

03.11-Football

Football

Patriotic goal

Vocab

1. **patriotic** *adj.* having or expressing a great love of your country 爱国的
e.g. a patriotic man who served his country well 为国尽忠的爱国者

Big spending on foreign football players has a political aim, too
Feb 27th 2016 | From the print edition

CHINESE demand for the world's **commodities** may be **sputtering**, but not for the most vital **ingredient** of football: its players. In recent weeks, the country's football clubs have been on their biggest ever spending spree, signing up foreign talent for sums which, by Asian standards, have been jaw-dropping. One local newspaper in China said anyone who paid attention to Chinese football would **conclude** that the clubs had "gone mad".

Vocab

1. **commodity** *n.* a product or a raw material that can be bought and sold 商品
e.g. Crude oil is the world's most important commodity. 原油是世界上最重要的商品。
2. **sputter** (figurative) *[with adverbial]* proceed or develop in a spasmodic and feeble way • **[喻]** 时断时续地发生 (或进展) ; 疲软地进行 (或进展)
e.g. **strikes in the public services sputtered on.** 公共服务行业的罢工时断时续。
3. **ingredient** *n.* ~ (of/ in/ for sth) one of the things from which sth is made, especially one of the foods that are used together to make a particular dish 成分 ; (尤指烹饪) 材料
e.g. Our skin cream contains only natural ingredients. 我们的护肤霜只含天然成分。
4. **spree** *n.* a short period of time that you spend doing one particular activity that you enjoy, but often too much of it (常指过分) 玩乐, 作乐 ; 纵乐
e.g. a **shopping/ spending spree** 狂购一气 ; 痛痛快快地花一通钱
5. **sign up** **PHRASAL VERB-ERG**(和...)签约;雇用;报名(参加课程) If you **sign up** for an organization or if an organization **signs** you **up**, you sign a contract officially agreeing to do a job or course of study.
e.g. **He signed up as a steward with P&O Lines...**他签约了P&O航运公司, 成为了一名乘务员。
6. **jaw-dropping** *adj.* 令人目瞪口呆的; 印象非常深刻的; 令人震惊的 Something that is **jaw-dropping** is extremely surprising, impressive, or shocking.
e.g. **One insider who has seen the report said it was pretty jaw-dropping stuff.**一位看过此报道的内部人士说这绝对是令人震惊的爆料。
7. **conclude** ~ sth (from sth) | ~ (from sth) that... to decide or believe sth as a result of what you have heard or seen 断定 ; 推断出 ; 作出结论
e.g. The report concluded (that) the cheapest option was to close the laboratory. 这份报告认为代价最低廉的选择是关闭实验室。

Sentence

In recent weeks, the country's football clubs have been on their biggest ever spending spree, signing up foreign talent for sums which, by Asian standards, have been jaw-dropping.
主干: clubs **have been** on their biggest ever spending spree.

signing up foreign talent for sums which, by Asian standards, have been jaw-dropping. 这里 signing up... 可以看成非限定性定语从句的简化形式，还原即：which sign up foreign...

Jiangsu Suning, a club owned by an eponymous retail chain, broke a record on January 27th when it paid £25m (\$35m) for Ramires, a Brazilian midfielder (known only by his forename) who had been playing for Chelsea, an English team. That was the most an Asian club had spent on a footballer. Seven days later Guangzhou Evergrande Taobao took Jackson Martínez from Atlético Madrid, a big Spanish team, for \$45m. Within a couple of days Jiangsu had **smashed** the record again, paying a Ukrainian team, Shakhtar Donetsk, \$53m for Alex Teixeira, another Brazilian midfielder.

Vocab

1. **eponymous** adj. the **eponymous** character of a book, play, film/ movie, etc. is the one mentioned in the title (与标题) 同名的
2. **retail chain** n. 连锁店; [贸易] 零售联营
3. **forename** n. a person's first name rather than the name that they share with the other members of their family (their **SURNAME**) 名
4. **smash** v. 打破;冲破;突破 If you **smash** through a wall, gate, or door, you get through it by hitting and breaking it.
e.g. The demonstrators used trucks to **smash** through embassy gates...示威者用卡车撞开了使馆大门。
5. **midfield** n. the central part of a sports field; the group of players in this position (运动场的) 中场; 中场队员

Sentence

Jiangsu Suning, a club owned by an eponymous retail chain, broke a record on January 27th when it paid £25m (\$35m) for Ramires, a Brazilian midfielder (known only by his forename) who had been playing for Chelsea, an English team.

主干: Suning **broke** a record

when it paid £25m (\$35m) for Ramires 时间状语从句，这个时间发生了什么

a Brazilian midfielder (known only by his forename) who had been playing for Chelsea, an English team. 先行词是 Ramires 这里 who had been...同样是修饰这个 midfielder

By the time China's two-month-long winter transfer-period ends on February 26th, its top-**division** clubs will have spent a **net** amount of around \$300m (the amount spent on buying players **minus** the amount received for selling them). That is more than the combined net **outlay** of all the clubs in Europe's top five **leagues** during the winter period. The net spending of clubs in the English Premier League was the second highest (\$220m); those in China's second division ranked third, at \$55m.

Vocab

1. **division** n. (in Britain) one of the group of teams that a sport competition is divided into, especially in football (**SOCCER**) (英国体育运动, 尤指足球比赛的) 级
e.g. a first-division team 甲级队
2. **net** adj. a **net** amount of money is the amount that remains when nothing more is to be taken away 净得的; 纯的
e.g. **net income/ earnings** (= after tax has been paid) 纯收入
3. **minus** prep. used when you **SUBTRACT** (= take away) one number or thing from

another one 减；减去

4. **outlay** n. the money that you have to spend in order to start a new project (启动新项目的) 开支, 费用

e.g. a massive **financial/ capital outlay** 大量的财政/资本开支

5. **league** n. a group of sports teams who all play each other to earn points and find which team is best (体育运动队的) 联合会, 联赛

e.g. United were league champions last season. 联队是上个赛季的联赛冠军。

President Xi Jinping may be less inclined to call this mad. Oddly for someone with so much else to worry about, from reviving a slowing economy to fighting corruption, he has set much store by football. A year ago a **committee** charged with overseeing wide-ranging economic and social reforms turned its attention to an area of great concern in the football-loving nation: its **dismal** performance in the game. The committee, headed by Mr Xi, **endorsed** the Communist Party's first ever plan for "football reforms" (with "**Chinese characteristics**", naturally). These, it said, were aimed at ending the "backward" state of football in China and helping the country realise its "dream of sporting great-powerdom". The plan says the number of football academies should increase tenfold to 50,000 by 2025. It **decrees** that football be made compulsory at school.

Vocab

1. **oddly** adv. =**surprisingly** used to show that sth is surprising 令人奇怪地；令人惊奇地

e.g. **Oddly enough**, the most expensive tickets sold fastest. 奇怪极了，最贵的票居然卖得最快。

2. **revive** v. (使)复苏;(使)复兴;(使)恢复;(使)再次流行 When something such as the economy, a business, a trend, or a feeling **is revived** or when it **revives**, it becomes active, popular, or successful again.

3. **corruption** n. dishonest or illegal behaviour, especially of people in authority 腐败；贪污；贿赂；受贿

e.g. The new district attorney has promised to fight police corruption. 新上任的地方检察官承诺要与司法腐败作斗争。

4. **set store by** **set/ put (great, etc.) 'store by sth to consider sth to be important** (十分) 看重, 重视 (某事物)

e.g. She sets great store by her appearance. 她十分看重自己的外貌。

5. **committee** n. 委员会 a group of people who are chosen, usually by a larger group, to make decisions or to deal with a particular subject

6. **dismal** adj. not skilful or successful; of very low quality 不熟练的；差劲的；不怎么样的

e.g. The singer gave a dismal performance of some old songs. 那歌手唱了几首老歌，唱得也不怎么样。

7. **endorse** v. to say publicly that you support a person, statement or course of action (公开) 赞同, 支持, 认可

e.g. I wholeheartedly endorse his remarks. 我真诚地赞同他的话。

8. **Chinese characteristics** 中国特色

9. **decree** v. 决定;规定;命令;颁布 If someone in authority **decrees** that something must happen, they decide or state this officially.

e.g. The king **decreed** a general amnesty. 国王颁布了大赦令。

Sentence

Oddly for someone with so much else to worry about, from reviving a slowing economy to

fighting corruption, he has set much store by football.

主干: he has set much store by football.

from reviving a slowing economy to fighting corruption 这里 from...to... 从...到...

Football is particularly important for Mr Xi. He has been a fan since childhood. For a while after he took over as China's leader his office, or at least the room said to be such in official photographs, featured the above picture of him as vice-president **kicking** a ball in Ireland. Mr Xi's reform plan says football can help boost **patriotism** and a "collective spirit" — **attributes** Mr Xi is keen to **inculcate** in a society **fractured** by rapid economic change.

Vocab

1. **kick** v. to hit sb/ sth with your foot 踢; 踹

e.g. The boys were kicking a ball around in the yard. 男孩们在院子里踢球。

2. **patriotism** n. love of your country and willingness to defend it 爱国主义; 爱国精神

e.g. We live in an age when **patriotism** is often sneered at. 我们生活在一个爱国主义常常被嗤之以鼻的时代。

3. **collective** adj. done or shared by all members of a group of people; involving a whole group or society 集体的; 共有的; 共同的

e.g. **collective leadership/ decision-making/ responsibility** 集体领导/决策; 共同责任

4. **attribute** v. ~ sth to sth to say or believe that sth is the result of a particular thing 把...归因于; 认为...是由于

e.g. She attributes her success to hard work and a little luck. 她认为她的成功来自勤劳和一点运气。

5. **inculcate** v. ~ sth (in/ into sb) | ~ sb with sth (formal) to cause sb to learn and remember ideas, moral principles, etc., especially by repeating them often 反复灌输; 谆谆教诲

6. **fracture** n. a break in a bone or other hard material (指状态) 骨折, 断裂, 折断, 破裂

Chinese businesses are keen to **play along**. Four companies have taken over a first-division Chinese football club in the past two years. In October China Media Capital (CMC), a **venture-capital firm**, agreed to pay \$1.3 billion for five years of television rights to the Chinese Super League (CSL), more than 25 times the amount paid by state television for the football season in 2015. (On February 23rd, the firm **resold** the first two years of rights at a 35% profit.) In December CMC bought a 13% stake in Manchester City, an English club, weeks after CMC's chairman accompanied Mr Xi on a tour of the club's facilities. Wang Jianlin, China's richest man, recently **snapped up** a 20% stake in Atlético Madrid. Dalian Wanda, a firm owned by Mr Wang, is spending millions of dollars on the coaching of 180 Chinese players at **world-class** facilities in Spain.

Vocab

1. **play along** **play a'long (with sb/ sth)** to pretend to agree with sb/ sth 假意顺从

e.g. I decided to play along with her idea. 我决定假意听从她的意见。

2. **venture-capital firm** 风险投资公司

3. **resell** v. to sell sth that you have bought 转售; 转卖

e.g. He resells the goods at a profit. 他转卖货品赢利。

4. **snap up** PHRASAL VERB 短语动词 抢购, 赶紧买下(便宜或心仪之物) If

you **snap** something **up**, you buy it quickly because it is cheap or is just what you want.

e.g. One eagle-eyed collector snapped up a pair of Schiaparelli earrings for just £6. 一个眼疾手快的收藏家以仅仅 6 英镑的价钱抢到了一副斯基亚帕雷利设计的耳环。

5. world-class adj. as good as the best in the world 世界级的；世界上一流的

Sentence

In December CMC bought a 13% stake in Manchester City, an English club, weeks after CMC's chairman accompanied Mr Xi on a tour of the club's facilities.

主干：CMC **bought** a 13% stake in Manchester City.

weeks after CMC's chairman accompanied Mr Xi on a tour of the club's facilities. 这句时间状语从句，要先翻译，即在 chairman 陪同 xi 参观 club 的 facilities 的一周之后，CMC 就买了其13%的股票

Money talks

As well as signing up expensive foreign players, CSL clubs have been recruiting former managers of the English and Brazilian national teams. Guangzhou Evergrande Taobao employs dozens of coaches from Real Madrid to train the 3,000-odd youngsters enrolled at its academy. The drawback of working for a little-known team can be **offset** by a big pay-packet (Ezequiel Lavezzi, an Argentine forward from Paris St-Germain, a French team, recently joined a provincial **squad** in China for a reported salary of more than \$300,000 a week). The CSL appears likely soon to **eclipse** Major League Soccer in America as a destination of choice for footballers who are more after money than **prestige**.

Vocab

1. as well as conj. & prep. (除...之外)也,又

2. offset v. 抵消；弥补；补偿 to use one cost, payment or situation in order to cancel or reduce the effect of another

3. squad n. 运动（代表）队 a group of players, runners, etc. from which a team is chosen for a particular game or match

e.g. the **Olympic/ national squad** 奥林匹克代表队；国家队

4. eclipse v. =**outshine, overshadow** 使失色；使相形见绌；使丧失重要性 to make sb/ sth seem dull or unimportant by comparison

e.g. Though a talented player, he was completely eclipsed by his brother. 他虽是一个天才的运动员，但与他的兄弟相比就黯然失色了。

5. prestige n. =**status** 威信；声望；威望 the respect and admiration that sb/ sth has because of their social position, or what they have done

Sentence

The CSL appears likely soon to **eclipse** Major League Soccer in America as a destination of choice for footballers who are more after money than **prestige**.

主干：CSL appears likely soon to eclipse MLS.

这里用了一个 **eclipse** 做动词，使失色，即 CSL 似乎很快就能使 MLS 黯然失色，

然后加上后面的 as 跟着句子：黯然失色的原因是 CSL 要作为一个球员的 destination

Mr Xi sees the game as a useful tool of diplomacy (his overseas visits often involve football-related events). But China's league is still a long way from **exerting** the kind of soft power that the English Premier League **bestows** upon Britain (ask any taxi driver in China). Mr Xi has said he dreams of China winning the World Cup. England itself has no **blueprint** for that.

Vocab

1. **exert** v. 运用；行使；施加 to use power or influence to affect sb/ sth

e.g. He exerted all his authority to make them accept the plan. 他利用他的所有权力让他们接受这个计划。

2. **bestow** v. ~ sth (on/ upon sb) 给予；授予；献给 to give sth to sb, especially to show how much they are respected

3. **blueprint** n. ~ (for sth) 行动方案；计划蓝图 a plan which shows what can be achieved and how it can be achieved

e.g. a blueprint for the privatization of health care 保健私有化方案

From the print edition: China

Football: Patriotic goal

足球：爱国主义目标

Big spending on foreign football players has a political aim, too.

在外国球员身上花费大价钱也有政治目的。

CHINESE demand for the world's commodities may be sputtering, but not for the most vital ingredient of football: its players. In recent weeks, the country's football clubs have been on their biggest ever spending spree, signing up foreign talent for sums which, by Asian standards, have been jaw-dropping. One local newspaper in China said anyone who paid attention to Chinese football would conclude that the clubs had "gone mad".

中国人对世界各国商品的需求也许在慢慢地减少，但是对足球最重要的一部分——球员——却依然热度不减。在近几周里，中国的足球俱乐部都在狂购外国优质球员，这是有史以来最疯狂的一次，花费金额以亚洲标准来看足以让人瞠目结舌。中国一家地方报社在报道中称，任何关注中国足球的人都会得出“俱乐部都疯了”的结论。

Jiangsu Suning, a club owned by an eponymous retail chain, broke a record on January 27th when it paid £25m (\$35m) for Ramires, a Brazilian midfielder (known only by his forename) who had been playing for Chelsea, an English team. That was the most an Asian club had spent on a footballer. Seven days later Guangzhou Evergrande Taobao took Jackson Martínez from Atlético Madrid, a big Spanish team, for \$45m. Within a couple of days Jiangsu had smashed the record again, paying a Ukrainian team, Shakhtar Donetsk, \$53m for Alex Teixeira, another Brazilian midfielder.

苏宁连锁零售企业旗下的江苏苏宁俱乐部，在1月27日以2500万欧元（3500万美元）的价格收购了效力于英超球队切尔西的巴西中场队员拉米雷斯（他的姓并不为人所知），打破了最高转会费用的记录。这是亚洲俱乐部收购球员花费最高的一次。七天后，广州恒大淘宝俱乐部从知名西班牙球队马德里竞技俱乐部购得杰克逊·马丁内斯，花费了4500万美元。仅仅过了几天，江苏苏宁再次打破纪录，它以5300万的价格从乌克兰球队顿涅茨克矿工足球俱乐部购买了另一位巴西中场球员阿列克斯·特谢拉。

By the time China's two-month-long winter transfer-period ends on February 26th, its top-division clubs will have spent a net amount of around \$300m (the amount spent on buying players minus the amount received for selling them). That is more than the combined net outlay of all the clubs in Europe's top five leagues during the winter period. The net spending of clubs in the English Premier League was the second highest (\$220m); those in China's second division ranked third, at \$55m.

2月26日，中超历时两个月的冬季转会期结束，期间各大俱乐部消费净值将高达约3亿美元（购买球员的花费减去卖出球员的收入）。这个数字比欧洲五大联赛所有俱乐部在冬季休赛期的净支出总和还要多。英超联赛俱乐部的净支出第二，高达2.2亿美元；第三则是中国乙级联赛的俱乐部，达5500万美元。

President Xi Jinping may be less inclined to call this mad. Oddly for someone with so much else to worry about, from reviving a slowing economy to fighting corruption, he has set much store by football. A year ago a committee charged with overseeing wide-ranging economic and social reforms turned its attention to an area of great concern in the football-loving nation: its dismal performance in the game. The committee, headed by Mr Xi, endorsed the Communist Party's first ever plan for "football reforms" (with "Chinese characteristics", naturally). These, it said, were aimed at ending the "backward" state of football in China and helping the country realise its "dream of sporting great-powerdom". The plan says the number of football academies should increase tenfold to 50,000 by 2025. It decrees that football be made compulsory at school.

对习近平主席来说，这可能并不疯狂。奇怪的是，尽管习主席有许多其他要务，包括加快经济发展和进行反腐行动，他依然十分重视足球发展。一年前，有一个委员会将其关注重点从监督一揽子的经济社会改革转向了另一个这个热爱足球的国家人民所关注的领域——国家队在国际比赛中的不良。该委员会由习主席领导，支持中国第一次“足球改革”计划（必然带有“中国特色”）。委员会称，这些改革措施是为了结束中国足球在世界上“落后”的局面，以实现中国人民“体育强国的梦想”。计划称，在2025年前足球培训学校的数量要增加十倍，到达5万所，同时规定足球是中小学必修课。

Football is particularly important for Mr Xi. He has been a fan since childhood. For a while after he took over as China's leader his office, or at least the room said to be such in official photographs, featured the above picture of him as vice-president kicking a ball in Ireland. Mr Xi's reform plan says football can help boost patriotism and a "collective spirit" — attributes Mr Xi is keen to inculcate in a society fractured by rapid economic change.

足球对于习主席来说格外重要，他从小就很热爱足球。在他成为中国领导人不久之后，他的办公室，或者至少在官方公布的他的办公室中，挂着他作为副总统是在爱尔兰踢足球的照片。习主席的改革计划称足球能够提高国民的爱国主义热情和“集体精神”，两者都是习主席很热切地希望能够在因快速的经济快速发展而出现裂痕的社会所传播的价值观念。

Chinese businesses are keen to play along. Four companies have taken over a first-division Chinese football club in the past two years. In October China Media Capital (CMC), a venture-capital firm, agreed to pay \$1.3 billion for five years of television rights to the Chinese Super League (CSL), more than 25 times the amount paid by state television for the football season in 2015. On February 23rd, the firm resold the first two years of rights at a 35% profit. In December CMC bought a 13% stake in Manchester City, an English club, weeks after CMC's chairman accompanied Mr Xi on a tour of the club's facilities. Wang Jianlin, China's richest man, recently snapped up a 20% stake in Atlético Madrid. Dalian Wanda, a firm owned by Mr Wang, is spending millions of dollars on the coaching of 180 Chinese players at world-class facilities in Spain.

中国的企业喜欢顺势而为。四家公司已经在过去的两年里分别收购了一家中国顶级足球联赛的俱乐部。风险投资企业华人文化产业投资基金10月份同意以13亿美元的价格购得中国超级联赛（中超）5年的电视转播权，而这个数字是国家电视台购买2015赛季的价格的25倍。在2月23日，该公司就以35%的利润转卖了前两年的转播权。十二月，在华人文化产业投资

基金主席陪同习主席参观英国曼城俱乐部场地设施后不久，该公司在12月便收购了俱乐部13%的股份。中国首富王健林最近火速注资马德里竞技，获得该俱乐部20%的股份。王健林的企业大连万达更是斥资数百万美元在西班牙的世界顶级足球训练场培养180位中国球员。

As well as signing up expensive foreign players, CSL clubs have been recruiting former managers of the English and Brazilian national teams. Guangzhou Evergrande Taobao employs dozens of coaches from Real Madrid to train the 3,000-odd youngsters enrolled at its academy. The drawback of working for a little-known team can be offset by a big pay-packet (Ezequiel Lavezzi, an Argentine forward from Paris St-Germain, a French team, recently joined a provincial squad in China for a reported salary of more than \$300,000 a week). The CSL appears likely soon to eclipse Major League Soccer in America as a destination of choice for footballers who are more after money than prestige.

除了签约昂贵的外国球员外，中超俱乐部也一直在招募曾担任英格兰和巴西国家队的经理人。广州恒大淘宝俱乐部从皇家马德里俱乐部聘请了数十位教练来训练3000多名进入其足球学校的年轻学员。对球员来说，效力不知名球队踢球的缺点被诱人的高工资抵消了（曾效力于法甲球队巴黎圣日耳曼的阿根廷前锋埃斯奎尔·拉维奇最近加入了一支中国的省队，据报道称其每周工资超过30万美元）。中超联赛似乎很快就会取代美国大联盟足球联赛，成为追逐金钱而非荣誉的球员们的理想去处。

Mr Xi sees the game as a useful tool of diplomacy (his overseas visits often involve football-related events). But China's league is still a long way from exerting the kind of soft power that the English Premier League bestows upon Britain (ask any taxi driver in China). Mr Xi has said he dreams of China winning the World Cup. England itself has no blueprint for that.

习主席将足球比赛看作是外交的一种有效工具（他的国事访问常常包含着与足球有关的活动）。但想指望中国的联赛像英超一样赋予英国软实力，似乎还有很长的路要走（随便问问中国的出租车司机都知道）。习近平说他梦想中国有朝一日夺得世界杯冠军，英国都不敢做这种梦。