



A sunny forecast for London 2012 Olympics is very unlikely, said forecasters after the wettest June on record in Britain.

PHOTO: AFP

Sun unlikely, says forecast

AFP, London



Sunny weather in London is "very unlikely" during the Olympic Games which begin later this month, forecasters said after the wettest June on record in Britain.

Britain's Met Office predicted slightly better conditions for the month ahead than in recent weeks when torrential rains triggered severe flooding in parts of the country.

But forecasters said "below average sunshine" and temperatures are expected during the London 2012 Games which run from July 27 to August 12.

"Climatologically this is the warmest part of the year, but this year a protracted spell of hot, sunny weather looks very unlikely," the Met Office said in its 30-day outlook.

"In fact the inclement weather that has characterised June and early July will probably still be in evidence, although overall conditions are unlikely to be as bad."

Very wet conditions in southern England were more probable than dry ones, the Met Office warned, while stressing that the outlook for rainfall remained "extremely uncertain".

The forecast comes as heavy rains continue to hit large swathes of Britain where authorities issued more than 150 flood alerts and warnings on Sunday.

A man in his early 20s was killed in Northumberland, in northeast England, on Saturday after his car crashed on a rain-drenched road.

Meanwhile at the British Grand Prix at Silverstone 25,000 spectators were told to go home on Saturday because of flooded carparks.

Britain experienced double the average amount of rainfall last month, making it the wettest June since records began in 1910, the Met Office said.

The period from April to June was also the wettest recorded.

Celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II's diamond jubilee were marred by the inclement weather in early June but millions of Britons turned out regardless to mark her 60 years on the throne.

Deschamps set for France job Recruits highlight Brazil riches

Football

AFP, Paris

Former France captain Didier Deschamps is set to become the national team's new manager after agreeing terms with the French Football Federation (FFF), press reports said Sunday.

L'Equipe sports daily and French radio reported that Deschamps would be handed a two year contract with an extra two years should France qualify for the 2014 World Cup finals in Brazil.

Talks between Deschamps and FFF officials started after Laurent Blanc's decision to step down from the post following two years in charge after being unable to reach an agreement with FFF president Noel Le Graet on a new contract.

Deschamps became increasingly linked as a candidate to fill the vacancy after quitting his position as coach of Marseille last Monday.

The 43-year-old -- who captained France to the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000 titles -- had asked Marseille to be released from his post on May 23, though he still had two years left on his contract.

His initial request to leave had nothing to do with the France post as Blanc was still in charge, but following Blanc's departure he quickly became the bookies favourite to take over Les Bleus.

Le Graet then hinted during a press conference on Tuesday that Deschamps was his preferred choice to take over the reins, 24 hours after he had stepped down from the Stade Velodrome hotseat.

Should the FFF appoint Deschamps, his first match would come against Copa America champions Uruguay on August 15 at Le Havre. France then start their 2014 World Cup qualifying campaign on September 7 against Finland in a group that also contains defending champions Spain.

Blanc stepped down after guiding France to the Euro 2012 quarter-finals where they lost to eventual winners Spain.

Football

REUTERS, Sao Paulo

Two of Brazil's biggest football clubs presented newly hired foreign imports on Saturday, in the latest manifestation of the newfound spending power that has recently helped keep some of the country's own talent from moving abroad.

Clarence Seedorf and Diego Forlan debuted for Botafogo and Internacional, respectively, as the Dutch and Uruguayan veterans, long past their prime in the marquee leagues of Europe, keep their careers going in a Brazilian league that has been reinvigorated in recent years because of a recent economic boom in South America's biggest country.

Brazilian clubs often repatriate their own ageing stars when their careers in Europe are over. Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos, Ronaldinho Gaucho, Luis Fabiano, and others have come back to the country in recent years.

Growing wealth among Brazilian teams has also enabled them to keep

young talents like Neymar, the ascendant Santos forward, from following their predecessors across the Atlantic, much less to developing leagues in China, the United States, or the Middle East.

A strong Brazilian currency, and lucrative sponsorship deals, mean many young Brazilian players can earn as much as they would by making the move to Europe.

With more than 30 million Brazilians having entered the middle classes over the past decade, advertisers are investing heavily in sponsorships. Television companies this year more than doubled the amount they pay clubs for broadcast rights.

Brazilian teams, however, have rarely signed marquee foreigners.

So the arrival of Forlan and Seedorf marks a new willingness by Brazilian clubs to invest in banner players. Forlan, 33, was named best player at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, while Seedorf, 36, won Champions League titles with Ajax Amsterdam, Real Madrid, and AC Milan.

Neither Botafogo nor Internacional disclosed how much

they were paying their new recruits. Sports newspaper Lance, however, said Forlan would receive 415,000 reais (\$204,000) per month, much of it from sponsors.

Forlan's three-year deal is with a club considered one of the best run in Brazil. Internacional has 100,000 dues-paying members - more than Spanish giants Real Madrid. When the player arrived in the southern city of Porto Alegre on Saturday, 3,000 of them were there to meet him.

"The reception has been incredible," Forlan said at a news conference. "I never thought I would arrive at an airport and see all this love. It's something new for me. It's spectacular."

When asked why foreign players might come to Brazil, he mentioned Brazil's increasing dominance in regional tournaments, with three different Brazilian teams winning the last three Copa Libertadores. Brazil's hosting of the 2013 Confederations Cup and the 2014 World Cup would mean even more attention for the sport in the country, he added.

"Players want to play here," Forlan said.

Botafogo, meanwhile, turned Seedorf's arrival into a banner occasion before the club's league game against Bahia on Saturday evening. The midfielder was flown to Rio de Janeiro's Engenhão stadium in a helicopter before being presented with his No. 10 shirt.

A crowd of 17,000 people turned up, almost three times the number present at Botafogo's last home game against Ponte Preta.

The former AC Milan player reportedly turned down offers from clubs in the U.S. and Middle East to sign the two-year deal.

Both players also have personal reasons for coming to Brazil. Forlan's new club is based in Porto Alegre, just a 90-minute flight from his home city of Montevideo. And Seedorf, who is married to a Brazilian, already owns property in Rio.

The newfound wealth of Brazilian clubs has limits, which has kept most of them from paying the exorbitant transfer fees required when some players break their contracts. Both Forlan and Seedorf were free agents, though.

Giggs to captain GBR

AFP, London



Manchester United veteran Ryan Giggs was on Sunday named as captain of the British football team at the London Olympics.

Giggs is one of three over-age players in Stuart Pearce's side at the 2012 Games. The winger told www.thefa.com: "Obviously I have experience and there are a lot of younger players in this squad, as captain hopefully I can pass that on to the younger players."

Giggs has never played in a major international tournament with Wales but at the club level he has won 12 Premier League titles, five FA Cups and two Champions League crowns.

He also won 64 caps for Wales before retiring from international football in 2007.

Giggs' compatriot Craig Bellamy and Manchester City defender Micah Richards are the other two over-age players in the squad.

They were picked ahead of David Beckham whose non-selection provoked a lot of debate.

Giggs will lead out Team GB for the first time when they face Brazil at the Riverside Stadium on Friday, July 20.

"Ryan Giggs is going to be captaining the squad for the duration of the tournament," Pearce told the Press Association.

"I looked at the squad and I thought there are some good candidates there.

"Aaron Ramsey captains Wales, Micah Richards has captained Manchester City at times, Craig Bellamy for the experience he's had and one or two others within the camp as well.

"But I think Ryan is the standout captain amongst the group. He has got the respect of all the members of the group and I am quite looking forward to working with him and alongside him."



Dutch footballer Clarence Seedorf, wearing Brazil's Botafogo jersey, controls the ball, during his presentation at Joao Havelange stadium, in Rio de Janeiro on July 7, 2012.

PHOTO: AFP

Vertonghen terms agreed

AFP, London

Tottenham announced on Sunday that they had agreed terms with Ajax to sign the Dutch club's captain, Jan Vertonghen.

Spurs have been tracking the Belgium defender since last season as he helped Ajax claim their second consecutive Eredivisie title.

Vertonghen is due to undergo a medical this week before completing a deal that will make him the second arrival since Andre Villas-Boas replaced Harry Redknapp as manager.

"We are delighted to announce that we have reached agreement with Ajax for the transfer of Jan Vertonghen, subject to a medical," a club statement read.

It added: "The 2011/12 campaign was the Belgium international's most successful season to date - being named Ajax captain at the start and going on to lead the Dutch side to their second straight league title.

"The centre back's impressive performances did not go unnoticed as he was named Eredivisie Player of the Year as well as Ajax's Player of the Year in a season that saw him score 10 times in 37 appearances.

"In total, Jan made 220 appearances and scored 28 goals for Ajax since making his debut for them in 2006."

SPORTS POLL

WEEKLY QUESTION

Do you think the Tigers have made strides in Twenty20 cricket?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

Follow The Daily Star Sport on

twitter

www.twitter.com/dssport

What to WATCH

TEN Cricket

Sri Lanka v Pakistan

Third Test, Day 2

Live from 10:30am

ESPN

Sportscenter India

Sports News

DAY'S EVENT

Premier Div Hockey

Police AC v Bangladesh SC

Time: 2:30pm

Mariner Youngs v Ajax SC

Time: 4:15pm

Venue: Maulana Bhasani