

# SHOWBIZ



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East Asia entertainment weekly edition published every Saturday

## MUSIC

### PINAY SINGER ENJOYS FAME IN ASIA

MANILA - Cover singer Sabrina Orial may not be famous in the Philippines, but her voice is already well known in Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea.

Orial is dubbed as "Asia's Acoustic Sweetheart" for her signature soft voice, which always captures her audiences' hearts.

Since her debut in 2006, the Filipina singer has already released multi-platinum albums, performed in prestigious events and established a strong fanbase.

She also collaborated with several popular Asian artists, including Thailand's Koh Mr Saxman and Indonesia's Raisa.

"In Singapore, they were very prim and proper pero pagdating sa sales and autograph signing, they were very warm," Orial told the Manila Bulletin in an exclusive interview.

As for her popularity in Indonesia, the 24-year-old singer said: "There were screaming fans din talaga. Nakakatuwa po. Parang feeling ko talaga Yeng Constantino and Sarah G ang beauty ko do'n."

Despite her reputation in other countries, Orial never failed to thank her Pinoy fans for supporting her.

### PINOY MYX COUNTDOWN (JANUARY18-JANUARY24)

1 - Tayo by Sarah Geronimo, 2 - Midas by Abra, 3 - Bawal Sa Gamot by Banda Ni Kleggy, 4 - Unshakable by Slapshock, 5 - Kailangan Kita by Sponge Cola, 6 - Ang Parokya by Parokya Ni Edgar, 7 - Magda by Gloc-9, 8 - Lucky In Love by Paolo Onesa, 9 - Rakista by Join The Club, 10 - Ikot-Ikot by Sarah Geronimo, 11 - Meron Nang Iba by Silent Sanctuary, 12 - Sembreak by Moonstar88, 13 - New Romancer by Sandwich, 14 - Changes by Save Me Hollywood, 15 - Crooked Faces by Mr Bones and the Boneyard Circus, 16 - Tibay Ng Pinas by The Dawn, 17 - Sana Dalawa Ang Puso Ko by Midnight Meetings, 18 - Heather's Prayer by Saydie, 19 - Selfie Song by Davey Langit, 20 - Ngiti by Young JV.

### MYX INTERNATIONAL TOP20 (JANUARY18-JANUARY24)

1 - Still You by Donghae & Eunhyuk, 2 - Perfume by Britney Spears, 3 - Neon Lights by Demi Lovato, 4 - Unconditionally by Katy Perry, 5 - XO by Beyonce, 6 - Miracles In December by EXO, 7 - Story Of My Life by One Direction, 8 - All That Matters by Justin Bieber, 9 - Adore You by Miley Cyrus, 10 - Say Something by A Great Big World & Christina Aguilera, 11 - The Monster by Eminem, 12 - Who You Love by John Mayer, 13 - Let Me Go by Avril Lavigne, 14 - Team by Lorde, 15 - Timber by Pitbull, 16 - Something by TVXQ, 17 - Cannonball by Lea Michele, 18 - Right There by Ariana Grande, 19 - Banga Banga by Austin Mahone, 20 - Love Don't Die by The Fray.

## Brilliante Mendoza conferred with French Knighthood

MANILA - The French government has bestowed its "Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres" (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) to acclaimed Filipino director Brilliante Mendoza for his works that greatly contributed to France's arts and letters.

"Mendoza's films, beginning from the commercial release of 'Foster Child' in France, have created an awareness about the contemporary Philippine cinema. (He) is well-known by the general French moviegoers," said Martin Macalintal, audiovisual attache of the French Embassy in Manila.

French Ambassador Gilles Garachon conferred the title to Mendoza on Thursday at his residence in Makati City.

In his acceptance speech, Mendoza said: "It is quite a task when one is recognized for an achievement. It becomes a responsibility to carry on and pursue the expectations attached to the recognition.

"As a filmmaker from a developing country, my works were merely aimed to mirror social

realities and make the audience reflect on them. Hopefully, to create change.

"Many times I have been asked how much do I value the trophies and plaques I have received for my films. I simply answered that the value is not on the physical object that the recognition is represented, but rather on the meaning of the recognition," the director added.

On that day, Mendoza joined the likes of film directors Terry Gilliam and Tim Burton, actors George Clooney and Jude Law, dancer Rudolf Nureyev, and author William Burroughs.

Notable Filipino recipients of the medal include businessman Jaime Zobel de Ayala, sculptor Napoleon Abueva, visual artist Arturo Luz, journalist Rosalinda Orosa and curator Corazon Alvina.

The 53-year-old director was first recognized in France in 2007 after the success of his film "Foster Child."

Four more of his award-winning works - "Serbis," "Kinatay," "Lola" and "Captive" - was released in the European country.

## Frankie Valli cancels Thai concert due to unrest

BANGKOK - Sixties doo-wop singer Frankie Valli has canceled a concert in Bangkok, Thailand, this week due to an ongoing political unrest in the country, the event's promoter announced on Monday.

According to promoter BEC-Tero Entertainment PCL, Wednesday's performance was scrapped "due to the current political situation and its associated difficulties, and for the safety and well-being of customers."

The concert, billed as Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, was to be held near one of several sites where protesters have been demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. Violence has marred some of the protests, leading to nine deaths since November, The Associated Press reported.

"I am truly disappointed that I can't perform for my fans in Thailand on January 22. But your safety and security are more important and really matter to me. My thoughts are with you all. I promise I will come back to perform in Thailand soon," the announcement quoted Valli as saying.

## Cui Jian quits TV show over song choice

BEIJING - A legendary Chinese rocker has refused to perform at a state broadcaster's variety show after being denied permission to sing a song that became an unofficial anthem of the 1989 pro-democracy protests.

Cui Jian had proposed to sing his 1986 song "Nothing to My Name" at China Central Television's January 30 gala show marking the Lunar New Year, but the event's censors asked him to choose another, his manager, You You, told reporters.

Cui decided to quit the show instead of singing a different song, You stressed.

Cui sang "Nothing to My Name" at the Tiananmen Square for students on a hunger strike in 1989, days before the government sent in tanks and troops to crack down on the demonstrations. Later, authorities denied him permission for concerts and censored his lyrics.

"It is not only our regret, but also the gala's. Cui Jian has his fans all over the world, so his stage is far beyond the CCTV's gala," the manager added as quoted by The Associated Press.

## GERRANS CLAIMS 3RD TOUR DOWN UNDER

ADELAIDE, Australia - Victoria's Simon Gerrans celebrated Australia Day in style when he claimed a record-breaking third Tour Down Under in Adelaide on Sunday.

Riding in an Australian team on national day, the Orica GreenEdge rider finished in the leading group behind Germany's Andre Greipel to win the season-opening UCI World Tour event by one second from fellow countryman Cadel Evans.

Italian Diego Ulissi (Lampre-Merida) finished in third, four seconds further back.

The sixth and last stage, 18 laps of a 4.75km circuit through central Adelaide, went perfectly for Gerrans, who took just a one-second lead into the final day.

Gerrans stayed in the front section of the peloton all race and never looked in danger of surrendering the ochre leader's jersey he regained after Saturday's fifth stage on Willunga Hill.

"We made sure we stayed at the front, stayed out of trouble," Gerrans said.

"I'm really thrilled to come out unscathed."

"The guys did a fantastic job - they kept me right up the front there out of trouble, well protected, to make sure I would avoid any splits in the peloton and I finished right up there in the front. So it worked out beautifully."

Gerrans said it was particularly special to win on Australia Day in front of a massive crowd in central Adelaide.

"It's a huge honour to win the Tour Down Under and to cap it all off on Australia Day as well, and racing for an Australian team, it just doesn't get much better," he said. (AFP)

## GARCIA CLINCHES QATAR MASTERS

DOHA - Sergio Garcia became the second Spaniard after Alvaro Quiros to win the Qatar Masters when he edged Finland's Mikko Ilonen in a thrilling playoff at the Doha Golf Club on Saturday.

With the light fading fast, Garcia clinched the title with a birdie after both players had failed to break the deadlock in their first two attempts on the par five 18th hole.

However when they started all over again for the third time, Ilonen found the bunker and misread his putt from 12 feet to par the hole.

Meanwhile, Garcia two-putted for birdie to win his 11th title on the European Tour.

His last two titles in Europe came in 2011 when he won the Andalucia Masters and the Castello Masters.

With Saturday's win Garcia also made amends for dramatically losing out on the title last year in Qatar when Chris Wood's brilliant eagle on the 18th gave the Englishman his first and so far only European Tour victory. (AFP)

# Wawrinka stuns injured Nadal to win Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Australia - Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka claimed his first Grand Slam title in dramatic fashion on Sunday when he upset injury-troubled world number one Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open final.

The eighth seed roared through the first two sets and overcame the distraction of a back injury to Nadal, and then the loss of the third set, to take it 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 in two hours 21 minutes.

Nadal, who was chasing his 14th major title, looked as if he might pull out with the back injury but he fought back to take the third set and force the match into a fourth set.

It was a stunning result for Wawrinka, who had never taken a set off Nadal in their 12 previous meetings and won his first Slam title at his 36th attempt, the second longest wait on record.

"For me it's the best Grand Slam ever. I'm enjoying very much to play here," Wawrinka said, who lost in five sets to Novak Djokovic in last year's fourth round.

## Li storms to second Slam title

MELBOURNE, Australia - China's Li Na battled past Dominika Cibulkova at the Australian Open to storm to her second Grand Slam title, giving another huge boost to Asian tennis and earning glowing praise in her home country.

The 31-year-old fourth seed's 7-6 (7/3), 6-0 win crowned her the champion on her third attempt after losing the 2011 and 2013 finals, adding to the French Open title she won three years ago.

In doing so, she became the oldest winner of the women's title, surpassing Margaret Court who was 30 when she became champion in 1973.

The Chinese star also joins an exclusive list of just seven other players to win a Grand Slam at 30-plus, with her name now in the history books alongside greats such as Martina Navratilova, Billie Jean King, Chris Evert and Serena Williams.

While it was Li's fourth Grand Slam final, it was the first for Cibulkova and that crucial experience was put to good use to take out the Slovak after a tight first set lasting 70 minutes.

"In one year a lot has happened. Right now I still don't know if I'm dreaming or not. We'll see tomorrow morning."

Wawrinka's win was a rare shock at the top of men's tennis after several years of dominance by the game's top four players. The last outsider to win was Juan Martin del Potro at the 2009 US Open.

Injury-prone Nadal was in tears as he said: "Many thanks Stan, you really deserved it, I'm very happy for you. I had bad luck against you today but you really deserve it."

Nadal has had injury problems in the past in Melbourne. He missed the 2006 and 2013 editions, had to retire injured in 2010 and was hit by a muscle strain during his 2011 defeat to David Ferrer.

"My team, I tried hard, thank you very much. Without them it would be impossible to be where I am today. Sorry to finish this way, I tried very, very hard," said the devastated Nadal.

"This year is one of the more emotional tournaments of my career." (AFP)

"I would like to say age is nothing. I can still win a Grand Slam," Li said. "So I'm pretty happy about my age. I got more experience on the court."

The win pushes her one place higher in the world rankings to three, just 11 points adrift of Victoria Azarenka in second place behind Serena Williams.

It was a gutsy effort by the Chinese star, who overcame the pressure of having lost twice before while bearing the weight of expectation from her homeland of 1.3 billion people.

After her win, the state-run Xinhua news agency led the praise in China for a player affectionately known as "big sister" by her adoring fans.

"Congratulations sister Na!" it said on its Weibo microblog.

Li's 2011 French Open victory, the first Grand Slam win by an Asian player, dramatically raised the profile of tennis in China and she has become the figurehead for a push into Asia by women's tennis.

"Tough," she said when asked to sum up the fortnight at Melbourne Park, where she had to battle searing heat and rally from a match point down in her third round clash with Lucie Safarova. (AFP)

## IN FOCUS

### AMOLE GUPTA TO PLAY VILLAIN IN 'SINGHAM 2'

Indian film-maker and actor Amole Gupte will be seen playing the negative role in Rohit Shetty's "Singham 2".

The movie would star Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor Khan along with Gupte.

"Singham 2" is the sequel of the hit 2011 film. Directed by Shetty, "Singham 2" is all set to go on floors this March. (PTI)

### 'MERE DAD KI MARUTI' SEQUEL IN PIPELINE

Buoyed by the success of 'Mere Dad Ki Maruti', the makers of the 2013 comedy are working on its sequel.

'Mere Dad Ki Maruti' directed by Ashima Chibber had Saqib Saleem, Ram Kapoor, Rhea Chakraborty and others. The film which released in 2013 got a good response.

Yash Raj Films has decided to make a sequel to 'Mere Dad Ki Maruti' under their banner Y-Films. The second outing is apparently going to be titled 'Meri Maruti'.

"The first one was very successful both commercially and critically. 'Mere Dad Ki Maruti' has made it onto must watch film list of 2013. The music is also still buzzing everywhere," Ashish Patil, Vice President - Y-Films, Brand Partnerships & Talent Management told PTI.

"The story and the characters lend themselves to being extended as a franchise very well. So we are quite keen to pursue the same," he said.

And the makers are thinking of coming up with a sequel and the work is on for it. (PTI)

### YRF BRINGS PRODUCER GUNEET MONGA ON BOARD FOR 'TITLI'

Yash Raj Films (YRF) has brought 'The Lunchbox' producer Guneet Monga on board to chart out the promotion and the international festival strategy of Kanu Behl directed 'Titli'.

Produced by filmmaker Dibakar Banerjee and presented by YRF, the film was in development for over two years.

Monga will be responsible for charting out a road map so that the film ensures a wider audience internationally.

"Titli' is a very strong film and I am thrilled to be a part of the team assisting in the international approach. It took us the last five years to be able to create the right platform and the interest for the new wave hitting Indian cinema internationally. With 'Titli', I hope to take it forward," Monga said in a statement.

## 'Aashiqui 2' sweeps GIMA awards with six trophies

Mohit Suri's love saga 'Aashiqui 2' was a big winner at the 4th edition of Global Indian Music Academy (GiMA) Awards with six wins in the film section including best film album.

The best film song honour went to 'Tumhi ho' from 'Aashiqui 2' and the singer Arijit Singh bagged best playback male award. Shreya Ghoshal was named best female singer for her rendition 'Sun Raha Hai Na Tu' in the film.

The best musical debut award was given to Ankit Tiwari for 'Sun Raha Hai Na Tu' and Eric Pillai won the best sound engineer for the Aditya Roy Kapoor, Shraddha Kapoor starrer.

'Aashiqui 2' was followed by Ranbir Kapoor's 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani', which won three honours- best music director for Pritam, best duet for Rekha Bhardwaj and Tochi Raina (Kabira) and best music arranger for the song 'Badtameez Dil'.

Farhan Akhtar starrer 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag' and Abhishek Kapoor-directed 'Kai Po Che' bagged one award each in the the best

background score category for Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy and best lyricist Swanand Kirkire (Manza) respectively.

The prestigious Lifetime Achievement Honour was awarded to Asha Bhosle in the popular category for her outstanding contribution to the music industry. Pt Ram Narayan, considered the finest sarangi exponent in the country and the man who made it a popular instrument was also awarded the Lifetime Achievement Honour Classical.

Global music icon honour went to Pt Ravi Shankar's daughter Anoushka Shankar and L Subramaniam was given the global musician honour.

The ceremony hosted by actor Ranveer Singh featured performances by Bhosle, who paid tribute to music legend RD Burman as she sang some of his most iconic songs 'Mera Naam Shabnam', 'Dum Maro Dum', 'Gulabi Chehra', 'Duniya Mein' and 'Aa Dekhe Zara' among others. (PTI)

### Big B enjoys dancing on 'Bhootnath Returns' set

Even at the age of 71, megastar Amitabh Bachchan says he is enjoying shaking his leg while filming a song in the upcoming 'Bhootnath Returns'.

'Bhootnath Returns' is a sequel to the 2008 horror-comedy film 'Bhootnath', which also starred Juhi Chawla and Shah Rukh Khan besides Bachchan as the friendly ghost.

"It has been a while, since I shook my body to dance on camera! Now at 71, it does seem incongruous but truth be told its exceedingly enjoyable, so long as the number of takes are within tolerable limits," Bachchan posted on his blog.

The song that the actor is filming currently has been choreographed by Ganesh Acharya, who was one of the backing dancers for a song in 1990 Bachchan-starrer 'Agnepath'.

The star, who is very active on the social networking sites, has crossed 9 million followers on Facebook and he thanked his fans for their continuous support.

"It is now 9 million on Facebook. Thank you all genuinely," he tweeted. (PTI)

### Ranbir's 'Jagga Jasoos' to release after IPL next year

Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor starrer 'Jagga Jasoos' is set to release in May next year after IPL.

"Disney's Jagga Jasoos, directed by Anurag Basu, starring Ranbir Kapoor, Katrina Kaif and Govinda, will release on May 29, 2015, the first Friday after the end of the IPL season next year," a statement issued here said.

Despite having a banner like RK Films, Ranbir is co-producing 'Jagga Jasoos' with Anurag Basu and has floated a company with him called Picture Shuru Productions.

Apparently, the film, where Ranbir plays a detective, would be along the lines of 'Sherlock Holmes-meets-James Bond-meets-Mission Impossible' in typical Bollywood entertainer style with right dose of action, comedy and music.

Earlier, Ranbir had told PTI that they were planning lot of things for the film, like a TV show called 'Jagga Junior', comic books, animation and cartoons.

He said they are trying to build a brand around the protagonist, so that by the time the film releases everyone is familiar with what 'Jagga Jasoos' is about. (PTI)

## IN-FOCUS

### WB PLEDGES USD 2BLN FOR MYANMAR

YANGON (AFP) - The World Bank (WB) announced on Sunday a USD 2 billion development programme for Myanmar, including projects to improve access to energy and healthcare in the impoverished former military-ruled nation.

Bank President Jim Yong Kim, on his first visit to the former pariah state, said half of the funds would be used to expand power supplies, in a country where more than 70% of the population does not have access to reliable electricity.

"We are increasing our support for the huge reform effort underway in Myanmar because we want to help the government bring benefits to poor people even more quickly," Kim said in a statement.

"Expanding access to electricity in a country like Myanmar can help transform a society - children will be able to study at night, shops will stay open, and health clinics will have lights and energy to power life-saving technology. Electricity helps bring an end to poverty," he said.

The programme also includes USD 200 million to help Myanmar achieve universal health coverage by 2030, the Bank added, noting that only one in four people in the once-isolated country has access to quality healthcare.

### SAMSUNG, GOOGLE SIGN PATENT-SHARING DEAL

SEOUL (AFP) - Samsung said on Monday it had signed a long-term cross-licence deal with Google in a move to help the South Korean technology firm stave off potential patent disputes in the future.

The move comes as the South Korean firm is engaged in a series of long-running copyright infringement rows with Apple over technology and design in the firms' smartphones and tablets.

Samsung said in a statement on Monday that its agreement with US Internet search giant Google will cover the firms' existing patents as well as those filed over the next 10 years.

It said it would cover "a broad range of technologies and business areas", without elaborating further.

"By working together on agreements like this, companies can reduce the potential for litigation and focus instead on innovation," Allen Lo, Google's Deputy General Counsel for patents, said in the statement.

## Economic fundamentals strong, no cause for concern: Govt

NEW DELHI (PTI) - Seeking to assuage investors worried over declining value of the rupee and falling stock markets, the Finance Ministry on Monday said the country's economic fundamentals are "very strong" and there is no cause for concern.

"Current Account Deficit (CAD) is below USD 50 billion. Foreign exchange reserves are (at) all-time high. We have very strong fundamentals. I don't think that there is any cause of worry," Economic Affairs Secretary Arvind Mayaram told reporters.

He was responding to a query regarding the decline in the value of the Indian rupee, which has slipped to 62.75 against the US dollar. The stock markets too plunged, with the benchmark BSE Sensex declining over 300 points in early trade.

Mayaram further said that there was no reason for the Indian currency to be impacted by

something happening in Argentina. "I do not see any correlation," he added.

He was apparently referring to the massive fall in the value of the Argentina's currency peso last week.

The rupee, he said: "will remain range-bound and we should not get overtly concerned."

Every currency behaves based on the strength of its own fundamentals, he said, stressing there had been considerable improvement in the CAD situation.

The CAD, which is the difference between inflow and outflow of foreign exchange, slipped to all time high of USD 88.2 billion in 2012-13 or 4.8% of the GDP.

Situation has improved with the government and the Reserve Bank taking series of steps to contain the CAD. In the current financial year it is expected to fall below USD 50 billion.

### India, Japan to co-operate in energy, telecoms

NEW DELHI (AP) - India and Japan have signed agreements on co-operation in the energy and telecom sectors during Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to New Delhi.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh held talks with Abe on Saturday and said India was taking steps to facilitate Japan's links with India's growing economy.

Singh said that India was also discussing with Japan the possibility of buying an amphibian aircraft called the US-2 and its co-production in India. "More broadly, we are working toward increasing our co-operation in the area of advanced technologies," he added.

The two agreed to hold regular consultations between their national security councils on security issues. India invited Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force to participate in this year's Indo-US naval exercises off the western coast, according to a joint statement issued after the official talks.

Japan is keen to boost exports of atomic technology and other infrastructure to help revive its economy.

On Saturday, Singh said: "Our negotiations toward an agreement for co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy have gained momentum in the last few months."

### PAC to ask Centre to claim compensation from Boeing

NEW DELHI (PTI) - A Parliamentary panel is likely to ask the Central government to take urgent steps to infuse equity in Air India and claim compensation from Boeing for delay in aircraft deliveries as well as grounding of the Dreamliners.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has concluded deliberations on the performance of the civil aviation sector in the country with specific reference to Air India and is likely to meet soon to adopt a report on the matter.

The Committee is learnt to have decided to ask the government to infuse Rs 30,231 crore in an expeditious manner in order to bail out the national carrier, saying it was a matter of paramount importance.

Among several major issues, the panel headed by senior BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi discussed the global grounding of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft in January last year, when Air India had six of them in its fleet.

The four-month grounding caused by the malfunctioning of lithium ion batteries used in the airplane, as well as a series of technical faults later witnessed in the Dreamliners, has led the Committee to ask the government to safeguard the interests of Air India in terms of the aircraft's warranty with Boeing.

# FINAL WHISTLE



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## CHELSEA DRAW CITY IN FA CUP

The Barclays Premier League's top four will all face off in the fifth round of the FA Cup with Manchester City hosting Chelsea as Arsenal take on Liverpool.

Manuel Pellegrini's City, winners in 2011 and runners-up to Wigan last year, recovered from two goals down to beat Watford in the fourth round on Saturday and meet Chelsea following the Blues' slender 1-0 victory over Stoke.

Ten-time winners Arsenal are currently out in front in the Premier League and tackle Brendan Rodgers' ambitious Liverpool after the top-flight sides ousted Coventry and Bournemouth respectively.

Holders Wigan produced the shock of the fourth round by beating Crystal Palace 2-1 and next face Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's Cardiff in a match set to take place on the weekend of February 15-16.

The two lowest-ranking teams remaining in the competition, Sheffield United and Preston of League One, could face each other in the quarter-finals if they can get through respective replays against Fulham and Nottingham Forest.

The Blades held Fulham to a 1-1 draw and go to Craven Cottage on February 4 while Preston invite Nottingham Forest to Deepdale for a decider following Friday night's stalemate.

Two remaining all-Premier League clashes will see Sunderland - fourth-round victors over non-league Kidderminster - entertain Southampton and 1995 winners Everton tackle Swansea at Goodison Park.

Hull's victory over Southend earned them a return trip south, this time to Brighton, while two Championship sides will go head-to-head at Hillsborough when Sheffield Wednesday host Charlton.

## Chelsea sign Salah

Chelsea have completed the signing of Mohamed Salah from Basle. The Blues announced on Thursday night the signing of the 21-year-old Egyptian winger, subject to a medical.

And, before Sunday's FA Cup fourth-round tie with Stoke, the club confirmed the deal has been concluded. The deal is for a reported fee of £11million as Chelsea signed the forward ahead of Liverpool.

Once it was clear Juan Mata was to join Manchester United, Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho began looking for a replacement and Salah immediately came to mind.

## Oscar sends Chelsea through

Oscar helped Chelsea draw a line beneath Juan Mata's departure with a fine free-kick in a 1-0 win over Stoke City in the FA Cup fourth round on Sunday.

The Brazilian had dislodged Mata from his position as Chelsea's main playmaker, prompting the Spaniard to join Manchester United, and the quality of his goal demonstrated why manager Jose Mourinho rates him so highly.

The Blues failed to add to Oscar's first-half effort despite hitting the woodwork twice, although it was a largely comfortable victory, with Stoke rarely threatening to score an equaliser and force a replay.

Chelsea's reward is a mouthwatering fifth round trip to Premier League rivals Manchester City.

Mourinho opted to rest a number of senior players including John Terry and Petr Cech, but his decision to include Samuel Eto'o in his starting line-up raised eyebrows.

The forward scored a hat-trick in the 3-1 victory over Manchester United seven days previously, but the manager had been expected to rest Eto'o and hand Demba Ba a rare start.

However, Eto'o wasted little time justifying Mourinho's decision, quickly impressing himself on the Stoke back-line and drawing the

foul that allowed Oscar to break the deadlock in spectacular style.

Eto'o's smart turn and shot in the second minute suggested this would be a long afternoon for Stoke, who were hoping to repeat their Premier League victory over the Blues in early December.

The visitors' initial response suggested otherwise, with Peter Crouch heading wide after getting ahead of his marker David Luiz three minutes later.

Stoke struggled to put Cech's replacement Mark Schwarzer under real pressure, but they matched Chelsea in the midfield areas for long periods.

Chelsea, though, looked capable of capitalising on any Stoke error and should have taken the lead from a breakaway after Marco Arnautovic gave the ball away carelessly inside the home half.

Then, when Erik Pieters was penalised for a tackle from behind on Eto'o, Oscar produced a memorable free-kick that gave Mourinho's side a 27th-minute lead.

Earlier on Sunday, Fulham survived a scare against third-tier Sheffield United by battling back to secure a 1-1 draw at a mud-caked Bramall Lane.

## Mourinho pleased with win

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho felt his side should have recorded a much more comfortable victory over Stoke in their FA Cup fourth-round tie but was ultimately pleased they got the job done at the first attempt.

Oscar opened the scoring with a brilliant 27th-minute free-kick but Chelsea were then forced to sweat right until the final whistle after failing to make the most of a number of great chances to kill Stoke off.

Mourinho, on his 51st birthday, felt the 1-0 scoreline was not a true reflection of the game and the way his side dominated, but was happy to avoid going to a replay.

He said on ITV: "I think 1-0 is short for the way we played and for the way we controlled the game, but the important thing today was to win and not play a replay, because we don't need an extra match and I think that was a good thing."

## Mata 'first of many signings'

David Moyes has promised that the club-record capture of Juan Mata will be "the first of many" new arrivals at Manchester United this year.

The Barclays Premier League champions announced the £37.1million signing of the Spanish playmaker on Saturday evening.

It is a deal which it is hoped might give United's difficult campaign some impetus, with the team seventh in the league and out of both domestic cup competitions.

Talks are under way with striker Wayne Rooney to extend his agreement with the club, while there have also been reports of a bid for highly-rated Southampton left-back Luke Shaw as Moyes looks to put his stamp on the squad he inherited from Sir Alex Ferguson.

Moyes said of signing Mata: "This is the first, and there will be many more to come in time. I want the quality of Juan to be the start of it."