



Real Madrid striker Alvaro Morata stretches to control the ball during their Primera Liga encounter against Rayo Vallecano at Bernabeu on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Real keep rolling

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid recorded their fourth consecutive home league victory with a 2-0 win over Rayo Vallecano on Sunday despite playing for 72 minutes with 10 men.

Alvaro Morata and Sergio Ramos got the goals in the opening 12 minutes but Ramos' night took a turn for the worse just six minutes later when he saw two harsh yellow cards in quick succession.

Despite their numerical advantage though Rayo failed to create too many clear-cut chances and their best effort was comically blocked by their own player as Leo Baptistao failed to evade Piti's driven shot towards goal.

Before the game much had been made of the fact that Rayo's Piti and Leo had scored more league goals than Madrid's two leading strikers Gonzalo Higuain and Karim Benzema.

With Higuain suspended, Jose Mourinho choose to start Morata and leave Benzema on the bench.

Three minutes in and the Portuguese was vindicated as Mesut Ozil's cut-back was turned in by the 20-year-old from close range.

Kaka then fired wide with a good opening but Rayo should also have been level inside seven minutes as Chori Dominguez was played in by Roberto Trashorras after Pepe had given the ball away and the Argentine's shot whistled just past Diego Lopez's far post.

Everything seemed to be going to plan for the hosts five minutes later though as Ramos outmuscled his marker to head home Ozil's free-kick.

However, Ramos then saw two yellow cards in barely 30 seconds as he first brought down Trashorras and then was harshly dismissed when a cross from the left struck his trailing arm.

Rayo almost took advantage straight away as Alejandro Galvez headed just over from the resulting free-kick.

### RESULTS

Real Sociedad 1 (Vela 18-pen)  
Levante 1 (Herrero 29-pen)  
**Valencia 2** (Ricardo Costa 60, Soldado 81) Real Mallorca 0  
Valladolid 0 **Atletico Madrid 3** (Falcao 11, Diego Costa 53, Cristian Rodriguez 90)  
**Espanyol 1** (Sergio Garcia 7)  
Real Betis 0  
**Real Madrid 2** (Morata 3, Ramos)

## Neymar sent off for fighting

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil forward Neymar was sent off after clashing with an opponent, the fifth red card of the 21-year-old's career, as Santos lost 3-1 to Ponte Preta in the Paulista soccer championship.

Regarded as the best player of his generation, Neymar became involved in a row with Ponte Preta defender Arthur just before halftime in Sunday's match.

Both players argued with the referee and were sent off.

"I don't know what happened. We were challenging for the ball, I got kicked and was sent off," Neymar told reporters.

"Neither of us should have been sent off. Football is getting really boring, for the players, supporters and television viewers."

Santos coach Muricy Ramalho said that the forward had to get used to being provoked.

"He needs to keep out of trouble," said Ramalho. "Without Neymar, we lose his speed, which is our main attacking weapon. We really suffer when he gets sent off."

## Arsenal face Bayern test

AFP, London



Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey has urged his team to learn from their previous mistakes as they bid to resurrect

a stuttering season against Bayern Munich in the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday.

The prospect of an eighth consecutive season without silverware swam sharply into focus at the weekend when Arsenal were eliminated from the FA Cup by second-tier Blackburn Rovers.

With Arsenal having already gone out of the League Cup to fourth-division Bradford City and with a 21-point deficit to make up on leaders Manchester United in the Premier League, it leaves the Champions League as the London club's only viable shot at a trophy.

Arsenal's last two experiences of the round of 16 have ended in disappointment, with a 4-3 aggregate defeat by Barcelona in 2011 followed by a loss to AC Milan by the same scoreline last year.

The 2006 finalists' hopes of European glory last season were crushed in a 4-0 first-leg loss in Milan, and Ramsey says his side cannot afford to let the tie with Bayern get away from them.

"Of course Bayern will be a tough game, but we are confident that on our day we can give anybody a good match," he said.

"We will all have to be switched on

on the night."

It was a different story in the previous campaign, when Arsenal beat Barca 2-1 in the home leg, only to go down 3-1 at Camp Nou, and Ramsey says a similarly positive first-leg performance will be required on Tuesday.

"We put ourselves in a good position against Barcelona, but unfortunately did not take it into the second leg," said the Welshman.

"Then, against AC Milan it was a big mountain to climb, which we nearly did at home (by winning 3-0).

"Hopefully this time we can get in another strong position in the first leg, and I am sure we will be more experienced about what to do in the away leg."

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger says he will not have any trouble motivating his players after Saturday's shock 1-0 loss to Blackburn at the Emirates Stadium.

"It is not difficult at all. It is our job," the Frenchman said.

"If we feel sorry for ourselves, we would be completely wrong. We have a massive game on Tuesday night and we have to show that we have some response in the team."

Last year's beaten Champions League finalists, Bayern already seem certain to end a three-year wait for major silverware due to their sensational form in the domestic arena.

A gritty 2-0 win at Wolfsburg on Friday was their 10th victory away from home this season and allowed

them to preserve a mammoth 15-point lead over defending champions Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga.

Bayern have failed to go beyond the last 16 only once in the past four seasons, and prevailed 3-2 on aggregate when they last met Arsenal in the round of 16 in the 2004-05 campaign.

Bayern are yet to concede a goal in 2013, but despite the stark contrast between their imperious recent record and Arsenal's struggles, Belgian centre-back Daniel Van Buyten anticipates a stern test.

"Arsenal are one of the best teams in Europe," he told the official Bayern website.

"They have tremendous potential in attack, they have very strong individual players and a very good team. But we also have quality and want to show it on the pitch. It will be a good game."

He added: "I've got butterflies, but that is normal for every player, I think. Champions League games are just something special and even more so against an English club. We are all looking forward to it."

Wenger can take heart from Arsenal's excellent home record against German clubs.

In 12 previous encounters with representatives from the Bundesliga, Arsenal have won nine, drawn one, and lost only two, while Bayern have won just twice in 15 previous away games against teams from England.

## Germany set Paraguay date

AFP, Berlin

Germany will host Paraguay in a friendly this August as they begin preparations for the 2014 World Cup season, the German Football Association (DFB) said Monday.

The friendly will be held in Kaiserslautern on August 14 and this will be only the second time Germany have played the south Americans after the Germans enjoyed a 1-0 win in a Round of 16 clash at the 2002 World Cup.

"The game against Paraguay is a welcome opportunity for us in the year before the Brazil World Cup," said Germany coach Joachim Loew.

"It gives us the chance to adjust to the typical South American style of play, which is characterised by rapid, direct movement and players with outstanding technical capabilities."

Paraguay are bottom of the south America qualifying group, while Germany are top of Group C in the European qualifying competition.

## Shanghai take Drogba row to FIFA

AFP, Beijing

Chinese club Shanghai Shenhua will take its battle against star striker Didier Drogba's move to Turkish side Galatasaray to football's governing body FIFA this week, domestic reports said Monday.

The Ivory Coast striker left the club in acrimonious circumstances last month, with Shanghai saying he had breached his contract.

"We now have evidence which we believe will give Shenhua a 99 per cent chance of winning a lawsuit at FIFA," a lawyer acting for the club told the Sina web portal.

The anonymous source from "Shenhua's legal team" said papers would be submitted to the sport's governing body on Wednesday.

The report said Shenhua will provide evidence that Drogba breached his contract and that Galatasaray had violated FIFA rules by luring a player away from his current club.

## Napoli fire blank

REUTERS, Undated



Napoli's hopes of closing the gap on Juventus at the top of Serie A to two points were dashed on Sunday following a subdued performance in a 0-0 home draw with Sampdoria.

Fiorentina, shaping up as rivals to Napoli in the chase for a Champions League spot, got back to winning ways with a 4-1 thrashing of dismal Inter Milan.

With leaders Juve losing 1-0 at AS Roma on Saturday, second-placed Napoli were looking to put the pressure on their Turin rivals and bounce back after a 3-0 home Europa League defeat by Viktoria Plzen.

After a minute's silence to remember former Napoli player Carmelo Imbriani, who died of cancer on Friday at the age of 37, it was the visitors who came out in determined mood with Gianluca Sansone going close.

Napoli responded well, though, with Lorenzo Insigne letting fly from distance and Edinson Cavani fluffing a shot into the arms of goalkeeper Sergio Romero.

Goran Pandev came off the bench to link up nicely with Marek Hamsik whose powerful shot was only kept out by a full-stretch Romero.

Juventus, however, remain in touching distance just four points above with the two sides due to meet next month.

Goals from Adem Ljajic and Stevan Jovetic ensured a comprehensive win for Fiorentina over Inter in front of an ecstatic home crowd.

Fiorentina dominated the first half and it was only a fine display from keeper Samir Handanovic that kept the scoreline respectable.

Fiorentina took the lead in the 13th minute after Jovetic flicked a cross by Manuel Pasqual to Ljajic who got in front of defender Juan Jesus to beat Handanovic with a diving header from close range.

Jovetic then shrugged off the attentions of Andrea Ranocchia before curling in a fine shot from the left-hand side of the penalty area with the keeper rooted to the spot.

The Montenegrin got his second, set up by a neat Alberto Aquilani back heel that left him free to hit a powerful right-foot shot past Handanovic and Ljajic made it four in the 65th minute.

Antonio Cassano's late consolation aside, this was humiliating for Inter who face the remainder of the season without injured striker Diego Milito.

There were also leapfrogs by city rivals Milan who sit fourth in the standings, rejuvenated by former Nerazzurri player Mario Balotelli and with the Milanese derby looming next weekend.

Struggling Pescara lost 2-0 to Cagliari and Torino earned three points with a 2-1 home win over Atalanta.

### RESULTS

Napoli 0 Sampdoria 0  
**Torino 2** (Cerci 42, Birsal) Atalanta 1 (Denis 75-pen)  
**Catania 1** (Almiron 42) Bologna 0  
Pescara 0 **Cagliari 2** (Sau 53, 61)  
**Genoa 1** (Kucka 33) Udinese 0  
**Fiorentina 4** (Ljajic 13, 65, Jovetic)



**Channel 9**  
BPL  
Dhaka Gladiators v Chittagong Kings  
Final  
Live from 6:00pm

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm

**TEN Action**  
UEFA Champions League  
Arsenal v Bayern Munich  
Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

**TEN Sports**  
UEFA Champions League  
FC Porto v Malaga



**BPL**  
Dhaka Gladiators v Chittagong Kings  
Final  
Time: 6:00pm  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur

**Bangladesh Premier League**  
Brothers Union v Soccer Club, Feni  
Time: 4:00pm  
Arambagh v Mohammedan  
Time: 6:15pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National



Fiorentina forward Stefan Jovetic (L) celebrates his goal against Inter Milan during their Serie A match at the Artemio Franchi Stadium on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP