

Yeovil chief's blast

YEOVIL chairman John Fry has blasted the "obscene" wages Manchester United are shelling out for Alexis Sanchez.

The Chilean superstar could cover the Somerset club's entire player budget in just **THREE WEEKS** with his £505,000-a-week pay packet.

So there will be no greater match-up between football's haves and have-nots than when the ex-Arsenal star makes his United debut at Huish Park.

Jose Mourinho's multi-millionaires are set to line up against the League Two strugglers in tonight's FA Cup mismatch.

Sanchez, 29, will trouser a mind-boggling **£118 MILLION** during his 4½-year contract at Old Trafford.

Fry, who has spent 25 years of his life keeping the Glovers solvent, is battling to save Yeovil's Football League skins on a budget of around £1.2m.

Manchester United were this week named the world's richest club again - with a revenue of £528.2m last year.

Yeovil, meanwhile, are surviving on a bunch of loan players and gates of around 3,000.

Fry believes in a free market where every club should be allowed to earn

By **GRAHAM NICKLESS**

what they can. But he is stunned by Sanchez's wages - and fears for the game in the wake of his incredible new riches.

Ahead of their fourth-round clash, the Glovers chairman (below) said: "The Sanchez deal is outrageous - absolutely obscene - and it doesn't help us."

"When my friends outside of football hear that a player is earning £500,000 a week they throw their hands up in disgust."

"This is all out of proportion - it doesn't relate to the man in the street and they are switching off because of it and we are losing customers."

"They think we are paying outrageous money as well, which obviously we're not, but that doesn't help us attract new fans."

"So many more jobs could be created within the leagues through someone earning that sort of money."

Fry is also left seething about the super-agents who are negotiating these massive deals and taking huge amounts of money for themselves in personal fees.

He fumed: "I just can't understand these agents either, screwing more money out of us in transfer fees. It stinks - it's an industry to them."

"There's so much money going out of the game, especially at Premier League level, which could be better used."

Tonight's game should generate around £400,000 income for one of the smallest clubs in the top four divisions.

But Fry is worried that the big match could disrupt the team's "bread and butter" business of staying in the Football League.

It took the Glovers 108 years to get into it and Fry said: "The last thing we want to do is go back down there! In our head

and hearts we want to win this game."

"But when you look at it, you could say to yourself: 'Hang on a minute, it could wreck the club'."

"We could get a replay and it could mess up our league programme of matches and mess players heads up, which is what happened against Chesterfield."

"It's the first time the lad Otis Khan has been sent off in his career and now he misses the dream match against his old club."

"He was totally committed to the Manchester United game, even though clubs have been making offers for him and now he's totally broken hearted."

"There's such a fine line between winning and losing, making a career and not making a career, and we have got so many players playing for their careers here."

"That's why we had better start spending the United money now if we want to stay in the league."

"Emotions were running high in the boardroom after Saturday's defeat to Chesterfield and you have to get past that."

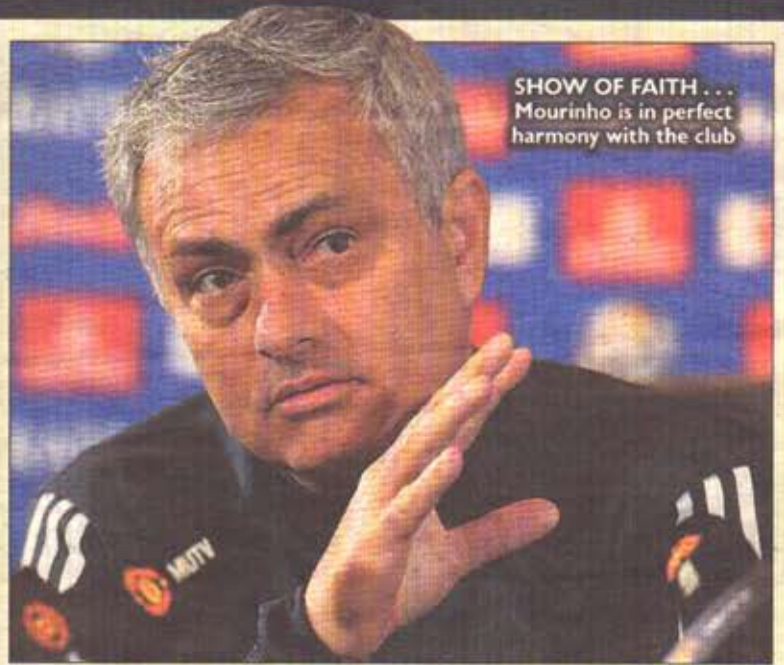
"I had to get my black book out because we need players and it is

just getting harder and harder in the lower divisions."

"And players are costing more now than they were at the start of the month - because we are playing United and so the fees goes up."

"Darren Way couldn't work any harder. He's a terrific manager and was exhausted on Saturday - now we've got to find new players in this transfer window."

But cash-conscious Fry will not be agreeing to any crazy, £500,000-a-week deals any time soon, that's for sure.



SHOW OF FAITH... Mourinho is in perfect harmony with the club

JOSE FEELS UTD'S LOVE

JOSE MOURINHO says Manchester United have shown faith in him to take the club back to the top of English football.

The signing of Alexis Sanchez this week was followed up yesterday with the announcement that Mourinho has signed a new deal to keep him at Old Trafford until 2021.

And the Red Devils boss said: "I feel really happy with the trust, with the empathy, with the belief in my work. We believe in each other and we are happy with each other."

"My initial contract was for three years and we have now made the decision to make it clear for everyone."

"It's not for three, it's for four or five and - who knows? - maybe more."

"I feel I am doing the things the owners and board feel are the right things to do for the future of the club."

"We want to improve all the time, do better and better and better."

"We want to achieve big things and will not stop until we do that."

"They are showing me their ambition, commitment and desire to go in the right direction."

"The board are working hard and I have the clear feeling they will never stop until they reach what they want to reach, which is to go back to success."

"We won the Europa League last season to close that cycle of having won everything in the world of football."

"But we want more and, the way we are working, I think we will arrive there."

United's executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward heaped praise on Mourinho as he signed a one-year extension to his current three-year contract with the option of a further year.

Woodward said: "His work-rate and professionalism are exceptional and he has embraced the club's desire to promote top-quality young players to the first team."

"He has brought an energy and a

By **NEIL CUSTIS**



sense of purpose to everything that he does and I am sure that will continue to bring results for the fans and the club."

Indeed, from what Mourinho inherited to where the club is now, there has been a big leap.

The Portuguese manager said: "I have known for a long time the passion and tradition of the club."

"When I arrived there was a big gap between the team and the tradition and passion of Manchester United."

Mourinho believes the signing of Sanchez from under the noses of Manchester City was a sure sign of the club's ambition and claimed it was all down to the board.

He said: "I did nothing for Alexis to be here."

"It was the green light from the owners and that shows what they want to achieve and their contribution to the club, which they want to be bigger."

It has been some week for Mourinho, who celebrates his 55th birthday today and takes charge of his 100th match as United boss in the FA Cup fourth round at Yeovil.

What he seems really excited about, however, is seeing Sanchez in action.

Mourinho said: "We have got one of the best attacking players in the world and he's very important for us because we want the best possible players."

"He can play everywhere in the attacking positions."

"I have seen him play different tactical positions, different philosophies. I have seen him be successful in every country with every manager and every position."

Mourinho also made clear the jump Sanchez has made in moving from Arsenal to Old Trafford, with Henrikh Mkhitaryan going the other way.

He said: "Alexis changed from a fantastic club to a giant club and Mkhi changed for a fantastic club, so it was a great deal for everybody."

Well, maybe not for Arsene Wenger.

Mourinho will not be worrying about that tonight, however, as he blows out his candles and continues to reignite Manchester United.

PREM'S TOP MANAGER WEEKLY SALARIES

Pep Guardiola	£290,000
Jose Mourinho	£275,000
Antonio Conte	£173,000
Arsene Wenger	£160,000
Jurgen Klopp	£135,000

IN THE MONEY... Sanchez has bagged an epic Old Trafford deal

