 7 3 5 19 12 24 Boro

41 Off the board?

39 Distended STER