

## City earn record \$98m

AP, London

Manchester City's broadcast income while winning the title reached a Premier League record 60.6 million pounds (\$97.6 million).

Half the domestic TV cash and all the overseas rights income is split equally among the 20 clubs.

The league said Tuesday each club received an equal share of 13.7 million pounds (\$22.1 million) from domestic broadcasters, 18.7 million pounds (\$30.1 million) from overseas broadcast rights plus 755,000 pounds (\$1.2 million) for each place in the standings.

About 570,000 pounds (\$917,870) is earned each time a club appears live on British TV.

## Neymar out of Denmark tie

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Forward Neymar and midfielder Paulo Henrique Ganso will miss Brazil's friendly against Denmark after the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) agreed to release the Santos pair for a club match.

The CBF said in a statement it had accepted a request by Santos to allow them and team mate Rafael to play in the Libertadores Cup quarterfinal second leg against Argentine side Velez Sarsfield on May 24.

Brazil face Denmark in Hamburg two days later.

The CBF said the Santos trio would travel directly to Washington for a friendly against the United States on May 30.

## Scholes to carry on

AFP, Manchester

Veteran midfielder Paul Scholes signed a one-year contract extension with Manchester United on Monday, manager Sir Alex Ferguson revealed.

The 37-year-old came out of retirement in January and put in some excellent performances to earn himself another year at the only club he has played for and for whom he made his first-team debut in 1993.

"It has been done. He (Scholes) is staying," Ferguson told in-house television channel MUTV at the Manchester United player of the year dinner.

Scholes' performances may even earn him an international recall from new England coach Roy Hodgson for Euro 2012, although he retired from international football after Euro 2004.



Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany (L) raises the Premier League trophy during an open-top bus parade in the city of Manchester on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Sun shines on City

REUTERS, Manchester



Even the sun shone for Manchester City as the Premier League champions celebrated their long-awaited and dramatic title win with a euphoric victory parade on Monday.

Twelve months ago Manchester United's players needed umbrellas after it rained on the celebrations following a record 19th English championship.

But under clear skies, 24 hours after an extraordinary 3-2 victory over Queens Park Rangers secured their first title for 44 years, Manchester's streets were transformed into a sea of blue as up to 100,000 City supporters lined the pavements.

Many fans on the two-mile route were too young to recall City's last title triumph in 1967-68 when they finished two points clear of United.

Others, with their team trailing QPR 2-1 in stoppage time, had poured out of the Etihad Stadium believing Roberto Mancini's side had blown the title before late goals by Edin Dzeko and Sergio Aguero snatched it from United's grasp on goal difference.

"Yeah, a little," said Argentine forward Aguero when asked in front of fans whether he cried after scoring the title-clinching goal.

Over the years City have been mocked by United fans and this was their chance for payback.

As the United players drowned their sorrows two miles away at the club's annual player of the year awards night at Old Trafford, City players and fans partied on the streets.

Manager Mancini wore a blue and white City scarf as he waved to supporters, many with their faces painted in the club's colours, from the steps of Manchester town hall.

City's England goalkeeper Joe Hart addressed the fans. "The place was shaking, I was shaking. It was one of the most dramatic days in my life," he said.

Graham Jackson, a 64-year-old City supporter, summed up the mood of euphoria.

"I thought I was going to my grave and never see them win it so I am so made up, I tell you," he said.

Another, Gary Aldridge, added: "I have never seen so many grown men cry, on the streets, it's just unbelievable."

There were a couple of notable absentees from the parade in City's controversial Italian forward Mario Balotelli and influential midfielder Yaya Toure.

But even their absence failed to spoil the party, certainly not for the man selling inflatable European Cups who did a roaring trade.

Next year City fans will hope their team is parading the real Champions League trophy through the streets of Manchester.

## Bento springs a surprise

AFP, Lisbon

Portugal coach Paulo Bento sprang a surprise on Monday when he unveiled his 23-man squad for Euro 2012 by including Sporting Braga duo Custodio Castro and Miguel Lopes.

Custodio, a powerful defensive midfielder aged 28, and 25-year-old right-back Lopes got the nod ahead of Besiktas midfielder Manuel Fernandes and Real Betis defender Nelson because of their impressive performances this season as Braga finished third in the league.

Also included in the squad is 20-year-old Benfica forward Nelson Oliveira, who made his international debut in a friendly in February, while the team will be captained by Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo.

### SQUAD

#### Goalkeepers:

Rui Patrício (Sporting Lisbon), Eduardo (Benfica), Beto (CFR-Cluj/ROM)

#### Defenders:

Bruno Alves (Zenit Saint-Petersburg/RUS), Fabio Coentrão (Real Madrid/ESP), Joao Pereira (Sporting Lisbon), Pepe (Real Madrid/ESP), Ricardo Costa (Valencia/ESP), Rolando (FC Porto), Miguel Lopes (Sporting Braga)

#### Midfielders:

Carlos Martins (Granada/ESP), Joao Moutinho (FC Porto), Custodio (Sporting Braga), Miguel Veloso (Genoa/ITA), Raul Meireles (Chelsea/ENG), Ruben Micael (Real Zaragoza/ESP)

#### Forwards:

Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid/ESP), Hugo Almeida (Besiktas/TUR), Helder Postiga (Real Zaragoza/ESP), Nani (Manchester United/ENG), Nelson Oliveira (Benfica), Ricardo Quaresma (Besiktas/TUR), Silvestre Varela (FC Porto)

## Green light for goal tech



### Football

AFP, Southampton

Decades after the invention of spy satellites capable of detecting a golf ball from outer space, referees may soon be equipped with technology that will enable them to tell if a football has crossed the goal-line.

After years of debate which has moved at a glacial pace, world football chiefs are close to sanctioning goal-line technology after a string of high-profile refereeing controversies.

FIFA's rules body -- the International Football Association Board (IFAB) -- is expected to give the thumbs up to goal-line technology at a meeting

in Kiev in July following the European Championships.

IFAB is currently assessing two different systems bidding to be approved as authorised suppliers of goal-line technology, one from British company Hawk-Eye and the other from German-Danish firm GoalRef.

Both companies' systems are undergoing rigorous testing ahead of the IFAB meeting, and Hawk-Eye will be used in a live match situation on Wednesday when Eastleigh and AFC Totton face each other in the Hampshire Senior Cup final.

Former English referee Neale Barry, a member of the IFAB sub-committee assessing the relative merits of the systems, believes the use of goal-line

technology is inevitable.

Barry attended testing at Southampton's St Mary's stadium, and is keen for referees to be given the support of technology.

"The international board first started looking at the technology in 2005," Barry told reporters. "The technology has moved on greatly since then when you look at Hawk-Eye and the quality of their cameras."

"I think really there has been the attitude that we should really try to help the referees for this very, very factual decision."

"The ball is either over the line or it isn't. It is not a matter of opinion - it is a matter of fact."

## Van Persie keen to stay



### Football

AFP, London

Arsenal are preparing to smash their current wage structure as they prepare to hold contract talks with captain Robin van Persie, it was reported Tuesday.

The Gunners' sealed a rollercoaster season on Sunday by clinching a third place finish that gives them automatic qualification for next season's Champions League group stage.

Now the north London giants have turned their attention to the key issue of trying to persuade Dutch striker van Persie to extend his stay at the Emirates beyond his current deal which expires in 2013.

A clutch of clubs are keen to secure van

Persie, with newly crowned champions Manchester City able to offer the 28-year-old financial terms that would easily eclipse anything tabled by Arsenal.

However the Daily Mail reported Tuesday that van Persie, currently earning around £70,000 (112,000 dollars) per week, would be offered a three-year deal worth a weekly salary of £130,000 plus a signing bonus of £5 million.

The Mail reported that van Persie will meet Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger and club chief executive Ivan Gazidis on Wednesday to discuss his future.

Meanwhile van Persie, who is reportedly keen to stay in London, has praised the spirit shown by Arsenal to finish third after a season which featured a series of low points.

## Tevez lands in hot water

AFP, Manchester



Carlos Tevez landed himself in fresh controversy on Monday when he was pictured waving a mocked-up tombstone for Sir Alex Ferguson during Manchester City's Premier League title celebrations.

The 28-year-old Argentina striker held up a banner designed to look like a gravestone and bearing the words 'RIP Fergie' as City celebrated their title triumph over Manchester United during an open-top bus parade.

Manchester City later released a statement apologising to Ferguson and criticised Tevez while the player - who it is believed took the banner from a fan - also said he "didn't mean any disrespect".

"The creation of the tasteless material is in itself reprehensible and in accepting and brandishing it, Carlos has made a significant error of judgement," said a City spokeswoman.

"The club wishes to express its sincerest apologies to Sir Alex Ferguson and Manchester United Football Club for any offence or distress caused."

Tevez for his part said he had just got carried away. "I got carried away in the excitement of the moment and I certainly didn't mean any disrespect to Sir Alex Ferguson, who I admire as a man and a manager," he said.

There was speculation it could have been a reference to a comment made by Ferguson in 2009 when he was asked whether United would ever be underdogs to their city rivals.

"Not in my lifetime," the United manager said.

Tevez left United in 2009 and joined City.

He spent several months in exile earlier this season after refusing to come off the bench during a Champions League game at Bayern Munich in September but returned to play a key role in the title run-in after making peace with coach Roberto Mancini.



Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez holds up a placard designed to look like a gravestone with the words 'RIP Fergie' as they celebrate their Premiership triumph during an open-top bus parade in Manchester on Monday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

### SPORTS POLL

#### WEEKLY QUESTION

Do you think Richard Pybus is a good choice as Bangladesh coach?

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### What to WATCH

#### SET Max

Indian Premier League

Mumbai v KKR

Live from 8:30pm

ESPN

Sportscenter India

Sports News

Live at 8:30pm

### DAY'S EVENT

#### Bangladesh Premier League

Sk Russell v Rahmatganj

Time: 4:15pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium