

## MOURINHO BURGLARISED

A man who reportedly tried to break into Jose Mourinho's house in central London has been sentenced to four weeks in prison for attempted burglary. Gabor Roman, 25, was caught as he tried to enter through the basement of the property on July 10 while the new Manchester United manager was inside watching Portugal win the European Championships, it was reported. A maid spotted the burglar and screamed "What are you doing here?" The Sun reported. Roman tried to flee but was stopped by a security guard, who had seen him looking for entry points at various addresses along the street, the newspaper reported. Police arrived on the scene and arrested Roman, who was led away while Mourinho and wife Matilde Faria watched from a window, according to a witness. The attempted break-in took place hours after Mourinho had been at Wimbledon to see Andy Murray win the tournament by beating Milos Raonic. —AGENCIES



Shanghai Shenhua's Senegalese striker Demba Ba is in agony moments after breaking his leg during the Chinese Super League match against Shanghai SIPG in Shanghai on Sunday.

# Doping state-sponsored: Report

## IOC to decide Russia's Rio fate today

AFP, Montreal



The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) called for Russia to be completely banned from the Rio Olympics and other international sport after an investigation found rampant state-run doping at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics and other events.

An investigation by Canadian law professor Richard McLaren for WADA found the FSB secret service helped "the state-dictated failsafe system" carried out by the sports ministry and covering 30 sports.

"WADA calls on sport movement to deny Russian athletes participation at international competition including Rio until 'culture change' achieved," the international anti-doping agency spokesman Ben Nichols said in a statement on Twitter.

International Olympic Committee members were to hold an emergency telephone conference on Tuesday to decide provisional sanctions over what IOC president Thomas Bach called "a shocking and unprecedented attack on the integrity of sports and on the Olympic Games."

McLaren's report said the cover up started in 2010 after Russia's "abysmal" results at the Vancouver Winter Olympics and continued until 2015 after the Sochi Games.

President Vladimir Putin made the Sochi Games a showcase event and more than \$50 billion was spent putting it on.

Russia, which had strongly denied any state involvement, is already banned from international athletics by the world body, the IAAF, because of doping exposed last year.

There will be mounting pressure for that to be extended even though Bach and some international federations have said there has to be a way for athletes proved to be clean to compete in Rio.

"The IOC will not hesitate to take the toughest sanctions available against any individual or organisation implicated," Bach said in a statement announcing the IOC conference on Tuesday.

McLaren's report said the Sports Ministry under Vitaly Mutko organised the subterfuge under which tainted urine samples were replaced and kept away from international observers.

"The Moscow laboratory operated for the protection of doped Russian athletes within a state-dictated failsafe system," McLaren said.

"The Sochi laboratory operated a unique sample swapping methodology to enable doped Russian athletes to compete at the Winter Olympic Games," he added.

"The Ministry of Sport directed, controlled and oversaw the manipulation of athletes' analytical results or sample swap-

ping and the active participation and assistance of the FSB (Russian Federal Security Service), CSP (Center of Sport Preparation for Russian athletes) and both Moscow and Sochi laboratories," McLaren said.

His report came a day after a release from the United States and Canadian anti-doping agencies says that a report on Russia's doping will be "unambiguous" in stating that there was government involvement. It also asked for a blanket ban on Russia from Rio, which starts August 5, should be considered if the evidence was damning.

WADA mandated McLaren to investigate allegations made by former Moscow anti-doping laboratory director Grigory Rodchenkov in May. The whistleblower Rodchenkov is now in hiding in the United States and wanted by Russian authorities.

McLaren called the Rodchenkov "a credible and truthful person" despite admitting to concocting doping cocktails for Russian athletes.

McLaren dismissed any notion that having less than two months to conduct the investigation or the reluctance of some witnesses to come forward compromised the results.

He said his report was handed over to WADA on Saturday and had not been leaked in advance.

## MU make high profile signing

AGENCIES, Manchester

Manchester United unveiled a new 'signing' yesterday morning, but it was the latest addition to their growing list of off-field partnerships, rather than anyone who might improve the first team.

Virgin Money have been announced as United's new UK Retail Financial Services Partner, making Branson the most underwhelming Old Trafford number seven since Michael Owen made the trip across from Tyneside.

Despite United making another high-profile addition to their billion-dollar brand, something we documented at the start of last season, some fans are restless as they are hoping to see their side improve on last season's fifth-place finish.

It seemed they would have preferred a French international midfielder to a billionaire tycoon.

Manchester United group managing director Richard Arnold described the partnership as a deal which "brings together for the first time two iconic brands; two industry leaders who have a reputation as innovators in their fields".

# Ba suffers horror leg-break

AFP, Shanghai



Former Chelsea striker Demba Ba's career could be over after the 31-year-old suffered a horrific broken leg in the Shanghai derby at the weekend.

The Senegalese marksman tangled with SIPG defender and captain Sun Xiang in the 63rd minute of his side's 2-1 Chinese Super League victory.

As the pair fell, Ba's left leg was caught between the turf and his opponent's boot, bending at a sickening angle and then appearing to snap gruesomely below the knee.

Shenhua's medical team raced on to the pitch without waiting for the referee's signal and the match was stopped for eight minutes while the Chinese Super League's top scorer, with 14 goals, was treated on the pitch before being taken to hospital.

Speaking after the match, a visibly shaken Shenhua coach Gregorio Manzano said the incident was potentially career-ending.

"In my 33 years as a coach I have won, drawn and lost games, but today is the most bitter victory because what happened to Demba Ba is what no one ever wants to see," Manzano said.

"Football is unfair sometimes to let such a terrible thing happen to such a good man. That could end a player's career."

Shenhua, who won the match 2-1, described the injury as a broken leg and said the incident — for which Sun was not booked — was "unfortunate" in a statement released on Monday.

Manzano told local media that Ba, who also played for Newcastle and West Ham in England,

would be out for at least seven months.

"If I can choose, I'd rather lose the match than lose Demba Ba," Manzano told the Shanghai Daily newspaper.

SIPG's coach, the former England boss Sven-Goran Eriksson, expressed sympathy, according to Shanghai Daily, saying: "It was a bad injury. I'm very sorry for Ba."

Ba's former club Chelsea posted a message of support on their official Twitter feed.

"All at Chelsea FC send our best wishes to former striker @dembabafoot. Get well soon Demba," it said.

The incident took the gloss off a pulsating and tempestuous Shanghai derby watched by more than 24,000 fans that saw 10 yellow and two red cards as both sides finished with 10 men.

Chinese international forward Wu Lei put SIPG ahead in the 55th minute with a stunning strike from outside the box.

Shanghai-born playmaker Cao Yunding equalised for Shenhua with just three minutes of the 90 left, before a Freddy Guarin penalty five minutes into added time sealed a dramatic 2-1 win for the home side.

Elsewhere big-spending Jiangsu Suning lost 3-0 away to newly-promoted Yanbian Fude in the shock result of the Chinese Super League weekend action.

And a late double from Chinese international midfielder Zheng Long in the last 10 minutes saw Luiz Felipe Scolari's table-topping Guangzhou Evergrande beat Changchun Yatai 2-1 away from home to extend their lead over second place Suning to 13 points.

## Ibra responds to Cantona

AGENCIES, London

Zlatan Ibrahimovic has responded to Eric Cantona in typical fashion by insisting he will be a "god" at Manchester United.

The United legend welcomed the 34-year-old to Old Trafford in a video message last week, saying: "I have a personal message for Zlatan: you decided to go Red. It is the best choice you ever made."

He added: "Just one last thing, there can only be one king in Manchester. You can be the prince if you want to."

"The No.7 is yours if you are interested. That is my welcome gift to you ... the king is gone! Long live the prince!"

But, true to form, Ibrahimovic will not settle for a lower rank to Cantona and instead expects to take up an omnipotent role at his new club.

"I heard what [Cantona] said and I congratulate him because I have always admired him," Ibrahimovic is quoted as saying by FIFA.

"But he should know that I will not be king of Manchester, I will be a god in Manchester."

# Ronaldo, Bale on UEFA shortlist

AFP, Paris



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo and Real Madrid team-mate Gareth Bale headlined a 10-man shortlist announced on Monday for the UEFA Best Player in Europe Award.

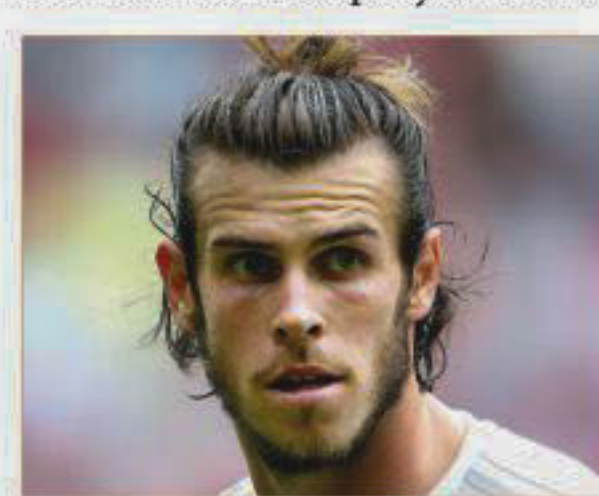
Ronaldo struck the winning spot-kick as Real claimed an 11th Champions League title, beating city rivals Atletico Madrid on penalties in May, before leading his country to Euro 2016 glory.

Ronaldo is favourite to win the award for a second time, after scooping the honours in 2013-14, which would see him draw level with Barcelona's Lionel Messi.

Atletico striker Antoine Griezmann was also nominated after his six goals at Euro 2016 earned him the player of the



CRISTIANO RONALDO



GARETH BALE

tournament and the Golden Boot, only for France to fall short against Portugal in the final.

Messi was one of two Barcelona players to make the list along with Luis Suarez, while Bayern Munich duo Manuel Neuer and Thomas Muller, Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon and Real midfielder Toni Kroos were also included.

The players were selected by journalists from each of UEFA's 55 members associations who will vote for a second time on August 5 to determine the three finalists.

The winner of the award will be announced in Monaco on August 25 when the draw for the Champions League group stage is made.

# All eyes on Neymar in Rio

AP, Sao Paulo

The last time Brazil played a major soccer tournament at home, Neymar was stretched off the field and then missed an embarrassing loss against Germany in the 2014 World Cup semifinals.

Two years later, the Barcelona star looks to rebound from that disappointment at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Although the Olympic soccer tournament doesn't have the same importance of a World Cup, the Rio Games have a special meaning for the Brazilian striker. Neymar will be one of the games' biggest stars and will carry the responsibility of leading the five-time world champions to their first soccer gold medal.

"It's a unique opportunity," he said. "Not only for me, but for everyone on the team. We know how important this medal is."

All eyes will be on the 24-year-old striker, who opted to play in the Olympics instead of the Copa America earlier this year. Brazil was eliminated in the group stage of that tournament, a result that prompted the firing of coach Dunga.

Because it's not an official FIFA tournament, teams are not required to release players for the Olympic



tournament, but Neymar and the Brazilian soccer confederation negotiated with Barcelona so he could play in Rio.

"I know that this gold medal has eluded Brazil so far, and we will do everything to try to win it," Neymar told Brazilian television recently. "It's rare that a country like Brazil, considered the land of football, still hasn't won this gold."

It will be the second time Neymar will play for Brazil at the Olympics. He led the team that lost the 2012 final to Mexico in London, where the Brazilians were the heavy favorites. Brazil was runner-up twice before, in 1984 and 1988. It also won the bronze in 1996 and

2008, the last time with a squad that featured Ronaldinho and future stars like Marcelo and Thiago Silva.

"Neymar is special, one of the best players in the world," said Rogerio Micalle, who replaced Dunga as coach of the Olympic team. "Any team can benefit from a player like him. He will mean a lot to us. I think that he will be able to lead the youngsters in the squad."

Neymar will be one of the three over-23 players each nation is allowed to add to its roster. The other two are 38-year-old Palmeiras goalkeeper Fernando Prass and 28-year-old Beijing Guoan midfielder Renato Augusto, who have far less international experience than

Neymar.

No other player will attract as much attention — from fans, media and opposing teams — as Neymar.

"I'm honoured to be in this team, because I know how difficult it is to win an Olympic medal in any sport," he said. "With football it's even more difficult because if you are not the champion, people see it differently."

Neymar is facing extra pressure after Dunga was fired for the second time from the national team. Without the experienced coach by his side, Neymar will carry the fate of the team, and the striker can become a national hero if he wins the gold, or join a long list of stars — Romario, Rivaldo, Ronaldo, Ronaldinho, among others — who have failed in the pursuit of the gold.

"I never run away from the responsibility. I'm used to it," Neymar said. "We have another great opportunity to win an Olympic medal, and hopefully this time it will be the gold."

Neymar also had a prominent role at the World Cup in Brazil two years ago, when he played up to expectations until breaking a bone in his back in the quarterfinals against Colombia and missing the rest of the tournament. Brazil eventually was eliminated after an embarrassing 7-1 loss to Germany in the semifinals.

# Messi's absence worries Menotti

INTERNET



Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning coach Cesar Luis Menotti has never been one to mince his words, and the 77-year-old believes his countrymen face an uphill task even to qualify for the next World Cup in Russia.

Major problems within the Argentine Football Federation are said to be a major contributor to Lionel Messi's premature retirement from international football.

"There are only five teams qualifying from South America and without Lionel Messi [Argentina] run the risk of missing out," Menotti told La Nacion. "Maybe we need to start preparing for Qatar in 2022."

Argentina have had to parachute in Julio Olarticoechea to take charge of the Olympic team next month following Gerardo Martino's resignation, and Menotti was strident in his defence of the former Barcelona and Paraguay boss.

"I wouldn't give [Martino] any rubbish for quitting," said the ex-coach. "He and his staff weren't paid for months, so no wonder he went crazy! He was right to go."

The veteran also discounted the possibility of Marcelo Bielsa returning to take the helm after his move to Lazio collapsed last week.

"There was some speculation that [the Lazio job] fell apart because he wanted to come back here, but that happened because Lazio went back on their promises," stated Menotti. "I don't think he's interested in the job."

Diego Maradona has been a strong advocate for change in Argentina, although Menotti is less keen on the legendary playmaker's outspoken outbursts.

"I don't really like to see this sort of thing," said the Rosario native. "I had to put up with guys like this too who I didn't like to listen to, like Daniel Passarella and Americo Gallego."

# Dortmund, Bayern in Gotze talks

AGENCIES, Munich

Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has confirmed the Bundesliga champions are in talks with Borussia Dortmund over the sale of Mario Gotze.

The Germany international joined Bayern from BVB in 2013, but has thus far largely failed to live up to the high expectations at the Allianz Arena and struggled for first-team football under Pep Guardiola last season.

"I can confirm that talks with Borussia Dortmund have taken place," Rummenigge told Sport1.

"There have also been talks with his agent, but the deal is not done just yet."

Bayern have reportedly set a €27 million asking price for the attacking midfielder, whose contract runs until June 2017.