



Athletic Bilbao striker Fernando Llorente (R) celebrates his goal during their Europa League quarterfinal against Schalke in Gelsenkirchen on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

UEFA bans Wenger for 3 matches

AFP, Nyon

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was on Friday handed a three-match ban by UEFA following a charge of improper conduct during a Champions League game this month.

Wenger, who was also fined 40,000 euros, will miss Arsenal's next three European matches, UEFA's control and disciplinary body confirmed in a statement.

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SPORTS POLL

WEEKLY QUESTION

Were you happy with Mushfiqur Rahim's captaincy in Asia Cup?

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ESPN

English Premiership

QPR v Arsenal

Live from 8:00pm

STAR Sports

English Premiership

Aston Villa v Chelsea

Live from 8:00pm

TEN Sports

Serie A

Catania v AC Milan

Live from 10:00pm

TEN Action

La Liga

Osasuna v Real Madrid

Live from 12:00am (Sunday)

Barcelona v Bilbao

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League

Soccer Club, Feni v Mohammedan

Time: 3:30pm

Toure urges teammates

AFP, London



Manchester City lynchpin Yaya Toure has urged his team-mates to emulate Barcelona as they attempt to overhaul Manchester United in the Premier League's gripping title climax.

After leading the table for most of the season, City have slipped three points behind their bitter cross-town rivals in recent weeks with only eight games of the season remaining.

On paper United have by far the less demanding run-in, with City still facing demanding fixtures which include trips to in-form Arsenal and Newcastle as well as Saturday's home tie with Sunderland.

However Toure wants City to learn from his experience at Barcelona in 2009-2010 season, when the club pipped Real Madrid for the title after mounting a sprint to the finish which included a win over Real at the Bernabeu.

"What we did at Barca was a perfect example of what we need to do now," Toure said, while acknowledging that City's task would be harder.

"I think now will be more difficult because United are not the type of team who you can give anything.

"When you look at the programme they have, they have easier games than us. Maybe their only difficult game is away to us.

"So it will be very hard, but to keep up the pressure we have to win all of our games. We have to fight until the finish, and if we win the Premier League this

year it would be amazing for the club and the fans."

City drew 1-1 with Stoke last weekend, but will be looking to maintain their astonishing 100 percent home record against Martin O'Neill's Black Cats.

A victory on Saturday would see City return to the top of the table on goal difference, with United not playing until Monday's trip to relegation threatened Blackburn, one of only two teams to beat the Red Devils at home this season.

"Blackburn is always a difficult type

FIXTURES	
(1400 GMT unless stated):	
Saturday	
Aston Villa v Chelsea, Everton v West Brom, Fulham v Norwich, Manchester City v Sunderland, QPR v Arsenal, Wigan v Stoke, Wolves v Bolton	
Sunday	
Newcastle v Liverpool (1230), Tottenham v Swansea (1500)	
Monday	

of game," warned United boss Sir Alex Ferguson. "It's always a bit feisty and has a local derby feeling about it.

"Last season we came from a goal down to win the league. We expect a difficult game -- that's the way all the games will be."

Elsewhere this weekend, Arsenal will seek to tighten their grip on third place by plunging Queens Park Rangers further into the relegation mire when the Gunners travel to Loftus Road.

Arsenal head into the game looking to notch their eighth consecutive vic-

tory in the league against a side who are fighting for their livelihoods according to Rangers captain Joey Barton.

"This is more than a game of football now," Barton warned. "The next eight games govern our futures.

"We're as desperate for the points as they are -- for totally different reasons obviously. But there are livelihoods on the line here.

"People's careers are on the line. I'm not sure that's the case at Arsenal to be honest."

A win for Arsenal on Saturday would leave Tottenham needing victory against Swansea at White Hart Lane on Sunday to avoid falling further behind their north London rivals in the race for third place.

Swansea have been one of the revelations of the season so far, winning plaudits for an attractive style of football that has been achieved with a squad built for a fraction of the cost of the Premier League front-runners.

"It should be a very good game of football," Swansea manager Brendan Rodgers said. "Tottenham will want the points because they are playing for the Champions League but we are here to fight as well.

"We will go there looking to perform on Sunday because we will be fighting for every single point right through until the end of the season."

Fifth-placed Chelsea meanwhile travel to Aston Villa on Saturday knowing that only victory will do as they attempt to claw back a five-point deficit between themselves and fourth-placed Spurs.

Llorente fires Bilbao

AFP, Paris



EUROPA LEAGUE

Fernando Llorente grabbed a brace as Athletic Bilbao proved their Europa League conquest of Manchester United was no fluke with a 4-2 win at Schalke in Thursday's quarterfinal first leg.

Llorente struck in the 20th and 73rd minutes in after veteran compatriot Raul had scored twice to give the German side a 2-1 lead on the hour mark before Bilbao hit three goals in the last 17 minutes.

After Llorente had levelled for 2-2, Oscar de Marcos and Iker Muniain scored in the closing 10 minutes while Schalke's Dutch striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar hit the post with a smart volley.

Bilbao will start as comfortable favourites to make the semi-finals when the second leg is played at home next week although they will have defensive midfielder Ander Iturraspe suspended.

Raul's goals, his second a fine volley, also extended his record as Europe's deadliest striker with the 34-year-old now having 76 goals in European competition, six more than Filippo Inzaghi.

Atletico Madrid, the 2010 champions, needed a goal a minute from time to edge another German side Hanover 2-1 in Spain.

Falcao fired Atletico in front after nine minutes with Mame Biram Diouf levelling for Hanover seven minutes from half-time.

But substitute Eduardio Salvio popped up in the 89th minute to give Atletico a narrow lead.

Australian international Brett Holman and Maarten Martens scored Dutch league leaders AZ Alkmaar's goals in a 2-1 victory over Valencia, the third Spanish side in the quarter-finals.

Holman volleyed in Martens' corner on the stroke of half-time but Mehmet Topal headed the equaliser soon after the interval.

Martens found the target from Holman's cross in the 79th-minute to give his side the upper hand ahead of the second leg.

Sporting Lisbon, who put out Manchester City in the last 16, saw off Metalist Kharkov 2-1, but were left to regret conceding a last-minute penalty against the

Ukrainians.

Metalist secured their vital away goal after Sporting goalkeeper Rui Patricio had brought down substitute Marko Devic allowing Cleiton Xavier to score from the spot.

Unbeaten in their last 10 European home games, Sporting went ahead through Marat Izmailov in the 51st minute with Emiliano Insua adding a second 13 minutes later.

Crunch time in Spain

AFP, Madrid



LFP

Having steadied the ship following two consecutive draws with commanding wins in La Liga and in Europe, Real Madrid begin a crucial run of games with a tricky trip to Pamplona to face Osasuna on Saturday.

After Barcelona beat Sevilla a fortnight ago, Barca coach Pep

Guardiola declared that there was no way his side could beat Madrid to the league title.

But then two late free-kicks from Santi Cazorla and Marcos Senna, for Malaga and Villarreal respectively, saw their sides draw against an increasingly nervy Real.

A sense of trepidation at the Bernabeu was eased by a 5-1 thrashing of Real Sociedad and then, in mid-week, Karim Benzema hit his second brace in a matter of days as Jose Mourinho's side took a big step towards qualifying for the Champions League semifinals with a 3-0 away victory over APOEL in Cyprus.

The gap at the top is six points but Real have some big games ahead of them, with the visit to sixth-placed Osasuna coming before a home clash with Valencia, the Madrid derby with Atletico and the Clasico away to Barcelona.

Pamplona is traditionally a tough place to visit, and Osasuna inflicted a damaging 1-0 defeat on Madrid there last season.

Jose Luis Mendilibar's side have also been

one of the surprise packages of this campaign and have lost just once in their last nine games, a run which included a 3-2 home win against Barcelona.

"The pressure is on them although they are used to playing with it. They need to win and we will do all that we can do to play well and ensure that the points stay at home," said Osasuna captain Patxi Punal.

"It is always a big motivation to play against a big side and we are up against the leaders in Real Madrid."

Meanwhile, Barcelona come into their home clash against Athletic Bilbao in fine form, with Lionel Messi leading the way with 12 goals from his last six games.

They have won their previous seven games in the league although they were held to a 0-0 draw away to AC Milan in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Athletic have had an excellent season under Marcelo Bielsa but their league form has suffered recently due to the demands of an impressive run in the Europa League which includes the defeat of Manchester United.

They are going to be further hampered as the match at the Camp Nou comes only 48 hours after their Europa League quarter-final first-leg clash with Schalke 04 in Germany.

Only a few weeks ago Valencia looked fairly secure in third place but the race for the final automatic Champions League qualifying spot has really opened up in the wake of back-to-back defeats for Unai Emery's side and they are now level on 47 points with Malaga.

Aguero blow for City

AFP, London

Manchester City will be without star striker Sergio Aguero for the Premier League clash against Sunderland with a "stupid" injury, club manager Roberto Mancini confirmed Friday.

Aguero was missing from the City team that drew at Stoke on Saturday with a foot problem.

Mancini has refused to say exactly what happened or for how long the Argentina forward could be sidelined, however, it seems the problem was not of an orthodox nature.

"It is a stupid injury," said Mancini.

"It was not his fault but he can't play with this injury; for one day, 10 days or two weeks. I don't know."

Mancini is considering handing striker Carlos Tevez his first league start for almost seven months at Eastlands on Saturday.

However the Italian handler faces a possible dilemma as the Argentinian is still not considered fit enough to start, Edin Dzeko has been inconsistent and Mario Balotelli remains an enigmatic presence in the Blues squad.



Diego blasts 'cowards'

AFP, Dubai

Diego Maradona blasted fans as "cowards" on Thursday after he rushed from his dugout to the stands to rescue his girlfriend from an ugly confrontation, media reports claimed.

The Argentine legend had just seen his Al Wasl team lose 2-0 to Al Shabab in the UAE league when players' wives and girlfriends had to be escorted out of the Al Mamzar stadium.

The trouble started, according to the Gulf News, when Ciel, a Brazilian striker who had scored one of the goals, was targeted by Argentine supporters amongst Maradona's entourage.

Al Shabab fans then unleashed insults in the opposite direction with Maradona's partner Veronica Ojeda and the girlfriend of Al Wasl player Juan Mercier caught up in the melee.

As wives and girlfriends were escorted to their cars, Mercier's girlfriend tripped and fell down the stairs.

"Some people are cowards. They only attack women and have no courage to confront men," Maradona told www.gulfnews.com.

"This is the first time I am upset with the fans. If they are angry with me they should know that I did it (climbed the stands) for my wife because someone was calling her names. They shouldn't be angry with me they should be angry with the people who did this. They are cowards, not real fans."

আকর্ষণীয় মুনাফা

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় প্রকল্পসমূহ

০১। পরিবার সঞ্চয়পত্র (৫-বছর মেয়াদী); মুনাফার হারঃ ১৩.৪৫%।
এক লক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি মাসে নীট মুনাফা ১,০৭০ (এক হাজার সত্তর) টাকা।

০২। পেনশনার সঞ্চয়পত্র (৫-বছর মেয়াদী); মুনাফার হারঃ ১৩.১৯%।
এক লক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি তিন মাসে নীট মুনাফা ৩,১৪৫ (তিন হাজার একশত পঁয়তাল্লিশ) টাকা।

০৩। ৫-বছর মেয়াদী বাংলাদেশ সঞ্চয়পত্র; মুনাফার হারঃ ১৩.১৯%।
এক লক্ষ টাকায় মেয়াদান্তে (৫-বছর) নীট মুনাফা ৬২,৯০০ (ষাষটি হাজার নয়শত) টাকা।

০৪। ৩-মাস অন্তর মুনাফাভিত্তিক সঞ্চয়পত্র (৩-বছর মেয়াদী); মুনাফার হারঃ ১২.৫৯%।
এক লক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি তিন মাসে নীট মুনাফা ৩,০০০ (তিন হাজার) টাকা।

০৫। ডাকঘর সঞ্চয় ব্যাংক মেয়াদী হিসাব (৩ বছর মেয়াদী); মুনাফার হারঃ ১৩.২৪%।
এক লক্ষ টাকায় মেয়াদান্তে (৩-বছর) নীট মুনাফা ৩৬,০০০ (ছত্রিশ হাজার) টাকা।

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় পরিদপ্তর

অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়

[বিদ্রোহ বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য নিকটস্থ সঞ্চয় অফিস/ডাকঘর/ব্যাংকের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন এবং।]

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