

ALEXIS SANCHEZ ADMITS 1M EURO TAX FRAUD

Arsenal forward Alexis Sanchez on Monday admitted defrauding Spanish tax authorities of 983,443 euros (\$1 million) while playing for Barcelona. The 28-year-old Chile international's confession could see him receive a fine and possibly a non-custodial prison sentence. Giving evidence via video link from London, Sanchez "recognised a tax error which he has settled with the Spanish Treasury," a judicial source said. Sanchez admitted that his tax declarations for 2012 and 2013 had not included profits from his image rights, which transited through a company based in Malta. He also admitted that he had not stated that he owned the company Numidia Trading Limited. The case is similar to former Barcelona teammate Javier Mascherano, who was handed a one-year prison term in January 2016 and fined 815,000 euros for tax fraud. In Spain sentences of less than two years are in general not served.



-AFP



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates winning a point against Germany's Florian Mayer during their men's singles first round match of the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Milan stay in chase for Europe

AFP, Milan

AC Milan battled back from two goals down to draw 2-2 at Torino on Monday keeping their bid for Europe alive by moving fifth in the Serie A table.

Andrea Belotti had put Torino ahead after 21 minutes with his 14th league goal of the season and Marco Benassi adding a second for the hosts five minutes later.

But Milan's 17-year-old keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma saved Adem Ljajic's penalty to prevent the hosts going 3-0 up after just 32 minutes.

And once the storm had passed Milan responded positively with Andrea Bertolacci scoring on 55 minutes and Carlos Bacca slotting in a penalty five minutes later.

Milan played the final minutes of the game with 10 men after Alessio Romagnoli was sent off on 88 minutes for a second yellow card.

They overtake city rivals Inter Milan, moving fifth with 37 points ahead of Saturday's clash against third-placed Napoli.

Big guns roll into Round 2

AFP, Melbourne



Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams launched their Australian Open campaigns in style on Tuesday as Ivo Karlovic smashed a record 75 aces in an unprecedented, 84-game marathon.

Djokovic and Williams have both dropped to world number two and faced awkward opposition, but they won in straight sets against Fernando Verdasco and Belinda Bencic respectively.

Rafael Nadal also rolled into round two before Karlovic outlasted Horacio Zeballos in an epic that stretched for five hours, 15 minutes and ended 6-7 (6/8), 3-6, 7-5, 6-2, 22-20.

Karlovic beat Thomas Johansson's Australian Open record of 51 aces in a match, set in 2005, and 84 games was a new mark for the tournament in the tiebreak era, edging the 83 in Andy Roddick's 2003 defeat of Younes El Aynaoui.

It was one of the longest matches in the tournament's history in terms of time, although still short of the five hours, 53 minutes played by Djokovic and Nadal in the 2012 men's final.

The denouement, when it finally came, was almost comical as an exhausted Karlovic chipped a hopeful lob over Zeballos, only for the Argentine to send a wayward forehand rocketing out of the court.

"This is what I will, after my career, remember. If it was easy match or I lost easy, I wouldn't remember. But this

one definitely I will remember forever," said the Croatian.

As the drama played out on Court 19, Djokovic gave further evidence of his return to form as he convincingly saw off Verdasco 6-1, 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 on Rod Laver Arena.

Djokovic fell off the top of the rankings during a sudden slump last year but he showed signs of a revival by beating new world number one Andy Murray in this month's Doha final.

He fended off five match points against Verdasco in the Doha semis, and had to fight through a 71-minute second set against the Spanish left-hander for his win on Tuesday.

It was Djokovic's 15th straight win at the Australian Open as he seeks his third straight title and his seventh overall, which would break Roy Emerson's record set in the 1960s.

"I'm very pleased with the first round, considering I had one of the toughest first-round draws, definitely considering his form, how well he played against me in Doha," Djokovic said.

In afternoon play, Williams and Nadal made light of hot temperatures and doubts over their own form as they got off to sizzling starts.

Williams, back after an injury lay-off, demolished the dangerous Bencic 6-4, 6-3, while Nadal was also impressive in his 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over Florian Mayer.

Williams has barely played since her shock defeat in the US Open semis-finals in September and she made, by one count, 88 unforced errors in her

second-round loss to Madison Brengle at this month's Auckland Classic.

But she came through a tight first set against Bencic before dominating the second in what turned out to be an emphatic victory on the centre court.

The 35-year-old American, with a record 23rd major title in her sights, was watched from court-side by her new fiancé, Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian.

"Right now I've got nothing to lose. Every match, every tournament I'm playing for fun," she said.

Williams, who can break Steffi Graf's Open-era record of 22 Grand Slam titles if she wins in Melbourne for the seventh time, next faces Lucie Safarova, who saved nine match points before beating Yanina Wickmayer.

Men's world number three Milos Raonic, a semi-finalist last year, enjoyed an uncomplicated start to his campaign when he beat Germany's Dustin Brown 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

And German hotshot Alexander Zverev credited a racket-smashing tantrum with sparking his revival as he came back to beat Robin Haase 6-2, 3-6, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.

Injury-hit Nadal had a torrid 2016, failing to reach any of the Grand Slam quarter-finals, but he appeared rejuvenated under new coach and former world number one Carlos Moya.

In the final match on centre court, Polish third seed Agnieszka Radwanska beat Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova, 6-1, 4-6, 6-1.

Ctg edge Rajshahi on penalties

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Division beat Rajshahi Division 5-4 in a penalty shootout in their knock-out round fixture of the Agrani Bank 26th National Youth Hockey Tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Regulation time had ended 1-1, with Rajshahi taking the lead in the 15th minute through Zahid before Parvez equalised for Chittagong on the hour-mark.

In the other match of the day, Comilla District beat Madaripur District 2-0, with Javed Hossain and Hridoy scoring the goals.

VICTORY DAY TENNIS Hossains in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Alamgir Hossain, Milon Hossain, Anwar Hossain and Rubel Hossain moved into the semifinals of the AIUB Victory Day Tennis Competition at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Alamgir beat top-seed Amol Roy 6-1, 6-3 while Milon defeated Kawsar Ali 3-6, 7-5, 6-4. Anwar edged Rubel 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 and Mamun Bepari outplayed Faruk Hossain 6-3-6-2 in their quarterfinal rubbers yesterday.

In the women's section, Afrana Islam Preety, Sultana Jolly and Ishita Afroze confirmed their semifinal berths. Afrana outplayed Sathi Sarkar 6-1, 6-1; Jolly defeated Nodia Islam 6-3, 6-1 and Ishita thrashed Fabiha Lamisa Suchona 6-2, 6-1 in their respective quarterfinals.

Rafinha blow for Barca

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona's Brazilian international midfielder Rafinha is set for a spell on the sidelines after the Catalan giants confirmed he has pulled his right hamstring on Tuesday.

"Rafinha Alcantara has pulled a hamstring muscle and will have to sit out this Thursday's Copa del Rey first leg away to Real Sociedad," the club said in a statement.

Van Gaal retires from coaching



AFP, The Hague

Firebrand manager Louis van Gaal has announced his retirement from professional football after more than three decades, citing "family reasons," a Dutch newspaper reported Tuesday.

"I don't believe I'll return back to work," Van Gaal told popular daily tabloid De Telegraaf, which added he is "definitely drawing a line under his training career."

The man nicknamed the "Iron Tulip" has received dozens of lucrative offers since his unceremonial axing from Manchester United last year, including a three-year contract in the East, most likely China, which would pay an estimated 50 million euros (\$53.4 million) over three years, the paper said.

"I could have taken the contract," Van Gaal told the paper. "But I'm still here. So much has happened within my family and it has become time to face facts."

Flamboyant and outspoken, Van Gaal, 65, found himself in the midst of a family drama after the husband of one of his daughters unexpectedly passed away, De Telegraaf said.

Despite winning the FA Cup last year -- United's first major silverware since the retirement of legendary boss Sir Alex Ferguson -- Van Gaal was given the boot in May.

He said then he was contemplating taking another manager's job.

"I said I would stop, but then cleverly called it a 'sabbatical'. But now I don't believe I'll return to work," Van Gaal told De Telegraaf on receiving a lifetime achievement award in The Hague on Monday.

"Actually I wanted to stop after the (FIFA) World Cup," in Brazil in 2014, where Van Gaal's Dutch side ended third behind Argentina and Germany.

"Then suddenly England called. It was a beautiful country I did not yet have on my cv," he said.

Winning the FA Cup with the Red Devils "was the greatest achievement of my career," he added.

Asked whether he has realised all his dreams, the man often known for his blunt answers during press conferences said: "I have achieved everything during my lifetime."

"I don't want to brag about all the countries where I've worked, and the level of clubs I've coached, but for me there's really nothing else left (to do)," Van Gaal said.

Toure not giving up yet

AFP, London



Yaya Toure is adamant Manchester City can still end the season as Premier League champions even after a humiliating 4-0 defeat by Everton left them 10 points behind leaders Chelsea.

Sunday's reverse at Goodison Park prompted City manager Pep Guardiola to put an end to his side's title hopes by saying top spot was now out of the question.

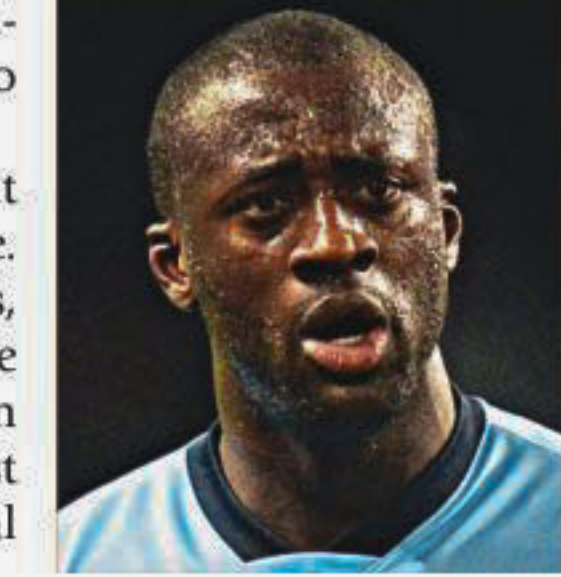
"The first one, yeah," said Guardiola when asked if finishing top of the table was no longer possible.

"The first one is a 10-point gap and that is a lot of course. The second one is three points, so we have to see," added the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss after the heaviest league loss of his managerial career.

Yet veteran City midfielder Toure insisted his side could mount an improbable rally with 17 matches of the league season left, starting with this weekend's clash at home to second-placed Tottenham Hotspur.

"I think in the Premier League everything is possible," said Toure. In football you have to be positive. I am a positive guy," the 33-year-old Ivory Coast star added.

"I know it is tough sometimes but you have to accept that and continue to work hard, and we will have the chance. We just



have to win a couple of games and everything will come back again.

"On Saturday we have an important game. We have to keep going. It is a difficult situation but what we have to do is work hard and try to bounce back.

"The league is still long. We have to try to do the business on Saturday and then we are coming back again."

Romelu Lukaku and Kevin Mirallas put Everton firmly in control in the opening 46 minutes, before teenagers Tom Davies and Ademola Lookman, with their first goals for the club, completed the rout.

Nevertheless, Toure said: "When you see over the game it is difficult to take because we were more unlucky than lucky - all the rebounds, the ball always missing when coming back to you.

"But that is football, we have to understand that. It can happen. When you see all the game I don't think we played badly.

"If you look at the result, 4-0, it means we played badly -- but we didn't play so badly. We were unlucky from my point of view."

As for suggestions the players were feeling "low", Toure replied: "Low? No. Of course nobody wants to lose this kind of game, and after the way we lost like that nobody wants to talk.

"But I don't think we lack spirit. The guys were there. Sometimes football is unfair. I think it was a consequence of bad luck, what came."

FIFA warns Liverpool over Matip

AFP, Zurich

FIFA warned Liverpool on Monday they cannot play Joel Matip unless Africa Cup of Nations participants Cameroon give the Premier League title-chasers permission.

The key central defender missed Liverpool's 1-1 draw with Manchester United on Sunday amid a disagreement over his international status and he could be unavailable for the next month.

Matip last year announced he no longer wished to be considered for selection by Cameroon and was not named in their Africa Cup of Nations squad.

In a statement a FIFA spokesperson told AFP that Liverpool had been directed to study article five of its rules.

It states that "a player who has been called up by his association for one of its representative teams is, unless otherwise agreed, not entitled to play for his club during the period for which he has been released."

Youth games from October?

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) on Monday decided in principle to hold the First Bangladesh Youth Games from October this year.

The meeting of the executive committee of the BOA, held at the Kurmitola Golf Club with president General Abu Belal Mohammad Shadiul Haq, took the decision to start this event, which is scheduled to run from October 20017 up to February 2018, in a bid to unearth young and promising sports stars from the upazila level.

However, there are issues surrounding the Games as the budget has not been sanctioned for the current fiscal year, which is why the Games have been deferred to a tentative start date in October.

Badal Roy, convenor of the committee for the proposed youth games, explained the reasons behind such an ambitious project. "There are few things still to be sorted out so we are having discussions. The main reason for undertaking such a project is that there is a shortage of sportsmen and women in several disciplines. So we hope this event will help us find some emerging talents who will meet the current demand. We haven't yet decided on which disciplines there will be games, but hopefully we can start the games by October," said Roy.

Group Captain (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam, member secretary of the Training and Development Committee of BOA, informed that the proposed budget will be between Tk 18 to 20 crore.

"We proposed a Tk 20 crore budget to the National Sports Council, but we have been told that the budget may be sanctioned in the next fiscal year, which is why we will be holding it after July."

"Badal [Roy] wanted the games to be held from the union level, but that would not be possible. So the Games will run from the upazila level and from there district teams will be formed. Those district teams will move to the divisional level before the final phase, which will be held in Dhaka," Rafiqul added.

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- ১। শিশুর জন্ম তারিখ ১ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০০৫ থেকে ৩১ অক্টোবর ২০০৬ এর মধ্যে হতে হবে।
- ২। জাপানের ফুকুওকা শহরে শিশু সমাবেশের যাত্রায়ত এবং অবস্থানকালীন সকল ব্যয়ভার APCC বহন করবে।
- ৩। এই শিশু সমাবেশের জন্য শুধুমাত্র নাচ/গানে দক্ষ ৩ জন ছেলে শিশু এবং ৩ জন মেয়ে শিশু জুনিয়র অ্যাথলেটদের হিসেবে নির্বাচন করা হবে।
- ৪। নির্বাচিত ৬ জন জুনিয়র অ্যাথলেটের আলাদা আলাদাভাবে জাপানের পরিবারের সঙ্গে থাকতে হবে এবং জাপানি ভাষা গ্রহণে আগ্রহী ও সক্ষম হতে হবে।
- ৫। নির্বাচিত জুনিয়র অ্যাথলেটদের শিশু একাডেমীর কেন্দ্রীয় কার্যালয়ে প্রশিক্ষণ গ্রহণ করতে হবে। এ প্রশিক্ষণের সময় জুনিয়র অ্যাথলেটদের অভিভাবকদের উপস্থিতি বাধ্যতামূলক।
- ৬। জুনিয়র অ্যাথলেটদের হিসেবে জাপানের ফুকুওকায় অনুষ্ঠিতব্য শিশু সমাবেশ থেকে ফিরে এসে শিশু একাডেমীর তত্ত্বাবধানে পরিচালিত ব্রিজ ক্লাবের সদস্য হতে হবে এবং উল্লিখিত সমাবেশের লক্ষ্য অনুযায়ী বিশ্ব নাগরিক হিসেবে অবদান রাখতে হবে।
- ৭। (ক) শিশুকে শারীরিক ও মানসিকভাবে সুস্থ থাকতে হবে।  
(খ) মা-বাবা/পরিবারকে ছেড়ে দুই সপ্তাহ জাপানের পরিবেশে থাকার মানসিকতা সম্পন্ন হতে হবে।
- (গ) নিয়ন্ত্রণ করা কঠিন, এমন রোগে (যেমন হাম, অ্যাডমা বা অ্যালার্জি) আক্রান্ত শিশুদের আবেদন না করার জন্য কথা হলো।
- ৮। আবেদনকারীকে জনসনাদ এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, প্রধান শিক্ষকের নিকট থেকে শ্রেণি ও বয়সের সত্যায়িত প্রত্যয়নপত্রের ফটোকপি ও ২ কপি সাপোর্টে সাইজের ছবিসহ আবেদন করতে হবে। এ জন্য নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র রয়েছে। নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র অনুযায়ী নিম্নাঙ্কনকারীর দপ্তরে ডাকযোগে অথবা সরাসরি আবেদন গ্রহণ করতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- ৯। আবেদনপত্র বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমীর সকল জেলা ও উপজেলা কার্যালয় এবং শিশু একাডেমীর ওয়েবসাইট [www.shishuacademy.gov.bd](http://www.shishuacademy.gov.bd) থেকে ডাউনলোড করে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।
- ১০। আবেদনকারী একাডেমী কর্তৃক যাচাইবাছাই শেষে কেবলমাত্র যোগ্য শিশুদেরকে সাক্ষাৎকারের তারিখ ও সময় ডাকযোগে/ই-মেইল/মোবাইল ফোনের মাধ্যমে জানিয়ে দেয়া হবে। সাক্ষাৎকারের সময় আবেদনকারী শিশুকে সকল কাগজ পত্রের ফুকুপি সঙ্গে আনতে হবে। সাক্ষাৎকারে অংশগ্রহণকারীদের কোনো যাতায়াত ও আপ্যায়ন ভাতা প্রদান করা হবে না।
- ১১। আবেদন পত্র জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ আগামী ৩০ জুন/জুলাই মাসের ২০১৭।

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