

Dortmund's Real test

AFP, Dortmund

Borussia Dortmund will need to check Real Madrid's early Champions League momentum when the top two in Group D face off on Wednesday with the Germans facing an injury crisis and poor form.

Security is an issue for the arrival of the Spanish giants in the wake of Saturday's riots in Dortmund before Schalke's victory in the Ruhr derby.

In total, 180 arrests were made with 11 people injured, including eight police officers, after violent clashes between rival fans.

Dortmund have big injury concerns with midfielder Jakob Blaszczykowski definitely out, while defender Marcel Schmelzer, plus midfielders Mario Goetze and Ilkay Gundogan are all racing to be fit to face Madrid.

"Jakub Blaszczykowski will not be ready in time, whether the other three are available again, I do not yet. Each day helps," said Dortmund coach Jurgen Klopp with Real top of Group D after two wins.

The trio were missing on Saturday when Dortmund crashed to the 2-1 home defeat against neighbours Schalke to leave them with just one win in their last six games.

There was some good news for Klopp on Monday as Poland defender Lukasz Piszczek has extended his contract with the German champions until 2017.

"He is the driving force of our game," admitted the Dortmund boss.

The high-profile clash has extra significance with both teams having made a patchy start in their domestic leagues and desperate to do well in Europe to compensate for their domestic stumbling.

Dortmund have beaten Bayern Munich to the Bundesliga title for the last two seasons, but the Bavarians are currently 12 points ahead of Klopp's team in the league.

Likewise, Jose Mourinho's Real are eight points adrift of leaders Barcelona in La Liga.

With Real top of the group, second-placed Dortmund need to take points off the Spanish giants to keep their hopes of reaching the knock-out phase alive after a win over Ajax was followed by a 1-1 draw at Manchester City.

But Klopp is under no illusion of the task facing his team after their injury-hit team was well beaten by Schalke.

"Everything has to be better, we must tick off the Schalke game and next time just show what we can do," said Klopp with his side fourth in the Bundesliga and 12 points adrift of leaders Bayern Munich.

In contrast, Real warmed up for their trip to Germany as Gonzalo Higuain and Cristiano Ronaldo scored in either half as Real eased past Celta Vigo with a 2-0 victory on Saturday with Real fourth in the Spanish league.

Dortmund will face two of the current Germany squad in Real midfield stars Mesut Ozil and Sami Khedira.

Khedira missed Germany's 4-4 draw in a World Cup qualifier last Tuesday with a strain of his left thigh, but the 25-year-old is expected to make the trip to Dortmund.



(From L) Real Madrid stars Cristiano Ronaldo, Luka Modric and Kaka take part in a training session at the Valdebebas training centre in Madrid yesterday on the eve of their Champions League match against Borussia Dortmund.

PHOTO: AFP

Wenger wants response

AFP, London



Arsene Wenger has called on his Arsenal stars to deliver an immediate response to their shock defeat against Norwich when Schalke visit the Emirates Stadium in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Wenger's team are now 10 points behind Premier League leaders Chelsea after losing to previously winless Norwich for the first time in 20 years on Saturday.

An error from Arsenal goalkeeper Vito Mannone prevented Grant Holt with the goal that condemned the Gunners to their second league defeat of the season and Wenger's grumpy mood after the match reflected his frustration at a lacklustre performance.

Arsenal will need a much improved display to see off German side Schalke and maintain their 100 per cent start to the Champions League campaign.

And Wenger hopes the embarrassment of losing to struggling Norwich will provoke a reaction from his players on Wednesday.

"I hope it will have a positive impact," Wenger said. "It was a shock to the system, but you have to give credit to Norwich because they played well, were completely committed and they deserved the win.

"Maybe we underrated the difficulty we would face, but the Premier League is the Premier League - if you are not ready for the fight then you will always have bad surprises.

"There is a big difference between the amount of possession we had and the amount of chances we created, that is down to the fact that Norwich defended well and we did not create a lot."

Wenger had included Jack Wilshere in the squad that travelled to Norwich for the first time in 14 months as he steps up his recovery from ankle and knee problems.

But the England midfielder didn't come on at Carrow Road and is likely to have to settle for a place on the bench at best against Schalke.

Gunners winger Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, who had to go off with a hip injury against Norwich just 10 minutes after coming on in the second half, is definitely ruled out.

"I don't see anyone new being (back) for Wednesday night," Wenger added. "The closest will be (Kieran) Gibbs, but he will not be ready. (Theo) Walcott will not be ready."

FIXTURES

Wednesday

(1845GMT unless stated):

Porto (POR) v Dynamo Kiev (UKR),
Dinamo Zagreb (CRO) v Paris Saint Germain (FRA), Arsenal (ENG) v Schalke 04 (GER), Montpellier (FRA) v Olympiakos (GRE), Ajax (NED) v Manchester City (ENG), Borussia Dortmund (GER) v Real Madrid (ESP), Zenit St Petersburg (RUS) v Anderlecht (BEL) (1600), Malaga (ESP)



What to WATCH

ESPN

Sportscentre India

Sports News

Live at 8:30pm

TEN Sports

UEFA Champions League

Arsenal v Schalke 04

Live from 12:45am (Thursday)

TEN Action

UEFA Champions League

Zenit v Anderlecht

Live from 10:00pm

Borussia v Real Madrid

Negredo lifts Sevilla

REUTERS, Madrid



LFP

Alvaro Negredo scored twice as Sevilla came back to beat Real Mallorca 3-2 at home and go fifth in La Liga on Monday.

The Spain striker smashed a shot high into the net to level at 1-1 in the 29th minute and headed inside the near post to equalise again early in the second half, before Brazilian Cicinho struck a deflected volley for the winner.

Sevilla ended a run of two consecutive defeats to climb to 14 points from eight games, the same as champions Real Madrid in fourth, and eight short of leaders Barcelona.

Barca top the standings on 22 points, ahead of Atletico Madrid on goal difference, after Lionel Messi scored a hat-trick to guide his side to a 5-4 victory with 10 men over promoted Deportivo Coruna on Saturday.

Referee sends off 36

Football

REUTERS, Asuncion

Thirty-six players, including both teams and substitutes, were sent off during a Paraguayan junior league soccer match that ended in mayhem.

In the last five minutes of the game on Sunday, referee Nestor Guillen handed out two red cards, one to a player from each team, but the pair ignored him and continued their fight on the field.

In a matter of seconds the clash spun out of control, involving players from both teams and all the replacements.

"Many of the players that were on the

field and on the substitutes' bench, everyone went on to the field to try to control their teammates and even the players from the other team," said Hernan Martinez, president of the home club, Teniente Farina.

Rather than trying to end the brawl, the match officials ran off the field in fear.

For this reason, Martinez believes they had no other recourse but to dismiss all 36 players since they did not stay to identify culprits.

"The referees didn't even stay on the field. As soon as the fighting broke out they went to the dressing room," he said.

"They ran through the tunnel to their dressing room. They weren't able to see anything that happened."

Row over headbutt statue

AFP, Paris

A row is simmering over a giant bronze sculpture depicting French footballer Zinedine Zidane's infamous headbutt on Italian defender Marco Materazzi in the 2006 World Cup final, which has been placed outside the Pompidou Arts Centre in Paris.

"By choosing this provocative image, the artist has deliberately opted to ignore all your talents and all the positive emotions that you were able to share with the people of our country," the officials wrote in an open letter to Zidane.

Maradona arrives in India

Football

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

Soccer legend Diego Maradona arrived here to a tumultuous welcome from thousands of football crazy fans from all over the state.

The Argentine World Cup winning captain is in the State for tomorrow's inauguration of a new showroom of Bobby Chemmanur International Jewellers and Airlines, for which he is the brand ambassador.

Maradona, on a two-day trip to the state, arrived by a chartered helicopter from Nedumabassery International airport at Kochi.

Tight security was in place in the city, which saw a festive atmosphere with hundreds of fans pouring in from Kozhikode, Malappuram and Kasargod districts.

Maradona, who led Argentina to a World Cup triumph in 1986, waved to the crowds after landing at Kannur, a city which has hosted many international and national soccer tournaments.

Greek team travel 17 hrs by bus

INTERNET, Undated

While Greece's cash-strapped amateur clubs take on brothels as shirt sponsors, the country's top-flight clubs, also cash-strapped, are taking far more tedious measures to balance the books. Veria FC, currently seventh in the Greek Super League, made the 497-mile trip to fourth-place Asteras Tripolis by bus instead of plane as one of two harsh measures to save money on the day.

The northern Greek team travelled by bus to southern Tripolis on Sunday to play league rivals Asteras and they also avoided staying at a hotel overnight by returning straight after the match.

That meant leaving early in the morning for the eight-and-a-half hour drive to reach Tripolis, losing the match to Asteras 3-0 and then getting back on the bus for the return trip, a total of 17 hours in transit.

The team arrived back at their home base at 5am on Monday morning.

If you're going to re-evaluate your career as a top-flight footballer, I would imagine that a 17-hour bus trip sandwiching a 3-0 loss would be the time to do it.

Loew takes blame

AFP, Berlin



Germany coach Joachim Loew has admitted making mistakes during his team's 4-4 draw with Sweden in last week's World Cup qualifier after the Germans threw away a four-goal lead.

Germany were 4-0 up at Berlin's Olympic Stadium with more than an hour played before the hosts' defence folded in the final 30 minutes as Sweden roared back to claim a point last Tuesday.

Midfielder Rasmus Elm wrote himself into Swedish football folklore with the dramatic right-footed equaliser in the 93rd minute to leave Sweden second in Group C, three points behind leaders Germany, but with a game in hand.

It was the first time in the 104-year history of the German Football Federation (DFB) that a four-goal lead has been surrendered and the first time in three years Germany had dropped points in a qualifying match.

Loew, whose team face the Netherlands in a friendly in Amsterdam next month, admits he could have done better and can understand criticism levelled at him.

"Of course I can, absolutely," Loew said in an interview with SID, an AFP subsidiary.

"I also couldn't believe the game was turning. "Maybe I could have sent out a signal by making a substitution, with a defensive man who could have provided some relief to the team.

"I had also not experienced something like this in 20 years. I will also learn from this."

ঈদ মোবারক

ঈদুল আজহা উপলক্ষে কোরবানিকৃত পশুর উচ্ছিষ্ঠাংশ পরিবেশসম্মতভাবে অপসারণে করণীয়

পশু জবাইয়ের পূর্বে গর্ভ করে নিন। গর্ভের মধ্যে রক্ত, গোবর ও পরিত্যক্ত অংশ রেখে মাটি চাষা দিন।

জবাইকৃত পশুর রক্ত ও অপ্রয়োজনীয় অংশ নর্দমা কিংবা যেখানে সেখানে ফেলবেন না। জবাইকৃত পশুর উচ্ছিষ্ঠাংশ ডাস্টবিনে ফেলুন।

কোরবানিকৃত পশুর বর্জ্য দ্রুত অপসারণের জন্য প্রয়োজনবোধে নিকটস্থ সিটি কর্পোরেশন / পৌরসভা / ইউনিয়ন পরিষদকে সংবাদ দিন।

কোরবানির পরে আপনার পরিবেশ যাতে দূষিত না হয় সেজন্য পশুর রক্ত, মল-মূত্র পরিষ্কার করুন।

কোরবানির বর্জ্য অপসারণ বা কোরবানির গোশত বিতরণে পরিবেশসম্মত ব্যাগ / পাত্র ব্যবহার করুন।

কোরবানি একটি ধর্মীয় অনুশাসন এবং পরিষ্কার-পরিচ্ছন্নতা ঈমানের অঙ্গ। সুস্থ পরিবেশ নিশ্চিত করে ধর্মীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর, পরিবেশ ও বন মন্ত্রণালয়