

STARSPORTS1

English Premiership
Man United v Norwich City
Live from 9:00pm
Newcastle v Aston Villa

STARSPORTS2

English Premiership
Chelsea v Sunderland
Live from 9:00pm
Bundesliga
Stuttgart v Wolfsburg

SONYKIX

Primera Liga
Valencia v Getafe
Live from 9:00pm
Espanyol v Las Palmas

Real Betis v Sevilla
Live from 1:30am (Sunday)
Deportivo v Eibar

SONYSIX

Serie A
Bologna v Empoli
Live from 2:00am (Sunday)

Hiddink in talks with Chelsea

BBC SPORT



Former Netherlands boss Guus Hiddink is set to become Chelsea's interim manager following the sacking of Jose Mourinho.

The 69-year-old Dutchman is currently at a London hotel holding discussions with Blues officials.

However, Hiddink, who has already had one spell as Chelsea boss, winning the FA Cup in 2009, is yet to sign a contract.

Jose Mourinho was sacked as manager on Thursday, just seven months after guiding Chelsea to the Premier League title.

Hiddink won six Dutch league titles and the European Cup across two spells as PSV Eindhoven manager.

He took over at Stamford Bridge in February 2009, replacing Luiz Felipe Scolari, and shared the role with his job as Russia manager.

Since then, he has endured unsuccessful spells as manager of Turkey and Russian side Anzhi Makhachkala before sustaining arguably the biggest scar on his reputation when he succeeded Louis van Gaal after the

2014 World Cup for a second stint as Netherlands coach.

Hiddink stood down as Netherlands boss in June, with their Euro 2016 qualifying hopes already in disarray.

The Dutch eventually failed to reach the finals, finishing fourth in their group, behind Czech Republic, Iceland and Turkey.

Meanwhile, Chelsea captain John Terry has described Mourinho's exit after 30 months in charge as a "sad, sad day".

"Going to miss you boss," Terry wrote on Instagram.

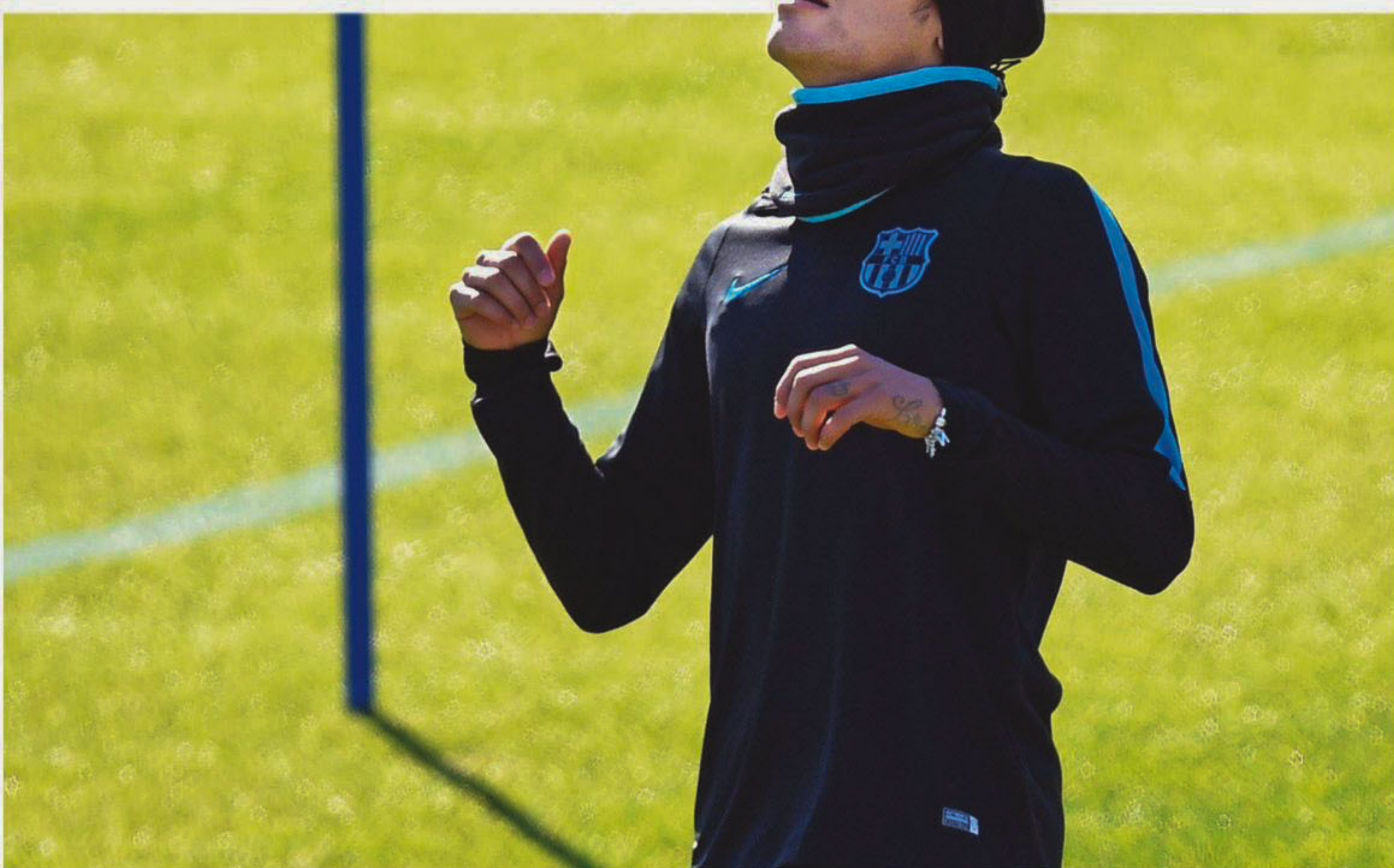
"The very best I have ever worked with, unbelievable memories together. Thank you doesn't seem enough."

Cesar Azpilicueta also called Mourinho's departure a "sad" day.

The 26-year-old defender added: "I would publicly like to thank Jose Mourinho for his contribution to this club and for everything he has taught me over the years."

"I want to wish him all the best for the future. With him we have achieved very important titles and memories for the fans that will remain in the history of Chelsea forever."

"He will always be remembered. Thank you mister."



Barcelona star Neymar balances the ball on his head during their Club World Cup training session in Yokohama yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

'CR7' hotels on the cards

AFP, Lisbon



Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo is already looking towards life after football as he unveiled plans to invest over EUR37 million (\$40m) in hotels bearing his 'CR7' moniker in his native Portugal, Madrid and New York.

"Many footballers finish their careers without knowing what they want to do. For me it's clear - I want to take care of my brands," Ronaldo told AFP on Thursday.

The triple Ballon d'Or winner unveiled his plans to link up with the Pestana Hotel Group, who like him are natives of Madeira, with 'CR7' hotels planned in three cities linked to his career - Funchal, Lisbon and Madrid - and another in New York where he has been linked with Major League Soccer in the future.

"At 30 years I still have a lot of options, I have great support around me, I'm really very happy," insisted Ronaldo, adding "other projects will come. What I want is that my name will always be the best in whatever domain

I work".

Ronaldo already looked at ease in his grey businessman's suit and red tie as he discussed his plans for the future in the lounge of one of Pestana's luxury hotels in Lisbon.

Although he hopes his footballing career will continue "another six, seven or even ten years", it is out of the question that he will follow a career on the touchline.

"I don't see myself as a coach, it's not my ambition," he said. "But who knows if I'll change my mind!"

Born in a working class area in Funchal, the capital of Madeira, an archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean, Ronaldo was scouted aged 11 by Sporting Lisbon.

He went on to play for Manchester United before joining Real Madrid in 2009 and has a contract which runs until 2018.

The best paid footballer in the world with EUR70 million (\$76.6m) in earnings last year, Ronaldo already has a 'CR7' fashion line, and has lent his image to many other brands.

But he has not forgotten his roots

and it is on his native island that he will open his first hotel.

"Madeira is the most important starting point for me," he said.

The first hotel will open there in summer 2016 and will be followed by another in Lisbon where Ronaldo moved as a youngster with a Madrid site planned for 2017.

"My world is that of football but life changes and I always wanted to own a hotel," he explained.

"It was impossible to throw myself alone into a project of this scale, to each his own area of competence. Pestana is the best Portuguese group in this business."

"The first project will be born in Madeira, where our roots and our families are," explained the 123-times capped international, adding that the hotel will be located close to the museum dedicated to his career that he financed at Funchal.

"All investments are split on a 50-50 basis" between Ronaldo and the hotel group, for a total of sum of EUR75 million (\$81m), explained Dionisio Pestana, owner and son of the founder of the hotel group.



Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo smiles as he poses for a photo at the Pestana Hotel Palace in Lisbon on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

Stretcher bearers suspended

REUTERS, Bucharest

Two Dinamo Bucharest stretcher bearers have been suspended for one month for celebrating their team's last-gasp 2-1 win over Pandurii Targu-Jiu on Saturday, the Romanian Football Federation (FRF) said.

The duo, standing by the touchline, encroached on to the pitch to celebrate Croatian defender Ante Puljic's last-minute winner. The FRF's disciplinary commission stated the pair had contravened regulations and fined the pair 640 lei (\$153.64) each.

Lazio secure Juve tie

AFP, Milan



Serie A strugglers Lazio overcame a stunning opener by Panagiotis Kone to claim a 2-1 win over Udinese on Thursday and book an Italian Cup quarterfinal with holders Juventus.

Elsewhere, M'Baye Niang and Carlos Bacca hit second-half goals as AC Milan ended Sampdoria's interest in the competition with a 2-0 win in Genoa.

Lazio coach Stefano Pioli is said to be barely hanging on to his job after seeing his side slip to 12th in Italy's top flight, 16 points behind leaders Inter Milan.

And the Italian looked a worried man in the 67th minute when Kone showed great control to collect a cross from deep on the left wing before turning and beating Etrit Berisha with a superb volley at the 'keeper's far post. Alessandro Matri rescued Lazio with an

equaliser that looked slightly offside three minutes later, with Danilo Cataldi heading a 79th-minute winner when Udinese 'keeper Alex Meret spilled a shot in front of goal.

Lazio suffered defeat to Juventus in last season's final and Pioli said: "It was a great reaction by the lads, they've been frustrated but we took the game to them after conceding the opener."

"They showed a lot of character and it's good to qualify for the quarter-finals. Now need to concentrate on the championship. This is not where we belong in the league."

Juventus booked their last-eight spot with a resounding 4-0 win over city rivals Torino on Wednesday when Simone Zaza hit a brace and Paulo Dybala and Paul Pogba were also on target for last season's double winners.

Napoli set up an exciting last-eight tie with Inter after a 3-0 win over Serie A basement side Verona at the San Paolo on Wednesday.

Neymar in fitness race

AFP, Yokohama



Barcelona could welcome Neymar back from injury for this weekend's Club World Cup final against River Plate after the Brazilian striker stepped up his training in Yokohama on Friday.

The 23-year-old, who was rested for Thursday's 3-0 win over Guangzhou Evergrande as he recovers from a groin strain, performed some dribbling drills and light sprints and could yet play a part against River.

Meanwhile, Lionel Messi, sidelined for the semifinal after coming down with a kidney complaint, skipped training, although Barca manager Luis Enrique refused to rule out his return for Sunday's clash.

"I don't know if we will have Neymar and Messi for the final," Enrique told reporters. "They don't know if they will be ready and neither do we, so we'll have to see."

Messi, who reportedly went to hospital for tests after being diagnosed with renal colic, posted on his Facebook page: "It's never fun to miss any game, but I hope to get better to be able to help in the final."

With Messi and Neymar missing, Luis Suarez fired a hat-trick -- the first in the tournament's history -- to give Barca an easy win over Luiz Felipe Scolari's

Chinese side.

"Luis is a sensational player," said Enrique. "He is a killer inside the box and an essential member of the team. When you need a goal, he always comes up with one for you."

Barca's players also gushed about Suarez after the former Liverpool forward scored with a classic poacher's strike before halftime and followed that with a breathtaking volley five minutes after the break.

He completed his treble from the penalty spot to give him 22 goals in 23 competitive matches this season.

"Luis has been a superb player for many years," said left-back Jordi Alba. "But you can see that the way Barca plays suits him down to the ground."

Dani Alves missed Friday's practice with a bruised foot, but his availability for Sunday's final is not thought to be in doubt.

European champions Barcelona are attempting to become the first side to win the Club World Cup three times.

The Catalan giants beat Argentina's Estudiantes 2-1 in 2009 and thrashed Brazil's Santos 4-0 two years later, when Neymar was on the losing side.

River Plate, who struggled to beat Japan's Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1-0 in their semi-final in Osaka on Wednesday, enjoyed an afternoon shopping in Tokyo, stopping to sign autographs and pose for photos with Japanese fans.

Fabregas flares at training

AGENCIES, London

A training session on Wednesday saw tensions erupt at the embattled club Chelsea with a bust up between Cesc Fabregas and several other players.

According to the Times, a training ground incident involving Fabregas on Jose Mourinho's second last day shows the level of division at Stamford Bridge.

The catalyst for the push and shove was during a match involving senior squad members and players from the club's academy.

It is believed that Fabregas caused a reaction from teammates with a very strong tackle on one of Chelsea's Under 21 players.

Tensions were heated as some in the squad disagreed on the intent of the challenge, but it was reported it was 'quite fair'.

Players then had to be separated by coaching staff. However it remains unclear if Jose Mourinho was involved.

Pep to reveal plans on Sunday

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola says club boss Karl-Heinz Rummenigge "knows everything" about his future plans with an announcement on whether he is leaving at the end of the season expected Sunday.

Speculation is rife that the Spaniard will move on to another club when his contract expires, with Manchester City among a number of Premier League sides queuing up for his services.

"The club, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, and myself have repeated numerous times that we will speak after the last match (of the year) at Hanover. That hasn't changed. You'll know the day after tomorrow (Sunday)," Guardiola told a press conference on the eve of his club's closing Bundesliga outing of 2015.

Rummenigge said in November to expect "a Christmas surprise, one way or the other, before Christmas," adding that "no one is irreplaceable".

As Bayern fans wait on Guardiola's next move the club announced that four players - striker Thomas Mueller, defender Jerome Boateng and midfielder holder Xabi Alonso - had extended their contracts.

Jose 'stuffed' like Christmas turkey

AFP, London



Jose Mourinho's sacking by Chelsea was depicted as an early Christmas carve up on Friday as the British press reported he had been let go after a holiday lunch with players.

"Jose gets stuffed: Christmas lunch with team... then Mourinho's sacked after losing toxic dressing room," wrote the Daily Mirror.

"Carved up at festive feast" was one headline in the Daily Mail.

Jose Mourinho was sacked after pulling crackers and eating roast turkey with Chelsea's coaching staff and players at the club's silver service Christmas lunch yesterday.

The Sun's sport back page headline simply read "STUFFED".

Many of the newspapers made the most of Mourinho's reputation as a superstar manager with a huge personality and ego.

"Farewell, then, Jose Mourinho," began coverage by sports writer Barney Ronay on the front page of the Guardian.

"It's been glorious, fun, noisy, toxic and interminable. Not to mention bad-tempered, hair-raising and, in keeping with Mourinho's own status as the first real global celebrity-superstar of his trade, gloriously overblown to the last."

The Telegraph put the "Not so special" on its front page, a reference to Mourinho's nickname "The Special One".

The Independent wrote "Sacked again. Now that is special..." while The Sun dubbed him "The Broken One".

The Daily Mail reported that he would be "laughing all the way to the bank" because

of a compensation package.

Its front page read "Man with God complex exits with £10m".

The news dominated front and back headlines of the newspapers and was given many pages of coverage and analysis as a national drama.

Even Prime Minister David Cameron reacted, with his spokesman pointing the manager towards how to get his next position.

"The Prime Minister is always sad to see anyone lose their job, but it's worth reflecting on this week's labour market statistics, which demonstrated that there are over 740,000 vacancies in the UK economy," the spokesman said.

Unusually for a sports story, the Financial Times carried the story on its front page, with the headline "Mourinho red-carded by Chelsea after ultimate winner acquires losing habit".

Analysis reflected on Mourinho's strained relationship with some players and the role of owner Roman Abramovich.

"He had tried everything to keep the Cult of Jose going through these months of deepening malaise but key players had tired of him, his voice, his methods, his demands," wrote Times sports writer Matt Dickinson.

Telegraph sports writer Paul Hayward had a warning for Mourinho's replacement at Chelsea.

"Abramovich's default mode is to never back his manager ahead of his players. He takes the easy route of firing the figurehead," Hayward wrote.

"This is the wrong type of power to put in the wrong hands, and the next man in better watch his back."