

Pavlyuchenko fires Spurs

AFP, London

Roman Pavlyuchenko scored twice as Tottenham reached the FA Cup fourth round on Friday 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.

his second in stoppage time with a fine drive. The win gave Tottenham boss Harry Redknapp, who coached Portsmouth to FA Cup glory last season, the perfect build-up to Tuesday's League Cup semifinal first leg clash against Burnley.

Friday, Camara narrowly headed wide from a fine cross 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 striker Roman Pavlyuchenko (R) scores the third goal against Wigan during their FA Cup encounter at White Hart Lane on Friday.

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.

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.

Nadal downs Davydenko

Tennis

AGENCIES, Abu Dhabi

The top-ranked player in the world, Spanish Rafael Nadal's explosive powerplay proved to be too much for Russian world number five Nikolay Davydenko to handle.

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 Andy Murray.

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 preparation for that.

Dyer set for return

AFP, London

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 with a broken leg.

Fergie wants more goals

AFP, Southampton

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has challenged his misfiring players to use this weekend's FA Cup third round trip to Southampton as an opportunity to rediscover their scoring touch.

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.

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.

Given ready to quit Magpies

AFP, Newcastle

Newcastle goalkeeper Shay Given is ready to quit the struggling Premier League club, according to his lawyer.

Given has grown increasingly unhappy with Newcastle's on and off-field problems and last weekend's 5-1 defeat at home to Liverpool was the final straw.

The England international has made just three appearances for West Ham since completing a six million pounds move from Newcastle two years ago.

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

Southampton were one of the most consistent teams for nearly 30 years. They had a fantastic record for a provincial team, with some marvellous players.

Given's lawyer Michael 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 signature.

Park to sign 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.

Villa can go at right price

INTERNET, undated



Valencia have admitted that they would be prepared to part with Manchester City target David Villa should their valuation of the player be matched.

It is not known what price Valencia has slapped on Villa, or his much sought after teammate David Silva, but the club have made it clear that it would take a sizeable approach to force them into a sale.

meltdown last season and remain heavily in debt despite a tightening of the purse strings. We will fight to give the club the economic stability that it needs," said the club's president Vicente Soriano.



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 Championship in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

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.

Wenger won't break bank

AFP, London



Arsene Wenger insisted on Friday that he has no intention of spending crazy money in the January transfer window to get Arsenal's spluttering season back on track.

midfielder Mikel Arteta have both been linked with Arsenal. But Wenger is determined not to risk his club's security in the current perilous financial climate, so he will only sign players if the price meets his valuation.

Wenger does not expect any of his players to leave this month even though Ivory Coast defender Kolo Toure recently had a transfer request rejected following a disagreement over team selection.

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.