



Udinese forward Antonio Di Natale (L) scores the second goal from a freekick during their Serie A encounter against Inter Milan in Udine on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Milan snap up Emanuelson

REUTERS, Milan

Serie A leaders AC Milan signed Ajax left wingback Urby Emanuelson on a permanent deal on Sunday to increase their defensive and midfield options for the title run-in.

"AC Milan announced the purchase from Ajax of Urby Emanuelson, who has signed a contract until June 30, 2014," a club statement said without adding any financial details.

Dutch media reports said Ajax would receive 1.7 million euros (\$2.38 million) for the player.

With Gianluca Zambrotta injured and Luca Antonini inconsistent at left back, the 24-year-old Dutch international will provide competition in Milan's defence but could also be used further forward in Massimiliano Allegri's 4-3-3 formation.



ESPN

Sportscentre India

Sports News

Live from 8:30pm

English Premiership

Blackpool v Man United

Live from 1:30am (Wednesday)

STAR Sports

Australian Open

Men's & Women's Qtrs

Live from 6:00am

# Udinese stun Inter

AFP, Rome



Udinese ended Leonardo's perfect record since taking over as Inter Milan coach with a 3-1 win over the Italian champions on Sunday while city rivals Milan retained their four-point lead at the top.

Inter, aiming for a sixth straight win since the Brazilian's arrival in the San Siro dugout, took the lead after quarter of an hour through Dejan Stankovic.

Udinese then stunned Inter with goals from Cristian Zapata and Antonio Di Natale - his 15th of the season - to go into the break 2-1 up, with Maurizio Domizzi adding a third midway through the second half.

Inter remain in fifth place on 35 points but are nine adrift of leaders AC Milan who edged Cesena 2-0 in Sunday's late game.

But it wasn't a convincing Milan performance as they needed an own-goal from Maximiliano Pellegrino for a 45th-minute opener.

Pellegrino, who had also netted against his own team last weekend in the clash with Roma, was put under pressure

### RESULTS

Udinese 3 (Zapata 21, Di Natale 25, Domizzi 69) Inter Milan 1 (Stankovic 16)  
Fiorentina 1 (Gigliardino 56) Lecce 1 (Di Michele 29)  
Sampdoria 0 Juventus 0  
Bari 0 Napoli 2 (Lavezzi 38, Cavani 87)  
Bologna 3 (Ramirez 36, Di Vaio 39, 90)  
Lazio 1 (Flocari 5)  
Chievo 0 Genoa 0  
AC Milan 2 (Pellegrino 45-og, Ibrahimovic 90+3) Cesena 0

from Antonio Cassano and Zlatan Ibrahimovic and was unable to prevent the ball crossing the line.

Ibrahimovic added the second goal in the third minute of injury time for his 13th league strike of the season.

Milan's win was overshadowed by a serious shoulder injury suffered by veteran defender Alessandro Nesta who was hurt in a collision with Igor Budin and was substituted in the 20th minute.

He could be ruled out for up to three weeks after it was originally thought he'd miss three months.

Napoli replaced Roma in second place after a 2-0 win at Bari. Argentina's Ezequiel Lavezzi fired Napoli in front with a 38th-minute free-kick before Uruguayan striker Edinson Cavani added the second, three minutes from time with his 14th goal of the season.

Lazio stayed in fourth place after crashing to a shock 3-1 defeat at Bologna.

Juventus are sixth, just behind Inter on goal difference, after a 0-0 draw at Sampdoria where their only fit striker Amauri played with a face mask to protect a broken nose.

# Ballack back in win

AFP, Berlin



Michael Ballack returned from injury on Sunday as Bayer Leverkusen went second in the Bundesliga with a 3-1 win at bottom side Moenchengladbach to trim Dortmund's lead at the top to 11 points.

Germany captain Ballack made a low-key return after suffering a fractured leg which has kept him out since September and he came off the bench with just over half an hour remaining, just before Gladbach pulled a goal back.

The 34-year-old put in a few telling passes as he looks to play his way back into the Germany team to face Italy in a friendly in Dortmund on February 9.

"If you have been out for so long, you burn to play again," said Ballack.

"I was lucky because I came on when we were 2-0 up, so there was room to go forward. We didn't begin well, but we turned it around."

Leverkusen took the lead when Czech defender Michal Kadlec curled in a direct free-kick at 37 minutes before Germany defender Gonzalo Castro headed in a cross just before half-time to make it 2-0.

Austrian defender Martin Stranzl hit a superb goal when he curled in a shot from the wing on 65 minutes before Castro put the result beyond doubt with a second goal after Leverkusen counter-attacked quickly.

With his side in mid-table, Hoffenheim teenager David Alaba netted a 90th-minute equaliser as his side drew 2-2 with strugglers St Pauli on Sunday evening.

### RESULTS

Borussia M'gladbach 1 (Stranzl 65)  
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Kadlec 37, Castro 45, 73)  
Hoffenheim 2 (Compper 29, Alaba 90)  
St. Pauli 2 (Kruse 51, Asamoah 81)

# IN brief

## Ba loaned to West Ham

AFP, Berlin

Hoffenheim's want-away Senegal striker Demba Ba is set to join Premier League side West Ham United on loan until the end of the season, the Bundesliga club said Sunday.

The 25-year-old fell out with Hoffenheim recently when he refused to attend a training camp, but a transfer to Stoke City fell through last weekend when he failed the medical examination.

Ba is now set to join West Ham on a short-term deal, Hoffenheim manager Ernst Tanner confirmed.

"Nothing has been signed, but everything points to the fact that he will go on loan at West Ham," said Tanner.

Ba passed the medical on Saturday and the deal is due to be finalised soon.

Hoffenheim are still hoping to recruit Liverpool's Dutch striker Ryan Babel as a potential replacement.

## Kalle wants double revenue

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said Sunday he wants to double the money German clubs receive from TV revenue so the Bavarian giants can stay competitive in Europe.

"Our goal is that our receipts from television are doubled in the medium term," Rummenigge told German daily Die Welt.

"The Bundesliga offers interesting and attractive football, it is necessary that is reflected in the receipts from television."

The Bayern chairman has made this topic his bugbear in the past as his team look to repeat last season's feat of reaching the Champions League final where they were beaten 2-0 by Inter Milan.

"I think it is not normal that in Italy clubs receive more than double what we do," he said.

"We are among the top five domestic competitions in the world."

"If things don't change dramatically, the Bundesliga will have problems despite its good health."

According to the current agreement between German broadcaster Sky and the top German clubs, the 36 teams in the second and first division of the Bundesliga receive 420 million euros between them.

Rummenigge claims Italy's top teams received close to a billion euros for the rights to broadcast Serie A, while Bayern received 28 million euros from television revenue alone.

## Cahill fit for semifinal

AFP, Doha

Everton's Tim Cahill is fit and a certain starter for Australia in their Asian Cup semifinal against Uzbekistan, coach Holger Osieck said on Monday.

Cahill had been struggling with a thigh injury but played in their quarterfinal win over Iraq, only to pick up an ankle knock that forced Osieck to take him off.

But the attacking midfielder has recovered and will take his place in the team for their match on Tuesday at Al Khalifa Stadium.

"There's no worry about Tim Cahill at all. He is fit, he's in good spirits and there is no question about him playing on Tuesday," the coach said at his pre-match press conference in Doha.

The winners will take on either Japan or South Korea in the final on January 29, with the losers facing a third-place play-off the day before.



PHOTO: AFP

Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema (R) fires a shot under pressure from Mallorca defender Ivan Ramis during their Primera Liga clash at Bernabeu on Sunday.

# Real ride on Benzema

AFP, Madrid



Misfit striker Karim Benzema reminded Jose Mourinho of his talents on Sunday, scoring the 60th-minute goal in Real Madrid's 1-0 win over Real Mallorca which cut Barcelona's lead back to four points.

Mourinho said Benzema, a 35-million euro signing from Lyon, needed to step up his game and the 23-year-old responded as Real made it a perfect 10 home wins.

Benzema, at the centre of a midweek row between Mourinho and Real general manager Jorge Valdano over the French striker's under-employment, cut inside on to his left foot before drilling in for only his second league goal of the season.

### RESULTS

Sporting Gijon 1 (Barral 50)  
Atletico Madrid 0  
Real Zaragoza 1 (Boutahar 38)  
Deportivo La Coruna 0  
Getafe 1 (Miku 13) Espanyol 3 (Luis Garcia 52, Callejon 59, Sergio Garcia 63)  
Almeria 3 (Garcia 8, Ulloa 10, 54)  
Osasuna 2 (Aranda 23, Lekic 90)  
Real Madrid 1 (Benzema 60)  
Real Mallorca 0  
Villarreal 2 (Rossi 40, 47) Real Sociedad 1 (Aranburu 29)

Villarreal moved back into third place with a 2-1 comeback win at home to Real Sociedad.

Italian international Giuseppe Rossi scored both goals in the 40th and 47th minutes to take his league tally to 11 as Villarreal made it 10 wins from 11 at home to go third, two points above Valencia.

It was the perfect tonic for Villarreal who were knocked out of the Kings Cup in mid-week by holders Sevilla.

Almeria warmed up for Wednesday's Kings Cup semifinal against Barcelona with a morale-boosting 3-2 home win over Osasuna to move

off the bottom.

A brace from Argentine Jose Ulloa, in the 10th and 54th minutes, helped Almeria to their first home league win of the season as they moved up to 18th with Levante replacing them at the foot of the table.

# Blackburn climb up

AFP, Blackburn



Blackburn climbed to seventh place in the Premier League here Sunday after a 2-0 win over West Bromwich Albion at Ewood Park.

A first-half own goal from West Brom defender Gabriel Tamas and a superb second-half strike from Canadian youngster David Hoilett sealed a deserved win for Rovers, who are six points behind Sunderland in sixth.

The defeat pushed West Brom further towards the relegation quagmire, with Roberto Di Matteo's men now having lost six of their last seven matches. The Baggies remain just three points above the drop zone in 15th place.

West Brom had goalkeeper Boaz Myhill to thank for keeping Rovers at bay, the Baggies stopper saving in quick succession from Martin Olsson and Chris Samba.

With Myhill in commanding form it always seemed likely that Rovers might need a slice of luck to break the deadlock and so it proved on 41 minutes.

### SPORTS POLL

#### WEEKLY QUESTION

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### DAY'S EVENT



#### Premier Division Cricket

Super League

Abahani v Biman

Venue: SCS (Bogra)

Mohammedan v Cricket Coaching

Venue: BKSP-2

Old DOHS v Gazi Tank

Venue: SKS (Rajshahi)