Buying LG product helps underprivileged people

Rodgers warns van Gaal

AFP, London



Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers has warned his new Manchester United counterpart Louis van Gaal that the competitiveness of the Premier League will be like nothing he has experienced before.

Van Gaal has won titles in Holland, Spain and Germany and has made an impressive start to his United career, leading them to victory over Liverpool in the final of the International Champions Cup pre-season tournament.

But for all the 62-year-old's achievements, which include Champions League success with Ajax in 1995, Rodgers thinks that he will be in for a shock when the Premier League kicks off on August 16.

"I think what he'll find is the competition in this league will be different to any other league that he's worked in," Rodgers said, as reported by several British newspapers on Wednesday. "In a lot of the other leagues, there are one or two teams

and those are the teams that are expected to win. This is a league where the top team plays the bottom team and on any given day you can lose. "You don't get that a lot in the other leagues. I think the

competition will probably take him by (surprise), and that's from foreign managers I have spoken to over the years." Rodgers also spoke of his admiration for the Dutchman,

who steered the Netherlands to the semifinals of the World Cup in Brazil. "I'm obviously an admirer of his work and his career," the Northern Irishman added. "He's a very experienced manager

and a very good manager who has worked at some big clubs."



National football team's skipper Mamunul Islam (R) and striker Wahed Ahmed go through a gym session at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) gymnasium in Savar yesterday. The players are part of the national U-23 team which started its training camp on the previous day for September's Asian Games in South Korea.

PHOTO: STAR

'Guardiola's a genius'

AFP, Berlin

Pepe Guardiola is a genius of a coach, Bayern Munich boss Karl Heinz Rummenigge gushed in an interview for Wednesday's Sport Bild.

"This man is a genius. I've seen a lot of coaches but this one is extraordinary, this coach is a gift from above," Rummenigge said.

Guardiola arrived in Munich in June 2013 from Barcelona, with a contract running until June 30, 2016.

The 43-year-old led Bayern to victory in the European Supercup, the Club World Cup and then the German Cup/league double, before crashing out of the Champions League

in the semi-final. "Pep is not a longcontract man,"

Rummenigge said. "What I understand is that in southern Europe, they like to live for the now. But if Pep feels good, then he will stay. And that includes after 2016.

"But there's no sense in talking about a contract extension this season. I think the soonest we do that will be a year before his current contract comes to an end."

Suarez tops transfer list Lampard excited Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Just behind him is Luke Most-expensive player when he joined from Barcelona. Most-expensive player



The Uruguay star currently tops the list of the summer's biggest deals to date in a hectic preseason, but who else has

Despite almost a month of the transfer window still remaining, the summer of 2014 has already been quite remarkable.

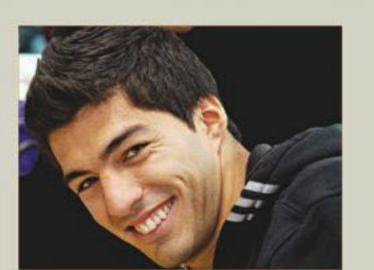
Following Gareth Bale's worldrecord €100 million move from Tottenham to Real Madrid last year, we have already seen the €80m barrier broken twice this time around.

With clubs enjoying greater commercial and broadcast revenues than ever and on the back of the shop window that is the World Cup, it is safe to expect more big signings between now and September.

But what have been the most expensive transfers so far?

Luis Suarez may have seen his World Cup end in ignominy, but it wasn't long after his time in Brazil that Barcelona paid what is currently the biggest fee of the summer - a staggering €88m - to bring the Premier League player of the year to Spain.

Not to be outdone by their Clasico rivals, Real Madrid splashed out €80m on James Rodriguez, who captured the attention of the world with his Golden Boot-winning performances in Brazil and promptly moved to the Spanish capital from Monaco. Interestingly, this is the only transfer currently in the top 10 not to include a club from



TOP 10 TRANSFERS

1. Luis Suarez €88m

- 2. James Rodriguez €80m 3. David Luiz €49.5m
- 4. Diego Costa €44m
- 5. Alexis Sanchez €40m 6. Luke Shaw €37.8m
- 7. Ander Herrera €36.5m
- 8. Cesc Fabregas €36m
- 9. Romelu Lukaku €35.3m

England's top flight.

David Luiz will not be missed at Chelsea according to Jose Mourinho, but Paris Saint-Germain will hope that their €49.5m outlay on the Brazilian the highest fee ever paid for a defender will not go to waste. Chelsea, of course, wasted little time in reinvesting the funds, paying €44m to Atletico Madrid to bring Diego Costa to Stamford Bridge.

Currently in fifth place is Alexis Sanchez, who became Arsenal's second

Shaw, whom Manchester United made the costliest teenager in football history when they forked out just over €37.8m to Southampton for his services.

Shaw's new United teammate Ander Herrera is seventh in the table, with Athletic Bilbao receiving €36.5m for the midfielder, with Cesc Fabregas' return to the Premier League placing him in eighth.

In ninth place - the fourth deal involving Chelsea in the table - is Romelu Lukaku, who joined Everton in a club-record transfer, while Adam Lallana completes the current top 10 after joining Liverpool for €31.5m.

A number of other significant summer moves just fall short of a place in our list. Toni Kroos and Antoine Griezmann both cost a fraction around €30m as they joined Real and Atletico, while Mario Mandzukic -Costa's replacement at Atleti - is down in 15th with a fee of around €22m.

Juan Iturbe is the most expensive signing made by a Serie A side so far, with Roma's new attacker placed ahead of Alvaro Morata. Jeremy Mathieu became the most expensive defender ever over the age of 30 while Ciro Immobile is the priciest Bundesliga arrival of the summer at €18.5m.

Ivan Rakitic and Jan Oblak both make the top 25 along with Manchester City newboy Fernando, while Iturbe, bizarrely, appears again at No.24 after Hellas Verona initially paid Porto to acquire the full rights to the player before his Roma move.



Frank Lampard on Wednesday expressed his gratitude to Manchester City after joining the Premier League champions from new club New York City on a short-term loan deal. Lampard, 36, signed for New York City

last month and will play with their sister club Manchester City until January in order to maintain his fitness prior to the start of the 2015 Major League Soccer season in March.

"Joining up with Manchester City is a fantastic opportunity for me to continue to train and play at the top level and make sure I am in top condition for New York City," the England midfielder told the City website. "It has been an amazing few days for me since the unveil-

ing in Brooklyn and everyone connected with both clubs has been fantastic to me. This is a new chapter of my career and I'm really excited about the experience. "I met Manuel (Pellegrini, the City manager) and some

of the players in New York and I'm looking forward to get

ting into training and making a contribution for Manchester City ahead of my move over to New York." Lampard was due to train with City for the first time on Wednesday and Pellegrini said he was excited about work-

ing with the former Chelsea midfielder, who will wear the number 18 shirt. "Frank is a world-class midfielder and this is an opportunity which works perfectly for everyone: the player,

Manchester City, and New York City," said the Chilean. "I'm looking forward to working with him and integrating him into our squad. New York have made a fantastic signing by recruiting Frank, and I'm really pleased that we'll be able to have him with us for the first half of our season and help prepare him for his new challenge."

New York City sporting director Claudio Reyna said: "This is the perfect opportunity for Frank.

"He is in great shape following the World Cup, and training and playing with our colleagues in Manchester will enable Frank to be fit and ready for our inaugural training camp."

De Kruif drops Emily, Mithun

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national team's coach Lodewijk de Kruif yesterday finalised the three senior players in the U-23 national team for the 17th Asian Games, scheduled to start from September 19 in South Korea.

De Kruif decided to take senior national team's captain Mamunul Islam, left back Atiqur Rahman Meshu and expatriate midfielder Jamal Bhuiyan dropping Mithun Chowdhury and Zahid Hasan Emily. The latter withdrew himself from the camp on Tuesday due to injury while In-form striker Mithun failed to get a place as he has been suffering from jaundice and had skipped training on the first day of the training camp at the BKSP.

"Emily told me that he is not fully fit to deliver his best and I also realised that it's not possible to have him fully fit in the next three or four weeks,' De Kruif told reporters at the BKSP yesterday.

"We didn't get Mithun's services as he is suffering from jaundice. So there is no question about his including him," he added.

De Kruif informed that Jamal Bhuiayn, who is in Denmark at the moment, would join the camp immediately.

41ST CHESS OLYMPIAD

Both teams lose

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh men's chess team lost against former champions Ukraine by 1-3 points in the 4th round of the 41st World Chess Olympiad in Tromso, Norway on Tuesday. GM Ziaur Rahman drew against GM Vassily Ivanchuk and GM Abdullah Al Rakib drew against former world champion GM Ruslan Ponomariov. But GM Enamul Hossain Razib and GM Niaz Murshed lost their respective boards.

In the women's section, Bangladesh lost against Switzerland by 05-3.5 points. WIM Shamima Akter Liza lost to WIM Seps Monika, WFM Nazrana Khan lost to WGM Hund Barbara and WIM Rani Hamid lost to WIM Heinatz Gundula. Only Sharmin Sultana Shirin drew against WFM Stoeri Laura. Bangladesh men's team were scheduled to take on Peru while women's team were set to play against Iceland last night.

England eye repeat win

4th Test against India starts today



AFP, Manchester

England face the welcome problem of dealing with the consequences of winning ahead of the fourth Test against India at Old Trafford starting on Thursday.

Victory by the huge margin of 266 runs in the third Test at Southampton last week saw England level the five-match series at 1-1.

It also ended a run of 10 Tests without a win for Alastair Cook's side and saw the captain himself return to form with two fifties, although it could all have been so different had he been caught in the slips on 15 in the first innings.

"Now everyone knows what it's like (to win), the challenge is 'can we repeat that at Old Trafford, and try to win the series?'", said Cook.

England had another 'victory' less than a day after their Southampton success.

James Anderson escaped a ban after International Cricket Council code of conduct commissioner Gordon Lewis dismissed disciplinary charges brought against him by India following his alleged confrontation with Ravindra Jadeja during the drawn first Test in Nottingham.

Given the fast-medium bowler, man-of-the-match in Southampton with a return of seven for 77, is the series' leading wicket-taker with 16, England's relief was understandable. However, the ICC said Tuesday they were looking into

50 per cent match fee fine. Nevertheless, Anderson -- now just 12 shy of equalling Ian Botham's England Test record of 383 wickets -- remains

Lewis's decision to both clear Anderson and rescind Jadeja's

free to play at Old Trafford, his Lancashire home ground.

