

All Gunners blaze

AFP, London

Robin van Persie scored a hat-trick as Arsenal recorded their first Premier League win of the year by thrashing Blackburn 7-1 at the Emirates Stadium here Saturday.

There had been reports of supporters protesting against Arsene Wenger ahead of the game but there was very little to complain as Arsenal romped to their biggest win in all competitions since October 2007.

Morten Gamst Pedersen may have cancelled out Van Persie's opener but the Arsenal captain ended up completing a treble, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain added two goals, while Mikel Arteta and Thierry Henry also scored.

Rovers were not helped by Gael Givet getting sent off for a rash tackle on Van Persie, although they were trailing at that stage of the match.

Van Persie's goals moved Dennis Bergkamp out of Arsenal's top 10 leading goalscorers, with the Gunners skipper now on 123 strikes for the club.

Wenger had considered resting Van Persie but after failing to win a league match in 2012 before this game, the Arsenal manager included the Premier League's top

goalscorer.

It took the Holland striker just 79 seconds to open the scoring with the 100th league goal of his career.

Radoslav Petrovic's poor clearance fell for Francis Coquelin, who slipped a ball through to Theo Walcott down the right flank.

Walcott's low cross found Van Persie unmarked and the Gunners skipper had the simple task of tapping past Paul Robinson and into an empty net.

Blackburn, set up to contain the hosts, needed to attack but struggled to impose themselves on the game with just Anthony Modeste in attack.

Modeste was almost on the end of a cross, but was inches away from the ball and ended up with a booking for crashing into Arsenal goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny.

Arsenal looked likely to increase their lead. Oxlade-Chamberlain, who started despite a slight concern over his knee, went wide from the edge of the penalty area with their next chance.

Laurent Koscielny almost scored when Per Mertesacker nodded Tomas Rosicky's corner into his path, while van Persie also went wide with a delicate chip.

But Rovers shocked Wenger's team in the 32nd minute through Pedersen's spectacular free-kick.



Arsenal star Robin van Persie (2nd from L) is about to score the opening goal during their Premier League encounter against Blackburn Rovers at the Emirates Stadium yesterday.

SPORTS POLL

WEEKLY QUESTION

Is BCB doing a good job with domestic cricket scheduling?

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

Follow The Daily Star Sport on **twitter**

www.twitter.com/dssport



Sunday, Feb 5

ESPN & STAR Cricket

Australia v India
Triangular Series
Live from 9:20am

TEN Cricket

Pakistan v England
Third Test, Day 3
Live from 12:00pm

ESPN

English Premiership

Newcastle v Aston Villa
Live from 7:25pm
Chelsea v Man United
Live from 9:55pm

STAR Sports

Asian Olympic Qualifiers

Syria v Japan
Live from 6:00pm
Bahrain v Malaysia
Live from 9:25pm

TEN Action

Serie A

Fiorentina v Udinese
Live from 7:55pm

Monday, Feb 6

TEN Cricket

Pakistan v England
Third Test, Day 4
Live from 12:00pm

ESPN

Sportscenter India

Sports News
Live from 8:30pm

Tuesday, Feb 7

ESPN

English Premiership

Liverpool v Tottenham
Live from 1:54am

Dortmund go top

AFP, Berlin



BUNDESLIGA

Defending champions Borussia Dortmund went top of the German league on Friday night with an impressive 2-0 win at Nuremberg in sub-zero temperatures.

Striker Lucas Barrios came off the bench to score his first goal of the season eight minutes from time after Dortmund captain Sebastian Kehl had put his team ahead just after the break.

The three points mean Dortmund leapfrog Bayern Munich into top spot, but the Bavarians can regain first place if they win at Hamburg on Saturday night and third-placed Schalke can also draw level on 43 points if they win at Mainz.

"That was definitely a hard-fought vic-

tory," admitted goalscorer Kehl.

"We didn't play as well as we did last week (in the 3-1 home victory over Hoffenheim). Nuremberg were very compact and didn't make it easy, so it was important we went 1-0 up when we did.

"I am also delighted that Lucas was able to score after attracting so many headlines this week. He has shown he still has the quality to help us."

Frustrated after losing his first-team place to Robert Lewandowski, Barrios had previously stated he wanted to leave Dortmund and up until the transfer window closed on Tuesday, there was media speculation here that he would leave.

Having scored 16 goals in 32 games last season as Dortmund won the Bundesliga by seven points, Barrios had failed to hit the target in the first half of the current campaign, but he took his chance clinically.

Derdiyok's bathroom mishap

AFP, Berlin

A cut foot caused by a broken toothbrush holder has ruled Bayer Leverkusen forward Eren Derdiyok out for three weeks, including a Champions League clash with holders Barcelona, his club confirmed on Friday.

The 23-year-old was in his bathroom when a glass holding his toothbrush fell and shattered, cutting the Swiss star's foot and obliging him to have seven stitches inserted at a Cologne hospital.

Derdiyok is now certain to miss Saturday's German league clash with Stuttgart, as well as the forthcoming key fixtures at German champions Borussia Dortmund on February 11 and at home to European giants Barcelona on February 14.

"Eren was in his apartment when he trod on a shard of glass. The wound has been stitched, but the foot must be rested for at least 10 days," Leverkusen coach Robin Dutt told Cologne newspaper The Express.

Brazil unveil new kits

AFP, Rio De Janeiro



Football star Neymar and his Santos teammate Paulo Henrique Ganso on Friday unveiled the new jerseys of Brazil's national team, which will be used during the London summer Olympics later this year.

Neymar, who turns 20 this month, posed with the official yellow jersey while 22-year-old Ganso wore the blue alternative.

The new V neck models feature the sentence "born to play football" on the sleeve.

The yellow version drops the green strip found on the chest of the previous model and the blue one no longer sports a yellow strip.

The national side led by coach Mano Menezes will wear the new jersey for the first time during a friendly game against Bosnia in Switzerland on February 28.

DVD on how to tackle



Football

REUTERS, London

A "how to tackle" DVD will be sent to clubs next week after a rash of high-profile incidents this season have left managers, players and pundits scratching their heads.

Several examples of the two-footed tackle have raised questions about the interpretation of Law 12 of the game, with some players such as Manchester City Vincent Kompany getting punished while others do not.

Mike Riley, general manager of Professional Game Match Officials Limited, has met with the Professional Footballers Association (PFA) and the League Managers Association (LMA) as well as leading referees to clarify exactly when a tackle will be deemed dangerous.

"We wanted to get a collective game view rather than just a referee view as to where to

draw the line," Riley, a former FA Cup final referee, said in a statement.

"The consensus was that there will always be tackles that are borderline but it's important to return to the message that the players have consistently had over the last three years.

"That message is that if you commit to a tackle that's at speed and with intensity, typically with both feet off the ground, then you put yourself at risk of being sent off."

The DVD is intended to show the difference between careless tackles, reckless tackles and tackles using excessive force using examples from recent Premier League matches.

"(Law 12) specifies the distinction between careless, reckless and excessive force. Ultimately, it's about determining the difference between yellow card and red card offences," Riley said.

"We know that 70 per cent of tackles are clean and 25 per cent are fouls which are careless and require no further action."

FOREIGN EXCHANGE BRANCH
Biman Bhaban (1st floor)
100 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

BANGSHAL BRANCH
1st & 2nd Floor, 88 Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Sarani, Bangshal, Dhaka-1100

IMAMGONJ BRANCH
1, Imamganj Lane
Imamganj Bazar, Dhaka

DHANMONDI MODEL BRANCH
Holding no. - 275/G (Ground Floor)
Road no. - 27 (Old), Dhanmondi, Dhaka

GULSHAN BRANCH
Plot # 7, Block # SE(D), Holding # 24
Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212

বিপিএল T-20 এর উদ্বোধনীর টিকেট

আগামীকাল থেকে ঢাকা ব্যাংকের যে সমস্ত শাখাসমূহে পাওয়া যাবে

BANANI BRANCH 73/B Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka-1213	MOHAKHALI BRANCH 100, Bir Uttam A.K. Khondakar Road Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212
MIRPUR BRANCH 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot # 1, Road#5, Block-A Sec # 10 Mirpur, Dhaka	UTTARA BRANCH House # 01, Road # 13, Sector # 1 Uttara, Dhaka-1230

এছাড়াও অনলাইনে টিকেট পাওয়া যাচ্ছে ডিজিট করুন : <http://www.easy.com.bd>

গর্জে উঠুন আপনিন্ডু
খুলনা রয়েল বেঙ্গলস-এর সাথে ...

KHULNA ROYAL BENGALS
roaring to rule