

Arsenal stun Bayern Munich on penalties

Shanghai

Arsenal were outplayed for long periods by Bayern Munich before salvaging a last-gasp draw and then winning 3-2 on penalties in a Shanghai friendly yesterday.

Reserve goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez was the unlikely hero for the Premier League side, saving Juan Bernat's soft spot kick after Arsenal substitute Alex Iwobi made it 1-1 right at the end of normal time.

It may only have been a friendly and Arsenal emerged victorious, but it made for painful viewing at times for manager Arsene Wenger, whose side suffered a 10-2 aggregate drubbing to Bayern in last season's Champions League.

Robert Lewandowski needed just nine minutes to fire Bayern ahead from the penalty spot as the German



Bayern Munich's midfielder James Rodriguez (2nd L) and Arsenal defender Nacho Monreal (L) vie for the ball

champions dominated before Iwobi headed in at the death. There will be no Champions League for Arsenal this term and a gulf in class was evident.

At one point in the opening

period at Shanghai Stadium, where temperatures hovered around 36 degrees Celsius (97F), Wenger had his arms outstretched in frustration.

And at the end of a first half in which Bayern could

have scored another five times but for goalkeeper Petr Cech, Arsenal playmaker Mesut Ozil booted the ball high into the air in anger.

The future of the German international, and that of Chilean star Alexis Sanchez, is in major doubt with both stalling over new contracts.

Sanchez is enjoying extra time off and is not in China after his involvement in the Confederations Cup.

But he may not have made a difference against Carlo Ancelotti's side, who took the lead after Ainsley Maitland-Niles had brought down Bernat in the box and Lewandowski did the rest.

Iwobi's injury-time leveller sent the game straight to penalties.

Both sides fielded a mixture of first-team regulars and reserves, with new Bayern signing James

Rodriguez and new Arsenal striker Alexandre Lacazette starting. (AFP)

Arsenal hit by food poisoning

Arsenal were ravaged by food poisoning in Shanghai that ruled several key players out of their pre-season friendly with Bayern Munich yesterday, manager Arsene Wenger said. The Frenchman revealed the sickness that had swept the Arsenal camp, coupled with the severe heat in China and long flights, made for far-from-ideal preparations for another taxing campaign.

Wenger was shorn of Olivier Giroud because of food poisoning, then captain Per Mertesacker pulled out of the game just moments before kick-off. (AFP)

Arrested Spanish federation chief faces bleak future

Madrid

Angel Maria Villar's future as the head of the Spanish football federation was in serious doubt yesterday following his arrest as part of a vast anti-corruption probe.

Villar, his son Gorka Villar, and several Spanish federation executives were detained by police in a series of early morning raids on Tuesday on suspicion of embezzlement, fraud and collusion.

The investigation focuses on allegations that profits from international matches were skimmed.

Investigators were also probing whether national federation funds had been used to bribe regional officials to vote for Villar as federation president, according to Spanish media reports.

"The list of accusations...really surprises me," the head of Spain's government sports council, Jose Ramon Lete, said during an interview with news radio Cadena Ser.

Spain's Court of Sport (TAD) could open a disciplinary proceeding against Villar, who was re-elected unopposed in May to his eighth four-year mandate, he added. (AFP)

ATP rankings

Federer moves to 3rd place

1	Andy Murray (GBR)	7,750
2	Rafael Nadal (ESP)	7,465
3	Roger Federer (SUI)	6,545 ↑+2
4	Novak Djokovic (SRB)	
5	Stan Wawrinka (SUI)	↓-2
6	Marin Cilic (CRO)	
7	Dominic Thiem (AUT)	↑+1
8	Kei Nishikori (JPN)	↑+1
9	Milos Raonic (CAN)	↓-2
10	Grigor Dimitrov (BUL)	3,160 ↑+1

Solanke shines as Liverpool beat Palace

Hong Kong

New signing Dominic Solanke came off the bench to score as Liverpool beat Crystal Palace 2-0 in a pre-season game in Hong Kong yesterday.

The 19-year-old suggested he could prove a summer bargain at just \$4 million as he linked up well with fellow striker Divock Origi, who also got on the scoresheet in the Premier League Asia Trophy win.

"It's been a smart move for him and for us," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp told reporters.

"He saw the opportunity and we could see it also. You could see immediately he is a smart player. He's a skilled boy and we are happy about this. We will help him all we can."

Origi set up the first goal for Liverpool on the hour mark with a clever back-heel that found Solanke unmarked and the teenager made no mistake, finishing coolly in the stifling Hong Kong heat.

Origi then rifled home Liverpool's second in the 79th minute, to the delight of a crowd of 40,000.

Klopp's new-look front line



Dominic Solanke (R) celebrates with teammate (file pic)

proved a welcome distraction for the German coach following reports that Leipzig had rejected a huge bid of \$86 million for star midfielder Naby Keita.

Klopp bristled when asked about the Keita situation as rumours circled that the Guinea international's agent had been spotted in Hong Kong.

"Are we in Macau?" asked Klopp in reference to the world's largest gambling hub, situated just across the Pearl River Delta from Hong Kong.

"What do you know? Sixty-

six million (pounds) turned down today? I don't think about this.

"Today both teams played good football," added Klopp, turning his attention back to events on the pitch. "In the second half we made some changes and we scored -- nice. We changed the formation and it was nice to watch."

Liverpool will face Leicester City in the Asia Trophy final on Saturday after the Foxes won the earlier match 7-6 on penalties over West Bromwich Albion following a 1-1 stalemate in normal time. (AFP)

Newcastle complete Murphy capture

Newcastle

Newcastle United have wrapped up the signing of England under-21 international winger Jacob Murphy from Championship side Norwich City for a reported fee of £12 million (13.6 million euros, \$15.6 million), the club confirmed yesterday.

The Magpies had a bid for the 22-year-old accepted by Norwich on Monday, and Murphy has now completed his switch to the club he supported as a boy.

Murphy is the Premier League club's third close-season signing following the arrivals of Florian Lejeune and Christian Atsu, and has now joined his new team-mates at their pre-season training camp in Ireland.

"It was a childhood dream of mine to represent Newcastle and the opportunity is now here. I can't wait to get started," said the winger.

The length of his contract hasn't been disclosed by either club, but Newcastle boss Rafael

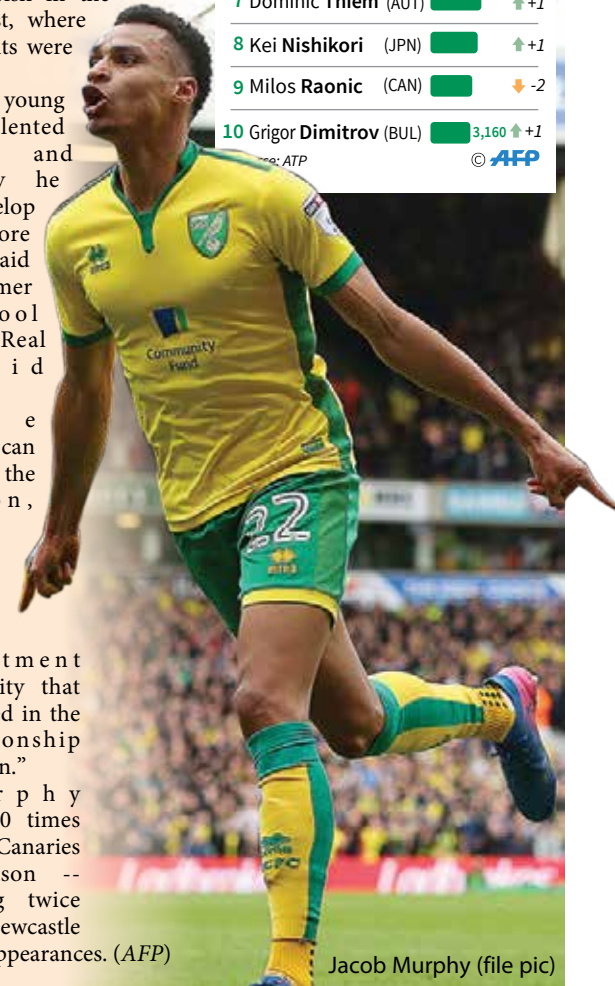
Benitez hopes that Murphy can flourish in the north-east, where his parents were raised.

"He's a young and talented player and hopefully he can develop even more here," said the former Liverpool and Real Madrid manager.

"We hope he can show us the passion,

commitment and ability that he showed in the Championship last season."

Murphy scored 10 times for the Canaries last season -- including twice against Newcastle -- in 41 appearances. (AFP)



Jacob Murphy (file pic)