

Man Utd to Launch World Record Bid for Real Madrid's Gareth Bale



TEHRAN (FNA) - Manchester United will attempt to sign former

Tottenham star Gareth Bale in a world-record transfer at the end of

the season after giving up on Real Madrid team-mate Cristiano Ron-

aldo.

The Red Devils had been hoping to strike a deal for the Old Trafford favorite, but Ronaldo's agent Jorge Mendes is adamant his client will be staying at the Santiago Bernabeu and has no desire to return to England, Daily Express reported.

And according to the Daily Star, Louis Van Gaal will now instead focus on taking Bale back to the Premier League, with the player failing to grasp Carlo Ancelotti's latest change in formation.

The Welshman is currently in his second season with the Champions League holders, joining a year ago for £85 million, but reports in Spain claim that Ancelotti is open to letting him leave at the end of the campaign as he looks to tighten up his midfield.

United's executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward is ready to hand new boss Van Gaal a transfer warchest despite already spending over £150 million in the last window, and Bale is at the top of the Dutchman's summer shopping list, although United will have to splash out at least £90 million to secure his signature.

Chelsea Player Rips FIFA for Giving the 2022 World Cup to Qatar, Says Players Could 'Drop Dead'



LONDON (Dispatches) - Chelsea and Australian national team goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer criticized FIFA for ignoring player safety concerns when awarding the 2022 World Cup to Qatar.

Speaking at a sports business summit in London, Schwarzer said it's would take multiple players to "drop dead" for FIFA to consider banning summer games in the Middle East.

It's widely assumed that FIFA will move the 2022 World Cup to winter. However, FIFA gave Qatar the tournament under the assumption that it'd be held in June/July, and that's still the plan (for now). In addition, there are still World Cup qualifiers taking place in the region during summer. Schwarzer called playing any games (World Cup or not) in the region in summer "ridiculous."

"I played a game in Oman in June one year and it was [109 degrees

Fahrenheit]. Something needs to happen to stop games at that time of year. It is just ridiculous, and it will only happen once probably not just one person, but two or three people drop dead.

"It's ridiculous, it really is ridiculous to be playing at that time of year and I don't know why there's even a debate. A committee went out there and said it was not safe to play, yet they were still awarded [the 2022 World Cup]."

FIFA's own evaluation of Qatar's bid called it a "potential health risk" for players and fans.

Qatar's bid contained a proposal to develop cooling technologies that would keep stadiums at a comfortable 80 degrees during games. FIFA's evaluation noted that those cooling system were still untested, and four years after Qatar was selected at the 2022 host it's unclear if those technologies even exist.

Italy Asks FIFA to Host TV Replays Experiment

ROME (AP) — Italy wants to host an experiment on the use of TV replays in football.

Following a controversial top-of-the-table clash in the Serie A, the president of the Italian football federation wrote to FIFA on Thursday asking to trial video replay.

The letter came four days after Juventus recorded a 3-2 victory over Roma that saw the Turin club

awarded two disputed penalties and score the winning goal while offside.

Carlo Tavecchio said that while the FIGC was dedicated to preserving the traditions of football, "at the same time it supports modernization that allows our beloved sport to maintain a winning global consensus."

The fallout from the Juve-Roma match made studying the use

of replays "a priority" to uphold "credibility in the referee," a statement from the Italian federation added.

Last month, Blatter said he wanted to test replays in a domestic league, and at the Under-20 World Cup in New Zealand next year.

Coaches would have the right once or twice in each half to challenge a refereeing decision.

Blatter has portrayed himself as a champion of technology since reversing his opposition to goal-line aids, which were used at the World Cup in Brazil for the first time.

Separately, UEFA banned Tavecchio for six months on Tuesday following a racist comment during his election campaign.

Japan Beats Jamaica 1-0 in Friendly

NIIGATA, Japan (AP) — An own goal by Nyron Nosworthy allowed Japan to beat Jamaica 1-0 in a friendly on Friday and give Javier Aguirre his first win as coach.

Jamaica was guilty of poor

defending from the outset, and Nosworthy deflected the ball into his own net in the 16th minute before a crowd of 39,628 at Big Swan Stadium.

In his first two games in charge last month, Aguirre

lost 2-0 to Uruguay and drew 2-2 with Venezuela. The Asian champion departs on Saturday for Singapore, where it will play Brazil on Tuesday.

Keisuke Honda came close to

making it 2-0 with a shot off the crossbar in the 33rd.

Shinji Kagawa, in his first appearance for Aguirre, played deeper in midfield than he does for his Dortmund club, and helped to create chances.

Floyd Mayweather's Dad Says Mayweather-Pacquiao Super-Fight Is 'Definitely Going To Happen'

(Business Insider) - Floyd Mayweather Sr. told FightHype.com that a mega-fight between his son Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao is "definitely going to happen."

Mayweather has two fights left on a six-fight, \$250-million deal with Showtime. He says he'll retire when the deal ends. That leaves only two opportunities for the two camps to settle their differences and organize what would be the biggest fight of this generation.

Floyd Sr. says it's happening, though he doesn't seem to be going on hard evidence

"That fight's gonna happen. Trust me. That fight's definitely gonna happen. It's a fight for the world, man, right there. It's the biggest fight that has ever been in life, so like I said man, that fight's gonna happen. I'ma tell you right now, he never told me the fight's gonna happen, but I'ma tell you, the fight's gonna happen. You mark my words and we'll see. And it needs to happen. Just like Ali and Joe Frazier, or Ali and George Foreman, something like that, man, it's one of

those fights like that. The world wants to see it and they'll want to see it again when Floyd beats Pacquiao. I'm pretty sure Floyd is gonna make it look where people are going to want to see it again, because I'm just saying, Floyd's gonna pick Pacquiao apart, man."

Mayweather's biggest recent fight was against Canelo Alvarez. He made \$41.5 million on the fight. A Pacquiao super-fight would trump that amount, even if he has to give a larger percentage of the purse to Manny.

Mayweather Sr.'s proclamation comes after Pacquiao's promoter Bob Arum suggested that the fight could happen early in 2015.

Still, there's more reason to be pessimistic than optimistic. The two camps couldn't make this fight happen in 2010, when both fighters were at the peak of their powers and the money involved would have been off the charts. The bad blood hasn't cooled. In 2012 Arum accused Floyd of turning down \$100 million to fight Pacquiao, and said the fight would never happen. As recently as Sep-



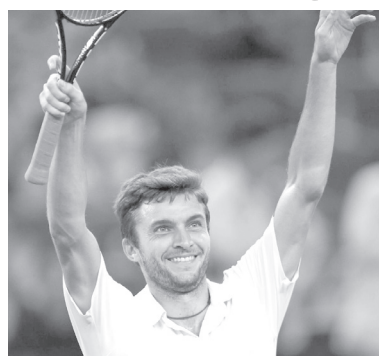
Floyd Mayweather takes another shot at Manny Pacquiao

tember, Mayweather was antagonizing Pacquiao on Instagram.

As with every Pacquiao-May-

weather rumor in the last five years, it's best not to believe it until the two actually step into the ring.

Federer Beats Djokovic at Shanghai Masters



Gilles Simon of France acknowledges the crowd after defeating Feliciano Lopez of Spain during their men's singles semifinal match at the Shanghai Masters Tennis Tournament in Shanghai, China, Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014.

SHANGHAI (AP) -- Roger Federer avenged a tough loss to Novak

Djokovic in the Wimbledon final by beating the top-ranked Serb 6-4, 6-4 in the semifinals of the Shanghai Masters on Saturday.

The Swiss star relentlessly charged the net and volleyed with precision, winning 20 of his 35 forays. He also served strongly, firing four aces in a row to win one game in the first set and fighting off the only break point he faced.

Federer was almost out of the tournament in the opening round, saving five match points before beating Leonardo Mayer in a dramatic three-setter. Now he's into the final with a chance to win his first title in Shanghai - and fourth of the year - against Frenchman Gilles Simon on Sunday.

LeBron Still Undecided About Rio Olympics

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) - The beaches and glamour of Rio de Janeiro haven't yet convinced LeBron James that he should come back in two years for a shot at a third Olympic gold medal.

James has spent several days in Rio preparing for Saturday's NBA pre-season game against his former Miami Heat teammates, but reiterated on Friday that it's too early to make a decision about the Olympics.

"I'm undecided," James said at the club facilities of Flamengo, Brazil's most popular soccer team, where both teams are practicing. "It's not until 2016. I got two years. I got a long time."

James and two other Cavalier teammates - Kevin Love and Kyrie Irving - have been picked in a national pool that will be used to select the 2016 men's team for the United States, which has won gold at the last two Olympics and in five of the last six.

Irving, who said he will sit out Saturday's game with a sprained right ankle, would be playing in his first Olympics if picked.

"Obviously to be in the pool of guys is a great honor," he said. Love left no doubt he wants to play again, after winning gold two years ago in London.

"Playing for my country has done a lot of things for my career," he said. "It has afforded me a great opportunity to get better. Wearing the USA across the chest was a great way to feel patriotic. I hope that I have another chance in 2016 to be here."

Heat duo Chris Bosh and Dwayne Wade won gold in 2008, but are out of the pool and said it's time for others to take over.

"I've done it and I want other guys to experience it," Bosh said. "Trying to chase that experience I had in '08 - I'm not going to be able to fulfill that. I was a younger guy and I was single and I had a lot more time."

Wade made it clear that training and playing with the Olympic team after a full NBA season is a young man's job.