

Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY MAY 3, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Totti moves past Baggio

Roma captain Francesco Totti moved up to fifth on the all-time Serie A scoring chart with two goals in Sunday's dramatic 3-2 win at Bari. His 205th and 206th strikes took him past Italy legend Roberto Baggio in the scoring list and Totti has no intention of stopping now. "The King of Rome is not dead and he will never die," he told Sky Sport. "I know what I can give. I'm happy that I've set another record and taken another scalp, a great player like Baggio. I hope to keep going at this level."

—AFP



Muktijoddha striker James Moga is in the process of completing one of his four goals as he dives full length to head the ball past the Brothers Union goalkeeper (R) during their Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Moga mauls Oranges

SPORTS REPORTER



Sudanese striker James Moga slammed a quadruple as Muktijoddha Sangsad brushed aside Brothers Union 4-1 in their Grameenphone Bangladesh League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Moga's two goals in the first half gave Mukti a 2-0 lead into the break. Brothers showed some signs of a comeback early in the second half pulling one back, but the Sudanese set the match beyond Brothers' reach with two more goals late in the match.

This was the second consecutive hat-trick for the 27-year old putting him on top of scorer's chart with 12 goals, jointly with teammate Mithun Chowdhury who has been out of football for the last one month with chicken pox. But the 27-year old striker of the Sudanese national side wasn't counting his goals rather he was happy with the fact that he was contributing to his team's success.

"I am delighted because we won, not just the fact that I scored four goals. And more importantly this win opens up a four point gap with the second position team. And the way we are playing we will be champions Inshallah," said the African who sees Ivorian striker Didier Drogba as his role model.

With ten more matches remaining for each team, the All Reds take a four-point lead over second-placed Sheikh Jamal

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

MSCs' game rescheduled

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Chittagong Mohammedan did not appear in yesterday's Bangladesh League fixture against their Dhaka namesakes at the Cox's Bazar Stadium, citing that they were not informed about the game following the reshuffle of the schedule.

The Bangladesh Football Federation has now rescheduled the game for today as Chittagong Mohammedan take on Dhaka Mohammedan at 2:30pm and Dhaka Abahani play against hosts Chittagong Abahani at 4:30pm at the same venue.

"The Federation did not inform us about the match as we had earlier denied to play the recast schedule, which was designed for the big team," Chittagong Mohammedan football manager Mohammad Yousuf said. "We played our last game only three days ago and were supposed to take on Sheikh Russel on May 4 and Dhaka

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

Surgery beckons Mashrafe again



SPORTS REPORTER

Pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza will fly to Australia next Saturday for another surgery on his right knee.

The "Narail Express" made his return to international cricket in the home series against Australia last month after injuring his right knee in December last year but never looked hundred percent fit during the three-match series.

"I felt that it's better to do the operation to prolong my career. Young (Dr. David Young) will first assess the depth of the injury and after that he will give his decision," said Mashrafe, who was reportedly under pressure to play the series against Australia, yesterday.

"I have no other choice but to go for another surgery if I want to prolong my cricket career. Another operation means I will be sidelined for at least another six to seven months or more," added frustrated Mashrafe.

"I'm not sure about my future. Let's see what happen," he said.

Dr Young last performed surgery on Mashrafe in August 2009 after the fast

bowler hurt his right knee during the first Test against the West Indies at St. Vincent a month earlier.

It will be the third operation on the right knee of Mashrafe who has battled numerous injuries throughout his career.

The latest injury happened while taking a run for Abahani, his club, against BKSP, in a Dhaka Premier Division League match in December last year, shattering his World Cup dreams.

Mashrafe took time to opt for another surgery as he was confident about his fitness but his last appearance against Australia made it clear that he has no other choice.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) physician Dr. Debashish Chowdhury informed that it will take time for Mashrafe to regain full fitness this time. According to his timeline, the country's leading paceman has hardly any chance to make his international return this year.

"Normally it takes four to six months to fully recover from this kind of injury after operation but for Mashrafe the case is altogether a different one because the knee was operated on earlier. I think it will take time, at least seven to eight months," informed Debashish.

Siddikur's sorry final day

SPORTS DESK

Bangladesh's ace golfer Siddikur Rahman endured a horrible round 4 to finish the Ballantine's Championship in joint 43rd place on the fourth and final day of the tournament in South Korea on Sunday. He shot a fourth round three-over-par 75 and fell twelve places lower than his round three position of 31.

It was a bad day for the Bangladeshi, as he began with a double-bogey on the 10th hole, then followed it up with two more bogeys in holes 13 and 15. A birdie-less round of golf ensured that he remained in his lowly position. An indifferent tournament for Siddikur saw him breaking even in the first round, going one-under-par in the second, breaking even again in the third before the wretched fourth round took his cumulative score to two-over-par, fourteen shots adrift of world no.2 and tournament winner Lee Westwood.

After seeming to bide his

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

Mumbai move on top

AFP, Mumbai



Sachin Tendulkar and Ambati Rayudu hit impressive half-centuries to set up Mumbai Indians' 23-run win over Kings XI Punjab in an Indian Premier League match on Monday.

Skipper Tendulkar and Rayudu each made 51 as Mumbai scored 159-5 before stopping Punjab at 136-8 for their sixth victory in eight matches of the Twenty20 tournament.

Mumbai now lead the 10-team league table with 12 points. Australian Shaun Marsh top-scored with a 47-ball 61 for Punjab, who suffered their fourth defeat in seven games. He put on 72 for the second wicket with Paul Valthaty, who contributed a 38-ball 33.

Pacemen Lasith Malinga and Munaf Patel, and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh bagged two wickets apiece for Mumbai.

Tendulkar and Rayudu earlier propped up the innings after Mumbai had lost South African Davy Jacobs (10) in the third over, adding 95 for the second wicket.

Rayudu, who hit seamer Praveen Kumar for two fours and a six in the same over, was the first to reach half-century with a boundary off leg-spinner Piyush Chawla.

He fell in the same over while attempting another big shot, caught superbly by Dinesh Karthik at deep mid-wicket after hitting one six and eight fours in his 37-ball knock.

Tendulkar, who hit left-arm spinner Bhargav Bhatt over deep square-leg for the first six of the innings, also fell soon after completing his half-century. He cracked one six and three fours in his 45-ball knock.

West Indies batsman Kieron Pollard smashed two sixes in his 11-ball 20 and Rohit Sharma hit a brisk 18 to help Mumbai

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Academy decider today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 14-member GP-BCB National Cricket Academy squad for today's third and final one-day match as well as for the two T20 matches against the visiting South Africa Academy team.

The series deciding final one-day match will take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today while the two T20 matches are scheduled for May 5 and May 6 at the same venue.

The one-day series is levelled at 1-1 after the South Africans bounced back strongly in the second game at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong.

GP-BCB NCAS SQUAD

Mohammad Mithun (captain), Rony Talukder, Mysuku Rahman, Anamul Haque, Ariful Haque, Muminul Hoque, Asif Ahmed, Soumya Sarkar, Nasir Hossain, Shaker Ahmed, Sanjamul Islam, Alauddin Babu, Shuvashis Roy and Nur Hossain.

RAMSEY DOWNS MAN UTD

Title race down to the wire

AFP, London

Arsenal's Aaron Ramsey blew the Premier League title race wide open as his second-half goal clinched a 1-0 win over leaders Manchester United on Sunday.

A victory at the Emirates Stadium would have put United within touching distance of a record 19th league title, but Sir Alex Ferguson's side gave a strangely subdued display and Chelsea can now climb above them into first place if they win next Sunday's crunch clash at Old Trafford.

Second-placed Chelsea trail United by just three points and a win in Manchester would leave them favourites to retain the title with only two games to play after next weekend.

United, who have now failed to win at any of their top-six rivals this season, paid the price for their lethargy when Ramsey struck in the 56th minute.

After starting the weekend firmly in control of the title race, United are in severe danger of surrendering the initiative to a resurgent Chelsea, who have won eight of their last nine league games.

With Cesc Fabregas sidelined by a thigh injury suffered in training on Saturday,

TOP SCORERS

21: Berbatov (Manchester United)
19: Tevez (Manchester City)
15: Bent (Aston Villa), van Persie (Arsenal)
14: Odemwingle (Lokomotiv Moscow/West Bromwich)
13: Carroll (Newcastle/Liverpool), Malouda (Chelsea)

RESULTS

Arsenal 1 (Ramsey 56) Man Utd 0
Birmingham 1 (Larsson 27)
Wolves 1 (Fletcher 7-pen)

Liverpool 3 (Rodriguez 10, Kuyt 59-pen, Suarez 65) Newcastle 0

Man City 2 (De Jong 10, Zabaleta 15) West Ham 1 (Ba 33)

Blackburn 1 (Olsson 20) Bolton 0

Blackpool 0 Stoke 0

Chelsea 2 (Lampard 45, Kalou 89)

Tottenham 1 (Sandro 19)

Sunderland 0 Fulham 3 (Kakuta 33, Davies 61, 73)

West Brom 2 (Odemwingle 60, Mulumbu 84) Aston Villa 1

(Meite 4-og)

Wigan 1 (N'Zogbia 21) Everton 1

(Baines 78-pen)

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger brought Ramsey into the youngest starting eleven of any Premier League club this season.

Wenger's side should have had a penalty mid-way through the first half when Nemanja Vidic clearly used his hand to deflect Theo Walcott's cross away from Robin van Persie as the Dutchman prepared to head towards goal.

However, neither referee Chris Foy nor his linesman Andy Garratt spotted the Serbia defender's blatant offence.

Arsenal took the lead when Ramsey scored his first Gunners goal since January 2010.

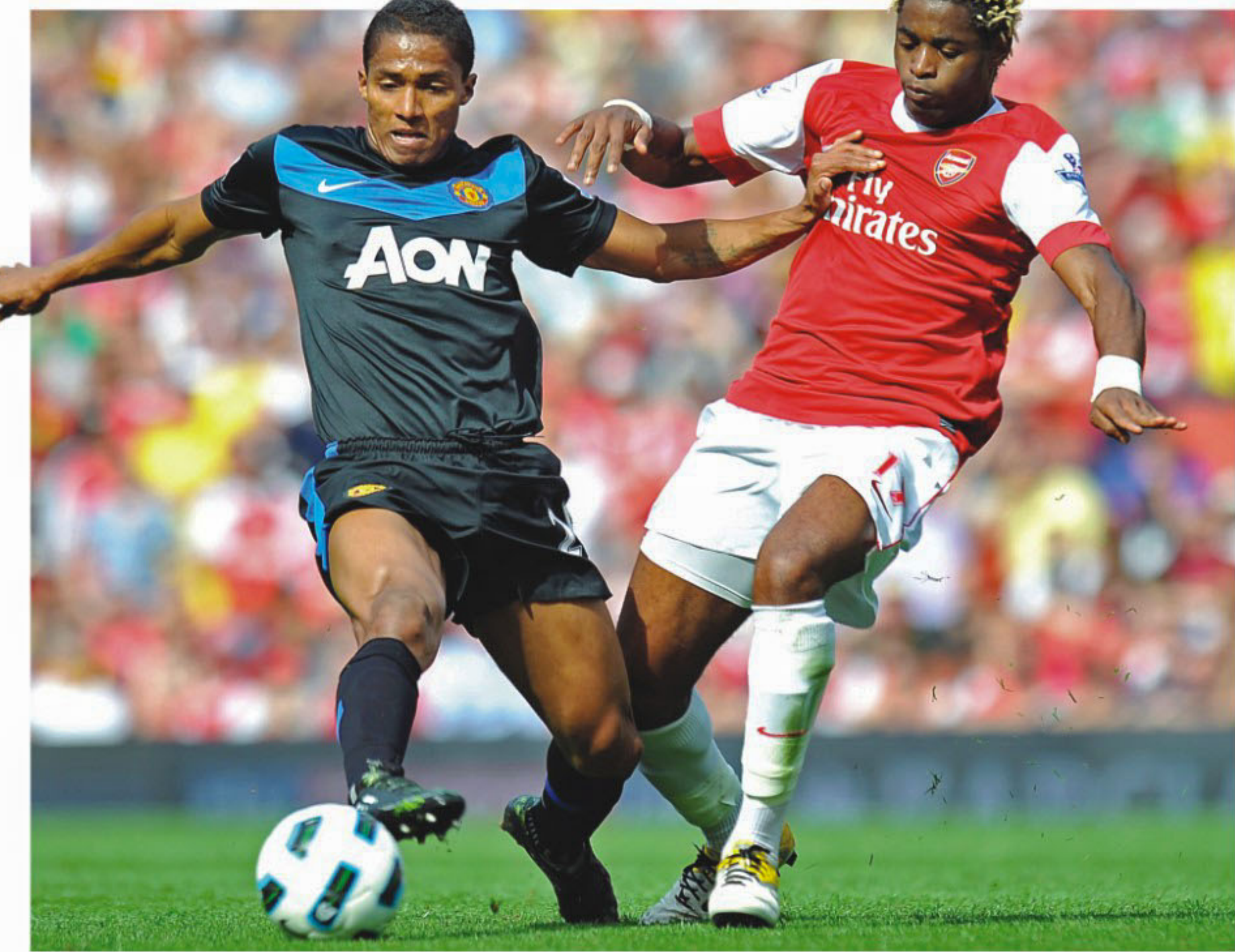
Van Persie twisted and turned in the penalty area before cutting back to Ramsey, who side-footed a first-time shot past Edwin van der Sar.

United's Michael Owen could have won a penalty when he was tackled by Gael Clichy, but Arsenal deservedly held on for their first victory over United since November 2008, a result which keeps alive their own slender title hopes.

Van Persie felt Arsenal should have had a penalty for the Vidic incident and he told Sky Sports: "It was a clear penalty and in my opinion a straight red."

"If United should have had a penalty then it's 1-1 on that one but in the end I think we played better today."

"We wanted it more. They played just on the counter-attacks so in the end I think a fair result."



Manchester United winger Antonio Valencia (L) is locked in a tussle with Arsenal's combative midfielder Alex Song during their Premier League clash at The Emirates Stadium in London on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP