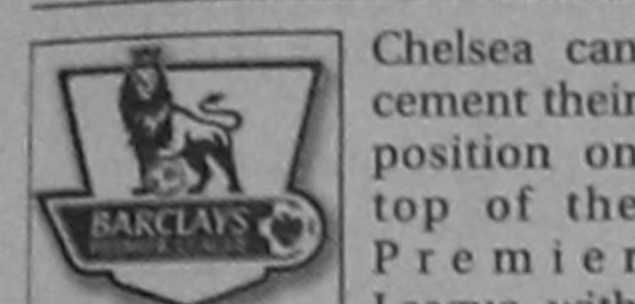


# Blues aim to extend lead

AFP, London



Chelsea can cement their position on top of the Premier League with a win over Birmingham on Saturday, while new Manchester City boss Roberto Mancini gets his first taste of English football against Stoke.

With second-placed Manchester United not in action until Sunday's clash at Hull, Carlo Ancelotti's Chelsea will move seven points clear of the reigning champions if they can defeat Birmingham at St Andrews.

But Ancelotti, whose team have spluttered of late, would be wise not to take Birmingham for granted.

While Chelsea have looked surprisingly vulnerable during a run of one win in six matches in all competitions, Birmingham have risen to seventh place on the back of a nine-match unbeaten run.

Ancelotti, who will be without injured France striker Nicolas Anelka, needs a big performance from Didier Drogba after the Ivory Coast striker's anonymous effort in last weekend's 1-1 draw at

West Ham as he will be making his last appearance before flying off to the African Nations Cup.

"Birmingham have had five consecutive victories and a draw," Ancelotti said.

"Above all, it's difficult to play up there. They put a lot of pressure on and we'll have to pay attention."

While Ancelotti looks for the solution to Chelsea's recent inconsistency, his compatriot Mancini will hope for an early sign that there is no dressing room dissent over his appointment.

Several of City's players including Craig Bellamy and Shay Given were reported to be unhappy that Mark Hughes was sacked to make way for former Inter Milan coach Mancini.

Hughes was dismissed despite losing just two league matches this season, so Mancini will know that only instant success will satisfy the club's Abu Dhabi based owners.

But the former Italy forward, who has only been at City for a week, said: "I thought the players trained very well. I think I have a good team and we have only one problem and that is many players injured."

"I have a good relationship with the players. I appreciate some players are close to Mark but that is a good thing for a manager."

Rafael Benitez is another manager under close scrutiny this weekend after Liverpool's woeful 2-0 defeat at Portsmouth last Saturday left them eight points behind fourth-placed Aston Villa.

Missing out on a spot in the Champions League would leave Benitez in severe danger of losing his job and Spaniard, whose side host Wolves, acknowledges things must change soon.

"I must manage and control the anxiety of the players, and the anxiety of the fans," Benitez said.

## FIXTURES

(1500GMT unless stated)  
**Saturday**  
 Birmingham v Chelsea (1245GMT), Burnley v Bolton (1400GMT), Fulham v Tottenham (1300GMT), Liverpool v Wolverhampton (1730GMT), Man City v Stoke, Sunderland v Everton, West Ham v Portsmouth (1300GMT), Wigan v Blackburn  
**Sunday**  
 Arsenal v Aston Villa (1330GMT), Hull v Man Utd (1600GMT)

"We know we have to change the situation, sooner rather than later. That is clear."

"If we talk too much about having to win a title, or win a cup, it just makes things worse. We must help our players by making them concentrate on the next match and winning it."

Liverpool's poor form has given Villa and Tottenham hope of snatching one of those lucrative top four spots.

Villa, who have already beaten United, Liverpool and Chelsea this season, go in search of a big four clean sweep at Arsenal on Sunday.

Tottenham travel across London to face Fulham, who thrashed United 3-0 last weekend.

That loss was the lowest moment for United in an erratic campaign marred by injuries to a host of defenders.

Sir Alex Ferguson hopes to have Nemanja Vidic or Wes Brown back at Hull on Sunday, but he knows the hosts will go on the attack in an attempt to exploit United's weakness at the back.

"Hull will be encouraged by the fact we have these defenders injured. They will certainly have a go at us," Ferguson said.

## IN BRIEF

### Raul given Spain hope

INTERNET, undated

Spain coach Vicente del Bosque insists Real Madrid captain Raul is a chance to make the World Cup squad.

Raul has struggled for first-team football since coach Manuel Pellegrini's arrival in the summer and his chances of making Del Bosque's squad appeared to be all-but over.

However, the coach told Marca: "I have a personal appreciation for Raul and I'm not talking about tributes because for me, he is a player that I could select."

One possible rival for Raul's place in the squad may be in-form Barcelona attacker Pedro.

"Pedro is a possible World Cup player with or without the goal he scored against Estudiantes (in the Club World Cup final)," said Del Bosque.

"In his position we have a number of talented players, but we have six months to make the best decision."

### Ronaldinho targets WC place

INTERNET, undated

AC Milan ace Ronaldinho is determined to make Brazil's 2010 World Cup squad.

The former Ballon d'Or winner has lost his place in the Selecao after a dip in form at firstly Barcelona and then Milan.

But he says: "The year which is about to end has been a positive one for myself and for Milan, but 2010 will be even better."

"It is true that I hope to go to the World Cup, but I don't want to get there because of the things I say."

"I want to prove with my footballing ability that I deserve a spot in the squad."

# 'City stars back me'

AFP, Manchester



Roberto Mancini insists there has been no dressing room rebellion at Manchester City in response to his arrival as replacement for sacked boss Mark Hughes.

Mancini arrived at Eastlands on Monday following Hughes's dismissal last weekend and reports in England claimed a number of senior players including Craig Bellamy and Shay Given had protested about the decision to City chief executive Garry Cook.

It has been suggested that Bellamy, Given and other players close to Hughes could ask to leave during the January transfer window.

But former Inter Milan coach Mancini claims he hasn't had any complaints about his squad's attitude in training this week.

"I thought the players trained very well. I think I have a good team and we have only one problem and that is many players injured," Mancini said.

"I have a good relationship with the players. I appreciate some players are close to Mark but that is a good thing for a manager."

"When I go away from Manchester City in 15 years after five Premier League titles and four cups the players will have the same situation with me!"

Mancini also dismissed claims made by Cook this week that he had previously been approached by Liverpool when American owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett were considering the future of Reds manager

Rafa Benitez.

"Liverpool never contacted me, absolutely. They have a good manager, Rafa is a good manager," Mancini said.

Mancini set a target of finishing in the top four when he was unveiled as City boss on Monday and he believes he can match his achievements at Inter in the long run.

He won three Serie A titles with the San Siro club, helping Inter replace AC as the city's dominant force. To do the same in Manchester would be quite an effort but Mancini is convinced it is possible.

"It depends (finishing in the top four) but I think so. It is important now we concentrate on Boxing Day's game at home to Stoke and then after that one game at a time," he said.

"I think I can do a job and my target, always, is to win. Inter Milan was a good job. I arrived there when they had not won in 18 years and after one year they won the cup and then after that the championship."

"I think I can do the same in Manchester but for this it is important that I work hard and I get to know the team fast."

Mancini accepts it will take time for the players to adjust to his methods but hopes to have the team playing his way within a month.

"We must work out our defensive problem. A balance to the team is the most important situation but for this we must work every day," he said.

"After three or four weeks it will be possible for them to adapt to my style."

"I hope the players play well on Saturday and understand my team talk."

## Lehmann in more strife

INTERNET, undated

Stuttgart goalkeeper Jens Lehmann may be taken to court for theft after he took a pair of glasses from a fan following a recent Bundesliga fixture.

Lehmann left Mainz's Bruchweg Stadium in a rage after a 1-1 draw earlier this month and, on his way out of the stadium, tore a pair of glasses from the face of a fan who had confronted him.

After a short while, Lehmann gave the glasses back, but the fan is now looking to bring charges against the former Germany goalkeeper for theft. And he has already contacted the local police, according to Sport Bild magazine.

"We have received a report of an offence against Mr Lehmann," said the director of Mainz's state prosecutors to the magazine.

"We will look into the matter as normal."

Lehmann later apologised for his actions, but said he had acted in such a manner since it was "the only way to shut him up".

The 40-year-old was angry after being sent off and conceding a penalty close to the conclusion of a match his side drew 1-1, and he was searching for a taxi to take him to Frankfurt airport rather than joining his team-mates on the club coach.

He was reprimanded and ordered to pay a heavy fine by Stuttgart, but it seems he may not have heard the last of the incident.

## Zamora dazzles Hodgson

AFP, London

Fulham manager Roy Hodgson believes Bobby Zamora's dazzling goal-scoring form has been instrumental in the Cottagers' push into the top half of the English Premier League as well as into Europe.

The 28-year-old striker scored his 10th goal of the season in Saturday's 3-0 shock win over Manchester United, justifying his decision to turn down a move to Hull in the summer.

His form has also left Hodgson unconcerned about his failed nine-million-pound bid to buy England striker Peter Crouch from Portsmouth before the season got underway.

"Crouch had the chance to join Fulham or Tottenham and he chose them. That meant we were able to keep Bobby. With Bobby playing well it's not something we've missed," said Hodgson.

"When Bobby was on his way to Hull, as was being mooted at the time, it would have been much more problematic for us. Peter made his decision and we're pleased he's doing well but we've survived with the players we have."

Zamora will lead the Fulham attack against Tottenham on Saturday and at league leaders Chelsea on Monday.

Fulham will renew their Europa League campaign in February against Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk.

# 'Progress being made'

## Football

AFP, London

Arsene Wenger has claimed that Arsenal's last four trophy-less seasons have given him more satisfaction than any other spell in his long career with the Premier League team.

Wenger's side have failed to win major silverware since lifting the FA Cup in 2005, but the Gunners boss, who arrived in north London 1996, believes the progress made by the club on and off the pitch makes it the most rewarding time.

The Frenchman has overseen Arsenal's move to the Emirates Stadium, the construction of a new training ground and the development of a hugely successful youth academy.

"For me the best period at the club is the last four years but unfortunately it is also the period where we have not won trophies," Wenger said.

"But people forget we have been reasonably consistent and it has been the most difficult period, but as well for me, the period where I worked the best."

"Moving into a new stadium, with fewer resources, people should respect the fact we have still made some money in every single year without the team dropping a level and maintaining a successful period in the Champions League and reasonably in the league. I think it was quite difficult."

"The last four years have been the most challenging. It's not linked with the fact we have won no trophies. I think it is moving into

the new stadium and keeping the team at the top."

Wenger, reflecting on his 13-year reign in a webchat with arsenal.com, admits there have been positive and negative changes to the Premier League since his arrival from Japan's Grampus Eight.

He is happy to be part of a league with such a renowned global brand, but feels the vast sums of money spent by top clubs have made the game too serious.

"It has become a worldwide product and when I travel nowadays I see how popular this league has become and we shouldn't take it for granted in England," he said.

"Firstly it's a worldwide product, secondly the ownership has changed completely, the structure of the game has changed. And don't forget, for example, referees have become completely professional."

"The league has become much more professional, the pressure has become much bigger, financial input has become much bigger which means the quality of the games has become much better."

"All that has changed. In some ways for good, and some ways a bit more negatively because it's less relaxed. Everybody is a bit more tense."

"I felt 13 years ago a defeat was less dramatic than it is now, it's much more dramatic and tense."

"It is because of money and it is all about the Champions League now, being in the top four. A few years ago it was a bit more open and as soon as you are a bit out from what is expected of you now, it is a crisis."

## Hull boss furious at FA charge

AFP, Hull

Hull manager Phil Brown has hit out at the English Football Association after his club were charged with misconduct following last weekend's brawl at Arsenal.

Brown's team and Arsenal were both hit with the FA Charge of failing to control their players after a mass confrontation involving 21 of the 22 players on the field at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday.

The row started after Arsenal's Samir Nasri appeared to tread on the ankle of Hull midfielder Richard Garcia late in the first half.

But Brown, whose side lost 3-0, has defended the reaction of his players and made it clear the club will be contesting the charge.

"There was an incident for some reason, and I can't answer the accusations against Nasri. He decided to light the touchpaper," Brown said.

"It was there for everybody to see. It needed to be dealt with more severely and hasn't been."

"Why we are up for a charge I don't know. I defend the players to the hilt. As far as I am concerned that lad has gone in there with the intent to start a fight, to start a ruck."

"Maybe it was because Arsenal were hitting a brick wall in terms of the way they were playing. I don't know."

"We were doing our job to the best of our ability and maybe that's why they've decided to light the touchpaper, I've no idea."

"For us to come under criticism yet again is absolutely scandalous, and we'll be defending it."

# Forest dream of big-time return

## Football

AFP, London

While the chaos and intrigue engulfing Liverpool and Manchester City in recent weeks has inevitably hogged the sporting headlines in England, an equally intriguing story is quietly gathering pace at former European champions Nottingham Forest.

In a country transfixed by the dramas of its' biggest clubs, the attention will always linger far longer on City, Liverpool, Chelsea and Manchester United than it will a relatively unfashionable outfit like Forest.

But the reawakening of a sleeping giant by the banks of the River Trent could become one of the most fascinating tales of the season.

After a decade down in the doldrums, Forest, under the astute leadership of boss Billy Davies, have risen to third in the Championship - English football's second tier - and look capable of returning to the Premier League for the first time since 1999.

Forest are unbeaten in 14 matches and the City Ground faithful, who regularly post attendances of over 25,000, are finally able to dream about a brighter future for a club who have spent too long in the shadow of Brian Clough.

With Clough at the helm in the late 1970s, Forest - a provincial team who had rarely been able to compete with the game's superpowers - embarked on the greatest period in their history.

Promotion to the top-flight was followed by a league title in 1978 and then consecutive European Cup triumphs in 1979 and 1980.

Those glory days are a distant memory and even surviving in the Premier League now would represent a significant achievement for Forest.

Many in Nottingham believe Davies, who led Derby to promotion from the Championship in 2007, is the man to help them do just that.

Forest are level on points with West Bromwich Albion, who currently hold the second automatic promotion place, ahead of Saturday's clash at Watford.

Yet Davies himself is understandably keen to keep expectations low at such a delicate stage in Forest's rebuilding process.

"We are far from the finished article," he said. "We're a work in progress, I'm still developing the team."

"Promotion has not been spoken of because I stand by what I have always said, that the aim, this season, is to achieve a strong mid-table finish."

Defeating leaders Newcastle and play-off rival Leicester during their long unbeaten run suggests Forest should be aiming higher than that.

And Chris Gunter, the Forest defender, said: "We are not going to focus on other teams. We are going to focus on what we can influence, which is our own performance."

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Date: 20-12-2009

**Course Schedule of Bangladesh Computer Council**  
 January – June 2010

Sl.	Title of the course	Duration (hours)	Starting Date	Course Fee (Tk)	Last Date of Registration	Pre-requisite
1.	Microsoft Project	30 (5pm-8pm)	14-1-2010	3500	12-1-2010	Graduate, experience in the use of Windows applications.
2.	Introduction to Office Applications under WID	90 (10am-1pm)	14-1-2010	2500	12-1-2010	H.S.C or A Level or equivalent (only for women)
3.	Hardware Maintenance & Troubleshooting	72 (5pm-8pm)	17-1-2010	6000	14-1-2010	Graduate and experience in the use of computer
4.	Introduction to Office Applications	90 (5pm-8pm)	18-1-2010	4000	17-1-2010	H.S.C or A Level or equivalent
5.	Electronic Governance: Understanding e-Governance and related ICT issues for Implementation of e-Government	30 (5pm-8pm)	21-1-2010	5000	19-1-2010	First class Government officers
6.	Computer Networking using Linux	69 (5pm-8pm)	28-1-2010	6000	26-1-2010	Graduate; experience in the use of computer applications with practical knowledge in computer hardware
7.	Digital Video Editing	60 (5pm-8pm)	02-2-2010	6000	31-1-2010	H.S.C or A Level or equivalent and expertise in the use of Windows applications
8.	Web Site Design and Web Applications Development	75 (5pm-8pm)	09-2-2010	6000	07-2-2010	Graduate; experience in the use of general Windows applications; Experience in programming is preferable;
9.	Statistical Analysis using SPSS	69 (5pm-8pm)	16-2-2010	5000	14-2-2010	Graduate and experience in the use of general software applications
10.	Introduction to Office Applications	90 (10am-1pm)	04-3-2010	4000	02-3-2010	H.S.C or A Level or equivalent
11.	Advance Networking and ISP Setup	120 (5pm-8pm)	10-3-2010	12000	07-3-2010	Graduate; Experience in the use of computer, computer programming and networking
12.	Introduction to Office Applications under WID	90 (10am-1pm)	15-3-2010	2500	11-3-2010	H.S.C or A Level or equivalent (only for women)
13.	Hardware Maintenance & Troubleshooting	72 (5pm-8pm)	15-3-2010	6000	11-3-2010	Graduate and experience in the use of computer
14.	Database Application Development using Oracle	126 (5pm-8pm)	31-3-2010	9000	29-3-2010	Graduate; Experience in popular application packages and in Database Management
15.	Introduction to Office Applications	90 (5pm-8pm)	08-4-2010	4000	06-4-2010	H.S.C or A Level or equivalent
16.	Introduction to Office Applications under WID	90 (10am-1pm)	04-5-2010	2500	02-5-2010	H.S.C or A Level or equivalent (only for women)
17.	Hardware Maintenance & Troubleshooting	72 (5pm-8pm)	04-5-2010	6000	02-5-2010	Graduate and experience in the use of computer
18.	Electronic Governance: Understanding e-Governance and related ICT issues for Implementation of e-Government	30 (5pm-8pm)	12-5-2010	5000	10-5-2010	First class Government officers

Interested candidates are requested to register for the course within the deadline for registration. Two copies of recent passport-size attested photographs, a Pay Order/Bank Draft of the amount equal to the course fee drawn in favour of "Bangladesh Computer Council" and experience certificates (wherever applicable) have to be submitted for registration.

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