

# Brazil recall Kaka

Football  
REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Former World Player of the Year Kaka is set to play his first match for Brazil in more than two years after being recalled on Thursday for next month's friendlies.

The Real Madrid player, plagued by injuries over the last few seasons, was included in the squad for games against Iraq in Sweden on October 11 and Japan in Poland five days later.

He has not played for his country since the 2-1 defeat by the Netherlands in the 2010 World Cup quarterfinal.

It is the second time Kaka has been called up by coach Mano Menezes, who replaced Dunga after the World Cup in South Africa, but last year he had to drop out through injury and missed the matches against Gabon and Egypt.

The 30-year-old, who made his debut for Brazil in 2002, has 82 caps and played at the last three World Cups.

"We have been following his progress," Menezes told reporters. "In terms of training, of dedication, the standard which he has reached gives us hope that he will play well when he is picked for Brazil."

"It's important to have players with this

type of career and experience... I think he is going to confirm what we have been hearing, that he is getting better."

Menezes did not see a problem combining Kaka with Oscar in midfield.

"Kaka has been working in a more advanced position on the pitch," he said. "It's not exactly the same role which Oscar plays in the national team. We will field the two together in at least one of the two games."

There was still no place in the squad for Lazio midfielder Hernanes, one of the most creative midfielders in Serie A.

Menezes is rebuilding the team for the 2014 World Cup, which Brazil will host, and is trying to move away from the counter-attacking style developed under Dunga.

He is still under pressure after the under-23 side, which he also coaches, missed out on the Olympic gold medal in London after losing to Mexico in the final, but said his team would be ready for the 2014 tournament.

The coach was jeered in recent friendlies at home to South Africa in Sao Paulo and Argentina in Goiania, even though Brazil won both games.

"The team is consolidating itself with results, although they have been accompanied by great performances because it's not possible to have them," he said. "We are still not ready for great conquests but we will be."

**SQUAD**

**Goalkeepers:**  
Jefferson (Botafogo), Diego Alves (Valencia) Victor (Atletico Mineiro)

**Defenders:**  
Adriano, Daniel Alves (both Barcelona), Alessandro (Porto), Marcelo (Real Madrid), David Luiz (Chelsea), Dede (Vasco da Gama), Leandro Castan (AS Roma), Thiago Silva (Paris St Germain)

**Midfielders:**  
Fernando (Gremio), Paulinho (Corinthians), Giuliano (Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk), Ramires, Oscar (both Chelsea), Sandro (Tottenham Hotspur), Kaka (Real Madrid), Lucas (Sao Paulo), Thiago Neves (Fluminense)

**Forwards:**  
Hulk (Zenit St Petersburg), Leandro Damiao (Internacional), Neymar



Brazil coach Mano Menezes gives the thumbs up after a news conference in Rio de Janeiro on Thursday. PHOTO: REUTERS

# No room for Tevez

AFP, Buenos Aires

Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella on Friday announced an 18-man squad for World Cup qualifiers against Uruguay, at home on October 12, and away to Chile four days later.

There was no place for Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez or Paris St Germain forward Javier Pastore.

But Sabella did call up stalwarts Lionel Messi, Sergio Aguero, Gonzalo Higuain and Javier Mascherano.

**SQUAD**

**Goalkeepers:**  
Sergio Romero (Sampdoria/ITA), Mariano Andujar (Catania/ITA)

**Defenders:**  
Pablo Zabaleta (Manchester City/ENG), Hugo Campagnaro (Napoli/ITA), Federico Fernandez (Napoli/ITA), Ezequiel Garay (Benfica/POR), Marcos Rojo (Sporting/POR)

**Midfielders:**  
Javier Mascherano (Barcelona/ESP), Angel Di Maria (Real Madrid/ESP), Enzo Perez (Benfica/POR), Fernando Gago (Valencia/ESP), Jose Sosa (Metalist Kharkiv/UKR), Pablo Guinazu (Inter/BRA)

**Forwards:**  
Sergio Aguero (Manchester City/ENG), Ezequiel Lavezzi (Paris St Germain/FRA), Gonzalo Higuain (Real Madrid/ESP), Hernan Barcos

# Siena banish basement blues

AFP, Milan

Emanuele Calaiò's 61st minute winner lifted Serie A strugglers Siena off the foot of the table for the first time this season thanks to a precious 1-0 home win against Bologna.

Siena were one of four teams in Italy's top flight to start the season with point penalties due to their role in the 'Calcioscommesse' illegal betting scandal which erupted at the end of the season.

Their six-point penalty was the most severe, but four days after stunning giants Inter Milan 2-0 at the San Siro, a result which left them still on a total of minus one (-1) points, the Bianconeri took another important step.

Siena started the match bottom of the pile but Calaiò's winner means Serse Cosmi's side move up two places to third from bottom on a total of two points.

# Terry row rages on

AFP, London



Chelsea will try to cement their position at the top of the Premier League by winning at London rivals Arsenal on Saturday in their first match since Blues skipper John Terry was banned for racist abuse.

Terry was given a four-game ban by the Football Association (FA) on Thursday after being found guilty of racially abusing Queens Park Rangers' Anton Ferdinand and fined £220,000 (\$356,722, 276,000 euros) pending appeal.

Terry has 14 days from receiving the written reasons for the decision to lodge an appeal against a decision relating to an incident that took place during Chelsea's match away to QPR at Loftus Road on October 23 last year.

The ban -- which comes after the 31-year-old former England captain was acquitted of criminal charges relating to the same incident in July -- will not come into force until the appeals procedure is complete.

That means central defender Terry, who played in the 6-0 English League Cup rout of Wolves on Tuesday, is available for Chelsea's trip to Arsenal.

Before the hearing started, former England captain Terry dramatically retired from international football.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger

**FIXTURES**  
(1400GMT unless stated)

**Saturday**  
Arsenal v Chelsea (1145GMT), Everton v Southampton, Fulham v Manchester City, Manchester United v Tottenham (1630GMT), Norwich v Liverpool, Reading v Newcastle, Stoke v Swansea, Sunderland v Wigan

**Sunday**  
Aston Villa v West Brom (1500GMT)

**Monday**

was taken back by the defender's decision to call time on his 78-cap England career but the Frenchman had no doubt Terry would be ready for Saturday's match if selected.

"Terry in the big games has experience and leadership qualities that can always be important," Wenger said.

Second-placed Manchester United face Tottenham at Old Trafford with England striker Wayne Rooney set to make his Premier League return after a gashed thigh.

Darren Fletcher, who also featured in the midweek League Cup win over Newcastle, is in line for a first league start in 10 months after being sidelined with a chronic bowel condition.

"It is fantastic to have them both back," said United midfielder Tom Cleverley.

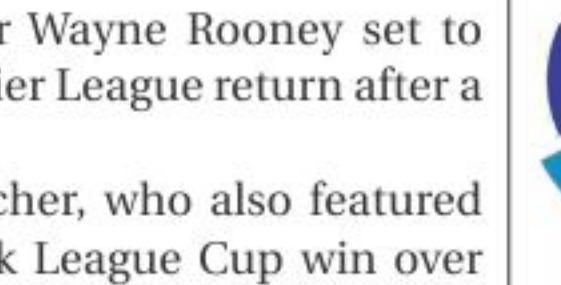
"Darren Fletcher is a big game player and would bring positive things to any squad in the world. I am happy for him. Wayne came back and put in a good performance too, so we are getting stronger."

Reigning champions Manchester City, who have won just two of their five league games this season and conceded seven goals in the process, travel to in-form Fulham looking for victory and a shut-out for goalkeeper Joe Hart.

"If you want to win the Premier League, you have to be able to keep clean sheets," said City defender Kolo Toure.

# Xavi warns Real

AFP, Madrid



Barcelona midfielder Xavi Hernandez feels their eight-point lead over Real Madrid has piled the pressure on their bitter rivals little over a week away.

The Catalan side have not always been at their best and have looked vulnerable at the back but they now travel to Sevilla on Saturday looking for their sixth successive win compared to only two victories for Madrid.

While his team-mates have looked to play down the lead, Xavi preferred to give importance to the gap and further stoke up the atmosphere before they go head-to-head on October 7.

"Eight points is a lead that I like," he said. "We now have a difficult away game against a strong Sevilla team but eight points are a lot

and Real cannot make more mistakes. "It is good to see us in this position and Madrid have problems. Last year they went 10 points ahead and it was as though we had lost the league, and now it is still very early on but we need to make the most of it."

Xavi, in the interview with Diario Sport, also had words of praise for new coach Tito Vilanova who took over from Pep Guardiola in the summer. "Tito isn't someone who jokes about, he is a football man and speaks his mind. He has a lot of personality which I knew he had but it was hidden to an extent under Pep when he didn't speak as much but he is a leader."

The main worry for Barca is their backline with Gerard Pique, Carles Puyol and Adriano injured while there is a lack of strength in depth but former Arsenal midfielder Alex Song has come in and done well at centre-half.

There is a stiff battle for places in Jose Mourinho's Madrid side as they look to put their bad start to the campaign behind them.

**FIXTURES**  
(all times GMT)

**Saturday**  
Valencia v Zaragoza 14.00, Malaga v Real Betis 14.00, Real Sociedad v Athletic Bilbao 18.00, Sevilla v Barcelona 20.00

**Sunday**  
Granada v Celta 10.00, Valladolid v Rayo Vallecano 14.00, Osasuna v Levante 16.00, Real Madrid v Deportivo la Coruna 17.50, Espanyol v Atletico Madrid 19.30

**Monday**

# What to WATCH

**BTV & STAR Cricket**  
ICC World T20 (Super Eights)  
England v New Zealand  
Live from 4:00pm  
Sri Lanka v West Indies  
Live from 8:00pm

**ESPN**  
English Premiership  
Arsenal v Chelsea  
Live from 5:45pm  
Fulham v Man City  
Live from 8:00pm  
Man United v Tottenham  
Live from 10:30pm

**Serie A**  
Juventus v AS Roma  
Live from 1:00am (Sunday)

**STAR Sports**  
English Premiership  
Norwich City v Liverpool  
Live from 8:00pm

**Serie A**  
Parma v AC Milan  
Live from 10:30pm

**Primera Liga**  
Real Sociedad v Bilbao  
Live from 12:00am (Sunday)



Football match officials jog during a meeting of potential referees for the 2014 World Cup in Zurich on Thursday. PHOTO: AFP

# WC kick-off times announced

REUTERS, Zurich



Some 2014 World Cup teams will have to play afternoon matches at tropical venues in Brazil after organisers announced kick-off times on Thursday.

Most of the 64 games will take place in the afternoon which is unlikely to be a problem in the cooler south but could subject players to searing heat in the tropical north and northeast.

tropical further north.

With most of Brazil three hours behind GMT, the times are favourable for European television viewers who will be able to watch matches in the evening.

Asian viewers must stay up until the middle of the night but those who will suffer the most are the footballers.

Two matches in the northeastern city of Natal have been scheduled for 1300 local time (1600 GMT), as have two in nearby Recife and two in Salvador.

Manaus, in the heart of the Amazon rain forest, will stage two games at 1500 local time and one at 1600. The final at the

Maracana in Rio de Janeiro will be played at 1600 on July 13.

The start times were approved by FIFA's executive committee at a meeting on Thursday.

"When defining the kick-off times the following criteria was taken into consideration: equitable distribution across all teams, equitable rest periods for teams in the same group, temperature in venues, global TV market considerations, fan travel logistics, flight times and accommodation," said world soccer's governing body in a statement.

FIFA has been criticised in the past for

putting television interests ahead of the players. The 1970 and 1986 World Cups in Mexico and the 1994 finals in the United States were often played in searing heat.

The toughest matches are likely to be a Group A fixture in Manaus on June 18 and a Group G game at the same venue on June 22, both at 1500.

A torrid afternoon also awaits the teams who meet in Natal in Group A on June 13 and in Group D on June 24, both at 1300, and in Group G in Salvador on June 16 and Group F on June 25, also at 1300.

All matches in the knockout rounds will be played at 1300 or 1700 local time.

In an interview with CNN, Mourinho, now in charge of Spanish giants Real Madrid, added: "But in football it can happen, and I know it can happen, that during a football match because sometimes it's more than a game and sometimes you have reactions that don't represent what you are really."

"Probably, he had a racist comment or a 'racist' attitude against an opponent and, sometimes in football, we look to our opponents in the wrong way."

# 'Terry not a racist'

AFP, Paris

Former Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho leapt to the defence of John Terry on Thursday, insisting the controversial defender is not a racist.

Terry was handed a four-match ban by the Football Association (FA) and fined £220,000 (\$356,722, 276,000 euros) after being found guilty of racially abusing Queens Park Rangers' Anton Ferdinand.

The 31-year-old has 14 days from receiving the written reasons for the decision to lodge an appeal against a decision relating to an incident that took place during Chelsea's match away to QPR at Loftus Road on October 23 last year.

"He is not a racist," said Mourinho, who coached Terry at Chelsea from 2004-2007.

"That's 100 per cent. We (Chelsea) had a squad where we had 12 African players in the squad. It was a fantastic squad and he had always a great relation with every one of them."

In an interview with CNN, Mourinho, now in charge of Spanish giants Real Madrid, added: "But in football it can happen, and I know it can happen, that during a football match because sometimes it's more than a game and sometimes you have reactions that don't represent what you are really."

"Probably, he had a racist comment or a 'racist' attitude against an opponent and, sometimes in football, we look to our opponents in the wrong way."

# DAY'S EVENT

**KFC Women's Super League**  
Rangamati v Thakurgaon  
Time: 2:00pm  
Ansar & VDP v Jessore  
Time: 4:00pm  
Venue: Kamalapur Stadium  
Narsingdi v Tangail  
Time: 2:00pm  
Narayanganj v Satkhira  
Time: 4:00pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National