



PHOTO: AFP

Manchester United striker Carlos Tevez (R) is challenged by Stoke City's Andy Wilkinson during their Premiership encounter at the Britannia Stadium in Stoke-On-Trent on Friday.

Hleb best in Belarus

AFP, Minsk

Barcelona midfielder Alexander Hleb was named Belarus Player of the Year for the fourth consecutive year, the country's sports weekly Press Ball announced Thursday.

The 27-year-old Belarus international was heralded by the national football federation, which also called BATE Borisov manager Viktor Goncharenko, who led his side into this season's European Champions' League, Coach of the Year.

Scolari hits back

INTERNET, undated

Luiz Felipe Scolari hopes to silence his critics by guiding Chelsea to the Premier League title after insisting he has his players' backing. Scolari earned rave reviews as the Blues made a fine start to their campaign, but results have been less impressive in recent weeks.

They remain second in the table despite picking up just one win in their last five games, but Scolari has not been pleased with the criticism that has come his way.

The Brazilian insists there is no problem in the dressing room, while he is also happy to be in charge at Stamford Bridge.

"People from outside are making things awkward for the team, and I'll not tolerate that," Scolari told the Daily Express.

"I want to see their faces when we win the league."

"After six months at Chelsea I will say for the last time that my relationship with the players is good."

"Chelsea is my home. I feel like a father to these players." Scolari does acknowledge that Chelsea must improve their home form over the second half of the season if they are to claim top spot.

Chelsea have only won three of their nine matches at Stamford Bridge and have found it much harder to break sides down than they have on their travels.

Scolari added: "The people who are talking about our home form are correct because we have lost so many points at home."

"That is incredible, but the opposition close down very well and when we attack sometimes we make a mistake with the last pass, make a mistake with the shot, make the wrong cross and we don't score a goal."

Tevez saves MU blushes

INTERNET, undated



A late Carlos Tevez spared Manchester United's blushes as they beat 10-man Stoke 1-0 in a fractious encounter at the Britannia Stadium.

The Argentinian rammed home just his second Premier League goal of the season on 83 minutes as the champions claimed maximum points despite a vexing afternoon.

Stoke had right-back Andy Wilkinson sent off for two bookable offences, but a more strict referee than Chris Foy might have shown a red card to any of Wayne Rooney, Cristiano Ronaldo and Gary Neville.

Rooney could face further disciplinary action after appearing to throw an elbow at Abdoulaye Faye.

The newly-crowned Club World Cup champions were denied an easy return to domestic action by Tony Pulis's side, and their problems were deepened by a pre-match injury to Rio Ferdinand, whose back strain forced him out and saw Jonny Evans come into the starting line-up at short notice.

It would be unfair on Stoke to put United's lacklustre display down to jet lag following their return from Japan.

This was a far cry from the 5-3 knockabout against Gamba Osaka. Stoke showed all the qualities that have earned them five home wins this season - power, desire and an ability to play to their strengths and their opponents' weaknesses.

Early on the nervous-looking Evans misjudged a high ball and allowed Ricardo Fuller a shot, which flew over, so Stoke decided to test him again.

The Northern Irishman's hesitancy dealing with long balls with the sun in his eyes was ruthlessly exploited time and might have led to a goal but for a Fuller footwear malfunction.

The Jamaican races clear down the right channel, but lost a boot and fell over as his socked left foot slipped on the turf when he tried to change direction.

The home side also used the familiar tool of Rory Delap's long throws - the Irishman's strained shoulder having kept him out of action recently - and one from the right side flicked Ryan Shawcross's head forcing a sharp save from Edwin van der Sar.

Then in the second they went even closer when Delap found the unmarked Danny Pugh, whose header brushed the top of the net on its way over.

United dominated over two-thirds of possession but failed to transform that into goals, or even clear-cut chances.

Right-back Wilkinson had been a thorn in Ronaldo's side, reducing the world's greatest player to virtual anonymity with his dogged, physical play. However, that physicality spilled over on 72 minutes when he launched a needless tackle from behind at the winger. Referee Foy showed him a second yellow card.

In the main, however, it was United who lost their cool. Rooney's indiscretion was missed by Foy and the England striker escaped a red card.

And Ronaldo also flicked his leg at Wilkinson after being upheld for the umpteenth time, although his action was more petulant than reprehensible and may have provoked the tackle that got the Stoke man sent off.

Late on, Neville clashed with Glenn Whelan in an incident that saw both men booked.

Baby girl for Ronaldo

INTERNET, Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian superstar Ronaldo received the perfect gift on Christmas eve. His fiancée Maria Beatriz Anthony gave birth to a baby girl on Wednesday, local media reported. Ronaldo was present when his daughter, Maria Sofia, was born and even cut the umbilical cord. The baby is healthy at 49.5 centimetres and weighs 3.98 kilograms.

This is Ronaldo's second child. He has a son, eight-year-old Ronald, with his former wife and model Milene Domingues.

The off-form Ronaldo is to play football again in 2009, with the Brazilian club Corinthians, his agent confirmed earlier this month.

On its website, the club promises fans "a phenomenal 2009," in an obvious reference to Ronaldo, 32, who is nicknamed "O Fenomeno," the phenomenon.

The preliminary deal put an end to speculation that Ronaldo - the top scorer in the history of World Cup tournaments and three times FIFA World Player of the Year (1996, 1997, 2002) - might retire after undergoing serious left knee surgery in February.

Senna eyeing City move

INTERNET, undated

European Championship winner Marcos Senna has revealed he would be "interested" in a January move to Manchester City.

The Spain midfielder, who is under contract at Villarreal until 2010, is believed to be one of the players on City manager Mark Hughes' wishlist as City owners Abu Dhabi United Group prepare to bankroll a spending spree next month.

"I have heard about the big project at City and I'm flattered by their interest," Senna was reported saying in the Daily Mail. "The Premier League is a big league and I am interested in the challenge."

"It is complicated leaving Villarreal because I am excited by the season and we are still involved in the league and the Champions League."

"It would take an enormous proposition by City for me to leave but it is not impossible."

Villarreal sporting director Jose Luis Llanez appeared to open the door for a bid when he added: "We have received no formal offers but in football nothing is impossible."

"If we get a big offer we would consider it."

Dalla Bona wants to play in EPL

INTERNET, undated

Napoli midfielder Sam Dalla Bona has revealed he would relish the opportunity to return to the Premier League and link up with West Ham. The midfielder recently informed Napoli that he would be seeking a move away from the club in the New Year.

Having spent time at Chelsea from 1999 to 2002, Dalla Bona admits that a return to the Premier League sounds appealing.

He enjoyed playing alongside Gianfranco Zola at Stamford Bridge and his fellow Italian is now in charge at West Ham.

Dalla Bona, who has found himself down the pecking order at Napoli this season, feels he could be successful at Upton Park.

"I would love to come back to the Premier League - that can motivate any player," he told the Daily Mirror.

"Chelsea is still in my heart and I am following my former teammates Frank Lampard and John Terry."

"But in that squad there was also Gianfranco Zola and I would like to work again with him at West Ham."

"He is a great man."

Real ridicule

Either Huntelaar or Diarra for CL

INTERNET, Madrid



New Real Madrid coach Juande Ramos will have to choose between new signings Klaas-Jan Huntelaar and Lassana Diarra for the Champions League knockout stage.

Real recently signed Huntelaar from Ajax and Diarra from Portsmouth under the assumption that both would be able to play in the Champions League, since neither player had taken part in that tournament this season.

However, the Spanish paper Marca said on Thursday that UEFA's rules clearly state that a club can register three new players from the round of 16 onwards, but only one player who has taken part in the UEFA Cup.

Both Huntelaar and Diarra have played in the UEFA Cup this season, so Ramos will have to decide which of the two to register for the Champions League.

Marca's headline on Thursday, in reference to Real's administrative confusion, is "Champions Ridicule".

The confusion reflects badly on Real sporting director Pedja Mijatovic, who is already an unpopular figure with most "madridista" fans.

Mijatovic will try to clarify the situation with UEFA in the next few days. Marca has already opened an online poll for readers to vote which of the two signings they would prefer in the Champions League. 84.17 per cent have voted for Huntelaar.

Real will face Liverpool in the round of 16, with the first leg to be played in the Estadio Bernabeu on 25 February.

Huntelaar and Diarra - signed because of Real's recent injury crisis - are due to make their Liga debuts at home to Villarreal on 4 January. Real are joint fifth with Villarreal, 12 points behind record-breaking leaders Barcelona.

Huntelaar, who has recovered from the sprained right ankle that has kept him out of action for almost two months, will receive a homecoming from the Ajax fans before the Eredivisie home game against ADO Den Haag. Huntelaar scored 105 goals for Ajax in 136 games.

Marca also claims on Thursday that Real are going to cancel the registration, for the rest of the season, of international midfielder Ruben de la Red.

De la Red, 23, has not played since dramatically collapsing on the field in October, in a cup tie away to third division side Union Iru. Since then he has undergone rigorous tests on his heart, without a clear diagnosis having been issued.

Cesc remains cheerful

INTERNET, undated

Arsenal midfielder Cesc Fabregas is looking on the bright side over his injury lay-off - because he knows it could have been much worse.

The Spain star is set to be out for four months after damaging knee ligaments in a tackle with Xabi Alonso in the Gunners' 1-1 draw with Liverpool last weekend.

The news dealt another blow to Arsenal's faltering title hopes, but Fabregas remains optimistic there will be plenty to play for when he returns to action.

The Spaniard told The Sun: "The doctor told me I was lucky because my foot was in the air during the collision."

"If it had been on the ground I could have ruptured my anterior cruciate and had internal and external injuries. Anything could have happened."

"I have tried to take the positives out of the situation. Of course I don't want to be injured but it could have been a lot worse - it could have been nine months out."

"There will still be things to play for when I come back. I could be ready for the Champions League quarterfinals if we get through and hopefully we will still be in contention for the FA Cup and the Premier League."

Fabregas attaches no blame to countryman Alonso for his injury, adding: "It was an accident with Xabi and there was no fault on his part."

"He was very concerned and has been calling regularly. He is a good friend. It's not a disaster. There are worse things that happen in life."



CESC FABREGAS

2008: Man United's year

INTERNET, undated

AFP, London

As Sir Alex Ferguson watched Ryan Giggs sprint towards the jubilant Manchester United supporters packed into one end of Wigan's JJB Stadium, a look of relief spread across his face.

Giggs had just scored the goal that wrapped up United's 17th English league title and their 10th during Ferguson's reign.

Despite holding a substantial lead over their London rivals at one stage, United had been able to sweat all the way to the finish line by Chelsea and eventually ended only two points clear.

Taking the title by such a narrow margin could be a sign of things to come in the Premier League as the global credit crunch begins to level the playing field.

United, Chelsea, Liverpool and Arsenal will all finish the year at the top end of the table again, but the emergence of Aston Villa as serious challengers to the big four underlines the closing gap between the league's superpowers and the chasing pack.

That Chelsea will start 2009 firmly in the title race is no surprise, but there are signs that the financial meltdown is starting to make life difficult for Luiz Felipe Scolari.

Scolari made an impressive start after replacing Avram Grant as Chelsea boss, but the Brazilian, who was furious that

Manchester City out-bid the Blues for Robinho on transfer deadline day, has presided over a series of spluttering performances in recent weeks.

To make matters worse, Scolari has been told he must sell before he can buy after owner Roman Abramovich called a halt to the extravagant spending that has marked the Russian's time at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea aren't alone in tightening their belts and only Manchester City, backed by their Abu Dhabi-based billionaire owners, will buck the trend and pay big money during the transfer window.

The financial implications of relegation from the Premier League are too catastrophic to contemplate now and inevitably chairmen are getting twitchy.

When Paul Ince was sacked by Blackburn after only 17 matches in charge, he became the sixth top-flight boss to lose his job this season.

Winning the League Cup in February wasn't enough to save Juande Ramos as Tottenham's form collapsed.

Harry Redknapp, tempted by a crack at his first big club, left Portsmouth to replace the Spaniard and sparked a remarkable revival, while Kevin Keegan's second coming at Newcastle ended in acrimonious circumstances.

On the field, the Premier League still has much to commend it. Giggs' goal at Wigan was the prelude to an even more dramatic Champions League final penalty shoot-

out win against Chelsea in Moscow 10 days later that capped one of United's greatest seasons. That double triumph could be the start of another glorious era for United, but before the champagne corks had even stopped popping, Cristiano Ronaldo, whose 42 goals had played such a key role in United's success, took the fizz out of their celebrations by unsuccessfully pushing for a move to Real Madrid.

Ronaldo has cut a forlorn figure ever since and his erratic form in the second half of 2008 has added to the impression that he is still at United on sufferance only.

But Ferguson's men still ended the year newly crowned as FIFA's Club World Cup winners and returned from Japan with Liverpool and Chelsea without touching distance.

The most encouraging trend of the year has to be the way newly-promoted Hull and Stoke have managed to make the critics eat their words.

After Derby's relegation in May with 11 points - an English top-flight record low - Stoke and Hull were widely regarded as certainties for relegation.

But both are clear of the bottom three and, not only was Hull's win at Arsenal was one of the most memorable of the year, it also contributed to the spectacular outburst from Gunners captain William Gallas a few weeks later that revealed the extent of Arsene Wenger's problems at the Emirates Stadium.

Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation
Chinshilpa Bhaban, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000

Invitation for Re-Tenders for Spectro Photo Meter

Ref. No. BSFIC/PD-2/25(1)/H.O.2008 Dated: 24-12-2008

1. Procuring entity	Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation.
2. Source of funds	BSFIC's own source.
3. Tender package No.	1 (one)
4. Tender ref. & date	Ref. No. BSFIC/PD-2/25(1)/H.O.2008 date 24-12-2008.
5. Tender name	Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of UV-VIS Spectro Photo Meter for Thakurgaon Sugar Mills, Natore Sugar Mills & Carew & Co. (Bd) Ltd.
6. Time for completion of work	30 (thirty) days from contract date for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Spectro Photo Meter.
7. Eligibility of tenderers	Tenderer must have: (a) Valid trade licence, up-to-date income tax clearance certificate and VAT registration certificate. (b) To give one year warranty for the offered materials. (c) Financial solvency certificate from any schedule bank of Bangladesh indicating credit limit from the tenderers bankers. (d) ISO 9001 certificate of manufacturer for Spectro Photo Meter. Instruction manual & original brochures of Spectro Photo Meter shall be accompanied with the tender document. Tenderers without having the required eligibility as stated above need not apply.
8. Price of tender document	Tk. 1,500.00 (one thousand five hundred) only per set (non-refundable).
9. Amount of tender security	Tk. 50,000.00 (fifty thousand) only.
10. Name & address of the officer(s) selling tender document	Accounts Department, BSFIC, Chinshilpa Bhaban (7th Floor), 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000.
11. Name and address of the officer(s) receiving tenders	Secretariat Section, BSFIC, Chinshilpa Bhaban (5th Floor), 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000.
12. Name and address of the office opening tenders	Secretary, BSFIC, Chinshilpa Bhaban, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000.
13. Last date and time for selling tender document	Up to 19-01-2009 during office hours on all working days.
14. Last date and time for submission of tenders	On 20-01-2009 by 11.00am.
15. Date and time for opening of tenders	On 11.10am on 20-01-2009.
16. Special instruction	(a) The corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. (b) If there is Govt. holiday or unavoidable situation arises on the date fixed for tender dropping and opening, in those cases the next normal working day will be considered valid date for tender dropping and opening at the same time.
17. Country of origin	To be indicated by the tenderer (with brand, manufacturer).

S.F. 312
GD-6022

Md Sanwar Miah
Chief (Purchase)