

**Fabianski out for season**

AFP, London

Arsenal goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski will miss the rest of the season following shoulder surgery, Gunners manager Arsene Wenger said Thursday.

The Pole was injured during the warm-up ahead of Arsenal's Premier League match against Manchester City last month and has not played since.

It was a cruel blow for the 25-year-old, who this season had established himself as Arsenal's first choice, and Fabianski is now set to travel to Germany for surgery.

"We had bad news for Lukasz Fabianski because he needs surgery on his shoulder," Wenger said.

Wojciech Szczesny, who started the season as Arsenal's third choice goalkeeper, has impressed since stepping up to first-team action.

But the 20-year-old faces renewed competition from the fit-again Manuel Almunia.

**It's Real v Barca final**

**Football**

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid will face arch rivals Barcelona in a mouth-watering Kings Cup final after Jose Mourinho's Madrid side defeated holders Sevilla 2-0 at the Santiago Bernabeu on Wednesday to reach their first final since 2004.

Togo forward Emmanuel Adebayor scored his first Real goal deep in stoppage time to add to an 81st minute strike from German international midfielder Mesut Ozil, as Real won the semifinal tie 3-0 on aggregate and eased the pressure on coach Mourinho.

Barcelona defeated Almeria 3-0 on Wednesday to cruise into their second final in three seasons with an 8-0 aggregate win.

Real had tasted a shock 1-0 defeat at Osasuna on Sunday to fall seven points behind Barcelona in the league, but had the comfort of home advantage where they had won all their league games.

With just four minutes gone Argentine winger Angel di Maria watched his drive crash off the post as Sevilla survived.

Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo should

have scored on the half hour mark but goalkeeper Javi Varas, deputising for the suspended Andres Palop, saved the day.

Madrid wanted a goal to put the game to bed but had to wait until nine minutes from time with Ozil showing great composure to go around the goalkeeper and stroke home.

With the final whistle seconds away Adebayor, on loan from Manchester City, scored his first goal for Madrid, controlling a cross on his chest before firing into the roof of the net.

Earlier Adriano and Ibrahim Afellay scored their first goals for Barcelona as Pep Guardiola's side cruised into the final and stay on course for the treble.

With 34 minutes gone the visitors got a deserved lead through a fine individual goal from Adriano.

Adriano cut in from the left flank, poked the ball through one opponent's legs and then stroked home for his first Barcelona goal.

On 55 minutes 19-year-old Thiago, the latest Barca youth product, bulleted in a header from a Dani Alves cross and ten minutes later Afellay drilled home his first goal for Barcelona following his January move from PSV Eindhoven.

**RESULTS**

Almeria 0 **Barcelona 3** (Adriano 34, Thiago 55, Afellay 65)  
**Real Madrid 2** (Ozil 81,



Liverpool striker Luis Suarez (R) is about to score the second goal against Stoke City during their Premier League encounter at Anfield on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

**City lose ground**

AFP, London



Manchester City lost ground to local rivals Manchester United in the Premier League title race after twice giving up the lead in a 2-2 draw away to Birmingham on Tuesday.

A share of the spoils at St Andrew's left Roberto Mancini's men eight points behind leaders United, having played a game more than the table-toppers.

Carlos Tevez gave Manchester City a fourth minute lead with a neat, clipped finish following a pass from David Silva.

But Birmingham were level 19 minutes later when Serbia striker Nikola Zigic scored from close range after getting on the end of David Bentley's free-kick.

City suffered a setback when defender Micah Richards, who first needed several minutes of on-field treatment, was carried off on a stretcher following a head injury.

However, they subsequently regained the lead when, four minutes before half-time, Aleksandar Kolarov curled a 25-yard free-kick around the wall for a fine goal.

But City failed to press home their advantage and were punished when, following Patrick Vieira's clumsy challenge on Kevin Phillips, the hosts equalised through Craig Gardner's penalty 13 minutes from time to the delight of the St Andrew's faithful.

Elsewhere, new Liverpool striker Luis Suarez marked his debut off the bench with the Reds' second goal in a 2-0 win over Stoke that saw the Merseysiders continue their resur-

gence under Kenny Dalglish.

Liverpool went ahead two minutes into the second period at Anfield when Raul Meireles crashed the ball in from 12 yards after Stoke had failed to clear a Steven Gerrard shot.

Suarez, a 22.6 million pounds (36.3 million dollars) signing from Ajax on transfer deadline day and wearing the No 7 shirt worn with such distinction by Dalglish, came on for Fabio Aurelio shortly after the hour mark.

And in the 79th minute he sealed Liverpool's third straight clean sheet win under Dalglish when he rounded the keeper and rolled the ball in despite a despairing attempt by Andy Wilkinson, who deflected the strike into his own net, to hack clear.

West Ham climbed off the bottom of the table with a 3-1 win away to Blackpool.

Tottenham maintained their pursuit of a Champions League place with a 1-0 win away to Blackburn Rovers that saw them close to within three points of fourth-placed Chelsea

England striker Peter Crouch scored the only goal of the game in the third minute when he rose above Chris Samba to head in a Rafael van der Vaart cross at the back post.

Life for Newcastle without Andy Carroll following the striker's 35 million pounds departure to Liverpool started with a 1-0 loss away to Fulham.

New Bolton loan signing Daniel Sturridge struck in stoppage time to seal a 1-0 win over Wolves that dropped Mick McCarthy's men to the foot of the Premier League table.

**RESULTS**

Birmingham 2 (Zigic 23, Gardner 77-pen) Manchester City 2 (Tevez 4, Kolarov 41)  
Blackburn 0 **Tottenham 1** (Crouch 3)  
Blackpool 1 (Adam 42) **West Ham 3** (Obinna 24, 44, Keane 37)  
**Bolton 1** (Sturridge 90)  
Wolverhampton 0  
**Fulham 1** (Duff 67) Newcastle 0  
**Liverpool 2** (Meireles 47,

**Juventus lose again**

AFP, Rome



Mid-table Chievo put a huge dent in second-placed Napoli's Serie

A title hopes as they completed the double over their opponents this season with a 2-0 win in Verona on Wednesday.

And the pressure is mounting on Juventus coach Luigi Delneri as his team lost for the fifth time in eight games since the turn of the year with a 2-1 reverse at Palermo.

Davide Moscardelli and Gennaro Sardo scored the goals to down an out of sorts Napoli who dropped to five points off leaders AC Milan, who drew 0-0 with Lazio on Tuesday.

Palermo leapfrogged their opponents with their win in Sardinia, leaving sorry Juve

eighth in Serie A.

The hosts took an early lead as Javier Pastore crossed from deep and Fabrizio Miccoli took the ball in his stride before finishing under goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon from a tight angle.

Giulio Migliaccio then headed home a Mattia Cassani cross after a short corner to make it 2-0.

Claudio Marchisio got Juventus back into the match as he finished through a crowd of bodies after goalkeeper

Salvatore Sirigu had made a mess of another corner.

Roma missed the chance to jump above city rivals Lazio into third as they were held 1-1 at home to lowly Brescia while in-form Udinese failed to move into the Champions League places as they were surprisingly held 1-1 at home to Bologna.

**RESULTS**

Cesena 1 (Jimenez 31)  
Catania 1 (Maxi Lopez 8)  
**Chievo 2** (Moscardelli 20, Sardo 50) Napoli 0  
**Fiorentina 1** (Santana 40) Genoa 0  
**Palermo 2** (Miccoli 7, Migliaccio 20)  
Juventus 1 (Marchisio 36)  
Parma 0 **Lecce 1** (Chevanton 90)  
Roma 1 (Borriello 58)  
Brescia 1 (Eder 69)  
Sampdoria 0 **Cagliari 1** (Nalingolan 37)  
Udinese 1 (Domizzi 77)

**SPORTS POLL**

**WEEKLY QUESTION**

Do you think Mashrafe Bin Mortaza will play the World Cup?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

Follow The Daily Star Sport on



www.twitter.com/dssport



**Bangladesh League**

Mohammedan v Arambagh

Time: 4:00pm

Venue: Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal

**BE A GAME CHANGER WITH PEPSI!**

Catch the final match of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 LIVE IN MUMBAI!



Win World Cup match tickets and a chance to get on the field during the drinks break

SMS the code under Pepsi pet bottle cap to 6969 to collect runs. MORE SMS MORE RUNS

You could also win



LCD TVs



Laptops



Backpacks



Digital Cameras



Autographed Bats



Jerseys



A Player Card along with each purchase

**CHANGE THE GAME™**



**PEPSI**

Terms and Conditions: Regular Pepsi will also be available in the market without the offer. This offer is only applicable for Pepsi PET bottles (Pepsi 250ml Go pack, 500ml, 1 liter and 2 liter). Promotional offer not applicable for Diet Pepsi. Each code can only be sent once through SMS. Consumers will have to submit the cap as a proof while receiving the prizes. SMS charges applicable. All decisions taken by Pepsi will be regarded as final at any stage of the program. Winners will have to arrange passport and visa on their own. Persons associated with Transcom Beverages, Asiatic MCL and Asiatic Events are not eligible to take part in this promotion. Participation in this promotion is completely voluntary. Conditions apply.

To know more call 01823-072590, 01823-072591, 01823-072592, 01823-072593 or just visit www.pepsichangethegamebd.com