



Chelsea midfielder Ramires (L) fights for the ball with Tottenham Hotspur counterpart Luka Modric during their Premier League encounter at Stamford Bridge yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Stalemate at the Bridge

AFP, London



Chelsea missed the chance to close the gap on Tottenham in the race for a top-four finish on Saturday, drawing 0-0 in the Premier League's early kick-off at Stamford Bridge.

A free-kick from Juan Mata that bounced back off a post was the closest Chelsea came to finding the net in a game that saw Tottenham create the better chance without ever truly dominating.

Tottenham saw Gareth Bale's header hit the bar after Gary Cahill, the Chelsea defender, had made a goal-saving block to deny Emmanuel Adebayor.

The draw left fifth-placed Chelsea five points adrift of a coveted Champions League qualifying berth, and fourth-placed Tottenham were unlucky not to take all three points after twice going close late on.

Spurs, bidding to secure their first league win at Chelsea since 1990, enjoyed the better of the chances without ever managing to dominate their London rivals in a game played in brilliant sunshine.

Both managers made changes to the starting line-up, with John Terry returning from a knee injury to captain a Chelsea side that also saw Jose Bosingwa, Michael Essien, Daniel Sturridge and Didier Drogba recalled.

The best chance of a lacklustre first half came two minutes into injury time, when Tottenham attacker Rafael van der Vaart spurned a golden opportunity, denied by a Petr Cech save and a goal-line block by Ashley Cole.

Chelsea's only genuine chance on goal came on 73 minutes when a Juan Mata free-kick hit the woodwork with Tottenham goalkeeper Brad Friedel well-beaten.

Blues substitute David Luiz was unable to get into position to rifle in the rebound and the chance had gone.

At the other end, Chelsea had transfer window signing Gary Cahill to thank for a superb sliding block from Emmanuel Adebayor on 79 minutes, the England international cutting out the Togolese striker's effort after he had successfully rounded Petr Cech and shot.

From the ensuing corner Tottenham midfielder Gareth Bale crashed a thumping header off the crossbar but Chelsea escaped again.

## Deadly protest follows ban

AFP, Cairo

A boy was shot dead when Egyptian forces clashed with football fans protesting against a ban on their club over a stadium riot that killed dozens last month, officials said on Saturday.

Security officials said the boy was 13 years old, and that another 18 Al-Masry football club supporters were injured in the violence that broke out overnight in Port Said.

The official Al-Ahram newspaper reported that the boy was shot in the back.

By Saturday morning, the protesters had blocked routes into Port Said, witnesses said, creating traffic jams for several kilometres (miles) outside the Mediterranean city.

The protest erupted after the Egyptian Football Association banned Al-Masry from playing for two years and cancelled matches at Port Said stadium for three years, the newspaper reported.

# Messi and I think quicker: Maradona



Football

AFP, Rome

Diego Maradona believes there is one trait that sets himself and Lionel Messi apart from the rest when it comes to discussing the best players of all time: speed of thought.

For many years Maradona was one half of the great debate as to who was the best ever player: him or Brazilian Pele.

But with Messi's recent record-breaking exploits, many consider him to be a legitimate contender for that theoretic title.

And while Maradona has never been shy in publicising his own claims over Pele's, he is less willing to blow his own trumpet when compared to his Argentine compatriot.

"The (best player) lists make me laugh but there is one ability, most of all one, that no one has ever had like Leo and myself: speed of thought," Maradona told Saturday's Gazzetta dello Sport.

"When I coached him the thing I saw in him that reminded me of myself was the lightning understanding of how the move would develop.

"It's an innate quality worthy of a computer. Had we been able to communicate with someone who thought at the same speed we could have both given even more."

Looking just at today's players, Maradona says Messi is in a league of his own but he has a surprise in his top three.

"My rankings would be Messi, (Cristiano) Ronaldo and then Ibra (Zlatan Ibrahimovic) and (Wayne) Rooney together and (Sergio) Kun Aguero is in the top 10 but he's rising."

Maradona also turned his attentions to his problems with the Italian taxman, repeating his oft stated claim that he does not owe the 38 million euros being claimed.

And Maradona insists he's been treated unfairly.

"I'm not a tax evader, I hate tax-evaders and so I'm twice as bitter about this situation," he said.

"I have a decision from 1994 that says I don't owe anything but I don't understand why the cards changed on the table.

"The thing I want to know is why I am the only one persecuted.

"Ferlaino, who signed the contracts with me, lives calmly in Naples, my ex-agent Coppola, who prepared them, comes and goes to Italy without any problems.

"And yet every time I put my feet down (in Italy) I'm subjected to the humiliation of being stripped of watches and earrings."

Customs officers have been ordered to seize anything of value from Maradona when he comes to Italy to help pay off his debt.

## Wolves stay in the hunt

REUTERS, Berlin

VfL Wolfsburg beat Hamburg SV 2-1 on Friday to stay in contention for a European spot and leave their opponents battling against relegation after suffering a fourth straight defeat.

Wolfsburg's third consecutive win lifted the 2009 champions to eighth on 37 points. Sixth place at the end of the season will be enough to qualify for the Europa League.

Hamburg, the only club never to have played in the second division since the introduction of the Bundesliga in 1963, remained stuck in 14th position on 27, two points above the relegation playoff zone after their fifth defeat in six games.

After a lacklustre first half, Wolfsburg grabbed the lead straight after the restart when Iran international Ashkan Dejagah raced down the right and crossed for Mario Mandzukic at the far post to head in his 10th league goal of the season.

Hamburg equalised a minute later as Marcus Berg chipped the ball over on-rushing keeper Diego Benaglio.

Former Germany international Marcel Schaefer restored Wolfsburg's lead in the 75th minute, curling a free kick under keeper Jaroslav Drobný's body.

## Wenger advises Wilshere

AFP, London

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has told injury-plagued Jack Wilshere to forget about playing in the Olympic Games and target a full Premier League season instead.

Wilshere hasn't played at all in the current campaign due to a stress fracture of his right ankle although he could feature in the closing stages of the season as Arsenal look to clinch a Champions League spot.

"Wilshere going to the Euros is a decision that fortunately I don't have to make," said Wenger.

"I would only intervene if I believe that medically he's at risk."

And the Frenchman added: "The Olympics destroys the start of the season for us. If he could play, we'd rather he went to the Euros than the Olympics."

# Real duo punished

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid duo Pepe and Mesut Ozil were on Friday hit with two and one match bans respectively for arguing with a referee, raising pressure on the league leaders as Barcelona snap at their heels.

The Spanish Football Federation also handed a one-match ban to Real's Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho over the bad-tempered 1-1 draw against Villarreal on Wednesday.

Two Real Madrid players got red cards in the closing moments of the match: defender Sergio Ramos for a second yellow card, and Ozil for protesting that decision.

Among angry exchanges involving Real Madrid members, referee Paradas Romero also sent Mourinho to the stands along with his assistant Rui Faria. Pepe insulted Romero, according to Spanish media.

Mourinho received a "one-match ban for a double booking and consequent expulsion" from the touchline, while Faria received a two-match ban, the federation said in a statement.

Ramos escaped a ban in Friday's ruling by the federation's Competition Committee, which listed the sanctions in a regular bulletin released after a meeting on Friday.

SPORTS POLL

WEEKLY QUESTION

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STAR Sports

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Malaysian GP

Live at 1:45pm

ESPN

English Premiership

West Brom v Newcastle

Live at 8:55pm

TEN Action

Serie A

Atalanta v Bologna

Live from 5:25pm

La Liga

Rayo Vallecano v Villarreal

Live from 12:40am (Monday)

TEN Cricket

West Indies v Australia

Fifth ODI

Live from 7:30pm

NEO Cricket

New Zealand v South Africa

Third Test, Day Four

Live from 3:30am (Monday)



PHOTO: INTERNET

Argentina superstar Lionel Messi (L) with former national coach Diego Maradona.

আকর্ষণীয় মুনাফা

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় প্রকল্পসমূহ

০১।

পরিবার সঞ্চয়পত্র (৫-বছর মেয়াদী); মুনাফার হারঃ ১৩.৪৫%।

এক লক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি মাসে নীট মুনাফা ১,০৭০ (এক হাজার সত্তর) টাকা।

০২।

পেনশনার সঞ্চয়পত্র (৫-বছর মেয়াদী); মুনাফার হারঃ ১৩.১৯%।

এক লক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি তিন মাসে নীট মুনাফা ৩,১৪৫ (তিন হাজার একশত পঁয়তাল্লিশ) টাকা।

০৩।

৫-বছর মেয়াদী বাংলাদেশ সঞ্চয়পত্র; মুনাফার হারঃ ১৩.১৯%।

এক লক্ষ টাকায় মেয়াদান্তে (৫-বছর) নীট মুনাফা ৬২,৯০০ (ষাষটি হাজার নয়শত) টাকা।

০৪।

৩-মাস অন্তর মুনাফাভিত্তিক সঞ্চয়পত্র (৩-বছর মেয়াদী); মুনাফার হারঃ ১২.৫৯%।

এক লক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি তিন মাসে নীট মুনাফা ৩,০০০ (তিন হাজার) টাকা।

০৫।

ডাকঘর সঞ্চয় ব্যাংক মেয়াদী হিসাব (৩ বছর মেয়াদী); মুনাফার হারঃ ১৩.২৪%।

এক লক্ষ টাকায় মেয়াদান্তে (৩-বছর) নীট মুনাফা ৩৬,০০০ (ছত্রিশ হাজার) টাকা।

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় পরিদপ্তর

অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়

[ বিদ্রোহ বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য নিকটস্থ সঞ্চয় অফিস/ডাকঘর/ব্যাংকের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন এবং ]

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