

CAHILL SIGNS THREE-YEAR CONTRACT AT MELBOURNE CITY

SYDNEY: Australia's record goal scorer Tim Cahill has signed for Melbourne City FC, a move that will see him play in the country's domestic A-League competition for the first time.

Cahill, who has won 91 caps for Australia and is the country's record goal scorer with 47, has signed a three-year contract with Melbourne City.

The midfielder will play for two years then join the club's coaching staff in 2018, the team said yesterday. "It's the biggest player signing in the League's history, it's a red letter day for the code," Football Federation Australia's CEO David Gallop told reporters in Sydney.

"I think for many Australians when you think football, you think Tim Cahill.

"Scoring goals, celebrating by punching the corner flag, hopefully we are going to see plenty of that over the next couple of seasons, not only in the A-League but of course for the Socceroos on the road to Russia 2018."

Cahill, 36, has represented his country in three consecutive World Cups and the Asian Cup, becoming the first Australian to score in each competition.

"I am incredibly excited to have signed with Melbourne City and ultimately the City Football Group. There is real ambition and purpose here, qualities that are immensely important to me," Cahill said in a statement.

Cahill previously played for Chinese Super League side Shanghai Shenhua, the MLS' New York Red Bulls, Everton in the English Premier League and Millwall, also in England.

He joins Melbourne City after leaving CSL side Hangzhou Greentown in July. Neither Melbourne City nor Gallop has revealed the exact price paid for the midfielder. "Without putting a precise figure on it, I think it's a significant investment by the game, the biggest investment that the league has ever made in a player and that is, I think, appropriate for Tim Cahill," Gallop added.

"As I say, he's number one on our wish list and we've got him." —Reuters



BARCELONA: FC Barcelona's Luis Suarez, in air, duels for the ball against Sampdoria's Matias Silvestre during the Joan Gamper trophy friendly soccer match between FC Barcelona and Sampdoria at the Camp Nou in Barcelona, Spain, Wednesday. —AP

WENGER, KLOPP, POCHETTINO OUT TO UPSET MANCHESTER CLUB SCENE

LONDON: Arsene Wenger, Jurgen Klopp and Mauricio Pochettino head into the new Premier League season with the burden of expectation weighing heavily on their shoulders. In contrast to the two Manchester clubs and Chelsea, the trio are familiar with their surroundings, no one more so than Wenger at Arsenal, whilst Pochettino starts his third campaign with Spurs and Klopp his first full season with Liverpool.

Wenger and Klopp have struck already in terms of arousing the ire of Manchester United's fiery coach Jose Mourinho in criticising the huge fee paid for Paul Pogba.

Many Arsenal fans may have expressed the unease they feel over their cash rich board failing to act once more in the transfer market. Despite signing Swiss midfielder Granit Xhaka for around £35 million, there have been few other forays into the high end except a failed bid for French striker Alexandre

Lacazette. — AFP — AFP This also adds to the sense that the phrase 'familiarity breeds contempt' is coming true at Arsenal, where unless Wenger produces a genuine title challenge in his 21st campaign the small bands of supporters who dared to flash banners asking him to go last season could evolve into mass protests. Wenger's hesitancy to launch into the transfer market has already had an impact as he scrambled around this week for a centreback with both Per Mertesacker and Gabriel out injured.

"Everybody is ambitious-never has the Premier League been gifted with so many ambitious people or clubs at the start of the season," said the 66-year-old Frenchman to ArsenalWay.

"But sometimes the media give too much importance to the managers and I believe that what is important is the quality of the players on the pitch. "All teams compete highly to have a top squad." Arsenal fans might take those remarks

with a pinch of salt as their regular complaint has been that their squad is not strong enough and with the Frenchman's contract up at the end of the upcoming campaign he will hope the longest-running love affair in football's elite doesn't end in a messy divorce.

Klopp for his part will be seeking to build on the progress he made at Liverpool when he came in after Brendan Rodgers was given the heave ho last season. The charismatic German has brought in some interesting recruits such as the Dutch attacking midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum, who was one of the rare players to produce top-class performances for relegated Newcastle United last season. Klopp may find his side's weakness is in central defence, and says his intention was never for wholesale personnel changes. Instead he prefers to draw on the unlikely successes of the Euro 2016 championships as an example to follow.— AFP



SYDNEY: This file photo taken on January 31, 2015 shows Australia's Tim Cahill celebrating during the victory run after beating South Korea in the AFC Asian Cup football final at Stadium Australia in Sydney. — AFP

OOREDOO ANNOUNCES REGISTRATION FOR THE FANTASY PREMIER LEAGUE

KUWAIT: In line with the start of the English Premier League season 2016/2017, Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of international Ooredoo Group, announced the start of registration for the 'Fantasy Premier League' through its social media channels, offering all interested participants the opportunity to win great prizes throughout the duration of the league.

To participate in the Fantasy Premier League, Ooredoo created the following code for interested participants and football fans 1105539-285050. The code enables participants to collect the most points possible to

compete for a monthly smart phone, and win the grand prize which is a trip for two with accommodation and tickets to attend one of the games of the English Premier League Season 2017/2018.

Commenting on this announcement, Yousef Al Shalal Senior Manager of CSR, Sponsorship and Social media said: "Football season is one of the most common interests among our customers, and by providing them with the opportunity to register in the Fantasy Premier League we aim to add to their excitement and pleasure while viewing these games all season long.

We do hope participants get the opportunity to win these great prizes Ooredoo is offering".

Fantasy Football is a game in which participants assemble an imaginary team of the real life players and score points based on those players' actual statistical performance. The participant with the highest scoring team is announced the winner of the Fantasy Football League.

For more information and updates on the Fantasy Premier League, please follow Ooredoo Kuwait's social media channels, through which winners names will be announced.

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