

# Kaka gets Milan thru'



AFP, Milan

AC Milan breathed a huge sigh of relief on Tuesday after squeezing into the knockout stages of the Champions League with a narrow 3-2 victory over Schalke 04 at the San Siro.

A loss to the Germans could have seen the Italian giants crash out, but a double from Kaka after Andrea Pirlo had opened the scoring gave them a nervy 3-2 win over the Germans which put them through as Group E leaders.

Milan's confidence was shattered by last Saturday's 2-1 defeat at Chievo which left them eight points behind Juventus in Serie A.

And anxiety got the better of their normally unruffled captain Paolo Maldini who almost handed Schalke the lead in the 27th minute.

In trying to play the ball out of defence, he succeeded only in gifting possession to Hamit Altintop who raced clear before firing narrowly wide of Nelson Dida's goal.

Maldini injured himself trying to catch Altintop and was replaced by Dario Simic.

Milan made the breakthrough in the 42 minute after Kaka was brought down 25 yards from goal.

Pirlo took the resulting free-kick and curled a sublime right-footed shot past Frank Rost and into the top corner.

However, the home side's celebrations were cut short as Schalke restored parity a minute before half-time.

Brazilian Lincoln curled a free-kick to the back post from the left wing and Poulsen sneaked in behind the Milan defence to plant a downward header past Dida.

Milan refused to be rattled and they restored their advantage seven minutes after the restart.

Andriy Shevchenko rode three tackles before laying the ball off to his right and Kaka drove a right-footed shot into the bottom corner from an acute angle.

Milan pulled further ahead on the hour, picking up the pieces after Shevchenko has misused his shot to lash a low drive past Rost.

Lincoln revived Schalke's hopes six minutes later when his shot from the edge of the box took a wicked deflection off Shevchenko's shins and sent Dida the wrong way.

Milan had to endure several scares but they held on to their slender lead with some dogged defending.

Kaka refused to take all the applause for steering Milan into the knockout stages.

"I'm just happy to have helped the team," said the 23-year-old Brazil international.

"Now we have to keep calm and maintain the same mentality. We survived a difficult group."

Dutch side PSV Eindhoven went through in second from the group after beating Fenerbahce 2-0.

The glamour game of the night was played out at Stamford Bridge where reigning champions Liverpool drew 0-0 with English Premiership titleholders Chelsea.

Both teams had already done enough to qualify with the result leaving Liverpool topping Group G.

Real Madrid's first game in the post Wanderley Luxemburgo era ended in an embarrassing 2-1 defeat to Olympiakos.

The Greeks' first win of the 2005/06 Champions League season was achieved against a weakened Spanish opposition when

Brazilian striker Rivaldo scored in the final three minutes.

Real, with second team mentor Ramon Lopez Caro in temporary charge after Luxemburgo's sacking at the weekend, took the lead when 19-year-old defender Sergio Ramos headed a Raul Bravo free-kick in the seventh minute.

Turkish defender Erol Bulut levelled in the 50th minute before Rivaldo claimed the winner.

Olympiakos' historic win meant little, however, as they finished bottom of Group F which was won by French champions Lyon, who beat Rosenberg 2-1, with Real in second.



PHOTO: AFP

AC Milan's Brazilian midfielder Kaka celebrates after scoring one of his two goals against FC Schalke 04 in their Champions League clash at the San Siro on Tuesday night.

## Becks the richest

AFP, London

David Beckham has topped the latest English football rich list with an estimated fortune over twice that of his nearest rival Dennis Bergkamp.

FourFourTwo magazine claims the England captain is worth 75 million pounds, far outstripping Arsenal's Dutch forward who is on 37 million pounds and Newcastle striker Michael Owen, who is third on 30 million pounds.

Wayne Rooney has risen to 20th but, with just 8 million pounds to his name, he is a long way short of either of his international team-mates.

Former Manchester United skipper Roy Keane may be out of a job at the moment but he is unlikely to go short with wealth estimated at 25 million pounds.

## Pekerman to duck WC draw

AFP, Leipzig

The coaches of the 32 nations that have qualified for the 2006 World Cup will all be at Friday's draw with the sole exception of Argentina manager Jose Pekerman.

England's Sven-Goran Eriksson, Australia's Guus Hiddink, Japan manager Zico and other leading coaches will all witness the draw live, Wolfgang Niersbach, vice-president of the organising committee, revealed at a press conference.

"All the managers will be in Leipzig expect for Pekerman," said Niersbach.

"The Argentina Football Federation did not give a reason for his absence," Argentina are one of the eight seeds for Friday's draw.

## Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Young Pegasus and Rupali Bank won their respective matches in the First Division Cricket League yesterday.

Young Pegasus defeated Azad Sporting Club by 12 runs as they scored 234 for eight wickets and dismissed their opponents for 222 runs at the City Club ground.

At BKSP, Rupali Bank earned a comfortable 57-run victory over Uttara Sporting Club.

Rupali Bank made 214 for 7 and Uttara, in reply, were all out for 157.

## Greg befriends

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Saturday knowing only a big score will prolong his international career.

Chappell refused to read too much into Ganguly's failure in the first Test, saying: "I would not make much of it. What can I say? The whole team made only 167 runs."

The former Australian captain, who took over as Indian coach in June for a two-year term, said the showdown with Ganguly was not an issue anymore -- as long as he was performing.

"One thing I have learnt about life is that forget the past, but do not forget the lesson you learn from it," said Chappell.

"He (Ganguly) wants to play cricket for India. I want to be a good coach. And I want to be the coach of a good Indian team."

"But for that to happen, you need to have the group that blends well."

"It's not about Sourav. It's about Indian cricket and how it goes forward. He is as much a part of the team as anyone else. The only thing that is important in this whole exercise is performance."

Chappell also took a swipe at former selector Yashpal Sharma for suggesting the coach was targeting players like Ganguly, Virender Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh and Zaheer Khan because he did not get along with them.

"I don't have that much clout," he said. "All I can say is that Yashpal doesn't really understand what is going on."

"I don't want to get sidetracked. I don't want to get involved in a slanging match. He is frustrated that he lost a job which he obviously wanted to keep."

"I had no part in him losing his job, but he had to take it out on someone."

Sharma and two other known Ganguly supporters, Pranob Roy and Gopal Sharma, were sacked from the selection committee last week after political heavyweight Sharad Pawar wrested control of the cricket board from Jagmohan Dalmiya.

Chappell said he had no problems with the Indian system where the coach and captain do not have a vote in selection meetings -- as long as their views were taken seriously.

"I have always had a belief that the coach and captain should have a greater say in selections," he said. "Whether that means a vote or not depends upon the kind of system that each place has."

"At least right now the selectors are listening to what we have to say and if that happens, I am fine with the current arrangement."

# Rangers the first Scots



AFP, Glasgow

Rangers made Scottish football history when they qualified from the group stages of the Champions League on Tuesday after a 1-1 draw at home to Inter Milan.

With the other Group H match between Armedia Bratislava and FC Porto finishing goalless, a point was enough for Alex McLeish's side to clinch second place, making them the first team from Scotland to make it through to the last 16 of the competition.

McLeish is still expected to be sacked due to his team's poor domestic form, which has seen them drop to fifth place in the Scottish Premier League during a run of 10 games without a win, but the result means he can at least leave with his head held high.

Rangers had created the first goalscoring opportunity in the 14th minute when Chris Burke's cross from the right-wing found Hamed Namouchi at the backpost but his header was instinctively blocked by defender Marco Andreoli.

Inter were slowly beginning to feel their way into the match but having already won the group there was little impetus to their play.

Adriano had the visitor's first strike at goal in the 22nd minute but his shot from 25 yards was deflected wide by Greek defender Sotirios Kyrgiakos.

But in the 30th minute the Inter striker did find the net. Serbia-Montenegro international Sinisa Mihajlovic's inswinging corner found Adriano, who had peeled off his marker Marvin Andrews, and from six-yards he powered a header into

the corner of the net giving Rangers goalkeeper Ronald Waterreus.

To the home side's credit they refused to be put out of their stride by this setback and within eight minutes they were back on level terms.

Belgian international Thomas Buffel collected the ball just inside his own half and played a beautiful sliding pass into the path of Lovenkrands who found himself through on goal.

There was still plenty for the Danish forward to do but his pace ensured he could not be caught by the chasing defenders and when Inter keeper Francesco Toldo came out to meet him 12 yards from goal Lovenkrands slotted the ball past him with his left foot into the right-hand corner of the net.

At the start of the second-half both teams seemed reluctant to

push too many men forward and with both defences on top the two keepers at either end had little to do.

With the score in Slovakia still at 0-0 going into the last few minutes Rangers knew they were on the verge of rewriting the record books and were now content to play possession football.

In the 87th minute they were handed another boost when Inter were reduced to 10 men when Cristiano Zanetti received a second yellow card for kicking the ball away.

Rangers had one more chance to secure qualification without relying on the other Group H match when Bob Malcolm's free-kick was met by Namouchi but from six-yards he headed over.

However, the miss proved irrelevant and Rangers were in the knockout phase.



PHOTO: REUTERS

WE HAVE MADE HISTORY: Peter Lovenkrands of Rangers roars for joy after scoring the equaliser against Inter Milan during their Champions League match at Ibrox Stadium in Glasgow on Tuesday.

## Leonine keep the lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Leonine Chess Club maintained their solo lead in the Dutch-Bangla Bank First Division Chess League after the end of the eleventh round at the federation hall room yesterday.

Leonine outplayed Shahid Mufti Kashed Daba Dal 4-0 to extend their lead to 38 points.

Bangladesh Biman followed the leader with 36.5 and Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kirra Chakra retained the third spot with 36 points.

## Bangladesh

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Shuvo 10, Mehdi 19, extras 11; Karunanayake 2-55, Weerasinghe 3-39.

**SRI LANKA UNDER-19:** 151 all out in 41.1 overs (Soyza 46, Perara 26, extras 6; Kamrul 3-40, Nabil 2-25, Shuvo 2-30).

**Result:** Bangladesh under-19 won by 102 runs.

## Cruciani warns

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"I wanted some video footage of our opponents, but they were not available"

He was also a bit worried about the humidity in the port city as his players had already complained of sweating heavily.

"We play the second and third matches in the night so it would not be a problem. Today, we are here after a long journey. So we got a bit tired," said Joy, the new Bangladesh captain.

"Bhutan have never surprised anyone in this region. So, we will start as favourites. But we have to work hard on the field. I have a very strong team and I have my confidence in the boys," the defensive midfielder added.

"We don't have a chance to relax. Our first target is to secure a win and then go for goals. I need three points first."

Probable Bangladesh line-up (4-3-1-2): Aminul, Hassan Al Mamun, Sujan, Rajani, Titu, Arman, Joy, Alfaz, Kanchan and Farhad.

## The Indian

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with his liver. It can happen to athletes because they work hard. But he has been treated well and look, he looks like a young man now."

Nayeemuddin also informed that Baichung was okay.

"We have had very little practice together but I can see he is at his best. Although the camp started last month, we did not get them together often because of their domestic commitments. We got an important player like Alvito just three days before our departure from Delhi," said Naeemuddin, who guided Brothers Union to win their first Dhaka Premier League title last season before being recalled to the Indian national team.

"We might be less prepared but I hope that our battle with Bangladesh in the group would be an interesting one," he said.

# Mourinho, Benitez feud on



AFP, London

Jose Mourinho insisted football's authorities treated him differently to everybody else after defending his part in the furor that followed Chelsea star Michael Essien's sickening tackle on Dietmar Hamann during the goalless Champions League draw with reigning champions Liverpool.

Rafael Benitez reacted furiously to Essien's lunge and, as he protested on the touchline, Chelsea boss Mourinho clearly gestured at the Liverpool manager.

"I was telling him he was crying all the game," said an unrepentant Mourinho, who claimed not to have seen the incident that sparked the controversy at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground here Tuesday.

"I was telling him: 'It's enough. Sit down.' Referees are always very direct and strong to put me in my place, but other managers can do what they want."

The Portuguese drew a direct comparison between himself and Manchester City manager Stuart Pearce who, in a recent Premiership game, ran onto the pitch and placed the ball for a free-kick which Blackburn were delaying taking.

"You can imagine if I do what Pearce did," he said. "For Jose Mourinho it is a three-month ban."

Not for the first time, Mourinho seemed to be deliberately drawn

attention to himself to deflect attention from an on-field matter of some seriousness. So bad was the tackle that Hamann called it the worst he had experienced.

The challenge clearly upset Benitez at the time, but he was a model of calm when he spoke to reporters.

"I could see the tackle," said the Spaniard after seeing his team pip Chelsea in the race to finish top of Group G after both clubs had already qualified for the second place before kick-off.

"It was just in front of the bench. I've also seen Dietmar Hamann's leg. It's clear. If you can see the video you will have your opinion. You cannot change things, so I don't want to talk about them."

He did, though, suggest that European soccer governing body UEFA should examine the incident.

"I have an idea that in this kind of situation they should look at the video. Not for changing the game, but if the referee has made a mistake."

About Mourinho's comments he was similarly unforthcoming. "I think he talks a lot," Benitez said.

Mourinho generally was complimentary about Liverpool's defensive resolve in a game of few chances.

"It shows the way teams play," he said. "They defend very well. They defend with everybody behind the ball. They press very well, they pressure the spaces. They don't give you many chances to create, so when you have two chances in the

game and don't score one, the game is the same from the first to the last minute," added Mourinho, whose reigning English champions and current table-toppers are presently 12 points ahead of Liverpool in the Premiership.

"To be fair I don't think there are many teams in the Champions League who could come to Stamford Bridge and defend like that," said the Blues chief who last season saw Liverpool hold Chelsea to a goalless stalemate before winning the second leg of their European semi-final 1-0.

The clean sheet was Liverpool's ninth in succession and a proud Benitez said: "When you play Chelsea you have to control the midfield and the second ball because they play a lot of long balls," he said.

"You sometimes need to keep the ball and Peter Crouch and Fernando Morientes can do that. The team is working really hard in defence. We try to go forwards also, but against Chelsea it is not easy."

Topping the group means Liverpool should, in theory at least, have an easier draw when the knockout stage begins in February but Mourinho did his best to play down Chelsea's second place position.

"I wouldn't say I am happy to finish second, but it is the same to finish second or first. I'm not happy because we did win the game but it's an open draw."

# Symonds savages Kiwis

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bowling of Jacob Oram in the 19th over when he had scored just 13.

Clarke played a vital role in supporting his team mate, coming in when the innings was delicately poised at 101 for four in the 22nd over. His unbeaten 82 came off 77 balls and included nine fours.

New Zealand opener Lou Vincent chose a high-risk but successful strategy in opening the run chase, attacking Australia's opening bowlers Lee and Nathan Bracken. Despite pulling a thigh muscle and bringing on a runner, his bold stroke-making seemed little affected.

But a wild swing at Lewis resulted in an edge to wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist, ending Vincent's swashbuckling 71 off 48 balls, including nine fours and two sixes.

From 93 without loss, the New Zealand innings lost momentum with five wickets falling for the addition of just 63 runs.

New Zealand saw a glimmer of hope when allrounders Cairns and Jacob Oram set about repairing the damage. Cairns in particular mixed judicious defence with his typical big hitting, including two consecutive sixes off Symonds.

The New Zealand pair put on 81 runs before Cairns holed out to Lee at long on for 60, giving Lewis his third wicket.

Oram's 41 and McCallum kept New Zealand's hopes alive and helped restore their pride after their humiliating 147-run capitulation in the first match of the Chappell-Hadlee series.

However, the loss means they

will only have pride to play for in Christchurch on Saturday.

New Zealand skipper Daniel Vettori said there was "massive" disappointment New Zealand but added he was proud of the way his side came back into the match.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second match of the one-day Chappell-Hadlee cricket series between New Zealand and Australia at the Westpac Stadium in Wellington on Wednesday:

**AUSTRALIA**  
Gilchrist c Cairns b Mills 8  
Katich run out H Marshall 36  
Ponting c McCallum b Mills 28  
Hodge c H Marshall b Cairns 0  
Symonds b Vettori 156  
Clarke not out 82  
Hussey not out 1  
Extras: (lb-4, w-3, nb-4) 11  
Total: (For 5 wks in 50 overs) 322  
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-47, 3-50, 4-101, 5-321

Did not bat: Lee, Hogg, Bracken, Clark

Super-sub: Lewis for Katich

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mills	10	0	60	2
Franklin	4	0	36	0
Cairns	9	0	66	1
Oram	5	0	39	0
Styris	10	0	46	0
Vettori	10	0	51	1
Astle	2	0	20	0

**NEW ZEALAND**

Vincent c Gilchrist b Lewis 71  
Astle c Clark b Lewis 22  
McMillan c Hussey b Clark 9  
H Marshall lbw b Hogg 10  
Styris c and b Hogg 25

Cairns c Lee b Lewis 60  
Oram c Clark b Lee 41  
McCallum run out Clarke 49  
J Marshall run out Hussey 6  
Vettori not out 8  
Mills run out Lewis 0  
Extras: (lb-9, w-8, nb-2) 19  
Total: (All out in 49.5 overs) 320  
Fall of wickets: 1-93, 2-98, 3-109, 4-134, 5-156, 6-237, 7-271, 8-295, 9-319

Super-sub: J Marshall for Franklin

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	10	0	85	1
Bracken	7	0	49	0
Lewis	9.5	0	56	3
Clark	10	0	50	1
Hogg	7	0	34	2
Symonds	6	0	37	0

**Result: Australia won by 2 runs and lead the 3-ODI series 2-0.**

**Man-of-the-match: Andrew Symonds.**

**Toss: Australia.**

**Umpires: Aleem Dar and Brent Bowden.**

**Third ODI: December 10.**

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negotiated the remaining overs with Mahmud.

Earlier Chittagong were bundled out for 276 resuming the day on 235-5.

Dhaka coach Sarwar Imran showered his praise on Riyad while his Chittagong counterpart Minhazul Abedin advised the young batsmen to follow a supremely fit Mahmud at the age of 34.

## KHULNA-BARISAL

Barisal secured their first points after two consecutive defeats when they thrived on two half-centuries by Imran Ahmed and Nasiruddin Faruque to score 149-4 in 60 overs in their second innings to settle for a draw at the Khulna Divisional Stadium.

Resuming the day on 96-4, Habibul Bashar's men were all out for 145 in 69 overs setting a 251-run winning target for the whipping boys. Pacer Arafat Salahuddin took two more wickets to finish with 5-27.

Barisal opener Imran led from front with an unbeaten 60 off 180 balls to enable his side secure two points and he shared a 92-run second wicket partnership with Faruque, who added 123-ball 53.

Spinner Jamaluddin Babu returned a match haul of eleven wickets when he claimed three for 45 in the second essay.

## RAJSHAHI-SYLHET

The match between Rajshahi and Sylhet saw a tamed draw at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

## POINTS TABLE (FOUR-DAY)

Team	M	W	D	Lead	D	Loss	AB/Tie	L	Pts
Dhaka	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	14	
Sylhet	3	1	1	0	0	1	1	10	
Khulna	3	1	1	0	0	1	1	10	
Rajshahi	3	1	0	1	0	0	1	8	
Chittagong	3	1	1	0	0	1	1	10	
Barisal	3	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	