

## Eto'o demands 3m euros from Barcelona

AFP, Madrid

Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o is demanding three million euros from Barcelona after his transfer from the Spanish club to Inter Milan, the Spanish club said Tuesday.

The amount represents 15 per cent of the 20 million euro (29 million dollar) fee which the Italian side paid Barcelona during the summer, a club official told AFP.

The deal also saw Inter's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic join European champions Barcelona for 46 million euros.

If the two parties fail to reach a settlement the matter could end up in court.

Eto'o bases his demand on a Spanish footballer's association rule that a player has the right to 15 per cent of the amount of his transfer fee to another Spanish club, the official said.

But Barcelona argues it does not owe Eto'o anything because the rule is an agreement between Spanish clubs and because the percentage payment is the responsibility of the club that buys the player.

A Spanish judge in February 2008 found in a similar case that Deportivo La Coruna had to pay 2.1 million euros to Spanish striker Albert Luque, the equivalent of 15 per cent his transfer to Newcastle in August 2005 for 14 million euros.

## Barca cruise along

AFP, Madrid



Champions Barcelona moved back to the top of the Spanish table with a thumping 4-1 win at Racing Santander on Tuesday to maintain their perfect start to the season.

Argentine Lionel Messi scored a brace, including a brilliant solo goal, making him the league's top-scorer with five goals while Zlatan Ibrahimovic continued his record of scoring in every game and now has four to his name.

It is a maximum 12 points from four games for Barcelona representing their best start since the 1997/98 season.

Real Madrid can move level on points with Barca if they can win at Villarreal on Wednesday.

Barca blitzed Atletico Madrid at the weekend with four goals inside the first 41 minutes and did the trick again in Santander establishing a three-goal lead by the 26th minute.

A destructive six-minute spell saw Ibrahimovic open the scoring in the 20th minute to maintain his goal a game record.

Three minutes later Messi exchanged passes with Xavi before curling into the corner for his fourth goal of the season.

Gerard Pique, getting a reputation for a goalscoring defender, netted the third on 26 minutes after a great touch from Ibrahimovic.

It could have been more in a one-sided first-half with Ibrahimovic hitting the post and Messi having a goal ruled out for offside.

Ibrahimovic had to go off in the second half because of a twisted ankle with Pedro coming on in his place.

Messi then wriggled past three defenders to score his second goal of the game before Oscar Serrano netted a consolation goal.

Sevilla notched a third successive win to join Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao on nine points

after defeating Real Mallorca 2-0 at home on Tuesday.

Mallorca could have gone top of the table with a victory but Sevilla were a cut above and took the spoils thanks to first-half goals from Sebastian Squillaci and Argentine Diego Perotti.

Sevilla welcomed back Brazilian international Luis Fabiano but it was French centre-back Squillaci who surprisingly opened the scoring after 17 minutes.

It was a goal made in France with Julien Escude heading the ball across goal for compatriot Squillaci to head in off the underside of the crossbar.

The second goal was created brilliantly by Fabiano and Jesus Navas who crossed for Perotti to head home from close range.

Mallorca had a golden chance to make it 2-1 close to half-time but Fernando Varela was foiled by Andres Palop.

Brazilian Adriano almost made it 3-0 minutes after the interval but a last-ditch block denied him a brilliant solo goal.

Sevilla climb to third with their third consecutive victory while Mallorca lie sixth after their first defeat of the campaign.

Real Madrid's expensive 'Galacticos' face their hardest test so far with a trip to Villarreal on Wednesday as coach Manuel Pellegrini goes back to his old club.

"It is a joy to go back to Villarreal," said Pellegrini. "There were five years at a great club and I met some fantastic people. The fans always treated me well during my time there and I hope I get a good reception."

Pellegrini has guided Real to three straight victories while his successor at Villarreal Ernesto Valverde has yet to win a game.

Atletico Madrid, another team looking for a top four spot, have also had a nervy start with just one point from nine ahead of Wednesday's home match against Almeria.



PHOTO: AFP

Barcelona star Lionel Messi (top) jumps on his teammate Seydou Keita after scoring his second goal against Racing Santander during their Primera Liga match at the Sardinero Stadium on Tuesday.

## Bayern crush Oberhausen

Football

AFP, Berlin

Belgian international defender Daniel Van Buyten scored his fourth goal in three games as Bayern Munich booked their place in the third round of the German Cup on Tuesday with a 5-0 win over minnows Rot-Weiss Oberhausen.

Having netted in Bayern's Champions League 3-0 win in Tel Aviv last week and then hit the winner in Saturday's 2-1 Bundesliga over Nuremberg, the defender scored twice in the German Cup second round match at Munich's Allianz Arena.

With Dutch coach Louis van Gaal resting several players, ahead of Saturday's Bundesliga clash at Hamburg and next Wednesday's Champions League against Juventus and giving stars Franck Ribery and Miroslav Klose some game time, Bayern assumed control after a hesitant start.

"I am very content with the result," said van Gaal.

"It is always good if the players put in such a performance."

"I made a few changes because of the games we have coming up."

"We have most of our squad fit again, which

is crucial with the important game against Hamburg coming up."

Germany stars Philipp Lahm and Mario Gomez handed the home side a comfortable half-time lead with first half goals.

Van Buyten then hit a brace and 20-year-old substitute Thomas Mueller added another to underline Bayern's unchallenged superiority en route to the last sixteen.

Schalke 04 had few problems in the Ruhr valley derby against Bochum with a 3-0 win as defender Heiko Westermann and striker Halil Altintop scored for the Royal Blues before the home side conceded an own goal through Christian Fuchs.

Eintracht Trier striker Sahr Senesie wrapped up his hat-trick in injury time for the minnows as they beat second-division Arminia Bielefeld 4-2 after extra-time.

Bundesliga side Nuremberg crashed out as they were beaten 1-0 by Hoffenheim.

And Borussia Moenchengladbach also exited when they lost 1-0 to Duisburg having conceded an injury time goal from Belgium's Kristoffer Andersen who scored against his old club.

Bundesliga leaders Hamburg are in action on Wednesday night at Osnabrueck while defending cup holders Werder Bremen are at home to Hamburg side St Pauli.



PHOTO: AFP

Bayern Munich defender Daniel van Buyten celebrates after scoring against Rot-Weiss Oberhausen during their German Cup 2nd round encounter in Munich on Tuesday.

## Bellamy, Neville warned

AFP, London



Craig Bellamy and Gary Neville have been warned by the English Football Association over their behaviour in Sunday's explosive Manchester derby.

The FA launched an investigation after Manchester City striker Bellamy responded to a fan who invaded the Old Trafford pitch by pushing him in the face.

Neville, a non-playing Manchester United substitute, was also investigated for his actions in celebrating the home side's winner by running down the touchline towards the City fans.

But the FA have decided against charging either player with improper conduct, in Bellamy's case because referee Martin Atkinson told FA officials that he would not have sent off the Welsh star had he seen the incident.

A statement released by the FA on Tuesday said: "The FA has today warned both Manchester City's Craig Bellamy and Manchester United's Gary Neville following separate incidents in Sunday's fixture at Old Trafford."

"In relation to Craig Bellamy the match

referee has confirmed that he would not have sent the player off had he seen the incident with the fan at the time.

"Craig Bellamy will be contacted by the FA and warned as to his future conduct."

"The FA would repeat its previous advice that players should not become involved with or approach fans in such circumstances."

"The FA would also take this opportunity to remind fans, managers and players of their joint responsibility towards the game and strongly condemns any pitch invasions by fans."

"Gary Neville has been reminded of his responsibilities following his actions after Manchester United's final goal deep into injury time."

United have also avoided any disciplinary action after City substitute Javier Garrido was struck on the head by a coin as he headed down the tunnel at half-time.

The statement added: "The FA has also contacted Manchester United regarding a coin-throwing incident during the same fixture."

"The FA fully expects the club to use all available means to identify and deal with the culprit appropriately and, along with the fan who entered the field of play, look to issue bans on attending future matches."

### IN BRIEF

#### Jose banned, fined

AFP, Rome

Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho was on Monday hit with a one-match touchline ban and a 15,000-euro fine after he was sent off during Sunday's 2-1 win at Cagliari.

The Portuguese boss was sent to the stands 13 minutes after the break after protesting vehemently on the sideline after referee Daniele Orsato failed to book Cagliari player Davide Astori for a foul on Inter's Mario Balotelli.

Italy's football judicial body said Mourinho "had theatrically contested a referee's decision and repeatedly directed harsh insults at the referee".

#### Bananas thrown at Diouf?

AFP, Liverpool

No police investigation has been launched into allegations by Senegal international El-Hadji Diouf that bananas were thrown at him at Goodison Park, Premier League club Everton insisted on Wednesday.

The Blackburn player is being investigated by the Merseyside force for alleged racial abuse of a 14-year-old ball boy during Sunday's Premier League clash.

Diouf was seemingly involved in an altercation with the youngster during the first half at Goodison Park. The Senegal international is believed to have complained that the ball was not thrown back into play quickly enough.

Diouf told police after the final whistle that bananas were thrown at him from the Everton crowd.

But officers immediately scoured the area next to the pitch and in the stands but no bananas were found. No pictures have surfaced to back up his claim either.

#### Sheikh Mansour completes City buyout

AFP, Manchester

Manchester City's billionaire owner Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan on Wednesday completed a 100 per cent buyout of the English Premier League club.

Through the Abu Dhabi United Group for Development and Investment, Sheikh Mansour gained control of the club from disgraced former Thailand Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra last summer.

Shinawatra had kept a 10 per cent stake but now City have confirmed Mansour has gained control of that as well, giving him unquestioned control.

"As a result of the transaction, Manchester City is now 100 per cent owned by his highness Sheikh Mansour," said a club statement.

## Big guns scrape thru'

Football

AFP, London

Premier League big-guns Liverpool and Arsenal scraped into the League Cup fourth round with hard-fought wins over Leeds and West Bromwich Albion on Tuesday.

Rafa Benitez's Liverpool, seven-time winners of the competition, were fortunate to be level against League One leaders Leeds at Elland Road when David N'Gog's strike midway through the second half sealed a 1-0 victory.

Benitez made nine changes to the team that won at West Ham on Saturday, with only Jamie Carragher and Javier Mascherano retaining their places.

Simon Grayson's team thought they had taken the lead when Jermaine Beckford and Luciano Becchio combined to turn in Lubomir Michalik's header, but the effort was ruled out for offside.

Leeds wasted several more chances to shock the Reds before French striker N'Gog broke the deadlock in the 66th minute.

N'Gog controlled Mascherano's shot, turned and drove home a fine finish to silence the 39,000 capacity crowd.

Arsenal's latest batch of young starlets eventually saw off 10-man West Bromwich Albion 2-0 at the Emirates Stadium thanks to a debut goal from teenage striker Sanchez Watt.

Arsene Wenger's eleven changes to the side who thrashed Wigan at the weekend included a first Gunners starts for Watt, Polish goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny, Francis Coquelin and Gilles Sunu.

The tie turned in Arsenal's favour when former Gunners winger Jerome Thomas was sent off for a push on Jack Wilshere just before the break.

Albion held out until the 68th minute when Dean Kiely

fumbled Carlos Vela's shot and Watt tapped in the rebound. Mexican forward Vela sealed the victory in the 76th minute.

Premier League newboys Burnley suffered a dismal 3-2 defeat at Championship strugglers Barnsley.

Steven Fletcher had given Burnley the lead but Jon Macken equalised and Anderson De Silva put Barnsley ahead.

Chris Eagles levelled for Burnley but the visitors lost goalkeeper Brian Jensen and striker Martin Paterson to injuries and tumbled out when Hugo Colace struck in the 75th minute.

Stoke staged a sensational fightback to beat Championship side Blackpool 4-3 at the Britannia Stadium.

Tony Pulis's were facing a shock exit after Wales midfielder David Vaughan's long-range strike put Blackpool ahead in the 40th minute and then Billy Clarke added a second soon after the interval.

They wasted a chance to get back in the match when Liam Lawrence's penalty was saved by Matthew Gilks.

But Danny Higginbotham gave Stoke hope in the 75th

minute and Matthew Etherington equalised three minutes later.

Ricardo Fuller looked to have won it for Stoke when he scored in the 80th minute.

Blackpool hit back again through Ben Burgess in the 81st minute, only for Stoke defender Andy Griffin to win it in stoppage time.

South African striker Benni McCarthy sent Blackburn through with a superb strike as Rovers defeated Championship club Nottingham Forest 1-0 at the City Ground.

Newcastle were dumped out by fellow Championship outfit Peterborough as Darren Ferguson's side cruised to a 2-0 victory at London Road.

Sunderland dispatched fellow Premier League side Birmingham 2-0 at the Stadium of Light thanks to first-half goals from Jordan Henderson and Fraizer Campbell.

Portsmouth won 3-1 at League One Carlisle, Bolton relieved the pressure on boss Gary Megson with a 3-1 win over West Ham after extra time, while Scunthorpe defeated League Two Port Vale 2-0 after extra time.



PHOTO: AFP

Arsenal striker Carlos Vela (L) celebrates his goal with teammate Sanchez Watt during their Carling Cup 3rd round tie against West Bromwich Albion at the Emirates Stadium on Tuesday.

## Juve wary of Genoa

AFP, Rome



Genoa host Juventus in a mid-week match that could go some way to establishing the relative merits of each side's title credentials.

Juventus lie second in the Serie A table, just goals scored behind surprise leaders Sampdoria.

Samp's city rivals Genoa had been the previous pace-setters until the weekend when a 3-1 reverse at Chievo halted their own 100 per cent run.

Genoa did have the excuse, though, that they had played a tough Europa League match on Thursday and their troops looked a little battle weary.

But if they hope to keep pace with the front-runners in Serie A this season and progress in the Europa League at the same time, they are going to have to get used to playing twice a week and recovering quickly.

This match presents Genoa with the opportunity to demonstrate whether or not that Chievo defeat was just a blip and that they really can mix it with the best, or whether their early season form was merely a false dawn.

For Juventus, who still hold a 100 per cent record, this game will show whether or not they have the capacity to go to tough away grounds and come away with the kind of results that turn pretenders into title challengers.

And goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, the star of their 2-0 defeat of Livorno on Saturday, is adamant the team must avoid the kind of fate that awaited them last season in a 3-2 defeat.

"I don't want to concede three goals again," joked Italy's number one. "Genoa are a very good side, particularly when they play at home because they play in a fantastic stadium and the atmosphere generated could provide an extra problem for us."

"But we have to be strong and not be intimidated by the passion of the locals."

### RESULTS

#### Primera Liga

Sunday

Almeria 1 (Michel 47) Getafe 0  
Athletic Bilbao 3 (Llorente 11, 39, Javi Martinez 58) Villarreal 2 (Cani 48, Cazorla 84)  
Real Madrid 5 (Cristiano Ronaldo 1, 75, Guti 78, Benzema 81, Vap Nistelrooy 88) Xerez 0  
Real Zaragoza 1 (Jorge Lopez 26) Valladolid 2 (Marquitos 3, Sisi 56)  
Valencia 2 (Villa 24, 60) Sporting Gijon 2 (Barral 7, Arnolin 86)

Saturday

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Lopez 27, Lassad 75) Espanyol 3 (Callejon 19, Forlan 41, Verdu 53)  
Real Mallorca 4 (Suarez 16, Aduriz 50, Julio Alvarez 58, Webo 88-pen) Tenerife 0  
Malaga 1 (Duda 71) Racing Santander 2 (Arana 36, Morris 79)  
Osasuna 0 Sevilla 2 (Negredo 37, Kanoute 71)  
Barcelona 5 (Ibrahimovic 2, Messi 16, 90+4, Dani Alves 30, Keita 41) Atletico Madrid 2 (Aguero 45, Forlan 84)

#### Serie A

Sunday

AC Milan 1 (Seedorf 75) Bologna 0  
Bari 4 (Rivas 7, Barreto 9, Alvarez 39, Donati 61) Atalanta 1 (Bellini 84)  
Cagliari 1 (Jeda 16-pen) Inter Milan 2 (Milito 51, 55)  
Catania 1 (Martinez 12) Lazio 1 (Cruz 57)  
Chievo 3 (Marcolini 5-pen, Bogdani 7, Pellissier 77) Genoa 1 (Flocchi 65-pen)  
Parma 1 (Zaccardo 17) Palermo 0  
Sampdoria 4 (Palombo 23, Mannini 31, Padalino 48, 85) Siena 1 (Fini 68)

AS Roma 3 (Totti 27-pen, 33, De Rossi 41) Fiorentina 1 (Gilardino 84)

Saturday

Juventus 2 (Iaquinta 8, Marchisio 30) Livorno 0  
Napoli 0 Udinese 0

#### English Premier League

Sunday

Chelsea 3 (A Cole 32, Ballack 58, Drogba 63) Tottenham 0  
Everton 3 (Saha 22, 54, Yobo 58) Blackburn 0  
Man Utd 4 (Rooney 2, Fletcher 49, 80, Owen 90+6) Man City 3 (Barry 16, Bellamy 52, 90)  
Wolverhampton 2 (Doyle 18, Edwards 50) Fulham 1 (Murphy 66-pen)

Saturday

Arsenal 4 (Vermaelen 25, 49, Ebouie 59, Fabregas 90) Wigan 0  
Aston Villa 2 (Milner 34-pen, Agbonlahor 43) Portsmouth 0  
Bolton 1 (Taylor 89-pen) Stoke 1 (Kitson 53)  
Burnley 3 (Alexander 13-pen, Nugent 67, 86) Sunderland 1 (Bent 39)  
Hull 0 Birmingham 1 (O'Connor 75)  
West Ham 2 (Diamanti 29-pen, Cole 45) Liverpool 3 (Torres 20, 75, Kuyt 41)

## England set Brazil date

AFP, London

England's build-up to next year's World Cup finals will include a friendly against Brazil in Doha on November 14, the Football Association (FA) confirmed on Wednesday.

The clash with the five-times World Cup winners will take place at the 50,000-capacity Khalifa International Stadium and will be England's first visit to Qatar.

England coach Fabio

Capello has made a priority of organising friendlies against the world's strongest teams in preparation for the challenge his squad will face in South Africa.

England faced Holland in Amsterdam in August and played away friendlies against Spain and Germany last season, leaving Capello keen to see what his players were capable of against South American opposition.

"To play a team like Brazil

will be important for us," the Italian said. "We can understand more about ourselves and the level we must reach by playing the best teams."

"We have played Spain, Holland, Germany and France, some of the best teams in the world. In each of these games we have also played away from home, which is important before South Africa."

"One of the benefits of securing qualification against Croatia is that we can start to plan for the World Cup and this match is one part of our plans."

A 5-1 hammering of Croatia earlier this month enabled England to clinch their place in South Africa with two games to spare after winning eight straight matches in their qualifying group.

England have two qualifying fixtures to complete -- away to Ukraine and at home to Belarus next month -- before the Brazil match.