

Ronaldo's sights on another CL glory

AFP, Turin

Cristiano Ronaldo said Monday that he's "different" from other players of his age who move to China or Qatar for mega-money deals, during an official unveiling as a Juventus player in which he said he wanted to help bring Champions League success to his new club.

With the World Cup over, the superstar attacker's 100 million-euro move from European champions Real Madrid has put all eyes on the Italian champions and Serie A, and Ronaldo said that he wasn't "here on holiday".

"I'm different from other players who think their careers are over when they're my age," said the 33-year-old Portugal captain. "I want to show that I'm not like the others, I'm different. "Players of my age go to China or Qatar so coming to such an important club at this stage in my career makes me very happy."

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner was his usual confident self at a press conference held largely in Portuguese at Juve's state-of-the-art Allianz Stadium that was attended by media from all over the globe, saying that he had "nothing to prove to anyone".

"The numbers are there, everyone knows what I've done for football, but I'm ambitious and I like challenges," he said.

"I didn't want to stay in my comfort zone after what I did for Manchester and Real Madrid. I want to leave my mark on Juve."

Italian champions Juventus signed the

superstar attacker, who put pen to paper on a four-year deal worth a reported 30 million euros a season, in the hope that he will push them to a coveted Champions League title, the continent's holy grail.

Preparing to make a run at an eighth Serie A title in as many years, the Old Lady of Italian football have struggled to turn domestic dominance into European trophies.

Juve have not won the competition since 1996 but were beaten finalists in 2015 and 2017, bested respectively by Barcelona and Ronaldo's former club. Ronaldo meanwhile has scored more Champions League's goals -- 120 -- than anyone else and won four out of the last five editions with Real Madrid.

"We're going to fight for not just Champions League, but also Serie A and the others trophies," he said. "I need to work hard because the Champions League is not easily won. I hope I can help."

Ronaldo was speaking to media after a busy day in Turin, which began with a warm welcome from Juve fans before Monday morning's medical.

Hundreds of fans gathered outside the Allianz Stadium in Turin from early morning singing "Ronaldo, bring us the Champions [League]" as he emerged from the club's medical centre to sign autographs and shake hands amid raucous chants.

"It was a stunning moment to be welcomed this way," said Ronaldo.

"It increases your motivation to start work. I hope I can reward them."



Cristiano Ronaldo (L) met up with his new teammates and also had a face-to-face with Juventus manager Massimiliano Allegri, who will be looking to tweak his system to bring the best out of his team's new talisman.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



France midfielder Paul Pogba (L) electrified the crowd, and most notably the flailing Didier Deschamps, with his tunes as the world champions celebrated their success at the Elysee Palace on Monday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Giroud unfazed by criticism

REUTERS, Paris



France striker Olivier Giroud says criticism has always motivated him to do better and the 31-year-old is pleased to silence his detractors with his stellar work rate in his team's

World Cup triumph in Russia.

The striker drew flak from fans for not scoring a single goal during France's successful World Cup campaign but manager Didier Deschamps had previously defended him by highlighting his tremendous off-the-ball work rate and clever support play.

Despite the goal drought, Deschamps stuck with the Chelsea striker, who featured in all of France's seven matches at the World Cup, and Giroud is happy to have played his role.

"All of my career I have been, how can I say... I have been through certain difficulties and I have always tried to make it," Giroud told reporters as France were greeted by thousands of supporters on their return home on Monday. "It motivates me to get better and better and go through these difficulties and it is what happens in life when you are really motivated, determined, committed, it is never easy."

"Football is very hard and people see only the nice part of the job. But we work very hard for this achievement and I am very proud to say I am a World Cup champion."

Giroud has also been criticised by pundits and supporters in the Premier League after scoring five



PHOTO: REUTERS

Despite not getting a single shot on target during his 546 World Cup minutes, striker Olivier Giroud says he has no time for critics as he is busy celebrating with football's greatest prize.

goals and providing three assists in 18 appearances for Chelsea since joining the club in January.

"No, no, no because I have been criticised a little but in France as well," he said when asked if he feels more respected in France.

"For example, I didn't score in the World Cup. I receive a lot of messages from people who know football well, lots of French supporters. They see the work I do for the team..."

Giroud could return to action for Chelsea in their season-opening Community Shield match against Manchester City on August 5.

Mbappe gives winnings to charity

AGENCIES, Paris

Kylian Mbappe garnered global recognition for his performances in this year's World Cup, but the proceeds he earned are not going to him.

The 19-year-old, who scored four goals this year as France claimed its second World Cup, decided to donate his earnings from the tournament, amounting to nearly £400,000, to a charity that gives free sports instruction to hospitalized and disabled children in sports, Premiers de Cordee.

"Kylian, he's a great person," Sebastien Ruffin, general manager of Premiers de Cordee, told Le Parisien. "When his schedule allows it, he intervenes for us with pleasure. He has a very good [relationship] with children, he always finds the right [words] to encourage them. I sometimes even feel that [he] takes more pleasure to play with the kids than the kids themselves."

Ashim, Mamun better scores

SPORTS REPORTER

Archers Ashim Kumar Das and Abul Kashem Mamun produced their best scores in the qualification round of men's compound event in Berlin Archery World Cup to finish 29th and 41st among 93 competitors yesterday.

Ashim, who won a gold medal in the ISSF Islamic Solidarity Archery Championships in May, eclipsed his previous best of 690 points by scoring 696 out of 720 points on the opening day of the World Cup, where Bangladesh archers are taking part for the first time.

The 25-year-old will face 84th-ranked Valerio Della Stua of Italy in the elimination round while Mamun will take on 72nd-ranked Ariyon Gankin of Kazakhstan after the lad from Narail bettered his previous best of 682 points by scoring 691 points in the elimination round.

Though Ashim and Mamun improved on their scores, Bonna Akter frustrated in the qualification round of women's compound event after finishing 57th among 61 competitors with a score of 655 points, four less than her previous best of 659.

Bonna, who was selected ahead of Solidarity event's gold medallist Roksana Akter, will play the elimination round against 56th-ranked Ingrid Olofsson of Sweden. All the elimination round ties will take place today.

Cahill quits Soceroos

AFF, Sydney



Australia's all-time leading goal-scorer Tim Cahill retired from international football Tuesday, ending an illustrious career that has taken him to four World Cups.

The 38-year-old, who scored 50 international goals in 107 appearances, last played for the Soceroos when he came off the bench for their final group game against Peru at the World Cup in Russia.

"Today's the day that I'm officially hanging up my boots on my international career with the Soceroos," Cahill tweeted.

"No words can describe what it has meant to represent my country. Massive thank you to everyone for the support throughout all my years wearing the Australian badge."



The former Everton striker, one of the finest players to come out of Australia, did not say if he would continue playing club football.

He joined his former club Millwall in the English Championship on a short-term deal in January after quitting Australia's Melbourne City in a bid to secure more game time

before the World Cup.

Governing body Football Federation Australia chief executive David Gallop hailed Cahill as a "genuine legend of our game and for a long time has been a great ambassador for football".

Ex-teammates and Soceroo fans paid tribute to the tireless player and praised his leadership on and off the field, using the Twitter hashtags #ThanksTim and #ThanksTimmy.

"When he put an Australian jersey on, he just had a knack of scoring goals and getting us out of trouble," former Soceroos great Archie Thompson told commercial broadcaster Channel Nine Tuesday.

"He contributed in making football a brand and in making the Soceroos a brand."

Cahill, born in Sydney to a Samoan mother, started his international career playing for Western Samoa under-20s and only became a Soceroo in 2004 after an intense lobbying campaign to world body FIFA.

Two years later in Germany, he became the first Australian to net a goal at the World Cup, going to score in two further tournaments in 2010 and 2014.

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

World Cup alters

Ballon d'Or odds

Could we finally be seeing the beginning of the end of Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi's stranglehold on the Ballon d'Or? The pair have hogged the coveted prize every year since 2008.



Rooney picks Messi

over Ronaldo

Wayne Rooney, the former striking partner of Cristiano Ronaldo at Manchester United had no hesitation in picking Lionel Messi over the Portuguese star as he said that in his eyes Messi is the 'greatest ever'.



'Neymar and Mbappe

want to stay'

Luis Fernandez, the sporting director at Paris Saint-Germain said that both Neymar and Kylian Mbappe are willing to stay at the French club despite being speculated to make a big money move to European giants Real Madrid.

Pogba leads celebrations with song for Kante

Having won the World Cup, the French players were in a jovial mood as they gathered in front of the presidential palace at Elysee Palace, where President Emmanuel Macron hosted a reception for them.



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