



An impassive Carlos Tevez is seen boarding the team bus after their away defeat to Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Tuesday. Manchester City lost 2-0 in Munich as Tevez disobeyed his manager Roberto Mancini's instructions to come on late in the second half. Mancini responded by saying Tevez would never play for City as long as he was manager.

Tevez causes a stir

AFP, Manchester



Manchester City star Carlos Tevez on Wednesday denied refusing to come off the substitutes bench during his team's Champions League defeat at Bayern Munich.

City manager Roberto Mancini angrily said Tevez was "finished" at the club after accusing the Argentinian of refusing to appear in the second half of Tuesday's game with the Premier League team trailing 2-0.

But Tevez denied Mancini's comments in a statement on Wednesday.

"In Munich on Tuesday I had warmed up and was ready to play. This is not the right time to get into specific details as to why this did not happen. But I wish to state that I never refused to play," Tevez said.

The 27-year-old striker blamed his failure to appear on "confusion" on the City bench and apologised to the club's fans for "any misunderstanding."

"I would like to apologise to all Manchester City fans, with whom I have always had a strong relationship, for any misunderstanding that occurred in Munich," Tevez said.

"They understand that when I am on the pitch I have always given my best for the club.

"... there was some confusion on the bench and I believe my position may have been misunderstood.

"Going forward I am ready to play when required and to fulfil my obligations."

Mancini had indicated Tevez -- reportedly one of the highest earners in English football with weekly wages of more than £200,000 -- would never play for the club again in the aftermath of Tuesday's defeat.

"If I have my way he will be out. He's finished with me," Mancini said.

"He refused to come on the pitch. What I said to Carlos is between me, him and the team but I am really disappointed because it is Carlos.

"Can you imagine a Bayern Munich, Milan or Man United player doing this?" he said. "He refused to warm up and again refused to go on the pitch.

Mancini later added he would be speaking with Manchester City chairman Khaldoon al-Mubarak in the next few days to decide what to do with Tevez.

"In the next days, we will speak with Khaldoon," said Mancini. "It is normal. He is the chairman. He decides everything.

"I cannot accept this behaviour from him (Tevez). I decide the substitutions, not Carlos."

Ex-players and media commentators backed Mancini on Wednesday, with former Liverpool star Graeme Souness describing Tevez as a "disgrace to football."

"He (Tevez) is one bad apple," Souness told Sky Sports. "He's a disgrace to football. He epitomises what most people think is wrong with modern football.

City silenced

AFP, Munich



Germany striker Mario Gomez scored twice as Bayern Munich beat Manchester City 2-0 in their Champions League match on Tuesday to give the winners their tenth straight victory.

After their 2-0 win at Villarreal a fortnight ago, the result leaves Bayern firmly in control of Group A and went some way to answering questions about the German league leaders' defence as they subdued City's star-studded attack.

City, currently only second in the Premier League to neighbours Manchester United, had few answers to Bayern's all-out attack and now have just one point from their opening two Champions League games in their debut campaign.

Gomez's first-half brace leaves him with 11 goals in his last seven games for Bayern in all competitions, while Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer picked up his tenth clean-sheet and he has conceded just one goal in 12 games this season.

It was only City's second defeat of the season since they lost the Charity Shield final to United on August 7 as Bayern dominated at the 66,000-sell out Allianz Arena, which will host the final next May.

Bath City get knickers in a twist

INTERNET

Bath City had five players sent off as an FA Youth Cup tie descended into farce following a row over underpants.

Bath manager Billy Clarke was also shown a red for dissent after the first of his players was sent off for the underwear violation 20 minutes into their eventual 6-0 loss to Newport County in the FA Youth Cup qualifying match. The BBC explains:

Underwear must be the same colour as the shorts but Bath's white pants were visible below their black shorts.

"It was all very surreal. I was angry with the officials," said Bath managing director Paul Williams.

"Why didn't the officials check the colours before the start?"

Ranieri proves Inter's charm

AFP, Moscow



New Inter Milan coach Claudio Ranieri saw the 2010 European champions chalk up their first points in Champions League Group B with a 3-2 win at CSKA Moscow here on Tuesday.

It was a testing night for the nerazzurri in the Russian capital, however, with victory not assured until Mauro Zarate netted in the 78th minute, after CSKA had fought back from 2-0 down to level the score.

Ranieri took over the Italian giants last week after Gian Piero Gasperini was sacked following a run of two defeats and a draw in their opening three Serie A games.

"We played in a proper manner today," said Inter manager Claudio Ranieri.

"I enjoyed my team's play. We linked up well and the players understood each other pretty well.

"But our mental strength was the key to our success."

Brazilian defender Lucio and forwards Giampaolo Pazzini and Zarate were all on target as Inter recorded their fifth win over CSKA in as many Champions League meetings.

Midfielder Alan Dzagoev and Brazilian forward Vagner Love found the net for the Red Army side.

The result lifted Inter into second place in the group, equal on three points with Trabzonspor, who play French champions Lille later on Tuesday.

Young spares MU blushes

AFP, Paris



A last-minute equaliser by Ashley Young spared Manchester United from humiliation against FC Basel in the Champions League on Tuesday, as Manchester City were outclassed 2-0 by Bayern Munich.

Leading 2-0 at half-time at Old Trafford, United found themselves 3-2 down after some calamitous defensive lapses and were staring at a devastating loss until Young headed home Nani's cross in the 90th minute.

There seemed little danger at the interval as the hosts led through two goals by Danny Welbeck, both created

RESULTS

Bayern Munich (GER) 2 (Gomez 38, 45+1) Manchester City (ENG) 0
Napoli (ITA) 2 (Hamsik 15, Cavani 17-pen) Villarreal (ESP) 0
CSKA Moscow (RUS) 2 (Dzagoev 45+3, Vagner Love 77) **Inter Milan (ITA) 3** (Lucio 6, Pazzini 23, Zarate 78)
Otelul Galati (ROM) 0
Benfica (POR) 1 (Cesar 40)
Manchester United (ENG) 3 (Welbeck 16, 17, Young 90) **Basel (SUI) 3** (F. Frei 58, A. Frei 60, 76)
Lyon (FRA) 2 (Gomis 23, Kone 42) **Dinamo Zagreb (CRO) 0**
Real Madrid (ESP) 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo 25,

by the evergreen Ryan Giggs.

The Swiss champions punished United in the second half, however, with Fabian Frei slamming home following a corner in the 58th minute before his fine cross set up Alexander Frei to equalise with a header two minutes later.

Panicking, United saw Antonio Valencia clumsily concede a penalty for a foul on Marco Streller and Alexander Frei stepped up to claim his second goal from the penalty spot.

Thorsten Fink's men were minutes from an unforgettable upset, but United refused to accept defeat and equalised at the death when Young claimed his first goal in Europe's elite club competition.

Kaka joins Real party

AFP, Madrid



Nine-time European champions Real Madrid strolled to a 3-0 victory over Dutch giants Ajax on Tuesday in their Champions League match to make it maximum points from their first two matches.

Goals from Cristian Ronaldo, Kaka - his first in the competition since 2009 - and French striker Karim Benzema sees them top the group two points ahead of Lyon.

The result left Aitor Karanka - who was running things from the touchline as Jose Mourinho served out the third of his three match touchline ban - happy with both the team and Kaka in particular.

"He (Kaka) has had a bad patch and it's been difficult for him, to see him happy and

enjoying his football makes me happy too," said Karanka.

"At no moment were we in any danger, we played to our strengths and from the first goal we were comfortable," he added.

It was a spectacularly quick counter-attack move on 25 minutes involving one touch passing from five different players that broke the deadlock, Ronaldo finishing with his right foot a move in which he was earlier involved.

Kaka received a pass from Ronaldo on 41 minutes and, instead of giving the easier return pass, turned and fired a left footed shot into the bottom right hand corner.

After the interval Madrid improved their passing game taking no more than three minutes for Kaka to finish off a sweeping move by edging the ball into the path of Benzema who made sure from 10 yards.

Bramble in hot water



AFP, Middlesbrough

Sunderland defender Titus Bramble was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of sexual assault and possession of hard drugs.

The 30-year-old English Premier League star was being held for questioning by Cleveland Police following an incident in the early hours.

Sunderland said it was making its own inquiries into his arrest.

Bramble lives in Wynyard, north of Middlesbrough in northeast England.

"A 30-year-old man from Wynyard has been arrested on suspicion of sexual assault and possession of a class A drug," said a spokeswoman for the force.

"He is currently being questioned by police and inquiries are ongoing."

Cleveland Police covers Middlesbrough and the surrounding area.

A spokesman for Sunderland said: "The club is looking into this matter but due to ongoing police investigations is unable to comment further at this stage."



Real Madrid star Kaka celebrates scoring his team's second goal during their Champions League clash against Ajax at the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid. Kaka shone as Madrid blitzed the Dutch side with some ferocious counter-attacks. Their first goal came in a breathtaking move that took 16 seconds and involved 5 players and 7 passes.

PHOTO: AFP

SPORTS POLL

Do you think Mushfiqur Rahim is a good choice as skipper?

Yes 60.4%

No 39.6%

TOTAL VOTES: 222

WEEKLY QUESTION

Who do you think West Indies will miss the most during the ODI series?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

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ESPN & STAR Cricket

Champions League T20

KKR v Bangalore

Live from 8:30pm

Sportscentre India

Sports News

Live at 11:30pm

TEN Sports

UEFA Europa League

Stade Rennais v Atletico Madrid

Live from 11:00pm

Stoke City v Besiktas

Live from 1:00am (Friday)

TEN Action+

UEFA Europa League

Odense v Fulham

Live from 11:00pm

Tottenham v Shamrock



BCB Red v BCB Green

Four-Day Practice Match, Day 4

Time: 9:30am

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket