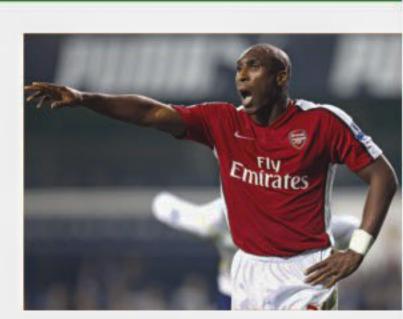
SOL EYES LONDON MAYOR POST

Former England footballer Sol Campbell announced Monday that he will bid to become the Conservative candidate to replace Boris Johnson as mayor of London in 2016. "I'm in it to win it," the former Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur defender told the Sun newspaper. The London-born 40-year-old confirmed he will attend a question and answer debate on July 4 with other contenders for the Conservative nomination. "I know



Rakib in 2nd position

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Abdullah Al Rakib shared the second position with 6.5 points after the ninth round of the 8th Mumbai Mayor's Cup International Open Chess Tournament in Mumbai, India yesterday. Rakib beat Rakesh Kulkarni of India in the ninth round to share the second position with four other players. GM Ziaur Rahman, who beat Indian IM Shivananda in this round, was in third position with 6 points.

Zaza, Barzagli out of Italy squad

AFP, Milan

Sassuolo striker Simone Zaza and Juventus defender Andrea Barzagli have left Italy's squad ahead of Friday's Euro 2016 qualifier against Croatia due to a lack of fitness, the Italian football federation (FIGC) said Monday.

Both players had been called up to Antonio Conte's 28-man squad for the qualifier in Split, Croatia as well as a friendly against Portugal in Geneva next Tuesday.

However Zaza had already complained of a sore back prior to travelling to Coverciano, and Barzagli, who only returned to training last week after suffering an injury knock, has not fully recovered from playing a full 90 minutes in the Champions League final against Barcelona on Saturday.

A FIGC statement said: "The Juventus defender Barzagli and the Sassuolo striker Zaza have left the training camp due to lack of fitness."

Forlan on way out

AFP, Tokyo

Uruguay's most-capped player Diego Forlan is unlikely to be offered a new contract by Japanese club Cerezo Osaka, local media reported on Monday. The 36-year-old striker,

who played 112 games for Uruguay and scored 36 goals before announcing his international retirement earlier this year, has expressed a desire to remain in Japan.

"If possible I wanted to sign off by getting Cerezo promoted to the J-League first division, but a contract's a contract," Forlan told Japan's Nikkan Sports.



Players of the Kalshindur Government Primary School of Mymenshingh celebrate with the Bangamata Gold Cup after beating Polichora Government Primary School 1-0 in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Kalshindur, Korgram champions

SPORTS REPORTER



Kalshindur Government Primary School of Mymenshingh clinched the title of Bangamata Gold Cup while Korgram Government Primary School of Sylhet grabbed the title of Bangabandhu Gold Cup after beating their

respective final opponents at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Kalshindhur edged past Polichora Government Primary School by 1-0 goals in the final of the Bangamata Gold Cup,

thanks to a 45th minute strike from Rozina. Rozina also collected a cheque of 25,000 taka for becoming the best player of the tournament while her team received a winners' cheque of Tk 100,000. In the Bangabandhu Gold Cup final, Korgram beat Faizunnesa Government Primary School of Cox's Bazar 3-0,

with goals from Nazimuddin, Ziaur and Mamun. Nazimuddin received Tk 25,000 for becoming the highest scorer (8 goals) of the tournament. The winning team in both tournaments received Tk

100,000 each, the runners-up teams collected Tk 50,000 each and third-placed teams got Tk 50,000 each.

The Bangabandhu Gold Cup was held with participation of more than ten lakh students from 63,414 primary schools while the Bangamata Gold Cup also featured more than ten lakh students from 66,478 schools of primary level.

Gearing up for unknown Kyrgyzstan

SPORTS REPORTER

QUALIFIERS

A somewhat unknown quantity in the shape of Kyrgyzstan football team will arrive here this afternoon to take on Bangladesh in the first match of the Joint Qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup and 2019 Asian Cup on June 11.

This Kyrgyzstan side have not played an international match so far this year, and have expectedly slipped down in the FIFA rankings. They now stand 11 places below Bangladesh in 177th position in the latest rankings. However, FIFA ranking is not the best parameter to judge the strength of a team, as

would Bhutan's ranking (159) imply. So Bangladesh team management are not trying to read too much from the rankings, and are rather analysing the video footages and information available from the most-recent matches of the Kyrgyzstan team.

"From the information that we have gathered, Kyrgyzstan seems like a physically and technically strong side. They like playing direct football with long deliveries and use their physical advantage to good effect. And since they are from the former Soviet bloc with a Russian coach in charge, they are expected to have the attributes common among Soviet teams, that is, strong physical presence, playing the game at a high tempo and long-distance shooting,

analysed Saiful Bari Titu, the assistant coach of Bangladesh team.

Although the Kyrgyzstan team haven't yet provided the Bangladesh Football Federation with any contingent list, they started their preparation camp two weeks ago with 30 players. Out of those 30, 13 play for the league champions Dordoi Bishkek while eight of the players play in foreign leagues.

Bangladesh have played twice previously against these opposition - first time in the Nehru Cup in Delhi in 2007 losing by 0-3 goals and then in Bishkek in the AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers in 2008 which they lost by 1-2 goal margin.

Titu believes the main threat in front of goal could be coming from their Ghanaian-born naturalised

forward David Tetteh, Germanybased midfielder Edgar Bernhardt and Dordoi forward Mirlan Murzaev. However, the coach believes that if the Bangladesh team plays their natural game and according to their potential, a win is not unlikely.

"We cannot afford to be too concerned about the opposition's strengths and weaknesses. Our job will be to play our own game," said Titu. "We will need to play a game like we did against the young Thailand team during the Bangabandhu Gold Cup. If the players can keep their concentration the whole time and root out the mistakes they made in the last two friendly matches, a win is not impossible as we will be playing at

FIFA scores own goal

GOAL.COM



United Passions, a movie which paints Sepp Blatter as a moral crusader but has been branded as "squirm-inducing propaganda", has bombed at the box office.

FIFA has scored an embarrassing own goal

as widely-derided vanity film United Passions collected just €546 in its first two days released in the US. The film's release had coincided with an avalanche of corruption claims and bribery allegations following the

indictment of 14 football figures by the FBI ahead of the FIFA presidency election on May 28. Considering the plot paints Sepp Blatter - who resigned as

FIFA president in the aftermath of the arrests in Zurich - as an upstanding moral leader as it chronicles the history of the world football governing body, Frederic Auburtin's directorial effort has been ridiculed for the timing of its release date in the US. United Passions is reported to have had a budget of €20

million and included renowned actors such as Tim Roth (as Sepp Blatter), Sam Neill (as former FIFA president Joao Havelange) and Gerard Depardieu (as World Cup founder Jules Rimet).



Brazil midfielder Philippe Coutinho is ecstatic after scoring the opening goal against Mexico during their international friendly in Sao Paulo on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Barca snap up Vidal

AFP, Madrid

Newly crowned Champions League winners Barcelona have signed rightback/winger Aleix Vidal from Sevilla, the Catalan club announced on Sunday.

The transfer fee is reportedly between 10 and 20 million euros.

The treble winning club are banned from transfers until January 2016 which means Vidal cannot play for his new club for at least six months.

"FC Barcelona and Sevilla have reached an agreement over the transfer of Alex Vidal. The 25-yearold will sign for five seasons, until June 30, 2020."

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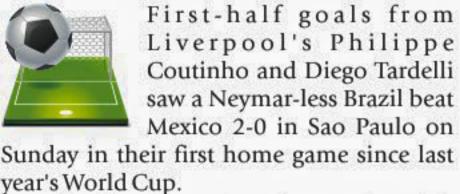
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Brazil see off Mexico

AGENCIES



With the Copa America starting this week, Brazil were looking to get into gear for the continental championship by reconnecting with home fans after an eight-match run of friendly away wins under coach

Dunga. Dunga, Brazil's 1994 World Cupwinning skipper, led the five-times world champions to the 2007 Copa title.

He began a second spell in charge last July replacing Luiz Felipe Scolari, who stepped down following the Auriverde's World Cup semifinal thrashing by Germany.

Sunday's game was Brazil's first back on home soil since losing Scolari's last match at the helm, 3-0 to the Netherlands, in the World Cup match for third place.

With Neymar absent from the encounter in Sao Paulo after his Champions Leaguewinning exploits with Barcelona in Berlin on Saturday, it was Coutinho who put the hosts on the road to victory to settle a crowd who booed the team early on.

RESULTS

Brazil 2 (Coutinho 28, Tardelli 37) Mexico 0 France 3 (Valbuena 53-pen, Fekir 89, Payet 90+1) Belgium 4 (Fellaini 17, 42, Nianggolan 50, Hazard 54-pen)

"We knew we would be without Neyman and it was a chance to see how the others would do," said Dunga.

Belgium lived up to their billing as second only to world champions Germany in the FIFA rankings with a tougher than expected 4-3 victory over France, at the Stade de France in Paris on Sunday.

Manchester United's Marouane Fellaini gave Marc Wilmot's side a 2-0 half-time lead, with goals in the 17th and 42nd minutes, before second half strikes from Radja Nainggolan and Eden Hazard appeared to have put the result beyond doubt. Dynamo Moscow's Mathieu Valbuena

scored for the home side from the penalty spot on 53 minutes, just before Chelsea's Hazard slotted home from a penalty moments later.

visitors looked to be in complete control. But Nabil Fekir pulled France back to 4-2 down with his first international goal in the dying minutes when he fired past Thibaut Courtois and Dimitri Payet added an injury

time third for the battling French.

At 4-1 up and only minutes remaining, the

FORMULA ONE Hamilton rebounds

AFP, Montreal

Defending world champion Lewis Hamilton bounced back and increased his lead in the drivers world championship Sunday when he drove to a well-measured victory ahead of Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg in the Canadian Grand Prix.

The two-time champion made the most of the 44th pole position of his career to lead from the lights to the chequered flag, finishing the 70 laps contest at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve 2.2 seconds clear of the 29-yearold German.

His victory ended Rosberg's run of two wins and confirmed his own full recovery from the disappointment of the Mercedes pit-stop fiasco in Monaco, where Hamilton was deprived of a near-certain victory in the closing laps.

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