



Real Madrid superstar Ronaldo initiates a move while captain Raul Gonzalez watches during a friendly against F.C. Tokyo in yesterday.

## Real dazzle in Tokyo

### Football

Reuters, Tokyo

David Beckham scored in his second game for Real Madrid on Tuesday but the packed stadium was enthralled by a magical Ronaldo as the Spanish champions beat Japanese side FC Tokyo 3-0 in a monsoon shower to make it two wins out of two on their pre-season tour of the Far East.

England captain Beckham, who completed his move to the Spanish champions for just under \$40 million on July 2, opened his account in the 38th minute, curling a brilliant free kick into the far corner from 25 metres after a trip on Santiago Solari.

The sell-out crowd of 54,000 in Tokyo, hushed with anticipation as Beckham retreated for his run-up, exploded as the ball crashed into the back of the net after he curled it from the left of the box to the oppo-

site top corner.

Argentine midfielder Solari added a second from an acute angle just before halftime after goalkeeper Yochi Doi had saved from Javier Portillo with Real beginning to exploit gaps in the Tokyo defence.

Ronaldo, coming on as a substitute in the second half along with fellow Brazilian superstar Roberto Carlos, showed why he is regarded as the world's number one player when he made it 3-0 in the 89th minute with a mesmerising step-over and shot from the edge of the box as Real finished in style.

Throughout the second 45-minutes, the world player of the year had weaved his trickery against the Tokyo selection and it was only fitting that he scored that outstanding goal.

Ronaldo could have added a sensational second in time added on but was brought down by a desperate rugby-styled tackle by a Tokyo defender just before he could take the shot from close range after he had dribbled past three opponent

players.

Beckham had been booked after nine minutes for a professional foul and striker Raul went close with a dipping header in an incident-filled opening.

The England skipper tested Doi with another free kick in the 20th minute and then released Raul with a superb right-wing cross but the Spain striker slipped on the wet pitch and allowed the ball to ricochet off his heel.

Midfielder Beckham, playing in more of a central role than in the 4-0 win over a Chinese select team in Beijing on Saturday, was even more instrumental after the break in the absence of injured playmaker Zinedine Zidane.

One clever through-ball from the England midfielder to Ronaldo in the 65th minute led to Raul bringing another sharp save from Doi.

Three minutes later, Ronaldo found space with a typical burst of speed but his low left-foot shot came back off the post.

would get Beckham," Perez stressed.

Perez denied that his policy of constantly snapping up the best players in the world for Real was creating a wave of antagonism among fans of other clubs.

"There are only a few anti-madridistas and they will remain. But people love good football."

Perez said despite his keenness to land the best players money can buy he would not neglect home-grown players, explaining he hoped to see the club's nursery team produce around 60 percent of the next generation of first-teamers.

Perez added he was happy to

see Brazilian World Cup star Ronaldinho come to Spain - even if it was to play for Real's bitter rivals Barcelona.

"It doesn't bother me at all that Ronaldinho has gone to Barcelona. On the contrary, the top two players there are in our league the better."

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He is a great player, one of the best in the history of English football and he is England captain.

"And with regard to the club's media projection his (signing) was also very important. He will be very useful in this project of evangelisation which Madrid are in the throes of undertaking," Perez told Spanish daily *El País* on Monday.

"He fits our strategy as a ring slips on the finger," added Perez, who sees the 'marriage' of the English superstar to the nine-times European champions as being the missing cog in his wheel.

Perez insisted he had not been disingenuous in declaring prior to Real's Champions League meetings with Manchester United in April that the Spanish giants were not chasing Beckham, who eventually put pen to paper a month ago.

"I always tell the truth, but if you ask me something one day and then ask me again three months later it's possible things might have changed."

"At the time we were playing Manchester we didn't imagine we



A delighted Real Madrid star David Beckham after his first goal against FC Tokyo at the National Stadium in Tokyo yesterday.

## Bayern get their man

### Football

Reuters, Berlin

Bayern Munich greeted their record signing, Dutch striker Roy Makaay, on Tuesday demanding that he deliver in just one way - with goals.

Bayern's commercial manager Uli Hoeneß told German news agency SID that the German champions had paid 17.7 million euros (\$20.05 million) to bring Makaay from Spanish club Deportivo Coruna.

"We expect just one thing, goals, nothing more," Hoeneß said of Makaay, the second most expensive Bundesliga signing after Brazilian striker Marçal Amoroso who cost Borussia Dortmund 25.6 million euros two years ago.

Makaay, with 23 international caps and two goals for his country, arrived in Munich on Tuesday for a medical and an expected signing of a four-year contract before a planned news conference.

The 28-year-old, whose four goals against Bayern in the Champions League last season helped eliminate the German club, is not expected to start on Saturday against Hanover.

Makaay was top scorer in the Spanish league last season with 29 goals, while his 22 goals in his first season helped Deportivo to a first

league title in 2000.

"Such a player enriches Bayern and the whole Bundesliga," said Franz Beckenbauer, who also announced on Monday that he was willing to stay on as club president.

Beckenbauer, who is head of Germany's organising committee for the 2006 World Cup, had threatened not to put himself forward for re-election in November.

Meanwhile, Deportivo president Augusto Cesar Lendoiro has bemoaned the loss of Makaay but said could do little to stop the Dutch striker from joining the German champions.

"Obviously I am hurt by the departure of a player of Makaay's quality, but that is the way things work now," Lendoiro told reporters late on Monday. "He had two years left on his contract and in football that is very little time."

"He is a great professional who has never created problems and I would like to wish him success as long as he is not playing against Deportivo."

Bayern said that Makaay, who was the top scorer in the Spanish first division with 29 goals last year, would sign a four-year deal with his new club later this week.

Neither club has yet released any details of the transfer fee, but Lendoiro said that he was hoping to receive a written confirmation of the deal from Bayern on Tuesday morning.

"The negotiations were very tough, but we finally reached an agreement that was more or less satisfactory for all three parties involved."

The 28-year-old striker said he was delighted that his move had been confirmed and that he was proud of his record at the Galician club.

"I would like to thank Deportivo for four magnificent years," he told reporters. "I have won titles, been top scorer in the Spanish league and claimed the Golden Shoe award and you can't ask much more than that."

Makaay arrived in Spain from Dutch club Vitesse Arnhem in 1997 and after two promising seasons at Tenerife he moved to Deportivo in 1999.

He scored 22 goals in his first season at Deportivo, helping the Galicians to their debut league title in 2000 and helped himself to 16 more the following year.

Last season's tally of 29 goals equalled the club record first set by Brazilian striker Bebeto in 1992-1993.

Makaay's tally also saw him scoop the Golden Shoe award, with his 29 goals in Spain worth more than Mateja Kezman's 35 for PSV Eindhoven in the weaker Dutch league.



ROY MAKAY

## Fergie eyeing Trabelsi

### Football

AFP, Manchester

Tunisia's 2002 Arab footballer of the year Hatem Trabelsi looks set to join English Premiership champions Manchester United as manager Alex Ferguson seeks to strengthen his defence, it was reported on Monday.

The 26-year-old fullback came to their attention during Ajax's impressive run to the Champions League quarter-finals last season and had already attracted interest from United's city rivals Manchester City and FA Cup holders Arsenal.

However, Ferguson is understood to have sanctioned an offer of 6 million pounds (9.7million dollars) for Trabelsi as he seeks to shore up his defence which suffered two injuries - Wes Brown and Gary Neville - on their just finished tour of the United States.

"We couldn't afford another injury and it is an area I would like to strengthen."

"It is what I worry about the most and, hopefully, I can do something about it."

Should Trabelsi agree personal terms - which United hope will be before August 5 the deadline for Champions League registration - he will become the fifth new face in the Red Devils squad this summer.

United States international goalkeeper Tim Howard, Cameroon international midfielder Eric Djemba-Djemba, Brazilian World Cup winning midfielder Kleberson, subject to a work permit, and promising young French striker David Bellion have all signed on dotted line.

## PSG missing Ronaldinho

AFP, Paris

New Paris Saint Germain coach Vahid Halilhodzic admitted Tuesday the club are already missing Brazilian star Ronaldinho's magic touch.

The World Cup winner left for Barcelona during the close-season and PSG, who opened the French first division season with a 0-0 against Bastia, are feeling the loss on the pitch.

"We're lacking an exceptional talent who can make the difference all on his own," Halilhodzic told French sports daily *L'Equipe*.

"Ronaldinho was that player last year. I hope there will be others this season."

"I'm looking at the same team as last season, minus Ronaldinho, a team which needs to regain its confidence."

The club finished in eleventh position in the league last season.

## Chelsea told to up Veron price

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United have reportedly told Chelsea they will have to increase their 15-million-pound (23million dollars) offer for Juan Sebastian Veron if they are serious about securing the Argentinian midfielder's services.

United have indicated they are willing to sell 28-year-old Veron, but according to Monday's Manchester Evening News, are holding out for a substantial increase on the current bid.

Chelsea know they will have to wrap up a deal by the middle of this week if the 52-times capped Argentinian is to be eligible to play for them in the final round of Champions League qualifying later this month.

United boss Alex Ferguson admitted on Sunday he did not know whether Veron, who he bought from Lazio for 29 million pounds two years ago, would be a United player come the start of the season on August 16.

## Money, money, money!

### Football

AFP, London

Chelsea's Russian oil billionaire owner Roman Abramovich said Monday if his expensively assembled side failed on the pitch he would go out and spend more.

The 36-year-old told the BBC in his first television interview since buying the club for 140million pounds (160million dollars) last month that he had also been surprised by the amount of attention he had received since taking over.

"I haven't thought about how much money I am going to spend," he said.

"But if I think we need another player because we are not getting the results on the pitch then I will spend the money required."

"I must say I didn't realise that my buying of Chelsea would receive so much attention, but then football is like a religion in England and I suppose it was merited."



ROMAN ABRAMOVICH

## No ban on Gerrard

### Football

AFP, Liverpool

Steven Gerrard has escaped a domestic suspension for being sent off in Liverpool's fiery 2-1 defeat by Turkish giants Galatasaray in Amsterdam on Sunday.

Striker Neil Mellor, who got a straight red card for a dreadful tackle on Galatasaray's Gabriel Tamas, has also escaped a ban.

England midfielder Gerrard is already ruled out of Liverpool's opener against Chelsea at Anfield on August 17 following his sending-off against the same team in the final game of last season.

Liverpool coach Gerard Houllier was assured by referee Rene Timmink he would not be reporting the incident to UEFA.

The Liverpool Echo reported on Monday that Gerrard and Emile Heskey were singled out by Turkey

"You would not believe the abuse some of the players got but you live with that," said Houllier.

"The whole thing was started by a bad tackle by Igg Biscan but the guy was not even injured."

"For Steven's dismissal Hakan Sukur grabbed him and pushed him. Steven reacted to it but what Sukur did was very bad."

"It's never the provocation though which gets punished in football and it's always the reaction."

"Steven is a leader of the team and maybe he was frustrated seeing young Mellor get sent-off. He was sent-off for dissent but he never used foul and abusive language, the referee told me he didn't. There will be no suspension."

The Vanguard also revealed that the board of directors could up these funds, and therefore the club's losses, by 10 million euros (11.3 million dollars) to cover errors in the previous accounts.

Laporta's directors must approve Wednesday the definitive losses of Barcelona for last season and these will be presented to supporters on August 22.

Barcelona's total debt has risen to 220 million euros (250 million dollars), according to the newspaper.

These funds are set aside as a precaution against possible future losses emanating from a Ministry of Finance inspection into the club's

accounts between 1996 and 1999, and from the reduction in value of certain players - Dani, Alfonso, Roberto Bonano, Robert Enke and Geovanni - which were not absorbed by the club.

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## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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