



PHOTO: REUTERS  
It was not sure whether 'Seeing is Believing', the logo on the limited edition home shirt of famous Liverpool club, played a major part in the Reds' 4-1 win against Chelsea at Anfield on Tuesday, but it surely was a good effort from Liverpool's main sponsor Standard Chartered as part of its global charitable initiative aimed at tackling avoidable blindness. Here Liverpool's Jonjo Shelvey fires in the fourth goal against the Blues.

## Loew to stay till 2014

AFP, Berlin

Germany coach Joachim Loew will remain in his post until 2014 even if his side fail to win Euro 2012, the German football federation (DFB) said Wednesday.

Loew has been coach of Germany since July 2006 and has steered them to the Euro 2008 final, where they were beaten by Spain, and a third place finish at the 2010 World Cup behind Spain and the Netherlands.

DFB president Wolfgang Niersbach believes the 52-year-old Loew and his general manager, Oliver Bierhoff, are doing an "excellent" job.

# L'pool thrash Chelsea

AFP, Liverpool



Liverpool scored three times in nine first-half minutes to avenge Saturday's FA Cup final defeat by Chelsea as they beat the Champions League finalists 4-1 at Anfield here on Tuesday.

Michael Essien's own-goal and goals from Jordan Henderson, Daniel Agger and Jonjo Shelvey ensured Fernando Torres endured a nightmare return to his former club since leaving for £50 million (\$81 million) in January 2011.

The defeat means Chelsea must beat Bayern Munich in the Champions League final on May 19 if they are to secure a place in the competition next season as they can now no longer finish fourth in the Premier League.

Chelsea caretaker manager Roberto di Matteo made wholesale changes to his side, but the Italian will be concerned the FA Cup winners have now won just one of their last five league games.

Rarely have Liverpool looked forward to the end of the season so much after enduring a campaign where a League Cup final win has failed to mask their mediocre league form.

They lost their last two games at Anfield while their fans had been starved

of a home league win since March 13 and even this victory left the Reds, managed by Anfield great Kenny Dalglish, in a relatively lowly eighth place.

Chelsea went into the game having secured more away points (25) than Liverpool had managed at home (24).

But di Matteo's decision to rest his key players ahead of the Champions League final back-fired spectacularly.

Chelsea made eight changes to the side that started the 2-1 FA Cup win over Liverpool at Wembley.

Liverpool, who were without skipper Steven Gerrard, were clearly desperate to put right the wrongs from a disappointing performance at the weekend.

And they never looked back after Essien turned the ball into his own net in the 19th minute while trying to clear from Luis Suarez.

Two minutes earlier Branislav Ivanovic rattled the woodwork after a corner from six-yards when the unmarked Chelsea defender should have done better.

Chelsea captain John Terry then slipped to pave the way for Henderson to double Liverpool's lead in the 25th minute, the former Sunderland player producing a delightful finish past

keeper Ross Turnbull.

And Agger made it 3-0 in the 28th minute when the Dane nodded home after clever work by Andy Carroll.

Former Liverpool striker Torres, who had managed just seven goals in his previous 44 Premier League appearances for the Londoners, was denied by the woodwork before half time with an angled shot.

Liverpool's Stewart Downing, yet to score a league goal since joining from Aston Villa in pre-season, then twice hit the woodwork himself before the break.

Having struck the bar with a dipping 25-yard attempt, the winger then hit a post from the penalty spot after Ivanovic had fouled Carroll in the dying moments of a thrilling first half.

Chelsea did reduce their deficit in the 50th minute.

Ramires scored against the Reds at Wembley and the Brazilian was at it again as Florent Malouda's free-kick hit his midriff before trickling into the net.

But Chelsea's revival was short-lived thanks to Turnbull.

The keeper's attempted clearance landed at the feet of Shelvey, who rifled a first-time effort from 30-yards into the net in front of the Kop to make it 4-1 in the 61st minute.

## Messi in racism row

Football

MAIL ONLINE

The world's best footballer Lionel Messi has been dragged into a race row by axed Everton midfielder Royston Drenthe.

Dutchman Drenthe, who has effectively cut short a disappointing spell at Goodison Park, is officially owned by Real Madrid, and came up against Messi during his time in Spain.

It is then that the Holland international alleges he was called a 'negro' by the FIFA world player of the year, the same claims laid at Luis Suarez, another South American, by Patrice Evra.

Uruguay Suarez was banned for eight matches and fined £40,000 earlier this season after being found guilty of using abusive and/or insulting words and/or behaviour in a Premier League match in 2011.

The striker, who previously played in Holland with Ajax, defended himself on the grounds of cultural differences and that he was unaware that language acceptable in his country was viewed as racist in Europe.

In an article on Dutch news website Nu.nl, Drenthe says: 'I played against him many times and we always have problems with each other.'

'You know what bothers me so? That tone

with which he always says, "negro, negro". I understand that "negro" in South America is very common, but we can not stand it.

'Mahamadou Diarra, my teammate at Real, could explode if "negro" was aimed at him. The Argentinean Gabriel Heinze and Gonzalo Higuain said it initially on the training ground, but they were stopped.

'When Hercules (the team Drenthe spent a year on loan with last season) played Barcelona, during the game I had a small altercation with him. He gave me a hand in the match and again said a few times, "hola negro".'

Messi nor Barcelona are yet to comment.

In the same interview Drenthe revealed he is seeking a return to Feyenoord, ending his troubled five-year spell with Real Madrid. The 25-year-old midfielder has failed to establish himself at the Spanish champions and has found himself out on loan for the past two seasons.

With his future now up in the air Drenthe has admitted he wants to return to his hometown club Feyenoord, who have qualified for the Champions League, claiming he would even call them to initiate a move.

'I want to do what I like and that's play football. In addition Rotterdam is my city,' he said. 'Feyenoord have not called me yet, but of course I would not mind if they did. Maybe I'll call them myself.'

## Puyol not retiring

AFP, Barcelona



Spain captain Carles Puyol said Wednesday impending knee surgery will rule him out of the Euro 2012 squad but he is not ready to end his international career.

The 34-year-old Barcelona defender, whose header against Germany famously took Spain into the final of a victorious 2010 World Cup campaign, said he expects to undergo the operation on Saturday.

Asked if he could still join the Euro squad, he told a news conference: "It would be very difficult. Those who are fittest have to go. It would be unfair to take a player who is not at 100 per cent."

Puyol said he would have to wait to see how the operation goes: "But I think it is impossible."

The long-haired defender is to undergo a knee arthroscopy, in which a tiny camera is inserted through small incisions and damaged tissue can be repaired or removed. He faces a six-week recovery.

Spain coach Vicente del Bosque has said he will release a provisional line-up on May 15 for the team going to Poland and Ukraine and a definitive list on May 27.

Spain, who are defending their European title, play their first game on June 10 against Italy.

Puyol, who has 99 caps for Spain, does not seem ready to end his playing days with the national squad.

"My plan is to carry on for many more years. But you have to take it season by season. We will see how I am at the start of the next season. But I am convinced I will come back fine, perfectly fit," he said.

Puyol could not say whether the Euro 2008 campaign was his last in the competition.

"I don't now if it was my last European Championship. But I want to retire on the field and not in the operating room," he added.

"On Saturday I will go into the operating theatre and on Sunday I will start working on my recovery."

Asked about his ambition to earn a 100th cap for Spain, Puyol said: "For now the only thing I am thinking about is getting back to 100 percent, and then if there is a chance to play the 100th game, I would be delighted."

The knee surgery means Puyol will also miss the final of the domestic King's Cup competition on May 25, when Barcelona face Athletic Bilbao in the Spanish capital's Vicente Calderon stadium.

## Pato eyes Olympic comeback

AFP, Rome

Brazilian forward Pato says he is aiming to make a comeback at the Olympic Games in London in August.

The 22-year-old has not played since aggravating a hamstring injury in a brief cameo during AC Milan's Champions League quarterfinal exit at the hands of Barcelona last month.

He has been injury-plagued for the best part of the last three seasons, in particular the current campaign.

But he believes he will be fit for the Olympic showcase.

"I'm training intensely and thinking about the Olympics," he said in an interview with Rede Globo, which was transcribed on Milan's official website.

"I live for football, it's my work, my life."

"When I can run and kick a ball, I'm happy and smiling and that's what I want to do."

## Taylor backs Hodgson

Football

AFP, London

Former England manager Graham Taylor has urged all those who have been questioning Roy Hodgson's suitability for the post to lay off the new man in charge.

Hodgson was only confirmed in the post last week, but the way some sections of the British media have reacted to his appointment has stirred some uncomfortable memories for Taylor.

The Sun tabloid, Britain's biggest-selling newspaper, responded to Hodgson's elevation to the England job by mocking the West Bromwich Albion manager's manner of speech with a headline of 'Bwing on the Euwos!' (We'll see you in Ukraine against France).

Taylor was not alone in being dismayed but he had more reason than most to sympathise with Hodgson.

In 1992, Taylor was depicted as a turnip in the Sun after England's defeat by Sweden ended their involvement in that year's European Championships.

Tottenham Hotspur manager Harry Redknapp had long been championed throughout the British media as the man to succeed Fabio Capello.

**SPORTS POLL**  
**WEEKLY QUESTION**  
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Rajasthan v Chennai  
Live from 8:30pm  
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Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm

**DAY'S EVENT**  
Bangladesh Premier League  
Team BJMC v SK Jamal  
Time: 4:00pm  
Venue: Tangail Stadium  
Farashganj v Muktiyoddha  
Time: 4:15pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium