



AC Milan captain Gennaro Gattuso (R) is the toast of teammates after his strike against Juventus secured the league leaders an away victory at Turin's Olympic Stadium on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Gattuso sinks Juventus

AFP, Rome

A rare Gennaro Gattuso goal sent leaders AC Milan eight points clear in Serie A after they dominated a poor Juventus 1-0 at the Stadio Olimpico in Turin on Saturday ahead of Italy's main programme.

The combative midfielder, who is suspended for Wednesday's Champions League clash against Tottenham, struck in the 68th minute, firing under Gianluigi Buffon to cap a splendid week for the Rossoneri who had beaten title-challengers Napoli 3-0 on Monday.

It was Juventus' third defeat on the trot and leaves them languishing in seventh position, seven points off the Champions League places with ten matches to go.

Allegri, who had lined up alongside Gattuso in his playing days, betrayed a flicker of emotion after the midfielder's first goal in three seasons.

Juventus are now 20 points behind Milan in Serie A and worse off than they were last season when Ciro Ferrara was sacked mid-season.

The former Sampdoria coach suggested he needed better players brought in.

Despite being without flu-stricken striker Pato, Alessandro Allegri decided to rest fellow pint-sized Brazilian Robinho, but it was not long before Mathieu Flamini picked out Zlatan Ibrahimovic for a wonderful early chance.

The former Juve player, perhaps surprised by the space he was allowed, spurned the opportunity, side-footing over from six yards.

On the back of two defeats, Juventus looked shorn of confidence and were reduced to pot-shots from distance as Milan dominated possession.

Halfway through the opening period, the leaders wasted another fine chance to take the lead. Kevin Prince Boateng fed the recalled Antonio Cassano, who sold Giorgio Chiellini a dummy but then lifted his finish over the bar from eight yards.

In an increasingly subdued atmosphere at the Stadio Olimpico, the remaining highlight of the first half was a nasty-looking coming together between Felipe Melo and Boateng with

both players returning to the pitch after receiving lengthy treatment.

With Robinho thrown on for Boateng, Milan continued to push forward in the second period. On 51 minutes Flamini should have done better with a downward header at the back post after a superb cross from Ignazio Abate.

Two minutes later and a viciously swerving 35-yard free-kick from Ibrahimovic had Buffon scrambling to his left to keep the ball out.

Just as Juve began to up the tempo, Milan struck. Ibrahimovic chested down a long ball for the onrushing Gattuso who turned inside onto his weaker left foot before shooting under the body of Buffon and into the corner.

Delneri brought on Vincenzo Iaquinta and Alessandro Del Piero but the Rossoneri continued to pose the greater threat with Robinho firing wide when well placed in the dying stages.

Chiellini took a late tumble in the box but Juventus, who had barely had a shot on target the whole game, left the pitch to a chorus of whistles after another sorry performance that must seriously undermine Delneri's job.

# Sk Jamal

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After resumption, Sheikh Jamal dominated the proceedings and stepped up the attack through both flanks and created several chances. The pressure paid off when Shakil, elder brother of Emily, whipped in a cross from the left and Emily dove on it on the edge of the box. Mohammedan goalkeeper Titu initially stopped the low shot but by then the ball had crossed the goalline with the referee pointing to the centre.

The win lifted Sheikh Jamal to 21 points from 10 matches in third position, two behind leaders Abahani and one less than second-placed Mukhtijodha Sangsad, who have a game in hand.

On the other hand, it was a second successive defeat for Mohammedan, who have 13 points from 10 matches.

In the day's first match, Arambagh KS and Farashganj SC played out a goalless draw.

# Siddons seeks

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We played pretty well against them in Dhaka and here. They are struggling, but they are still a very good cricket team. They are not struggling as much as we did the other day," Siddons said, and mentioned how crucial local player Tamim Iqbal would be in their next assignment.

"He is one of our key players, we need him to stay well. He is determined and confident of doing that. He played well last time here, and he likes playing against England."

# Barca go ten clear

AFP, Madrid



LFP

Mali international

midfielder Seydou Keita scored only his second goal of the season as champions Barcelona moved ten points clear of Real Madrid in the Spanish first division with a hard-fought 1-0 home win over Real Zaragoza on Saturday.

The 31-year-old Keita, a fringe player this season, scored the decisive goal on 43 minutes as Barcelona made it three league wins in the space of eight days and piled the pressure on Real who travelled to Racing Santander on Sunday.

It was a far from vintage performance, but three points and another clean sheet are the perfect preparation for Barcelona's Champions League second leg showdown with Arsenal on Tuesday as Barca bid to overturn a 2-1 deficit.

With the Arsenal game in three days time, Barca coach Pep Guardiola rested Spanish stars David Villa and Andres Iniesta allowing Keita and Bojan Krkic a chance to shine.

Goalkeeper Victor Valdes also returned between the sticks after missing the last three league matches with a knee injury so Jose Manuel Pinto dropped to the bench.

Barca were almost given a shock in the eighth minute with Gerard Pique called upon to make a decisive late tackle as Nicolas Bertolo was about to shoot on goal.

The hosts had their first real effort in the 18th minute with Pedro Rodriguez's low shot tipped wide of the post after the home side

had worked a training ground corner routine. Minutes later Bojan's deflected shot clipped the bar and Keita had a header ruled out for a marginal offside.

Keita scored again on 43 minutes and this time the goal stood. Lionel Messi showed his trademark close control to get behind two Zaragoza defenders and cut the ball back from the right touch-line and the ball fell kindly for Keita to stroke home only his second league goal of the season.

Zaragoza, two points above the relegation zone, almost levelled early in the second half with Bertolo going past Pique but his curling effort crept inches past the post.

Pique had a header saved on the goal line before Florent Sinama Pongolle missed a glorious chance to equalise with an outstretched foot from Valdes denying the Frenchman.

Earlier Spanish international winger Pablo Hernandez scored twice as Valencia came from behind to win 2-1 at Real Mallorca on Saturday to move four points clear of fourth-placed Villarreal.

Hernandez, 25, scored in each half as Valencia bounced back from their midweek 1-0 home defeat to Barcelona with their eighth away win of the season to strengthen their position in third.

Elsewhere Villarreal lost ground on Valencia following a 3-1 loss to Atletico Madrid at the Vicente Calderon on Saturday.

Italian striker Giuseppe Rossi cancelled out Jose Antonio Reyes' brilliant early opener, but quick-fire goals from Sergio "Kun" Aguero and Diego Forlan on 68 and 72 minutes put the game to bed for Atletico.

# Gunners fire blank

AFP, London



Arsenal

blew the chance to reduce Manchester United's lead at the top of the Premier League to just one point after being held to a 0-0 draw at home to Sunderland on Saturday.

Arsene Wenger's injury-hit team, missing Cesc Fabregas, Theo Walcott and Robin van Persie, were frustrated by a resolute Sunderland side who were determined to end a run of four consecutive defeats.

A disappointed Wenger was furious that an Andrey Arshavin goal had been disallowed for offside when replays appeared to show he had been onside.

The Emirates stalemate was the only goalless draw on a day of breathless entertainment across the league.

Third placed Manchester City closed the gap on Arsenal to four points as a howler from Wigan goalkeeper Ali Al Habsi gifted the hosts a 1-0 win at Eastlands.

City were below their best but Al Habsi somehow allowed Spanish winger David Silva's 38th minute shot to squirm through his hands and into the net.

Conor Sammon almost equalised for Wigan in stoppage time but Roberto Martinez's side remain bottom of the table and are now four points from safety.

In a dramatic game at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton twice came from behind against Aston Villa and saw the visitors miss a penalty before snatching a dramatic 3-2 victory.

Villa took the lead on 15 minutes, January transfer signing Darren Bent netting his third goal for the club after meeting Kyle Walker's cross at the back post to silence the Reebok Stadium.

But Gary Cahill equalised with a header on the stroke of half-time to restore parity for Bolton.

Villa were not to be denied though, and Marc Albrighton gave the visitors the lead again when he finished on 64 minutes.

Ashley Young could have made the game

safe for Villa on 70 minutes only to see his penalty saved by Jussi Jaaskelainen.

Young was made to rue the miss shortly afterwards, when Cahill grabbed his second to make it 2-2. And four minutes from time substitute Ivan Klasnic fired in the winner to sink Villa and see Wanderers move up a place to sixth.

There was more drama at Craven Cottage where Fulham overcame a stubborn Blackburn side 3-2 courtesy of a late penalty from Bobby Zamora.

Earlier, Damien Duff had twice given Fulham the lead against his former club only for his goals to be cancelled out by Grant Hanley and David Hoylett.

Everton meanwhile bounced back from the disappointment of their midweek FA Cup exit to Reading to beat Newcastle 2-1 at St James Park.

Leon Best fired the Magpies ahead on 23 minutes before two goals in five minutes from Leon Osman and Phil Jagielka gave Everton a valuable three points.

West Ham's revival gathered pace with a 3-0 win over Stoke at Upton Park, with Senegalese striker Demba Ba taking advantage of some comedy defending by Asmir Begovic and Marc Wilson to open the scoring after 21 minutes.

# We have to qualify

FROM PAGE 19

were realistically looking at anything close to 250 or, maybe, even slightly above, it could have been a great game of cricket had it continued," said the Sri Lankan captain.

The Australian pace duo of Brett Lee and Shaun Tait had removed Tillakaratne Dilshan (four) and Upul Tharanga (six) before Mahela Jayawardene (23) was run out.

Sangakkara and Thilan Samaraweera (34 not out) had added 71 for the fourth wicket before the match was abandoned, leaving a sell-out 35,000 crowd disappointed.

# Long waits

FROM PAGE 19

Saturday where you are 30 overs in and it's washed out, it just makes us think that little bit more about it."

Ponting said the loss of one point from Saturday's washout would not make a difference to his team.

"Hopefully we can continue to win a few more games and hopefully not getting two points out here won't affect us. I am not sure how it's going to work for Sri Lanka, but I am not that concerned about that either.

# Kuwait look

FROM PAGE 16

some good football."

Shammari was also aware that it was a new ball game, new situation and was prepared to face any challenge from the home side.

Kuwait qualified for the 2000 Olympics when they beat Czech Republic but went down to Cameroon and USA to be eliminated from the first round. In the last two editions they failed to qualify for the finals but this time they are optimistic about their chances with a very young side.

# KP set for op

FROM PAGE 16

"I'm obviously extremely disappointed to have picked up this hernia injury but I've been able to manage it so far throughout the World Cup and will continue to do so under the guidance of the England team's medical staff," Pietersen said. "It will no doubt impact my preparation but careful management should see me still play a significant role in the team's campaign.

# 'Pressure? Not at all'

FROM PAGE 16

Australia.

They lost a group game from a strong position and were then knocked out by the eventual champions on run-rate after a semifinal tie where victory was within their grasp.

South Africa exited the 2003 tournament after failing to understand the Duckworth/Lewis system in a match with Sri Lanka they needed to win, and were thrashed by Australia in a lopsided semifinal four years ago in the Caribbean.

The Proteas, like England, have never won the World Cup and Smith said: "It's obviously disappointing not to get over the line. We've got to learn from today, and pick ourselves up to play India."

Unusually for a one-day international, the pitch at the Chidambaram Stadium gave the bowlers and plenty of assistance.

"There was a lot on offer for bowlers today, reverse-swing and inconsistent bounce," Smith said.

"There are a lot of batters' days in one-day cricket; I suppose this was a bowlers' day. It

wasn't easy to bat on.

"I thought Faf [du Plessis] and AB [de Villiers] hung in there really well. If they could have hung in a few more overs it would have been terrific -- I think we'd have got home," added Smith, who said he didn't wish to be drawn on his dismissal, the first South African wicket to go down.

Smith only exited after a review, requested by England after he was originally given not out caught behind off spinner Graeme Swann.

It took several minutes to overturn Indian umpire Amish Saheba's original decision.

The South Africa captain paid tribute to Broad (four wickets for 15 runs) and James Anderson for their command of reverse swing.

"I don't think there are many batters in the world who have really mastered the art of playing reverse swing when it's going both ways. Credit to them for the skill they showed. They were able to create a lot of pressure on the guys."

"I thought 170 was a good total for us to chase. But unfortunately we weren't good enough today."

# Kuyt treble rips MU

FROM PAGE 19

winger heading into the path of Kuyt to nod past Edwin van der Sar and double his side's lead from close range.

Yet what had been a compelling first half took an ugly turn as both sides were fortunate to retain 11 men.

Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher was extremely fortunate to escape with a caution for a nasty 39th minute challenge on Nani, the United player climbing off the floor to remonstrate with the referee before being carried off on a stretcher after collapsing.

Then Rafael, who was booked, was lucky to stay on after his X-rated challenge on Lucas in the 44th minute.

United desperately needed a goal early in the second half and they nearly got one when Berbatov's 58th minute header was heading for the net only to be chested off the line by Raul Meireles.

But Liverpool survived and seven minutes later confirmed their fifth win in nine Premier League games since Dalglish returned when Kuyt completed his hat-trick.

Once again Suarez was involved as his curling freekick was beaten away by Van der Sar into the path of Kuyt to become the first Liverpool player since Peter Beardsley in 1990 to score three against United.

# WI don't

FROM PAGE 16

"So it is not fair to make a statement like that. We as management of the West Indies team here believe that was a ridiculous statement to make."

Security around the West Indies team has been stepped up in Mohali where they face Ireland on Friday.

Giving details of what had happened in Dhaka, Gibson said: "We were in the bus and enjoying ourselves after the win."

"Some [fans] were taking pictures outside. We saw a hell lot of people... suddenly stones were thrown at our bus and a couple of windows smashed.

"The glass broke, but it didn't shatter and no rock came inside. No player suffered injury. Most of us ducked down on the floor of the bus."

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Glitz  
5 "Phooey!"  
8 Dame  
12 Top-notch  
13 — out a living  
14 Sheltered  
15 Lover of classical music  
17 Mountain goat  
18 Greek H  
19 Hostel  
20 Appomattox Court House  
21 Crafty  
22 Urban transport  
23 Possibly will  
26 Mid-May honorees  
30 Jai —  
31 Transmit electronically  
32 Notion  
33 Like the Talmud  
35 Bride's partner  
36 Ducats, in "Variety"  
37 Healthy

**DOWN**  
1 Dorothy's last name, in "The Wizard of Oz"  
2 Swag  
3 Actress Paquin  
4 "Family Guy" daughter  
5 — and Cecil  
6 Related  
7 That girl  
8 Garment of penance  
9 Exile isle  
10 Witnessed  
11 Fourth canonical hour  
16 Sword handle  
20 Eviscerate  
21 Young and immature  
22 Carton  
23 Jongg predecessor  
24 — de France  
25 Talk on and on  
26 Apple product  
27 Tokyo's old name  
28 — Speed-wagon  
29 Muppet eagle  
31 Repair  
34 Grafton's "— for Alibi"  
35 Quarter pint  
37 Tinker Bell, e.g.  
38 Docile  
39 Tehran's land  
40 Toy block name  
41 France, once  
42 Newspaper pg.  
43 Ran like the wind  
44 Sans siblings  
46 Upper surface  
47 7-Down, subjectively

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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# CRYPTOQUIP

OB HQUA QDN KCNCOCP JQI,  
"PQD'A FBHHBN LQXB ZQXB  
KQN LZNJVJHXCJ HZVJ JBCJQI,  
Q N P D U B F B J Q N N P !"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I CAN GIVE A PROVABLE PROPHECY ABOUT ANYONE'S OUTER EAR. YOU MIGHT SAY I'M AN AURICLE ORACLE.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals O