

PRIMERA LIGA

Ronaldo strikes on return

Football

Real Madrid held on to beat an attack-minded Getafe 1-0 despite having England captain David Beckham sent off 11 minutes into the second half of Saturday's Primera Liga match.

Ronaldo returned from injury to put Real in front after just 18 minutes but it was their city rivals who dominated in the Bernabeu.

Real were put under further pressure after the break when Beckham's rash challenge from behind on striker Riki earned him his fourth dismissal since joining the Spanish club in 2003.

Getafe coach Bernd Schuster said: "The difference between the sides was simply in the accuracy of the shooting. We were certainly not outplayed.

"We are playing very well at present with a lot of confidence and we showed that here today."

Real moved up to fourth with 25 points, three behind leaders Barcelona who travel to Villarreal on Sunday when second-placed Osasuna visit mid-table Malaga.

Earlier on Saturday, Celta Vigo climbed to third on 26 points by beating struggling visitors Real Betis 2-1.

Uruguayan midfielder Fabian Canobbio put Celta ahead after five minutes, and Brazilian striker Fernando Baiano doubled the

lead with a header in the 20th minute.

Betis pulled a goal back in the last minute with a header from Brazilian forward Edu just before their defender Oscar Lopez was sent off.

Llorenç Serra Ferrer's side, who have not won away in the league this season, slipped to the foot of the table on goal difference after Athletic Bilbao equalised in the sixth minute of added time to draw 1-1 at home with Atletico Madrid.

Schuster had promised an attacking performance in the Bernabeu and the visitors stayed true to their word.

Riki headed just wide of the post after one minute and grazed the bar soon after with a shot from a narrow angle.

Although the visitors controlled the game, Real took the lead with their only shot on target in the first half.

Ronaldo played a one-two with Zinedine Zidane after 18 minutes and burst through the centre before firing in off the post with the outside of his foot.

However, television replays showed the Brazilian had controlled the ball with his arm on his way through.

In spite of the win, the Bernabeu crowd showed their frustration by whistling the Real players off the pitch at the end of the match.



UNLUCKY SEVEN! David Beckham of Real Madrid leaves the ground after being red carded during their Primera Liga tie against Getafe at the Bernabeu in Madrid on Saturday.

Beckham sees red again

AFP, Madrid

England skipper David Beckham was sent-off for the third time in two months on Saturday as Real Madrid edged Getafe 1-0 in the Spanish league.

Beckham received his marching orders 11 minutes into the second half for a rash challenge on Riki after the two players tussled down the touchline.

The England captain had to be restrained after leaving the Bernabeu pitch and guided down the tunnel by club officials as he argued with Getafe coach Bernd Schuster.

It was Beckham's seventh red card of his career and it will again lead to question marks over his fitness to lead England into the World Cup finals in Germany next summer.

Beckham was sent-off in England's 1-0 World Cup qualifying win against Austria at Old Trafford at the start of October and saw red again playing for Real in their home defeat to Valencia two weeks later although that was later rescinded.

Inoki comes

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time much to the frustration of the spectators.

Inoki, also a former senator, is expected to organise a number of bouts in Dhaka in February 2006. He will inspect the venues at the Bangabandhu National Stadium and Army Stadium for this purpose, according to a press release issued by Japan-Bangladesh group.

Inoki began his career in 1972 and won the WWF title two years later defeating Koraiashi.

Raqibul after

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and the home side slipped to 258-6, losing three wickets in the space of five runs. However, the final three overs produced 23 runs to take the total beyond Sri Lanka's reach.

Under pressure, Sri Lanka lost regular wickets and were all but out of the game when they crashed to 78-6 by the 20th over. Skipper Angelo Mathews' undefeated 97 could only give their total some respectability. The Lankan captain, who smashed eight fours and four sixes in his 110-ball stay, shared 83 runs with Dilan Cooray (39), one of the other three batsmen to reach the double figures. Opener Sameera Soysa made 31.

Sri Lanka will play England tomorrow in the next match at the Fatullah Stadium.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH: 281-7 in 50 overs (Taimim 18, Mehdi 35, Raqibul 121, Sakib 8, Mehrab 54, Mushfiq 2, Shuvo 13, Sonnet 3 n.o., S Karunanayake 3-66, Karunaratne 1-43, Weerasinghe 3-45).

SRI LANKA: 219-7 in 50 overs (Karunaratne 3, Soysa 31, C Fernando 3, Serasinghe 10, H Fernando 7, Mathews 97 n.o., Perera 5, Cooray 39, S Karunanayake 9 n.o., Dollar 2-42, Kamrul 1-25, Nabil 2-32, Sonnet 1-14, Shuvo 1-43).

Result: Bangladesh won by 62 runs.

It's for Inzy

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boost to beat England who had just won the Ashes."

Pakistan now take on England in five one-dayers before hosting India early next year for three Tests and five one-day internationals.

The first one-dayer against England begins here on December 10.

Soul-searching

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By contrast Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq and Shoaib Akhtar enjoyed a purple patch in the series with Mohammed Yousuf also weighing in with a double century in Lahore.

No England batsman came close to Inzamam's aggregate of 431 runs nor did any bowler look like matching Shoaib's aggression as he rounded off the series with five for 71 to confirm his rebirth as a quality performer after a host of personal and fitness problems.

Against Australia, England had made just one change when Paul Collingwood replaced the injured Simon Jones in the final Test. In Pakistan they were forced to make changes in every Test.

More importantly, as former England opener Geoff Boycott observed, the aggressive batting style which had worked against Australia did not come off on Pakistan pitches.

England collapsed on the final days of all three Tests while Ashes heroes Kevin Pietersen and Andrew Flintoff failed to realise that patience rather than panache is required on slow pitches.

Pace bowlers Andrew Flintoff (13 wickets), Steve Harmison (12) and Matthew Hoggard (11) toiled hard but, with Giles injured, there was no spin-bowling support.

As former captain Rameez Raja pointed out England had a one-dimensional attack, which was not good enough for the Pakistan pitches.

"Worse they batted badly on batting pitches," he said.

PREMIERSHIP

Gunners lose the track

Football

AFP, London

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger has savaged the performance of his players in a 2-0 defeat by Bolton that could have ended the Gunners' chances of catching Chelsea in the Premiership title race.

Wenger's men slipped to fifth in the table and the 14-point gap between the two London clubs is beginning to look too big to close.

"We had a bad game," Wenger complained after seeing his side well-beaten by first half goals from Aboulaye Faye and Stelios Giannakopoulos.

Chelsea maintained their 100 percent home record and their ten-point advantage over Manchester United with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Middlesbrough, while United kept up the chase by beating manager-less Portsmouth 3-0.

Arsenal's stumble leaves them out of the top four and 14 points adrift of Chelsea.

Liverpool moved up to third with their sixth straight win and clean sheet, Peter Crouch finally opening his account for them in a 3-0 win over Wigan.

Middlesbrough, who had beaten both Arsenal and Man Utd this season, frustrated Chelsea until the 62nd minute, when England captain John Terry headed in from a Damien Duff corner.

"They had the first chance of the game and they gave us a game until the last moment," acknowledged Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho.

Paul Scholes's first league goal of the season, a glancing header from a Ryan Giggs corner, and late efforts from Wayne Rooney and Ruud van Nistelrooy earned Man Utd the points at Old Trafford.

The evening game was preceded by a minute's applause for George Best on the day of the club legend's funeral in Northern Ireland.

Crouch, the tallest striker in English football, ended a 22-match run without a goal for Liverpool or England with a first-half double, a deflected effort being followed by a confidently-taken second.

Luis Garcia completed an impressive win by deflecting Fernando Morientes' goal-bound header over the line with his chest, 20 minutes from the end.

Under-pressure Newcastle manager Graeme Souness had a massive let-off when Aston Villa's Gareth Barry blasted a late penalty over the

bar in a 1-1 draw at St James' Park.

Souness, who had been tipped for the sack if Newcastle lost, watched in dismay as Villa midfielder Gavin McCann cancelled out Alan Shearer's first half penalty to earn the visitors a point with 15 minutes left.

Tottenham leapfrogged north London rivals Arsenal and moved up to fourth place with a 3-2 win over Sunderland in an entertaining, sea-saw affair at White Hart Lane.

Michael Carrick struck the winner 13 minutes from the end. Egypt striker Mido and Robbie Keane, with his 50th for the club, had been on the mark earlier for Spurs. Dean Whitehead, who had given his side an early lead, and Anthony Le Tallec scored for Sunderland.

Everton's recovery from a disastrous autumn gathered pace with a 2-0 win at Blackburn, their first win this season that was not by a 1-0 scoreline.

Scotland winger James McFadden and Spanish midfielder Mikel Arteta scored first-half goals to make it four wins in five matches for the Merseysiders.

Fulham had skipper Luis Boa Morfe sent off just before half-time but held out for a 0-0 draw at West Brom.

SERIE A

Mixed fortunes for Milans

Football

AFP, Rome

AC Milan's hopes of catching Serie A leaders Juventus suffered a major setback on Saturday after they went down to a shock 2-1 defeat at plucky Chievo.

Kakha Kaladze put the visitors in front but goals from Sergio Pellissier and Simone Tiribocchi consigned Milan to their third defeat of the season.

Milan's loss could see them eight points off the pace if Juventus win at third-placed Fiorentina on Sunday, while Chievo, who have only lost twice in the league, climbed to fifth.

Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti must now try and raise the morale of his team for Tuesday's crunch Champions League clash against

Schalke 04 at the San Siro where a defeat could see them eliminated from the competition.

Inter Milan are level on 29 points with Fiorentina in fourth place after scraping a 1-0 home win over Ascoli.

Brazilian striker Adriano scored the only goal in the 24th minute with a curling free-kick that clipped the underside of the bar before crossing the line.

Inter should have wrapped up the points much sooner, but Esteban Cambiasso and Obafemi Martins both missed easy chances.

In Verona, Pellissier shot into the side-netting before Milan took the lead in the 22nd minute.

Andrea Pirlo chipped a free-kick towards the edge of the six-yard box and Kaladze's diving header was superbly saved by Chievo keeper Lorenzo Squizzato. However, the Georgian defender quickly got up off the floor to tuck home the rebound.

After Andriy Shevchenko went close to extending Milan's advantage, the home side were denied by the woodwork.

Marco Malago found space 20 yards from goal and his fierce right-footed drive struck the base of the post.

Chievo were rewarded for their persistence in first-half stoppage time with a clever move that caught the Milan defence napping.

Federico Giuntini's chip was flicked on by David Mandelli and Pellissier nipped in ahead of Kaladze to bury a short pass by Nelson Dida.

Tiribocchi came on for Brazilian striker Amauri in the 80th minute and Chievo were in front within seconds.

The 27-year-old substitute opened up the Milan defence after playing a quick one-two with Nigerian Victor Obinna before curling a right-footed past Dida.

Hosts in a mess



REUTERS, Frankfurt

Violence, poor organisation and desperately poor soccer combined to show the ugly side of the German game this weekend just as the country prepares to welcome the world.

Some 1,650 journalists, 500 FIFA officials and coaches from the 32 qualifying teams are heading to Leipzig for the draw for the 2006 World Cup finals on Friday, December 9. An estimated 320 million people will watch the draw by television.

Germany will hope few of the visitors arrived early enough to catch Saturday's Bundesliga programme.

Problems started on Friday when Kaiserslautern's match at home to Eintracht Frankfurt had to be called off after a crack appeared in a stand at the Fritz-Walter-Stadion.

It was the latest in a series of problems to hit Germany's World Cup stadiums amid a 1.5 billion euros programme to build and renovate 12 venues for the finals.

Hamburg SV's 3-1 win over Cologne was then spoiled when midfielder Alexander Laas was hit in the face by a drumstick thrown from the Cologne section of the crowd.

Television pictures showed Laas covered in blood being carried away from the touchline by his team captain Daniel van Buyten before receiving treatment.

"Bloody football," ran the front page headline in the top-selling Bild am Sonntag newspaper. "A bleak day for the game," the newspaper added.

Nuremberg's Stefan Kiessling was also hit by an object thrown from the crowd in the game against Borussia Muenchengladbach, although he was unhurt.

"We shouldn't panic," World Cup organising committee vice-president Wolfgang Niersbach said on DSF television on Sunday. "The World Cup is not under threat."

"The old stadiums with running

tracks were obviously safer in this regard but video monitoring means people cannot get away with this."

Bild also reported that a man was fatally stabbed on Friday evening after an argument about soccer.

The incident came a few days after 100 German and Polish hooligans started a mass brawl on the German side of the border.

Hooliganism is one of the worst fears for World Cup organisers as they work with police on the security arrangements for the finals, which begin on June 9 in Munich and finish on July 9 in Berlin.

Saturday's feature match between VfB Stuttgart and champions Bayern Munich was spoiled by German international Sebastian Deisler's red card in the 42nd minute for an angry retaliation against Ludovic Magnin.

The match was a dire spectacle. As such it was pretty representative of the afternoon as a whole, with just 10 goals scored in the six matches that did go ahead.

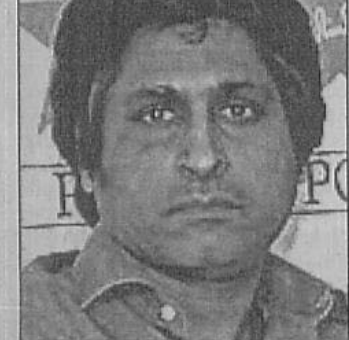


Did U Know?

Australia's 147-run triumph in the first ODI is their seventh in succession over New Zealand since December 8, 2004.



Talk Turkey



Rameez Raja

(Former Pakistan cricket captain)
 "Inzamam is well respected. He is a man of few words and they all listen to him. He has grown into the leadership role. He is the one who dictates terms and gets performances out of the field."

Ctg, Khulna

FROM PAGE 12

Faisal 77 not out, Dhiman 8, Hasan 10 not out, extras 27; Munir 1-45, Mosharrif 1-51, Sharif 1-57, Rafique 3-59).

RAJSHAHI-SYLHET
 RAJSHAHI: First innings 236-8 in 90 overs (Farhad 48, Anisur Rahman 26, Naeem 58, Hasanzaman 23, Masud 12, Mushfiqur 15 not out, Alamgir 18 not out, extras 25; Nazmul 2-53, Hasibul 3-40, Enamul 3-53).

3rd day also

FROM PAGE 12

India's one-day internationals here against New Zealand in 2003 and South Africa in the last fortnight were abandoned without a ball being bowled.

The second Test against Australia in October last year was drawn after the final day's play was washed out with India on the edge of victory.

The touring Sri Lankans were dismayed their first Test series on Indian soil in eight years had begun badly.

"We were all so excited about this series, so this is really disappointing," said team manager Michael Tissera.

"The youngsters want to go out and play, not stay confined to their hotel rooms every day."

The second Test will be played in New Delhi from December 10-14 and the third in either Kanpur or Ahmedabad from Dec 18-22. Clear weather is forecast in all three cities this month.

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Vanderlei Luxemburgo's position as Real Madrid coach hung in the balance on Sunday after a lacklustre 1-0 win over Getafe in the Primera Liga which ended with the team being jeered off the Bernabeu pitch.

Spanish media reported on Sunday that club president Florentino Perez, director of football Arrigo Sacchi and other members of the board met after Saturday's game to discuss looking for a replacement.

The coach of reserve team Real Madrid Castilla, Juan Ramon Lopez Caro, was being put forward as a possible stop-gap appointment until the end of the season when a more recognised figure could be lured to Madrid.

Luxemburgo was appointed in December 2004 to replace Mariano Garcia Remon and is the fifth coach to have run the team in two and a half years.

Vicente del Bosque was sacked in 2003 and replaced by Alex

Awaiting the axe

Ferguson's number two at Manchester United, Carlos Queiroz.

Former Spain coach Jose Antonio Camacho was brought in at the start of the 2004 season but walked out after three league games to leave his assistant Garcia Remon holding the reins.

Real have not won a major trophy since Del Bosque steered them to their last league title in 2003.

Luxemburgo impressed in his first few months in charge and steered Real to a second place finish last season, four points behind champions Barcelona.

The club invested around 90 million euros (105 million dollars) in new players during the close season to bring in highly-rated Brazilian forwards Robinho and Julio Baptista and Spain defender Sergio Ramos among others.

Injuries to key players have not helped Real's progress this season, but more than anything it is the side's lack of flair that has caused consternation.

The 3-0 home defeat to arch-rivals Barcelona just over two weeks ago ended with the Bernabeu fans applauding the opposition and whistling the home players.

Saturday's narrow victory over modest local rivals Getafe, which was not helped by David Beckham's second half dismissal, did little to appease the fans.

Real are fourth in the Primera Liga with 25 points from 14 games, three behind leaders Barcelona who were playing at Villarreal on Sunday while second-placed Osasuna travelled to face Malaga.

Injured Vaughan goes home

AFP, Lahore

England captain Michael Vaughan returned home early Sunday to get an expert opinion on a knee injury ahead of a one-day series against Pakistan.

"I will see a specialist on Monday and get an opinion on my right knee," Vaughan said after his Ashes-winning side lost a three-Test series 2-0 against Pakistan on Saturday.

Vaughan, 31, suffered the injury during a warm-up match which forced him to skip the first Test at Multan last month.

different reasons.

England have summoned all-rounder Ian Blackwell and pacer-mogul Kabir Ali and put batsman Ian Bell on standby in case Vaughan fails to return for one-dayers.

Batsman Vikram Solanki has joined England's one-day squad.

Muktijodha

FROM PAGE 12

Club 4-0, BJMC beat Narayananji City Chess Club 3-1, Titas Club beat Mohakkhali Prodip Sangha 2.5-1.5, Sonali Bank beat Shahid Mufi Kashed Daba Dal 3-1 and Farashganj Sporting Club beat Anushilan Daba KC 2.5-1.5.



Indian High Commissioner Veena Sikri (L) is seen with tournament committee members (L-R) MA Hai Sarker, Shamsur Rahman and Captain Munir during the prize distribution ceremony of the inter-club sports carnival 2005 held at the Gulshan Club tennis court recently.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Humpty again?"
 - 4 Physique
 - 7 Speak unclearly
 - 8 "From Here to Eternity" author
 - 10 Grassy plain
 - 11 Critter
 - 13 "Where have you been all these years?"
 - 16 Foundation
 - 17 "Finished at last!"
 - 18 Spotted
 - 19 Greetings
 - 20 "Pretty Woman" actor
 - 21 Choker
 - 23 Small, round and shining
- DOWN
- 14 Breakfast
 - 1 Gazelle's kin
 - 2 --ho
 - 3 Caverns
 - 4 Lulu of a slip-up
 - 5 Cat--tails
 - 6 Show-room at a sample
 - 7 Black-thorn
 - 8 First name of 8-Across
 - 9 Talked ones back
 - 10 Law deg. 40 123-45-6789 org. "Rescue Me"
 - 12 Denis of 29 Phantoms' balliwick
 - 28 Beach sights
 - 29 Phantoms' balliwick
 - 30 Tennessee
 - 31 Portent
 - 32 "Of course"
 - 34 Eve's grandson
 - 35 Glory

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CRYPTOQUIP

RP HGF PGOOGQ N IGISANRO

QRAE N CRPPXZXMA

CZRMS R JFXWW HGF

TRJEA IENWX TNMENAANM

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE TRAVEL AGENCY'S OFFICE, A LARGE SIGN ON THE DOOR READS "VENICE, ANYONE?"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals U

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.