



Virat Kohli during nets — Reuters

## Pogba keen to leave United for Barcelona - reports

LONDON, AUG 8 /-/- France World Cup star Paul Pogba is determined to end his fractious relationship with Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho and move to Barcelona, according to British media reports on Wednesday. The 25-year-old -- who scored in the 4-2 World Cup final win over Croatia -- has agreed terms with Barcelona for a deal worth 78.5 million (115 million, 100 million euros) over five years, according to the Daily Mail. The reported agreement would see him pick up 7340,000 a week, almost double what he earns at

Woodward demanding he be allowed to leave. The Frenchman is keen to move to Barcelona -- the Spanish transfer window does not shut till the end of the month -- to play with Argentina superstar Lionel Messi, while his close friend and former Juventus team-mate Arturo Vidal also recently moved to the Catalan giants. Essentially, though, Pogba's unhappiness stems from the deterioration in his relationship with Mourinho, who not only does he blame for his muted performances for United since his move but also for his qualified praise of his performances for France at the World Cup. "Paul was like the (France) team. He started average and ended top," Mourinho told *beIN Sports* on United's unhappy tour of the United States last week. Pogba, though, is believed to have been more upset by what followed in the interview as Mourinho implied being in an enclosed environment over six weeks ensured he focused just on football and not on outside matters such as commercial contracts. Pogba's super agent Mino Raiola -- who was also instrumental in bringing Romelu Lukaku to the United States last week -- said the player needed to adapt too. "It's down to the manager to get the best out of him, setting the team up and setting Pogba up in the right way to achieve the best," said the former England central defender. But Pogba needs to play his part in that. "It's a case of the player and manager getting an understanding for each other and getting the best out of the player. (AFP)



United. The Sun claims the former Juventus star -- who joined United for a then world-record fee of 78.9 million in 2016 -- has demanded the Premier League side increase his wages from 7180,000 to 7380,000 a week so he is paid almost on a par with Chilean star Alexis Sanchez, otherwise he will leave. United, though, would be most reluctant to sell him, with the Daily Mail reporting they have already rejected a bid by Barcelona of 74.5 million plus Colombian central defender Jerry Mina and Portuguese midfielder Andre Gomes. Mourinho has expressed his frustration over the club's transfer policy, and Pogba's departure would leave little time for executive chairman Ed Woodward to find a suitable replacement with the Premier League transfer window due to close on Thursday. The club has had to deny the claim that Pogba sent a text message to

United's sporting director Ed Woodward demanding he be allowed to leave. The Frenchman is keen to move to Barcelona -- the Spanish transfer window does not shut till the end of the month -- to play with Argentina superstar Lionel Messi, while his close friend and former Juventus team-mate Arturo Vidal also recently moved to the Catalan giants. Essentially, though, Pogba's unhappiness stems from the deterioration in his relationship with Mourinho, who not only does he blame for his muted performances for United since his move but also for his qualified praise of his performances for France at the World Cup. "Paul was like the (France) team. He started average and ended top," Mourinho told *beIN Sports* on United's unhappy tour of the United States last week. Pogba, though, is believed to have been more upset by what followed in the interview as Mourinho implied being in an enclosed environment over six weeks ensured he focused just on football and not on outside matters such as commercial contracts. Pogba's super agent Mino Raiola -- who was also instrumental in bringing Romelu Lukaku to the United States last week -- said the player needed to adapt too. "It's down to the manager to get the best out of him, setting the team up and setting Pogba up in the right way to achieve the best," said the former England central defender. But Pogba needs to play his part in that. "It's a case of the player and manager getting an understanding for each other and getting the best out of the player. (AFP)

## Fans to promote legends match in Camp Nou: Organisers

KOLKATA, AUG 8 /-/- Underprivileged football fans will get a chance to visit Barcelona's base Camp Nou to promote the upcoming 'legends exhibition match' between Barcelona and Mohun Bagan scheduled here on September 28, organisers said today. "It would be a lifetime opportunity for the fans who will be chosen from Darjeeling, Jangal Mahal and other football loving areas of the country," organisers of the match Koushik Moulik said. Barcelona are scheduled to play Girona in La Liga on September 23. "We plan to make them watch the match and engage in promotional activities for the legends match scheduled at Santiake Stadium, five days later," he said announcing former India international Mehtab Hossain as the ambassador. Dutch legends Patrick Kluivert and Frank de Boer would be among a host of World Cuppers who are expected for the 'Clash of Legends'.

## Jonty Rhodes star attraction in surfing event

CHENNAI, AUG 8 /-/- Former South Africa cricketer Jonty Rhodes will be the star attraction in the 6th edition of the Point Surfing Championship, to be held in Kovalam from August 17 to 19. The Covelong Point Surfing Championship is recognised by the Surfing Federation of India. Rhodes, himself an avid surfer, will also be seen in action at the Covelong Point Surf. The premier surfing competition will see top men's and women's surfers from across the country vie for top spots under seven categories. The surfing categories for the championship are as follows - Novice (U12), Groms (U16), Juniors (17-22 Years), Seniors (23-30 Years), Masters (31 Years and above), Women (all ages), Open Category (Foreign Nationals). This year the competition would also see participation from surfers from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The Surfing Federation of India also has inked a historic agreement for an exchange program with the Sri Lankan Surfing federation where surfers from both the countries would be participating in the official competitions across the coasts in both the countries. (PTI)

## Ronaldo to be honoured by Real Madrid ahead of 2019 Bernabeu trophy

MADRID, AUG 8 /-/- Former Real Madrid talisman Cristiano Ronaldo will be honoured by the Champions League holders ahead of the 2019 Bernabeu Trophy. Italian football giants AC Milan will be the visitors to the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu on August 11 for the tie. The La Liga giants along with Ronaldo have planned for several other tributes, according to Spanish football website Marca. The names of the other former footballers who will be paid tribute are still to be announced. Real Madrid has



# Want to win matches for the team with my performance: Ishant

LONDON, AUG 8 /-/- Trailing 0-1 in the 5-match Test against hosts England, India will look to level the series when they step on the field on Thursday for the second Test at the Lord's, London. Ahead of the second game of the Test series, India pacer Ishant Sharma shared his eagerness to win matches for the team. The 29-year-old pacer, in an interview to *beIN Sports*, opened up on his preparation for the series and asserted that his sole focus was to contribute for the team and help India win matches with his performances. "I have only one motive that I want to win matches for India with my performances. Which ever ground I play, my purpose is to win matches for the team with my performances. My motivation has completely shifted and now my focus on how I can help my team win with my performances," Ishant said. "It has also helped me to bowl long spells. The only thing matters to me is that, I want to help my team win with my performances," he added. In the last 19 Test matches, Ishant has picked up 23 wickets. In the previous match, the pacer took six wickets which included five wickets in the second innings. Talking about his preparation for the Test series and the process behind it Ishant said, "The process always remains the same. You have to focus on where you have to bowl and how to execute your plans. At the end of the day, when it works out, then you feel satisfied



and happy. It is important to take up responsibility when you are a senior bowler. "You have to be performance oriented. I have not done anything special. It's just the mindset, which is totally different for me. You start believing in yourself and you hit the right lengths. If you ball at a particular length consistently and play with batsmen patience, you will eventually get success," Ishant added. With front-line seamers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah out of contention due to injuries, Ishant also elaborated on the environment in the bowling unit. He explained that everyone in the unit knows his role and with a healthy competition in the team, players know that under performance will land them out of the playing XI. "The current lot is a competitive fast bowling unit. We have a healthy competition amongst each other which is a good sign for the team. Everyone knows if they don't perform they can be out of the playing XI. Because of this players are always on their toes. Things are quite simple in this team. If you perform you will be in the team and if you don't you will sit out," Ishant said. In 2014, India lost the Test series 1-3 where the only win for the team came in at Lord's. Ishant Sharma won the man of the match award for his figures of 7-74 in the second innings. With India looking to level the series, Ishant will once again look to repeat his 2014 heroics. (Agency)

## Don't see any reason to part ways with Constantine till Asian Cup: AIFF



NEW DELHI, AUG 8 /-/- Sunil Chhetri, the captain of the national football team, said he does not see any reason to part ways with coach Constantine until the Asian Cup. The AIFC general secretary Kunal Das has said, putting to rest speculation about an abrupt sacking following complaints by senior players. Terming the murmurs around Constantine as hearsay circulating in the social media, the top All India Football Federation (AIFF) office-bearer said they don't see a plausible reason to part ways with the coach till the end of the continental showpiece, when his contract expires. In his second spell with the senior team, the British coach oversaw a dream 13-match unbeaten run that ended with a 1-2 defeat to

## Disappointing start for India at Jr NBA World Championships

ORLANDO (US), AUG 8 /-/- In a dismal start for country at the inaugural Junior NBA World Championships, the Indian boys and girls teams lost their respective pool matches on the opening day of the Under-13 and Under-14 basketball tournament, here. The Indian girls, representing the city of Bengaluru, were hammered 11-57 and 28-75 by Asia Pacific and Europe respectively in their two pool matches of the international category at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex inside the Walt Disney Resort. The Indian boys from New Delhi fared much better but they also ended up as the losing side in both their pool matches. The Indian boys lost 34-75 to the combined team from Europe in their first match before succumbing to a 43-80 defeat against the Asia Pacific side later in the day. The presence of NBA star Brook Lopez and his family, who were there to cheer for the Indians, failed to inspire the Indians as they failed to match their rivals both in terms of quality and physicality. However, the Indians, both the girls and boys, put on display some fast moves and occasional shooting but it was not enough to save them from defeats. Both the Indian boys and girls teams will take a breather from South America respectively in their last pool matches tomorrow. But the sheer exposure to be part of the global event in basketball's heartland will do a world of good in lifting the confidence of the young Indian cagers. (PTI)

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## Force India secure future with rescue deal, Mallya's reign ends

LONDON, AUG 8 /-/- The future of the Force India Formula One team was secured after its administrator accepted a bid backed by a consortium of investors, effectively ending Vijay Mallya's 10-year-old reign at the midfield squad. The team was put into administration ahead of the Hungarian Grand Prix last month following the legal action taken by its Mexican driver Sergio Perez. According to a statement issued on behalf of administrator Geoff Rowley, all 405 jobs at Force India will be saved following the deal. Williams driver Lance Stroll, Commenting on the deal, Force India Chief Operations Officer Omar Zafraoui said, "This outcome secures the future of the Force India team in Formula 1 and will allow our team of racers to compete to our full potential." I am delighted that we have the support of a consortium of investors who believe in us as a team and who see the considerable business potential that Force India has within F1 now and in the future. He also acknowledged Mallya's contribution in the success of the team. At Force India, our expertise and commitment has meant that we have always punched above our weight and this new investment ensures that we have a bright future ahead of us. I also would like to thank Vijay, the Sahara Group and the Mol family for all of their support and taking the team as far as their circumstances would allow, added Zafraoui. Mallya and Sahara had a 42.5 percent stake each in Force India while Mol Family owned 15 percent. India is currently seeking Mallya's extradition from the UK over unpaid loans linked to his defunct Kingfisher Airlines. Since their first season in 2008, Force India have gone on to become a strong midfield team, finishing fourth in the past two seasons. (PTI)

## Real Madrid end US tour with 2-1 win over Roma

NEW JERSEY, AUG 8 /-/- Gareth Bale is serving notice that he is ready to shine without Cristiano Ronaldo, factoring in both goals as Real Madrid wrapped up their US tour with a 2-1 win over Roma on Tuesday. Bale and Marco Asensio scored for Real Madrid who put on a strong performance especially in the first half of the International Champions Cup friendly at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. Real Madrid is hoping Bale is ready to fully evolve into the player they signed for a world record fee in 2013. The 33-year-old Ronaldo ended a nine-year spell at Real Madrid by recently signing with Italian champions Juventus. "We're scoring goals and we're winning matches, so we're doing well," Bale said. "We have to keep improving and we're really

looking forward to starting the new season." Asensio, with his third goal of the preseason, opened the scoring just two minutes into the contest. Bale delivered a brilliant pass to the foot of Asensio and he found the back of the net. Real Madrid struck again in the 15th minute as Bale would score this time, taking an equally superb pass from Dani Carvajal. Bale walked in and beat goalkeeper Robin Olsen to make it 2-0. Real Madrid wasn't nearly as dominant in the second half as most of their starting squad was subbed off. Kevin Strootman made it interesting by scoring in the 83rd minute for Roma. Strootman was left wide open for a throw-in and headed pass and all he had to do was hammer it past the started Real Madrid goalkeeper.



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