



IMPOSTER: The organisers of a masters football match between Brazil and Argentina face questions after Argentina fielded Daniel Cordone (L), a look-alike of promised star Claudio Caniggia, famous for his distinctive long, blond hair.

PHOTO: INTERNET



A yellow cat-like figure (L) has been chosen as the mascot for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, representing the animal life of Brazil. The mascot's name will be chosen by a twitter poll with the result expected on December 14.

PHOTO: AP

Wanyama's house burgled

INTERNET

Burglars broke into Southampton star Victor Wanyama's house in England Monday night and stole property worth millions of shillings including his Range Rover SUV and three television sets amongst other electronics. He also lost about 30 pairs of shoes and designer clothes, amongst other household goods.

Wanyama was featuring for his club Southampton FC in the 1-1 draw away to Aston Villa at Villa Park in an English Premier League match on Monday evening.

Pele back in hospital

AFP, Sao Paulo

Brazilian football legend Pele was back in hospital Monday in Sao Paulo, days after he underwent surgery for kidney stones.

"Patient Edson Arantes do Nascimento (Pele) has been admitted for evaluation and remains in stable condition," said a statement from Albert Einstein Hospital.

Local media reported that Pele was being treated for a urinary infection. Pele, 74, underwent surgery November 13 for kidney stones.

Rafa to open his academy in 2016

AP, Madrid

Rafael Nadal will open a tennis academy on his home island of Mallorca in 2016. The 14-time Grand Slam winner has held a groundbreaking ceremony for the academy in his home town of Manacor.

Nadal says "this is a special day for me, this project that we have been working on for many years is finally a reality."

He says the plan is to "begin with a summer camp in 2016."

The academy will include a school where promising tennis talents can continue their regular studies.

Scholastica cricket held

SPORTS REPORTER

Scholastica Red team won the title of Scholastica interschool boys' cricket tournament beating the same school's Blue team in the final at the Armed Police Battalion field in Uttara on Friday.

National cricketer Shahriar Nafees inaugurated the three-day competition as chief guest in a colourful ceremony which was chaired by Scholastica Senior Section's principal brigen (retd) Kaiser Ahmed. Sunbeams, Sunnydale and Milestone were the other schools who participated in the meet.

Liverpool, Arsenal aim to rebound

AFP, Paris



Liverpool's Champions League campaign is on the line as they travel to Ludogorets on Wednesday where victory is crucial for both teams.

In London, Arsenal can also shake off their domestic troubles and guarantee their place in the knock-out phase when they take on already-qualified Borussia Dortmund at the Emirates Stadium.

ATLETICO MADRID V OLYMPIAKOS
Last season's runners-up Atletico Madrid can return to the knock-out phase with victory over Greek champions Olympiakos in the Spanish capital.

Olympiakos, whose best result in the competition was reaching the 1999 quarterfinals, are three points behind their hosts and ahead of Juventus on goal difference with six points and two games to play.

MALMO V JUVENTUS
Swedish outsiders Malmo, who lost the 1979 European Cup final 1-0 to Nottingham Forest, are still in control of their own destiny as they get set to host Italian champions Juventus in a crucial tie in Group A.

Serie A leaders Juventus are level with Olympiakos on six points but trail on goal difference and face a home match against leaders Atletico Madrid on the final matchday.

BASEL V REAL MADRID
Real Madrid have already guaranteed qualification after four straight wins and will likely field a weakened line-up for the journey to second-placed Basel who are on six points, three ahead of Liverpool and Bulgarian challengers Ludogorets Razgrad.

The Swiss, who reached the last 16 in 2012, lost 5-1 against Carlo Ancelotti's defending champions in the opening round of matches but know at least a draw will maintain second spot ahead of their final day trip to Anfield and a showdown against Liverpool.

LUDOGORETS V LIVERPOOL
Struggling five-time former champions Liverpool face a test of their integrity as they travel to Bulgaria and a crunch Group B clash against a Ludogorets side they only beat in the 93rd minute at home on day one thanks to a Steven Gerrard penalty.

Their opponents are level on three points and a draw could mean elimination for both clubs if Basel defeat qualified Real Madrid the same night in Switzerland.

ARSENAL V BORUSSIA DORTMUND
Arsene Wenger must rally his Arsenal players, after the 2-1 Premier League defeat against Manchester United on Saturday, against a Dortmund side who are already qualified after four straight wins.

The Gunners threw away a 3-0 lead in their last outing at home to Belgian side Anderlecht where a 3-3 draw denied them their place in the last 16.

Dortmund suffered the loss of key midfielder Marco Reus during their 2-2 draw at Paderborn on Saturday and the German international is out for the year while Arsenal's first-choice goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny is a doubt after coming off injured in the defeat against United at the Emirates Stadium.

ZENIT ST. PETERSBURG V BENFICA
All four teams can still qualify from Group C as the 2008 UEFA Cup winners host a Benfica side who are level on four points at the Petrovsky Stadium.

Both teams will be chasing victory in the knowledge that a draw, combined with a Monaco win at leaders Bayer Leverkusen, would put both clubs in jeopardy.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN V MONACO
Leverkusen are in pole position in the pool on nine points but defeat against Monaco at their BayArena and a reverse in the final match away to Benfica could still make them eliminated.

Monaco, who lost the 2004 final against Porto, have flattered to deceive this season and have picked up just two points in their last three European encounters while their league form has also been mediocre.

ANDERLECHT V GALATASARAY
Belgian champions Anderlecht must defeat the Turkish guests in Brussels, and hope Arsenal fail to win at home to Dortmund, to keep alive their slender chances of qualifying for the next round.

Galatasaray, who reached the quarterfinals last season, have just one point to show from four matches and will be targeting third spot in the pool and a consolation place in the Europa League.

Clyne rescues Saints

AFP, Birmingham



Southampton defender Nathaniel Clyne capped a memorable fortnight with the late equaliser that rescued a 1-1 draw against Aston Villa on Monday.

Clyne won his first two England caps against Slovenia and Scotland during the recent international break and the right-back was the man of the moment for Southampton as well thanks to his crucial 81st minute strike at Villa Park.

Ronald Koeman's second placed side looked set for only their third defeat in the Premier League this season after Gabriel Agbonlahor put struggling Villa ahead following a mistake by Saints goalkeeper Fraser Forster in the first half.

But Clyne's third goal of the campaign ensured Southampton, the season's surprise success story, survived to extend their unbeaten run in all competitions to six matches and move within six points of leaders Chelsea.

In contrast, lowly Villa are without a win in their last eight league games and Paul Lambert's team are just two points above the relegation zone.

"I didn't come for one point but we didn't create as many chances as we should have and we missed some fitness and some quality," Koeman said.

The subdued atmosphere created by the lowest league crowd at Villa Park since 1999 suggested the home fans didn't fancy their team's chances and it was Southampton

who almost seized the early lead with Kenya midfielder Victor Wanyama sweeping over from the edge of the penalty area.

But Villa took the lead against the run of play in the 29th minute.

Ciaran Clark's long clearance should have been dealt with easily but England international Forster needlessly rushed out of his goal and Agbonlahor surged ahead of Jose Fonte, beat him to the ball and fired into the empty net.

It was the first goal Southampton had conceded in seven and a half hours of game time, and the shock sparked them back into action.

Villa goalkeeper Brad Guzan had to tip Sadio Mane's curling effort around the post on 37 minutes.

Fonte then headed straight at Guzan as the visitors threatened an equaliser before the interval.

Southampton were almost 2-0 behind two minutes into the second half, though, when Ryan Bertrand hacked Charles N'Zogbia's goalbound effort away.

Andreas Weimann wasted a golden chance to seal the points with 12 minutes left when he broke from Southampton's corner.

The Villa forward found Agbonlahor and received the return pass in clear sight of goal, but could only blaze over from 12 yards.

Hit by a bouncer, Hughes in coma

AFP, Sydney



Australian batsman Phil Hughes was fighting for his life following emergency surgery Tuesday after he was

knocked out by a bouncer in a freak incident which shocked cricket.

The 25-year-old, who is pressing for a Test recall, crashed to the ground unconscious after the heavy blow to the lower head and was rushed to hospital from the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Television images showed the helmeted Hughes, who had scored a composed 63 for South Australia in the Sheffield Shield game, standing dazed before going down face-first following the rising delivery from New South

Wales bowler Sean Abbott.

New South Wales players, including Test colleagues David Warner and Brad Haddin, quickly rushed to his side and immediately called for help.

"They've finished the surgeries but he's still in a critical condition," said David Faktor, a spokesman for St Vincent's Hospital, where Hughes was taken. "Now they'll just monitor him."

Reports said he was in an induced coma in the intensive care unit and being treated to relieve pressure on his brain from bleeding.

Tim Nielsen from South Australia Cricket read out a statement from the Hughes family outside the hospital.

"The outcome of the surgery is unlikely to be known for the next 24-48 hours," he said. "We would appreciate it if you would look after the family and friends and respect their privacy please."

Cricket Australia said in a live match blog on its website that Hughes had "been leaving the short balls, had a go at this one, misjudged it and was hit in the head. He blacked out and fell badly". The match was abandoned.

Medical staff worked on Hughes, including mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and oxygen, for more than 30 minutes before he was taken from the field.

Sad to hear the news of Phil Hughes. My thoughts and prayers are with him. Hope he recovers quickly. Get well soon mate!
-Tweeted Shakib Al Hasan



Australia batsman Phil Hughes falls to the ground after being struck by a Sean Abbott bouncer on the first day of the Sheffield Shield match between New South Wales and South Australia in Sydney yesterday.

SL-Eng 1st ODI today

AFP, Colombo

England will look to settle scores against Sri Lanka after their bad-tempered clash earlier this year when the two sides meet in a pre-World Cup one-day series from Wednesday.

The seven-match tour has been spiced up by comments from England captain Alastair Cook that his team will try to exact revenge for the Test and one-day defeats at home.

Cook's status as captain came under heavy pressure after the 1-0 Test defeat, and tempers frayed in the ODIs when off-spinner Sachithra Senanayake controversially ran out Jos Buttler before delivering a ball.

"There is a World Cup at the end of it, but we are here to try and win this series," Cook said on arrival. "I think we owe you [Sri Lanka] a little bit of revenge."

England have lost 11 of 18 one-dayers this year, including a 4-1 drubbing in Australia which co-hosts the World Cup with New Zealand in February-March.

President's Cup tennis underway

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Club President's Cup National tennis Tournament got underway at the Dhaka Club tennis court and the adjacent National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday. A total of 186 tennis players from 25 districts and six tennis clubs are taking part in the five-day tournament. The champion team will receive a prize money of Tk 40,000 while the runners-up team will get Tk 30,000 as prize money, said a press release from the club yesterday.

2015 COPA AMERICA Argentina, Uruguay in same group

REUTERS, Santiago



World Cup runners-up Argentina face holders Uruguay, who knocked them out of their home tournament four years ago, and Brazil will meet Colombia in a World Cup rematch in the group phase at the 2015 Copa America.

Hosts Chile, looking to win the world's oldest active international tournament for the first time, were handed an easier draw in the Chilean Pacific coast resort of Vina del Mar on Monday.

Lionel Messi's Argentina, top seeds in Group B in which they will also meet Paraguay and Jamaica, will be looking to avenge their upset defeat by Uruguay on penalties in the quarterfinals at the 2011 event they staged.

Brazil, with the gifted Neymar as captain, will be looking to recover from their disappointing World Cup as hosts this year under returned 2010 World Cup coach Dunga. They also face Peru and Venezuela in Group C.

The talented Chile side spearheaded by Alexis Sanchez, who also face Ecuador and Bolivia in Group A, will fancy their chances of ending their wait for a first crown.

Uruguay, with a record 15 titles, will miss striker Luis Suarez at the June 11-July 4 tournament while he continues to serve his nine-match FIFA ban from competitive

DRAW

- Group A: Chile, Mexico, Ecuador, Bolivia
- Group B: Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Jamaica
- Group C: Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela

internationals for biting Italy's Giorgio Chiellini at the World Cup.

Chile and Colombia hope to continue their run of good form, which was evident at the World Cup finals in Brazil, with the hosts narrowly beating both in successive knockout rounds.

The tournament has since the early 1990s been expanded from the 10 nations of the South American CONMEBOL confederation to 12 with guest teams usually from North and Central America and the Caribbean's CONCACAF region.

Mexico have been regular participants and twice reached the final but Jamaica are taking part for the first time.

Chile will begin the tournament against Ecuador at the Estadio Nacional in Santiago on June 11.

Argentina's clash with Uruguay will be in La Serena on June 16 and Brazil's eagerly anticipated meeting with Colombia in the capital on June 17.

The Copa America football tournament will take place in Chile from June 11-July 4.

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