

SERIE A

Identical wins for top two

Football

REUTERS, Milan

A late strike from Uruguayan Ruben Olivera gave Juventus a controversial 1-0 win at Chievo Verona on Sunday to leave them level with Serie A leaders AC Milan, who hung on for a 1-0 win over Sampdoria.

A 65th-minute header from Brazilian Kaka left Milan level with Juventus on 63 points, while third-placed Inter Milan trailed 16 behind following a 1-1 at Lazio on Saturday.

David Di Michele scored a hat-trick for Udinese as they enjoyed a shock 5-1 win at Palermo while Gianfranco Zola inspired Cagliari to a 3-0 victory over AS Roma -- scoring his side's opener and creating the second.

Juve's victory was hotly disputed with Chievo having a 'goal' ruled out and substitute Olivera and Chievo defender Alessandro Potenza both sent off two minutes from the end.

Following a poor first half, Chievo felt they should have had the lead five minutes after the restart when Sergio Pellissier rattled a shot against the underside of the cross-bar.

Although television replays showed the ball had clearly crossed the line, the referee and linesman ignored Chievo's demands for a goal.

Three minutes from the end, substitute Olivera, on for Alessandro Del Piero, pounced after poor Chievo defending to fire home a left-foot shot and give Juventus the lead.

Olivera's celebrations were cut short though a minute later when he clashed with Potenza, twice grabbing his head, and both players were sent off.

The Pellissier shot is bound to re-open the debate about the use of electronic detectors in Italian football where there have been calls to introduce 'tennis style' line sensors.

Juve coach Fabio Capello admitted that such technology

would have given the goal to Chievo.

Milan have now notched up nine successive victories, including their two Champions League wins over Manchester United, and six of them have ended with a 1-0 scoreline in their favour.

The champions went close to a first-half opener when Rui Costa's deflected shot struck the cross-bar but Milan, who had to replace defenders Alessandro Nesta and Paolo Maldini due to injuries, also suffered scares.

In the 62nd minute Belarussian Vitali Kutuzov, formerly with Milan, struck the post with a shot from inside the area but three minutes later Milan were ahead.

Kaka peeled away to the back post and met a splendid Andrea Pirlo cross with a perfectly placed header to beat Francesco Antonoli.

Roma's hopes of making a place in the Champions League are fading fast with Luigi Del Neri's side now nine points away from fourth place after a humiliating defeat in Sardinia.

Former Chelsea forward Zola put Cagliari in front in the 24th minute, latching on to a clearance from Roma defender Matteo Ferrari and firing home with a low drive.

The 38-year-old Zola set up Cagliari's second with a free-kick, which was slotted home by Mauro Esposito.

Three minutes after the break David Suazo made it 3-0 for the Sardinians and when Roma had their Italy international midfielder Daniele De Rossi sent off for a tackle from behind on Suazo, the Juventus lead.

TOP SIX

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

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Milan | 28 | 19 | 6 | 3 | 47 | 17 | 63 |
| Juventus | 28 | 19 | 6 | 3 | 46 | 16 | 63 |
| Inter | 28 | 10 | 17 | 1 | 50 | 33 | 47 |
| Sampdoria | 28 | 14 | 5 | 9 | 31 | 21 | 47 |
| Udinese | 28 | 13 | 6 | 9 | 41 | 28 | 45 |
| Palermo | 28 | 11 | 0 | 17 | 31 | 26 | 43 |

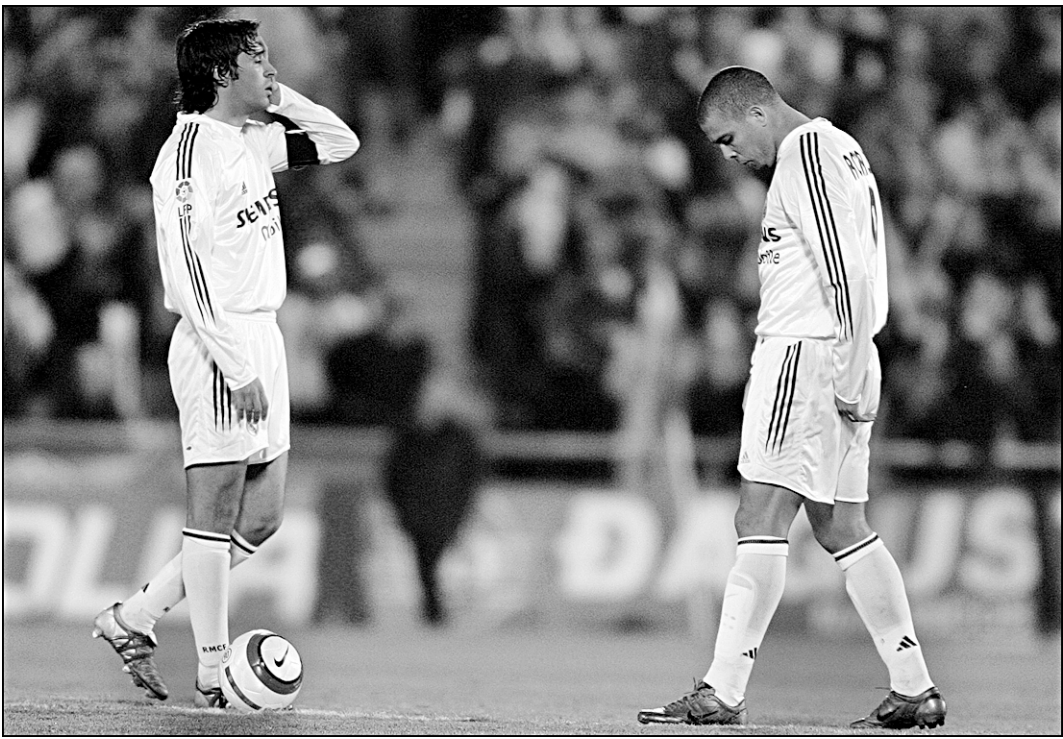


PHOTO: AFP

NO WAY BACK: Real Madrid superstars Ronaldo (R) and Raul prepare to restart the game after conceding the second goal against Gatafe at the Alfonso Perez Munoz Coliseum in Getafe on March 13.

PREVIEW: INTER V PORTO

LIVE ON ESPN FROM 1:30AM BST (V)

No second chances

CHAMPS LEAGUE

REUTERS, Milan

Inter Milan and Porto have had an extra week to prepare for Tuesday's Champions League knockout round second leg but neither has used it well.

The first game ended 1-1 in Portugal and the return was held over as Inter's city neighbours AC Milan, who share the San Siro stadium, were also drawn at home for their second-leg match.

The additional preparation has hardly helped Champions League holders Porto, whose coach Jose Couceiro must get his players over a 4-0 defeat by Nacional Madeira, their worst home loss for 30 years.

Inter battled to a 1-1 draw at Lazio on Sunday but were unimpressive, only getting back into the game after the Rome side were reduced to 10 men.

"We will definitely have to play better than at Lazio," said Inter coach Roberto Mancini. "It will have to be a different Inter for what is a vitally important game for us."

Inter's entire season hangs on

Tuesday's match.

They are out of the Serie A title race, 16 points behind leaders AC Milan, but have reserved their best performances for Europe.

"They are different matches in the Champions League and this is like a final," Inter midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron said.

"We can't have a repeat our perfor-

lvan Cordoba and left back Giuseppe Favalli suspended.

Mancini is hoping Marco Materazzi recovers from a nasty cut received on Saturday to line up alongside Sinisa Mihajlovic in the centre of defence.

The Inter coach also has worries in attack where Nigerian Obafemi Martins and Italy international Christian Vieri are struggling for fitness and Uruguayan Alvaro Recoba is sidelined.

Friday's defeat knocked Porto off the top of the Portuguese standings and they now lag three points behind Benfica.

"We have to lift our heads and fight to get past this moment. Facing Inter I hope that Porto is able to react and get a good result," said Couceiro, Porto's third coach this season.

Couceiro can turn to charismatic captain Jorge Costa and Brazilian playmaker Diego, who both missed the first match through suspension.

Brazilian striker Luis Fabiano, whose mother was kidnapped on Friday in her home town of Campinas, has not been included in the travelling squad.

mance at Lazio though -- it would be suicide if we allow Porto to run the match," the Argentine added.

Form is not the only worry for Mancini, with Colombian defender

Eva takes lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazrana Khan Eva continued her winning spree in the 26th National Women Chess Championship to take a solo lead after third round at the federation hall room yesterday.

Eva beat Kiswara Shajrin Evana to secure maximum three points while Interenational Women Master Rani Hamid and Shamima Akter Liza followed the leader with 2.5 points each. Rani beat Sharmin Sultana and Liza drew with Masuda Begum.

BCB Award

FROM PAGE 12

Cricket Awards Night, 2004-05.

Photojournalists have been requested to submit three photographs highlighting 'Bangladesh cricket team/player in action'.

The deadline of submission of photographs is March 31 and they must be taken in the period March 2004 to February 28, 2005.

100th Test

FROM PAGE 12

"The noise, the heat and humidity. Mentally and physically it is very demanding."

Bucknor, who has officiated in four cricket World Cups, stood in his first international game during the fourth Test between India and the West Indies in his native Kingston, Jamaica, in April 1989.

A qualified football referee before switching to cricket full-time in 1992, Bucknor will become the first recipient of the International Cricket Council's Golden Bails award.

"I am just plain happy to have officiated at the highest level for 16 years," he said. "There's no other feeling. If I am thankful to anybody, it's God alone."

Bucknor said he had no complaints about the induction of technology into the game, but took a swipe at television commentators for making the job of umpires more difficult.

"It is good to show different angles to viewers, but commentators should also emphasise that the umpire only had the benefit of one angle," he said.

"We all make mistakes and I have too. I won't go into details, but I have twice apologised to the players who got affected. A human being is going to err."

In Kolkata, Bucknor will stand with Australian Darrell Hair, who will be doing his 60th Test. David Shepherd of England is Bucknor's closest challenger with 87 Tests.

Garry ready to play political chess game

AFP, London

Retiring Russian chess champion Garry Kasparov said Monday he was turning his talent for strategy away from the gameboard and toward Russian politics, to challenge the "dictatorship" of President Vladimir Putin.

"What needs to happen is the creation of a nationwide organization, a political party that will challenge Putin's dictatorship in every aspect of our life", Kasparov, the former world champion and outspoken liberal, told BBC Radio.

SA squad for Windies tour

AFP, Centurion

Batsman Ashwell Prince and fast bowler Monde Zondeki were both named in South Africa's squad for a four-Test tour of the West Indies following their performances in the national team's innings win against Zimbabwe Sunday.

Both players were in a 15-man squad which will depart on March 24 for a training camp in Antigua.

The first Test starts in Georgetown, Guyana, on March 31.

SQUAD

Graeme Smith (captain), Nicky Boje (vice-captain), Mark Boucher, AB de Villiers, Boeta Dippenaar, Herschelle Gibbs, Andrew Hall, Jacques Kallis, Charl Langeveldt, Andre Nel, Makhyasa Ntini, Shaun Pollock, Ashwell Prince, Jacques Rudolph, Monde Zondeki. Manager: Goolam Rajah Coach: Ray Jennings.

Kamalapur

FROM PAGE 12

there by expressing their dissatisfaction with the venue. They termed it as 'poor'.

Later, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) officials arranged for the Jordanians to train at the BNS straight after Muktiyoddha's session, which was supervised by coach Shafiqul Islam Manik.

The Reds were upbeat following their goalless draw against Indian giants East Bengal Club and hoped it would inspire them to win their first match in the competition.

"Having been outplayed 3-0 the last time we played East Bengal, a draw is a great result for my boys. Hopefully, it will inspire them tomorrow when meet Al Faisaly," said Manik, who was also in the dark about his opponents.

PRIMERA LIGA

Real disaster

Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid slumped to a 2-1 defeat at lowly Getafe as the 29-times Spanish champions fell 11 points behind league leaders and bitter rivals Barcelona in the race for the title.

After winning seven straight games following the arrival of Wanderley Luxemburgo as coach, Madrid have now won only once in their last five league outings.

Luxemburgo decided to take the brunt of the blame himself after the game.

"The main person at fault is me," said the former Brazil boss.

"We have to carry on working because we have to maintain our place in order to qualify for next season's Champions League.

"But winning the league now is going to be very difficult. I don't have any explanations for what happened out there. Getafe fought, played and my team just stood by and watched them do it. They were deserved winners."

Real's latest loss comes in the wake of their Champions League departure at Juventus on Wednesday, and they now face the prospect of a second successive season without a trophy.

"If we are not going to win the league then we are going to lose with dignity. We are going to fight

until the end of the season and then we will face the critics when it is all over," added Luxemburgo.

However, Luxemburgo knows that his and his team's detractors are unlikely to wait that long.

"I didn't see any real spirit from my players and that they have to change," said Luxemburgo.

Raul Albiol opened the scoring for Getafe six minutes before the break, after being on hand to make the

most of a dreadful sliced clearance by Real's Spanish international Ivan Helguera.

Albiol was booked for ripping his shirt off in delight at his first goal for Getafe after moving from Valencia last summer - but there was a particular reason for his joy.

He missed the first half of the season after being involved in a bad car crash while moving his possessions

to the Spanish capital's southern suburbs and was in a coma for several days.

There were initially fears for his life but Albiol made a remarkable recovery.

Adding to the fairytale of Getafe's first league visit from the Spanish giants, their second goal came from Riki Sanchez four minutes after the break.

Riki is a former Real reserve who was discarded last summer.

Santiago Solari got a consolation goal for Real with a stunning left foot volley a minute from time but by then it was too late to save their blushes.

Barcelona restored some pride after their own exit from the Champions League by cruising to a 2-0 win over Athletic Bilbao on Saturday, thanks to goals from Deco and Ludovic Giuly.

Diego Forlan, who was memorably nicknamed 'Diego Forlorn' during his hapless time at Manchester United, continued his renaissance as he got his 17th goal of the season in Villarreal's 4-1 win over Espanyol earlier on Sunday.

Espanyol slipped to fifth but were spared sliding further when Sevilla surprisingly lost 1-0 at home to Real Zaragoza with Gabriel Milito heading the only goal of the game after 33 minutes.

Atletico Madrid continue their recent revival with a 1-0 win over reigning Spanish champions Valencia, Spanish international Fernando Torres scoring with a powerful header after 13 minutes.

TOP SIX

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

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|
| Barcelona | 28 | 20 | 5 | 3 | 53 | 18 | 65 |
| Real | 28 | 17 | 3 | 8 | 48 | 25 | 54 |
| Villarreal | 28 | 13 | 8 | 7 | 48 | 26 | 47 |
| Espanyol | 28 | 13 | 6 | 9 | 35 | 33 | 45 |
| Betis | 28 | 12 | 9 | 7 | 45 | 36 | 45 |
| Sevilla | 28 | 12 | 7 | 9 | 32 | 33 | 43 |

Zanetti guarded about Ronaldo return

INTERNET SOURCE

Inter Milan Argentinean captain Javier Zanetti has hinted there could still be some ill-feeling from Ronaldo's move to Real Madrid over three years ago.

A return to the San Siro has been mooted for the Brazilian superstar and Zanetti said: "At the time, the Nerazzurro fans deserved better from Ronaldo and his attitude when he left for Real Madrid.

"But if he was to return, I am sure he would do his best for Inter," said the Inter veteran.

Dhaka in the saddle

FROM PAGE 12

spell helped them to bowl Barisal out for 162 in the second innings.

The home side will need 166 runs to win today in their second innings.

Earlier, resuming the day on 234-5 Rajshahi crashed to 262, three runs behind the visitor's first-innings total.

Anisur Rahman failed to add anything to his overnight 60 while Hasanuzzaman Rosel, who was 73 when stumps were drawn on the second day, was caught behind for 82 as they lost their last five batsmen for just 28 runs.

KHULNA-SYLHET

Sylhet looked hopeful to record their maiden victory of the season when they put Khulna under pressure at the Khulna Divisional Stadium.

In reply to Sylhet's massive 421, Khulna slumped to 218-8 at stumps with stand-in captain Manzarul Islam batting on 49.

Having lost both their openers at 23, Khulna were rescued by Mashrafee who hammered a career-best 70 from 99 balls. The pace spearhead, who was promoted to number four, cracked nine fours and two sixes in an entertaining knock before being caught behind by Hasibul Haque off the bowling of his national teammate Alok Kapali.

Southpaw Manzarul, who held the fort after Mashrafee's departure with six boundaries in a 68-ball stay, put on 59 runs for the eighth wicket with Nazmus Sadat before the latter was dismissed in the last ball of the day. Khulna now need further 54 runs to avoid a follow-on.

Left-arm spinner Nabil Samad was the pick of the Sylhet bowlers with 4-45 from 15 overs.

Earlier, Barisal resumed on 326-5 but Mohammed Moniruzzaman, who was overnight 150, added only one run before being bowled by medium pacer Dollar Mahmud.x

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboards on the third day of the four-day National League fifth round matches yesterday:

CHITTAGONG-DHAKA
DHAKA: First innings 443
CHITTAGONG: First innings 146
CHITTAGONG: Second innings (overnight 29-1)

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Sunny lbw b Munir | 1 |
| Rabbi c Anwar b Munir | 33 |
| Faisal c Halim b Munir | 66 |
| Ehsanul lbw b Ashraf | 96 |
| Aftab c Sunny b Ashraf | 13 |
| Habib c Sunny b Ashraf | 51 |
| Yasin c Halim b Anwar | 13 |
| Alamgir not out | 5 |

Azam did not turn out
Nafees did not turn out
Nazim did not turn out

Extras: (b-9, lb-3, nb-1, w-15) 28
Total (All out in 64.3 overs) 295
Fall of wkts: 1-6, 2-35, 3-76, 4-203, 5-223, 6-242, 7-295.

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Bowlers | O | M | R | W |
| Munir | 15 | 2 | 76 | 3 |

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----|---|----|---|
| Talha | 13 | 3 | 41 | 0 |
| Mahmud | 7 | 5 | 18 | 0 |
| Ashraf | 18 | 5 | 89 | 3 |
| Sunny | 4 | 0 | 25 | 0 |
| Mehrab | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Mehrab Jr | 4 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| Sajjad | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Anwar | 1.3 | 0 | 13 | 1 |

Result: Dhaka won by an innings and 2 runs.

RAJSHAHI-BARISAL
BARISAL: First innings: 265
RAJSHAH: First innings (overnight 234-5)

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Moniruzzaman lbw b Sonnet | 2 |
| Naeem c Shahin b Sonnet | 1 |
| Reza c Shahin b Humayun | 68 |
| Farhad c b Humayun | 24 |
| Rosel c Shahin b Salahuddin | 82 |
| Mashud c Sonnet b Nadif | 1 |
| Anisur c Shahin b Nadif | 60 |
| Shahjada c Shahin b Shuvro | 0 |
| Alamgir c Shahin b Shuvro | 2 |
| Saifullah not out | 1 |
| Sumon c Shahin b Salahuddin | 14 |
| Extras: (b-5, lb-1, w-1) | 7 |

Total: (All out in 101.1 overs) 262
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-10, 3-97, 4-98, 5-99, 6-234, 7-235, 8-245, 9-245, 10-262.

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Bowlers | O | M | R | W |
| Sonnet | 26 | 6 | 50 | 3 |
| Shuvro | 17 | 6 | 37 | 2 |
| Salahuddin | 7.1 | 2 | 17 | 2 |
| Mosharrar | 4.2 | 0 | 24 | 0 |
| Nadif | 23 | 6 | 59 | 1 |
| Humayun | 15.4 | 3 | 46 | 2 |
| Hannan | 7 | 1 | 23 | 0 |
| Imran | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

BARISAL: Second innings
Imran c M'zaman b Alamgir 9
Humayun c Sumon b Alamgir 7
Hannan lbw b Shahjada 0
Bashar c b Farhad 27
Shahin c M'zaman b Alamgir 0
Salahuddin c Reza b Saifullah 40
Sonnet c M'zaman b Saifullah 10
Nadif not out 33
Shuvro c b Saifullah 0
Mosharrar c Anisur b Saifullah 19
Nasir c M'zaman b Saifullah 6
Extras: (b-1, lb-3, nb-1, w-6) 11
Total: (All out in 62.5 overs) 162

Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-14, 3-18, 4-86, 5-86, 6-103, 7-103, 8-109, 9-150, 10-162.

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Bowlers | O | M | R | W |
| Shahjada | 12 | 2 | 23 | 1 |
| Alamgir | 12 | 4 | 23 | 3 |
| Sumon | 10 | 2 | 32 | 0 |
| Saifullah | 23.5 | 4 | 65 | 5 |
| Anisur | 2 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Farhad | 3 | 0 | 6 | 1 |

KHULNA-SYLHET
SYLHET: First innings (overnight 326-5)

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Rahman b Jamal | 94 |
| Moniruzzaman b Dollar | 151 |
| Imtiaz run out | 46 |
| Alok b Dollar | 1 |
| Mawla run out | 3 |
| Ezaz c Zia b Razzak | 0 |
| Tapash b Dollar | 10 |
| Hasibul b Zia | 21 |

Rezaul c Salahuddin b Jamal 24
Nabil c Jamal b Razzak 33
Ashiqur not out 3
Extras: (b-24, lb-8, nb-1, w-2) 35