# In the Nick of time

AFP, London



Saturday to move two points clear at the top of the Premier League while Arsenal stayed in the hunt with a last-gasp win over Wolves thanks to Nicklas Bendtner.

Carlo Ancelotti's side took the lead at Old Trafford through Joe Cole's flick in the 20th

Arsenal 1 (Bendtner 90) Wolves 0

Bolton 0 Aston Villa 1 (Young 11)

Portsmouth 0 Blackburn 0

Burnley 1 (Fletcher 71) Man City 6 (Adebayor 4, 45,

Man Utd 1 (Macheda 81) Chelsea 2 (Cole 20, Drogba

Sunderland 3 (Bent 1, 29-pen, Zenden 86) Tottenham

Bellamy 5, Tevez 7, Vieira 20, Kompany 58)

Stoke 2 (Fuller 6, Lawrence 90) Hull 0

RESULTS

1 (Crouch 72)

the 79th minute.

minute and Didier Drogba

came off the bench to increase

Chelsea's advantage from what

looked an offside position in

back for United two minutes

later but the Blues held on for a

victory which puts them in

pole position to win the title

with both teams having just

Arsenal closed the gap on

the leaders to three points as

Bendtner's late goal clinched a

1-0 win over 10-man Wolves at

uteforalungeonTomasRosicky.

That proved the turning

five games left to play.

the Emirates Stadium.

Federico Macheda got one

point as Bendtner headed the winner in stoppage time from Bacary Sagna's cross.

"It keeps us in the title race," said Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger whose team's next mission is Tuesday's Champions League quarterfinalreturnatBarcelona.

"First it was important to forget next week's match against Barcelona for 24 hours and focus on Wolves and that was not easy. But we did it well -I think we had a good focus.

"We were a bit jaded physically but we kept going and we were serious, we didn't make a mistake at the back. In the end

penalties but still made his point to Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp as the Sunderland striker's double clinched a 3-1 win at the Stadium of Light that dented his old club's push to finish fourth.

Redknapp once claimed even his wife would have taken a chance missed by Bent during his time at Spurs, but the England international got his revenge as he took just 36 seconds to get on the score-

sheet with a close-range finish. Bent added his second goal in the 29th minute as he con-

#### TOP SCORERS

26: Rooney (Man United) 25: Drogba (Chelsea) 22: Bent (Sunderland) 20: Tevez (Man City) 18: Torres (Liverpool)

verted a penalty and should have had a hattrick before halftime but saw another penalty

Incredibly Bent missed from spot again after the break and Peter Crouch reduced the deficit with a 72nd minute header, but Bolo Zenden's volley clinched the points in the 86th minute.

from their 7-1 defeat at Chelsea with a 1-0 win at Bolton thanks to Ashley Young's curling effort in the 11th minute.

Stoke pushed Hull deeper into trouble with a 2-0 win at the Britannia Stadium, Ricardo Fuller and Liam Lawrence scoring the goals.

Ten-man Portsmouth held on for a 0-0 draw at home to Blackburn after defender Anthony Van den Borre was sent off in the second half for a second yellow card.

match for the first time since

February 28 after an injury-

plagued season, snaffled the

opener with a right-foot shot

Schweinsteiger.

through injury.

their 22nd title.

Kuranyi.

after good work from Bastian

home defender Rafinha could

only clear as far as Altintop,

who fed Mueller for a neat

hosts briefhope of a point.

finish before Kuranyi gave the

absence of Dutch star Arjen

Robben while they also lost

defender Daniel van Buyten

during the course of the game

man Altintop was sent off four

minutes before the interval for

a foul on Rafinha but hung on

as they took a big step towards

Leverkusen went down 3-2 at

Eintracht Frankfurt despite a

brace for Stefan Kiessling, the

league's joint top scorer with

advantage of Leverkusen's

fourth loss in a month to close

the gap on third place - worth a

Champions League qualifying

round slot - to a point with a 2-

1 win over Werder Bremen

while Stuttgart are up to sev-

Borussia Moenchengladbach.

At the wrong end of the

Elsewhere, Dortmund took

Fellow title aspirants Bayer

They ended the game with

Bayern held on in the

Mueller made it 2-0 after



Arsenal striker Nicklas Bendtner (R) gets ahead of the defenders to score a late winner in their Premier League match against Wolves at the Emirates Stadium in London on Saturday.

## Ibrahimovic out

INTERNET, undated

Barcelona striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been ruled out for the visit of Arsenal in the Champions League next week after picking up a calf injury on Saturday, the club said in a statement.

The Swede pulled out of

#### Wenger to discuss future soon

AFP, London

discuss a new contract with Arsenal in the summer or autumn, media reports

Wenger's current deal expires in the summer of next year but he wants to see his young side, still in the mix for the Premier League title and taking on Barcelona this week in their Champions League quarterfinal return, mature to land silverware.

Wenger told the Mail On Sunday: "This summer or in the autumn we will talk. My personal future will depend on the capacity to win trophies but also on whether this team is improving year after year, because we are still very, very young.

"Ideally I would not want to leave without this generation winning a trophy."

#### Zola to stick to his guns

AFP, London

West Ham coach Gianfranco Zola says he will not change the way the club plays despite the threat of relegation from the Premier League after six straight 10 men after former Schalke defeats.

> Ahead of Sunday's game at Everton Zola said he would keep faith with his attacking philosophy despite his club conceding 55 goals this season - the sixth worst defensive record in the top flight.

"I won't change it. It's the only reason why I'm in football because it's my dream to play in a certain way," the Italian told the Sunday Telegraph, adding he would "fight to the end" for his players.

"The owners gave me their support after the Stoke game. It's enough for me. I'm going to work at proving that they were right," Zola insisted.

The Hammers went into

## IN BRIEF

## of Barca tie

the starting XI during the warm-up for the La Liga match against Athletic Bilbao at the Nou Camp.

An initial examination revealed he had a small tear in his right calf.

Coach Arsene Wenger will indicated Sunday.

Sunday's game level on points with third-bottom Hull and four adrift of Wigan with six games remaining.

# Anthem singer making waves

AFP, Mogadishu



For the few who know him in Somalia, he is a "crazy" refugee, but many have never heard of K'naan -- a hip-hop artist whose hit song "Waving Flag" is the official World Cup anthem.

Born Keinan Abdi Warsame in 1978 in Mogadishu, the Toronto-based rapper who fled the war-wracked Horn of Africa country at the age of 13, has worked up crowds across the world during the World Cup Trophy tour.

The soccer anthem, from his album "Troubadour," is a stomping rendition packed with resounding percussions and rhymed with a reggae riff and was also recently reworked for the Haiti earthquake fundraiser.

"He is great but I can tell you that nobody knows about his greatness in Somalia, where he is taken as someone who lost his culture to the West," said Mohamed Adan Tarabi, a 25-year-old football fan.

"If you Google his name you see thousands of results, which prove his prominence, but in Somalia I've never heard anybody listening to his songs," he added.

Largely under the control of hardline Islamist rebels, Somalia has been cut off from the entertainment world owing to the imposition of strict

sharia, or Islamic law, by the extremist militia. Watching movies, football or listening to music are banned and transgressors can incur drastic penalties such as public flogging, chop-

ping of limbs or even death by a firing squad. "I heard about a Somali man being selected to sing in the World Cup, but I have no idea about

that guy and I have never seen him," said Hasan

Adan, a Mogadishu teenager.

"I was only told by a friend that he is an English rapper like those blacks in the US," he added. Those who know K'naan have great admira-

tion for him, but are restricted to secretly watching his clips on the Internet for fear of being caught by the Islamist militia. "I'm really a big fan of great K'naan. I have watched him on the Internet and his song for the

World Cup is also so good, but I'm disappointed that I cannot freely watch his songs here in Mogadishu," said Fadumo Moalim Hasan. "I have the anthem downloaded into my mobile and I can secretly watch it. But if the Shebab guys find me with this song in my cell

phone I could face punishment," she said, referring to the Al Qaeda-linked group. Late last year, K'naan returned to the country, but only visited the northern breakaway state of

Somaliland which has been spared much of the bloody violence in other parts of the country. But he did not perform during his two-week

stay in Hargeisa, only meeting with prominent Somali poets and elders.

Many Somali youngsters and fans of K'naan do not understand much of what he sings about because they do not understand English.

"Who understands English in this country. think a singer who sings in English has no market in this country and that is why few know about K'naan," said Mohamed Ilkase, a Mogadishu resident.

"I watched one of his songs and I can say he is crazy if he believes he could be listened to in Mogadishu," he added.

### 'Shawcross wanted to take me out'

SOCCERNET

Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey has accepted Ryan Shawcross did not mean to break his leg - but believes the Stoke defender wanted to "take him out" and could have avoided the challenge which

ended his season. Much has been made of whether there was any intent from Shawcross in the challenge, and the player has since tried to contact Ramsey. The 19-year-old Arsenal midfielder appreciates there was no malice involves, but feels Shawcross did have enough

time to pull out of the tackle. "I remember everything, but you just have to get on with things, and that is what I am doing at the moment," Ramsey told Arsena's official matchday programme. "I don't believe he wanted to break my leg, but I think he wanted to go through

the ball and me - to take me out and make sure I felt the tackle. "He was caught out of position a little, but he could defi-

nitely have changed his mind before making the tackle, realising that he was not going to get there and so not committing. "If I was tackling and saw

that there was not a chance of getting to the ball cleanly, I would not make the tackle . and I don't think there was a chance of him getting there."

# Barca blow Bilbao away

AFP, Madrid



Champions Barcelona bushed aside Athletic Bilbao 4-1 on Saturday to return to the top of La Liga and

open a three-point gap on Real Madrid who they face next week in 'El Clasico'. Barcelona have a decisive week ahead of them with the

Champions League quarterfinal second leg at home to Arsenal on Tuesday and then a trip to Real four days later. They got the perfect prepa-

ration on Saturday with three points and a convincing win that puts the pressure on Real Madrid to win at Racing Santander on Sunday. The 22-year-old Jeffren

Suarez opened the scoring with his first goal of the season on 26 minutes before the 19-year-old Bojan stole the show with a brace either side of the interval. Lionel Messi scored his 26th

goal of the campaign to make it four after 66 minutes and Bilbao, two points off the Champions League places, were desperate for the final whistle at Camp Nou. With a testing week against

Arsenal, against whom they are level 2-2, and Real Madrid to come, coach Pep Guardiola chose to rest Xavi and Thierry Henry while Dani Alves was suspended.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic, scorer in each of his last four matches, picked up an injury in the

## **RESULTS**

Barcelona on Saturday.

Real Zaragoza 2 (Ponzio 45, Suazo 75) Malaga 0 Barcelona 4 (Jeffren 26, Bojan 41, 58, Messi 66) Athletic Bilbao 1 (Susaeta 76)

Sevilla 3 (Kanoute 22, Fabiano 43, Carlos 88) Tenerife 0 warm-up so Bojan came in for

only his third start of the season. Frenchman crossed across the Barca went ahead on 26

minutes with Messi releasing Eric Abidal down the left and the



PHOTO: AFP

Barcelona's forward Bojan Krkic celebrates scoring against Athletic Bilbao in their Primera Liga match at the Nou Camp in the drop.

Fernando Llorente had a great chance to equalise on 33 minutes but shot over from close range.

face of goal where Jeffren slid

the ball in for his first goal of the

With four minutes until the break Barca struck again with a stray pass pounced on by Carles Puyol, who is suspended for the Arsenal game, and the captain set up Bojan who produced a

cool finish at the near post. Bilbao, who beat Real Madrid earlier this season, hit the post early in the second period while Javi Martinez screwed a shot wide when oneon-one with goalkeeper Victor Valdes.

Guardiola responded by throwing on playmaker Xavi and the hosts picked up the pace with Bojan curling in a fine effort on 58 minutes and eight minutes later substitute Pedro

crossed for Messi to tap in. Markel Susaeta pulled a goal backfor Bilbao.

Real Zaragoza moved seven points clear of the bottom three with a 2-0 home win over relegation rivals Malaga.

Argentine Leo Ponzio scored his first goal of the season to put Zaragoza ahead on the stroke of half-time before Chile international striker Humberto Suazo killed the game off on 75 min-

Zaragoza's second successive win sees them jump a point above Malaga into 15th place with Racing Santander, at home to Real Madrid on Sunday, dropping to fourth from bottom, six points above

AFP, Berlin

Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Teber 28-pen, Caio 62, Franz 89) Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Kiessling 33, 46) Nuremberg 2 (Frantz 14, Choupo-Moting 40) Mainz 0

Cologne 0 Hertha Berlin 3 (Raffael 25, 45, Cicero 75)

hailed their

win over

Bundesliga

title rivals

Schalke as a

perfect

they prepare to finish the job

and knock Manchester United

Last week's come-from-

behind 2-1 quarterfinal first leg

win over the English giants sent

the Bavarians into Saturday's

league encounter at a packed

Veltins Arena with the wind in

RESULTS

out of the Champions League.

Dortmund 2 (Grosskreutz 10, Subotic 22) Werder Bremen 1 (Hunt 65) Schalke 1 (Kuranyi 31) Bayern Munich 2 (Ribery 25,

Mueller 26) Freiburg 1 (P. Cisse 18) VfL Bochum 1 (Dabrowski 24) VfB Stuttgart 2 (Marica 66, Kuzmanovic 83) Borussia

their sails despite some poor race is now pretty much over recent domestic form.

Moenchengladbach 1 (Reus 34)

And a 2-1 courtesy of goals from Frenchman Franck Ribery - his fourth of the season - and Thomas Mueller, within a minute of each other, saw Bayern deliver a potential hammer to Schalke's hopes of a first league crown since 1958. "We are top - and that's

enth after a 2-1 success over with the momentum having slipped away from his side. "After a match such as this

none of my players should bother thinking about the title," Magath stormed as

Bayern moved onto 59 points

Ribery, starting a league

from their 29 games to 58 for Schalke.

table, rock bottom Hertha Berlin won 3-0 at Cologne to suggest they believe they are not doomed yet despite not having garnered a single home success since the opening day

of the campaign.

saved by Heurelho Gomes.

fourth place with a 6-1 demolition of second bottom Burnley at a rain-lashedTurfMoor. Roberto Mancini's side Aston Villa bounced back scored three times in the first seven minutes through

Emmanuel Adebayor, Craig Bellamy and Carlos Tevez. Then Patrick Vieira scored his first goal for City, Adebayor added his second before the break and Vincent Kompany

we got a deserved victory."

Manchester City stormed into

Steven Fletcher scored for Burnley late on but Mancini's After a dour first half, Wolves captain Karl Henry was shown a men are now one point ahead straight red card in the 65th min-

struck in the 58th minute.

of Tottenham in the race for the final Champions league place. Darren Bent missed two

Bayern Munich winger Franck Ribery (L) volleys home from outside the area during their Bundesliga

Bayern edge crunch clash

where we belong," said

delighted skipper Mark van

Bommel after his side went a

point clear with five games

after Bayern won on the Royal

Blues' home patch for the

second time in ten days, add-

ing to their German Cup suc-

cess, to shrug off recent league

losses to Frankfurt and

who led Wolfsburg to a stun-

ning title success last season

and who was twice a domestic

double winner with Bayern

before his 2007 sacking, as

much as conceded that the

Schalke coach Felix Magath,

Schalke were left reeling

top-of-the-table clash against Schalke at the Veltins Arena in Gelsenkirchen on Saturday.

remaining.

Stuttgart.