

Chelsea tie up Boulahrouz deal

AFP, London

English Premiership champions Chelsea completed the transfer of Netherlands defender Khalid Boulahrouz from German side Hamburg on Monday.

The 24-year-old, nicknamed "Khalid the Cannibal" for his fierce tackling, joined the Blues after completing his medical assessment and agreeing personal terms with the west London giants over the weekend.

The fee has not been disclosed but is believed to be in the region of six million pounds (11.4 million dollars, 8.8 million euros).

The Dutchman, who can play anywhere across the defence, is available for Chelsea's Champions League campaign because he was a non-playing substitute in Hamburg's qualifying match against Osasuna.

He was at Stamford Bridge on Sunday to watch Chelsea kick off their attempt to win a third straight Premiership title with a 3-0 victory over visitors Manchester City.

Boulahrouz goes straight into the Chelsea squad for Wednesday's game at Middlesbrough, who lost 3-2 at Premiership debutants Reading on Saturday.

Blues boss Jose Mourinho is short of defenders with only Paulo Ferreira, Ricardo Carvalho, captain John Terry and Wayne Bridge available for the City game.

Geremi and Robert Huth are injured while William Gallas has been frozen out since returning late for pre-season training and talking publicly about his desire to leave.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Cambiasso extends with Inter

AFP, Rome

Argentina international Esteban Cambiasso agreed Monday a two-year extension with Inter Milan that will keep him at the Serie A club until 2010.

The 26-year-old midfielder joined Inter from Spanish giants Real Madrid in 2004.

Last season he scored five goals in 34 Serie A appearances.

Cambiasso had his penalty kick saved in the shoot-out against Germany in this year's World Cup quarter-finals, which resulted in Argentina's exit from the competition.

Currently on tour in Portugal, Inter finished third in Serie A last season but were awarded the title after Juventus and AC Milan were found guilty of match-fixing.



PHOTO: AFP
SUPER BARCA: Barcelona captain Carles Puyol (with cup) and his teammates pose after winning the Spanish Supercup final against Espanyol at the Camp Nou in Barcelona on Sunday.

Barca ride on Deco

Football

AGENCIES, Barcelona

Deco scored a goal in each half and FC Barcelona won the Spanish Supercup on Sunday with a 3-0 second-leg victory over crosstown rival Espanyol.

Xavi Hernandez started the scoring in the third and fellow midfielder Deco added his in the 12th and 62nd.

This helped the league champion to a 4-0 aggregate win over the Copa del Rey winner and earn its first silverware of the new season.

A header by Xavi off a cross from Ronaldinho put Barcelona ahead at Camp Nou stadium, and Deco extended the lead when he clipped home Juliano Belletti's low pass from the right.

Deco completed the victory by leaping and twisting at the far post, connecting with Belletti's cross from the right.

The victory was clouded by a protest by Espanyol, which has asked the Spanish soccer federation's appeals committee to void its 1-0 defeat in Thursday's first leg.

Espanyol is claiming that Xavi and Carles Puyol were ineligible because they were withdrawn from Spain's squad for a friendly against Iceland two days earlier.

FIFA rules require players who are summoned for national team duty but who miss the game for any reason must allow five days before they can play again.

Two of the European champion's off-season signings, striker Eidur Gudjonsson and defender Lilian Thuram, appeared as halftime substitutes to make their club debuts.

The third of Barcelona's newcomers, Gianluca Zambrotta, played the final minutes of Thursday's game.

Barcelona will try to add another trophy when it competes for the European Supercup against UEFA Cup champion Sevilla in Monaco on Friday.

The team kicks off its Spanish league campaign with a visit to Celta Vigo the following Monday.

Last night's victory was marred by Samuel Eto'o, who stormed out of the stadium after he was substituted for Eidur Gudjonsson by Rijkaard.

Afterwards, the Dutch coach said: "After a game, it is better not to speak of these things. Samuel has not had a good moment and tomorrow we will speak."

"These are moments of many emotions and it is better to let a night pass before speaking about it."

"One can leave, or one can hide on the field."

However, despite his barb, Rijkaard praised Eto'o: "He worked for the team."

"The truth is that I do not have any doubts about him, nor any complaints in terms of his game."

Tricky ties for Milan, Liverpool

AFP, Paris



European giants Liverpool and AC Milan, who fought out an epic Champions League final in 2005, face a tense Tuesday as they attempt to reach the group stages of this season's competition.

Liverpool travel to the neutral venue of Kiev with a slender 2-1 lead over Maccabi Haifa while Milan have a 1-0 lead ahead of their trip to Red Star Belgrade in final qualifying round, second leg ties.

Adding to their problems are major injury worries.

Liverpool are without Jamie Carragher and John Arne Risse while Milan, who are in the tournament despite being implicated in Italy's match-fixing scandal, have been hit with captain Paolo Maldini, Alessandro Nesta, Kakha Kaladze and new signing Daniele Bonera all carrying knocks.

Rafael Benitez, the Liverpool coach, believes his team will shake off their early season sluggishness and take their place in the lucrative group stages.

In the first leg at Anfield two weeks ago, Liverpool needed a late goal from Mark Gonzalez to ensure a slight advantage to take to the Ukraine where the match has been moved due to the security situation in the Middle East.

"We are further down the road to full fitness and will be better for it," said Benitez.

"Haifa did very well at Anfield, but they were able to sit back and try to frustrate us. They will not be able to do that so much in this second game."

"They will come forward more and we have the players who can take advantage of that."

There's plenty at stake in Tuesday's games.

By making the group stages, each club is guaranteed around 18 million euros, cash that is vital for the continent's big guns to maintain their spending power.

Milan's defensive injury crisis shows no sign of easing.

They are likely to line up at the back with Brazilian Marco Cafu playing on the right, Giuseppe Favalli partnering 40-year-old veteran Alessandro Costacurta in the centre, and Serginho on the left.

Cafu, a World Cup winner with Brazil in 2002, said the match against Red Star will shape the season of the six-time European champions.

"It's an incredibly important match for us and will define the campaign," he said.

"We respect Red Star, but we have to be aggressive if we are to go through."

"They played really well at the San Siro. They are a young squad and play good football."

Red Star, European Cup winners

in 1990-91, beat Irish side Cork City in the second round.

The draw for the 32-team group stage will be held on Friday in Monaco.

FIXTURES

3rd qualifying round 2nd leg (First leg scores in brackets)

Tuesday

Benfica (POR) v Austria Vienna (AUT) 1-1

Red Star Belgrade (SCG) v AC Milan (ITA) 0-1

Maccabi Haifa (ISR) v Liverpool (ENG) 1-2

Osasuna (ESP) v Hamburg (GER) 0-0

Valencia (ESP) v SV Salzburg (AUT) 0-1

Wednesday

AEK Athens (GRE) v Hearts (SCO) 2-1

Ajax (NED) v FC Copenhagen (DEN) 2-1

Arsenal (ENG) v Dinamo Zagreb (CRO) 3-0

Chievo (ITA) v Levski Sofia (BUL) 0-2

Fenerbahce (TUR) v Dynamo Kiev (UKR) 1-3

Legia Warsaw (POL) v Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR) 0-1

Mlada Boleslav (CZE) v Galatasaray (TUR) 2-5

Rabotnicki Kometal (MCD) v Lille (FRA) 0-3

SCP Ruzomberok (SVK) v CSKA Moscow (RUS) 0-3

Spartak Moscow (RUS) v Liberec (CZE) 0-0

Steaua Bucharest (ROM) v Standard Liege (BEL) 2-2

Emergency BFF meet today

SPORTS REPORTER

The executive committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will meet today at 4pm at its conference room to discuss on the current crisis regarding the starting of the Professional Football League.

The BFF has called the meeting after the 12 participating clubs had declared on Sunday that they will not participate in the players' transfer, which is scheduled to start from September 1, until the federation give them a written assurance about the compensation if they failed to start the league on schedule.

After the EC meeting the BFF high-ups will meet with the club representatives on the same day.



PHOTO: STAR
Mamun (C) of Khulna heads to score the first for his team against Joypurhat in the Jubok Phone National Football League match at the Sylhet Stadium on yesterday.

Khulna trounce Joypurhat

Football

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Khulna made a flying start in the Jubok Phone National Football Championship when they thrashed Joypurhat 5-0 in their first game at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

Pranotosh struck twice while Mamun, Lutfur Rahman and Ripon added one each to outclass Joypurhat who suffered a humiliating 7-1 defeat against defending champions Narayanganj in their first match.

With the outcome, Khulna and Narayanganj secured full three points each by winning their first game and will meet tomorrow at the same venue to decide who will qualify in the semifinal.

Joypurhat had a defensive play from very beginning but once Mamun opened the gate in the 29th minute they had little answers to resist their opponents.

Mamun scored the goal after receiving the pass from Nayan while Pranotosh doubled the margin in the 39th minute.

After the breather Lutfur extended the lead with a 59th minute strike while Ripon netted the fourth goal in the 71st minute before Pranotosh making his second goal to seal the margin in the 74th minute.

Khulna could have won the match far better margin if Mamun and Ripon had not missed some easy opportunities. On one occasion Mamun's shot hit the side bar.

Pranotosh was adjudged man of the match.

TEAMS
KHULNA: Iran Sheikh, Mashful Kabir Bappi, Ranjit Kumar Paul, Liton, SM Shahinur Rahman Shahin, Ashraf Hossain, Lutfur Rahman Nayan, Pranotosh Kumar Dass, Hasan Imam Rikto, Quamruzzaman Selim, Quazi mansurul Alam Ripon and GM Munson.

JOYPURHAT: Ershadul Haque, Obaidur Rahman Mukul, Shamimul Haque, SM Suman, Saklain Hossain Shubhra, Passbon Hossain, Salahuddin Rokon, Sanwar Hossain Sana, Kamrul Hassan and Wahidul Islam.

Referee: Munaf Sarker.



PHOTO: AFP
CAPTAIN TERRI-FIC: Chelsea captain John Terry (C) celebrates his opening strike against Premiership rivals Manchester City with teammates Didier Drogba (L) and Arjen Robben (R) at Stamford Bridge in London on Sunday.

Chelsea rout 10-Man City

AFP, London

John Terry capped a week to remember as he put two-time Barclays Premiership champions Chelsea on course for a 3-0 win against Manchester City at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

Terry had marked his debut as England captain on Wednesday with a goal in his country's 4-0 win over Greece.

And the Blues skipper got Chelsea's title defence off to a flying start with an early opener before Frank Lampard added a second to put Jose Mourinho's side in complete control - Didier Drogba rounded the scoring off in the 70th minute.

After watching Manchester United get their Premiership cam-

paigned off to a fine start against Fulham earlier in the day with a 5-1 thrashing, it was vital for Chelsea to follow suit as they try to win a third consecutive title.

Fellow contenders Liverpool and Arsenal had stumbled on Saturday, but Chelsea were quickly back into the old routine with the kind of ruthless performance that has enabled them to establish a vice-like grip on English football over the last two years.

Mourinho's options were restricted by injuries to Claude Makelele, Petr Cech, Joe Cole and Michael Ballack and he also left unsettled defender William Gallas out of the squad.

But Chelsea were hardly inconvenienced by those absences and dominated possession in the opening minutes, although they could not create a serious threat to the visi-

tors.

However, when Ben Thatcher made a rash challenge on Paulo Ferreira to concede a needless 11th minute free-kick, the champions seized their opportunity.

Arjen Robben whipped in a precise delivery and Terry muscled his way ahead of Richard Dunne to glance a header into the far corner.

City had been unable to get a foot-hold in the game but, out of nothing, Italian striker Bernardo Corradi produced a defence-splitting pass to send Trevor Sinclair clear on goal.

Sinclair had time to steady himself but could only scuff his shot straight at Carlo Cudicini.

City were made to regret that miss in the 26th minute when Lampard took Michael Essiens pass, turned and fired in a low drive

either with Newcastle's French

centre-half Jean-Alain Bounsomg snubbing the 1983 European champions.

"Bounsomg will not be signing for us," Hamburg sporting director Dietmar Beiersdorfer told television channel DSF.

"We have a few names on the list and will be sitting down as soon as possible to discuss matters," said Doll.

The loss of Boulahrouz is certainly untimely with Hamburg facing this crunch Champions League second leg qualifier against Osasuna on Tuesday.

Juventus appeal to civil court

AFP, Rome

Juventus, who were stripped of last season's Serie A title and demoted to the second division with a 17-point deficit for match-fixing, said Monday they will appeal against their punishment in the civil courts.

The move could delay the start of the new Italian football season, which begins on the weekend of September 9-10.

Juventus, who took the decision to turn to the criminal courts after a board meeting at the club's Turin headquarters on Monday, are demanding to be reinstated in Italy's top division.

The club are unhappy that the four other clubs found guilty of match-fixing - AC Milan, Fiorentina, Lazio and Reggina - were all allowed to retain their status in the top flight.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR
Rume Hossain (L), managing director of Rangs Industries Ltd, shakes hands with Md. Liton, first prize winner of the bumper round of 'The Daily Star-Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz Competition' during the prize giving ceremony at the Rangs Bhaban in the city yesterday. Liton became the proud winner of a 27" Toshiba LCD TV.

Six-a-side tourney for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has agreed to play a six-a-side tournament in Pakistan in mid September.

Former Pakistan skipper Moin Khan's event management firm--Game-on-- in collaboration with the Pakistan Cricket Board (BCB) will arrange the meet at Karachi involving India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and hosts Pakistan.

BCB got the invitation a month back but only agreed after receiving confirmation from the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The board will ask the selectors to select the team only after knowing the stature of the other participating teams.

Pioneer League begins

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka City Corporation Pioneer Football League began yesterday at the Birsheshthra Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

LGRO and Cooperative Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan inaugurated the largest juvenile football meet in the country.

An exhibition match between Euro Famous and Uttaran Jubo Sangsad in the opening day was held which ended in a goalless draw.

A total of 61 teams will take part in the competition at five different venues.