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Awesome Neymar

AFP, Singapore
Barcelona superstar Neymar thumped four goals past Japan in a spectacular solo performance as Brazil hammered the Asian champions 4-0 in Singapore on Tuesday.
The 22-year-old Barcelona forward was a class apart at Singapore's national stadium as he scored all of Brazil's goals and nearly provided more in front of a sell-out crowd.
Neymar underlined his star billing as he moved to 40 goals in just 58 games for Brazil and gave new coach Dunga a fourth straight win with no goals conceded.
The victory also rounded off a successful Asian mini-tour for this year's World Cup hosts after Saturday's convincing 2-0 win over arch-rivals Argentina in Beijing.
Neymar looked dangerous from the off. In an ominous start, he had a penalty shout waved away and grazed the side-netting with a free-kick.
He duly put Brazil ahead on 18 minutes when he ran on to Diego Tardelli's penetrating through-ball, scampered around goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima and finished with aplomb.
Neymar pierced the Japanese defence once again when he evaded the attentions of Tsukasa Shiotani on the left and went close with a shot which rolled across the goalface.
But Japan were not prepared to roll over and Yu Kobayashi flashed a volley over the crossbar as the Blue Samurai nearly found a quickreply.

Bundesliga's Shinji Okazaki almost found the target with a glancing header and Brazil dealt poorly with a corner on the stroke of half-time in signs of hope for Japan.
But Japanese optimism receded three minutes after the break when half-time substitute Philippe Coutinho won possession in midfield and prodded the ball forward for Neymar.
With Japan's offside trap sprung, Neymar had plenty of time to pick his spot and put his second goal of the night past Kawashima.
Okazaki, now bolstered by substitute Keisuke Honda, remained industrious and made the Brazilian woodwork shudder with a fierce shot that cannoned off the near post.
Neymar should have sealed his hat-trick when he rounded a defender and shot with the goal at his mercy, only to see the side-netting bulge.
The 22-year-old was tormenting the defence and he set up first Liverpool's Coutinho and then 65th-minute substitute Robinho for carbon-copy chances on the left which both went wide.
Kaka arrived to huge applause in the 72nd minute and he quickly drew the best from Kawashima as his firm header, from a Neymar cross, was palmed onto the bar.
But the ball was not cleared and although Kawashima kept out Coutinho's fierce drive, Neymar pounced on the rebound for his third on 77 minutes.
Four minutes later and Neymar got his fourth of the night, and 40th in a Brazil shirt, when he met Kaka's hanging cross from the left at the far post.

7-star Argentina

AFP, Hong Kong
Argentina strolled to a 7-0 friendly win over Hong Kong on Tuesday, with superstar Lionel Messi and Napoli striker Gonzalo Higuain both netting a brace.
Coach Gerardo Martino started with a second-string side that saw Barcelona's Messi, Manchester United's Angel Di Maria and Sergio Aguero of Manchester City all on the bench.
Messi came on with half an hour of the match remaining. By then the score was already 4-0 but soon the little wizard had made it five, playing a neat one-two before dinking the ball over goalkeeper Yapp Hung-fai.
He was then instrumental in Argentina's sixth, pulling the ball back from the byline to give Nicolas Gaitan of Benfica the easiest of tap-ins from inside the six-yard box.
It was Gaitan's second goal of the match. The first came just before half-time when he cut in from the right and smashed the ball in with his left foot.
Just a minute earlier Higuain had scored his first, heading down a cross from the left.
The forward got his brace and Argentina's fourth with a simple pass into an open goal less than ten minutes into the second half.
Sevilla's Ever Banega had opened for Argentina on 19 minutes, pouncing on some woeful Hong Kong defending.
Yapp fumbled a weak effort which landed at the feet of Lee Chi-ho who scuffed a clearance straight to Banega, for the midfielder to drill the ball home.
With five minutes to go Messi scored his second and Argentina's seventh, taking the ball down beautifully with his left foot before going past three Hong Kong defenders and rifling it low into the corner.
Other stars who didn't start for Argentina included Sergio Romero, Pablo Zabaleta, Javier Mascherano, Martin Demichelis and Erik Lamela.

Suarez scores 1st time since suspension

AFP, Sohar
Controversial striker Luis Suarez struck his first goals since being suspended for biting an Uruguayan beat Oman 3-0 in an international friendly on Monday.
The 27-year-old Barcelona forward is serving a nine-match international ban and four-month total football suspension for having bitten Italy's Giorgio Chiellini at the World Cup.
However, his ban does not include friendly matches and the former Liverpool star has already turned out for both club and country in friendly fixtures.
He notched a brace in the Celeste's victory in Sohar while midfielder Jonathan Rodriguez added the third.
He played 70 minutes for Uruguay last Friday against Saudi Arabia in Jeddah, setting up the South Americans' goal when his shot came back off the post and struck the unfortunate Hassan Muath Fallatah before going in for an own goal.

Iceland freeze Netherlands

AFP, Paris
World Cup semifinalists the Netherlands' hopes of qualifying for Euro 2016 took another blow on Monday as a Gylfi Sigurdsson double gave Iceland a 2-0 win over the European giants.
Iceland -- who only just missed out on a place at their first ever World Cup finals when they lost in the play-offs for this year's global showpiece -- top Group A alongside the Czech Republic with a perfect nine points from three games while the Dutch, who lost to the Czechs in their opening qualifier, are six points adrift in third place.
Croatia and Italy top Group H, also with nine points apiece, but their victories on Monday couldn't have been more different, the Croats whipping Azerbaijan 6-0, one short of their record victory over Andorra in the Euro 2008 qualifiers.
Italy, who had eked out a 2-1 win over Azerbaijan last Friday, relied on a goal from Graziano Pelle on his debut to scrape a 1-0 victory over minnows Malta, who played for an hour with 10 men following Michael Mifsud's dismissal.
Wales, who have not been at a major finals since the 1958 World Cup, overcame being reduced to 10 men to edge Cyprus 2-1 in Cardiff and hold a one point lead over Israel, who beat Andorra 4-1, in Group B.
Their respective victories gave them some breathing space over two of the favourites to qualify from the group World Cup qualifiers Bosnia-Herzegovina and Belgium, who drew 1-1.
Sigurdsson put Iceland ahead in the 10th minute with a coolly taken penalty after Gregory van der Wiel had fouled Birkir Bjarnason.
Both Dutch skipper Robin van Persie and fellow veteran Arjen Robben had excellent chances to level midway through the first-half but the former saw his effort saved by Hannes Halldorsson while the latter was off target.
They were left to regret those misses as the sparkling Sigurdsson added a second three minutes before the break, the Swansea City player tucking the ball away when the Dutch defence failed lamentably to deal with a corner.
It was his fourth goal in his last three games for Iceland.
Dutch coach Guus Hiddink acted to turn things round at half-time, replacing Wesley Sneijder with Klaas-Jan Huntelaar, but it made little difference and left the veteran coach with a lot of thinking to do.
Croatia had the game wrapped up by half-time as they went in 4-0 up.
Andrej Kramaric converted veteran Darjo Srna's cross in the 11th minute but it was substitute Ivan Perisic who terrified the visiting defence once he came on in the 24th minute.
He scored a brace -- the first a header from Ivan Rakitic's freekick -- while 21-year-old Marcelo Brozovic added a fourth in time added on of the first-half.
Playmaker Luka Modric made it 5-0 from the penalty spot before he was removed four minutes later and the shellshocked visitors went 6-0 down as Rashad Sadygov put through his own net just after the hour mark.
Their Balkan neighbours Bosnia also took a lead into the half-time break, a smart left-footed effort by Edin Dzeko giving them a 1-0 advantage over Belgium.

Norwegian teen makes history

AFP, Oslo
Norway's Martin Odegaard made European football history on Monday in becoming the first player under the age of 16 to play in a Euro Championship qualifier.
Aged 15 years and 300 days, Odegaard came on as a second half substitute after 64 minutes in the 2-1 win over Bulgaria.
"I was a bag of nerves when I came on, but with the welcome I got from the crowd I just had to smile and get on with it," he told the Verdens Gang newspaper.
"I think it went well and we came away with three points - that's the most important thing."
Odegaard plays his club football in midfield for Stroemsgodset in the Norwegian top flight.
Previously the youngest player to turn out in a Euro qualifier was Sigurdur Jonsson of Iceland who was 16 years and 251 days when he represented his country at that level.
The cap against Bulgaria was not the first for Odegaard as he played against the United Arab Emirates in a friendly in Stavanger on August 27.



Brazil star Neymar (C) heads in his fourth goal against Japan during their international friendly at the National Stadium in Singapore yesterday.

Pune City hold Delhi Dynamos

GOAL.COM
Alessandro Del Piero was named on the bench with Danish duo, Mads Junker and Martin Skuobo leading the attack with Hans Mulder slotting in midfield for the Delhi outfit.
For the away side, captain David Trezeguet started upfront with Ashutosh Mehta and Israil Gurung working on the flanks while Kostas Katsouranis was tasked with marshalling the midfield.
Delhi had the first chance of the match in the 11th minute as Junker saw his header cleared away by Dharmaraj Ravanan. The Indian defender then made a good interception to deny Skuobo a few minutes later.
Delhi's midfield trio of Francis Fernandes, Hans Mulder and Bruno Herrera dominated the proceedings against a rather slow Pune side.
The home side came close again in the 15th minute with Junker and Fernandes combined well only for the latter to misplace his shot in front of the goal. Junker then tested Pune custodian Emanuele Belardi but it was an easy save for the Italian who held on to the ball.
Gurung looked the most dangerous for Franco Colomba's men, providing support in both attack and defense with an impressive work-rate to boot.
Belardi was tested again by Junker midway into the first half but the Italian stood strong, making a fantastic save to deny the Danish striker.
Harm Van Veldhoven's side dominated the possession for most of the half with Pune usually seen sitting back and preferring to break on the counter.
Fernandes was the next to test Belardi with a long range shot from outside the box, but the former Juventus custodian made a brilliant acrobatic save.
Star striker Del Piero came on towards the end of the half to replace Skuobo in the 37th minute following the striker's collision with Bruno Cirillo.
The Italian laid the ball well for Junker but the latter miscued his shot as he went inches wide.

Reds defend approach

AFP, London
A member of Liverpool's coaching staff defended the club's approach to player recovery on Tuesday following disagreements between manager Brendan Rodgers and England head coach Roy Hodgson.
Hodgson has queried Rodgers's claim that speedy players such as Liverpool pair Daniel Sturridge and Raheem Sterling require two days to fully recover after matches.
Hodgson claims there is little "medical evidence" to support the strategy, but Liverpool first-team coach Mike Marsh says the club will not alter their approach.
"With England there has been a lot of discussion recently. We don't really change," Marsh told the Liverpool website.
"Our fitness programmes have been well documented. We try to recover the players as best we can to prepare for the games."
"We have a couple of days' recovery after the game and we work with the group that don't start (the previous match) and we build up to the next game, and once one game finishes, we try to recover as soon as possible."

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THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS 15 NOVEMBER 2014

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Only the capable developers who have the skills and knowhow to handle and ensure the quality as well as standards with both local and international areas of expertise are requested to participate.

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House no. 26, Corner of Road no. 3, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1205
Landline: +88 02 967 5249, Mobile: +88 01678 086 442, Fax: +88 02 861 6462
www.afdhaka.org