

# Real slump

REUTERS, Madrid



Cristiano Ronaldo scored the first own goal of his career to send Real Madrid to a shock 1-0 defeat at Granada in La Liga on Saturday, further damaging their already slim hopes of retaining the title.

Ronaldo has scored 21 league goals this season but headed into his own net at a corner in the 22nd minute and his side rarely threatened in the face of resolute opposition.

The result left the champions 15 points adrift of leaders Barcelona, who can extend their advantage over their great rivals to 18 with a win at Valencia on Sunday.

Their hard-running hosts, seemingly inspired by a change of coach from Juan Antonio Anquela to Lucas Alcaraz on Wednesday, took advantage of a familiar failing for Real this season, when they went ahead at a corner.

Ronaldo rose at the near post and skimmed the ball past Diego Lopez and into the roof of his own net.

The visitors slowly found their feet but failed to register a single shot on target before halftime.

Mourinho threw on forwards Karim Benzema and Jose Callejon in a double substitution to try and pep up his team, and Ronaldo became more involved in the game.

The Portugal forward tested goalkeeper Tono on a few occasions but it was Callejon and Benzema who had the best chance between them to level in the 84th.

Callejon dribbled into the area and was denied by Tono, but when the ball broke to Benzema he scuffed his shot wide of the far post in front of an open goal.

## RESULTS

**Osasuna 1** (Armenteros 55) Celta Vigo 0

**Getafe 3** (Diego Castro 25-pen, Vazquez 81, Colunga 84) Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Pizzi 12-pen)

**Espanyol 3** (Iborra 41-og, Stuani 67, Sergio Garcia 69) Levante 2 (Santos 47, Martins 87)

**Granada 1** (Cristiano Ronaldo 22-pen)

# Bayern ride on Mandzukic

REUTERS, Berlin



In-form striker Mario Mandzukic grabbed two goals to steer rampant Bayern Munich to a 3-0 victory at Mainz 05 on Saturday that increased their lead at the top of the Bundesliga to a whopping 14 points.

The league's top scorer, who also scored one goal and set up another last week, struck twice in seven minutes early in the second half to take his tally to 14 as the Bavarians won for the 16th time in 20 games.

Thomas Mueller had given the visitors a 40th-minute lead against the run of play with his 11th league goal of the season.

Bayern, who have won nine of their 10 away games this season without conceding a goal, have 51 points while second-placed Bayer Leverkusen (37) host champions Borussia Dortmund on Sunday.

"We knew it would be a hard game and we prepared very well for it," Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes told reporters.

"We showed that we have fun playing football. This was a big win towards the title," said the German who will make way for former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola next season.

Sixth-placed Schalke 04's new signing Michel Bastos scored on his debut but it was not enough as the Champions League last-16 qualifiers slumped to a 2-1 home defeat by bottom club Greuther Fuerth thanks to Nikola Djurdjic's last-gasp goal.

It was Fuerth's second league win of the season, and their first since August.

## RESULTS

**Schalke 04 1** (Bastos 47) **Furth 2** (Klaus 52, Djurdjic 90+2)

**Hoffenheim 2** (Volland 10, 27) Freiburg 1 (M Kruse 40)

**Mainz 05 0** **Bayern Munich 3** (Mueller 41, Mandzukic 50, 57)

**VfL Wolfsburg 1** (Naldo 23)

**Augsburg 1** (Moravek 25)

**Fortuna Dusseldorf 3** (R Kruse 10, 37, Fink 76) VfB Stuttgart 1 (Gentner 60)

**Hamburg 0** **Eintracht Frankfurt**



Newcastle United midfielder Moussa Sissoko fires home through a host of Chelsea players to snatch a late victory in their Premier League clash at St James Park on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Sissoko slays Chelsea

AFP, London

Manchester United overcame a floodlight failure to win 1-0 at Fulham through a late Wayne Rooney goal on Saturday as Alex Ferguson's side went 10 points clear at the top of the Premier League.

An open first half saw the woodwork rattled four times, with Bryan Ruiz hitting the post for Fulham, while Patrice Evra, Fulham defender Brede Hangeland and Rooney all sent the ball against the frame of the hosts' goal.

A floodlight failure in the 43rd minute plunged Craven Cottage into darkness and forced the players off the pitch, but they returned to complete the first half after the lights came back on.

Rooney netted the winner in the 79th minute, haring down the inside-left channel and steering the ball into the bottom-right corner to send United well clear of second-place Manchester City, who host Liverpool on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, new signing Moussa Sissoko completed a second-half brace with a last-minute winner to give Newcastle United a 3-2 victory at home to Chelsea that prevented the visitors from making ground on the top two.

After Jonas Gutierrez put Newcastle ahead in the first half, Chelsea hit back through fine goals from Frank Lampard and Juan Mata to take a 2-1 lead, but

Sissoko equalised in the 68th minute before driving home his late winner.

"I don't need to say anything because his performance said it all," said Newcastle manager Alan Pardew of Sissoko.

Defeat left Chelsea six points behind City and 16 points shy of Manchester United.

"There were too many mistakes," said Chelsea interim manager Rafael Benitez. Arsenal left it late to beat Stoke City 1-0 and move to within a point of the Champions League places.

Substitute Lukas Podolski settled the game in the 78th minute with a low free-kick that deflected off Geoff Cameron to wrong-foot goalkeeper Asmir Begovic.

At Goodison Park, Marouane Fellaini headed in an injury-time equaliser to earn Everton a 3-3 draw in a breathless game at home to Aston Villa, who once again failed to defend a lead

and remain firmly entrenched in the bottom three.

Meanwhile, on-loan Liverpool striker Andy Carroll scored only his second goal of the season to give West Ham United a 1-0 win at home to Swansea City.

Adel Taarabt had a second-half penalty saved as Queens Park Rangers were held to a 0-0 draw by Norwich City that left them six points from safety and four points adrift at the foot of the table.

# Napoli soar to joint-top

REUTERS, Roma



Napoli joined Juventus at the top of Serie A on Saturday, their highest position at this stage of the season since the great Diego Maradona led them to their last league title 23 years ago, by beating Catania 2-0.

Walter Mazzari's Napoli were not at their best but goals from the impressive Marek Hamsik and Paolo Cannavaro were enough to put them level on 49 points with the champions who travel to Chievo on Sunday.

Catania remained seventh on 35 points but Rolando Maran's team could count themselves unlucky with a couple of decisions, in particular when Juan Zuniga handled the ball in his own area with 35 minutes gone and no penalty was given.

"We know league positions are won from battles like tonight's and you can't distract yourself by looking at the table," Mazzari told reporters.

"We can't let our guard down. We're still a bit inexperienced in the way we see out games and keep the ball, every now and again we make things complicated for ourselves and give the opposition a chance to harm us."

"We should have scored the third goal. If you don't do that then the match is always going to be open," added Mazzari.

Hamsik was the star performer for Napoli and grabbed his ninth league goal of the season.

The Slovakian international gave his nery team the lead after 31 minutes, starting the move that eventually led to him tapping home Zuniga's mishit shot from close range.

Cannavaro made it 2-0 a minute before halftime, the captain breaking Catania's offside trap before netting his first league goal of the season from Hamsik's drilled low cross.

## RESULTS

Torino 0 Sampdoria 0

**Napoli 2** (Hamsik 31, Cannavaro 44)

# Juventus unwavering

REUTERS, Milan

Two classy first-half goals from Alessandro Matri and Stephan Lichtsteiner gave Juventus a 2-1 win at Chievo on Sunday, ensuring they kept their three-point lead at the top of Serie A.

Matri volleyed home after 10 minutes and Switzerland midfielder Lichtsteiner finished a well-worked move three minutes before halftime while new signing Nicolas Anelka stayed on the bench.

Cyril Thereau pulled one back for Chievo early in the second half but Juventus, with coach Antonio Conte barred from the touchline for his furious outburst over the refereeing against Genoa last week, held out comfortably.

Defending champions Juventus restored their three-point lead after Napoli had briefly pulled level with a 2-0 win over Catania on Saturday. Juve have 52 points from 23 games.

Juventus, who have won only once in their last four league games and were knocked out of the Italian Cup by Lazio in midweek, went ahead when Arturo Vidal sent a diagonal chip into the path of Matri who volleyed into the far corner.

Right wing-back Lichtsteiner popped up on the left of the penalty area to provide an emphatic finish after Matri rolled the ball to Sebastian Giovinco who teed up the Swiss with a clever backheel.



## Channel 9

BPL

Duronto Rajshahi v Rangpur Riders

Live from 3:30pm

Barisal Burners v Khulna Royal Bengals

Live from 7:30pm

TEN Cricket

South Africa v Pakistan

First Test, Day 4



BPL

Duronto Rajshahi v Rangpur Riders

Time: 3:30pm

Barisal Burners v Khulna Royal Bengals

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National



Bayern Munich star Thomas Muller skips the challenge of the Mainz goalkeeper to score the opening goal in their Bundesliga clash on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS