Neymar suffering from anemia

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona striker Neymar has reportedly been put on a special diet by the club's medical staff to ease signs of anemia just days after he made his debut for the club, according to Spanish newspaper El Pais.

According to the paper signs of anemia were detected on his return to training after an extended summer break due to his participation in the Confederations Cup.

"Neymar is being treated by Barcelona's doctors for signs of anemia with an adequate diet and complementary course of vitamins," it said on Saturday without quoting a source for the story.

Barcelona were not immediately available for comment, but the club had previously confirmed that the player had his tonsils removed after leading his country to victory in the Confederations Cup.

Anemia is a treatable condition but is thought to be extremely debilitating for top athletes as a low level of hemoglobin in the blood stream can cause excessive levels of tiredness.

The news is also likely to disrupt the club's plans to work intensively on building on the 21-year-old's strength after club doctor Ricard Pruna expressed concerns at his slight weight of 64.5 kilos (142 lbs, 10.2 stone) when he underwent his medical.



Real Madrid's Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo rounds off Everton goalkeeper Tim Howard for his side's opening goal in a 2-1 win at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles on Saturday. Ronaldo's 17th minute strike was the first soccer goal at the famous baseball stadium.

AFP

PHOTO:

Jose snubbed England job

AFP, London



Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho has claimed he was close to taking charge of England in 2007 before realising he would be bored by the lowkey nature of international management.

The Football Association maintained Fabio

Capello was always their first choice to succeed Steve McClaren following England's failure to qualify for Euro 2008. But Mourinho insists he was in talks with the FA six years

ago and briefly considered accepting the job. However, with only a relatively small number of internationals scheduled for each season, the Portuguese coach decided he would miss the frenetic pace of club manage-

ment too much. "My plan at that time was just to try to motivate myself for a job (with England) that doesn't fulfil me," Mourinho told the Independent.

"What do I do? During the day I'm not training players, so I have to go and see them train in their clubs.

"At weekends, I see every match. When they were speaking to me, the next match was France against England, a friendly in Paris. I thought, 'France-England' (is an attractive prospect)'.

"After that, what's the next game? The next was one month later against Kazakhstan - no, no, no, no. We have contact and I thought about England. I was very young and I was very proud."

C'Ron dazzles at Dodger Wenger didn't like it

AFP, Los Angeles



Cristiano Ronaldo gave fans at the first football match ever at Dodger Stadium what they wanted Saturday, scor-

ing one goal and aiding another in Real Madrid's 2-1 friendly win over Everton.

More then 40,000 spectators turned out at the 51-year-old baseball stadium nestled in Los Angeles' Chavez Ravine, and the first football goal in the venue's history went to one of the game's greats when Ronaldo scored in the 17th minute.

He had chipped a volley from the

centre of the area over the crossbar in the 10th, but made no mistake on his next chance, when a crisp ball from Mesut Ozil brought Everton keeper Tim Howard out of his goal and Ronaldo got round him to slide an angled shot into the open net.

Ozil doubled Real Madrid's lead in the 31st minute after taking a pass from Ronaldo.

Second-half substitute Nikica Jelavic scored in the 61st minute for Everton, but the English club were unable to find an equalizer even as they began to play more confidently in the closing stages.

The victory sends Real Madrid into

the title match of the International Champions Cup, an eight-team friendly tournament that will end on Wednesday in Miami.

They will face the winner of

Sunday's match at the New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, between Chelsea and AC Milan. In the second match of Saturday's

Dodger Stadium double-header, the Los Angeles Galaxy shocked two-time reigning Italian champions Juventus 3-1.

Landon Donovan, Robbie Keane and Omar Gonzalez scored for the Galaxy, while Alessandro Matri scored for Juventus.

AFP, London



Arsene Wenger hit back on Saturday at Brendan Rodgers after the Liverpool manager insisted Arsenal's bid for Luis Suarez fell well short of the

player's valuation.

Rodgers claimed Suarez's qualities meant he should be valued in similar terms to Gareth Bale, the Tottenham forward who has attracted a near £100 million approach from Real Madrid.

Speaking after his side's 2-2 draw with Napoli on the first day of the pre-season Emirates Cup tournament, Arsenal manager Wenger confirmed the club had made a formal bid for Suarez - believed to be in the

region of £40 million.

But he also insisted negotiations would remain in-house and admitted he was perplexed by Rodgers's decision to speak out.

"I do not understand this kind of thinking and would not like to talk openly about negotiations, because that is not my target in (this) press conference," he said.

"We have one month in front of us and we will work very hard to strengthen our squad, without naming any specific names, because I do not believe that will make negotiations easier.

"After that, you can make all kind of thinking about the price of the players, and you can say as well they are all overboard anyway.

"I never said we have made a bid to Liverpool, now I can tell you we have made one, so at least that is some information."

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