

Ronaldo treble warns United

REUTERS, Madrid



on Saturday.

The Portuguese forward, who became the world's most expensive player when he joined Real from United in 2009, set up Karim Benzema to open the scoring from close range in the 18th minute at a festive Bernabeu stadium.

Ronaldo doubled the home side's lead with a powerful left-foot strike from the edge of the area eight minutes later and added his second in the 46th minute after a blunder in the Sevilla defence.

The 28-year-old completed his treble in the 59th minute when he started and finished a swift break to chalk up the 21st hat-trick of his career and his 17th in La Liga.

Ronaldo took his tally for the season to 24 league goals, 11 behind top scorer Lionel Messi of Barcelona.

"We have a phenomenon (in Ronaldo).

I cannot recall anything like it," Real director and former club great Emilio Butragueno told Canal Plus television.

"It seems normal for him to score three goals and we continue to enjoy his performances."

Real forward Gonzalo Higuain was sent off midway through the second half for a second yellow card but it did little to sour the party atmosphere ahead of United's visit in a last-16 first leg tie.

Ronaldo was substituted to a rousing ovation shortly before Higuain's dismissal and Sevilla's misery was compounded with 10 minutes left when Hedwiges Maduro picked up a second yellow.

Substitute Manu del Moral pulled a goal back for the Andalusians three minutes from time.

In the earlier kickoff, Isco followed up his midweek debut for Spain with two goals to give Malaga a 2-1 comeback win at Levante that cemented their hold on fourth position.

The promising 20-year-old playmaker, a second-half substitute as the world champions beat Uruguay 3-1 on Wednesday, equalised with a penalty in the 36th minute and fired home a low shot for the winner a minute after half-time.

RESULTS	
Real Mallorca 1 (Geromel 90+2)	Osasuna 1 (Lolo 77)
Celta Vigo 0 Valencia 1 (Nelson Valdez 90+3)	Levante 1 (Barkero 27-pen)
Malaga 2 (Isco 36-pen, 46)	Deportivo La Coruna 0 Granada 3 (Marchena 45-og, Odion Jude Ighalo 51, Siqueira 90+6-pen)
Real Madrid 4 (Benzema 18, Cristiano Ronaldo 26, 46, 59)	



Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo is being congratulated by compatriot Fabio Coentrao after scoring a hat-trick in their La Liga match against Sevilla on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Aston Martin, just a perk of the job

BBC SPORT

A football club chairman has given his Aston Martin car to the team's manager as a reward for an 8-1 victory.

Mansfield Town chairman John Radford handed over the keys to Paul Cox following the win over Barrow on Saturday.

The Blue Square Premier team won 7-0 when they played Barrow last March and Radford said he wanted to do even better when the two teams met again.

"It's worth a bob or two," Mr Radford said. "It's my old Aston Martin so it's not brand new. It's a couple of years old," he added.

"You have these things and you've got to give people targets and things like that, so he fancied the car and I thought I'm about ready for a change and he did the job."

The car, worth up to £80,000, was waiting in the car park of the Nottinghamshire club after the game, already fitted with personalised MT51 COX registration plates.

City chase in tatters

REUTERS, London



Manchester City's Premier League title defence fell apart at the seams in a 3-1 defeat to Southampton on Saturday when goalkeeper Joe Hart committed a howler and Gareth Barry scored a bizarre own goal.

Manchester United can increase their lead over City at the top to 12 points with 12 games left if they win at home to Everton on Sunday after coach Mauricio Pochettino sealed his first win for 15th-placed Southampton.

The unstoppable Gareth Bale earlier scored twice in Tottenham Hotspur's 2-1 home victory over Newcastle United while rivals Chelsea and Arsenal also won to add spice to the race for the Champions League spots.

Chelsea stayed third, a point ahead of Spurs and four behind City, after a 4-1 home success over third-bottom Wigan Athletic while 10-man Arsenal beat Sunderland 1-0 away thanks to Santi Cazorla's strike to leapfrog Everton into fifth.

Basement side Queens Park Rangers suffered a big blow in a 4-1 defeat at Swansea City but fourth-bottom Reading failed to increase the six-point gap with a 2-1 loss at Stoke City. Mid-table Norwich City and Fulham managed a goalless stalemate.

Southampton had previously

managed two draws and a defeat since Argentine Pochettino replaced the sacked Nigel Adkins in an unpopular move, but their home victory over City was fully deserved even if the visitors gave them a big helping hand.

First Barry lost the ball in midfield after seven minutes and Jason Puncheon stormed forward before coolly finishing off a rebound after Hart's sprawling stop.

Hart, who saved a Ronaldinho

RESULTS	
Chelsea 4 (Ramires 23, Hazard 56, Lampard 86, Marin 90) Wigan 1 (Maloney 58)	Norwich 0 Fulham 0
Southampton 3 (Puncheon 7, Davis 22, Barry 48-og) Manchester City 1 (Dzeko 39)	Stoke 2 (Huth 67, Jerome 81) Reading 1 (Mariappa 83)
Sunderland 0 Arsenal 1 (Cazorla 35)	Swansea 4 (Michu 8, 67, Rangel 18, Hernandez 50) QPR 1 (Zamora 48)
Tottenham 2 (Bale 5, 78) Newcastle 1	

penalty during an excellent display for England in a friendly against Brazil on Wednesday, then let a Rickie Lambert shot go through his legs and Steven Davis slid the ball in midway through the first period.

Roberto Mancini had been confidently predicting his side would make up the gap to United, like last season, but he looked stunned in the dugout as City struggled with midfielder Javi Garcia at centre back after Vincent Kompany was again

ruled out.

A rampant break from the edge of their own area gave City hope in the 39th minute, with Edin Dzeko flicking the ball home while falling over after tremendous work by the Bosnian, David Silva and Pablo Zabaleta.

City fans have been used to great comebacks in recent times, not least when they beat QPR 3-2 in stoppage time on the final day last season to clinch the title, but this time there was to be incompetence rather than heroics.

A weak cross came in just after the break and, under no pressure, Barry decided to divert the ball towards Hart only to send it into the corner of the net with the keeper beaten.

"I think that's our best performance...and we got exactly what we deserved," Southampton captain Lambert told ESPN TV.

"We needed that (own goal) in the second half to open up the gap and give us some breathing space."

Spurs' Wales midfielder Bale netted his fourth and fifth goals in four games for club and country to again inspire the north Londoners in the fourth and final Champions League spot.

Bale struck first with a dipping free kick after five minutes with James Perch failing to jump in the visitors' wall before Lewis Holtby wasted three chances to increase the lead.

Newcastle's French forward Yoan Gouffran then grabbed his first Premier League goal since signing last month.

Barca widen gap at top

AFP, Madrid



Barcelona extended their advantage at the top of La Liga to 12 points with an easy 6-1 win over Getafe on Sunday.

The game was over as a contest inside 13 minutes as Alexis Sanchez slotted home from Andres Iniesta's through ball before Lionel Messi fired in his 46th goal of the season.

David Villa and Cristian Tello then added further goals after half-time before Alvaro Vazquez pulled one back for the visitors with a calm finish.

However, Barca continued to pour forward and goals from Iniesta and Gerard Pique in stoppage time gave the scoreline a fairer reflection of their dominance.

In the continued absence of Tito Vilanova through illness, Barca assistant boss Jordi Roura made six changes to the side that started last weekend's 1-1 draw with Valencia.

Out went the injured Xavi along with Dani Alves, Javier Mascherano, Sergio Busquets, Cesc Fabregas and Pedro as Alex Song, Thiago Alcantara, Alexis Sanchez and David Villa were given rare starts.

And it was Sanchez who made the breakthrough after just five minutes as a wonderful defence splitting pass from Iniesta put the Chilean through on goal and he slotted the ball past Jordi Codina to register his first league goal of the season.

Seven minutes later it was two as another magnificent pass from Iniesta was knocked into Messi's path by Thiago and the Argentine found the bottom corner to continue his record streak of scoring in 13 straight league games.

The waves of Barcelona attack continued to pound the Getafe defence and Codina did well to block Sanchez's effort from a narrow angle before Messi nearly connected with Villa's fine cross.

Seeing is believing

SPORTS REPORTER

Just as they did for the final home game of last season, Liverpool will replace the logo of Standard Chartered with Seeing is Believing, when they play West Bromwich Albion in the Premier League tonight.

Seeing is Believing is Standard Chartered's global charitable initiative aimed at tackling avoidable blindness in developing countries. This will be only the second time that the logo of a charitable initiative has been displayed on the front of the team's iconic red shirt.

Activities are also planned for half-time and throughout the stadium to highlight the importance of this initiative.

The limited edition shirts worn by the players will be signed after the match and auctioned to fans to raise money for Seeing is Believing. Every pound raised will be matched by Standard Chartered, making this fixture the 'perfect match' bringing the club and its sponsor together for an important cause.



Channel 9 BPL	
Dhaka Gladiators v Khulna Royal Bengals	Live from 3:30pm
Duronto Rajshahi v Rangpur Riders	Live from 7:30pm
ESPN	
English Premiership	Liverpool v West Bromwich
Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)	
STAR Cricket	
ICC Women's World Cup	New Zealand v West Indies



BPL	
Dhaka Gladiators v Khulna Royal Bengals	Time: 3:30pm
Duronto Rajshahi v Rangpur Riders	Time: 7:30pm
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National	



Bayern Munich youngster David Alaba slots home his second goal in their Bundesliga clash against Schalke at the Allianz Arena on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Bayern run riot

REUTERS, Berlin



ga on Saturday as champions Borussia Dortmund and Bayer Leverkusen slipped up.

Left back Alaba scored either side of a sensational Bastian Schweinsteiger free kick with Mario Gomez, starting ahead of top scorer Mario Mandzukic, drilling in the fourth as Bayern made it four straight wins this year without conceding a goal.

In another impressive display of fluid, attacking football, Bayern outplayed Schalke, launching an avalanche of pressure from the start and missing several other clear chances as they chase their first title after two failed campaigns.

RESULTS	
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Lewandowski 17)	Hamburg 4 (Rudnevs 18, 62, Son 26, 89)
Borussia M'gladbach 3 (Stranzl 44, de Jong 58, Herrmann 86)	Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Sam 52, Kiessling 60, Schuerle 64)
VfB Stuttgart 1 (Traore 50)	Werder Bremen 4 (Ekici 34, 74, Hunt 60, de Bruyne 90+2)
Hanover 96 1 (Diouf 8)	Hoffenheim 0
Greuther Fuerth 0 VfL Wolfsburg 1 (Dost 23)	Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Nuremberg 0
Bayern Munich 4 (Alaba 19-pen, 51, Schweinsteiger 32, Gomez 63)	

Bayern move on to 54 points with their 17th win in 21 league games while fellow Champions League competitors Schalke, badly missing a string of injured players and having notched only one win in their last 10 games, dropped to ninth.

"In the first 20 minutes it was tough against a hard-working Schalke defence," Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes told reporters.

"After we scored our first goal I knew Schalke would need to come out a bit more and that is where we played really well. It is great fun working with this team at the moment."

Second-placed Dortmund suffered a surprise 4-1 drubbing at the hands of visiting Hamburg SV to remain on 39 points.

Latvian Artjoms Rudnevs and South Korea international Son Heung-

min each scored twice and both teams finished with 10 men after Dortmund's Robert Lewandowski and Hamburg's Jeffrey Bruma were shown straight red cards for foul play.