

Fortunate Chelsea

AFP, Paris



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho admitted his side were fortunate to come away with a draw in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie with Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday as he hailed goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

PSG had the better of the game but only had a second-half Edinson Cavani goal to show for their efforts, with Courtois producing half a dozen vital saves to help Chelsea claim a 1-1 draw in the French capital.

As a result, Branislav Ivanovic's precious away goal in the first half -- from Chelsea's only chance of the game -- gives the Premier League leaders the upper hand going into the second leg at Stamford Bridge on March 11.

"I think the first half was our half. Paris gave us the ball, played defensively with a very low block. They never put pressure on us and we were very comfortable, moving the ball, letting the clock tick and never having problems to control the game," Mourinho said.

The second half was different. They were very direct and it was their half. I think 1-1 reflects one half for Chelsea, one half for Paris, but if you go to chances created and the goalkeepers' performances we have to be honest and say they had more than us, so if somebody was closer to winning the game it was Paris not Chelsea.

"The advantage is minimal. Now everything is decided at Stamford Bridge and not in two matches. They are a fantastic team and we did ok."

Courtois was brought back into the Chelsea side in place of Petr Cech and displayed exactly why he is seen as one of the finest goalkeepers in the world with a string of saves, including one from Zlatan Ibrahimovic in injury time.

"If football was nine outfield players plus two goalkeepers we would give no chance to anyone. We would be absolutely phenomenal because they are both phenomenal," said Mourinho of the duo, before highlighting defender Ivanovic's ability to pop up with crucial goals in big games.

"Iva" has this feeling in big occasions. It looks like he chooses his moments, to win against Liverpool (in the League Cup semifinal), to score here, in the Europa League final (against Benfica in 2013). He chooses the right moment to do it."



Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic is ecstatic after scoring the opening goal against Paris Saint-Germain during their Champions League round of 16 tie at the Parc des Princes Stadium on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Alonso sees red as Bayern held

AFP, Lviv



Bayern Munich's Xabi Alonso was sent off on his 100th Champions League appearance as the German side were held to a scoreless draw by Shakhtar Donetsk in the last 16 first leg clash on Tuesday.

Alonso picked up his second booking after 65 minutes but Bayern comfortably held on to secure a positive result in a first leg played out in sub-zero temperatures in Lviv.

The Bundesliga champions will be confident they can complete the job in three weeks' time in Munich but Pep Guardiola will be relieved that they survived an ill-tempered encounter in Ukraine.

Guardiola preferred to keep his own counsel regarding Alonso's sending off.

"I obviously followed it from the sidelines and the referee decided what he decided," said Guardiola.

"I don't want to say anything more about it." Bayern sporting director Matthias Sammer was more forthcoming than Guardiola, describing the refereeing performance as "strange".

The former Germany sweeper also agreed with the Spaniard's suggestion that a scoreless draw away from home is not necessarily positive.

"0-0 is always problematic," Sammer said.

"On the face of it, it sounds good but I'd be of the opinion that it's a dangerous result."

Shakhtar Donetsk -- who had not played a competitive match since the last group game on December 10 -- had been forced to host this game over 1,000 kilometres from the club's Donbass Arena due to ongoing violence in the east of the country.

But they successfully stifled the German visitors, who had come into the match brimming with confidence following an 8-0 win over Hamburg at the weekend.

Shakhtar's Romanian coach Mircea Lucescu was delighted despite their rustiness they had not taken a similar hammering.

"The first plan was not to lose," said Lucescu.

"The second was to keep our chances alive for the second leg. We did that."

DAY'S EVENT

National Cricket League
(Four-Day Match, Day-4)
Rangpur v Barisal
Venue: BKSP 3
Chittagong v Dhaka Metro
Venue: BKSP 2
Rajshahi v Khulna
Venue: SBNCS
Dhaka v Sylhet

Venue: KSOAS
Time: 10:00am

Federation Cup
Ctg Abahani v Farashganj
Time: 4:00pm
Sk Russell v Uttar Baridhara
Time: 6:15pm
Venue: BNS

MESSI BACK AT THE TOP

Lionel Messi returned to the top of The Associated Press Global Football 10 on Tuesday after scoring a hattrick in Barcelona's 5-0 win over Levante. Messi's 31st career treble came in his 300th Spanish league match. He is already the all-time record scorer in the division and his three goals on Sunday took his tally to 269. "Lionel Messi's goals meant he went level on 23 La Liga hattricks with Cristiano Ronaldo, and so his duel with the Real Madrid star continues," Mike McGrath of The Sun in England said. "This week it is the Barcelona superstar who is top of the charts."

- AP



Blues slate racist fans in Paris

AFP, London

Chelsea Football Club said Wednesday it was prepared to ban self-proclaimed racist fans who were filmed preventing a black man from boarding a Paris subway train, saying their behaviour was "abhorrent".

A amateur footage obtained by The Guardian newspaper captured the incident in a Metro station shortly before Chelsea's Champions League match with Paris Saint-Germain in the French capital on Tuesday evening.

It shows a group of men chanting "Chelsea, Chelsea" standing in a packed train waiting at a platform.

The unidentified black man repeatedly tried to squeeze into the carriage and they aggressively pushed him back. The film then cuts to them chanting: "We're racist, we're racist, and that's the way we like it."

In a statement, Chelsea said: "Such behaviour is abhorrent and has no place in football or society."

"We will support any criminal action against those involved, and should evidence point to involvement of Chelsea season-ticket holders or members of the club will take the strongest possible action against them, including banning orders."

Italian govt slams Sacchi

AFP, Rome

A senior member of the Italian government on Tuesday condemned Arrigo Sacchi's claim there are too many black players in Italian youth football as a "grave error."

"The Italy of 30 years ago is not the Italy of today," said Graziano Delrio, the State Secretary to Prime Minister Matteo Renzi who also holds responsibility for sport in the Italian council of ministers.

"Today there are young players who are Italian citizens in fact and by right given that they were born and raised in Italy even if their parents had overseas roots," Delrio said in a statement.



NITOL-NILOY

০১৬৭১৮০১০১১
০১৬৭১৮২৫২৬৭৭

01671801011
016718252677



FACEWASH RANGE FROM JAPAN

THE FIRST DEDICATED MEN'S BRAND IN BANGLADESH



OXY Perfect Wash - enriched with refreshing fruit oils and Strong Anti-Acne formula

OXY Active Wash - created with vitamins C, E & B3 and blue crystalline granules which remove dead skin cells

OXY Deep Wash - powered with Activated Charcoal, perfect for sun-exposed skin

OXY Oil Control Wash - contains seaweed extracts and active micro particles which wash away excessive impurities

#1 IN JAPAN

FIND US: OXYBD

01755543344

ROHTO