

FA punishes Mourinho

REUTERS, London

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has been fined 8,000 pounds (\$12,900) after admitting an improper conduct charge for his behaviour in Saturday's Premier League game against Cardiff City, the FA said.

Mourinho was sent to the Stamford Bridge stands by Anthony Taylor 20 minutes from the end of the 4-1 win for protesting to the referee after becoming increasingly frustrated at what he perceived to be Cardiff's time-wasting tactics.

"If I was at that game and I was paying my ticket I would be worried with the fact that every time the ball was out or stopped and our opponent had to put the ball back in the game, it took a minimum of 21.5 seconds," Mourinho said at the time.

"That is a waste of money. You pay your ticket and every time the game stops you have to wait about half a minute? When you multiply that by the number of times the game was stopped ... you pay for 90 minutes but you see 55 or 60."

It's time for *El Clasico*

AFP, Madrid



Neymar and Gareth Bale will get their first taste of a clash between Barcelona and Real Madrid since joining the Spanish giants in Saturday's first El Clasico of the season.

The Catalans currently hold a three point lead over Madrid at the top of the table, but it is Carlo Ancelotti's men who have enjoyed a significantly better week in the run up to the match.

Barca dropped their first points of the season with a 0-0 away at Osasuna last weekend and were then held 1-1 by AC Milan at the San Siro on Tuesday.

Madrid took advantage of that rare slip-up by their rivals with a 2-0 win over Malaga and just about sealed their place in the Champions League last-16 on Wednesday by beating Juventus 2-1.

The Malaga match in particular saw a marked improvement in Real's performance to those earlier in the campaign and Madrid haven't been beaten in their last five encounters against Barcelona.

However, Real defender Sergio Ramos doesn't believe last season's meetings between the two will be a big factor come kick-off at the Camp Nou.

"On Saturday we have an important game and it would be a notable step to win in the Camp Nou, but we know meetings there are



CRISTIANO RONALDO

always difficult and anything can happen.

"When evaluating a Clasico you don't have to look at the previous results, nor even the last one. These games are always of the highest level and intensity.

"There are things that we have to continue improving, but it is always nice to arrive at the Clasico after a victory."

Ancelotti has some selection dilemmas for his own first experience of a Clasico, particularly in the case of Bale.

The Welshman was introduced as a substitute with 25 minutes to go against



LIONEL MESSI

Juventus as he continues his comeback from injury, but failed to make any significant impact on the tie.

Ancelotti blamed his mediocre showing on the overall failure of the team to maintain the intensity they showed in the opening period and insisted that Bale is now fit enough to start.

However, it seems more likely that Bale will again be used as an impact substitute with Ancelotti also keen to keep faith with the under fire Karim Benzema.

There is no doubt that Neymar will join

world player of the year Lionel Messi in attack for the hosts and the Brazilian admitted that it is for this kind of game that he swapped Brazil for Barcelona in June.

"A Clasico is the most important game for any player," he told Barca TV.

"It is the game that every player wants to participate in and show their best football. This will be my first one and I want to make a great debut, preferably with a victory."

Gerardo Martino must decide whether to recall Pedro Rodriguez and Cesc Fabregas after they were both dropped to the bench at Milan.

However, the Argentine may be forced into a change at the back as Gerard Pique is struggling with a hamstring injury meaning Carles Puyol may continue his comeback alongside Javier Mascherano.

FIXTURES

(all times GMT)

Saturday

Malaga v Celta Vigo (1400), Barcelona v Real Madrid (1600), Elche v Granada (1800), Levante v Espanyol (2000)

Sunday

Sevilla v Osasuna (1000), Villarreal v Valencia (1500), Real Sociedad v Almeria (1700), Atletico Madrid v Real Betis (1900)

Monday

Getafe v Athletic Bilbao (1900)

EUROPA LEAGUE RESULTS

Swansea City (ENG) 1 (Michu 68)

Kuban Krasnodar (RUS) 1 (Cisse 90+3-pen)

Valencia (ESP) 5 (Paco Alcacer 12, Cartabia 21, 30, Ricardo Costa 33, Canales 71) Saint-Gallen (SUI) 1 (Nater 74)

Dinamo Zagreb (CRO) 0 PSV Eindhoven (NED) 0

Chornomorets Odessa (UKR) 0

Ludogorets Razgrad (BUL) 1 (Zlatinski 45)

IF Elfsborg (SWE) 1 (Jonsson 69)

Esbjerg (DEN) 2 (Andreasen 7, 67)

Salzburg (AUT) 2 (Jonatan Soriano 53, Andre Ramalho 85)

Standard Liege (BEL) 1 (Mujangi Bia 88-pen)

Wigan Athletic (ENG) 1 (Powell 40) Rubin Kazan (RUS) 1 (Prudnikov 15)

Zulte Waregem (BEL) 1 (De Fauw 12) Maribor (SLO) 3 (Crnic 21, Mertelj 34, Mezga 49)

Pacos de Ferreira (POR) 0

Dnipro (UKR) 2 (Rotan 83, Konoplyanka 86)

Fiorentina (ITA) 3 (Joaquin 26, Ryder Matos 34, Cuadrado 69)

Pandurii Targu-Jiu (ROM) 0

Bordeaux (FRA) 2 (Sane 24, Henrique 90) APOEL (CYP) 1 (Esmael Goncalves 45)

Eintracht Frankfurt (GER) 2 (Kadlec 13, Meier 53) Maccabi Tel Aviv (ISR) 0

Genk (BEL) 1 (Gorius 21) Rapid Vienna (AUT) 1 (Sabitzer 82)

Dynamo Kiev (UKR) 3 (Yarmolenko 35, Mbokani 60, Gusev 78) FC Thun (SUI) 0

Slovan Liberec (CZE) 1 (Rabusic 20) Sevilla (ESP) 1 (Machin 88)

SC Freiburg (GER) 1 (Darida 11)

Estoril (POR) 1 (Seba 53)

Lyon (FRA) 1 (Grenier 67) Rijeka (CRO) 0

Real Betis (ESP) 1 (Vadillo 50)

Vitoria Guimaraes (POR) 0

Trabzonspor (TUR) 2 (Janko 7, Olcan Adin 83) Legia Warsaw (POL) 0

Apollon Limassol (CYP) 0 Lazio (ITA) 0

Anzhi Makhachkala (RUS) 1 (Burmistrov 19)

Tromso (NOR) 0

FC Sheriff (MDA) 0 Tottenham **Hotspur (ENG) 2** (Vertonghen 12, Defoe 75)

Shakhter Karagandy (KAZ) 1 (Finonchenko 11) AZ Alkmaar (NED) 1 (Gudmundsson 26)

PAOK (GRE) 3 (Miguel Vitor 35, Ninis 39, Salpingidis 67)

Maccabi Haifa (ISR) 2 (Ndlovu 13, Golasa 21)

Arsenal aim to rebound

AFP, London



Jack Wilshere is convinced Arsenal will bounce back from their European disappointment when the Premier League leaders bid to cement their position at the top against managerless Crystal Palace on Saturday.

Arsene Wenger's team suffered their first defeat in 13 matches in all competitions on Tuesday as Robert Lewandowski's late goal gave Borussia Dortmund a 2-1 Champions League group stage win at the Emirates Stadium.

But the Gunners, currently two points clear of second placed Chelsea, have a golden opportunity to erase the bitter memory of their first loss since the opening day of the season when they travel to face crisis club Palace at Selhurst Park.

Palace parted company with boss Ian Holloway in midweek following a 4-1 thrashing by Fulham that left the south London club second bottom of the table with seven defeats in their eight league matches.

Keith Millen will take charge on a caretaker basis this weekend, but England midfielder Wilshere, who hopes to recover from a recurring ankle injury in time to feature against the Eagles, warned Arsenal have no intention of showing any sympathy for Palace's plight.

"We can't let this result affect us now, especially in the Premier League where we are on a great run," Wilshere said.

"It will be tough away at Palace, it always is, they will fight for every ball and it will be a different game from Dortmund, but we still have to bounce back straight away."

In the unlikely event that Arsenal do drop points at Palace, Jose Mourinho's Chelsea could go top if they beat fourth placed Manchester City at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

The Blues romped to a 3-0 win at Schalke in the Champions League on Tuesday, with Spanish striker Fernando Torres scoring twice after being selected ahead of Samuel Eto'o.

Mourinho's men are unbeaten in seven matches in all competitions and have scored 14 goals in their last four fixtures, but Torres believes there is still

FIXTURES

Saturday

(1400GMT unless stated)

Aston Villa v Everton, Crystal Palace v Arsenal (1145GMT), Liverpool v West Brom, Manchester United v Stoke, Norwich v Cardiff, Southampton v Fulham (1630GMT)

Sunday

(1500GMT unless stated)

Chelsea v Manchester City, Sunderland v Newcastle (1230GMT), Swansea v West Ham, Tottenham v Hull

room for improvement for both him and his team.

"We're building up. There's many more good things to come," he said.

"Hopefully we can see the best Chelsea from now until the end of the season.

"Individually it is the same, the last few games I feel very sharp. I will continue to work hard because the important games are still to come."

City's midweek Champions League win at CSKA Moscow was marred by racist abuse hurled at the club's Ivory Coast midfielder Yaya Toure by sections of the crowd in Russia.

UEFA have charged CSKA over their fans' behaviour and City will hope Toure, who was quick to condemn the supporters, can focus on helping his side at the Bridge.

"We won and we were good, so I am happy about that, but actually I am sad because the reaction of the fans was unbelievable," Toure said.

"I don't understand in football why we have that. It is not in volleyball or rugby, just football."

Third placed Liverpool, two points behind the leaders, host West Bromwich Albion knowing a victory would keep them firmly in contention at the top before a crunch clash at Arsenal on November 2.

Manchester United have endured a troubled start to life under new manager David Moyes and they face Stoke at Old Trafford already eight points off top spot.

AFP, Paris



Tottenham Hotspur closed in on a place in the Europa League knockout stages with a 2-0 win away to Moldovan champions Sheriff Tiraspol on Thursday.

It was a hard-earned win for Andre Villas-Boas' side, with Sheriff applying plenty of pressure, but ultimately the Premier League team's class shone through.

Villas-Boas made wholesale changes to the team that had beaten Aston Villa in the Premier League on Sunday but the visitors needed just 12 minutes to open the scoring.

On their first attack, captain for the night Jan Vertonghen headed home Christian Eriksen's cross to settle Tottenham down in the tricky tie in Transnistria, a territory that claims independence from Moldova itself.

A Sheriff side with a heavy African and Brazilian influence might have drawn level moments later but Vlad Chiriches made a stunning last-gasp clearance to stop Luvannor Henrique from scoring after rounding Hugo Lloris.

The hosts then had a goal disallowed but they remained very much in the contest until Jermain Defoe made sure of the win in the 75th minute with a deflected strike that saw him equal Martin Chivers' record of 22 European goals for Spurs.

The north London club have the maximum nine points from three games in Group K and lead the section by five points from Anzhi Makhachkala, the Russians who beat Tromso 1-0.

Elsewhere, there was frustration for another Premier League side as Swansea City were held to a 1-1 draw by Russian side

SA 6 wickets away from victory

AFP, Dubai



Pakistan were staring defeat in the second Test in the face after South Africa out-

batted them and then bowled well on the third day in Dubai on Friday.

South Africa, seeking a series-levelling win, once again rocked Pakistan's top order with three early wickets after compiling a mammoth 517 in their first innings for a big 418-run lead at Dubai Stadium.

At the close, Pakistan captain Misbahul Haq (42) and Asad Shafiq (28) were at the crease but they still need a whopping 286 runs to avoid an innings defeat or bat out two days to force a draw.

The duo have added 62 for the fifth wicket and would need a Herculean effort to avoid defeat.

But South Africa's bid for victory, and keeping their seven-year unbeaten away series record, was tainted when they were docked five penalty runs by the onfield umpires after television replays showed Faf du Plessis apparently trying to tamper with the ball in Pakistan's 31st over.

The two umpires, Rod Tucker of Australia and Ian Gould of England, called South African captain Graeme Smith for a warning, changed the ball and added five penalty runs to Pakistan's total.

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: First innings 99 (Masood 21, Azhar 19, Babar 25 not out; Tahir 5-32, Steyn 3-38)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (over-night 460-4)

Petersen lbw b Babar	26
Smith c Younis b Ajmal	234
Elgar c Azhar b Ajmal	23
Kallis lbw b Ajmal	7
Steyn b Irfan	7
De Villiers c Akmal b Irfan	164
Duminy b Irfan	7

Du Plessis not out	17			
Philander b Ajmal	8			
Morkel c Younis b Ajmal	7			
Tahir c Misbah b Ajmal	2			
Extras: (b-5, lb-8, w-2)	15			
Total: (All out in 163.1 overs)	517			
Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-91, 3-119, 4-134, 5-472, 6-478, 7-486, 8-505, 9-515.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Irfan	34.3	5	102	3
Junaid	31.3	2	105	0
Ajmal	55.5	8	151	6
Babar	36.2	2	124	1
Azhar	5	0	22	0

PAKISTAN: Second innings

Masood lbw b Steyn	0			
Manzoor c Kallis b Philander	0			
Azhar lbw b Duminy	19			
Younis b Tahir	36			
Misbah not out	42			
Shafiq not out	28			
Extras: (nb-1, w-1 pen-5)	7			
Total: (For 4 wks in 55 overs)	132			
To bat: Akmal, Ajmal, Babar, Junaid, Irfan.				
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-2, 3-48, 4-70.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	10	4	17	1
Philander	8	2	16	1
Morkel	9	4	18	0
Tahir	16	3	47	1
Kallis	3	2	1	0
Duminy	9	0	28	1

Brazil to call up Costa

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Five-times world champions Brazil will call up Atletico Madrid striker Diego Costa for the friendly internationals against Chile and Honduras next month, the country's football federation (CBF) said Thursday.

The CBF sent a letter to world governing body FIFA saying they intend to call Costa into their squad for the World Cup hosts' matches in Miami and Toronto.

World champions Spain had been hoping to win Costa's allegiance for themselves as he has double nationality and did not feature in Brazil's successful Confederations Cup campaign in June, when the hosts beat Spain in the final in Rio.

In March, Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari called him up for friendly internationals against Italy and Russia, but as they were not competitive fixtures, Costa is not yet tied to one particular nation.

Costa later made comments suggesting he would be interested in playing for Spain.



Swansea City forward Miguel Michu (R) scores the opening goal against Kuban Krasnodar during their Europa League match at the Liberty Stadium on Thursday.