

A BLOODY HANDSHAKE

There is a chance you may have heard of McDonald Mariga. He was a hot prospect several years ago, most notably being linked with a move to Manchester City while he was playing for Parma in 2010, and went on to join Inter Milan. However, his career has been on a downward slope ever since and he is now plying his trade in Serie B with Latina. Now the striker's career has taken a bizarre turn after he was given a five-match ban for shaking a referee's hand with excessive force. The Kenyan international was shown a red card during Latina's game against Virtus Entella, but before leaving the pitch, he offered a hand-shake to the referee. He then proceeded to grip the official's hand so hard that it caused an abrasion, drawing blood. According to the Disciplinary Commission's report, Mariga also continued to



'City don't fear Real'

AFP, Manchester

Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini vowed that his team would play with no fear in their Champions League semifinal second leg against Real Madrid following a 0-0 first-leg draw. Missing the injured Cristiano Ronaldo, Madrid created the better chances in Tuesday's game, but substitute Jese saw a

season as Madrid head coach in 2010.

"We have the same option as Real Madrid. Of course they have the advantage to play the first game away, so they try to manage the tempo of the game.

"After that they finish at home. But this team play away very similar to how we play at the Etihad. We had good results playing away against Paris Saint-Germain, against Dynamo Kiev and against Sevilla.

"We are not afraid to go to the Bernabeu and we will see which team plays better in that game."

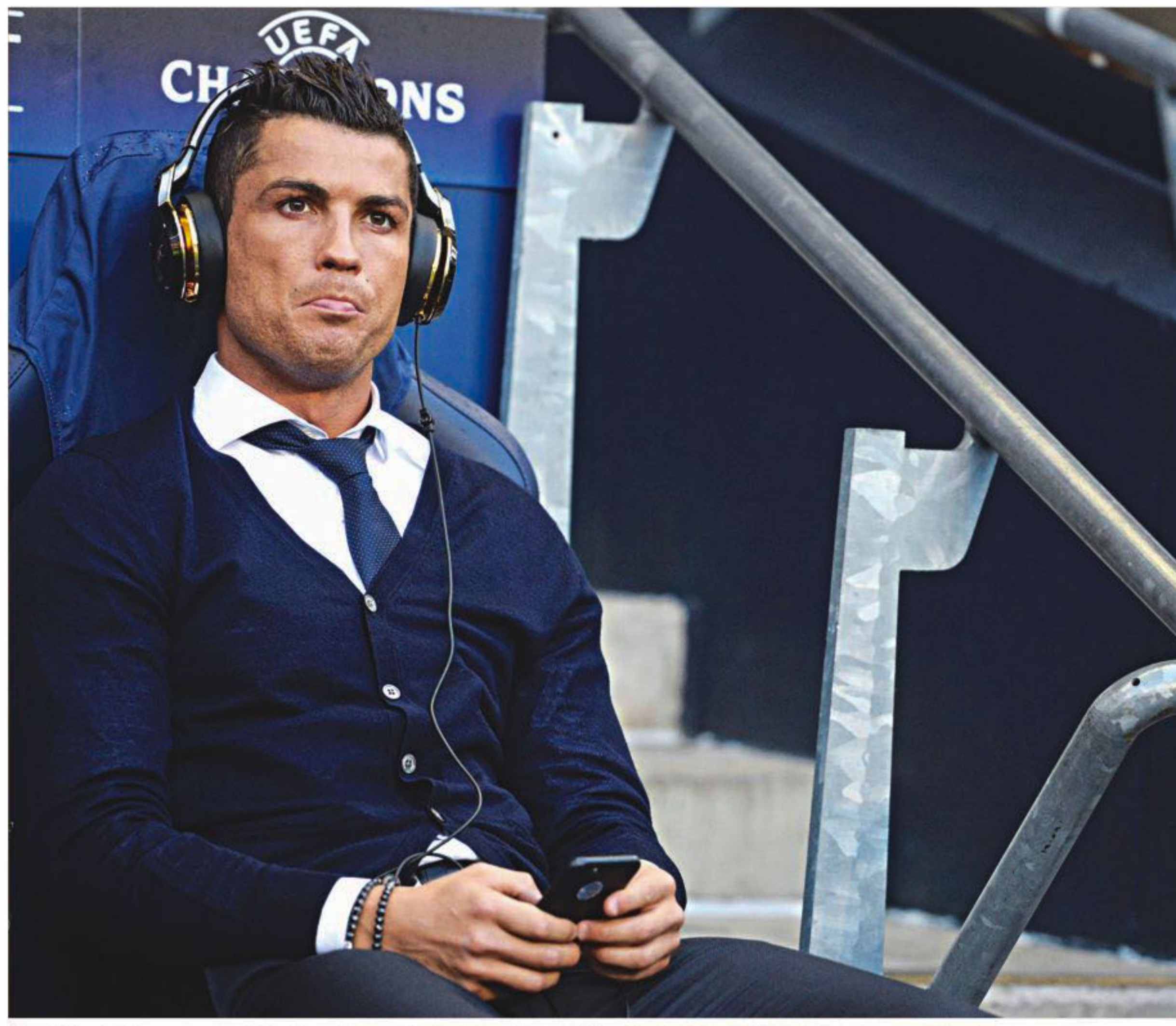
Pellegrini claimed that his side had shown the "most intent to win the game" and that Madrid had arrived at the Etihad Stadium "with a result in mind".

His opposite number, Zinedine Zidane, contested the claim, asserting that his team "always go out to win", but he agreed that neither side had procured an out-

right advantage.

"We could have scored a goal, but even with scoring a goal we would not have been sure of being in the final," said the Frenchman, whose memorable volley against Bayer Leverkusen inspired Madrid to Champions League glory in 2002.

"I think it is still 50-50. We have got a game at home. We know what we are capable of. Right until the death it will be the same. We are going to have to work hard."



Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo had to sit out his side's Champions League semifinal first-leg against Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium on Tuesday due to injury.

Cyclist gets 6-year ban for cheating

AGENCIES, Geneva

The International Cycling Union (UCI) has banned Belgian rider Femke van den Driessche for six years for using a hidden electric motor at the cyclo-cross world championships.

Driessche, former under-23 European cyclo-cross champion, was found with a motor "concealed along with a battery in the seat-tube" at the world Under-23 race in Belgium in January.

Simeone given 3-game ban

AFP, Madrid

Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone has been banned from the touchline for the final three La Liga games of the season after a second ball was thrown onto the pitch disrupting a Malaga attack in Atletico's 1-0 win on Saturday.

The suspension was confirmed by the Spanish Football Federation on Wednesday.

Zidane splits his pants again

INTERNET

For the second time in two weeks, Real Madrid manager Zinedine Zidane split his pants while on the sidelines of a Champions League match.

Zidane's trousers again proved unequal to the task Tuesday, as Real played to a 0-0 draw in the first leg of its semifinal series against Manchester City.

The scene was all too reminiscent of one that played out during Real's quarterfinal match against Wolfsburg. In that case, cameras caught the tear as it occurred while Zidane was reacting to a missed shot, whereas it was less clear what caused the wardrobe malfunction on Tuesday.

At least Zidane's trouser-related travails provided some entertainment during a match that didn't quite live up to its significance. However, Real was playing without injured superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, who is expected back for the second match next week.

HILLSBOROUGH DISASTER

L'pool unites for tribute

AFP, London



Thousands of sympathisers were expected to pay an emotional tribute to the Hillsborough disaster victims on Wednesday after a landmark inquest found that 96 Liverpool football fans were unlawfully killed.

The day after the biggest inquest in English legal history determined police blunders caused the fatal 1989 stadium crush, the city of Liverpool was due to come together to reflect on the relatives' arduous 27-year campaign for justice.

The two-year inquest delivered the answer families waited a quarter-century to hear after an original inquest, since quashed in the light of fresh evidence, recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Wednesday's event will also be a chance to consider where the families' struggle goes next, with some campaigners insisting prosecutions must now follow over Britain's worst stadium disaster.

The commemoration outside St. George's Hall in Liverpool, northwest England, in the presence of the victims' families, will be filled with music, speeches and moments of reflection.

The names and ages of the dead were to be displayed on big screens. Some 38 of the victims were between 10 and 19.

The event will conclude with a choir

leading the throng through the Liverpool Football Club anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone".

The commemoration "is an opportunity for the city to come together with the families and campaigners and show the world the overwhelming spirit of comradeship and solidarity that exists in this city towards them", said Liverpool Mayor Joe Anderson,



Floral tributes and a scarf with the word Justice are laid on the steps of St George's Hall in Liverpool yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

who will lead the event.

"So many people have been touched by their struggle over nearly three decades.

"They are an example to everyone who seeks out truth and justice."

Families of the deceased voiced their relief that the jury exonerated Liverpool fans from blame, after examining all the evidence.

The inquests heard testimony that

the local police force had decided to blame drunken, ticketless Liverpool fans for the disaster.

But the behaviour of Liverpool fans was found in no way to have contributed to the crush outside the ground which led to police opening the gates to alleviate it.

Home Secretary Theresa May, the interior minister, was to set out the government's full response to the inquest's findings in parliament on Wednesday.

English inquests only establish how the deceased came by their deaths.

Now there is set to be a particular focus on the role of David Duckenfield, the senior officer in charge of policing Hillsborough on the day of the disaster.

It was Duckenfield who ordered the opening of an exit gate. That enabled 2,000 fans to surge into the already over-full terracing pens behind one of the goals, causing a fatal crush.

Duckenfield, now 71 and retired, admitted at the inquest he told a "terrible lie" in the immediate aftermath of the match by claiming that fans had stormed the gate.

Following Wednesday's mass event and media analysis of the inquest's outcome, attention is likely to shift towards two huge criminal investigations into the disaster, which should conclude by the end of the year.

Helal backs Salahuddin

SPORTS REPORTER

Golam Rabbani Helal, an independent candidate for the president's post of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) elections, has exclaimed his wish to opt out of the polls in support of incumbent president Kazi Salahuddin.

Helal's retreat following a similar step by Nurul Islam Nuru, who pledged his support to Kamrul Ashraf Khan MP, has effectively left only Salahuddin and Kamrul in race for the BFF hot seat even if the names of both Helal and Nuru will remain on the ballot papers.

"I have had disagreements with Salahuddin bhai about district football. I have talked to him in this regard and he has promised to give emphasis on district football if he is re-elected. I think football still needs him," Helal said at a media briefing at the BFF House yesterday.

Despite Helal's support, Salahuddin was not in a comfortable position following cancellation of his panel introductory programme, which was scheduled at the

Purbani Hotel yesterday afternoon.

"The hotel authorities asked us not to hold our scheduled programme saying that they would not be able to provide security. They even declined to go into details on this issue. I don't want to make public what has been happening over the last two days. Everyone is concerned about security. Some of the councillors including club officials don't dare to come due to security reasons. Considering everything, we were forced to cancel the programme," said Salahuddin at his office.

Asked whether the delegates complained of any pressure from any quarters, Salahuddin said: "You know and I know too that the pressure is coming on [them]. The delegates told me that we have saved their lives by cancelling the programme."

Salahuddin also said that he did not receive any phone calls from any level of government but that he had received a threat over phone some 15 to 20 days earlier even though he did not pay much heed to it.

The BFF boss also claimed that he has appraised the FIFA and AFC about the BFF polls.

Rafa requests ITF to reveal results

AFP, Madrid



Fourteen-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal asked for the results of all drugs tests he has taken in his career to be released to the public in a letter to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) on Tuesday.

Nadal filed a lawsuit against former French sports minister Roselyne Bachelot on Monday after she accused him of covering up a failed drug test.

"It is necessary that our sport becomes a flagship in a world where TRANSPARENCY and HONESTY are two pillars of our conduct and way of living," Nadal wrote in the letter addressed to ITF president David Haggerty.

Bachelot alleged that Nadal -- one of Spain's most loved and admired sportsmen -- faked an injury in 2012, when he missed the final six months of the season due to knee problems, in order to hide a positive drug test.

Nadal has never failed a drug test in his many years on the ATP Tour and has always vehemently denied ever using a banned substance.

"I believe the time has arrived and our sport and our governing bodies need to step up in communicating well to the world," Nadal's letter continued.

"I know how many times I am tested, on and off competition. Please make all my information public. Please make public my biological passport, my complete history of Anti-Doping controls and tests.

"From now on I ask you to communicate when I am tested and the results as soon as they are ready from your labs.

"I also encourage you to start filing lawsuits if there is any misinformation spread by anyone. It can't be free anymore in our tennis world to speak and to accuse without evidence."

The ITF acknowledged receipt of Nadal's letter and confirmed he had never committed a doping violation, while inviting the Spaniard to personally make his records public.

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Entities are requested to submit 5 copies of their Annual Reports 2015 to the Secretary-ICAB, latest by 30 June 2016 to the following address

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The detailed Evaluation Criteria and guideline may be obtained from the ICAB Secretariat and is also available in the ICAB Website:

www.icab.org.bd.

The time for submission of the Annual Reports will not be extended in any case.

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