



Madrid to enter Clasico 4 ahead

REUTERS, Madrid



Leaders Real Madrid will have a four-point advantage over chasing Barcelona when they meet at the Nou Camp for the second 'Clasico' of the campaign in a week's time after the arch rivals both won in La Liga on Saturday.

Real, whose Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo broke his own Spanish record with his 41st goal of the campaign, came from a goal down to beat lowly Sporting Gijon 3-1 at the Bernabeu.

Two hours later Argentina's World Player of the Year Lionel Messi equalled Ronaldo's mark with both goals in Barca's 2-1 comeback win at fifth-placed Levante in the late kickoff.

Real's victory also meant Jose Mourinho's side equalled the club's Spanish record of 107 goals scored in a season set under Welsh coach John Toshack 22 years ago.

The world's richest clubs by income are locked in one of the most exciting Spanish title races in recent years and could meet in next month's Champions League final if Real get past Bayern Munich and Barca see off Chelsea.

With five La Liga matches left, Real have 85 points. Barca, who have trimmed six points from the Madrid club's lead in the past month, are on 81, 29 ahead of third-placed Valencia.

Ronaldo's 74th-minute header at the Bernabeu broke the La Liga scoring



record he set last season and he has 53 goals in all competitions.

Real coach Jose Mourinho opted to leave striker Karim Benzema and winger Angel Di Maria out of the starting lineup for the Gijon game and with central midfielder Xabi Alonso suspended, they lacked inspiration in the early stages.

They fell behind in the 30th minute when Sergio Ramos handled in the pen-

past Juan Pablo before Ronaldo settled the home sides nerves and Benzema added a third from Mesut Ozil's assist eight minutes from time.

In Valencia, Barca also fell behind to a penalty when the referee ruled Sergio Busquets had used his arms to block a shot and Jose Javier Barkero stroked the ball past Victor Valdes for a 23rd-minute lead.

Coach Pep Guardiola threw on World Cup-winner Andres Iniesta and winger Isaac Cuenca before the prolific Messi rode to the rescue of the Spanish and European champions when he exchanged passes with Alexis Sanchez in the 64th minute and curled a shot into the corner.

Cuenca was felled in the area around 20 minutes from time and Messi smashed the ball high past Gustavo Munua to seal Barca's 11th straight league win.

RESULTS
Real Madrid 3 (Higuain 37, Cristiano Ronaldo 74, Benzema 82) Sporting Gijon 1 (De las Cuevas 30-pen) Levante 1 (Barkero 23-pen) Barcelona 2

alty area and Miguel De Las Cuevas comfortably beat Iker Casillas from the spot.

Argentina forward Gonzalo Higuain equalised seven minutes later when he rose unmarked to nod a Ramos cross

Ronaldo, Messi hit the heights

REUTERS, Madrid

Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi took their remarkable scoring achievements to new heights when they jointly set a record for La Liga goals in a season of 41 on Saturday.

Portuguese international Ronaldo, who set the previous best of 40 last term, nodded home an Angel Di Maria centre in the 74th minute at the Bernabeu for Real Madrid's second in a 3-1 win against Sporting Gijon, his 53rd goal in all competitions this term. Messi matched him around two hours later by netting his and Barcelona's second of the night from the penalty spot in a 2-1 victory at Levante.

The Argentine World Player of the Year earlier curled in Barca's equaliser and has 63 goals overall, four short of the all-time record of 67 set by former Bayern Munich striker Gerd Mueller in the 1972-73 season.

Real, who lead Barca by four points with five games left and play at their arch rival's Nou Camp stadium in a week's time, also equalled the record for goals scored in a season of 107 set under Welsh coach John Toshack in 1990. Barca have 96.

"The team with 107 goals deserves to finish the season with the title," Emilio Butragueno, who played in Toshack's side and is now a club director, said in a television interview.

Serie A stops as Morosini dies

REUTERS, Rome

Livorno's Piermario Morosini has died after collapsing on the pitch with a cardiac arrest during an Italian second division game at Pescara on Saturday, prompting the soccer federation to postpone this weekend's professional games.

"We have done everything possible to save him but he never regained consciousness," doctor Leonardo Paloscia told reporters.

Another doctor at the Pescara hospital said he was dead on arrival at hospital.

The news comes just weeks after Bolton Wanderers midfielder Fabrice Muamba suffered the same problem in an English FA Cup match before making a remarkable recovery.

Morosini fell to the ground with no one around him in the 31st minute. He got up looking confused and then collapsed again as medics and then an ambulance rushed on to the field.

The Serie B game was abandoned with Livorno leading 2-0 and Morosini was taken to a Pescara hospital.

Tevez back with a bang

REUTERS, London



Carlos Tevez fired a hat-trick and fellow Argentine Sergio Aguero scored twice as Manchester City thrashed Norwich City 6-1 to move

within two points of Premier League leaders Manchester United on Saturday.

Former skipper Tevez, who got his first start since September in midweek after making peace with City manager Roberto Mancini, produced a scintillating display to fuel his side's title hopes and pile pressure on United.

City have 77 points with four games remaining, including a home clash with United who have 79 from one game fewer. Thanks to their commanding win at Norwich, City's goal difference is now eight superior to their title rivals.

The mercurial Tevez opened the scoring after 18 minutes with a wickedly dipping shot that beat flapping Norwich keeper John Ruddy and his clever back heel nine minutes later allowed Aguero to rifle home City's second.

Norwich threatened a revival when Andrew Surman shot through a crowd of players after 51 minutes but the visitors weathered a few anxious moments and then romped to victory.

Tevez nodded the third after 73 minutes when Yaya Toure's shot bounced back off Ruddy, Aguero curled in his second two minutes later and Tevez completed his hat-trick by almost walking the ball into the

net after a defensive mistake.

Aguero almost matched his strike partner's goal tally late on when he thumped a shot against the woodwork before Adam Johnson completed the rout in stoppage time.

RESULTS
Norwich 1 (Surman 51) Man City 6 (Tevez 18, 73, 80, Aguero 27, 75, Johnson 90) Sunderland 0 Wolves 0 Swansea 3 (Sigurdsson 37, Dyer 43, Dann 63-og) Blackburn 0

Carroll finally smiling

REUTERS, London



Liverpool striker Andy Carroll headed an 87th minute winner to secure a 2-1 victory over Merseyside rivals Everton in an error-strewn FA Cup semi-final at Wembley Stadium on Saturday.

The scrappy win after they conceded an early goal puts Liverpool into next month's final where they will play either Tottenham Hotspur or Chelsea who meet on Sunday.

Liverpool recovered with a 62nd minute equaliser from Luis Suarez before Carroll's late header after Everton deservedly led through a 24th minute strike from Nikica Jelavic.

The first two goals came from defensive mistakes as Croatia forward Jelavic profited from a mix-up between Jamie Carragher and Daniel Agger who failed to clear a loose ball.

Liverpool's Uruguayan striker Suarez struck after Everton's Sylvain Distin underhit a backpass into his path. That mistake by the Frenchman changed the course of the match.

Liverpool, who had played poorly until then, gradually took control of the game after Suarez's goal and in the end just about deserved to reach their first FA Cup final since 2006.

The game looked to be heading into extra time when substitute Seamus Coleman needlessly fouled Liverpool skipper Steven Gerrard to concede a free-kick wide on the left.

Liverpool substitute Craig Bellamy, who had only been on the pitch for a few minutes, whipped in a perfect ball which Carroll headed past the despairing dive of keeper Tim Howard.

Everton, who had been more inventive in the opening stages, went ahead following a terrible mix-up between Carragher and Agger on the edge of the penalty area.

The defenders failed to deal with a bouncing ball, each one leaving it to the other, before Carragher, attempting to clear, slipped and kicked the ball straight at Tim Cahill's chest.

The loose ball bounced to Jelavic who took his chance brilliantly, firing low past stand-in keeper Brad Jones for his sixth goal in his 11th appearance since joining for a bargain 5.5 million pounds (\$8.74 million) from Rangers in January.

Liverpool had plenty of possession for the rest of the half and, with Gerrard driving them forward, were far from a beaten force but they failed to trouble Howard and generally lacked ideas and inspiration until Distin gifted them the equaliser.

The weekend marked the 23rd anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster when 96 Liverpool fans died at the semi-final against Nottingham Forest on April 15, 1989 and the afternoon began with a perfectly observed minute's silence from both sets of fans.



Borussia Dortmund players celebrate after captain Sebastian Kehl scored the winner in their derby against Schalke at the Veltins Arena on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Title almost Dortmund's

REUTERS, Berlin



Irrepressible Borussia Dortmund won 2-1 at their greatest rivals Schalke 04 on Saturday to set a Bundesliga record and move to the brink of retaining their championship title.

Described by coach Juergen Klopp as "greedy", Dortmund charged eight points clear of Bayern Munich, who were held 0-0 at home by Mainz, and need two points from their final three games to clinch the crown.

Dortmund have now beaten the second and third-placed teams in the space of four days following their 1-0

victory over Bayern on Wednesday. Jefferson Farfan gave Schalke an early lead in the Ruhr derby but Lukasz Piszczek equalised in the 17th minute of a physical, unattractive game.

Sebastian Kehl took advantage of poor defending to score the winner in the 63rd minute as Dortmund com-

pleted the Bundesliga double over third-placed Schalke and extended their unbeaten league run to 25 games, a record for a single season.

"It's madness. We couldn't imagine beforehand that we would achieve this," Klopp said of his low-profile Dortmund side.

"Today was a character test of the highest level. But this team is never satisfied and is incredibly greedy."

Bayern struggled to break down mid-table Mainz and their best efforts came late in the first half when Anatolij Tymoshchuk hit the post and Ivica Olic missed an excellent chance from close range.

The Bavarians, who host Real Madrid in a Champions League semi-final first leg on Tuesday, were jeered off

RESULTS
Schalke 04 1 (Farfan 9) Borussia Dortmund 2 (Piszczek 17, Kehl 63)
Hamburg 1 (Son 12) Hanover 96 0
Kaiserslautern 0 Nuremberg 2 (Didavi 42, Pekhart 73)
VfL Wolfsburg 1 (Helmes 27) Augsburg 2 (Oehl 13, Langkamp 88)
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Schuerrle 44, Kiessling 51, 84) Hertha Berlin 3 (Lasogga 62, Torun 71, 77)

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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 স্কীমসমূহ হচ্ছেঃ-

- ০১। পরিবার সঞ্চয়পত্র (৫-বছর মেয়াদী); মুনাফার হারঃ ১৩.৪৫%। ১৮ বছর বা তদুর্ধ্ব 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।

আপনাদের সেবায়

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