


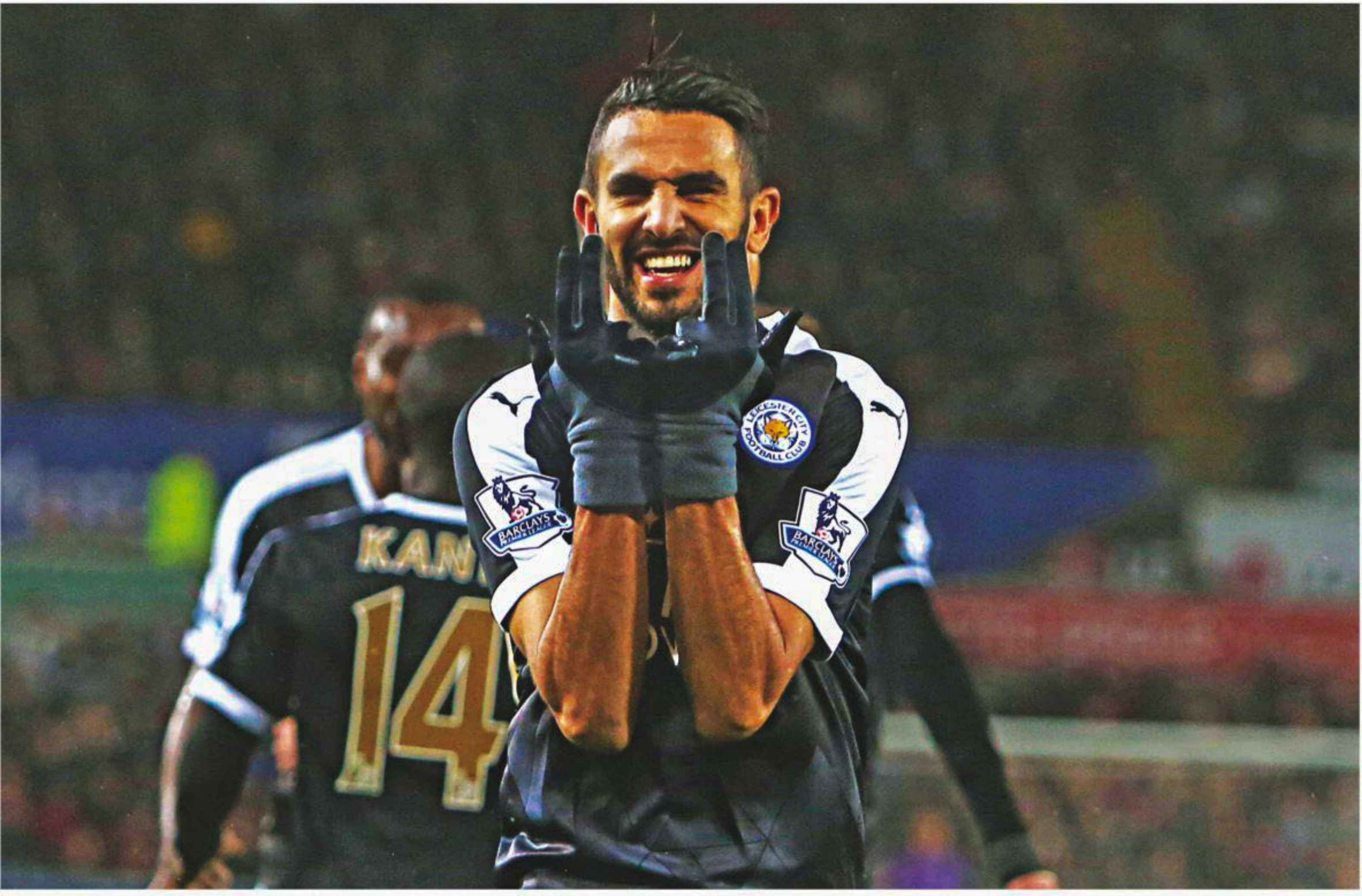
<b>CHANNEL 9</b> BPL Sylhet v Barisal Live from 2:00pm Rangpur v Dhaka Live from 6:30pm	<b>STARSPORTS 1</b> India v South Africa Fourth Test, Day 4 Live from 10:00am	<b>STARSPORTS 2</b> Premier League Newcastle v Liverpool Live from 10:00pm	<b>SONY KIX</b> Primera Liga Sociedad v Eibar Live from 5:00pm Gijon v Las Palmas Live from 11:30pm Bilbao v Malaga Live from 1:30am (Monday)	<b>SONY SIX</b> Serie A Carpi v AC Milan Live from 1:30am (Monday)
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<b>DAY'S EVENT</b>	<b>BPL</b> Venue: SBNSC Sylhet v Barisal	Time: 2:00pm Rangpur v Dhaka	Time: 6:30pm
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## VARDY IN THE LIMELIGHT

These are surreal times for the former factory worker from Sheffield, Jamie Vardy. He's exchanging tweets with members of One Direction one minute and Ruud van Nistelrooy Earlier this month, Adrian Butchart, the British screenwriter and the man behind the Goall films, revealed that he was exploring plans to make Vardy's rags-to-riches tale into a Hollywood movie. "Wowzers. What's happening in life?" Vardy reacts, breaking into laughter. Also, Stocksbridge Park Steels, the non-league club where Vardy rebuilt his career at the age of 16, plans to name a 450-seater stand after him. To this Vardy replied, "The chairman must be crackers."

- THE GUARDIAN

Leicester City's Algerian midfielder Riyad Mahrez celebrates his hat-trick against Swansea City during their Premier League encounter at the Liberty Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Mahrez fires hat-trick

### Stoke submerge Man City

AFP, London

Riyad Mahrez scored a hat-trick as Leicester City won 3-0 at Swansea City on Saturday to recapture the Premier League summit from Manchester City, who crashed to defeat at Stoke City.

Leicester striker Jamie Vardy is bidding to equal Jimmy Dunne's 83-year-old English top-flight record by scoring for the 12th game running, but it was Mahrez who stole the show at the Liberty Stadium.

The Algerian winger took his tally for the campaign to 10 goals, putting him joint-second behind 14-goal Vardy in the scoring charts and lifting Claudio Ranieri's men two points clear at the top of the standings.

Mahrez broke the deadlock in the fifth minute when Marc Albrighton's left-wing corner struck him and bounced in, before N'Golo Kante's pass enabled him to run through and add a second goal in the 22nd minute.

After Ki Sung-Yueng had hit the bar for the hosts, Vardy teed up Mahrez for his hat-trick goal in the 67th minute as Leicester generated yet more negative headlines for Swansea manager Garry Monk.

Manchester City were well beaten at a windswept Britannia Stadium, where Stoke prevailed 2-0 courtesy of a pair of early goals that were each created by Xherdan Shaqiri and finished by Marko Arnautovic.

Manuel Pellegrini's side were left in third place, three points behind Leicester, and the City manager blamed fatigue for his team's performance.

Arsenal also exploited City's misstep at Stoke with a 3-1 home win over Sunderland that took Arsene Wenger's side up to second place in the table.

Missing Alexis Sanchez and Santi Cazorla through injury, Arsenal took a 33rd-minute lead when Mesut Ozil's 12th assist of the season allowed Joel Campbell to slot the home side in front.

Olivier Giroud's own goal from Yann M'Vila's free-kick saw Sunderland level, but the Frenchman atoned in the 63rd minute by heading in a cross from Aaron Ramsey, who also found the net in stoppage time.

But Manchester United were unable to follow Leicester and Arsenal's lead, registering a 0-0 draw at home to West Ham United that left them level on points with City.

<b>RESULTS</b>
<b>Arsenal 3</b> (Campbell 33, Giroud 63, Ramsey 90) <b>Sunderland 1</b> (Giroud 45-og)
Manchester United 0 <b>West Ham 0</b>
Southampton 1 (Romeu 73) <b>Aston Villa 1</b> (Lescott 44)
<b>Stoke 2</b> (Arnautovic 7, 15) <b>Manchester City 0</b>
<b>Swansea 0 Leicester 3</b> (Mahrez 5, 22, 67)
<b>Watford 2</b> (Deeney 30-pen, Ighalo 90) <b>Norwich 0</b>
<b>West Brom 1</b> (McClean 39) <b>Tottenham 1</b> (Alli 15)

## Kader lambasts BFF boss

### Five BPL clubs demand transfer deferral, PFLC reshuffle

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club president Manzur Kader yesterday launched a stinging broadside at Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin and his senior vice-president, Abdus Salam Murshedy, as a number of premier league club representatives pressed home their demands to the game's governing body.

Kader, known as a close ally of Salahuddin until recently, alleged the BFF boss of siding with certain clubs while claiming that it was 'our sophisticated bullying which bailed him out' in governing body's latest elections in 2012.

The Sheikh Jamal president was speaking at a meeting, in presence of media, hosted by his club and attended by representatives of four other premier league clubs -- Mohammedan SC, Sheikh Russel KC, Brothers Union and Team BJMC -- and also championship league club Victoria Sporting.

"Whenever we call for a meeting, the BFF president calls a counter-meeting to deter others from joining our meeting. What is he afraid of? We

bailed him out of a certain defeat in the last election with sophisticated bullying, and this is the reward we get?" stated Kader, referring to the show-cause notices issued against him and Mohammedan's director-in-charge Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan by the game's governing body recently.

Kader threatened that his club would not take part in next season's premier league unless the transfer window -- set to open on December 26 and close on February 28 next year -- is deferred and the Professional Football League Committee (PFLC) is reshuffled.

"Sheikh Jamal and the other clubs who are here will not take part in next season's premier league unless the transfer window is deferred and the PFLC is reshuffled," Kader said. "We demand that the BFF president holds a meeting with us soon to resolve the issues."

"The BFF cannot stick to its original calendar on a single occasion. We want a reshuffle at the committee and we want the calendar to be prepared with consent from all the clubs," said the veteran sports organiser.

Kader explained his reasons for demanding a deferral of the transfer window.

"We had an assurance from the BFF

president that the transfer would be held in August and the league in dry season so that we don't have to 'play wrestling matches again'. We have AFC Cup assignments coming up. They cannot let other teams take away our players before that tournament. This is completely illegal. You have to understand why he [Salahuddin] is so keen on doing transfers right now. Does he want to break other clubs and patronise one club?" stated Kader.

Kader, who is the chairman of BFF's District League Committee, also accused the BFF boss of ignoring district-level football.

"After being appointed the chairman, I have brought resurgence in district football. But people of districts and villages want to see the BFF president. I'm sorry to say that they don't get to see him because he is more interested in attending AFC and FIFA congresses and seminars round the year," concluded Kader.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Mohammedan's director-in-charge Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, Sheikh Russel KC director Golam Rabbani Helal, Brothers Union representative Amer Khan, Team BJMC representative Mallik and Victoria Sporting's Kajol.

## Maruf focusing on discipline

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh football team's new head coach Maruf Haque is expected to finalise his final 20-member squad for the SAFF Championship by December 10 as the coach is currently working on bringing discipline and strong mentality among the players.

Maruf, who took a 28-member squad to the residential camp in Savar BKSP last Sunday, told reporters yesterday that he has a tough job at hand of selecting the final 20 players as all the players are giving their best in training.

"All the 28 players are working hard to make the final spot and the quality of the players is almost same, so it will be difficult for me to pick the best 20," Maruf said. "However, I will consider intelligence and experience of the players before picking a final squad within the next few days."

"It's not about fitness only; we will have to pay more attention to turn the side into a disciplined and mentally strong one," Maruf said, adding that he would get to the strategic planning stage after playing matches among the ranks and analyzing the opposition teams' video footages.

## Real rally from Cup fiasco

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid bounced back from their embarrassing elimination from the Copa del Rey for fielding an ineligible player in midweek by cruising to a 4-1 victory over Getafe on Saturday.

Karim Benzema was restored to the starting line-up and scored his first two goals since being caught up in a blackmail scandal involving French international teammate Mathieu Valbuena inside 16 minutes.

Gareth Bale and Cristiano Ronaldo then made it 4-0 before half-time before Alexis pulled a goal back for Getafe 21 minutes from time.

Victory moves Madrid up to second and cuts the gap on Barcelona at the top of the table to three points.

However, Barca can restore their six-point advantage when they travel to Valencia and Atletico Madrid can retake second place with victory at Granada later on Saturday.

Benzema, Bale and Ronaldo started a league game for just the fourth time this season and just as in early season thrashings of Real Betis and Espanyol, their presence restored Madrid's fire-power up front.

Any sign of the fans' frustration at the club's latest gaffe in being eliminated from the Cup due to an administrative error was eased when Benzema fired home from Pepe's fine cross after just five minutes.

Benzema has rarely featured in the last two months due to an ongoing hamstring injury allied to his off-field problems.

However, the Frenchman looked back to his best as he was only denied a second with a bullet header by a brilliant save from Vicente Guaita moments later.

Benzema did double Madrid's advantage on 16 minutes when he slotted into the bottom corner from Bale's headed cut-back after Ronaldo appeared to have been fouled inside the area.

The one way traffic continued as Bale flashed a shot just wide from 25 yards and then forced Guaita into a more comfortable stop from the edge of the area.

However, the Welshman wasn't to be denied 10 minutes before half-time when he showed great composure to finish from Ronaldo's knockdown to score for the second consecutive league game for the first time since January.

## AFC Cup Sheikh Jamal handed group berth

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending Bangladesh Premier League champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club received the good news that they will be playing directly in the group stages of the AFC Cup, the second-tier club competition of Asia, instead of going through a play-off phase as was told earlier by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

According to a news report on the AFC website, the Bangladesh giants have been pitted alongside 15 other teams from the East Zone, while 16 teams from the West Zone -- 12 already being confirmed -- will be finalised after four play-off matches between eight teams of that region on February 9.

The draw for the group stages will be held on December 10 in Malaysia, while the matches will kick off from February 23 next year.

The 32 teams will be split into eight groups, meaning Sheikh Jamal will play six matches (home and away) even if their campaign ends in the group stages.

The final of the tournament will be held on November 5 next year.

## Real won't back down

AGENCIES, Madrid

Real Madrid have confirmed that they will appeal the RFEF Competition Committee's decision to expel them from this season's Copa del Rey.

Los Blancos were ejected from the competition on Friday after they fielded an ineligible player against Cadiz two days earlier. The player Denis Cheryshev, was supposed to sit out the game due to a ban for three yellow cards he incurred with Villarreal earlier in the year.

"The competition's judge acknowledges that Cheryshev was not personally notified about his ban," read a statement on Madrid's official website.

"Real Madrid received the competition judge's decision at 6:17pm and after analysing it can verify the acknowledgement that the Spanish Football Federation did not personally notify Cheryshev about his ban, which is the only way the ban can take effect, as Article 41.2 of the Disciplinary Code clearly states."

"We at Real Madrid stand by our argument and will take the appropriate action to ensure that the final outcome is favourable for the club."

## Bayern lose at last

AFP, Berlin

Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich lost their unbeaten record in Germany's top tier this season in emphatic style on Saturday, going down 3-1 away to Borussia Moenchengladbach.

It is only the second time Pep Guardiola's Bayern have lost at all this season after they went down 2-0 at Arsenal in the Champions League in October.

It was also Bayern's first Bundesliga defeat since losing 2-1 at Freiburg last May as second-half goals by Oscar Wendt, Lars Stindl and Fabian Johnson left the Bavarian giants reeling.

Franck Ribery scored Bayern's late consolation goal on his return after nearly nine months out with injury.

Bayern's eight-point lead at the top of the table will be cut if second-placed Borussia Dortmund win later at Wolfsburg.

Gladbach took a deserved lead when Raffael gave a return pass to Wendt and the Swedish international fired past Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer on 54 minutes.

The hosts doubled their lead when Stindl volleyed home on 66 minutes.

There were scenes of pure joy amongst the home fans at Borussia Park when Bayern centre-back Jerome Boateng was caught out of position and Johnson sprinted away to launch a shot past Neuer on 71 minutes.

Bayern pulled a goal back nine minutes from time when Ribery marked his 300th game in the famous red shirt by scoring off the bench to celebrate his first game in 269 days following a persistent ankle injury.

This is the first time Bayern have conceded three goals since losing 3-0 at

Barcelona in the first leg of last season's Champions League semi-finals.

And their defeat leaves French champions Paris Saint-Germain as the only remaining unbeaten club in any of Europe's traditional big five leagues.

For Gladbach, the victory continues their fairytale rise from bottom of the table to third as they remain unbeaten after 10 Bundesliga games under new coach Andre Schubert.

Ten-man Bayer Leverkusen warmed-up for their home clash with Champions League holders Barcelona on Wednesday by losing 2-1 at Hertha Berlin in the capital as Javier Hernandez netted what proved to be a consolation goal.

'Chicharito' scored his seventh goal in 12 league games for Leverkusen to cancel out Vladimir Darida's early opening goal for Hertha at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

Leverkusen were reduced to 10 men when centre-back Sebastian Boenisch was shown a straight red card with just 17 minutes gone for a brutal sliding tackle on Hertha's 19-year-old left-back Yannik Regaesel.

Hertha scored their second through USA international John Brooks and the win left them fourth as Leverkusen drop to eighth.

Mainz are seventh after their 3-1 win at Hamburg while Mark Uth's late goal rescued a 1-1 draw for struggling Hoffenheim at Ingolstadt.

Augsburg escaped the bottom three with a 1-0 win at Cologne as Paraguay striker Raul Bobadilla fired in a second-half free-kick.

On Friday, Schalke broke their five-match winless streak with a 3-1 victory over Hannover 96 which left them sixth in the table.

The Royal Blues won their first league game since downing Hertha in mid-October with goals by Johannes Geis, from a penalty, Klaas-Jan Huntelaar and Franco di Santo.

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