

STAR SPORTS 4
IAAF World Athletics C'ships
Live from 7:30am & 4:30pm

TEN CRICKET
South Africa v New Zealand
Third ODI
Live from 4:30pm

TEN ACTION
UEFA Champions League
Play-off
Brugge v Man United
Live from 12:45am

TEN SPORTS
UEFA Champions League
Play-off
Leverkusen v Lazio
Live from 12:45am

SAKHO ARRESTED

West Ham United's Diafra Sakho has been arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill and witness intimidation, with his spokesman saying Tuesday that the striker denies the allegations. Scotland Yard police headquarters said officers in east London made an arrest on Sunday. "Officers from Havering arrested a man on suspicion of threats to kill and witness intimidation," a spokesman said. "A 25-year-old man was arrested. He was taken to an east London police station and bailed pending police enquiries to a



Bolt shrugs off Gatlin threat

AFP, Beijing



Usain Bolt icily dismissed the threat of American Justin Gatlin after the fierce rivals cruised into the semifinals of the 200 metres at the world championships on Tuesday.

The Jamaican superstar, who pipped two-time doping offender Gatlin to win gold in Sunday's final in Beijing, eased up with some 50 metres to go after coming off the bend well ahead of the field to win his heat in 20.28 seconds.

Gatlin, game-face on after failing in his bid to dethrone Bolt as the king of men's sprinting, won his heat in 20.19.

But Bolt, whose 100m victory gave athletics a boost after allegations of widespread doping plunged the sport into crisis, shrugged when asked if he was confident of beating Gatlin once more to retain his double world sprint title.

"I'm always confident, man," sniffed the six-times Olympic champion and world record-holder. "I knew the 200 was going to be harder because I'm not in the best of fitness," added Bolt, who struggled with pelvic joint pain earlier in the season.

"Definitely I was trying to make sure I ran at least 130 metres of the race and then I kind of shut it down. Everybody knows the 200 actually means more for me than the 100 so I'm trying to get through the rounds as comfortably as possible and using as little energy as possible."

The 200m final takes place on Thursday at the Bird's Nest stadium.



Usain Bolt finished with a time of 20.28 seconds to take the top spot in his group during the heats for the 200 metres men's race at the Bird's Nest yesterday. He will participate in the semifinals today at 6:30pm BST.

PHOTO: AFP

Transfer buzz irks Benzema

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema has hit back at the persistent rumours in the English press linking him with a move to Premier League side Arsenal.

"For all those clowns who want to make believe things at my fans. Here this is my home!" He posted on his official Twitter account on Monday alongside a photo of him in the Madrid dressing room.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger has also tried to distance himself from stories speculating that the London club could make a bid for the 27-year-old French international before the transfer window shuts next week.

Benzema missed Madrid's 0-0 draw away to Sporting Gijon on Sunday due to a thigh injury which forced him to miss the majority of Los Blancos' pre-season matches.

Sepp claims he's clean

AFP, London

Sepp Blatter defended FIFA's battered reputation on Monday as the outgoing president insisted he is clean and there is no systemic corruption at world football's governing body.

Blatter will officially step down in February amid two criminal investigations into the allegations of bribery and corruption at FIFA.

Seven FIFA officials, including the now suspended vice president and executive committee member, Jeffrey Webb, were among 14 people accused by the US justice department in May of taking bribes of more than \$150 million (129 million euros).

The bids for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups, controversially awarded by FIFA to Russia and Qatar respectively, are also being probed by authorities in the United States and Switzerland.

Blatter, who has been FIFA president since 1998, was elected for a fifth term in May, but then shocked football by standing down as the corruption scandal intensified.

But the 79-year-old Swiss remains adamant he has done nothing wrong, claiming FIFA had been dragged down by the actions of rogue individuals.

"I know what I have done, what I have not done, I have my conscience and I know I'm an honest man. I am clean. I am not a worried man," Blatter told the BBC. "I did it because I wanted to protect FIFA. I can protect myself. I am strong enough."

Asked if FIFA had corruption at its core, Blatter said: "That's not true. This has been created."

"The institution is not corrupt, there is no corruption in football. There is corruption with individuals, there is not a general organised corruption."

Wenger rues offside call

AFP, London



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger railed against the decision to disallow a goal by Aaron Ramsey for offside after his side drew 0-0 in a lively home game with Liverpool.

Liverpool largely controlled the first half at the Emirates Stadium, twice hitting the woodwork, but Arsenal thought they had gone ahead when Ramsey finished off a glorious through ball from Santi Cazorla.

However, the goal was ruled out -- incorrectly, as television replays would prove -- and with Liverpool having already benefited from a beneficial offside call in their 1-0 win over Bournemouth last week, Wenger felt that luck had shone on them again.

"It was a regular goal. Even though it was a period of the game where we had the most problems defensively, I can't see why it was cancelled," he said.

"It's clear and on that front, you cannot say that Liverpool can complain in the last week."

Wenger, notoriously myopic when it comes to contentious incidents involving his players, claimed that he could see "live" that Ramsey "could not be offside", but Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers did not dispute the claim.

Asked for his thoughts on the incident, the Northern Irishman smiled and said: "His shirt looked offside."

Having lost 2-0 at home to West Ham United on the opening weekend, Arsenal have now gone two home games without scoring, but Wenger admitted to feeling relieved that none of Liverpool's first-half chances had gone in.

"I believe the West Ham game left a trace in our heads," said the Frenchman, whose side hit the post through Alexis Sanchez in the second half.

"It was important tonight (Monday) not to lose, because you could see that was a shock for us and it was important to get that game out of the system."

No Arsenal player demonstrated that sense of vulnerability more than Calum Chambers, who was pressed into action at centre-back alongside Gabriel after Per Mertesacker and Laurent Koscielny were ruled out.

The former Southampton man gave the ball away several times in the first half and Wenger admitted he had been "tempted" to take him off at the interval.

But the Arsenal manager added: "He responded well. He will come out of that stronger."

Mertesacker had been taken ill and Koscielny has sustained what the club described as a "mild" back problem,

but Wenger was unable to say how long they were likely to be out for.

That Arsenal were still in the game at half-time was thanks in no small part to goalkeeper Petr Cech.

Pilloried for two errors of judgement on his debut against West Ham, the former Chelsea player pulled off a breath-taking close-range stop to thwart Christian Benteke and touched a drive from Philippe Coutinho onto the post.

Though unbeaten, Liverpool, who trail leaders Manchester City by two points, have scored only two goals in their three games to date, but having seen his side struggle defensively towards the end of last season, Rodgers was pleased with a third consecutive clean sheet.

"With my teams, the focus is always very much on the football element, but anyone who's followed my career (will know) it's very much about the intensity of how we press and that cohesion as a team," he said.

"That was something that drifted last season, for sure. So it was very important, especially with the number of new players coming in, that our defensive organisation was super organised."

"That will be the platform for us, with all our creative talent."

Liverpool were without captain Jordan Henderson and attacking

Mario back at Milan

AFP, Milan



Liverpool misfit Mario Balotelli said he is ready to resurrect his career as he re-joined AC Milan on a season-long loan deal that has divided fans and pundits in Italy.

Balotelli joined Liverpool from Milan in the summer of 2014 but after a dismal season at Anfield the controversial Italian striker has rejoined the seven-time European champions on a season-long loan deal.

Milan have made the deal official on their website and after emerging from a medical early on Tuesday morning Balotelli told reporters: "I'm happy to be back. This club is in my heart and I always hoped to play here again."

"Physically, I'm in good condition, I just have to get training with the squad."

Asked about his motivation, he said: "I've got plenty, but now is not the time to talk, it's time to get to work."

As for the future, he added: "I have to start work from today and to have a good season. Then we'll see what happens."

Balotelli's failure to spark at Liverpool has also left his international career in tatters. He has yet to feature in any games for the Azzurri during qualifying for the 2016

European Championships in France next summer.

Yet it remains to be seen if the 25-year-old, who has often been accused of wasting his playing talent, can resurrect his career this season.

Balotelli, who began his career with city rivals Inter Milan before moving to Manchester City in 2010, was feted by the vast majority of Milan fans when he joined the Rossoneri in January 2013.

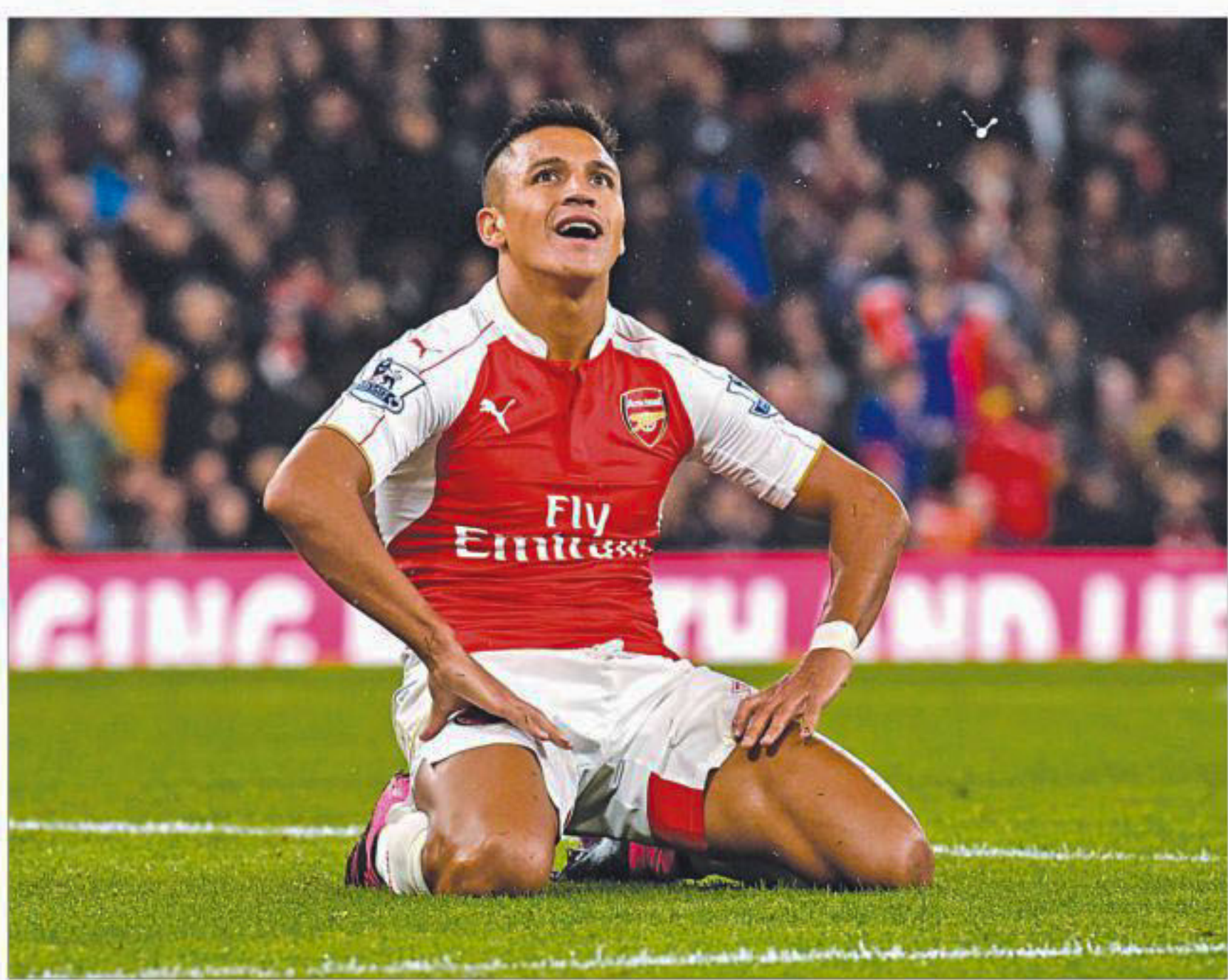
But the striker's second spell at Milan is not being met with the same fervour -- among fans, or in the media.

Recent polls have shown an overwhelming majority of fans to be against Balotelli's return to the club. On Monday night a survey on the popular 'Processo del Lunedì' football show on Rai television indicated that close to 62% of fans were against Balotelli's return.

Former Milan midfielder Zvonimir Boban, a respected pundit on Sky Sport who is often brutally honest in his opinions on football matters, called the club's decision to take the player on loan "totally absurd".

Boban had previously stated: "Let's stop talking about him, he's never achieved anything."

Last week, the former Croatian international hit out: "I wish him all the best, but he's never really taken off as a player. If he returns (to Milan), it is totally absurd."



Arsenal striker Alexis Sanchez reacts after hitting the woodwork during their Premier League encounter against Liverpool at the Emirates Stadium on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

Rudisha, Dibaba shine

AFP, Beijing



Middle distance greats David Rudisha and Genzebe Dibaba blazed to gold at the world championships on Tuesday.

Long jumper Greg Rutherford won a third gold medal for Britain on day four of the competition, launching himself to a season's best of 8.41 metres to add a world title to his Olympic, European and Commonwealth crowns.

Australian Fabrice Lapierre took silver with 8.24m as home favourite Wang Jianan claimed bronze after leaping 8.18 to bring the house down in Beijing.

Mo Farah and Jessica Ennis-Hill have also claimed world titles in Beijing in the 10,000m and heptathlon.

Rudisha stormed to a second world title in the men's 800 metres, meanwhile, after running a typically masterful race in sapping conditions, taking Kenya to the top of the gold medal standings with four after Nicholas Bett's earlier victory in the 400m hurdles.

The Olympic champion and world record holder led from gun to tape, clocking one minute, 45.84 seconds

with Poland's Adam Kszczot taking silver in 1:46.08 and Bosnian Amel Tuka the bronze in 1:46.30.

Hot favourite Dibaba oozed class as she won the women's 1,500m title with another sumptuous performance, the Ethiopian finishing strongly in 4:08.09 under the floodlights at a packed Bird's Nest stadium.

Kenya's Faith Kipyegon came home in second in 4:09.96 with Ethiopian-born Sifan Hassan third for the Netherlands in 4:09.34.

There was a first gold medal for Cuba as Denia Caballero won the women's discus.

Cuadrado set for Juve move

AFP, Milan

Chelsea forward Juan Cuadrado is set to undergo a medical at Juventus on Tuesday ahead of joining the Italian champions on a season-long loan deal.

Cuadrado moved to Stamford Bridge in a 35 million euro (\$34.9 million) deal only six months ago from Fiorentina, but the Colombian international has become surplus to requirements under Blues coach Jose Mourinho.

Juventus have been looking to bolster their attacking midfield since the departure of Arturo Vidal (Bayern Munich) and Andrea Pirlo (New York City FC) and amid the ongoing injury absence of Sami Khedira.

The signing of Cuadrado has been welcomed by fans, especially after Juve's shock 1-0 defeat to Udinese on the opening weekend of Serie A when their attacking midfield failed to spark.

Television pictures in Italy on Monday night showed the 27-year-old arriving at Milan's Malpensa airport, where he was surrounded by over 100 enthusiastic Juventus supporters.

La Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper said Tuesday Cuadrado could play for Juventus as early as this weekend's clash with scudetto rivals Roma at the



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