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## Aguero set for City

Football

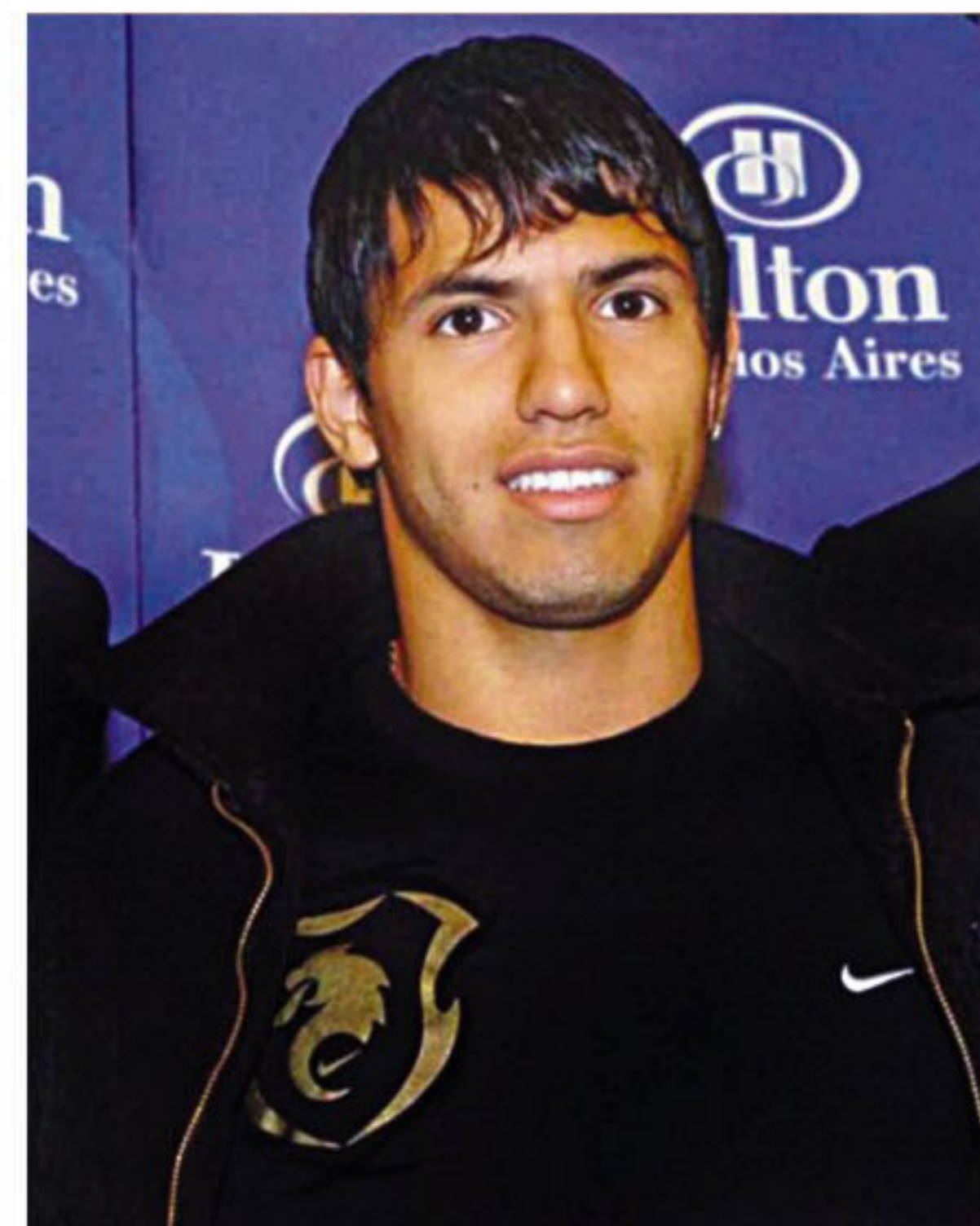
AFP, London

Atletico Madrid striker Sergio Aguero was on the brink of completing a £38-million transfer to Manchester City on Wednesday and was undergoing a medical at a local hospital, reports said.

Sky Sports News showed footage of Aguero arriving at Manchester Airport before he was whisked away by City officials to complete the formalities of his move to the Premier League side.

Aguero, the 23-year-old son-in-law of Argentina legend Diego Maradona, is seen as the answer to City's problems in attack, where Carlos Tevez has reiterated his desire to leave the club.

British press reported on Wednesday that City had reached agreement with Atletico over Aguero following the intervention of club



chairman Khaldoon al-Mubarak. Aguero's transfer will be City's third signing of the summer following the arrival of Gael Clichy from Arsenal and Stefan Savic from Partizan Belgrade.

## Kalle blasts FIFA

AFP, London

Former German international Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has launched a scathing attack on football's rulers and wants clubs to be given a bigger say in running the sport, it was reported Wednesday.

Rummenigge, the chairman of the European Club Association and chief executive of Bundesliga giants Bayern Munich, told The Guardian he had lost confidence in FIFA following a string of recent corruption scandals.

The 55-year-old said ECA clubs such as Bayern, Manchester United and Real Madrid should launch a "revolution" to transform football if necessary.

"I don't accept any longer that we should be guided by people who are not serious and clean," he told the Guardian.

"Now is the moment to intervene. Because knowing something is wrong is an obligation to change."

Rummenigge said clubs around the world supported reform of football's power structure.

"It's not just the top clubs, it's all the clubs," he said.

"Sepp Blatter is saying that he is cleaning up but the fact that no one believes him tells you everything you need to know."

"I'm not optimistic because they believe the system is working perfectly as it is. It's a money machine, World Cup after World Cup. And for them, that's more important than serious and clean governance."

## Cazorla joining Malaga

AFP, Madrid

Villarreal midfielder Santi Cazorla is on the move to rival Spanish outfit Malaga, the buying club announced on Wednesday.

The 26-year-old Spain international will sign a five year, 20 million euros contract, according to Marca sports daily.

Cazorla, who will be reunited with his former Villarreal coach Manuel Pellegrini, is the tenth new recruit at Malaga.

He has 34 caps to his name and was part of Spain's Euro 2008 winning side.

## SPORTS POLL

## WEEKLY QUESTION

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## BTV

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Bangladesh v Lebanon

Live from 6:00pm

## ESPN

Sportscentre India  
Sports NewsFIFA WC Pre-Qualifier  
Bangladesh v Lebanon

Time: 6:00pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Sk Kamal Int'l Basketball

India v Maldives

Time: 9:30am

Malaysia v Bhutan

Time: 4:00pm

Maldives v Bangladesh

Time: 6:00pm

Venue: Dhanmondi Indoor

## Malmo stun Rangers

AFP, Glasgow



Rangers' hopes of making the Champions League group stages hang by a thread after Malmo claimed a deserved 1-0 win at Ibrox in the first leg of their third qualifying round match on Tuesday.

The Swedes, who are half-way through their season, started the match far sharper than the Scottish champions and secured a vital away goal through a wonder striker from Daniel Larsson in the 16th minute.

Malmo continued to have the better chances with Brazilian Wilton Figueiredo causing several panics in the Rangers defence.

Steven Naismith twice missed gilt edged chances for Rangers after the break but Allan McGregor was by far the busier keeper as Malmo take a vital advantage into next week's second leg tie in Sweden.

At Ibrox, Rangers were given their first warning in the ninth minute when Figueiredo evaded two defenders in the box to sting the palms of McGregor with a ferocious strike with Jimmy Durmaz side footing the rebound wide.

Steven Whittaker crossed for Nikica Jelavic to head wide but disaster struck for the full-back at the other end when his mistake led to the opening goal in the 18th minute.

The Rangers defender was robbed of possession at the edge of his box by Durmaz and Figueiredo backheeled the ball into the path of Larsson whose thunderous strike flew past McGregor for a crucial away goal.

Brazilian Figueiredo then pulled a shot wide before his deflected long-range free-kick went straight to McGregor as the home fans' frustrations grew.

Captain David Weir had returned from suspension but only lasted until the half-hour mark when he hobbled off to be

replaced by Ortiz. Rangers then finally tested Dusan Melicharek with the Czech keeper at full stretch to stop a curling free-kick from Steven Davis.

Rangers began to go forward with more purpose as the break approached with Madjid Bougherra hooking an effort wide and Jelavic could do little when a Davis cross deflected off him and out.

Malmo regrouped at the interval and caught the Rangers defence napping when Figueiredo raced down the right and sent in a cross that Larsson couldn't connect properly with.

The Brazilian then tried to curl a free-kick from wide on the left into the top corner after Larsson had been felled by Sasa Papac but McGregor tipped it over.

Chances were few and far between for Rangers but Lee McCulloch tested Melicharek with a low drive from 25 yards that the keeper turned round the post.

The Rangers defence seemed to shudder every time Figueiredo broke forward and the playmaker used his skills to hold off the attentions of two Rangers defenders before releasing a shot that McGregor just managed to push over.

Naismith missed a golden chance in the 67th minute when Jelavic rolled the ball across goal from the right but the striker stretched to hit it with his right and poked it wide.

Just a minute later, in a carbon copy move, Jelavic again found Naismith at the far post but this time the Scotland international was off target with his left foot with the goal gaping.

Jelavic and Naismith then combined to set up Davis but he placed his shot from the edge of the box over the bar.

Substitute Dardan Rexhepi and Jilon Hamad then both came close as Malmo secured only their third away win of the season.

## Venues behind schedule

Football

AFP, Sao Paulo

FIFA will Saturday fire the starting gun for the build-up to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, with the qualifying draw in Rio.

But lingering worries over security and the country's infrastructure continue to occupy the minds of organisers.

Several of the 12 venues, including the mythical Maracana in Rio, remain either behind schedule on construction or renovation, and/or over budget.

A mooted new venue in Natal in the north east of the huge country of almost 200 million people has yet to see the light of day and another in Minas Gerais state in the south east is behind schedule owing to worker protests.

"If work goes on at its current rate, when we have the Confederations Cup a year before the World Cup, there won't be matches in Rio and Sao Paulo - the World Cup venues won't be ready," FIFA president Sepp Blatter fretted in March.

Organisers in Rio say they believe that the Maracana will finally be spick and span in time - but only after renovations costing some 625 million dollars.

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff insists that the construction programme "will be duly completed on time," in the words of her Ministry of Sports assessor Alcino Rocha.

But above and beyond the stadium costs further associated public funds of public investment are still required to the tune of an estimated 11.4 billion dollars.

Much of that will go on improving the road network, boosting hotel capacity, rein-

forcing security, modernising telecommunications systems and also improving air traffic capacity with the current network's capacity already full to bursting point.

A major influx of tourism on a nationwide scale would likely see the system collapse, causing chaos to the travel plans of hundreds of thousands of fans.

"During June and July 2014, the Cup will generate an additional flow of some 2.25 million passengers through Brazilian airports," according to a report from the Getulio Vargas Foundation and consultancy Ernst & Young Terco.

That influx corresponds only to median passenger numbers for the summer of 2009, meaning extra capacity is sorely needed.

"To deal with this increase investments of 1.213 billion reals" - or some 777.5 million dollars - will be undertaken, according to the report.

Official reports warn that of 13 airports being expanded in time for the Copa to serve the 12 venues, nine will not be completed on time.

"One cannot see this issue just in terms of the Cup - there has to be planning so that the investments can be signed off and approved," Marcos Nicolas, executive director of Ernst & Young Terco, told AFP.

The government has already launched plans to privatise several major airports, including Guarulhos, serving Sao Paulo, Viracopos (Campinas) and Brasilia.

Although officials say things are coming together, respected sports journalist Celso Unzette warns that the country's "structural problems...won't get resolved in three years."