# Pavlyuchenko fires Spurs

AFP, London



Roman Pavlyuche

with a 3-1 win over fellow Premier League outfit Wigan which kept the London side on course for a double Cup success this season.

Russian striker Pavlyuchenko, with a 52nd-minute penalty, and a 76th-minute through injury. header from Croatian star Luka Modric sent the eighttime FA Cup winners on their way at White Hart Lane.

They had to survive a neryous last few moments when Senegal international Henri Camara found the target for Wigan in the 88th minute entWiganteaminthatmatch. before Pavlyuchenko added

with a fine drive.

boss Harry Redknapp, who nko scored coached Portsmouth to FA Cup glory last season, the perfect build-up to Tuesday's League Cup semifinal first leg clash against Burnley.

"Pavlyuchenko did well round on today and he also worked hard for the team which is encouraging," said Redknapp.

Wigan, flying high in seventh place in the Premier League, were without leading strikers Emile Heskey and top scorer Amir Zaki, as well as goalkeeper Chris Kirkland,

"We were right in it but we had a few players missing and didn't have the firepower," admitted Wigan boss Steve Bruce whose team will welcome Spurs in a league game on Sunday week.

his second in stoppage time Friday, Camara narrowly headed wide from a fine cross The win gave Tottenham by Antonio Valencia in the seventh minute while Modric spurned Spurs's best chance moments later when he drove wide of the post after a good one-two with Pavlyuchenko.

Tottenham were in front seven minutes after the break. Substitute Fraser Campbell

was brought down by Wigan's debutant keeper Richard Kingson which allowed Pavlyuchenko to score from the penalty spot for his eighth goal of the season.

Modric grabbed the second with a diving header after a 30metre drive from Jamie O'Hara came off the post.

Camara then pulled one back for Wigan after substitute Maynor Figueroa had scuffed his attempt as the clock ticked down.

But Pavlyuchenko made "Hopefully, you'll see a differ- the game safe with a smart long-distance effort in the In a poor first half on third minute of injury time.



Tottenham striker Roman Pavlyuchenko (R) scores the third goal against Wigan during their FA Cup encounter at White Hart Lane on Friday.

AFP, Newcastle

window.

signature.

to be repeated.

battle for survival.

Newcastle goalkeeper Shay

Given is ready to quit the strug-

gling Premier League club,

Given has grown increas-

ingly unhappy with Newcastle's

on and off-field problems and

last weekend's 5-1 defeat at

home to Liverpool was the final

this week insisted Republic of

Ireland star Given would not be

allowed to leave in the transfer

Kennedy admitted the 32-year-

old is considering his future at St

James' Park, with Arsenal,

Tottenham and Manchester

City all potential suitors for his

"Shay is very despondent

following the very poor perfor-

mance of the team against

"It was the lowest point of his

"When he signed a new five-

Liverpool last weekend,"

football career and a perfor-

mance that he would not wish

the basis that the club would

challenge for major honours,

but on the present evidence all

that he can see ahead with the

turmoil on and off the pitch is a

loyally for over 11 years, Shay

"Having served the club

Kennedy's statement said.

But Given's lawyer Michael

Newcastle boss Joe Kinnear

according to his lawyer.

## City agree Bridge fee

Football

AFP, London

Chelsea defender Wayne Bridge is set to join Manchester City after boss Mark Hughes confirmed on Friday that the two clubs have agreed an undisclosed fee for the England international.

Bridge only recently extended his Chelsea contract until 2012, but he has struggled to hold down a first-team spot at Stamford Bridge when Ashley Cole is fit and the Blues are willing to let the left-back leave.

Hughes has been given a substantial transfer war chest by City's Abu Dhabi-based owners and he hopes to tie up Bridge within the next 24 hours in what promises to be the first of several bigmoney signings arriving at Eastlands in January.

"My understanding is the clubs have agreed a fee," he said. "We need to speak to the boy and try to agree personal terms.

"If we can do that hopefully Wayne will be a Manchester City player, that's the aim.

"Wayne will probably travel to Manchester the squad.

and hopefully negotiations will go well and he can have a medical tomorrow (Saturday)."

Chelsea boss Luiz Felipe Scolari has to sell before he can buy in the window and he admitted he would have no problem letting Bridge move on for a reported fee of around 12 million pounds.

"If they have a good deal, it is no problem for me," Scolari said.

"If any club wants to buy a player from Chelsea, they have to offer big money because if they play for Chelsea they are very good players.' Scolari made it clear late last year that he

was keen to sign an attacking player to bolster his options, but he insists he has yet to ask the board to fund any new signings. Scolari will field a young team in Saturday's FA

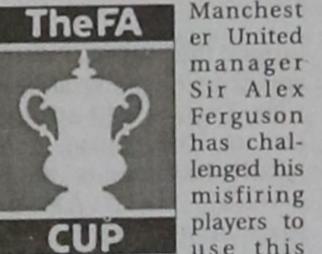
Cup third round tie against League One side Southend at Stamford Bridge, but the Brazilian is adamanthe is not disrespecting the competition. Centre-back Michael Mancienne, who was

called up by England after a successful loan spell at Wolverhampton, is likely to feature, while Lee Sawyer and Jeffrey Bruma are also in

## Fergie wants more goals

AFP, Southampton

SPORT



er United manager Sir Alex has challenged his misfiring

players to weekend's FA Cup third round trip to Southampton as an opportunity to rediscover their scoring touch.

United have not scored more than one goal in a Premier League game since beating Stoke 5-3 at Old Trafford in November.

Ferguson is anxious to put that statistic right at the St Mary's Stadium on Sunday training this week and he is ahead of a potentially crucial league meeting with Chelsea squad for this weekend's nextweekend.

"Every game is an opportunity to score goals," Ferguson said. "We made 25 chances against Middlesbrough on Monday and scored once. It is not what we expect but with the

think someone is going to suffer. "The goalscoring will correct itself at some point because we work with.' have good goals corers."

Premier League, Champions League, FA Cup and League Cup in the same season and

Ferguson has already played down United's chances of a historic quadruple. The United boss is looking

for an extended FA Cup run after being knocked out by Southampton's south coast rivals and eventual winners Portsmouth last season. Ferguson added: "We are

competing. The FA Cup is partly down to luck. It is sudden death and anything can happen.

"We have not got the home draw I always look for but they have a good stadium and I expect an interesting

the most consistent teams for nearly 30 years.

"They had a fantastic record the FA Cup. for a provincial team, with some marvellous players.

"They had that golden period under Lawrie McMenemy with lads like Peter Shilton, Mike Channon and there. Kevin Keegan. More recently, Matthew Le Tissier was top goalscorer in the Premier

"Now they are having to deal considering he has no money to same prestige."

No team has ever won the been boosted by Cristiano Ronaldo pledging his future to national Tomasz Kuszczak is the club and the 16 million pounds (16.65 million euros)

double signing of Serbian youngsters Zoran Tosic and Adem Ljajic from Partizan Belgrade. While United are preparing

for a second half of the season assault at home and in Europe, Southampton face a battle to preserve their Championship status. Their Dutch manager Jan

Poortvliet says beating Ferguson's side would equal the achievement of playing for his country in the 1978 World Cup final against Argentina. Poortvliet said: "This is

your biggest challenge as a "Southampton were one of manager when you play against the world champions and you can put them out of "You will remember the day

for the rest of your life. The FA Cup is massive not only in England but also in Holland because it will be on television

"For every coach it is special playing against the best in Europe and in the world. It is like aWorld Cupfinal.

year contract in 2006 it was on "Playing for my country in players we have, you have to with young players but their the World Cup final was huge coach has done a great job but you can say Sunday has the

United will be without United's preparations have injured defender Rio Ferdinand while Polish interset to replace the rested Edwin van der Sarin goal.

tightening of the purse strings.

club the economic stability

that it needs," said the club's

important thing -- more than

an audacious transfer dead-

line day approach during the

president Vicente Soriano.

"We will fight to give the

"Right now that is the most

#### feels compelled to consider his position in the light of the interest being expressed in him by Manchester City, Arsenal and Tottenham."

Kinnear insisted he would do everything in his power to keep the unsettled star.

I'm not sure of the facts that he (Kennedy) has said that or how it's been interpreted, but what I will say is Shay is contracted until 2011," Kinnear

"He is our player and he is going to stay our player, it's as simple as that.

"We are not interested at all in selling him. I want to clear that -- that is probably the last

time I will be talking about it. "He is an integral part of the

team, he is the best goalkeeper by miles in the league, so why should we jeopardise our chances in the positionwearein?"

### Bayern snap up Olic

AFP, Munich

Bayern Munich have snapped up Hamburg's Croatian international star Ivica Olic, who will join the Bavarians in the summer, Bayern said Saturday on their website.

"We have reached agreement -- we just have to sign the deal," said Bayern's general manager Uli Hoeness from the club's winter camp in Dubai.

Olic, 29 and who is out of contract in June with Hamburg, is to sign a three-

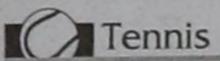
A sometime target for Juventus and Liverpool he has spent two seasons in northern Germany since arriving from CSKA Moscow, scoring 25

goals including six this term. Olic has won 61 Croatian caps, scoring 11 goals.

starting place with German international Miroslav Klose and Italian Luca Toni.

back despite interest from assorted other European clubs.

# Nadal downs Davydenko



AGENCIES, Abu Dhabi

The top-ranked player in the world, Spanish Rafael Nadal's explosive powerplay proved to hot for Russian world number five Nikolay Davydenko to handle. Nadal won the second semifinal 6-2, 6-3 here on Friday.

Davvdenko started in brilliant fashion by breaking Nadal in the first game without giving him any point.

But Nadal regrouped within no time and completely domifirst set 6-2. In the second set, Davydenko broke Nadal in the

first game again, but the reigning French and Wimbledon champion broke right back. Another break in the sixth game and it was all over for

Davydenko. Earlier former world num- number one player in the world,

Championship in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

ber one Roger Federer produced some magical moments, but that wasn't enough to prevent a fourth loss in his last five matches to the fast-improving preparation for that."

Andy Murray. Championship, an exhibition shootout being played at the Zayed Sports City tennis stadium, Scotsman Murray prevailed in three sets 4-6, 6-2, 7-6

The winner of the Nadal-Murray final takes home the entire purse of \$250,000 in the shootout tournament. Murray, who seemed in pain

nated the Russian to take the and clutched his back after the long as possible." second set, said: playing Roger. I've got the better

of him on a few occasions, but in the big one we played, at the US Open final, he beat me pretty badly. Hopefully, I'll get him in a Grand Slam one day.

"It will be nice to become the

but my aim for 2009 is to win a Grand Slam event, and I feel the Australian Open is my best chance. So, this is a really nice

Federer, who won the US In the first semifinal of the Open last year, said: "It was quite Capitala World Tennis agood start to the year, but I just could not pull through. Andy has been playing some very good tennis and he carried his form

Nadal also revealed his ambitions for 2009, saying: "The aim really is to be a better player than I was last year and to keep improving. Obviously, I like the position I am in right now and would like to keep it this way as

On his match against "It's always a challenge Davydenko, the Spaniard added: "I have been working hard on my game lately even though I haven't been playing competitive tennis for the past two months or so. I was delighted with the way I played today and am looking forward to the rest of the season."

### player. I've seen him training, he's trying very hard and he's got a lot of qualities." Park to sign from the end of last year." new deal

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has told South Korean midfielder Park Ji-Sung that he has a golden future at Old Trafford.

Dyer set for

West Ham midfielder Kieron

Dyer is finally set to end his

injury nightmare by playing in

Saturday's FA Cup tie against

Barnsley after 17 months out

Dyer, 29, needed three

operations after suffering the

injury in a League Cup tie at

Bristol Rovers in August 2007

and then had his return

delayed earlier this season by a

has made just three appear-

ances for West Ham since

completing a six million

pounds move from Newcastle

But he has impressed

manager Gianfranco Zola in

poised to be included in the

Zola said: "He's focused

and he's very excited to play

and we will try to get him back

because he's an important

The England international

return

with a broken leg.

stress fracture.

two years ago.

third-round tie.

AFP, London

Ferguson is optimistic that the popular Park will sign a new contract to take him beyond his current deal which expires in 18 months' time.

"It is not on the radar screen but he will be offered a contract," said Ferguson.

"Ji has been fantastic for us and is one of our most consistent players."

### Podolski shows Roma interest

SOCCERNET

Wantaway Bayern Munich striker Lukas Podolski claims Italian side Roma are interested in signing him.

The 23-year-old Germany frontman has requested a move away from Bavaria after growing frustrated with the lack of opportunities under Jurgen Klinsmann this season. The Giallorossi are short of

Francesco Totti sidelined through injury, and Podolski reckons they are after him. "I know Roma are tracking me and would like to sign me,'

firepower with captain

Podolski told Corriere dello Sport. "I would have no problems in moving there, as they are a big club -- although I doubt

Romans can speak Kolsch

(dialect spoken in Cologne)!" Cologne have been widely considered as front-runners to clinch Podolski's signature, with the player keen to return to his hometown club.

But he is keeping his options open and would appear to also relish a move to the Eternal City. "I need to play and cannot

keep sitting on the bench," he said. "I am not comfortable staying in Munich any longer and I feel the time has come to leave to return to doing my job (playing). "I think I'm ready for an

experience abroad, including

### Villa can go at right price It is not known what price meltdown last season and remain heavily in debt despite a Valencia have slapped on Villa,

or his much sought after team-

mate David Silva, but the club

have made it clear that it would

take a sizeable approach to

INTERNET, undated



would be prepared to part with

Manchester City target David Villa should their valuation of the player be matched. The Spanish outfit are reluctant to offload their star

striker, but accept that every player has his price. With a host of Europe's top clubs believed to be sniffing around the Spain international, Los Che may see their

resolve tested during the

January transfer window.

force them into a sale. "Whatever offer comes in we will have to study it although the idea is not to have to sell David Villa or David Silva," said Valencia's sporting vice-president

> Fernando Gomez Colomer. "It would have to be an exorbitant offer."

> decide to cash in on their prized assets as they look to bring financial stability back to the Mestalla.

The club were on the verge of landing their man last year.

any kind of sporting success." Valencia have fought off interest in Villa from Liverpool and Real Madrid in the past, while Manchester City made

Valencia may ultimately

Silva, meanwhile, has featured on Manchester United's radar in the past, with the Red Devils coming close to

summer.

Wenger won't break bank

want to spend. We have gone for a policy that is to develop our young players and we have to show some character and strength, not listen to everybody who comes out everyday

any of his players to leave this month even though Ivory Coast defender Kolo Toure recently had a transfer request rejected following a disagree-

half-year contract and will "I am happy with players

dent that you can multiply by 20. It happens every day in "You look how many clubs every club which is sorted out.

> "We have a very young and compact squad and I don't expect anybody to leave."



PHOTO: AFP

Italy."

AFP, London



back on track.

intention of spending crazy money in the January transfer window to get

Arsene

chance of winning the Premier League after falling 10 points behind leaders Liverpool and the fifth-placed Gunners could even miss out on a place in the Champions League as Aston Villa step up their chal-

Arsenal's spluttering season

With captain Cesc within their means. Fabregas, England winger Theo Walcott and Czech midfielder Tomas Rosicky all sidelined for several months through injuries, Wenger is expected to strengthen his depleted squad this month.

lenge to finish in the top four.

Zenit St Petersburg's thetop. Russia playmaker Andrei Arshavin and Everton's Spain

midfielder Mikel Arteta have a good financial situation and both been linked with Arsenal. continue to play at the top?

But Wenger is determined not to risk his club's security in the current perilous financial Friday that climate, so he will only sign players if the price meets his valuation.

"We have a specific budget which is not as big as I have read in the newspapers, some ridiculous amounts of money Wenger's side have little that are completely crazy. But we will try to use it wisely and well if we can," he said.

Arsenal have a long-term

debt commitment following

the move to their new, 60,000seater home at Ashburton Grove and Wenger knows the Gunners must continue to live remain with us," Wenger said. "What is most important is the club has built a new sta-

dium and we live in a very

financially," he said. have done that and we play at

"How many clubs have managed to build a new stadium, have

"It is not that we do not

with a new name." Wenger does not expect

ment over team selection. "The situation is that Kolo is a player who has two-and-a-

who are committed and Kolo is a big example. "There was a minor incistrong and healthy situation

Kolo is happy here.

year contract.

At Bayern he will vie for a

In contrast, the Bavarians are set to offload unwanted German forward Lukas Podolski, who has not settled since a 2006 move from Cologne, who would like him

Colombian pop singer Shakira (top) shakes hands with World number one Rafael Nadal of Spain after he won his semifinal tie over Russian Nikolay Davydenko during the Capitala World Tennis