

# Chelsea remain top

AFP, London



Arsenal and Manchester City replied in kind after John Terry scored an injury-time winner against Everton to preserve Chelsea's position as Premier League

leaders on Saturday.

Chelsea's victory momentarily gave them a four-point lead at the summit, but Arsenal closed the gap to a point by overwhelming Sunderland 4-1 and City are three points back with a game in hand after edging Stoke City 1-0.

Arsenal had been dealt a dispiriting 2-0 defeat by Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Wednesday and they reacted in style by outclassing third-bottom Sunderland at the Emirates Stadium.

Left on the bench against Bayern, Olivier Giroud was restored to the starting line-up to face Sunderland and the Frenchman responded with a brace of goals in the first 31 minutes.

The former Montpellier man also played a role in the glorious move that led to Tomas Rosicky chipping in Arsenal's third goal before half-time, with Laurent Koscielny heading home a fourth in the 57th minute.

Emanuele Giaccherini claimed a late consolation for Gus Poyet's side, who face City in next weekend's League Cup final.

City also tasted Champions League disappointment in mid-week, losing 2-0 at home to Barcelona, and their return to winning ways was not quite as straightforward as Arsenal's.

Manuel Pellegrini's side toiled in front of goal against Stoke at the Etihad Stadium and there was a sense of relief when Yaya Toure broke the deadlock from Aleksandar Kolarov's cut-back in the 70th minute.

Earlier, Terry's last-gasp winner allowed

## RESULTS

**Arsenal 4** (Giroud 5, 31, Rosicky 42, Koscielny 57) Sunderland 1 (Giaccherini 81)  
**Cardiff 0 Hull 4** (Huddlestone 18, Jelavic 38, 57, Livermore 67)  
**Chelsea 1** (Terry 90+3) Everton 0  
**Manchester City 1** (Toure 70) Stoke 0  
**West Brom 1** (Vydra 86) Fulham 1 (Dejagah 28)  
**West Ham 3** (Jarvis 20, Cole 23, Nolan 71) Southampton 1 (Yoshida 8)

Chelsea to hold onto top spot as they snatched a 1-0 victory against Everton at Stamford Bridge.

With Everton goalkeeper Tim Howard in sparkling form, Chelsea looked set to drop points until Terry marked his return to the team after a three-game absence by toeing home a Frank Lampard free-kick in the 93rd minute.

"When you score in minute 90-something, you could speak about being lucky, but the reality is that the boys chased it," said Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho.

"I feel sorry for Everton because a point would have been fair, but we were the team that was trying to win, which is our responsibility."

Terry's strike was a bitter blow for an enterprising Everton side, who squandered an opportunity to close the eight-point gap that currently separates them from fourth-place Liverpool.

Meanwhile, Felix Magath saw victory snatched from his grasp in his first game as Fulham manager after a 1-1 draw at West Bromwich Albion.

Fulham were on course to climb off the foot of the table thanks to Ashkan Dejagah's 28th-minute goal, only for Matej Vydra to plunder an 86th-minute equaliser with a shot that squirmed past Maarten Stekelenburg.



Chelsea captain John Terry (R) scores the all-important during their Premier League encounter against Everton at Stamford Bridge yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Sk Jamal held BFF buying time by BJMC

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club stuttered in their return to the Bangladesh Premier League as they were held 2-2 by a spirited Team BJMC at the Bangabndhu National Stadium yesterday. The Federation Cup champions, who displayed some scintillating football in the just-concluded IFA Shield in Kolkata, were a looked short of motivation and fitness and failed to replicate Kolkata's performance in Dhaka.

"We had trouble coming from playing at the turf to the grass. Five matches in space of ten days also took toll on our players and the defeat in final demoralized them, which is why they could not perform as well as they did in Kolkata," was the post-match assessment of Sheikh Jamal coach Joseph Afusi.

The former premier league champions conceded an early goal in the 80th second of the match when BJMC midfielder Samson Ilyasu's hopeful attempt from the top of the box beat the Sheikh Jamal keeper Mazharul Islam Himel on the far post. But the Dhanmondi outfit, who had drawn their last match a month ago against Mohammedan after a string of four wins, hit back in the 10th minute when Mamunul's free-kick was inadvertently headed in by BJMC defender Saiful Islam.

The Dhanmondi giants then gained the 36th minute when Nigerian striker Emeka Darlington back-headed a Raihan Hasan throw-in at the goal but BJMC drew level in the 43rd minute when Uche Felix stabbed in a low cross from the left by Ismael Bangoura.

Despite both sides looking desperate for a winner in the second half, there was little goalmouth action after the breather, which perhaps suited BJMC more than Sheikh Jamal. Sheikh Jamal's Haitian duo of Sony Norde and Wedson Anselme were shadows of themselves, and the former limped at the fag end of the match while the latter was taken off.

The draw took Sheikh Jamal to third position with 14 points from six outings, four points behind leaders Abahani, who have played eight matches while Team BJMC went up to fifth position with 12 points from nine matches. Sheikh Jamal, though, will have the chance to reduce the gap and overtake Sheikh Russel in second position when they take on Abahani in their next match on Tuesday.

## SA push for big lead

REUTERS, Port Elizabeth



Hashim Amla's blistering stroke-play and Morne Morkel's fearsome bowling put South Africa in control of the second Test against Australia as they closed the third day on 192 for four on Saturday.

The Proteas led by 369 runs with six second-innings wickets remaining and two days to go on a ground where the highest score chased down for victory was 271 by Australia in 1997.

Amla will resume on 93 not out with 21-year-old debutant Quinton de Kock on nine.

Amla's positive stroke-play against all the Australian bowlers helped South Africa score at more than four runs an over and accelerated the game forward after a slow

first two days.

Australia did make inroads into the top order, Graeme Smith (14) failing again after being bowled by Mitchell Johnson off the inside edge. Johnson also accounted for AB de Villiers (29).

Peter Siddle weighed in with two wickets, Dean Elgar (16) and Faf du Plessis (24), both caught behind by Brad Haddin.

Fast bowler Morkel proved the catalyst for a sizeable South African lead as his fiery bowling helped restrict Australia to 246 in their first innings.

### SCOREBOARD

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 423 (Duminy 123, De Villiers 116, Elgar 83, Du Plessis 55; Lyon 5-130)

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings (overnight 112-4) Rogers lbw b Philander 5 Warner c Smith b Philander 70 Doolan c de Villiers b Parnell 8 Marsh c de Villiers b Parnell 0

Clarke c Elgar b Philander 19 Lyon b Morkel 15 Smith c de Villiers b Morkel 49 Haddin b Steyn 9 Johnson b Duminy 27 Harris c du Plessis b Morkel 26 Siddle not out 11 Extras: (lb-4, nb-1, w-2) 7 Total: (All out in 57 overs) 246 Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-41, 3-41, 4-81, 5-120, 6-128, 7-168, 8-205, 9-209

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	13	3	55	1
Philander	13	0	68	3
Morkel	17	0	63	3
Parnell	8.3	2	31	2
Elgar	0.3	0	1	0
Duminy	5	0	24	1

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Second innings Smith b Johnson 14 Elgar c Haddin b Siddle 16 Morkel not out 93 Du Plessis c Haddin b Siddle 29 De Villiers c Haddin b Johnson 24 De Kock not out 9 Extras: (b-2, lb-5) 7 Total: (For 4 wickets in 47 overs) 192 Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-42, 3-112, 4-167

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Johnson	9	0	48	2
Harris	10	1	53	0
Lyon	12	2	31	0
Siddle	13	2	53	2

## Rooney signs new deal

AFP, London

Wayne Rooney pledged his long-term future to Manchester United on Friday after signing a blockbuster contract extension with the Premier League champions.

The new contract will reportedly pay the 28-year-old £300,000 (\$498,840, 363,534 euros) a week, with Rooney also set to stay at United as a club ambassador when he eventually retires.

## 2.3m WC tickets sold

AFP, Florianopolis

A total of 2.3 million tickets have been sold for the World Cup's 64 matches, FIFA revealed on Friday.

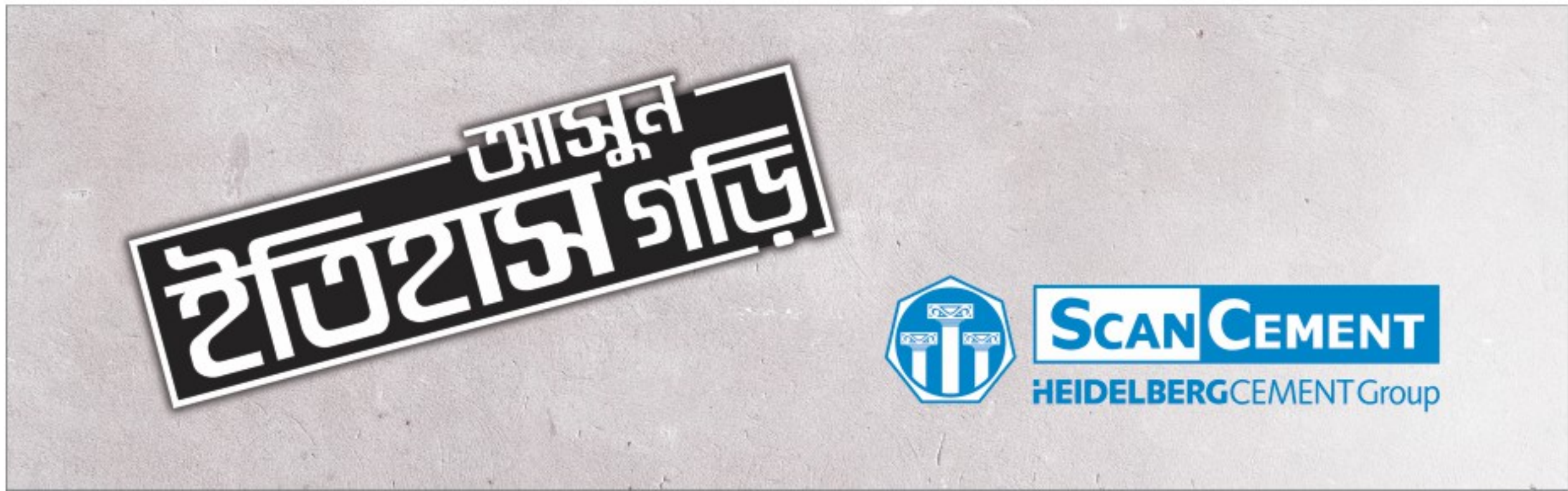
More than 500,000 tickets were sold in the latest random phase and a further 159,000 will be sold, again exclusively through FIFA, on a first-come, first-served basis between March 12 and April 1.

Those latter tickets will be for matches not including the June 12 opening Game in Sao Paulo and the July 13 final in Rio.



Sri Lanka's Sachithra Senanayake receives the cheque for the player-of-the-series from Syed Abu Abed Saher, marketing and sales director of Heidelberg Cement Bangladesh Ltd, at the end of the ODI series against Bangladesh at Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



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