PRIMERA I IGA

Ronaldinho keeps Barca atop

Football

Brazilian World Cup star Ronaldinho brilliantly illustrated his status as European Footballer of the Year with a breathtaking goal which gave Barcelona a 2-1 win over Sevilla and kept his side on top of the Spanish league.

The 25-vear-old scored the winner, and his 10th league goal of the season, in the 78th minute when he dummied over the ball, picked up a smart reverse flick from Henrik Larsson, dribbled between two defenders before slotting the ball

Sevilla had earlier stunned Barca by taking a 63rd minute lead in Sunday's Nou Camp clash.

Fredi Kanoute scored his first goal since his eight-million-dollar move from Tottenham when he prodded home from close range after the ball had come back off the

But Samuel Eto'o levelled iust

home a Ronaldinho corner which the Sevilla defence, who had conceded only eight goals all season before Sunday, failed to clear.

It was the Cameroon international's 13th goal of the season.

Real Madrid began Spanish championship life under Juan Ramon Lopez Caro, their fifth coach in the last two and a half years, with a 2-0 win at Malaga to go third.

Caro, who succeeded the sacked Vanderley Luxemburgo, was in charge of his first league game and his side responded well to his new 4-5-1 formation with French international Zinedine Zidane key to

It was Zidane who created the first goal when he swung over a corner for Sergio Ramos to head

Four minutes later, Real were 2in front when Brazilian ace Robinho picked up a pass from Zidane, waltzed past two defenders to drive the ball past Francesc Arnau in the Malaga goal for his third of the

the running to win the signature of former Manchester United skipper Roy Keane, moved into third place on 28 points, six behind leaders Barcelona while Osasuna, level on points with Barca, are second on goal difference.

"I am happy and proud because the players worked exceptionally well," said the 42-year-old Lopez Caro whose first game in charge had been the Champions League defeat at Olympiakos in midweek.

That proved academic, however, as Real had already made sure of their place in the last 16.

Real will face a test of their resolve next weekend when they entertain Osasuna whose 1-0 win against Mallorca gave them their eighth win in eight homes games

Cameroon international Pierre Achille Webo scored the only goal of the game after six minutes at the El

Top BBC

for Flintoff

Year award for 2005.

gious BBC Sports Personality of the

the favourite to win following his

man-of-the-series role in the sum-

mer Test success over Australia.

The 28-year-old all-rounder was

Flintoff, who is currently in

Pakistan on tour, topped the public

poll ahead of his captain Michael

Vaughan, Liverpool's Champions

League-winning skipper Steven

Gerrard, record-breaking

yachtswoman Ellen MacArthur,

ennis star Andy Murray and light-

welterweight boxing champion

Second went to MacArthur and

award



IT'S ME AGAIN: Barcelona's Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho celebrates after scoring a gem of a goal against Sevilla in their Primera Liga clash at the Nou Camp on Sunday.

Dravid India's 3rd top Test batsman

Cricket

Captain Rahul Dravid on Monday added another feather to his cap by becoming the third Indian to aggregate 8,000 runs in Test cricket.

Dravid achieved the milestone when he reached 50 with a cover driven four off Dilhara Fernando in India's second innings on the third day of the second Test against Sri

The Bangalore batsman, whose

Vaas takes 300 Test wickets

REUTERS, New Delhi

Chaminda Vaas removed India opener Gautam Gambhir on Monday to become the second Sri Lankan bowler to claim 300 Test

The 31-year-old fast bowler reached the milestone on the third day of the second Test against India when he trapped Gambhir leg before wicket in the third over of the second innings.

The Sri Lankan vice-captain is playing in his 90th Test.

By reaching the 300-wicket mark, Vaas emulated off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who is the second highest wicket-taker in Test history with 577 victims so far.

"I have been waiting for this milestone for long and this is a very happy moment for me," said Vaas. "I think we still have a chance in the match if we restrict the lead to around 350.

Vaas praised Muralitharan saying successes often came

"Murali is definitely one of the best bowlers in the world and he has helped me a lot by bowling from the other end keeping the pressure on







Ehsan Mani

(ICC president) "It is a great disappointment to see this former great player, particularly

While reacting to Wasim Akram's

half-century came off 75 balls and

England's Ashes star Andrew contained six fours, was run out Flintoff on Sunday won the prestithree runs later for 53.

Only Sachin Tendulkar (10.281) and Sunil Gavaskar (10,122) have scored more runs than Dravid.

Dravid, 32, also became the 15th batsman to join the elite run getters list headed by West Indian Brian Lara with 11,204 runs.

Besides Lara and Tendulkar, Inzamamul Haq (8,052) is the only other current player to aggregate more than Dravid who reached the landmark in his 94th Test. **LEADING INDIAN BATTERS**

Batsman 10,281 S Tendulkar S Gavaskar R Dravid

Div I cricket

Young Pegasus rode on a 56 by

Sagar to score a four-wicket victory

over Rupali Bank in the First Division

Cricket League at the Dhaka

The bankers were all out for 191

At the City Club ground, Uttara

Uttara amassed 269-9 in their

in 48 overs while Pegasus, in reply,

Sporting Club thrived on two half-

centuries by Taiin (72) and Tinku (61)

share of 50 overs and then dis-

Practical Cruciani

given the responsibility," said

and I think it has not weakened our

strength. Whatever the team is, my

target is to win," the 41-year-old

captain, and Matiur Munna are the

two to start for the third successive

Pathan's narrow

day of the second Test between

India and Sri Lanka at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground in New

INDIA: First innings 290 (Tendulkar 109, Laxman 69, Ganguly 40;

SRI LANKA: First innings (over-

Atapattu c Gambhir b Kumble 88

Sangakkara c Kumble b Pathan 3

Fernando c Ganguly b Harbhajan0

Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-1, pen-5) 12

Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-62, 3-175, 4-

179, 5-179, 6-198, 7-200, 8-204, 9-

22

16

28

15.3

Pathan c Sangakkara b Fernando

Laxman c Sangakkara b Vaas

Total: (For 5 wkts in 68 overs) 237

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-42, 3-86, 4-

17 3 58

25 3 86

14

12

М

3 57

R W

30

Tendulkar Ibw b Bandara

Extras: (b-2, lb-4, nb-5)

O M

8

6 72 6

0 67

0 6

R W

0

34

40

Gunawardene Ibw b Pathan

Jayawardene Ibw b Kumble

Vaas c Harbhajan b Kumble

Total: (All out in 83.3 overs)

Samaraweera b Kumble

Dilshan Ibw b Kumble

Mubarak not out

Bandara b Pathan

Bowler

Pathan

Agarkar

Kumble

Harbhaian

Tendulkar

INDIA: Second innings

Gambhir Ibw b Vaas

Ganguly not out

Yuvraj not out

178.5-190

Muralitharan

Fernando

Bandara

Bowler

Vaas

Muralitharan b Kumble

game in the competition.

FROM PAGE 12

Delhi on Monday:

Muralitharan 7-100)

niaht 198-6)

Hassan Al Mamun, the stand-in

"I have faith in the younger ones

FROM PAGE 12

Cruciani.

added.

hissed their opponents for 228 in

University ground yesterday.

raced to 193-6 in 38.3 overs.

to beat Kathalbagan by 41 runs.

SPORTS REPORTER

6215

D Vengsarkar

MAzharuddin

Gerrard finished third. Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne received the overseas sports

Ricky Hatton.

personality award. Lord Sebastian Coe received a special award for his role in leading

London's winning 2012 Olympic bid. Brazil legend Pele received the lifetime achievement award for his contribution to football, a prize which was presented to him by Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho, who

was named coach of the year. Real close in on Keane

Roy Keane is poised to join Real Madrid after passing a medical for the seven-time European champions. Spanish daily Marca reported on Sunday.

Real are among a list of suitors wooing the 34-year-old Irishman ever since his shock departure from Manchester United in November.

In their report Marca suggest the way was cleared for Keane's arrival at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium after Real's financial division gave the green light to come up with the money to pay for his services.

Keane, who is said to have passed Saturday's medical "on British soil" according to Marca, is keeping stum on his plans. Michael Kennedy, who acts as

the player's representative, said last Wednesday: "There is nothing to report and I have no idea if there will be any decision this week."

ICC a 'waste of space'

Cricket

Australia's fearsome former fast bowler Jeff Thomson has branded the International Cricket Council (ICC) a "waste of space" following their attempts to gag players who criticise opponents in the lead-up to Test matches.

Thompson, renowned as one of Australia's most aggressive bowlers slammed the sport's international governing body and said they were taking the fun out of the game. "They ought to get their own house

in order rather than worry about the players, the ICC do nothing," Thomson said Monday "They do nothing about blokes

chucking, they do nothing about all this other stuff, they are more worried about words, that is all they are, full of words the ICC. "They always look like they are doing something but they do nothing.

They are the biggest bullshitters in the world the ICC. What a waste of space." His comments follow warnings from the ICC to players earlier Monday to cut down their verbal sparring or risk disciplinary action.

The body singled out Australia and South África for their so-called 'war of words" before the three-Test series starting in Perth on Friday.

Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne on Sunday suggested the South Africans might need a psychologist after his team had finished with

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed said there had been a spate of code of conduct reports since the

Jones (seven) and Ian Blackwell

(10) as part of his fourth five-wicket

Flintoff c sub (Hameed) b Naved 0

Collingwood c and b Kaneria

Extras: (b-5, lb-6, nb-6, w-3)

Total: (All out in 48.4 overs)

FROM PAGE 12

ENGLAND

Prior b Razzaq

haul in 122 matches

SCOREBOARD

Trescothick b Akhtar

Pietersen b Naved

Blackwell b Akhtar

Solanki not out

Harmison run out

Strauss c Akmal b Akhtar

Jones c Younis b Akhtar

Plunkett c and b Akhtar

Pakistan level in style

32

28

38

20

Bowler

Akhtar

Naved

Razzaq

Kaneria

Arshad

PAKISTAN

Butt b Flintoff

Yousuf not out

Inzamam not out

Sami

Ashes series which finished in September and pointed to a slight increase in the number of players charged this year over their sledging.

There have been a series of comments by players and former players ahead of the Australia v South Africa series that I believe make it necessary to remind the players of the



JEFF THOMSON

importance of playing within the spirit of the game ahead of this series," Speed said in a statement.

Thomson and fellow former Test bowler Terry Alderman felt the ICC comments showed they were trying to sanitise the sport and make players more robotic. "You have got to have a bit of

gamesmanship, that is what it is all about."Thomson said. He believed the ICC's actions were

taking the focus away from the actual

"They are bagging the game rather than promoting, it's highlighting things that aren't worth highlighting," he said.

Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-30, 3-74, 4-74, 5-89, 6-103, 7-120, 8-130, 9-230

10

42

33

25

26

0 24

0 15

Super-sub: Arshad for Kaneria

Akmal c Solanki b Harmison

Younis b Collingwood

Extras: (lb-4, nb-3, w-5)

were trying to justify their six-figure salaries following the recent move to "We need some characters in the game, we don't need assaults on

Alderman said the ICC hierarchy

players out in the middle, but the banter that does go on -- there is nothing wrong with that," he said. "They are putting the cart before the horse, they are almost saying there is going to be problems because of

what has been written and said by players. Well that is ridiculous." "Let the game be for goodness

The Australian team, renowned for verbal sledging in the past, have attempted to clean up their behaviour under captain Ricky

James Sutherland, the chief executive of Cricket Australia, the sports governing body here, said he was comfortable with the current standards of the national team before

CricketAssociation Ground. "The lead-up to the series against South Africa has seen some banter from both teams, but we expect the Australians will continue to lead by the example they have shown in recent

Friday's Test at the Western Australian

times," he said Thomson's comments were the second major attack on the ICC this month after former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram claimed the body was biased against Asian countries

PREMIERSHIP

Misery mounts on MU

Football

REUTERS, London

Manchester United, eliminated from Furopean competition in midweek endured Premier League frustration on Sunday when they were held to a 1-1 home draw by Everton.

United, knocked out of the Champions League following a 2-1 defeat by Benfica on Wednesday, fell behind to an early goal by James McFadden but earned a point thanks to an equaliser from Ryan

The Old Trafford club remain third in the table with 31 points from 15 matches. Liverpool, also on 31 points, are second on goal difference with runaway leaders Chelsea on 43 points having played a game more than their two closest rivals.

Everton, who have collected 17 points from 15 matches, climbed two places to 15th.

"I think we deserved to win." United manager Alex Ferguson told Sky Sports. "We had four or five clear chances but their goalkeeper (Richard Wright) had an excellent

"I think we got a bit anxious in the second half. The players were desperate to win, they tried their best and put all their effort into it and when they got the chances I thought we'd go on to win it. United looked unusually nervous

n the opening period and Everton wasted a good chance after three

minutes when keeper Edwin van der Sar scuffed his clearance straight to striker James Beattie but his shot was blocked by Mikael Silvestre.

The visitors were ahead four minutes later when McFadden fired a left foot shot past Van der Sar at the near post after good work by

Kevin Kilbane and Leon Osman. United fashioned an equaliser after 15 minutes when Giggs guided the ball past Wright with the outside of his left foot from near the penalty spot after a delightful pass over the

defence by Paul Scholes. With the Old Trafford crowd getting behind their team, United created further chances for Rooney who headed Giggs's fine cross straight at Wright, and the Welsh winger himself whose low shot was turned around the post by the

United's dominance continued after the break with Scholes's fierce shot beaten away by Wright. Everton were pinned back in

their own half but twice launched dangerous counter attacks. McFadden forcing a flying save from Van der Sar and Kilbane wasting a good chance by firing high and wide.

Giggs almost snatched an injurytime winner when he curled a left footed free kick over the defensive wall and Wright pulled off a diving

Inter win derby, Juve stretch lead

Football

REUTERS, Rome

A dramatic stoppage-time winner by Adriano gave Inter Milan a 3-2 win over city rivals AC Milan in a pulsating Serie Aderby on Sunday.

Inter's victory -- their first over Milan in the league since March 2002 -- lifted them to second on 32 points, 10 behind leaders Juventus who earlier crushed Cagliari 4-0. Fiorentina are third, also with 32

points, after a 1-0 win over Treviso on Saturday. Milan slip to fourth on

Inter came out aggressively, pushing Milan into their own half, and went ahead in the 24th minute.

Obafemi Martins played a onetwo with strike partner Adriano and defender Alessandro Nesta to tumble in front of him. It looked like a harmless incident

but referee Domenico Messina judged Nesta had obstructed the Nigerian and gave a penalty, which Adriano converted by sending Dida the wrong way. Milan responded by upping the

tempo, reaping the reward seven minutes from halftime when Kaka won a free kick on the edge of Inter's Deian Stankovic handled Andrea

Shevchenko dispatched coolly into the bottom corner. Both sides continued to press forward after the interval.

Milan striker Alberto Gilardino

Pirlo's kick and Milan had a penalty

of their own, which Andriy

narrowly failed to connect with a Jaap Stam cross that flashed dangerously across Inter's goal before

Martins restored Inter's lead with a poacher's goal in the 59th minute.

Adriano fired in a powerful free kick and Dida parried but he could not prevent Martins firing home the An 83rd-minute Stam header

from a Pirlo free kick briefly levelled the scores but in the first minute of stoppage time Adriano headed a corner past Dida to give Inter the three points and consign Milan to a third loss in four Serie A matches.

In Turin, Juventus had a much easier time against Cagliari as they handed a 4-0 defeat to the visitors' thanks to a brace of goals from french striker David Trezeguet.

Elsewhere, Livorno's excellent run continued as they beat Lazio 2-1 to consolidate fifth place on 28

Booter Tamij passes away

SPORTS REPORTER

Former footballer Tamij Uddin died of a heart attack on Sunday night. He was 57.

He had long association with Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society in the sixties and seventies. He left behind his wife, one son

and a daughter to mourn his death. Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday expressed its deep shock over Tamij's death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Debutants disappoint Hasan (55) and Nasiruddin Faruque

The right-hander scored 80 off 126

balls while his deputy Khaled Mashud contributed 29 in a challeng ing Mohammedan total of 230-8 in 50 overs after deciding to bat. Jamal Faisal struck 56 but it was

not enough for the bankers to avoid a big defeat. Off-spinner Sabbir Khan picked up four wickets for 32 runs while Monirul Islam claimed three for 18 to dismiss Agrani Bank for 164 in 44.3 overs. Away at the Comilla Stadium,

Hague struck an unbeaten 84 off 97 halls to lead Brothers Union to a fivewicket victory against Biman. National paceman Nazmul Hossain claimed four wickets to restrict the star-studded Biman to 180-8 despite an unbeaten 67 by

Mushfigur Rahman.

discarded national opener Ehsanul

Brothers rode on their captain's unbeaten knock to reach 181 for 5 in 45.4 overs. Another giants Abahani pulled off an exciting seven-run win over Indira

Road at the Shaheed Chandu

Stadium in Bogra. Sent into bat, a weak Abahani scored a modest 207 for 8 in 50 overs but pacer Anwar Hossain Munir (3-33) and left-arm spinner Ahsanullah Hasan (2-33) bowled their side to victory against Indira, who were all out for 200 in 49 overs.

In a low-scoring match at BKSP,

two-time champions Victoria thrived

on two half-centuries by Sajjad

(54) to cruise to a seven-wicket sail over Orient Sporting Club. Batting first. Orient were bundled out for 168 in 49.5 overs. Victoria

raced to 172-3 with more then two

overs to spare. The Premier League will resume at six different venues on Thursday after a two-day break

SCORES IN BRIEF

OLD DOHS: 225 all out in 47.3 overs

Nazimuddin 32, Riyad 20, Tikolo 74, Manjarul 19, Akram 25, Mahmud 13, Raj 3, Shaheen 2 not out, Hasibul 2, extras 35; Ashiqur 1-30, Mahbubul 2-56, Rafique 5-19, Sunny 2-55). SONARGAON: 168 all out in 37.5 overs (Sajjad 5, Nayeem 25, Al Shahriar 8, Anisur 19, Ashraful 22,

Rafique 12, Sunny 20, Masudur 7,

Ashiqur 14 not out, Mahbubul 24,

extras 12; Farhad 3-23, Raj 1-37,

Enamul Sr 2-35, Manjarul 2-29,

Tikolo 2-9). Result: DOHS won by 57 runs. KALABAGAN: 218-7 in 50 overs (Uttam 57, Arman 47, Tareq

Mehmood 22, Mehrab 2, Mahbubul Karim 39, Fahim 13, extras 12; Saju 2-50, Farid 2-35). **CITY CLUB:** 222-4 in 43.2 overs (Rajin 9, Nafees 82, Tushar 50, Taibu

12, Kapali 32 not out, Anwar 15 not out, extras 22; Parvez 2-45). Result: City Club won by six wick-MOHAMMEDAN: 230-9 in 50 overs

(Moniruzzaman 26, Hannan 4,

Bashar 80, Dhiman 22, Wasel 5,

Masud 29, extras 40: Tanna 3-16 Rasel Khan 2-47, Towhid 2-11).

AGRANI: 164 all out in 44.3 overs

Total: (For 3 wkts in 44 overs) 231

(Faisal 56, Towhid 22, Kalim 20, extras 16; Sabbir 4-32, Monirul 3-18). Result: Mohammedan won by 66 ABAHANI: 207-8 in 50 overs (Faisal Hossain 48, Neeyamur 44, Ali Arman

30 not out, extras 40; Sajjadul 2-26, Mowla 2-43). INDIRA ROAD: 200 all out in 49 overs (Arif 35. Proshanta 40. extras

34; Munir 3-33, Hasan 2-33). Result: Abahani won by seven BIMAN: 180-8 in 50 overs (Mush-

fiqur 67 not out, Hasanuzzman 47,

extras 19: Nazmul 4-33). BROTHERS: 181-5 in 45.4 overs (Arafat Sunny 35, Ehsanul 85 not out, Rezaul 22, extras 27; Mushfigur 2-

Result: Brothers won by five

wickets. ORIENT: 168 all out in 49.5 overs (Saifullah Magsi 26, Firoz 37, Nazmul 29, extras 22; Kabir 3-30, Mahbub 2-VICTORIA: 172-3 in 47.5 overs

(Sajjadul 55, Farugue 54, Farhad

Hossain 27 not out, Sagir 14 not out,

extras 12; Abdul 1-24, Nazmul Islam

1-32. Rezawanul 1-28). Result: Victoria won by seven Fall of wickets: 1-86, 2-113, 3-187 Did not bat: Malik, Razzaq, Akhtar, Naved, Sami, Arshad Super-sub: Solanki for Anderson

Bowler 0 M Flintoff 30 10 52 Harmison 0 0 63 Plunkett Blackwell 0 28 Collingwood Solanki 11 Result: Pakistan won by seven

Umpires: Darrell Hair and Brian Jerling. Third match: December 15, Karachi.

Man-of-the-match: Shoaib

Akhtar.

Toss: England.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 60 Antelope's 10 "To Tell 1 Become applicaplaymate the Truth tion 61 Location contes-41 Aykroyd 4 Family 8 Prince or Quayle (Abbr.) 11 Sans Charles's 42 Afternoon siblinas **DOWN**

aces

4 Attack

6 Not

pastime aet-12 Past together 13 Present 44 Progeni-14 Green tor 46 Bring to acres 15 Night trial 50 Postal shift 17 Ring out Creed 18 Everword

green

trilogy

25 "Price Is

34 Still

37 Lucy

36 Dandling

locale

Ethel

Wilma

19 Public

speaking 56 Send 21 Play forth ground 57 Otherwis 24 Dos Passos Locka.

51 Sailors

52 Elvis

Right" icals, decor 26 Will Ferrell 28 Chubby 32 Mideast potentate

59 Period-

Solution time: 25 mins.

16 Victory 1 Bankroll 20 Venom-2 Freudian ous viper 21 Impale concept 3 It involves 22 Carry on a pair of 23 Craftv 27 Nourished 29 Likely 5 Give the loser go-ahead 30 Average

31 Cooped pizzicato (up) 7 1960s 33 Authenjacket ticates eponym 35 Spigot 8 Encour-38 Verily 40 Flag aging words 43 Rued the 9 Hydrox run 45 Scepter competi

46 Particular 47 One of Bears 48 Overly proper 49 Loose

leaf

53 Work

54 Unlike

55 Petrol

(Abbr.)

feature

CRYPTOQUIP O APSSMAG OV'A BY BZVPBC

XBZV VRBV BIBH BYI

V R G H A G C E G A

R M P A G B Y I Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A FELINE HAD A STORY FOR EACH OF ITS LIVES, COULD YOU

HAVE A CAT O' NINE TALES? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals T

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.

as he is from my own homeland, make such ill-informed, offensive and inaccurate comments. comment on ICC.

With 7 for 100 at New Delhi on Sunday, Muttiah Muralitharan has produced the best bowling performance in a Test innings for Sri Lanka in India, bettering Kumara Dharmasena's 5 for 57 at Mumbai in 1997-98.

