

West Ham
snap up
Pogatetz

AFP, London

West Ham on Monday signed Austria defender Emanuel Pogatzetz on loan from Wolfsburg until the end of the season.

Pogatetz, 30, already has experience of the Premier League after his spell with Middlesbrough between 2005 and 2010 and he is looking forward to returning to English football.

"I feel very good to be here and I am very excited about playing for West Ham," he told West Ham's website.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to play for the club and help it get good results. I will be doing my best to play well and hope I can play a part in the club achieving the targets for this season."

Anton leaves
QPR for
Turkey

AFP, London

QPR defender Anton Ferdinand has signed a loan deal with Turkish club Bursaspor until the end of the season, the English Premier League strugglers said on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old, who has been at Loftus Road since moving from Sunderland in August 2011, will join former England goalkeeper Scott Carson at Bursaspor, who are currently sixth in the Turkish league.

Ferdinand has played 49 times for QPR in all competitions but his time at the club was notably marked by a high-profile racism row with Chelsea's John Terry, which subsequently saw the former England captain banned and fined.

Juve sign
Enriquez

AFP, Milan

Juventus have completed the signing of Ecuadorian midfielder Jose Francisco Cevallos Enriquez from LDU Quito, the Serie A champions announced Monday.

Enriquez, an 18-year-old who has starred for Ecuador's under-20 national team, has joined the Turin giants on loan until the end of the season with an option to make the transfer permanent.

Juventus said in a statement that Enriquez "has forged a reputation as one of the most promising teenage prospects in South America".

The statement added he "joins the Bianconeri on a temporary deal with the option to make the move permanent in the summer".

Juventus are currently three points clear of Napoli at the top of Serie A.



What to WATCH

Football

AFP, Madrid

Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo come into Wednesday's 'el clasico' clash in Madrid in the Spanish Cup semifinal in fine form and full of goals.

Messi has hit 16 and Ronaldo 12 in their last 10 games, and the four the Argentine got against Osasuna on Sunday makes it 33 in the league while Ronaldo has 21 after his hat-trick against Getafe.

It will be the fourth time Real Madrid and Barcelona have met this season.

Madrid took the Spanish Super Cup on away goals over two legs and managed a 2-2 draw in Barcelona in the league, the only points Barca have dropped at home, so there is little to choose between the two up to now.

In the league Barca enjoy a 15-point advantage over their rivals but that will all be forgotten when Madrid seek to avenge last season's quarterfinal defeat in the same competition that Barca eventually won.

Messi's goals at the weekend meant he became the first player in history to score in eleven consecutive La Liga matches and he can equal or break another record on Wednesday.

One goal would level Alfredo



Di Stefano's long-standing 18 goal tally in games between the two sides.

Meanwhile, Ronaldo will be walking a yellow card tightrope.

He has already picked up two in the Cup, another on Wednesday will mean he misses the second-leg scheduled to take place in Barcelona in almost a month's time on the 27th of February.

The Portuguese star also has goalscoring form in recent games with the Catalans, hitting seven in the last six meetings,

and he has told his club's TV station that the game can't come quick enough.

"It's an important but complicated game for us against one of the most difficult teams in the world, but it should be a big night. We're at home and have a good chance but we'll have to play well, we know Barca have a great team but I'm looking forward to it," he said.

Real Madrid go into the game with important players missing. Most of all club captain Iker Casillas, who fractured a bone in



his hand in the previous round against Valencia.

The club reacted quickly to sign Diego Lopez from Sevilla last Friday as cover, for €3.5 million, and he will come into contention for his debut.

However, Antonio Adan kept a clean sheet at the weekend with Lopez sat on the bench, and he may continue to deputise.

Also out for Madrid are the suspended trio of Sergio Ramos, Angel Di Maria and Fabio Coentrao, plus the injured Pepe.

Jose Mourinho will have to

choose between Raphael Varane, Raul Albiol and former Chelsea defender Ricardo Carvalho for his centre-half partnership.

Mourinho was able to rest Xabi Alonso, Sami Khedira, Karim Benzema and Alvaro Arbeloa on Sunday against Getafe and all should start.

Barca midfielder Sergio Busquets sees the tie being tight despite Madrid missing players.

"It will be an even game, it doesn't matter who is out for them, we must focus on our own game. The tie won't be decided in the Bernabeu so a good result for us would be a win, not a draw" he said.

His side don't share Madrid's selection headaches and key midfielder Xavi Hernandez will be celebrating the signing of a new contract that ties him to the club until 2016, when he will be 36.

Messi has hit 16 and Ronaldo 12 in their last 10 games

It will be the fourth time Real Madrid and Barcelona have met this

MU valued
at record
\$3.3b

AFP, New York

Manchester United have become the world's first sports team to be valued at more than \$3 billion, according to Forbes magazine.

A recent surge in the stock price of the English Premier League outfit has boosted the team's value to \$3.3 billion, a story posted on the magazine's website reported.

United's most recent quarterly report four months ago listed their long-term outstanding debt at \$560 million.

Shares of the team were offered to the public last August at \$14 but are just under \$17, boosting the wealth of the Glazer family, which has voting control of almost all of the team.

Famed investor George Soros was among those who purchased a stake in the 19-time English champions after shares went public.

Earnings dropped in the first quarter due to reduced television revenue, but Forbes credited the stock boost in part to bright prospects from new sponsor deals with China Construction Bank and Japan's Kansai.

Juventus punished

AFP, Milan



Champions Juventus were handed a series of bans and fines by Serie A league officials on Monday for displaying aggressive behaviour to a match referee who refused to award a late penalty.

Juve coach Antonio Conte was handed a two-game touchline ban and handed a 10,000 euro fine while the club was fined 50,000 euros for failing to control fans who spat on and lashed out at the match officials.

Juve president Giuseppe Marotta was also banned from carrying out any of his functions until February 18.

Defenders Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini, meanwhile, were handed two and one-game bans respectively accompanied by fines of 10,000 and 5,000 euros.

Both sanctions related to their aggressive behaviour towards the referee at the end of the match.

A statement by Serie A's disciplinary body said: "Juventus are fined 50,000 euros for failing to control fans who spat in the faces and on the clothes of officials as they left the pitch."

Regarding Conte's ban, it added: "Conte is banned for two matches for having confronted the referee in an intim-

idatory manner on the field of play and questioning his decision with a series of derogatory remarks."

Conte and the entire Juventus team were in uproar at the end of Saturday's match after referee Marco Guida refused to award a last-minute penalty despite the ball coming off the arm of Genoa's Swedish defender Andreas Granqvist.

The match finished 1-1 and although the Bianconeri are still top of the league with a three-point lead on Napoli, the champions have refused to calm the tone of their criticism of Guida.

On Juventus's official website on Sunday Marotta hit out at the fact the referee originates from near Naples.

"Making him officiate Juve isn't putting him in the best possible conditions. Furthermore, I ask myself what is the point of having six officials if the referee and goal-line official are not on the same wavelength?" he said.

Marotta was effectively suspended from his role as Juve president until February 18 for "challenging, at the end of the match, the match officials in an intimidating and insulting manner, in their dressing room."

Conte and Bonucci will now sit out the next two Serie A games, away to Chievo next week and at home to Fiorentina on February 9, while Chiellini will miss the first of those games.

Becks training
at Arsenal

AFP, London

Former England midfielder David Beckham has been training with Arsenal, the club's manager Arsene Wenger has confirmed, but rejected reports that could sign.

"He called me. He has asked to come here and to work on his fitness. He has not done anything for a long, long time," Wenger said of Beckham, who is without a club after leaving Los Angeles Galaxy at the end of last Major League Soccer season.

"It's purely for fitness. There's no speculation about signing or anything."

Where Beckham, who made his name with Manchester United and has also played for Real Madrid and AC Milan, continues his career has still to be decided.

The 37-year-old, who won 115 England caps, was a key figure in the successful bid to bring the Olympics and Paralympics to London last year.

And if his football career is now over, he could yet find himself with plenty of offers of promotional work.

Beckham also played a prominent role in the delegation sent to Singapore which helped to secure the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games for London and if he does not continue his football career, there are many avenues for the future.

With Wenger playing down the possibility of Beckham signing on a permanent basis he was asked what benefit there is for Arsenal.

He said: "Nothing. To help somebody."

"We are open for people who behave well when they come here."



Bangladesh Premier League
Arambagh v Muktiyoddha
Time: 4:30pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National

Drogba delight for
Galatasaray

MAIL ONLINE



Didier Drogba is relishing the chance to have another crack at the Champions League after sealing a return to Europe with Galatasaray.

The former Chelsea striker has agreed to join the Turkish giants from Chinese side Shanghai Shenhua on an 18-month deal.

His representatives revealed on Twitter that the Ivory Coast international would join up with his new side following the African Nations Cup and Gala confirmed the deal on their official website.

Drogba memorably converted the winning penalty in the final shootout against Bayern Munich to win the Champions League for Chelsea for the first time last season. It turned out to be his last kick for the London club.

Explaining the reasons behind his move to Turkey, Drogba said through his representatives, Sports PR Company, on Twitter: "The opportunity to play for this great club was an offer that I could not turn down."

"I am looking forward to playing in the Champions League again, against the best clubs in Europe."

An emotional reunion with Chelsea is

not possible, though, after the holders crashed out of the competition in the group stage.

Drogba's capture is the second marquee signing within a week for Gala, coming hot on the heels of the arrival last week of Holland midfielder Wesley Sneijder from Inter Milan.

The move to Turkey brings to an end a six-month stint in China.

The 34-year-old joined Shanghai last June, penning a two-and-a-half year deal reportedly worth £200,000 a week, but was repeatedly linked with a move back to Europe in recent months.

Last month Drogba returned to train with Chelsea during the Chinese off-season in preparation for the African Nations Cup in South Africa.

FIFA rejected a special request from the striker for him to join a club on loan outside the transfer window, amid speculation linking him with Juventus, AC Milan and Liverpool, among others.

Despite his protests to the contrary, reports persisted that Drogba's move to China had not worked out, largely due to boardroom wrangling, and he has now left the Far East to return to Europe.

Gala are five points clear at the top of the Super Lig standings and are through to the last 16 of the Champions League, where they face Schalke.