

## Martinez fit for Arsenal tie

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich midfielder Javi Martinez is set to face Arsenal in Tuesday's Champions League clash, coach Jupp Heynckes said on Sunday, after the Spain star recovered from a foot injury.

The 24-year-old sat out Bayern's 2-0 Bundesliga win at VfL Wolfsburg on Friday with a heavily bruised big toe, but having trained over the weekend, is expected to play in the last 16, first-leg clash at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium.

"As things stand at the moment, it looks really good. He is available again," said Heynckes ahead of Monday morning's flight to London.

"We have to see how the injury reacts, but I think it'll be ok."

Martinez has forged a strong defensive midfield partnership alongside Germany star Bastian Schweinsteiger this season and his influence was missing against Wolfsburg.

## City ease past Leeds

REUTERS, London

The Premier League's big-hitters restored some normality to the FA Cup on Sunday with holders Chelsea crushing third tier Brentford 4-0 in a fourth round replay while Manchester City also dismissed Leeds United 4-0 in a fifth round tie.

Midfielder Frank Lampard scored his 199th goal for Chelsea who put past Brentford at Stamford Bridge. Juan Mata, Oscar and captain John Terry also netted as secured Chelsea a fifth round clash at Championship (second division) Middlesbrough on Feb. 27.

Argentine Sergio Aguero scored twice for 2011 winners Manchester City who eased into the quarter-finals with a confident display that was the complete opposite from their abject surrender in a 3-1 Premier League defeat at Southampton last weekend.



### What to WATCH

Channel 9  
BPL

Sylhet Royals v Chittagong Kings

Second Semifinal

Live from 6:00pm

STAR Sports

Serie A

Siena v Lazio

Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)

ESPN

Sportscentre India

Sports News

Live at 8:30pm

FA Cup

Man United v Reading

Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)

TEN Sports

World Hockey League (Rd-2)

Bangladesh v Ireland



### DAY'S EVENT

BPL

Sylhet Royals v Chittagong Kings

Second Semifinal

Time: 6:00pm

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur

Bangladesh Premier League

Team BJMC v Muktijoddha

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National



Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring his 300th goal in their La Liga match against Granada on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

## 300 up for Messi an Barca win

REUTERS, Madrid



Lionel Messi led Barcelona to a 2-1 comeback victory with a double strike at lowly Granada in La Liga on Saturday taking his tally for the club to 301 goals.

The World Player of the Year pounced on a loose ball to level in the 50th minute before netting a superb free kick for the winner in the 73rd, the 37th goal of the campaign for La Liga's top scorer.

Only a last-minute save from keeper Tono in a one-on-one situation denied Messi a hat-trick.

The victory moved Barca 15 points clear at the top of the table with second-placed Atletico Madrid playing at Real Valladolid on Sunday.

Barca, who visit AC Milan in the last 16 of the Champions League on Wednesday, are 19 points in front of third-placed Real Madrid with the champions hosting city rivals Rayo Vallecano on Sunday.

"Over 300 goals. It's extraordinary what Messi does," Barca assistant coach Jordi Roura told a news conference.

"We had a lot of chances and didn't take them but he got two goals that are very important."

Javier Saviola scored the only goal as Malaga warmed up for their midweek Champions League tie with a 1-0 home win over mis-firing Athletic Bilbao.

The Qatari-owned club from the Costa

del Sol, in their debut Champions League venture, visit Porto in a first-leg tie on Tuesday.

Argentine Saviola's seventh league goal of the season gave the hosts an 18th-minute advantage. The safe hands of compatriot, goalkeeper Willy Caballero, then helped preserve the lead as fourth-placed Malaga moved on to 42 points, four behind Real Madrid.

Barca travelled to Granada without Xavi and David Villa and started with Andres Iniesta, Jordi Alba and Carles Puyol on the bench.

The hosts have been lifted by the arrival of new coach Lucas Alcaraz, winning their first two games under him without conceding a goal.

Granada defeated Real 1-0 two weeks ago, when Cristiano Ronaldo headed an own goal, and downed Deportivo La Coruna 3-0 last time out.

Striker Odion Ighalo put them in front from close range after 26 minutes and they held Barca at bay until just after the restart when Messi reacted quickly after Tono could only parry a Cesc Fabregas shot.

The Argentine added a second goal when his free kick over the wall was too strong for Tono who got a hand to the ball. Barca then had to endure a shaky last few minutes with Victor Valdes pulling off two late saves.

"These are the most important games because people write them off and they turn out to be the ones that win you La Liga," said Spain midfielder Fabregas.

### RESULTS

**Malaga 1** (Saviola 18) Athletic Bilbao 0  
**Getafe 3** (Colunga 10, Diego Castro 34, Fernandez 42) Celta Vigo 1 (Fernandez 20)  
**Granada 1** (Odion Jude Ighalo 26)  
**Barcelona 2** (Messi 50, 73)  
**Osasuna 1** (Echaide 4) Real

## Rolls-Reus purring Chelsea avoid Gunners' fate

REUTERS, Berlin



### BUNDESLIGA

A Marco Reus hat-trick gave 10-man Borussia Dortmund a 3-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday that kept the Bundesliga champions in second spot, a point ahead of Bayer Leverkusen who defeated Augsburg 2-1.

Midfielder Reus was the recipient of two defence-splitting passes early on and he sprinted clear both times to beat keeper Kevin Trapp as the hosts raced into a 2-0 lead by the 10th minute.

Dortmund, without suspended striker Robert Lewandowski, had Julian Schieber sent off for a second caution in the 31st minute.

They then had to soak up some pressure before delivering the decisive blow in the 65th minute.

It was Ilkay Guendogan's turn to slice

open the Eintracht defence with a well-timed pass to Mario Goetze who turned and fed fellow Germany international Reus in the box to complete his treble and take his tally in the league this season to 11 goals.

"I am just happy to have won this game because Frankfurt were really difficult to play against," Reus told reporters.

"Even with 10 men we were very well organised at the back and waited for the break."

Numerical balance was restored when Eintracht's Takashi Inui received his marching orders in the 74th minute for a second yellow card.

"The sending-off made things very difficult for us especially after having

played our Champions League game in midweek," said Dortmund coach Juergen Klopp, referring to a 2-2 draw at Shakhtar Donetsk.

"But we managed it well. My players worked extremely hard and the goals we scored were well executed."

### RESULTS

**Bayer Leverkusen 2** (Kießling 26, Bender 75) Augsburg 1 (Moelders 89)  
**Werder Bremen 2** (Petersen 39, 64)  
**Freiburg 3** (M Kruse 36, Calliguri 55-pen, Guenter 70)  
**Mainz 05 2** (Ivanschitz 27, Pospech 63) Schalke 04 2 (Bastos 41, 82)  
**Hamburg 1** (van der Vaart 24)  
**Borussia M'gladbach 0**  
**Fortuna Duesseldorf 1** (Bellingshausen 18) Greuther Furth 0  
**Borussia Dortmund 3** (Reus 8,

AFP, London



### THE FA CUP

Chelsea avoided becoming the latest victims of the FA Cup's spate of giant-killings as the holders eased into the fifth round with a 4-0 win over League One minnows Brentford on Sunday.

Arsenal, Tottenham and Liverpool are among a host of Premier League clubs to have been embarrassed by lower league opposition this season, but Chelsea overcame a slow start to their fourth round replay to eventually cruise through thanks to second half goals from Juan Mata, Oscar, Frank Lampard and John Terry at Stamford Bridge.

It is still too soon to declare Rafael Benitez's team back on track after an inconsistent campaign, but at least there was no humiliation here.

Chelsea, who have won the Cup four times in the last six seasons, will travel to Championship side Middlesbrough for their delayed fifth round tie on February 27.

On Saturday, Arsenal's hopes of

ending their eight-year trophy drought suffered a huge setback after they were dumped out of the FA Cup at home to second-tier Blackburn Rovers on Saturday.

Colin Kazim-Richards scored the only goal in Rovers's 1-0 victory when he followed up in the 72nd

first leg tie on Tuesday at home to German giants Bayern Munich.

But this defeat can only add to the pressure on long-serving Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, whose side are massive 21 points behind Manchester United in the Premier League.

The Frenchman, who had never seen Arsenal lose to lower league opposition in the FA Cup since taking charge in 1996, said: "I couldn't see how we could lose the game because we had a lot of the ball and they had one shot on goal."

"But they defended well and it's the kind of game you can lose if you make a mistake at the back like we did."

"We don't need to think too much about the eight season (trophy drought), the players who played today didn't play eight seasons ago and we must focus on the next game."

Blackburn defender Scott Dann said: "We knew we had to dig in and cut down the space we gave them. We did that very well."

Everton, the other Premier League side in FA Cup action on Saturday, were held to a 2-2 draw by giantkillers Oldham after the third-tier side grabbed a dramatic equaliser in the fourth minute of stoppage time.

## Totti wonder-goal sinks Juventus

REUTERS, Rome



### LEGA CALCIO

AS Roma striker Francesco Totti scored a stunning long-range goal just before the hour mark to sink Serie A leaders Juventus 1-0 in a nail-biting clash at the Olympic Stadium on Saturday.

The Roma captain ran onto a clearance from Miralem Pjanic before smashing the ball past Italy keeper Gianluigi Buffon to leave Juve on 55 points, five ahead of second-placed Napoli who can cut the gap to two by beating visitors Sampdoria on Sunday.

The striker has now netted 224 Serie A goals, one less than the second all-time top scorer Gunnar Nordahl, and his strike capped a superb second-half display from Roma.

Juve manager Antonio Conte was left lamenting his tired team's disappointing display amid a packed fixture list.

"We're not happy about playing on the Saturday and having three games in seven days," he

said in the wake of a 3-0 win at Celtic in the Champions League last 16, first leg on Tuesday and last Saturday's 2-0 Serie A win over sixth-placed Fiorentina.

Roma's first victory this year takes them to seventh on 37 points from 25 games and ends a run of six games without a win that saw a fans revolt and Zdenek Zeman sacked two weeks' ago.

"I expected it (the perfor-

### RESULTS

**Chievo 1** (Thereau 55) Palermo 1 (Formica 5)  
**Roma 1** (Totti 58) Juventus 0

mance)," Totti told Sky Sport Italia. "This is a team that every time it comes out onto the pitch it looks to give its best for itself and for the fans, and that recently we haven't been able to do."

"Tonight we had the character to beat a really good team."

"It's easy to celebrate after a win like that. We've got to think about next week and the week after that. We all did well."

Totti was lucky to still be on the

pitch to score, however, after a late, high challenge on Andrea Pirlo in the first half saw the Juventus midfielder's right knee cut open.

The pair were battling for the ball when Pirlo span away from Totti, whose studs scraped down his opponent's leg.

The first half was a timid affair, with Maarten Stekelenburg's save from Pirlo's 19th-minute free kick the closest anyone came to a goal.

However, Roma were by far the better side in the second period, and could have won more easily against a below-par Juve side if they had not have been so wasteful in front of goal.

Roma forward Francesco Totti is ecstatic after his wonder-goal sealed a win over Juventus in their Serie A match at the Olympic Stadium on Saturday.

## Planning life without Lewandowski

AFP, Berlin

Borussia Dortmund's chief executive officer Hans-Joachim Watzke on Sunday admitted he expects to lose Poland striker Robert Lewandowski, with Bundesliga rivals Bayern Munich favourites to sign him.

"We have tried everything and even made an exceptional offer by our standards. But when it is not accepted, you develop a feeling for these things and I don't currently believe it will be," Watzke told German television Liga Total!

Dortmund coach Jurgen Klopp also admitted Lewandowski will not be easy to replace.

"If he goes, which is not yet certain, I think we are well prepared for it," he told German broadcaster ZDF.

"But a guy like Lewandowski is not easy to replace, otherwise not so many clubs would be taking such a huge interest in him."

PHOTO: REUTERS