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European Football



AFC Champions League kicks off



Pato inspires Milan to crucial Serie A win over Napoli



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Real can still win league, says Butragueno



Inter go second, Udinese hit

By Agence France-Presse, Updated: Monday, February 28, 2011 1:28 PM

Bahrain as stable as Spain, claims Santander owner

The new owner of Racing Santander, Indian tycoon Ahsan Ali Syed, says protest-hit Bahrain is as stable as Spain and he believes the Gulf kingdom's ruling family is doing a "great job".

Syed, the founder of Bahrain-based asset management firm Western Gulf Advisory, bought a majority stake in Racing Santander last month.

"I'm proud of Bahrain. I'm proud of the ruling family. They are doing a great job, and Bahrain is as stable as Spain," he said at a breakfast forum in Santander, according to a statement by his spokesman on Monday.

"Don't believe the rumours. Bahrain is very stable. My family lives in Bahrain and many families live in Bahrain and it is a very peaceful place," Syed was quoted as saying.

On Sunday, thousands of Bahrainis marched in Manama calling for the fall of the dynasty.

Eighteen MPs from the Al-Wefaq Shiite opposition bloc resigned to protest against the deaths of anti-regime demonstrators, seven of whom have been killed by security forces since the protests began on February 14.

Syed also said he would not be surprised if Racing emerge victorious when they host title-chasing Real Madrid on Sunday.

"For me, Racing are the best team. You could make a comparison with other teams but for me they are the best," he said.

"Next weekend against Real Madrid, the ones who play better in 90 minutes will win. It will not be a surprise if Racing beat Real Madrid."

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