



Fiorentina forward Amauri (R) celebrates his 88th minute winning goal against AC Milan during their Serie A encounter at San Siro yesterday.

# Amauri stuns Milan

AFP, Rome



Amauri scored a dramatic late winner to fire struggling Fiorentina to a 2-1 win at AC Milan on Saturday and boost his former club Juventus's title hopes.

The Brazilian-born Italy international's goal ruined Antonio Cassano's return to first team action following heart surgery.

Cassano had not played since October after falling ill following a match at Roma.

He had suffered a minor stroke and needed an operation to fix a heart defect.

But his entry late on did little to inspire a reaction from an out-of-sorts Milan.

The hosts had been gifted the opener when Matija Nastasic was harshly adjudged to have fouled Maxi Lopez in the box.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic stroked home the spot-kick and Maxi Lopez later hit the post as Milan threatened to run away with the match.

But Fiorentina stuck doggedly to their task and equalised when Lorenzo Di Silvestri played Stevan Jovetic in behind the backline and the Montenegro playmaker beat goalkeeper Christian Abbiati.

And Amauri struck a minute from time following a Philippe Mexes mistake, playing a one-two with Jovetic before clipping the ball home.

Fiorentina boosted their own survival hopes, moving up two places to 15th and maintaining a five-point gap to the drop zone.

Udinese moved up into a Champions League qualifying position with a 3-1 win over Parma.

Ghana midfielder Kwadwo Asamoah opened the scoring on the stroke of half-time as he arrived late into the box to shoot home from the penalty spot.

Captain Antonio Di Natale added the second on 56 minutes as he controlled a cross at the back post before lashing home on the volley.

Alessandro Lucarelli pulled a goal back six minutes from time after Asamoah failed to clear a corner.

But the Ghanaian added his second in stoppage time in almost identical fashion to his first.

The northerners are now level on points with Lazio, who previously held third spot, ahead of the Romans' evening clash with Napoli.

Roma's Champions League qualification hopes hit a bump in Puglia as they were thrashed 4-2 by lowly Lecce.

Colombian Luis Muriel and former West Ham forward Daniel Di Michele both scored a brace as Lecce boosted their survival hopes.

Roma scored two consolation goals in the last two minutes through Bojan Krkic and Erik Lamela.

### RESULTS

Atalanta 1 (Schelotto 9) Siena 2 (Larondo 13-pen, Destro 90)  
Cagliari 2 (Astori 5, Pinilla 61) Inter Milan 2 (Milito 6, Cambiasso 64)  
Cesena 0 Bologna 0  
Chievo 3 (Bradley 6, Pellissier 20-pen, Paloschi 50) Catania 2 (Andreoli 32-og, Almiron 85)  
Lecce 4 (Muriel 22, 49, Di Michele 44, 56-pen) Roma 2 (Bojan 88, Lamela 90)  
AC Milan 1 (Ibrahimovic 31-pen)  
Fiorentina 2 (Jovetic 47, Amauri 89)  
Novara 1 (Mascara 68) Genoa 1 (Palacio 7)  
Udinese 3 (Asamoah 45, 90, Di

## Second coach in 10 days

AFP, Sofia

Levski Sofia unveiled Ilian Iliev as their new head coach on Friday, the second change at the club's helm within ten days.

Iliev, 43, who is currently coaching fellow Bulgarian league team Beroe Stara Zagora, will take over Levski at the summer on a three-year contract, Levski chairman Ivo Tonev told journalists.

Iliev's appointment followed the surprise resignation late Thursday of crowd favourite and Levski manager Georgy Ivanov, who quit the club just nine days into his interim job.

## Cisse inspires Magpies

AFP, Swansea



Senegal striker Papiss Demba Cisse kept Newcastle in the hunt for a top four finish as his brilliant brace clinched a 2-0 win over Swansea at the Liberty Stadium on Friday.

Cisse has proved an inspired signing by Newcastle boss Alan Pardew, who paid £10 million to sign the unheralded forward from German club Freiburg in the January transfer window, and he underlined his growing value by firing the Magpies into fifth place.

Newcastle are now just two points behind fourth placed Tottenham after the 26-year-old struck once in each half to take his goal tally to nine in eight matches.

If Cisse can maintain that kind of prolific form, Newcastle, who have won their last four matches, could still clinch a surprise place in the Champions League.

"It's a fantastic win for us. It wasn't a brilliant performance but we have quality in the right areas," Pardew told Sky Sports.

"That's nine goals now for Papiss. He has been brilliant and he was our best player here.

"He has got a fantastic pedigree. This was a boy that scored goals in the Bundesliga.

There is no mystery about him.

"We are lucky to have him. He was the difference between the two teams."

Swansea boss Brendan Rodgers had sprung a surprise by leaving out leading scorers Danny Graham and Scott Sinclair.

Dyer almost made an immediate impact as he robbed Demba Ba to set up Gylfi Sigurdsson, but the on-loan Hoffenheim midfielder failed to take his chance.

And Newcastle took advantage of that escape to open the scoring in the fifth minute.

Yohan Cabaye's perfectly-weighted pass split the Swansea defence and allowed Cisse to surge clear. Swansea goalkeeper Michel Vorm got a hand to Cisse's low effort, but couldn't stop it flashing into the net.

Swansea had beaten Manchester City and Arsenal at home this season, but they struggled to break down Newcastle's well-drilled defence.

Pardew's men were mostly content to sit back and protect their lead for the rest of the half.

Joe Allen fired straight at Tim Krul, while a powerful Sigurdsson drive forced the Newcastle goalkeeper into a fine save.

Pardew introduced Ryan Taylor at the interval in place of Cheick Tiote, but it was Swansea who had the momentum early in the second half.

## Celtic clinch Scottish title

AFP, Glasgow

Celtic won the Scottish Premier League title for the first time in four years with a 6-0 thrashing of Kilmarnock at Rugby Park on Saturday.

Neil Lennon's side needed one point from the match to end their long wait to be crowned Scottish champions and they did it in style, as Gary Hooper and Charlie Mulgrew both netted twice, with Glenn Loovens and Joe Ledley also on the score-sheet.

It is the first title of Lennon's two-year reign at Parkhead, although some will always remember it as the season their arch rivals Rangers were deducted 10 points for going into administration -- a punishment that effectively handed the crown to Celtic weeks before they actually sealed it.

## Chelsea leave it late

AFP, London



Juan Mata's last-minute winner saw Chelsea strengthen their bid for Champions League football next season, as they beat Wigan 2-1 in the Premier League at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Victory saw Chelsea, who could qualify for the Champions League as of right by winning this season's edition (they face champions Barcelona in the semi-finals) move above Newcastle and left them just two points behind fourth-placed Arsenal.

Only the top three teams in the Premier League are guaranteed places in the Champions League proper, with the fourth-placed side set for a qualifying round.

Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic volleyed home in the 62nd minute to break the deadlock and the goal stood despite furious Wigan protests that he was offside.

Barely a minute later the Serbian defender then preserved Chelsea's lead with a goal-line clearance.

But Wigan, who remained in the bottom three, equalised when Mohamed Diame struck eight minutes from time.

However, Chelsea grabbed a winner late

in the match when, after Fernando Torres's volley hit the post, the ball struck Mata on the chest and trickled in.

League Cup winners and FA Cup semi-finalists Liverpool saw a run of three straight league defeats end with a 1-1 draw at home to Aston Villa.

Brazilian keeper Alexander Doni, making his Liverpool debut in the absence of the suspended Pepe Reina, flapped at a 10th minute cross from former Reds defender Stephen Warnock and Chris Herd turned in the loose ball.

But Luis Suarez, who'd seen a header hit the post, equalised eight minutes from time when he nodded in from close range.

Earlier, Tottenham Hotspur moved into third place, a point in front of north London rivals Arsenal, after a goalless draw at Sunderland.

But the Gunners can regain third place against Manchester City on Sunday.

West Brom ensured Blackburn Rovers remained in the bottom three with a 3-0 win at the Hawthorns.

Mid-table Fulham left Bolton looking over their shoulders at the drop zone with a 3-0 win that featured two goals from Clint Dempsey.

### RESULTS

Bolton 0 Fulham 3 (Dempsey 30, 45, Diarra 80)  
Chelsea 2 (Ivanovic 62, Mata 90)  
Wigan 1 (Diame 82)  
Liverpool 1 (Suarez 82) Aston Villa 1 (Herd 10)  
Norwich 2 (Howson 39, Holt 76)  
Everton 2 (Jelavic 22, 61)  
Sunderland 0 Tottenham 0  
West Brom 3 (Olsson 7-og, Fortune

**SPORTS POLL**  
**WEEKLY QUESTION**  
Which Tiger will perform better in the IPL?  
Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote  
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**What to WATCH**

**TEN Cricket**  
West Indies v Australia  
First Test, Day Two  
Live from 8:00pm

**ESPN**  
English Premiership  
Man United v QPR  
Live from 6:25pm

**MotoGP World Championship**  
Qatar Grand Prix  
Live from 9:57pm

**STAR Sports**  
English Premiership  
Arsenal v Man City  
Live from 8:55pm

**TEN Action**  
La Liga  
Levante v Atletico Madrid



Newcastle United striker Papiss Cisse (R) scores one of his two goals against Swansea City during their Premier League tie at the Liberty Stadium on Friday.

## Roman, Didier hold talks

AFP, London

Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich has held talks with France's World Cup and Euro winning skipper Didier Deschamps over becoming manager of the club, the Daily Telegraph reported on Saturday.

It is the second time the 43-year-old has been viewed as a potential Chelsea manager by Abramovich - in 2004 he eventually lost out to Jose Mourinho whose Porto side beat Monaco, coached by Deschamps, in the Champions League final.

However, according to the Telegraph Abramovich apparently held discussions with Deschamps a fortnight ago in Paris.

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**আপনি জানেন কি?**

সর্বোচ্চ মুনাফা নিরাপদ বিনিয়োগ মাসিক/ত্রৈমাসিক ভিত্তিতে মুনাফা উত্তোলনের সুযোগ। সুতরাং আর বিলম্ব নয়, আজই জাতীয় সঞ্চয়পত্রে বিনিয়োগ করুন।

**জাতীয় সঞ্চয়পত্রের স্বীকৃত হাট্‌সে:**

- ০১। পরিবার সঞ্চয়পত্র (৫-বছর মেয়াদী); মুনাফার হারঃ ১৩.৪৫%। ১৮ বছর বা তদূর্ধ্ব বয়সের যে কোন বাংলাদেশী মহিলা একক নামে এ সঞ্চয়পত্র ত্রয় করতে পারবেন।
- ০২। পেনশনার সঞ্চয়পত্র (৫-বছর মেয়াদী); মুনাফার হারঃ ১৩.১৯%। অবসরপ্রাপ্ত সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত, আধা-স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের সামরিক ও বেসামরিক কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারীগণ একক নামে এ সঞ্চয়পত্র ত্রয় করতে পারবেন।
- ০৩। ৫-বছর মেয়াদী বাংলাদেশ সঞ্চয়পত্র; মুনাফার হারঃ ১৩.১৯%। সকল শ্রেণী ও পেশার বাংলাদেশী নাগরিক একক অথবা যুগ্ম নামে এবং স্বীকৃত ভবিষ্য তহবিল ও কর অবকাশপ্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ এ সঞ্চয়পত্র ত্রয় করতে পারবেন।
- ০৪। ৩-মাস অন্তর মুনাফাভিত্তিক সঞ্চয়পত্র (৩-বছর মেয়াদী); মুনাফার হারঃ ১২.৫৯%। যে কোন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিক একক অথবা যুগ্ম নামে এ সঞ্চয়পত্র ত্রয় করতে পারবেন।
- ০৫। ডাকঘর সঞ্চয় ব্যাংক মেয়াদী হিসাব (৩-বছর মেয়াদী); মুনাফার হারঃ ১৩.২৪%। যে কোন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিক একক অথবা যুগ্ম নামে এ সঞ্চয়পত্র ত্রয় করতে পারবেন।

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