

'I'm still No. 1'

REUTERS, Berlin

Goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, fighting with Jens Lehmann for the number one spot in the Germany team for the World Cup, believes he still has the edge over his rival.

"The national team coach told me again recently that I was the number one and would remain the number one as long as I kept performing well," the Bayern keeper told Monday's issue of German soccer magazine Kicker.

Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann, however, said he would not decide the battle of the goalkeepers until the end of the Bundesliga season.

Klinsmann, under fire since a shock 4-1 friendly defeat by Italy last week, rejected a magazine report that he had picked Arsenal's Lehmann over Kahn.

"The situation remains that Jens is Oliver's challenger and that both still stand a chance," Klinsmann told the German Football Association (DFB) website.

"No decision will be taken before the end of the season," he added.

Kahn, who led Germany to the 2002 World Cup final against Brazil, and Lehmann, long Kahn's understudy, have been involved in a testy duel for the goalkeeper position since Klinsmann took charge in 2004 and said the job was open for both.



PHOTO: AFP

Inter Milan's Marco Materazzi (C) scores the equaliser despite being under pressure from AS Roma defender Christian Panucci during their Serie A match at the Olimpico Stadium in Rome on Sunday.

SERIE A
Roma juggernaut halts



REUTERS, Rome

AS Roma's record-breaking run in Serie A was ended when a late goal by Marco Materazzi gave Inter Milan a 1-1 draw on Sunday.

The result interrupted Roma's sequence of 11 consecutive league wins.

Inter are third in the table with 59 points from 28 matches, three points ahead of Fiorentina who climbed to fourth with a 2-1 win over Siena. Roma slipped to fifth on 55.

Juventus (73 points) and AC Milan (63) occupy the top two places after respective wins over Sampdoria and Empoli on Saturday.

"We didn't take advantage of one or two of the chances we created on the break, but the result is a fair reflection of the match," AS Roma coach Luciano Spalletti told Italy's SKY television.

"We are still in the race for fourth place. There are 10 matches to go and a lot can change between now and the end of the season."

Roma and Inter had early chances at the Olympic Stadium.

Home keeper Doni dived to his near post to stop an Alvaro Recoba shot while at the other end Francesco Toldo palmed out

Rodrigo Taddei's free-kick.

Roma broke the deadlock in the ninth minute when Brazilian winger Mancini dribbled into the area, rounded defender Materazzi and cut the ball back for Taddei to score.

Inter steadily grew in confidence and went close to equalising before the interval when Doni saved a volley from Esteban Cambiasso.

The visitors kept up the pressure after the break although Roma almost made it 2-0 when Mancini, alone on goal, fired over.

As they did in the first half, Inter finished the second period on the attack by winning a series of corners and pushing Roma back to the edge of their area.

The pressure paid off a minute from time when Materazzi headed a corner in at the near post.

Fiorentina's fans must have anticipated an easy victory over mid-table Siena when Serie A's top scorer Luca Toni muscled in front of his marker to sidefoot Stefano Fiore's cross past keeper Marco Fortin in the third minute.

Only a full-stretch save by Fortin prevented Toni from heading his 24th Serie A goal of the season soon after.

Siena struck back after 15 minutes, Enrico Chiesa breaking down the left before unleashing a dipping shot that Bogdan Lobont spilled for

Simone Vergassola to score.

Visiting Siena had chances each side of halftime to take the lead. Tomas Locatelli headed narrowly wide from a Chiesa cross and a mistake by defender Dario Dainelli allowed Erjon Bogdani to run through alone before Lobont turned his shot round the post.

In the first minute of stoppage time, Luis Jimenez's header from a free kick forced a reflex save by Fortin and, in the goalmouth scramble that followed, striker Giampaolo Pazzini netted.

Livorno's grip on sixth place, Italy's final UEFA Cup berth, loosened when they lost 1-0 to a goal by Cagliari striker David Suazo.

The defeat left Livorno on 44 points, three ahead of Chievo Verona, who drew 2-2 with Lazio.

| TOP SIX | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| Team | P | W | D | L | G/F | G/A | Pts | | |
| Juventus | 28 | 23 | 4 | 1 | 57 | 18 | 73 | | |
| AC Milan | 28 | 20 | 3 | 5 | 63 | 24 | 63 | | |
| Inter Milan | 28 | 18 | 5 | 5 | 52 | 22 | 59 | | |
| Fiorentina | 28 | 17 | 5 | 6 | 48 | 30 | 56 | | |
| Roma | 28 | 16 | 7 | 5 | 52 | 26 | 55 | | |
| Livorno | 28 | 11 | 11 | 6 | 29 | 27 | 44 | | |

Jones out of India series

REUTERS, London

England paceman Simon Jones has been ruled out of the rest of the Test series with India.

A statement from the England medical team on Monday said Jones underwent an arthroscopy last Friday after sustaining an injury to his left knee before the first Test in Nagpur.

The statement added: "Simon has been ruled out of the current Test series in India and at this stage it is thought unlikely that he will be available for the forthcoming one-day international series."

England drew the first Test which ended on Sunday. The second match of the three-Test series starts on Thursday.

Dhaka remain

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114-run third wicket stand with skipper Al Shahriar, who made 54 off 69 balls with help of 11 boundaries. Uttam's three-hour vigil was studded with 14 hits to the fence.

Dhaka's young batsman Mehrab Hossain Jr, who was run out for 40, was adjudged man-of-the-match for his 196 in the first innings.

SCORES IN BRIEF

DHAKA: 395 and 215-5 in 66 overs (Uttam 74, Shahriar 54, Mehrab Jr 40, Opee 20 n.o., extras 18, Salahuddin 2-41, Nadif 1-30, Shahin 1-32).

BARISAL: First innings- 330 all out in 102.5 overs (Imran 39, Hannan 36, Faruque 101, Nadif 57, Humayun 55, extras 18, Munir 3-93, Shahriar 4-84, Mehrab Jr 1-59, Rezaul 1-43, Opee 1-20).

FOUR-DAY TABLE

| Teams | M | W | L | D-Ld | Pts |
|------------|---|---|---|------|-----|
| Rajshahi | 7 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 26 |
| Chittagong | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 26 |
| Dhaka | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 24 |
| Sylhet | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 22 |
| Barisal | 7 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 18 |
| Khulna | 7 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 10 |

Aussie stay

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when Brad Hogg held a sensational left-handed catch on the long-on boundary, leaping backwards after De Villiers tried to hit left-arm slow bowler Michael Clarke out of the ground.

Australia have won four out of five matches between the sides at St George's Park, including a high-scoring encounter four years ago, when they made 326 for three to achieve what was then the highest successful run chase in one-day internationals.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third one-day international between South Africa and Australia at St George's Park on Sunday:

| AUSTRALIA: 254 | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|----|---|--|
| SOUTH AFRICA | | | | | |
| Smith c Gilchrist b Lee | 10 | | | | |
| Dippenaar lbw b Watson | 16 | | | | |
| Gibbs run out (Clark) | 16 | | | | |
| De Villiers c Hogg b Clarke | 68 | | | | |
| Boucher c Gilchrist b Lee | 5 | | | | |
| Kemp c Bracken b Clark | 0 | | | | |
| Pollock b Watson | 69 | | | | |
| Hall c Gilchrist b Lee | 5 | | | | |
| Peterson c Gilchrist b Lee | 3 | | | | |
| Telemachus lbw b Bracken | 29 | | | | |
| Ntini not out | 1 | | | | |
| Extras: (lb-3, nb-3, w-2) | 8 | | | | |
| Total: (All out in 47.2 overs) | 230 | | | | |
| Super-sub (not used): A Prince | | | | | |
| Fall of wkts: 1-15, 2-43, 3-60, 4-68, 5-69, 6-188, 7-192, 8-197, 9-199. | | | | | |
| Bowler | O | M | R | W | |
| Lee | 9 | 2 | 48 | 4 | |
| Bracken | 8.2 | 1 | 40 | 1 | |
| Clark | 9 | 0 | 32 | 1 | |
| Watson | 10 | 0 | 49 | 2 | |
| Clarke | 9 | 0 | 46 | 1 | |
| Hogg | 2 | 0 | 12 | 0 | |

Result: Australia won by 24 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Brett Lee.
Umpires: B Jerling (RSA), J Lloyds (ENG).
Remaining matches: Durban, Mar 10; Johannesburg, Mar 12.

Klinsmann gets the Kaiser flak

AFP, Dusseldorf

Franz Beckenbauer, head of the 2006 World Cup Organising Committee, offered some stinging criticism to Germany manager Jurgen Klinsmann after he failed to attend the World Cup coaches workshop here on Monday. While other leading managers such as England's Sven Goran Eriksson and Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira attended the workshop, Klinsmann elected to stay at his home in the United States.

"Jurgen Klinsmann should have been here. This is a meeting he had to make and there are not too many of them," said Beckenbauer.

"Of course he can go to the United States to see his family but he needs to spend most of his time here in Germany ahead of the World Cup.

"I do not know how many times I have spoken with him about it but clearly there is no point. If he can handle the criticism then fine."

Klinsmann, a World Cup winner with West Germany in 1990, has long been criticised for his decision to continue flying back to his Californian base and recent poor results have not helped.

Last Wednesday Germany lost 4-1 to Italy in Florence and the German media ridiculed Klinsmann's ambition to win the World Cup, running from June 9 until July 9.

"After the 4-1 in Italy it was necessary for him to be here to pick up the pieces," Beckenbauer said.

"If he sees it differently then he must live with the criticism."

Despite Germany's indifferent results Beckenbauer believes home advantage could be the key for the three-time World Cup winners.

"There are technically better teams but we can compensate for that," said Beckenbauer.

"We are not in the position to compete in Italy or other places but it is different at home."

Beckenbauer was in charge the last time Germany, then in the guise of West Germany, won the World Cup back in 1990.

Bollywood stars to rock C'wealth Games finale

AFP, New Delhi

India's top film stars will join sports legends to showcase the country's culture at the closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, a top official said on Monday.

India, hosts of the 2010 edition in New Delhi, have been allotted 15 minutes for a cultural programme at the March 26 ceremony in the Melbourne Cricket Ground, according to Indian Olympic Association chief Suresh Kalmadi.

Bollywood stars Saif Ali Khan, Aishwarya Rai, Rani Mukherji, Lara Dutta and Priyanka Chopra will perform at the ceremony, Kalmadi said.

"We will give a glimpse of India's rich culture and heritage in the 15 minutes allotted to us and invite the athletes of the Commonwealth to attend the best ever Games in 2010," he said.

India produces nearly 1,000 films annually, often with spectacular song-and-dance numbers making them hugely popular across the world.

The ceremony will also feature Indian sports legends like cricketer Sunil Gavaskar, athletes P.T. Usha and Milkha Singh, tennis star Vijay Amritraj and 1975 World Cup winning field hockey captain Ajitpal Singh.

New Delhi defeated the Canadian city of Hamilton at the Commonwealth Games Federation congress in Jamaica in November 2003 to become only the second Asian city after Kuala Lumpur to earn the Games.

The Malaysian capital hosted the 1998 Games.

Bangladesh eves play Kyrgyzstan today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-19 women's team will take on Kyrgyzstan today in their inaugural Group 3 qualifying match of the AFC Youth (U-19) Football Championship in New Delhi.

Kyrgyzstan have lost to India 7-0 on Sunday. Bangladesh face the hosts on Thursday in the last group match.

Jubok Phone

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BFF's decision to go for a sponsor at a press briefing, saying that the federation could not run the huge tournament without financial support.

All the 64 districts, services teams and universities are expected to take part in the qualifying rounds across the country as usual but the BFF, in a bid to make it more attractive, will sit soon to discuss a new format, informed BFF general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal.

BFF deputy general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu was also present.

Chelsea in hostile land



AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona know they will be made to work by an attack-minded Chelsea when the English champions visit the Nou Camp on Tuesday hoping to lay siege and overturn a damaging 2-1 first-leg deficit.

However the Spanish champions appear to be feeling so confident ahead of what should be another high-tension cruncher they have taken a leaf out of Jose Mourinho's book on pre-match psychology.

With a place in the quarterfinals at stake what most observers would have preferred to be the final sees Chelsea arrive in the Catalan lions' den needing to walk away from the Nou Camp with at least a two-goal advantage.

"They've got to go for a two-goal win so they can't come here and defend," observed Barca's Portuguese international Deco, who lifted the trophy with FC Porto when Mourinho was in charge.

Their first leg match was a highly-charged affair, and on their arrival here Sunday Mourinho and his players were given a hostile reception by angry fans at the airport.

The sending off of Chelsea's Spanish international fullback Asier Del Horno for fouling Argentine prodigy Leo Messi, considered 'the new Maradona', has added a certain piquancy to the encounter – as if the sending off of Didier Drogba in last

year's meeting in Spain had not already turned up the heat.

Barca were already in revenge mode having come off worst a year ago over two pulsating games.

Add to that potent mix the weekend dismissal of Chelsea's flying Dutchman, Arjen Robben, in the narrow win at West Bromwich Albion – which left Mourinho apologetic – and there's no telling whether events on or off the pitch will grab the most headlines.

Messi's likely return – he was rested in the weekend win over Deportivo La Coruna – will not lead to handshakes all around, if only because Del Horno is suspended.

Mourinho branded the teenage wizard an "actor" after the clash with Del Horno but first leg referee Terje Hauge said he was satisfied with the sending-off decision.

Chelsea's progress may depend on whether their own trump card returns in the shape of midfield talisman Frank Lampard.

Lampard, second only to Ronaldinho in the 2005 FIFA world player of the year awards in December, missed the West Brom match and England's midweek friendly win over Uruguay was a hamstring injury but hopes to risk a return Tuesday with Portugal star Maniche waiting in the wings.

French destroyer Claude Makalele should also be fit, despite suffering a bruised right ankle Saturday but Michael Essien is suspended.

Even nominally independent observers such as West Bromwich

Bridge.

But the tone of the bitter rivalry was set within minutes of Chelsea's arrival at Barcelona airport on Sunday, with the London club's website reporting that their Portuguese manager Jose Mourinho had been spat at.

On the pitch, the threat from the hosts will again come from the likes of Brazil's Ronaldinho, Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o and marauding Argentine prodigy Lionel Messi.

All three will look to get behind the defence of a Chelsea side with little option but to push forward and try to score at least twice to qualify on Tuesday.

The away goals rule also puts a big responsibility on the shoulders of captain and central defender John Terry, who scored an own goal

boss Bryan Robson have entered the increasing war of words on Chelsea's perceived gamesmanship.

After Robben was red-carded for a two-footed lunge at Jonathan Greening at the weekend, Robson accused Ivorian striker Didier Drogba as a diver.

Former Chelsea star John Hollins chipped in, describing Drogba as "disgraceful" for trying to get Greening sent off after performing a theatrical dive.

With Del Horno out Frenchman William Gallas, now recovered from hamstring trouble, is likely to step into the breach for the biggest game of Chelsea's season to date.

A factor possibly in Barca's favour is their newly-relied pitch which will be a stark contrast to the quagmire they encountered in London.

In a psychological stunt which might almost have come out of the Mourinho guidebook on how to wind up an opponent, Barcelona's city centre buses will feature posters showing reports of the day Barca won their only European Cup to date 14 years ago.

The venue was Wembley Stadium, and on the evidence of their last trip to the British capital Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard is ready to deliver the "blaugrana" (blue and claret) another title just as compatriots Ronald Koeman, the 1992 scorer, and then coach Johan Cruyff pulled off the feat in their day.

It's make or break time



REUTERS, London

Barcelona are out to complete a revenge victory over Chelsea, holders Liverpool face elimination by Benfica and AC Milan tangle with Bayern Munich when Champions League action returns this week.

A place in the quarterfinals is up for grabs in the knockout round's second leg ties and none is more eagerly awaited than Barca's game with Chelsea at the Nou Camp.

Barcelona, who were knocked out by Chelsea over two acrimonious legs at the same stage last season, are in the driving seat this time after winning 2-1 at Stamford

at the Bridge, to keep things tight at the back.

Left back Asier Del Horno and defensive midfielder Michael Essien are both suspended.

Liverpool can ill-afford to concede at Anfield on Wednesday when they try to turn around a 1-0 defeat at Benfica.

It could take another captain's performance from Steven Gerrard to drive his men into the last eight against a Benfica side who knocked out Manchester United in the group stage.

Liverpool have hardly been prolific up front -- with four goals in their last six games -- and Saturday's 0-0 home draw with Charlton Athletic was not the ideal warm-up.

Milan, who were famously beaten by Liverpool on penalties after leading 3-0 at halftime in last season's final, have a tentative foot in the next round after earning a 1-1 draw in Munich.

Ronaldo back for the big game



REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid striker Ronaldo has been recalled for Wednesday's Champions League match against Arsenal after being dropped against Atletico Madrid at the weekend.

The three-times winner of the World Player of the Year award has come under fire for failing to live up to his billing in recent matches.

The Brazilian was also accused of putting his own interests before those of the team after making a thinly veiled threat on the eve of Real's 1-0 defeat at home to Arsenal in the first leg.

The 29-year-old said he was reconsidering his future at the club because of the criticism he has received from Real Madrid fans.

He was dropped after last week's 2-1 defeat at Real Mallorca and replaced by Antonio Cassano

against Atletico.

The Italy striker, who joined Real in January from AS Roma, scored Real's opening goal in their 2-1 victory at the Bernabeu - earning praise from fans and the media for his lively performance in attack.

Real's new president Fernando Martin, who took charge of the club following the shock resignation of former chief Florentino Perez last week, has pledged to take a hard line against the club's underperforming Galacticos.

Ronaldo, who has played just one Champions League match this season because of suspension and injury, scored a hat-trick for Real in their 4-3 defeat at Manchester United the last time he played for the club on English soil.

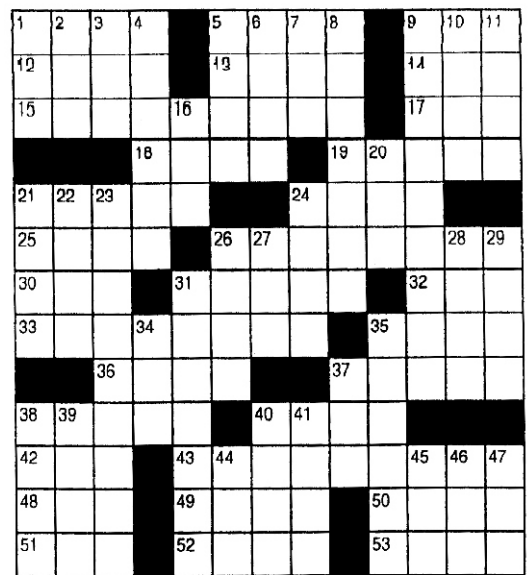
Playmaker Zinedine Zidane and defender Ivan Helguera were also included in the squad despite picking up minor knocks in the Atletico game.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Mexican money | 35 Eastern bigwig | 53 Calendar quota | 16 Propel a shell |
| 5 Colorless | 36 Geological periods | DOWN | 20 Internet address |
| 9 Turf | 37 Having a damp smell | 1 Omega precursor | 21 Dispatch |
| 12 Child's play | 38 Urban fleet | 2 Type units | 23 On and on |
| 13 Verdi opera | 40 Young horse | 3 Frivolous gal of song | 24 Nerd-pack contents |
| 14 Tribute in verse | 42 Office-cats | 4 La Scala stagings | 26 Courts |
| 15 Home of tailless | 43 One way to stride | 5 Loony froth | 27 Embrace |
| 17 Part of UCLA | 48 Be under the weather | 6 Frost | 28 Send forth |
| 18 Mortgage datum | 49 Sea eagle | 7 Okla-homa city | 29 Agile |
| 19 Elementary particle | 50 Actress | 8 Feast | 31 Wasn't coordinated |
| 21 Slander | 51 Pippet | 9 Glass-enclosed rooms | 34 Prior to |
| 24 Sound of contentment | 52 "Consum it" | 10 Slench | 35 Encoluminium |
| 25 Microscope part | | 11 Dilbert's place | 37 Wrestling surface |
| 26 Cyclist's tricks | | | 38 Prejudice |
| 30 "Not only that, but ..." | | | 39 Monad |
| 31 Matter | | | 40 Sherilyn of "Twin Peaks" |
| 32 Diamond arbiter | | | 41 Couturier Cassini |
| 33 Winter warners | | | 44 Mound stat |
| | | | 45 Dead heat |
| | | | 46 -- budget |
| | | | 47 Corn spike |

Solution time: 21 mins.

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| MESA | GEM | QUAD |
| CLUBSODA | URDU | |
| MINOTAUR | AGED | |
| STARR | WIPE | |
| PEND | MINERVA | |
| YET | MAVEN | TILL |
| MINARET | GATE | |
| ELKS | SCHLOE | |
| SHULTS | SUE | |
| CADIS | WINSREL | |
| OREO | ADOPTIVE | |
| WEAN | NAB | OWEN |



CRYPTOQUIP

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