



Werder Bremen star Diego (L) scores the opening goal past Bayern Munich goalkeeper Oliver Kahn during their Bundesliga match at the Allianz Arena on Sunday.

Bremen hold Bayern

AFP, Berlin



manager Uli his side's missed penalty chance after made sure of a share of the spoils at the

Bayern Munich

Allianz Arena on Sunday. Bayern remain three points clear

of the chasing pack after the 1-1 draw with second-placed Werder, although Hoeness admitted that Luca Toni's miss from the spot had robbed them of the chance to secure a possible three points.

could have taken a 2-1 lead," said lead. Hoeness, the club's general manager.

"It was a shame we missed the penalty that would have put us in

Munich through in-form midfielder Diego's early strike, Brazilian utes. midfielder Ze Roberto levelled before the break for Bayern, who are chasing their 21st championship crown.

was equally disappointed at what he believed was a missed chance to break the league leaders' domination after his side lost their two previ-

working and tried again and again to bring our forwards into the game," said Schaaf. "The second-half was a second

ous games.

half, we took too many risks. We must be calmer and more patient in our buildup. Bayern's supremacy will be put to

the test in the coming three weekends when they face title rivals Hanover, Hamburg and Schalke 04. Bremen appeared to be on their

way to joining Bayern at the top of the "We had the better of the play and table after the hosts took an early hosts.

switch to Juventus on Saturday despite reports from Italy stating he was interested in moving, shrugged Although Bremen took the lead in off two defenders and beat Oliver Kahn with his shot after just six min-

Bayern level just after the half-hour

Bremen coach Thomas Schaaf Bremen's goalkeeper Tim Wiese from eight metres.

The goal saved Italian striker Toni's blushes after he missed a penalty moments earlier which would have made him the league's "I am satisfied, because we kept leading scorer rather than joint leader on ten with Hamburg's Rafael van der Vaart. Schalke are now up to third after

midfielder Fabian Ernst hit a late winner at Borussia Dortmund to seal a 3-2 victory, a slight revenge for their 2-0 defeat at the Signal Iduna Park last May which cost them the title.

Former Germany international Gerald Asamoah put his side ahead on 19 minutes, but Dortmund hit back just two minutes later when Giovanni Federico netted for the

Schalke regained the lead when Brazilian Diego, who ruled out a Asamoah's free-kick took a deflection off Martin Amedick on 30 minutes, but Thomas Doll's side pulled level again with he best goal of the

Brazilian midfielder Tinga broke from his own half, his pass found But compatriot Ze Roberto put Swiss captain Alexander Frei whose cross was headed home by Croatian mark when he buried his shot past midfielder Mladen Petric for his

ninth goal of the season before Ernst struck on 82 minutes.

On Saturday, Hamburg were held to a 1-1 draw at Bayer Leverkusen as Hamburg captain Rafael van der Vaart has his 28th minute goal cancelled by Bayer's Germany defender Manuel Friedrich who scored with a diving header.

Karlsruhe enjoyed a 2-2 draw at Hanover, but not before the hosts had an injury time goal disallowed, while ten-man VfB Stuttgart were humbled 3-1 at home by Hertha Berlin.

Veteran Czech striker Jan Koller opened his account for Nuremberg when he scored his first goal for his club since his switch from Monaco last month as his side drew 1-1 with Hansa Rostock.

There was a goal bonanza in VfL Bochum's 3-3 draw with second from Energie Cottbus and bottom side Duisburg stay rooted to the foot of the table as they were beaten 2-1 at VfLWolfsburg.

On Friday Czech Republic striker Martin Fenin scored his fourth goal for new club Eintracht Frankfurt to give his side a 2-1 win at Arminia Bielefeld

AFP, Seoul

North and South Korea are in dispute over national anthems and flags in advance of a rare football match in Pyongyang next month, a report said Monday.

The two sides will meet in the North's capital on March 26 in a regional qualifier for the 2010 World Cup finals.

It will be the first time the national teams have played each other in Pyongyang since a friendly was staged in 1990 to symbolise hopes for reunification.

But the North at a preparatory meeting on February 5 refused to let South Korea display its flag and play its national anthem at the game, Dong-A Ilbo newspaper reported.

"We were not able to communicate at all because North Koreans said they cannot play the South Korean anthem and hang the national flag, even though it is not a friendly match but an official match hosted by FIFA," it quoted Cho Jung-Yeon, vice president of the Korea Football Association, as

"North Koreans said that they have never seen the South Korean flag hung up in the sky and heard the national anthem played on their soil in history, so they said they could never allow them," Cho added.

"But I said it is nonsense to use the Korean Peninsula Flag and Arirang instead, in a country-tocountry match."

North and South Korea marched together under the "unification" peninsula flag at the Asian Games opening ceremony in Doha last December, where the traditional

"Arirang" song was performed. "We made it clear that we should use the national flag and anthem. Now the ball is in North Korea's court," Cho said.

"If we cannot reach an agreement, we cannot exclude the possibility of playing in a third country."

The communist North and capitalist South have remained technically at war since the end of the 1950-1953 Korean conflict and neither nation officially recognises the other's existence.

South Korea beat Turkmenistan 4-0 in their latest Asian qualifier last week, while North Korea defeated Jordan 1-0.

Koreas squabble over flag, anthem | Crucial win for Marseille

AFP, Paris



Mamadou Niang marked his return to club football by launching Marseille on their way to a crucial 2-0

Nice on Sunday.

failed to make it past the group stage at the African Cup of Nations in Ghana, tapped home during a dominant first half for the visitors to give Marseille a 1-0 lead at the interval in Nice.

With 18 minutes remaining Marseille survived an onslaught as Nice battled for an equaliser, with some goalkeeping heroics from Steve Mandanda keeping Marseille in the lead.

Two minutes later Marseille doubled their lead when Djibril Cisse fired a loose ball from the edge of the area through a crowd of numerous set piece opportunities

players in to the bottom left-hand corner of the net.

Despite notching only their ninth victory from 23 games, Marseille moved up to seventh in the table and within sight of the European places. Earlier Lens continued their

winter revival, following a disastrous top flight coaching debut for Jeanderby win over Pierre Papin, with a 4-1 rout of Caen.

Lens got off to a lightning start, Niang, whose Senegal team with Toifilou Maoulida hitting the net after just 16 seconds. Lens doubled their score in the

33rd minute when Senegalese

midfielder Kader Mangane headed home from a pass by Olivier Monterrubio. Caen, sitting in respectable eighth place but beaten 6-1 recently by Marseille, struggled to

find a response and by the 67th minute were trailing by three goals after on-loan Lyon striker Lois Remystruck home. Two minutes later Caen finally

got reward from one of their

when midfielder Gregory Proment fired home a free kick.

Caen's problems resumed however when defender Nicolas Seube beat his own keeper with an own goal in the 75th minute, sealing their eighth defeat of the season and a missed opportunity to climb into the top five.

Caen coach Franck Dumas has refused to speak to the media until the end of the season, leaving that task to club president Jean-Francois Fortin.

"I saw some good things out there, but a lot more determination from Lens," said Fortin.

Lens, with 11 goals from their past four outings, are now primed for their future rivals.

"The players are hungry, and the forwards finally showed what they are capable of. We wanted to go out

there and show it," said Papin. On Saturday Lyon maintained their four-point lead over Bordeaux with a 4-1 win over Sochaux Bordeaux kept in the chase with a 3-0 win over Metz.



Marseille forward Djibril Cisse (C) celebrates after scoring against Nice during their League One match at the Ray Stadium on Sunday.

DAVIS CUP

Russia prevail as Novak collapses

Tennis

AFP, Paris

SPORT

Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic suffered a dramatic oncourt collapse as he failed in his brave bid to rescue Serbia's Davis Cup dream against Russia on Sunday.

The Serbs had trailed 2-1 overnight going into the final day of the World Group clash in Moscow and Djokovic, who had missed Friday's singles because of flu, battled into a two-set lead over Nikolay Davydenko.

He was 6-4, 6-3, 3-0 ahead after two and a half hours on court, but once the Russian had clawed back to win the third set 6-4, the Serbian retired complaining of dizziness and nausea.

want to risk my health," said Djokovic.

"I wanted to fight. I tried to play but in the end I was aware of the fact that I was very dizzy and had no energy. "I just didn't want to continue

because of the risk."

Davydenko's win assured

in April where they will face the Czech Republic who completed a

Defending champions the United States said they plan a noisy reception in the heart of the nation's south for their quarterfinal against France.

Last spring, the Americans rode the support of fans in tennisstarved North Carolina to a sweep

same against the next set of on Saturday. European visitors. "France has a great team and great young players, obviously Jo-

whose side beat Austria in Vienna in their first round tie. "Not only do they have a great "I decided to stop as I didn't team, but great individual players and a lot of flair in their team.

> We're hoping for the same kind of scene there this year." The United States eventually ran out comfortable 4-1 winners over Austria.

With Sunday's dead reverse

Russia a place in the quarterfinals singles reduced to the best of three 7-5 and veteran Jonas Bjorkman sets, the Austrians earned an early consolation point when Mike 3-2 win over Belgium in Ostrava. Bryan retired with cramping when

Mike's twin Bob then defeated Werner Eschauer 6-0, 3-6, 7-6 (7/3). France completed a 5-0 whitewash of Romania in Sibiu with

Michael Llodra and Arnaud Clement winning the reverse singles, against Andrei Pavel and Captain Patrick McEnroe and Horia Tecau respectively, to add to his men are hoping for more of the their marathon doubles triumph

"We will not be the favourites, and therefore we will have the advantage of playing without Wilfried Tsonga with a great pressure," said Tsonga, the Australian Open," said McEnroe Australian Open runner-up, of the trip to the United States where the French haven't won since 1927.

"It's motivating, especially when I know that the Americans will fear us. They know we have two Playing in Winston Salem in 2007 top twenty players and a top douwas an incredible environment bles team and that we can play very high quality tennis." In Ramat Hasharon, Sweden,

> the seven-time winners, came from 2-1 down overnight to beat Israel 3-2 with Thomas Johansson seeing off Dudi Sela 7-6 (8/6), 6-1,

defeating Harel Levy 0-6, 6-4, 6-3,

7-6 (8/6). "We were very lucky today to he was down 7-5, 1-0 to Stefan win both matches, but we have great guys with great experience," said Swedish captain Mats

Wilander. "Picking great guys with 10-12 years experience really paid off." The Swedes will have to travel to

Buenos Aires for a quarterfinal

against Argentina who comfort-

ably disposed of Britain 4-1. Jamie Baker prevented an embarrassing whitewash for Britain when he saw off Agustin Calleri 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 in the final

dead rubber. The other last eight clash will see Germany, who won three Davis Cups between 1988 and 1993, welcome Spain.

Philipp Kohlschreiber defeated South Korea's Lee Hyung-Taik 6-0, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7/1) to make sure of

Spain, despite missing world number two Rafael Nadal, opened up an unassailable 3-0 lead over Peru on Saturday in Lima when Feliciano Lopez and Fernando Verdasco beat Luis Horna and Ivan Miranda 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4).

Egypt hails its heroes

AFP, Cairo

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was the first of thousands of fans to welcome the national football team home in Cairo on Monday after their record-breaking conquest of the African Nations Cup.

Hundreds of fans spent the night at Cairo airport waiting for the team to return from Ghana as festivities continued through the night across Egypt following the 1-0 victory against Cameroon.

Thousands of flag-waving Egyptians lined the road to Cairo from the airport, where Mubarak and his son and heir-apparent Gamal greeted the team off the plane.

"The president has delayed his official visit to the United Arab Emirates by a day so that he can personally welcome the national team," Gamal told public televi-

"I feel an indescribable joy, this

is an historic victory." In Egypt, where football eclipses all else, Mubarak sent a message of congratulations to the team as soon as the final whistle went on Sunday.

The veteran leader especially congratulated coach Hassan Shehata, as well as lone goalscorer Mohamed Aboutraika, goalkeeper Essam al-Hadary and the man who set up the winning goal, Mohamed Zidane.

"He told me 'congratulations, you have won great happiness and a great victory for Egypt'," Shehata quoted Mubarak as saying.

"Hadary and Zidane haven't let us sleep all night. They were crazy in Accra and in the plane," said a member of the team's support

Egypt's newspapers were unanimous in hailing the Pharaohs "who don't know the impossible," as the official Al-Ahram daily said. "Egypt be happy: our champions return heads high and with the most beautiful cup," headlined the independent Al-Masry al-Youm.

Clemente new Iran coach

AFP, Tehran

Spaniard Javier Clemente has accepted the post of national football coach of Iran, officials here said Monday, ending months of uncertainty over who would take charge of one of Asia's heavyweight

"The Spanish coach at 3:00pm

(1130GMT) faxed us his signed

contract as the Team Melli coach,'

Iranian Football Federation (FFI) official Mehdi Taj was quoted as saying by the website of state tele-He added that Clemente, in the fax sent to the federation, wrote: "I

confirm the acceptance of the position as Iran national team coach." The report added that Clemente, who was sacked as Serbia coach after failing to lead the

team to the Euro 2008 finals, was

awarded a contract until the end of

the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. Clemente had been named as the new trainer in January but he did not sign the final contract when he was in Tehran last week amid reported wrangles over his insistence to live outside Iran.

against Syria in the World Cup qualifiers last week, resulting in fiery outburst from the Iranian sports papers. Having watched the Syria game from the stands, former Spain national team coach Clemente had

left Iran on Thursday with still no

final contract signed.

Iran continued its recent poor

form by drawing a goalless match

Paloschi the supersub Ancelotti broke away from his usual have one game in hand.

AFP, Rome



AC Milan were indebted to another 18-yearold hotshot to keep them in touch with the Champions .

League qualifying spots on Sunday while city rivals Inter maintained their iron grip at the top. Teenager Alberto Paloschi came

off the bench on 62 minutes for his Serie A debut and seconds later was celebrating his first senior goal from his first touch in the 1-0 win over It was a confident finish on the half-volley from the edge of the area,

Siena keeper Alex Manninger and Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti will now be looking forward to pairing Paloschi with his other 18-year-old sensation, the Brazilian Pato. Before Paloschi's introduction

keeping it low to find the net past

pions looked far from impressive. With Pato and Kaka absent,

the European and World Club cham-

4-3-3 formation for 4-4-2 with Ronaldo and Filippo Inzaghi paired in attack.

It was a move that backfired badly with the World Cup and Champions League all-time leading scorers failing to gel and the midfield lacking inspiration.

Clarence Seedorf replaced Ronaldo at half-time and immediately made a difference introducing urgency and inspiration to the midfield and it was from his lofted ball over the Siena defence that Paloschi scored.

Siena will be disappointed that they didn't take at least a point from the San Siro.

With confidence high following last week's 3-0 win at home to Roma they had the better of the first half, with Mario Frick, Massimo Maccarone and Tomas Locatelli causing Paolo Maldini and Alessandro Nesta problems at the heart of Milan's defence.

The result means that Milan are now two points behind fourthplaced Fiorentina with 36 points, but



AC Milan substitute striker Alberto Paloschi scores the all-important goal with his first touch of the ball against AC Siena during their Serie Aencounter at the San Siro on Sunday.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

JBSUTQAI'Y VTMAIWKQA LRMSA VZRKW YKEAQLVI'Y JAUAZQVWAT RKWAQ CVQLAIW:

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T

"WBA CQAVW 'Y' JVEA." Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SAW THESE TWO IONS YAKKING IT UP, AND OVERHEARD ONE ASKING THE OTHER, "ARE YOU POSITIVE?"

Champions Inter, meanwhile, maintained their eight-point lead with a relatively easy 2-0 win away to

bring the game to life, with Mariano Izco's shot off the Inter bar the only incident of note in the first 60 min-Argentinia midfielder Esteban Cambiasso opened the scoring on 64

It took the introduction of

Honduran striker David Suazo to

Catania.

minutes when he poked in Javier Zanetti's header. Suazo made the game safe two minutes later when he latched onto Zlatan Ibrahimovic's through ball to

double their lead. Inter coach Roberto Mancini was relieved to have finished with three points and admitted that his team's lacklustre performance wasn't helped by the absence of some top

round goalkeeper Ciro Polito and

players. "We missed a lot of injured players and of course that was going to make lifedifficult," he said.

"We had to rest three or four very

needed a rest. We missed players like (Dejan) Stankovic and (Luis) Figo." Juventus striker Vincenzo Iaquinta marked his first return to former club Udinese by scoring an

important players, players that

important winner in a 2-1 victory. The win means Juve are now four points above Fiorentina and can look ahead to trying to overhaul Roma in second place, who lead them by four.

It was not a convincing performance by Juve however, despite the return of goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon following injury. Buffon's rustiness was apparent when the home team opened the

lead. He was unable to hold Fabio

Quagliarella's near-post shot and he

could only watch as the ball squirmed from his grasp to allow Andrea Dossena to poke home the rebound. It was a poor first half from Juventus with Quagliarella and strike partner, Antonio di Natale causing

the Juve defence all manner problems with their pace and movement. The bianconeri improved in the second half and winger Mauro Camoranesi pulled them level on 60 minutes to signal and upturn in

their performance. With Nicola Negrottalie and Giorgio Chiellini stifling Quagliarella and Di Natale Juve took control with Iaquinta coming back to haunt his former employers by firing a low shot past Udinese goalkeeper Samir Handanovic for

Juventus' third win in six games.