# Barca see finish line

Football

AFP, Madrid

Barcelona moved closer to clinching their 17th Spanish title when they won 2-0 at reigning champions Valencia on Sunday.

The Catalan club lead their nearest, and bitterest, rivals Real Madrid by six points with three matches to go.

"This was an important test. The truth is we are a lot nearer to winning the league now. We are only short of one win," said Barca coach Frank Rijkaard.

A victory at struggling Levante next Saturday will allow Barca to start the celebrations as they are ahead of Real on the head-to-head tie-break rule used by the Spanish

Rijkaard didn't admit it but, with Barca's fourth consecutive victory, the Dutchman knows he has cleared the biggest hurdle in the home straight on the way to winning the

"It wasn't the most attractive of games. There were too many fouls, the ball kept going out of play, but at this stage in the season it's the result that counts," added a relieved

'Now we have to ensure that we get three points new week. The players can cope with the pressure. We've been at the top of the table for a long time so they are used to it. It's

a sort of happy pressure. "With this result we know that everything is in our hands."

A spectacular goal by Ronaldinho after 28 minutes broke the deadlock. The Brazilian showed why he is the current World Player of the Year by deftly bringing down a long pass

with his right instep before blasting the ball home from 20 metres. Rijkaard paid tribute to the player who, as much as anyone, has been the architect of Barca's suc-

cessful season. "Great players make themselves known at bad moments and that is what Ronaldinho did. His great goal calmed us down," said the

Barely two minutes after getting the opener, Ronaldinho worked his way through the Valencia midfield before laying the ball off for Samuel

The African Player of the Year, and Spanish first division's top scorer, sped past a defender before bagging his 23th league goal of the season from the left edge of the box. "I haven't seen the type of mental qualities that this team has in other Sevilla sides. They went out onto the pitch knowing what Madrid had done and they just concentrated on their own Sunday. game," acknowledged Rijkaard.

Valencia also had to play the final quarter of the match with 10 men after Spanish international defender Carlos Marchena was deservedly shown a red card for a scything tackle on Deco.

Real Madrid now face going a second consecutive season without a major trophy, their longest barren streak for 21 years, despite notching up their seventh win on-the-trot with a 5-0 thrashing of Racing Santander on Saturday.

Ronaldo and Raul Gonzalez grabbed two goals each and Michael Owen also found the net.

Third-placed Sevilla suffered a setback when they went down 1-0 at local rivals and fellow Champions League challengers Real Betis on Sevilla are now equal on points

with Villarreal, who got a rather fortunate 2-0 win at Malaga on

Two quick-fire goals midway through the second half from Juan Roman Riquelme and Santi Cazorla, the latter a thunderbolt from outside the area, got Villarreal the three

The 2-0 result exaggerated our advantage and wasn't fair to Malaga. We were fortunate but then there have been other times this season when we didn't got what we deserved," said Villarreal coach Manuel Pellegrini.

At the other end of the table Numancia were relegated when they went down 3-0 at Espanyol on

Jose Emilio Amavisca opened the scoring for the Barcelona-based side, who move up to fifth, with a shot from 20 metres after 55 min-

Ferran Corominas then quickly extended Espanyol's lead before Numancia's Patricio Graff set the seal on his club's miserable season when he put the ball into his own net seven minutes from time.

Albacete cling onto their improbable dream of survival for another week with a 3-1 victory over fellow strugglers Levante, their first win in

#### TOP SIX

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

Barcelona	35	25	6	4	69	25	81
Real	35	24	3	8	66	29	75
Sevilla	35	17	7	11	42	37	58
Villarreal	35	16	10	9	61	33	58
Espanyol	35	16	8	11	49	43	56
Betis	35	14	13	8	56	46	55



LET'S RACE TO THE TROPHY! Barcelona superstar Ronaldinho (R) celebrates his goal against Valencia with teammates Raphael Marquez (L) and Carles Puyol at Mestalla Stadium in Valencia on Sunday.

Russell Khan Bappi, Zahid Hossain, Mahbubullah Shakil, Jahangir Alam,

Rafigul Islam and Golam Mostafa

(goalkeeper), Issa Mia, Shamsuddin

Tuhin, Tabib-e-Noor, Faruque

Ahmed, Hedayetul Islam Rajib,

Shahidullah Khokon, Rafiqunnabi

Nakib, Enamul Kabir, Moshiur

Rahman, Mahmudur Re man,

Mustafizur Rahman, Asaduzzaman,

Rajibul Hasan and Ferdous Goldar

(defence), Musa Mia, Shahidullah

Titoo, Rahul Kanti Roy,

Ashiquzzaman, Mirajul Ahsan,

Mahbub Ehsan Rana, Asif-e-Noor

Hasan Ahmed, Hanif Ahmed,

Shawkat Ali, Jamal Khan and Taiyeb

Reza (midfield), Zahidul Islam Rajan,

Ashraful Islam Shishu, Russel

Mahmud Jimmy, Ariful Haque

Prince, Moududur Rahman Shuvo,

Moksed Alam Habul, Hosne

Mobarak, Imran Ahmed, Mazharul

Islam, Rafigul Islam Kamal, Russel

Uddin, Zahid Bin Talib, Ranjan Banik,

Mamun and Shamim Reza (forward).

Lt Commander BN

For Director General

#### German Open Henin's

Justine Henin-Hardenne made herself unofficial favourite for the French Open in a fortnight's time when she became the first woman for a decade to win three successive clay court build-up tournaments.

The former triple Grand Slam titleholder achieved that when she beat Nadia Petrova of Russia 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 to win a German Open final containing three rain delays which extended it to three on-off helterskelter hours.

#### BFF allows three

FROM PAGE 12

secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal. "One club can register three players and all will be able to play at the same time," he added.

The BFF had earlier decided to reduce the foreign quota to two from last year's four.
The executive committee meet-

ing also agreed to begin the metropolis school football tournament from July, informed Helal.

# Rana gets a nat'l call

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahbub Ehsan Rana was included in the 47-member national preliminary squad announced by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) yesterday for next year's Asian Games in Oatar. The talented Abahani midfielder

was out of action for the last two years following a life-term suspension but the BHF has recently withdrew his

The federation was desperately looking forward to bring back Pakistani coach Qamar Ibrahim for the residential camp but it is yet to make a contact with the former Pakistan international, who had expressed his disappointment over the BHF's non-cooperation before leaving the country.

The selected players have been asked to report to local coaches Azizul Haider Jamal and Mamunur Rashid on Thursday at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium

Ministry of Defence

Re-Tender/Tender Notice

## Rajshahi clinch age-group title

SPORTS REPORTER

Raishahi snatched an exciting 14run victory against Dhaka to clinch the title of the Phase-II Under-17 Age-group cricket development tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Needing 228 runs to win, Dhaka were bundled out for 213 in their second innings on the third and final

Mukter Ali was the most successful Rajshahi bowler picking up four wickets for 60 to be adjudged the man of the match.

Ranjan Ghosh hit 68 and Ziauddin Ahmed contributed 52 in the Dhaka's second essay.

Scores: Rajshahi 191 and 218; Dhaka 182 and 213.

### Nadal clinches Rome crown

AFP, Rome

Spain's teenage hero Rafael Nadal struggled with blisters and fatigue to win the longest final ever played at the Rome Masters Sunday, scoring an heroic 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 title victory over Guillermo Coria.

The battle lasted for five hours, 14 minutes, beating the 1979 final won by Vitas Gerulaitis over Guillermo Vilas, which ran four hours, 53 minutes.

It was also the first time in tournament history that a tiebreak decided a fifth set in the final.

"This was the best match of my career," said the exhausted Nadal, who at just 18 is now the runaway title favourite for the French Open which gets underway in Paris on May 23.

#### Russel KC

FROM PAGE 12 victory in the 52nd minute with a fineleft-footer.

Arambagh, who eliminated Mohammedan Sporting Club in the first round, had their chances but their striking pair Ritu and Ridon wasted three opportunities to reduce the margin.

Yellow cards: Aminul, Deen Mohammed (Russel) and Dulal

TEAMS

RUSSEL: Biplab (Apel), Deen Mohammed (Jet), Egir, Pradeep, Aminul, Mishu, Tanveer, Maruf, Hanif, Adel and Rachid. ARAMBAGH: Shakil (Al Amin)

Dulal, Akram, Dulal Saha, Russell (Murad), Rintu (Murshed), Juku, Dominic, Ridon, Ritu and Imrul.

PREMIERSHIP

#### Everton's delight in Liverpool loss

AFP, London

Arsenal defeated Liverpool 3-1 at Highbury on Sunday to send Everton into the Champions League and end the Anfield giants' hopes of clinching fourth place in the Premiership which would have meant automatic qualification for the European showpiece.

Now Liverpool, who face AC Milan in this season's Champions League final in Istanbul on May 25, must win the title and then hope UEFA have a change of heart and allow them to defend their crown.

"We will try to win the Champions League and then we will see," said Liverpool coach Rafael Benitez.

"We need to win the game first but I am an optimist. The year after Real Madrid finished fifth in the league, they won the title and I believe we will compete for it next

"We have played 14 games after playing in Europe but we have only won two of them and we haven't played well away from home.

But how many times do you reach the final of the Champions League and the final of the League Cup? It has not been a bad season in

Meanwhile, Arsenal need just a point from their last two games to be sure of finishing second in the Premiership which would give them automatic entry into the group stage.

That would leave Manchester United in third place and having to qualify for the later stages of the tournament.

The Gunners had gone down to a last-minute defeat against Liverpool in November when Neil Mellor's long-range drive deep into injury time put a further dent in their hopes

of retaining the championship. But on Sunday, goals from Robert Pires, Jose Antonio Reyes and Cesc Fabregas wrapped up what turned into a torid battle between two of England's heavyweights.

#### 1052

English Premiership table after Sunday's match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Chelsea	36	28	7	1	68	13	91
Arsenal	36	24	8	4	79	34	80
Man Utd	36	21	11	4	55	22	74
Everton	-36	18	-7	34	43	36	61
Liverpool	37.	16	-7	14	50	40	55
Bolton	37	15	10	12	46	42	55

Naming of Coach

### Lanka plan to defeat India

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's government-appointed cricket board is determined to defeat India in the race for a new national coach by naming their choice by the end of this week, a top official said on

"We will have a new man before the week ends," Jayantha Dharmadasa, the interim head of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), told AFP in an interview.

Australians Greg Chappell and Tom Moody are short-listed by both countries to replace the outgoing coaches: John Wright from India and John Dyson from Sri Lanka,

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced on Sunday it would finalise the new coach by June 15, but Sri Lanka appears to be faster off the blocks. "We want our coach to take over as

soon as possible to prepare for the Test series at home against the West Indies in mid-July," said Dharmadasa.

"We need a man who can take us to theWorld Cup in 2007."

Bhutia in nership of the innings. 95 balls that included two fours.

## hospital

PTI, Kolkata

Soccer star Bhaichung Bhutia was on Monday admitted to a private hospital here for tests after losing about 7.5 kgs in about a month.

"There is no cause for concern. He is ok. He will undergo a series of tests to determine the cause of the weight loss and a general feeling of weakness," East Bengal team doctor SR Dasgupta said here.

hospital for two days.

#### Bashar & co open FROM PAGE 12

Bhutia is likely to remain in the

Northamptonshire on May 20-22, before the first Test against Michael Vaughan's team starts at Lord's on TEAMS

BANGLADESH (from): Habibul Bashar (captain), Javed Omar, Nafees Iqbal, Mohammad Ashraful, Rajin Saleh, Aftab Ahmed, Khaled Mashud, Shahriar Nafees, Mushfigur Rahim, Mohammad Rafique, Mashrafee-Bin-Mortuza, Enamul Haque, Tapash Baisva, Anwar Hossain Munir, Talha Jubair and Shahadat Hossain. BRITISH UNIVERSITIES (from):

Omar Anwar, Adnan Akram, David Brown, Richard Clinton, Matthew Friedlander, Josh Knappett, Tim Linley, Alistair Maiden, Mark Pettini, Tony Palladino, Glen Read, Monty Panesar, Will Smith and Amit Suman.

LIGUE 1

# Lyon's fourth in four

Football

AFP, Paris

Lyon boss Paul Le Guen, who masterminded Lyon's fourth consecutive French title triumph, insists it's the players who deserve the plaudits.

Lyon wrapped up the title with a 2-1 win over Ajaccio on Sunday to make sure of the championship with three games still to play and join St Etienne (1967-1970) and Marseille (1989-1992) as only the third French club to have put together such a record.

"I am happy for all the players who have done a fantastic job," said

"We did good work together throughout the season, we trained with pleasure and the players were very receptive.

"Of course, we lost some matches but we always came back very quickly because the players knew what they had to do. At times in the season we attained a level of play which was remarkable."

Le Guen's men, who are now 11 points ahead of second-placed Lifle,

ball but Lille beat Paris Saint Germain 1-0 with a late goal meaning they had to put the champagne on ice.

On Sunday, in the 35th minute, Lyon striker Sidney Govou, sporting a new shaven-headed haircut, opened the scoring but Ajaccio's Yohan Demont levelled matters seven minutes after the break with an opportunist effort from the edge

defence to head past keeper

"We never thought we could win four titles in a row," said Lyon midfielder Juninho who had earlier

"Before the club finished second and third. Bur for me I have been here for four years and I haven't known

Champions League spots and a

round and the fourth-best finisher

Claudio Cacapa proved Lyon's matchwinner in the 65th minute when he outjumped the Ajaccio Stephane Porato and ensure France's second city welcome back a title to which they have become accustomed in recent years.

missed a penalty.

second place. We deserved it." The race for the two remaining

were just six minutes from taking the title on Saturday without kicking a Kevin Mirallas's goal gave Lille a boost in the race to claim second place and automatic qualification for next season's Champions League group stages. The third-placed team will have to negotiate a qualifying

> competes in the UEFA Cup. Monaco's goalless draw with Rennes on Saturday did no good to

Third-placed Monaco have now dropped three points behind Lille and Rennes, in fifth spot, did not make the most of their chance to jump above fourth-placed Marseille who lost 3-2 to Caen.

#### 10:30

French football league table after Sunday's match (played, won, drawn,

Lyon	35	20	12	3	50	21	72
Lille	35	16	13	6	46	25	61
Monaco	35	14	16	5	45	31	.58
Marseille	35	15	8	12	44	38	53
Rennes	35	14	10	11	43	36	52
Auxerre	35	14	9	12	47	43	51

Frenchman flicked a header towards

to get his fingertips to the ball but could not prevent it from creeping

overtheline.

secondattempt.

stretchedrightleg.

Dida dived to his left and managed

Del Piero tried his luck from 25

Filippo Inzaghi came on for the

Shevchenko crossed from the left

Juvenitus, looking far fresher than

Should Juve and Milan end up with the same number of points on the final

The last time a title play-off took

place was in the 1963/64 season when

yards out in the 36th minute but his

low drive was gathered by Dida at the

ineffective Jon Dahl Tomasson in the

54th minute and he nearly levelled for

the home side shortly after coming on.

and found Inzaghi in the clear but his

shot was blocked by Buffon's out-

Milan, nearly doubled their advantage

in the 65th minute when Del Piero's

day of the season, then a two-legged

headersmacked the crossbar.

ay-offwouldensue.

Bologna defeated InterMilan.

## Juve cross biggest hurdle

Football

Juventus took a major step towards lifting the Serie A title on Sunday after defeating championship rivals AC Milan 1-0 at the San Siro.

With just three games to go,

Juventus top the table with 79 points, three more than defending champi-Injury-prone France international David Trezeguet scored the winning goal in the 28th minute, heading

home Alessandro Del Piero's cross for his sixth goal in only 14 appearances this season. Del Piero headed against the bar in the second half, while Milan had a strong appeal for a penalty turned down by referee Pierluigi Collina when Gianluca Zambrotta pulled down

Cafuin the box 15 minutes from time.

Milan, looking jaded after their tough Champions League semi-final, second leg against PSV Eidhoven four days ago, laid siege to Juve's goal in a frantic finale but the Turin club held onfora precious victory.

first league success there since the 1996/97 season when they won 6-1. Inter, who are almost certainly guaranteed third place, won 3-0 at relegation-threatened Brescia, while

Juve's win at the San Siro was their

and neck in the race for fourth spot. Vincezo Iaquinta's goal gave Sampdoria thrashed Lecce 3-0 in the edge of the six-yard box and the

Udinese and Sampdoria remain neck

Inter have 65 points from their 35 matches played, six more than Udinese and Sampdoria. Fiorentina climbed out of the bottom three with a 2-1 victory at

fellow strugglers Chievo, while Siena moved further away from danger after thrashingLivorno6-3. Alberto Gilardino's penalty sealed a 2-1 win for Parma at home to Roma, easing their fears of playing in Serie B

Roma's defeat left the 2001 champions just four points clear of the drop

next season and making up for their

UEFA Cup exit in the semi-finals on

Milan, who reached the Champions League Final on away goals after their 3-1 defeat in the Netherlands on Wednesday, threatened first in the 19th minute when Andriy Shevchenko broke free of the Juventus defence. The reigning European Footballer

of the Year took the ball around Gianluigi Buffon but was forced to go wide and his cross from an acute angle was blocked by the Juve keeper. Juventus kept probing down the

that they took the lead. Del Piero picked up possession close to the touchline and dribbled past Gennaro Gattuso, only to see his cross blocked by the tenacious midfielder.

However, the ball rebounded back

1(0)28 vings and it was from the left flank Italian football league table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn,

lost, goals for, goals against, points): Juventus 35 24 7 4 59 23 79 Milan 35 23 7 5 57 22 76 35 16 17 2 63 37 65 Udinese 35 17 8 10 53 37 59 Sampdoria 35 17 8 10 41 27 59

#### to the Juve captain whose overhead kick found Trezeguet unmarked on Palermo 35 12 14 9 41 37 50

Another identical SA win

South Africa, choosing to field, again bowled with discipline to restrict West Indies to a modest 152 for seven from their allocation of 50 overs.

Shaun Pollock was the pick of the South African bowlers with two for 28 from 10 overs, and Charl Langeveldt supported with two for 33 from 10 overs on a hard, slow Sabina Park pitch when West Indies batted under sunnyskies.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Courtney Browne, under pressure to keep his place, hit the top score for West Indies of 46 not out from 59 balls that contained half-dozen boundaries.

Browne added 49, unbroken, for the eighth wicket with compatriot Bradshaw that was the highest part-

Chanderpaul contributed 36 from

37 Mardi

Gras

38 Singer

Sheryl

Grenoble

39 Lamb's

41 God,

VIP

sesses

heads?

54 Profound

55 Have

bills

56 Cavort

bitsy

58 Itsy-

57 Bohemian

Solution time: 21 mins.

51 Market

follow-up

59 Green

DOWN

1 Gambler's

impasse

3 Movie pig

4 Sand-

banks

6 Tin Man's

7 Calendar

period

9 San Fran-

10 Sheltered

16 Idolater's

writing

20 Dumbo's

"wings"

need

5 Third deg. 31 Big

8 Itsy-bitsy 38 Arrow

cisco ride 40 Thin and

11 Spruce up 42 "Chicago"

hope

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Science

sites

5 Punch

8 "Get

sound

12 Beehive

State

land

and —

18 Massage

DeForest

19 Actor

21 Pacific

neck-

wear

relative

comput-

pugilism

28 Practice

30 Upper

33 Historic

period

34 Secluded

valleys

35 Oklahoma

36 Symbol of

24 Stout

25 Apple

14 Bamako's 43 Se-

17 Sleeping 50 Pos-

15 Whole kit 46 Wedding

13 Hurry

Jacques Kallis inside the first six overs set back the Proteas in the run chase. West Indies were looking to make a fist of it, when a sharp afternoon

shower interrupted the fierce scrap

The early wickets of Smith and

with South Africa 25 for two in the ninth over. But the West Indies paid for their inept batting that bred a modest total, and Dippenaar and Gibbs had little trouble in knocking off the

remaining runs. BRIEFSCORES

22 Man, e.g.

23 Shell

out

25 Kitten's

remark

26 "Blessed

29 Opposi

32 Handle

34 Mirth

weak

lyricist

45 Garbage

barge

47 Borodin

48 Actress

49 Sports

Moore

Center

milieu

53 Spell-

43 Pop

44 Basin

WEST INDIES: 152 for 7 in 50 overs (Browne 46, Chanderpaul 36, Sarwan 19, Bradshaw 17; Pollock 2-28,

Langeveldt 2-33) SOUTH AFRICA: 124 for 2 in 26.4 overs (Dippenaar 60, Gibbs 44; Bradshaw 2-16)

wickets (D/LMethod). Man-of-the-match: Boeta Dippenaar.

Malik in

FROM PAGE 12 consult a human movement expert

to get the all-clear. In a separate incident, Malik banned for one Test and fined 75 percent of his next two international match fees for throwing a domestic game last month.

The ban means Malik, who has so far played eight Tests and 99 one-day internationals, will miss Pakistan's first Test in Barbados on their tour of the West Indies later this month.

Pakistan departs for the Caribbean tour on Wednesday where they play three one-day Result: South Africa won by eight matches and two Tests.

FXUH UFFAMUQG MFAEL. Z. HZSX GA DU?

GNXV'FX JAJSV FAUJNXI Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BOOK ABOUT A BOY



52 Shock partner WHO WAS SPANKED FOR GETTING HIMSELF ALL MUDDY: "GRIME AND PUNISHMENT."

ISPR/Misc/05/399

### Directorate General Defence Purchase New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/ suppliers/indentors (enlisted firms) for supply of the following items of Bangladesh Navy:

SI	Name of items	Date o	f selling	Date of	Currency	Tender No
No		From	To	opening		
1.	Glass Cloth (Oty: 2 Line Item)	11-05-2005	06-06-2005	07-6-2005	Local	8279
2.	Glass Lagging Rope DIA (25.4mm) Qty: 1,215 Mtr)	11-05-2005	23-05-2005	24-5-2005	Local	8084

2. Tender schedule with detail specifications/conditions will be available on payment (non-refundable) during office hours between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender may be dropped latest by 1000 hours and will be opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of the tenderers (if