



Eibar players tried everything to stop Lionel Messi (L), but Barcelona's magician found a way through on four occasions as he reached 300 goals at the Camp Nou in his side's 6-1 La Liga win on Tuesday. Here, he wrestles through to score his third.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Messi hits four in Eibar rout

AFP, Madrid

**LaLiga** Lionel Messi added four more goals to his soaring early season tally as a much-changed Barcelona maintained their 100 per cent start to La Liga by routing Eibar 6-1 on Tuesday.

Paulinho and Denis Suarez also netted for the second consecutive game as Barca stretched their lead at the top to seven points over Real Madrid.

"That Messi scored four goals now isn't news," said Barca boss Ernesto Valverde after the Argentine's 43rd career hat-trick.

"He has done it so many nights, in so many games. To keep repeating it is the most difficult thing. He is an extraordinary player. I have run out of words for him."

Messi played in a more central role as Valverde heavily rotated his side for the first time since taking charge with Luis Suarez dropping to the bench among six changes from Saturday's hard-fought 2-1 win at Getafe.

And contrary to last season, Barca's back-

ups proved Valverde can take the luxury resting some of his stars with Paulinho particularly impressive on his first start.

Barca lead second-placed Sevilla by five points with Valencia now just a point further adrift as they moved up to third thanks to Simone Zaza's seven-minute hat-trick in a 5-0 thrashing of Malaga.

By contrast, a fifth straight defeat to start the season sees Malaga slip to bottom of the table.

"I am tremendously proud of the performance of the players. It is a joy to be able to enjoy it with our fans," said Valencia coach Marcelino.

Santi Mina got the rout started after just 17 minutes with a neat header from Carles Soler's cross.

Zaza then completed his first ever hat-trick with three clinical close-range finishes between the 55th and 62nd minute before substitute Rodrigo rounded off the scoring.

"I didn't have anything to prove," Zaza said. "What happened on Saturday is already forgotten. I think it is normal that a player is angry when he doesn't play."



Valencia striker Simone Zaza (R) hit a sublime seven-minute hat-trick against Malaga, before being outdone by Lionel Messi.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

### QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

#### Khalid Latif banned for five years

Pakistan cricket's anti-corruption tribunal banned opener Khalid Latif for five years and fined him one million rupees over a spot-fixing case.

#### James hits first Bundesliga goal as Bayern go top

James Rodriguez scored his first Bundesliga goal to help Bayern Munich top the table for the first time this season following a 3-0 win at Schalke 04.

#### Engineer warns India 'true test' will come in England

India great Farokh Engineer has said the "true test" of Virat Kohli's current side will come when they tour England next year.

#### Tharanga relief as Sri Lanka go into World Cup

Sri Lanka captain Upul Tharanga backed his side to uphold the island's proud World Cup record after their automatic qualification for the 2019 edition.

#### DBF investigating Baier for gesture

Augsburg captain Daniel Baier could face a heavy fine after being investigated for making an obscene gesture during a Bundesliga match.

#### LaMotta, the former middleweight boxing champion who was portrayed in the Martin Scorsese film 'Raging Bull,' has died at the age of 95, his family announced Wednesday.

LaMotta, known for a legendary six-fight rivalry with Sugar Ray Robinson, passed away on Tuesday, his daughter Christi LaMotta said on Facebook.

Sports Illustrated said he died from complications from pneumonia.

In a career spanning 1941 to 1954, LaMotta racked up a record of 83 victories, 30 of them knockouts, followed by 19 defeats, according to BoxRec, which keeps boxing statistics.

On June 16, 1949 he scored a knockout win over French boxer Marcel Gerardin to capture the middleweight title. After two successful defenses, he lost the belt in 1952 in his sixth bout against Sugar Ray Robinson.

LaMotta's turmoil-filled life was depicted in the 1980 movie "Raging Bull," in which he was portrayed in an Academy Award-winning performance by Robert De Niro.

AFP, Milan



Mauro Icardi rescued a 1-1 draw for Inter Milan at Bologna on Tuesday, that ended his side's perfect start to the Serie A season.

Luciano Spalletti had been looking to make it five wins from five but had to settle for just one point in Bologna.

Simone Verdi's superb long range first-half goal was just the second conceded by Inter before Icardi - with a new distinctive shaved-head look - stepped up to convert a contentious spot kick with 13 minutes to go at the Stadio Dall'Ara.

"We had to take advantage of the last quarter of an hour," said Icardi after his sixth goal this season. "We could have done something more, but we were not able to finish."

"Now against Genoa [on Sunday] we have to go back and win at home. With our fans we have an extra player. We have to continue the positive streak."

Inter have emerged as one of the title challengers to rival Juventus and Napoli who also had maximum points after four matches.

Now with 13 points, Inter move provisionally top but Juventus and Napoli can pull ahead when they play Fiorentina and Lazio respectively on Wednesday.

A win by Lazio - sitting fourth - would however put the Romans equal on points with Inter.

"There are two lost points, we will see what went wrong," said Inter striker Eder. "We have to look at ourselves, not Napoli and Juventus. Our goal is the Champions League and we have to fight at all costs."

Inter suffered in the first half with Icardi just failing to get on the end of an Ivan Perisic cross before Verdi got on the scoresheet after 32 minutes after half a dozen early shots at goal.

Inter gained momentum after the break but failed to find a way through until the controversial foul by Ibrahima Mbaye on Eder which was confirmed by the video assistant referee.

Eder won the spot-kick, as he was running away from goal when Mbaye tripped and accidentally landed with his arm on the forward's heel.

"He scored tonight, so we'll have his head every day now," joked Spalletti of Icardi who had failed to find the net against Crotone.

"It's not a scandal for a team to draw," added the Inter boss.

Inter Milan looked in danger of losing their first game of the Serie A season at Bologna on Tuesday before skipper Mauro Icardi's late penalty salvaged a point.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## 'Raging Bull' boxer dead at 95

AFP, New York

Jake LaMotta, the former middleweight boxing champion who was portrayed in the Martin Scorsese film "Raging Bull," has died at the age of 95, his family announced Wednesday.

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Sports Illustrated said he died from complications from pneumonia.

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LaMotta's turmoil-filled life was depicted in the 1980 movie "Raging Bull," in which he was portrayed in an Academy Award-winning performance by Robert De Niro.

### Atleti stadium to host 2019 CL final

AFP, Madrid

Aleto Madrid's new 68,000 capacity Wanda Metropolitano stadium will host the 2019 Champions League final. European football's governing body UEFA announced on Wednesday.

As the only other candidate for the final, Azerbaijan capital Baku recovers the 2019 Europa League final as a consolation for missing out on the main event.

Budapest will host the women's Champions League final, whilst the UEFA Super Cup between the Champions League and Europa League winners will take place at Besiktas Vodafone Park in Istanbul.



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