

# Costa keeps Chelsea flying



Chelsea's Diego Costa (C) vies with Manchester City's John Stones (L) and Nicolas Otamendi

## Manchester

**Diego Costa** starred as Premier League leaders Chelsea roared back to win 3-1 yesterday in an ill-tempered game at Manchester City, who had Sergio Aguero and Fernandinho dismissed.

Gary Cahill's own goal gifted City the lead, but Costa equalised and teed up substitute Willian before Eden Hazard struck to send Antonio Conte's men four points clear

of City at the summit.

City's frustration boiled over in stoppage time with Aguero and Fernandinho red-carded, the former for a disgraceful lunge on David Luiz, the latter for pushing Cesc Fabregas over an advertising board.

It was the second time in succession that Chelsea had come from behind to win, having done so against Tottenham Hotspur last weekend, as they recorded

their eighth successive victory.

Pep Guardiola tasted defeat at the Etihad Stadium for the first time as City manager and has now seen his side go four home games without a win.

They were left to rue some profligate finishing, but it was referee Anthony Taylor who attracted the home fans' ire after rejecting four penalty appeals.

A muscular injury sustained by Nemanja Matic forced Conte

to change his starting XI for the first time in seven games, with Fabregas coming into the team in central midfield.

Guardiola showed his respect for Chelsea's recent run by mirroring the Londoners' shape with a back three of his own, as he made six changes from last weekend's 2-1 win at Burnley.

Chelsea were given encouragement in the early stages, Hazard curling

wide and failing to exploit a situation that saw him round City goalkeeper Claudio Bravo.

But as the half wore on, so City began to pin their opponents back and so Taylor became an increasingly central figure. He had already denied City what would have been a very harsh penalty for handball against Cahill when Cesar Azpilicueta's under-hit back-pass gifted Aguero a run on goal. (AFP)

## Malaysian player beats Messi, Neymar

### Kuala Lumpur

**A Malaysian** footballer has beaten the likes of Neymar and Messi to score a place in FIFA's shortlist for top three goals of the year.

Midfielder Mohamad Faiz Subri's cracker of a free kick for Penang state in the Malaysian Super League in February was reminiscent of the swerving thunderbolt by Brazil legend Roberto Carlos against France in 1997. Footage of the 29-year-old scoring a viciously swerving goal from 35 metres (115 feet) out has gone viral, making him a sensation in football-crazy Malaysia.

"This is something I will never forget and it motivates me to improve my game further," Faiz said on Thursday.

"Football brings people together and football supporters here are of many races, and they voted for my goal," he added.



Mohamad Faiz Subri (file pic)

# Montpellier rock mediocre PSG

## Paris

**Paris Saint-Germain** blew their chance to provisionally move top of Ligue 1 yesterday as they crashed to a shock 3-0 defeat at Montpellier.

Paul Lasne struck just before half-time for Montpellier, the last team other than PSG to lift the French title back in 2011-12, with Ellyes Skhiri adding a second shortly after the break.

Ryad Boudebouz capped a remarkable afternoon at the Stade de la Mosson with a terrific individual goal 10 minutes from time as Unai Emery's PSG remained a point behind leaders Nice.



Montpellier's Paul Lasne (2ndR) is congratulated by his teammates

The reigning champions could lose further ground with Nice hosting Toulouse on Sunday, while Monaco will

climb back above PSG if they beat Bastia at home later. PSG face Ludogorets of Bulgaria in the Champions

League on Tuesday as they try to seal top spot in Group A before taking on Nice next weekend, but they were blindsided by a Montpellier outfit that had won just three times in 15 matches this season.

The visitors were without midfield trio Marco Verratti, Adrien Rabiot and Thiago Motta as 19-year-old Christopher Nkunku was drafted in by Emery for his first league appearance this term.

The teenager should have put PSG in front from Angel Di Maria's left-wing cross with just six minutes gone, but his close-range header was turned away well by Laurent Pionnier. (AFP)

# Antlers floor Reds to win J-League title

## Saitama

**Kashima Antlers** stunned perennial chokers Urawa Reds 2-1 away yesterday to win their eighth Japanese title on away goals after an absorbing two-legged championship final.

A Mu Kanazaki double crushed Urawa's dreams of a first J-League title in 2006, the striker smashing home a late penalty to complete an improbable turnaround after they were beaten 1-0 at home earlier in the week.

"Whatever the points totals



Kashima Antlers players celebrate their victory

were over the season, we were desperate to be J-League champions," said Antlers coach Masatada Ishii, who

side finished 15 points behind Urawa over the season's two stages.

"I'm so proud of the players

for battling to the end. Everyone involved with the club can be proud of what we've achieved today." (AFP)



"In my life, maybe I don't have a lot of money, but I always had my family, always supporting me, so in this way I was very lucky"

-Arsenal playmaker Mesut Ozil

## REST IN SIGHT

### Sunderland off the bottom

#### Sunderland

Sunderland climbed off the bottom of the Premier League as Leicester City's disastrous title defence suffered another blow with a 2-1 defeat yesterday.

### Stone stretches Dunhill lead to three shots

#### Malelane

South African Brandon Stone stretched his Alfred Dunhill Championship lead to three shots yesterday with a six-under-par 66 for a third-round total of 199.

### Wiggins must resolve steroid use controversy

#### London

Five-time Olympic cycling champion Bradley Wiggins has to clear up the question marks remaining over why he was granted therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs) for a steroid, his former teammate Chris Froome says.

### Brazil mourns fallen football team

#### Chapeco

The bodies of 50 players, coaches and staff from a Brazilian football team wiped out in a plane crash in Colombia arrived home yesterday for a massive funeral.

### Indonesia beat Vietnam in first Suzuki semi

#### Jakarta

Indonesia beat Vietnam 2-1 in the first leg of the Suzuki Cup semi-final yesterday. Hansamu Yama Pranata drew first blood for Indonesia after only seven minutes of play.

For more, catch us online at:

[www.newsofbahrain.com](http://www.newsofbahrain.com)

f /nobonline

t /newsofbahrain