

Houllier staying with Lyon

AFP, Paris

Lyon will retain Gerard Houllier as manager for next season, despite the club's failure to make it past the last 16 of the Champions League, club chairman Jean-Michel Aulas has said.

The former Liverpool boss is on the cusp of guiding the team to a sixth consecutive French league title and the second under his tutelage.

But the loss to AS Roma in the last 16 of the Champions League at a time when Lyon were being touted as potential winners, cast doubts over his position.

Long-time chairman Aulas, however said, there was no doubt in his mind that Houllier would stay where he was.

"Of course he will be with the club next season," Aulas told L'Equipe sports daily.

"You should have no doubt about that. he is staying where he is. It's true certain players will be leaving, not because we are unhappy with them but because it is the strategy of the club to transfer players when they are at their best and can attract top fees."

Houllier apart, Aulas said that two senior members of the team - goalkeeper Gregory Coupet and Brazilian midfielder Juninho - would definitely be staying.

Lehmann to decide Gunners future

AFP, London

Arsenal goalkeeper Jens Lehmann could decide in the coming week whether or not he will stay with the club.

The 37-year-old German veteran's contract expires at the end of this season and Arsenal, in line with club policy on senior players, are offering a 12-month extension.

Lehmann is thought to have wanted the security of a two-year deal but claims he is close to making a decision.

He told Arsenal TV Online: "We will see. I think there will be a decision within the next few days or next week."

"I would like to play here, I have always said I would like to stay but it is a situation where no decision has been made yet. It is difficult to talk about it (now)."

Park signs Nike deal

AFP, Seoul

South Korea's top striker Park Ji-Sung of English Premier League team Manchester United has signed a long-term contract with sportswear company Nike, the firm's local affiliate said Friday.

"Nike has renewed its contract with Park," said a spokeswoman for Nike Sports Korea, adding the new contract runs until May 2019, as compared to the previous four-year one.

"Park merits our sponsorship in light of his achievement and influence in the world of football," she said.

Nike did not reveal the value of the deal but sports dailies here said it was believed to be worth more than 12 million dollars.

MU seal Ronaldo extension



Football

AFP, London

Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo has agreed terms on a new five-year contract at Manchester United, the club announced Friday on its official website.

The deal will mean that 22-year-old Ronaldo, one of the most exciting talents in world football, will stay at Old Trafford until at least June 2010.

"It is fantastic news," said United manager Sir Alex Ferguson.

"It emphasises the point that Cristiano is happy here and that he is at the right club.

"He has a great relationship with the team, staff and the fans and he will go on to be one of Manchester United's great players."

The announcement ended months of speculation that Ronaldo could be on his way out of England at the end of the season with Spanish giants Real Madrid cited among the suitors.

"I am delighted," said Ronaldo of his new contract.

"I spoke with Sir Alex and (club chairman) David Gill about my future and everyone knew that I wanted to stay.

"I am very happy at the club and I want to win trophies and hopefully we will do that this season."

Ronaldo, who joined United as a teenager from Sporting Lisbon in 2003 for 17.6 million euros, has been a key element in a season that sees sitting atop the English Premiership, in the semifinals of the Champions League for the first time since 2002 and through to the semifinals of the English FA Cup.

He scored two goals at Old Trafford on Tuesday in the 7-1 crushing of AS Roma in the last

eight of the Champions League.

Ronaldo has also played a starring role for Portugal with whom he has already won 46 times, appearing notably in the 2004 Euro finals at home and last year's World Cup finals in Germany.

Team-mate Ryan Giggs was full of praise for his fellow forward's contribution at Manchester United.

"I don't believe there is anyone

who could rival him as being the best player in the world," the Welshman said.

"For someone in his position, and of his age, to be as consistent as he has been, is remarkable.

"His performances have been brilliant. To secure his future for the next five years is great news for everyone."

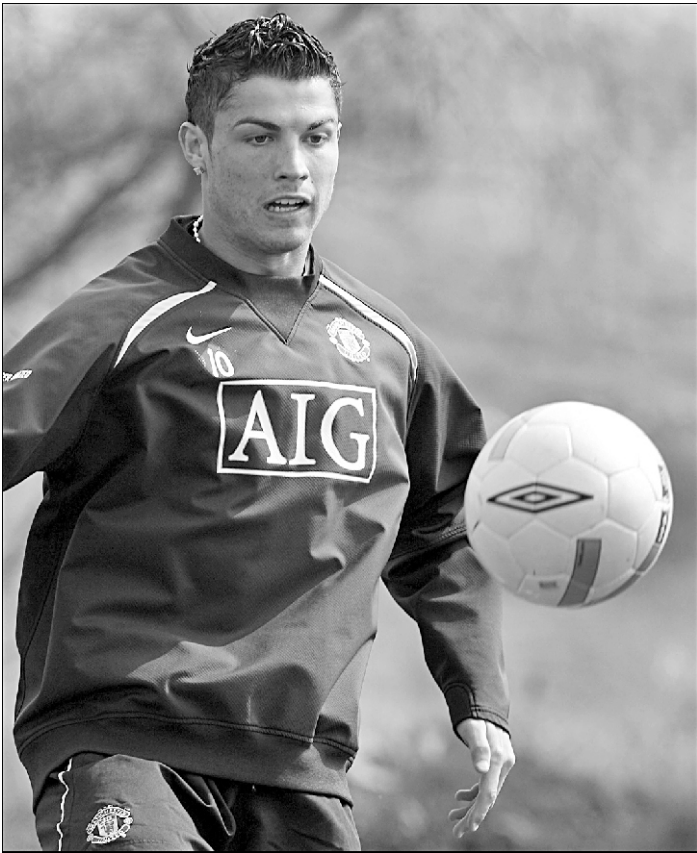


PHOTO: AFP

Manchester United winger Cristiano Ronaldo takes part in a training session at the club's training ground at Carrington in Manchester on Friday.

Maradona back in hospital

AFP, Buenos Aires

Argentine football idol Diego Maradona was comfortable and in good health Friday after returning to the hospital for abdominal pain, the hospital director said.

The famed footballer's "general health is good," hospital director Oscar Sico told reporters.

"It could be his pancreas, it could be ulcers; we don't know. But he does not show signs of any other illness," he said.

The football legend was rushed early in the morning for emergency treatment at a hospital 30 kilometers (19 miles) south of Buenos Aires after reporting severe abdominal pain.

Sico said Maradona, 46, could spend two or three days in the hospital, but said he was stable and that doctors had "eased his pain."

Maradona was accompanied to the hospital by his girlfriend Veronica Ojeda, in whose house he was staying after being discharged from a private Buenos Aires hospital on Wednesday.

The former captain of Argentina's winning World Cup side and star for Barcelona and Napoli spent 13 days in the hospital from late March to be treated for excessive drinking which sparked a return of chronic hepatitis, which he has suffered for years.

Scandal takes new twist

AFP, Rome

A corruption scandal which rocked Italy's Serie A to its foundations last season has taken a new twist after public prosecutors in Naples closed their investigation by making fresh accusations.

Italian giants Juventus were stripped of their last two league titles and demoted to Serie B with a penalty of nine points after being found guilty of match-fixing in last summer's scandal.

AC Milan, Lazio, Fiorentina and Reggina were also implicated in the affair, but escaped with only points penalties for the beginning of the 2006-2007 Serie A season.

On Thursday prosecutors, this time dealing with the purely legal side of the affair, named 48 people, five of whom were not questioned in the initial investigation, they suspect of wrongdoing.

Another club has also now been implicated. Serie A side Messina is suspected of being involved in match-fixing, although they have flatly rejected any accusations of involvement.

"We have nothing to do with this scandal. And we have always operated with complete legality and transparency," Messina president Pietro Franza was quoted as saying by Italian news agency Ansa.

Former Juventus general director Luciano Moggi, who stood accused of setting up a network in an attempt to influence the outcome of matches, remains a key suspect as well as Juventus official Antonio Giraudo.

Twenty-five referees and linesmen, 18 of whom are still working in the Italian league, also remain under suspicion according to prosecutors.

Italy's national referees' commission reacted to the news by suspending two referees and two linesmen who were supposed to officiate at second division matches this weekend.

Milan look for impetus

AFP, Rome



Champions League semi-finalists AC Milan will visit Messina on Sunday justifiably confident of repeating last

year's 3-1 win away at the Stadio San Filippo.

But despite blowing Bayern Munich out of Europe's premier club competition only days ago, Milan know they must ride the wave of success to have come their way of late if they are to even appear in next year's tournament.

Surefire title winners Inter are widely tipped to grab another three points when they host high-flying but stuttering Palermo at the San Siro on Saturday.

In the process, they would be doing their city neighbours a favour - Milan sit fifth in Serie A, a point behind Palermo who, along with Catania, have nevertheless played a game more than the rest of the league.

With 80 points from 30 matches Inter could afford to relax and take their foot off the gas, although AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti will be hoping that is not the case.

Palermo are the team who currently stand in Milan's way of fourth place, and the Sicilians' coach, Francesco Guidolin, travels to the San Siro knowing he is under

pressure having taken only three points from a possible 15 in their last five outings.

Ancelotti meanwhile is unlikely to be relying on favours from elsewhere. Instead, he will be looking to benefit from the likely return to the fray of on-form Brazilian Ronaldo.

The former Real Madrid marksman was Champions League-tied for Wednesday's match against Bayern.

In the end Ronaldo proved surplus to requirements as Filippo Inzaghi and Dutchman Clarence Seedorf, who had been going through a bad patch, hit a goal apiece in an overall commanding display to down the German champions 2-0.

Ronaldo capped a superb solo effort with a goal, and helped set up another last week as Milan beat Empoli to reinvigorate their bid for a place in the top four.

With the fourth place which guarantees entry to next season's Champions League within their grasp, Ancelotti will be asking for more of the same against a side which, nevertheless, has an arguably more serious battle at hand.

The Sicilians are fighting for their top flight survival, having slipped to second from bottom with only five wins from 30 games.

All five wins came at home, and Messina are unlikely to give goals

away cheaply. But to overcome Milan they will first have to dispel the potential psychological handicap of not scoring in their last three games.

Elsewhere Lazio, who are third on 55 points and well on their way to next season's Champions League, travel to basement side Ascoli.

Ascoli have won only one of their 14 home games, and Lazio, who can be often be unpredictable, will be looking to shed any feelings of doubt.

It is only a matter of time before Inter, who have not been beaten this season, win the Italian league title.

With eight games remaining, a possible 24 points are up for grabs.

Ahead of their hosting of Palermo, Inter lead second-placed Roma, who face Sampdoria at home hoping to erase their nightmare 7-1 Champions League drubbing by Manchester United, by 18 points.

FIXTURES

Saturday

Cagliari v Empoli, Udinese v Chievo

Sunday

Ascoli v Lazio, Fiorentina v Siena, Livorno v Reggina, Messina v AC Milan, Parma v Catania, Roma v Sampdoria, Torino v Atalanta, Inter v Palermo

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid have a chance to go top of the Spanish first division, and thus increase the pressure on title rivals Barcelona and Sevilla, when

they face Racing Santander away on Saturday.

League leaders Barcelona and second-placed Sevilla dropped points last weekend to allow Real back into the title race, and now only two points separate the top three teams as the season reaches a stirring climax.

Victory for Fabio Capello's nine-times European champions in Santander would hand them the lead of the Spanish top flight, at least ahead of Real Mallorca's visit to Barcelona and Valencia's hosting of Sevilla on Sunday.

Real's Brazilian winger Robinho has scored in their last three games, all victories, to bring them back into contention - and he has called for continuity.

"We are doing well at the moment but we've got to keep it up. Racing are a good side but I think we can get three points against them and keep clawing back the points on our rivals," said Robinho earlier this week.

"The recent victories have given us a huge morale boost. If we keep on playing like this, we could be champions. Each game we seem to be improving at the moment," added the Brazilian international.

Capello's big worry is at left back where Miguel Torres has a left calf strain.

Potential replacements Roberto Carlos and Raul Bravo are also injured, which could

leave Capello no alternative but to rely on Brazilian teenager Marcelo, a winter transfer window signing from Fluminense.

"Capello's got confidence in me, I've learnt a lot from him and I improve every day so I've got confidence in him," said the 18-year-old wing back ahead of what could be his first start for the Spanish giants.

Marcelo may be looking forward to the trip to Santander but doubts remain over whether club captain Raul and former England star David Beckham will accompany him.

Raul, like Robinho a goal scorer in Real's 2-0 over Osasuna last Sunday, suffered a bad knock on his left leg in training on Wednesday.

Beckham is still struggling to recover from the knee injury he suffered five weeks ago but at least started to kick a ball in training on Thursday.

Racing will not be the same pushovers who went down 3-1 in the Santiago Bernabeu back in November. Since the start of the year their form has improved dramatically.

They currently lie eighth and have become contenders for a place in Europe next season after going unbeaten in their last seven games, including a 2-0 win at Valencia and holding Sevilla to a 0-0 draw last Sunday.

"We are as motivated against Real as any team but they are almost more dangerous away from home than in the Bernabeu," said Racing striker Pedro Munitis, who was part of Real's 2002 Champions League winning squad.

Real have won nine of their 15 away games this season for the best record on the road of any Spanish first division side.

Reigning champions

Barcelona have had a week to dwell on their 1-0 loss last Saturday at Real Zaragosa.

"That's part of football. We didn't play well in our last game but it wasn't because of lack of hard work," said Barcelona defender Lilian Thuram.

Once again the talking point has been whether Ronaldinho will be fit to face the ever-erratic Mallorca.

The Brazilian two-time World Player of the Year missed training on Tuesday because of a high temperature and was on his own on Wednesday and Thursday in the Barca gymnasium.

Sevilla will face fifth-placed Valencia, who will be looking to bounce back after their dramatic loss to Chelsea in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Sevilla booked their UEFA Cup semifinal place with a 4-3 aggregate win over Tottenham Hotspur on Thursday.

With only nine games remaining, the league is reaching crucial stages.

But Valencia striker Fernando Morientes warned Thursday: "To talk about us challenging for the league yet is a bit like selling a bearskin before you've hunted it."

FIXTURES

(Kick off in GMT)

Saturday

Racing Santander v Real Madrid (1800), Real Betis v Real Sociedad (2000)

Sunday

Athletic Bilbao v Espanyol (1500), Atletico Madrid v Levante (1500), Celta Vigo v Deportivo La Coruna (1500), Getafe v Villarreal (1500), Gimnastic Tarragona v Real Zaragosa (1500), Osasuna v Recreativo Huelva (1500), Barcelona v Real Mallorca (1700), Valencia v Sevilla (1900)

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.  
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.  
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.  
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm.  
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

CHANNEL 1

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am

BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm  
News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm

BTV

09:05 Shornapti  
11:15 Shurer Prohor  
11:40 Musical Programme  
12:05 Esho Hei Boishakh  
12:30 Ma O Shishur Kotla  
01:00 Bishwa Protidin  
01:30 Mati O Manush  
02:15 Sisimpur  
02:40 Bangla Feature Film  
05:05 Nobo Borsher Kobita  
06:40 Cricket Cricket  
07:15 ICC World Cup 2007: South Africa Vs New Zealand

ATN BANGLA

11:10 Elorey Vaishakh  
12:15 Musical programme  
12:45 Vaishakher Dhol  
12:15 Vaishakher Adda  
02:30 Dhol Madol  
03:15 Ebong Tahara  
05:10 Shagotom  
05:45 Aji Anondo Jagroto Darey  
08:00 Drama: Jokhon Shob Alo Nibhey Jay  
09:00 Magazine Programme: Panchphoron  
10:40 Kobitay Boishakh

Channel i

06:00 Borsheborton Programme by Chhayanaut  
09:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh  
09:45 Public Reaction  
09:50 Tritomatra  
11:10 Cholo Na Megher Shimaney  
12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan  
01:30 Shangbadpotre

01:45 Bangladesh Public Reaction  
02:30 Bangla Feature Film: Shaighor  
05:30 Muktiudho Protidin  
06:00 Cooking Show  
07:50 Drama: Uposhonghar  
09:35 Farmers File-3  
10:00 Esho Vaishakh  
12:00 GrameenPhone Aikjer Shanbad Potro

ntv

04:05 Dhanshiri Nodtir Parey  
04:45 Gaaney Gaaney Boishakh  
05:20 Bodley Jachhey Gram  
06:00 Vaishakhay Amra  
06:30 Bangla Nobo Borsho  
07:00 Panchyo Borna  
07:30 Ranger Manush  
08:15 Drama Serial: Shanto Kutir  
09:00 Telefilm: Anonto Prodeep

Channel 1

08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh  
09:30 Musical Programme  
10:30 Telefilm: Andhokar Rodh  
01:30 Baul Fusion  
02:00 Notuner Utshob  
03:00 Adhunik Ishoper Golpo  
04:30 Vaishakher Gaan  
05:15 Dance Programme: Nobo Naonodey Jago  
06:45 Vaishakhi Carnival  
08:15 Drama: Tomar Shange Bedhechhi Amar Pran

BANGLAVISION

10:10 Amader Vaishakh  
10:30 Ujajapon  
12:10 Dance Programme



Desh Bideshey Ranna  
On Channel i at 6:00pm  
Cooking Show  
Host: Keka Ferdousi

02:40 Drama: Vaishakhi

03:30 Drama Serial: Anondodhara  
04:00 Bohichhey Bhuboney  
04:30 Muchhey Jaak Glani, Game Show  
05:00 Muchhey Jaak Glani, Game Show  
05:30 Muchhey Jaak Glani, Game Show  
06:30 Muchhey Jaak Glani, Game Show  
06:45 Shombhashon  
07:30 Diner Sheshey  
08:00 Haal Khata Khoro  
08:15 Bishwacup Protidin  
09:20 Drama: Habu Mir  
09:20 Talkshow: Amar Ami

Boishakhi

11:00 Muchhey Jaak Glani  
11:30 Musical Programme  
12:30 Game Show  
03:00 Muchhey Jaak Glani, Game Show  
04:00 Muchhey Jaak Glani, Game Show  
07:00 Hello Cricket  
07:30 Boishakhey Amra  
08:00 Dance Programme  
09:30 Dance Programme: Shonar Madhob  
11:00 Walk The Line  
01:15 D3: The Mighty Ducks

STAR MOVIES



ICC World Cup 2007  
On Btv at 7:15pm  
South Africa v New Zealand  
National Cricket Stadium, Grenada

03:00 A Lot Like Love

04:50 Opening Night  
05:20 Doctor Doolittle 3  
07:00 Jumanji  
08:45 Final Cut  
10:30 Crash  
12:15 Last Shot, The  
01:45 Million Dollar Baby  
10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful  
12:30 The Kumars At No. 42  
01:00 Travel Asia  
01:30 My Wife And Kids

STAR WORLD

03:00 The King Of Queen

02:30 Crumbs

03:00 8 Simple Rules

03:30 Malcolm In The Middle

04:00 My Name Is Earl

04:30 Frasier

05:00 Fashion House

06:00 30 Rock

06:30 The O.C.

07:30 Tna Xplosion

08:30 Desperate Housewives

09:30 Grey's Anatomy

10:30 Heroes

10:30 Fashion House

STAR PLUS

11:00 Akkad Bakkad Bambeey Bo  
11:30 Sonpari  
12:00 Karishma Ka Karishma  
12:05 Bolly V - Star Plus  
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus  
12:55 Bolly V - Star Plus  
01:00 Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi  
01:30 Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi  
01:55 Bolly V - Star Plus  
02:20 V Trailers - Star Plus  
02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus  
02:30 Kalash  
03:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii  
03:30 V Trailers - Star Plus  
05:00 Bolly V - Star Plus  
05:25 Krishna Kathaiyen  
06:30 Aladdin  
07:00 That's So Raven  
07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus  
07:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
08:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay  
08:30 Lucky  
09:30 Prithviraj Chauhan  
10:30 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby  
10:30 Aek Chabhi Hai Padoss Mein  
11:30 Thegreatindialaugh-terchampion2

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

11:30 Extreme Machines  
12:30 Extreme Engineering  
13:30 Lion Week  
02:30 Discovery's Biggest Shows  
04:30 Wild Discovery  
05:30 The Greatest Ever  
06:30 Planet Earth  
07:30 Wild Discovery  
08:30 Discover India

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

10:30 The Killer In Room 911  
11:30 Philadelphia Mystery  
12:30 Ambushed  
01:30 Shark Invasion  
02:30 Nyack, Cinder, Clancy  
03:00 Macaws  
03:30 Colliding Continents  
04:30 Winds Of Victory  
05:00 Cooper, Wasabe, Frito  
05:30 Big Bang  
06:00 Blue Whales  
06:30 Kobe Earthquake  
07:30 Blue Realm: Tentacles  
08:30 Nat Geo Utsav  
09:30 Taboo  
10:30 Heroes of High Frontier  
11:30 Lockdown  
11:30 Guinness World Records: Primetime (Season III)  
12:30 House (Season 1)  
01:30 House (Season 1)  
02:30 Num3r5 (Season 1)  
03:30 The Amazing Race: All-Stars  
08:30 Fled  
10:30 Guinness World Records: Primetime (Season III)  
11:30 The Contender (Season 2)

AXN

12:30 Guinness World Records: Primetime (Season III)  
01:30 House (Season 1)  
02:30 House (Season 1)  
03:30 The Amazing Race: All-Stars  
08:30 Fled  
10:30 Guinness World Records: Primetime (Season III)  
11:30 The Contender (Season 2)

ESPN

11:00 Hitz