

# No stopping Man Utd

AFP, London



Manchester United went 10 points clear at the top of the Premier League, for a few hours at least, after a 2-1 win over Liverpool at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Goals from Robin van Persie and Nemanja Vidic gave United a 2-0 lead before Liverpool substitute Daniel Sturridge pulled one back for the visitors in this latest clash between England's two most successful clubs.

Van Persie gave United a 19th minute lead when he swept in Patrice Evra's cross from eight yards out.

It was the Dutch striker's 17th Premier League goal this term, and 21st in all competitions, since he arrived at Old Trafford in a £24 million (\$39 million) pre-season move from top-flight rivals Arsenal.

RESULTS
<b>Sunday</b>
Manchester United 2 (Van Persie 19, Vidic 54) Liverpool 1 (Sturridge 57)
Aston Villa 0 <b>Southampton 1</b> (Lambert 34-pen)
<b>Saturday</b>
Everton 0 Swansea 0
<b>Fulham 1</b> (Karagounis 22)
Wigan 1 (Di Santo 71)
Norwich 0 Newcastle 0
QPR 0 Tottenham 0
<b>Reading 3</b> (Kebe 82, Le Fondre 88-pen, Pogrebnyak 90) West Brom 2 (Lukaku 19, 69)
<b>Sunderland 3</b> (Larsson 12, Johnson

United made it 2-0 nine minutes after half-time when full-back Evra's header from van Persie's free-kick deflected in off centre-half Vidic.

But three minutes later Sturridge, on at the start of the second half for Lucas Leiva, marked his Premier League debut for Liverpool with a goal when he followed up the rebound after David de Gea saved skipper Steven Gerrard's shot from outside the box.

It was Sturridge's second goal in as many games for Liverpool following his move from European champions Chelsea after he was on target in the 2-1 FA Cup win over Mansfield last week-

end.

However, Sturridge failed to make the most of two more chances and United held on for a victory that gave them a league double over Liverpool, who remained in eighth place, this season.



Liverpool midfielder Steven Gerrard (2L) blocks a shot from Manchester United forward Robin van Persie (L) during their EPL match at Old Trafford yesterday. Van Persie had the last laugh though as his goal drove his side to a 2-1 win in this crucial fixture.

PHOTO: AFP

## Chelsea douse Stoke's fire

AFP, Stoke

Chelsea ended Stoke City's unbeaten home record with a 4-0 win thanks to two Jon Walters own goals, a Frank Lampard penalty and a sensational strike from Eden Hazard on Saturday.

Stoke forward Walters headed past his own goal-keeper either side of the break before Lampard fired in a penalty to become Chelsea's second-highest all-time goal-scorer with 194 goals.

The goal of the game rightly capped off the result as Hazard belted an effort home from 25 yards to give Chelsea interim coach Rafael Benitez a much-needed three points despite enduring more boos from the Blues support.

Stoke had not lost at the Britannia Stadium in the Premier League since February -- a run of 17 games -- but they were up against a fired-up Chelsea side.

The Blues exerted the early pressure but it was the hosts who had the first real chance.

Chelsea captain John Terry made his return from injury as a second-half substitute but he gave away a late penalty when he brought down Walters in the area.

However, the Irish international's horror day was made worse as he fired the spot-kick off the bar and over.

## Del Piero rescues Sydney

AFP, Sydney

Italian maestro Alessandro Del Piero conjured up the assist as Sydney FC scored a stoppage-time winner to climb off the floor of Australia's A-League standings on Sunday.

Del Piero's cross found an unmarked Rhyan Grant inside the penalty box. He headed home in the third minute of stoppage time to give struggling Sydney FC a 2-1 win over Melbourne Heart at home.

Sydney climbed one spot to ninth in the 10-team competition following the last-gasp winner after the home side trailed with five minutes of normal time remaining.

Australian international Brett Emerton levelled the scores in the 85th minute, setting up a grandstand finish as Sydney threw everything at the Heart defence to nab the late winner.

# Pep City-bound!



AFP, London

Former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola will replace Roberto Mancini as manager of English champions Manchester City in the summer, the Sun newspaper of England claimed on Sunday.

Guardiola, 41, said last Monday he was ready to return to coaching after stepping down from the Barcelona job at the end of last season having guided them to 14 trophies in his four years in charge, including two Champions League titles.

The Sun on Sunday claimed Guardiola will opt for City over Chelsea because he sees the Abu Dhabi-owned side as being

the more likely to challenge for European honours despite the London side having won the Champions League last season.

Mancini -- who has won an FA Cup and the Premier League titles in his time at the club -- is set to pay for his failure to guide the expensively-assembled side into the Champions League knockout stages on two occasions.

"It is 100 per cent certain that Guardiola is going to City this summer," a high level source in Spanish football told the paper.

"And when I say 100 per cent I don't mean 99 per cent, I mean 100 per cent!"

According to the paper, Guardiola will become the highest-paid manager in England on 10 million pounds (12,085,500 euros, 16.1 million dollars) a year after tax.



PHOTO: AFP FILE

Former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola is reported to take charge of English champions Manchester City in the summer, according to an English tabloid.

# Real slip further

AFP, Madrid



Jose Mourinho was under more pressure on Saturday when misfiring Real Madrid were held to a 0-0 draw at relegation-threatened Osasuna, a result which left the champions 15 points behind leaders Barcelona.

Madrid, devoid of any creativity, missed the suspended Cristiano Ronaldo, who had scored five of his side's eight goals in the last two games, and their desperate state was highlighted when substitute Kaka was sent-off in the second half.

Real Madrid are on 37 points in third place, four behind Atletico Madrid and they could trail Barcelona by 18 points on Sunday if the runaway leaders defeat fifth-place Malaga.

"I liked my team's attitude, Raul Albiol and Fabio Coentrao have come in and played well and the others have done a job. It's not easy to create here, we did enough to score but we didn't make many chances," said Mourinho.

Ronaldo missed his first game after 60 consecutive league appearances with a one-match suspension while Sergio Ramos was also absent at the start of a five-game ban.

Mourinho was able to welcome back Gonzalo Higuain and Coentrao after injuries and preferred Albiol to start only his third league game of the season over Ricardo Carvalho in the centre of defence.

there was a meaningful attempt on goal.

Osasuna defender Marc Beltran was alert to clear from almost on the goal-line after Higuain had rounded the goalkeeper and centred for Sami Khedira.

Angel Di Maria then shot over for Madrid while Alvaro Cejudo went close at the other end.

Jose Callejon almost surprised Andres Fernandez in the Osasuna goal with a header that went just over on 35 minutes and Cejudo turned cleverly before blasting over.

Within a minute of the second-half, Casillas was called into his first meaningful action to block a drive from Kike Sola.

Mourinho changed things around just before the hour mark, replacing Higuain with Karim Benzema and introducing Kaka for a subdued Di Maria.

But things got worse for Madrid when Kaka received a second yellow card within 18 minutes of coming on, leaving his side a man down for the final 15 minutes.

Spanish international forward Roberto Soldado got the goals as Valencia beat Sevilla 2-0.

That makes it eleven goals in the league for Soldado and his side remain seventh on 30 points.

For Sevilla it is just one victory in seven since they thrashed their city rivals Betis 5-1 and the pressure is on coach Michel Gonzalez whose side remain in the bottom half.

German winger Patrick Ebert scored twice and set up the third for Oscar to help Valladolid beat Mallorca 3-1.

RESULTS
Valladolid 3 (Ebert 21, 90+3, Oscar 88) Real Mallorca 1 (Victor 38)
Espanyol 1 (Sergio Garcia 24) Celta Vigo 0
Osasuna 0 Real Madrid 0

# Inter boost title bid

AFP, Milan



Inter Milan outclassed league new boys Pescara 2-0 at the San Siro Saturday to move two places up to third and close the gap to leaders Juventus to six points.

Juventus were away to Parma on Sunday but were expected to pick up three points against a side they beat 2-0 at home on the opening day of the season in August.

Lazio remain second, five points shy of Juventus, ahead of the visit of Atalanta on Sunday. Napoli sit fourth at seven points adrift ahead of their hosting of Palermo.

Earlier Saturday, Bologna picked up only their sixth win of the season when they dominated Chievo 4-0 at home, with a brace coming from striker Alberto Gilardino, to move up two places to 13th.

Inter, meanwhile, put the distraction of the Wesley Sneijder transfer saga and several absences due to injury behind them in a workmanlike performance in their first home game of the year.

Stramaccioni handed a Serie A debut to Marco

RESULTS
Bologna 4 (Kone 13, Gilardino 44, 59, Gabbiadini 89) Chievo 0
Inter 2 (Palacio 30, Guarin 54)

## Lyon go top

AFP, Paris

Lyon, looking to win the French title for the first time in five seasons, went top of the heap on Saturday with a 2-1 win at Troyes propelling them ahead of big spenders Paris Saint Germain.

Lyon shrugged off the embarrassment of a Cup exit to third division Epinal after Maxime Gonalons and Samuel Umtiti, at the second attempt, found the net from two well-rehearsed corner routines -- one from Steed Malbranque, the other from Arnold Mvuemba.

Benjamin Nivet gave Troyes brief hope with a fine volley, sandwiching the two goals for the visitors, but this latest reverse leaves them six points from safety after only two wins in their opening 20 league matches.

Remi Garde's men now lead the table by two points after inconsistent PSG yet again frustrated their fans Friday with a goalless stalemate at home to Ajaccio.

Later Saturday, second half goals from Yoan Gouffran and Henri Saivet handed Bordeaux an impressive 2-0 win at Rennes.



**TEN Cricket**  
South Africa v New Zealand  
Second Test, Day 4  
Live from 2:30pm

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm  
English Premiership  
QPR v Tottenham  
Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)

**STAR Sports**  
Australian Open  
Men' & Women's First Rd

**Naval Headquarters  
Banani, Dhaka-1213**

1. Bangladesh Navy ships will carry out live missile, Rocket Depth Charge and surface to surface gun firing from 15, 16 and 17 January 2013 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) from 0900 AM to 1600 PM in the Bay of Bengal sea areas as shown in the map.

2. All type of ships, crafts and aircrafts are hereby warned and requested to refrain from entering, plying or engaging in any other activities in the mentioned areas during the said period. Danger height for the firing areas during firing will be 3,000 (three thousand) meters and safety height is 12,000 (twelve thousand) meters.

3. Cooperation of all concerned is solicited in this regard.

**Director  
Naval Operations  
Naval Headquarters**

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