

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 officials 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 of 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 Escudé 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 Halli 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 Osnabrück while defending cup holders Werder Bremen are at home to Hamburg side St Pauli.

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 Daniela Orsato failed to book Cagliari player Davide Astori for a foul on Inter's Mauro 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-Hadj 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 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.

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."

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 rivals Leeds at Elland Road when David Ngog'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 Ngog broke the deadlock in the 66th minute.

Ngog 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 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.

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' 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.

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

But Danny Higginbotham gave Stoke hope in the 75th

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, Vag 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, Forlin 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 (Araujo 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, Pelizzieri 77) Genoa 1 (Fioccar 65-pen)
Parma 1 (Zaccardo 17) Palermo 0
Sampdoria 4 (Palombo 23, Mannini 31, Padalino 48, Siena 1 (Fin 68)
AS Roma 3 (Totti 27-pen, 33, De Rossi 41) Fiorentina 1 (Gialdino 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, Eboue 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

AFF, 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.