



Arsenal star Robin van Persie (C) scores his second penalty to make it 3-2 completing a stunning comeback during their FA Cup fourth round encounter against Aston Villa at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Libya miss out on last 8

AFP, Libreville

Fairytale qualifiers Libya enjoyed a bittersweet day on Sunday, defeating Senegal for their first Africa Cup of Nations win since 1982, yet missing out on the quarterfinals.

The Libyans' 2-1 defeat of already eliminated Senegal in Bata was insufficient to lift them into the last eight after Zambia beat Equatorial Guinea 1-0 in Malabo.

That left Zambia as the Group A winners, with the significant reward of avoiding a probable quarterfinal date with competition favourites Ivory Coast.

That dubious honour now looks set to fall to Group A runners-up Equatorial Guinea.

Topping the table means the Zambian Copper Bullets are likely to face Angola or Sudan in the quarterfinals next Saturday.

Zambia captain and striker Christopher Katongo settled a cagey Nuevo Estadio de Malabo clash of few scoring chances on 67 minutes, beating Brazil-born goalkeeper Danilo with a hard low shot.

Although the Equatoguineans are 25 places below the Zambians on the African rankings, there was no evidence of a yawning gap between the teams with the National Lightning holding their own entering the final quarter.

However, a goal out of nothing from China-based Katongo silenced the crowd as a throw-in set up the former army sergeant to beat Danilo with a shot into the corner of the net.

## De Bruyne set for Chelsea

AFP, Brussels

Belgian international attacking midfielder Kevin De Bruyne is poised to quit RC Genk to sign a five-year deal with English Premier league side Chelsea, according to reports here on Monday.

The 20-year-old who can also play on wing is reportedly in London for a medical.

The transfer fee is reported to be eight million euros, with other reports suggesting that De Bruyne will finish the season with RC Genk before being loaned for a season to another club.

## Mancunians bid to rebound

AFP, London



Premier League leaders Manchester City and Manchester United will look to put their respective League Cup and FA Cup defeats by Liverpool behind them when they return to league action on Tuesday.

City, three points clear at the top of the table, travel to Everton while second-placed champions United are at home to Stoke.

Table-toppers City will again be without striker Mario Balotelli as the forward continues his four-game ban for stamping on Tottenham's Scott Parker.

"I do not agree with this decision, but we can do nothing," said City manager Roberto Mancini. "I explained to Mario and he understood."

City have only managed one victory at Goodison Park since 1992 but Everton, hampered by injuries, are set to be without first-choice central defenders Phil Jagielka and Sylvain Distin.

United goalkeeper David de Gea struggled with crosses and corners in the 2-1 loss to Liverpool and Stoke, renowned for their physical presence at set pieces, are sure to test the Spaniard.

But United manager Sir Alex Ferguson tried to shield de Gea from criticism after the Liverpool match by saying: "Our own players created a problem for the first goal They didn't give him enough room to deal with it."

## Arsenal stage fightback

AFP, London



Arsenal staged a stunning comeback to reach the FA Cup fifth round as the Gunners recovered from two goals down to snatch a dramatic 3-2 win against Aston Villa on Sunday.

Arsene Wenger's side were heading for a shock fourth round exit after first half goals from Richard Dunne and Darren Bent put Villa in control at the Emirates Stadium.

But, facing the unpalatable prospect of a fourth successive defeat, the Gunners finally silenced the frustrated jeers of the home fans with a sensational second half display.

Three goals in seven minutes -- two Robin van Persie penalties sandwiching a lucky strike from Theo Walcott -- overwhelmed Villa and earned Arsenal a last 16 trip to Sunderland or Middlesbrough.

Arsenal defender Thomas Vermaelen went close to providing the ideal start when his ferocious free-kick was pushed over by Shay Given.

But after a cautious opening, Villa went ahead with a well-worked goal in the 33rd minute.

Stiliyan Petrov played a short corner to Robbie Keane, who returned posses-

sion to the Bulgarian.

As Arsenal's defenders stood off, Petrov had time to clip a clever backheel to Keane, who floated a teasing cross to the far post where Dunne rose above Laurent Koscielny to power his header past Lukasz Fabianski.

Stephen Ireland almost gifted Arsenal an immediate equaliser with a ridiculously careless pass in his own penalty area. Aaron Ramsey intercepted but his shot was scrambled away for a corner.

Villa were going forward with real confidence now and extended their lead with a majestic move in first half stoppage-time.

Gabriel Agbonlahor started the attack from deep in his own half and Petrov then switched play to the right wing, where Ireland slipped a sublime pass behind the Arsenal defence for Bent to chase.

Bent got there before Vermaelen and when his initial shot was saved by Fabianski, the Villa striker kept his composure to slot the rebound into the empty net.

Wenger's players trudged off with the home fans' anger ringing in their ears.

It needed an immediate response in the second half to avert a crisis and Arsenal delivered in emphatic fashion.

The hosts were unlucky not to reduce the deficit when Per Mertesacker's header was cleared off

the line by Ireland.

But they were back in the tie in the 54th minute when Dunne halted Ramsey's surging run into the Villa area with a crude foul.

Referee Mike Jones pointed for a penalty and van Persie stroked home the spot-kick for his 24th goal of the season.

Suddenly Arsenal had been lifted out of their lethargy and they equalised in the 57th minute.

Walcott, previously a subdued figure, raced away from Stephen Warnock before cutting towards goal.

It seemed as though Villa had escaped when Walcott's shot hit a post, but Arsenal's luck was in as Alan Hutton's attempted clearance struck Walcott and flashed back into the net.

Walcott knew little about it but no-one in Arsenal colours cared and the mood changed from relief to wild celebration when the Gunners took the lead four minutes later.

Koscielny carried the attack to Villa with a rampaging run into the area, prompting Bent to bring the defender down with a despairing lunge.

Again Jones awarded the penalty and once more van Persie sent Given the wrong way with a clinical spot-kick.

Villa threatened an equaliser through Ciaran Clark's late header, but Arsenal had done enough to complete the sensational fightback.

## Toni moves to Dubai

REUTERS, Undated

Former Italy striker Luca Toni has left Juventus for Dubai's Al Nasr in a permanent deal, the Serie A leaders said in a statement on Monday.

The 34-year-old has struggled for opportunities in Turin this term after new coach Antonio Conte preferred the likes of marquee signing Mirko Vucinic.

The former Bayern Munich and Fiorentina forward arrived from Genoa in January last year but scored just two goals as his failing career nosedived further.

He will link up in the United Arab Emirates with former Italy goalkeeper Walter Zenga, the Al Nasr coach.

### FIXTURES

(1945GMT unless stated)

#### Tuesday

Everton v Manchester City (2000GMT), Manchester United v Stoke (2000GMT), Swansea v Chelsea, Tottenham v Wigan, Wolves v Liverpool

#### Wednesday

Aston Villa v QPR, Blackburn v Newcastle (2000GMT), Bolton v Arsenal (2000GMT), Fulham v West Brom (2000GMT), Sunderland v Norwich (2000GMT)



AC Milan captain Massimo Ambrosini (R) celebrates his goal with teammates during their Serie A clash against Cagliari at San Siro on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Lecce stun Inter

AFP, Rome



Inter Milan's run of seven successive Serie A wins came to an abrupt end on Sunday as they fell to a 1-0 defeat by relegation strugglers Lecce, a loss made all the more bitter by AC Milan's 3-0 win over Cagliari which saw their rivals tuck in just a point behind leaders

Juventus.

Uruguayan Guillermo Giacomazzi struck for Lecce to give them their first home win of the season - they had previously taken just two points from the 27 available at home - while their 'keeper Massimiliano Benassi was in superlative form, denying Inter on several occasions.

Lecce's win took them to three points from safety, fourth from bottom Siena having lost 2-1 earlier on Sunday to Fiorentina.

Inter's loss leaves them nine points adrift of Juve, who beat Udinese 2-1 on Saturday, and AC Milan rubbed it in by sweeping aside Cagliari with goals from Serie A's leading marksman Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who bagged his 15th goal of the campaign with a fine freekick which sailed in past helpless keeper Michael Agazzi.

After the Sweden international's opening salvo on 32 minutes Antonio Nocerino swiftly made it 2-0 with his seventh of the season shortly before the break before Massimo Ambrosini swept home the clincher with the outside of his right boot on 75 minutes.

### RESULTS

**Fiorentina 2** (Jovetic 4, Natali 63)  
Siena 1 (Calaio 89-pen)  
**Cesena 0 Atalanta 1** (M. Rossi 76-og)  
AS Roma 1 (Pjanic 62)  
Bologna 1 (Di Vaio 57)  
**Genoa 3** (Palacio 31, 70, Gilardino 36)  
Napoli 2 (Cavani 81, Lavezzi 82)  
Chievo 0 Lazio 3 (Lima 21, Klose 88, 89)  
**Palermo 2** (Budan 42, 72) Novara 0  
Lecce 1 (Giacomazzi 40) Inter Milan 0  
**AC Milan 3** (Ibrahimovic 32, Nocerino 39, Ambrosini 75) Cagliari 0

## What to WATCH

**ESPN**  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm  
English Premiership  
Man United v Stoke City  
Live from 1:54am (Wednesday)  
**STAR Sports**  
English Premiership  
Everton v Man City  
Live from 1:55am (Wednesday)

## DAY'S EVENT

**Premier Division Cricket League, Round 9**  
CCS v Prime Doleshwar  
Venue: Mirpur  
Kalabagan v Surjo Torun  
Venue: BKSP-2  
Victoria v Brothers Union  
Venue: Fatullah  
All matches start at 9:00am  
**Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Gold Cup Primary School Football Final**  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
Time: 1:00pm  
**Bangabandhu Gold Cup Primary School Football Final**  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
Time: 3:00pm