counter attack.

Almeria 0 Levante 1 (Sergio 39)

Real Zaragoza 0 Hercules 0

Barcelona 1 (Villa 49) Sporting Gijon 0

Valencia 1 (Aduriz 83) Atletico Madrid 1

(Simao 19)



Barcelona striker David Villa (R) is slide-tackled by Sporting Gijon defender Alberto Botia during their Primera Liga encounter at Nou Camp on Wednesday.

Gianni Zuiverloon and

Simon Cox got the goals for West

Brom after Jo had given City an

goal down in their visit to

Championship strugglers

Scunthorpe, who took a 19th-

minute lead via a rasping Josh

experimental line-up in the

absence of Sir Alex Ferguson,

struck back quickly through

Darron Gibson before eventu-

put United ahead on 36 min-

utes before former England

international Michael Öwen

(2) and Park Ji-Sung put United

5-1 up. Martyn Woolford netted

ager Gerard Houllier's reign off

to a winning start after coming

back from a goal down at Villa

ahead with a low drive before

substitute Emile Heskey lev-

elled after coming off the bench

Ashley Young, netting in the

75th and 77th minutes, settled

the tie.

A quick-fire brace from

for John Carewon 58 minutes.

Gael Givet had fired Rovers

Park to defeat Blackburn 3-1.

Aston Villa got new man-

a late consolation for The Iron.

Defender Chris Smalling

ally over-running their hosts.

But United, fielding an

Hawthorns.

early lead.

Wright shot.

Villa lifts Barca

AFP, Madrid



Spain World Cup star David Villa scored a 49th minute winner as Barcelona beat Sporting Gijon 1-0 on Wednesday to record their first league win of the season at the Camp Nou.

Villa, 28, began his career at hometown club Gijon in 1999 and, in the absence of the injured Lionel Messi, struck a timely first

goal at home for Barcelona following his 40million-euro summer move from Valencia.

It was Barcelona's first home goal of the league campaign and allowed the champions to climb to third on nine points, one point behind leaders and arch-rivals Real Madrid who beat RESULTS

Espanyol 3-0 on Saturday. The win gave the Camp Nou public something to cheer, after watching their side lose 2-0 to promoted Hercules in their last home league match. Since then, Barcelona have won three games on the spin.

Valencia saw their 100 per cent start come to an end in a 1-1 home draw with Atletico Madrid.

ahead and Valencia needed an 83rd minute equaliser from Aritz Aduriz to salvage a point as they joined Real Madrid on 10 points with Madrid top on goal difference. Atletico had been indebted to 19-year-old goalkeeper David de Gea for producing several

smart saves to keep his side in front until the closing stages with Aduriz powering in a header to equalise seven minutes from time. Atletico, beaten 2-1 by Barcelona at the weekend, go fourth with the point, three points behind Valencia and Real and two points

end of September, Barca youngster Bojan Krkic, 20, was given a chance to shine up front alongsideVilla and Iniesta.

Nine minutes in Iniesta had a great chance for Barcelona but was foiled by smart work

from goalkeeper Ivan Cuellar. A minute later Mate Bilic fired just wide of the Barcelona posts to give the home side a

Barcelona were struggling to get through a well-organised bottleneck but almost got the breakthrough on 26 minutes when Bojan ran a full 60 metres as Gijon were caught on the

However, some last-ditch defending stopped the Barcelona from getting his shot off and scor-

ing what would have been a wonder goal. Villa then dragged a left-footed shot wide

and at half-time the scores

were level. Barcelona coach Pep

Guardiola brought on Pedro Rodriguez and Gerard Pique for Seydou Keita and Carles Puyol in the second half and the hosts scored four minutes after the break.

Dani Alves fed a great pass to Villa who made no mistake with the finish for his second league goal of the campaign. The goal relaxed Barcelona who played their

slick possession football as Sporting chased Portuguese winger Simao shot Atletico shadows, however a game-killing second goal remained elusive, with Pique and Villa going closest in the final 10 minutes. Nerves were jangling when the visitors had a

dangerous free-kick on the edge of the area in the final minute but Barcelona stood firm to take the points.

Elsewhere promoted Levante's 1-0 at Almeria handed them their first points of the season and moved them above their opponents, who are still searching for their first victory and sit second from bottom.

Real Zaragoza are also winless and prop up the table after a scoreless draw with Hercules

on Wednesday. With Messi out with an ankle injury until the

A night of upsets

Football

AFP, London

Liverpool were sent crashing

out of the League Cup by lowly Northampton on Wednesday as Chelsea and Manchester City tumbled out on a night of upsets. The shock of the third round

came at Anfield, where a virtual reserve Liverpool team were beaten 4-2 in a penalty shootout by Northampton, languishing near the bottom of the fourth tier of English football.

Serbian striker Milan Jovanovic looked to have set Premier League Liverpool on their way after nine minutes,

rifling in a low left foot shot. But Roy Hodgson's side were stunned when Billy McKay hooked in an equaliser for the

League Two outfit, forcing the match into extra time. Eight minutes later, the unthinkable occurred as

Michael Jacobs put Northampton ahead. It looked like being enough until David Ngog struck on 116 minutes to send the game into a the shoot-out with the score at 2-2. The fairvtale looked over

when Steve Guinan skied the first spot-kick of the shoot-out for the Cobblers. But subsequent misses by

Ngog and youngster Nathan Eccleston left Northampton striker Abdul Osman with a shot for glory and the forward made no mistake, beating Liverpool keeper Brad Jones to trigger oyous scenes. The defeat was the latest

disappointment for Liverpool, who have struggled to make any kind of impression in the league where they are lying in 16th place, already 10 points behind leaders Chelsea. Chelsea were beaten 4-3 by

Newcastle at Stamford Bridge, where not even the returning John Terry could stifle the Magpies, who recovered from an early Patrick van Aanholt goal to prevail in a seven-goal

Newcastle looked to be cruising to victory after taking a 3-1 lead early in the second half with goals from Nile Ranger, Ryan Taylor and Shola Ameobi.

Chelsea's problems deepened when Yossi Benayoun limped off with an injury after the Blues had already made their three substitutions, forcing the home side to play the

remainder of the match with 10

However Chelsea fought back to level with two goals from Nicolas Anelka, the equaliser coming from the penalty spot with only three minutes left. An epic encounter was

settled on 90 minutes though when Ameobi nodded in a header to settle a pulsating encounter. In another upset, West

Bromwich Albion ratcheted up the pressure on Manchester City boss Roberto Mancini after the Baggies downed their free-

Liverpool 2 (Jovanovic 9, Ngog 116) Northampton 2 (McKay 56, Jacobs 98) - a.e.t 1-1 after 90 minutes; Northampton win 4-2 on penalties

Chelsea 3 (Van Aanholt 6, Anelka 70,

87-pen) Newcastle 4 (Ranger 27, Taylor 32, Ameobi 49, 90) Aston Villa 3 (Heskey 59, Young, 75,

77) Blackburn 1 (Givet 34) Scunthorpe 2 (Wright 19, Woolford 90+1) Man Utd 5 (Gibson 23, Smalling

36, Owen 49, 71, Park Ji-Sung 54) Wigan Athletic 2 (Gomez 87, N'Zogbia 90+2) Preston North End 1

West Brom 2 (Zuiverloon 55, Cox 57) Man City 1 (Jo 19)

(Treacy 23)

Manchester United striker Michael Owen scores the third goal during their Carling Cup tie against Scunthorpe United at Glanford Park on Wednesday.

Zidane slams author

Football

AFP, Paris

Zinedine Zidane hit out Wednesday at the author of a book which suggested he and several other members of France's 1998 World Cup winning squad may have been involved in doping practices.

Former France team doctor Jean-Pierre Paclet published 'Implosion' in August, in which he claimed that "blood sample tests on several France players just before the 1998

World Cup revealed anomalies". Paclet added: "There is room for suspicion,

given the clubs where some of the players are employed, notably the Italian league.'

In an interview on TV5 Monde Wednesday

former Juventus midfielder Zidane played down the claims, suggesting Paclet was simply trying to shock to sell more copies. "It's not nice to hear, and it's unfortunate,

but that's life. People like that are just looking to boost their book sales by adding some shocking content. It's not new.'

Zidane played for Juventus from 1996-2001. The Italian giants won three Serie A titles and one European Cup in the 1990s, when the club was also embroiled in a drugs affair which led to a trial for Juventus chief executive Antonio Giraudo and team doctor Riccardo Agricola.

At a 2004 trial Italian prosecutors charged that, while the drugs in question were legal, they were employed in such a way that they produced the same effects as performanceenhancing substances.

St Etienne in last 16

AFP, Paris

spending opponents 2-1 at the St Etienne, who went top of the French first division for the first time in 29 years last weekend, continued their impressive form on Wednesday with a Manchester United were 2-0 win over Nice in the forced to fight back from a League Cup round of 32.

> With a crucial league derby against Lyon approaching, St Etienne rested Loic Perrin, Carlos Bocanegra and Sylvain Monsoreau while top scorer Dimitri Payet was injured. Christophe Landrin opened

the scoring in the 15th minute with a sweet volley from an acute angle after being set-up by Argentine winger Gonzalo Bergessio.

Bergessio added the second in the 39th minute, converting a cross from Bakary Sako.

Toulouse, currently second in the first division, were knocked out 2-1 by second division Boulogne after extra-

Chilian Gonzola Lorca put Boulogne ahead after half an

Moussa Sissoko levelled in the 77th minute but Fatih scored a 115th-minute penalty to decide the tie against Toulouse who ended with 10 men.

Moore faces drinking charge

AFP, Dubai

A Dubai prosecutor said Wednesday that former Aussie national football captain Craig Moore, reportedly involved in a drunken altercation over a taxi fare, will only be charged on a misdemeanour drinking offence.

After Moore was questioned over "alcohol consumption, aggression and insult of a functionary and refusing to pay a taxi fare," Sami Salem al-Shami said it was decided to turn the case over to a court dealing with misdemeanours.

Moore will only be tried for "alcohol consumption under conditions not authorised by law," Shami said in a statement, explaining that the "private parties" -- the cabbie and a policeman -- had decided not to pursue it.

He did not elaborate but on Sunday The National newspaper cited Dubai police as saying Moore's was arrested after a row with a cab driver that escalated into a confrontation with police.

Moore drunkenly argued with the cab driver over a 50 dirham (13.60 dollar) fare and police were called to intervene, the newspaper said.

"He then shoved one of the officers," it added. Shami did not say when Moore would be tried.

The offence is punishable by up to three months in prison, a 5,000 dirham (1,360 dollar) fine, or both, The National said.

Non-Muslims can consume alcohol in Dubai, but only in hotels or clubs.

Inter hammer Bari ing to a question suggesting a created the first goal, beating

AFP, Rome



returned to the summit of Serie A on Wednesday after two goals each for strikers Diego

Inter Milan

PHOTO: AFP

Milito and Samuel Eto'o helped the champions to an easy 4-0 win at home to Bari. Little Cesena, top on goal difference above Inter at the beginning of the evening, conceded for the first time

since being promoted, going down 2-0 at Catania. It was also a night for Italy's most coveted goalscorers to come to the fore as Milito, Fiorentina's Alberto Gilardino and Antonio Di Natale all hit the net for the first time in this

campaign. After four games, Inter are on 10 points, one clear of Brescia and Chievo, who scored impressive wins at home to Roma, 2-1, and away at inconsistent Napoli, 3-1, respectively.

AC Milan and Lazio dropped points after a 1-1 draw in Rome where Zlatan Ibrahimovic opened the scoring only for Sergio Floccari to equalise for Lazio.

While Inter have won all of the last five titles, it is the first time former Valencia and Liverpool coach Rafael Benitez has enjoyed top spot in Italy.

"We played beautiful football because we have quality players - it's nothing to do with the system we play," said Benitez, respond-

more attacking approach than the Inter Milan of previous coach Jose Mourinho. Benitez also praised the

cool-headedness of Eto'o who

converted two penalties to

behind Barcelona.

take his season's tally to five. "Eto'o is taking the penalties because he's full of confidence. It may be different later in the season and maybe

Milito will take them then.'

Without Javier Zanetti, injured for the first time in five years, Inter were given a scare after just 20 seconds when Abdelkader Ghezzal crossed for Sergio Almiron to shoot against the post.

But Wesley Sneijder was among the Nerazzurri ranks and the Dutchman was soon pulling the strings in midfield.

It was Eto'o though who

his man and then crossing from the left for Milito, rediscovering his predatory instincts, to thump in a header from inside the sixyard box on 27 minutes.

Inter were handed the second goal when Marco Rossi handled an innocuous Sneijder cross four minutes after the restart with Eto'o sending Jean Francois Gillet the wrong way from the resulting spot kick.

Ghezzal almost pulled a goal back for Bari on 56 minutes, firing just wide from the edge of the box, but the game was over seven minutes later when Lucio tumbled in the box to win Inter a second penalty.

Eto'o sent Gillet the wrong way a second time from 12 yards, this time slotting the

After Julio Cesar turned over a fierce drive from Alessandro Parisi, Milito ran through to grab his second and Inter's fourth with a cool finish with four minutes to go.

ball into the opposite corner.

In Rome, Ibrahimovic and Hernanes both went close twice in the first half before the Swede ran onto a precise Clarence Seedorf pass to round Fernando Muslera and slot in the net on 66 minutes. But nine minutes from

time, Hernanes crossed for Floccari to volley home and give the home side a fair share of the points.

Elsewhere, there were 1-1 draws between Genoa and Fiorentina and Lecce and Parma while Cagliari and Sampdoria, missing Antonio Cassano, failed to muster a

Napoli 1 (Cannavaro 9) Chievo 3 (Pellissier 22, 75, Gelson 58)

(Ibrahimovic 66) Genoa 1 (Mesto 18) Fiorentina 1 (Gilardino 11)

Lazio 1 (Floccari 81) AC Milan 1

Inter Milan 4 (Milito 27, 86, Eto'o 50pen, 63-pen) Bari 0

Bologna 2 (Gimenez 16, Di Vaio 90)

Udinese 1 (Di Natale 9) Cagliari O Sampdoria O Brescia 2 (Hetemaj 13, Caracciolo 65-

pen) Roma 1 (Borriello 84) Lecce 1 (Jeda 31-pen) Parma 1 (Crespo 69)

Catania 2 (Silvestre 23, Maxi Lopez 59) Cesena 0

Five-star Dortmund

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Bender 9, Vidal

90-pen) Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Gekas

Borussia Dortmund 5 (Barrios 31, 88,

Grosskreutz 38, Hummels 65,

Lewandowski 75) Kaiserslautern 0

Hamburg 1 (Choupo-Moting 27) VfL

Wolfsburg 3 (Dzeko 15, Grafite 71, 79)

Borussia M'gladbach 1 (Arango 25) St.

Pauli 2 (Asamoah 66, Bruns 71-pen)

Freiburg 1 (Cisse 69) Schalke 04 2

(Rakitic 9, Huntelaar 87)

Nuremberg 2 (Schieber 3, Pinola 90)

AFP, Berlin



Freiburg.

Dortmund went second in the German league on Wednesday when they hammered Kaiserslautern 5-0 while bottom side Schalke 04 picked up their first points of the season with a 2-1 victory at

Dortmund are three points behind leaders Mainz after their comprehensive win which saw them 2-0 ahead at half-time thanks to goals from Lucas Barrios and Kevin Grosskreutz. Defender Mats Hummels

scored with a header on 65 minutes before Poland striker Robert Lewandowski hit the fourth on 75 minutes while Barrios scored his second in the dying moments. Having beaten neighbours Schalke in Sunday's

Ruhr Valley derby, Jurgen Klopp-coached Dortmund now have 12 Ballack are currently injured. After four straight defeats, Schalke ended the rot when they beat 10-man Freiburg as

Dutch striker Klaas Jan Huntelaar netted his second goal in two games on 87 minutes. Despite the three points, Schalke remain rooted to the bottom of the table, but will

have the chance to raise from 18th place

when they host Moenchengladbach - who

are 15th - on Saturday. Schalke took the lead for the first time this season when midfielder Ivan Rakitic fired home on nine minutes before Freiburg equalised when Papiss Demba Cisse scored his fifth goal of the season on 69 minutes. Freiburg's midfielder Ivica Banovic was

Inter Milan striker Diego Milito celebrates his goal against Bari

during their Serie A clash at San Siro on Wednesday.

sent off right at the end, 11 minutes after he came on as a substitute.

Wolfsburg striker Edin Dzeko also hit his fifth goal of the season when he scored

the Wolves first goal in the 3-1 draw at Hamburg before Brazil forward Grafite scored two late goals to seal the win. Nuremberg got their first win of the season when

they beat Stuttgart 2-1 while St Pauli beat Moenchengladbach 2-1. Leverkusen brushed off their injury problems with a 2-1 win over Eintracht Frankfurt and welcomed back Simon Rolfes although

both striker Stefan Kiessling

and mid-fielder Michael On Tuesday, Mainz 05 beat Cologne 2-0 to stay top, while Bayern Munich have lost

winger Franck Ribery for the next month after he injured his right ankle in the 2-1 win at Hoffenheim.

Champions League side Werder Bremen slumped to their second consecutive league defeat when they were beaten 4-1 at Hanover. be so."

Lahm keen on Bayern stay

AFP, Munich

to extend his contract at Bayern Munich which runs out at the end of the 2012 season. The 26-year-old, who captained Germany to third at the 2010 World Cup after Michael

Germany captain Philipp

Lahm said Thursday he expects

Ballack injured his ankle, has played for defending Bundesliga champions Bayern since 2002. "If you feel like we are on the right path, then there is no reason to go elsewhere," said

Sport 1. Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has recently stated he wants Lahm to sign a five-year extension to his contract.

Lahm in an interview with

The wing-back had been linked to a move to Spain, but Lahm poured cold water on the idea of leaving the south German city where he was born and raised.

"But this is my hometown, my hometown club, and I want to play international football successfully," he said.

"That was the case last year and will hopefully continue to