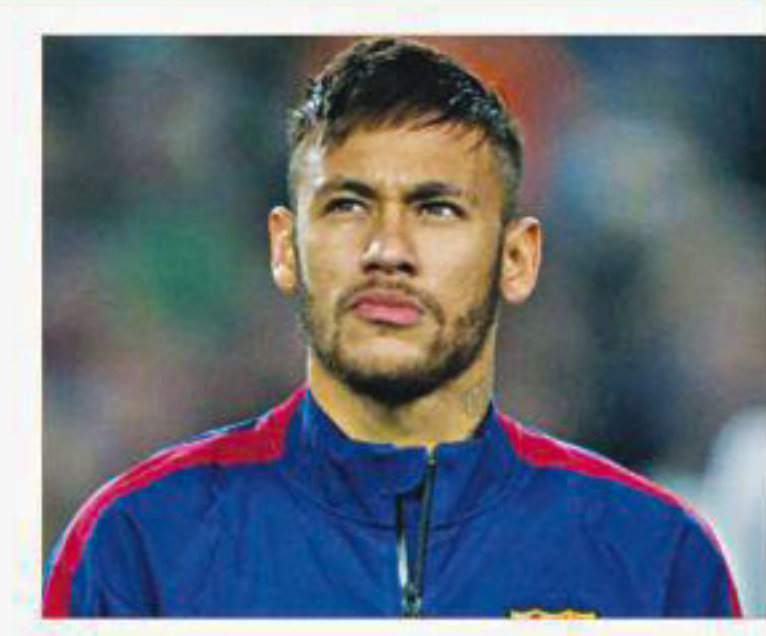


NEYMAR OUT WITH MUMPS
 The first team medical staff at FC Barcelona has announced on Sunday that Neymar will be out for two weeks after being diagnosed with parotitis (mumps), despite the fact that he had previously been vaccinated against the disease. Therefore, the Brazilian striker will miss the European Super Cup final on Tuesday in Tbilisi, Georgia against Sevilla and also the Spanish Super Cup final which sees Luis Enrique's team take on Athletic Club over two legs on 14 and 17 August.
 --INTERNET



Over 80,000 people participated in the annual City2Surf road race in Sydney yesterday. The world's biggest fun run began at Hyde Park and ended at Bondi Beach, with Australia's Brad Milosevic winning the 14-kilometre race. The race, which also featured Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, raised 4,106,947 Australian dollars for charity.

PHOTO: AFP

Another franchise football league!

SPORTS REPORTER
 Soccer League International UK, a UK-based football management company, has come out with a proposal of organising a franchise football league in Bangladesh. Mohammad Kabir, the managing director of the company, arrived here yesterday along with Jonathan James, an advisor to the company and they are expected to present their proposal of hosting the league to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) tomorrow.
 Kabir claimed to the local media that they have a proposal of 50 million pounds to run the league in Bangladesh where international corporations like the Hero Group and the Reliance Group are interested to invest.
 Kabir is expected to hold a meeting with the BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag today before presenting their project proposal to the BFF president Kazi Salahuddin tomorrow. They would also inspect the infrastructure of football here during this visit.
 Kabir, along with an entourage, had earlier paid a visit to the BFF in the middle of June this year after having held primary talks with the BFF high-ups during a FIFA Congress in Zurich.
 Meanwhile, Celebrity Management Group, a Kolkata-based sports management company, had also come up with a similar proposal to the BFF in January this year, claiming they would involve Argentine legend Diego Maradona in their proposed 'Super Soccer League'.
 However, the company did not make any correspondence with the BFF after being asked to bring in Maradona here for a joint press conference.
 These kind of proposals have begun coming after the success of India's 'Indian Super League'. That league, a multi-million dollar venture by the Reliance Group in India, has seen numerous world stars and coaches take part, garnering people's attention towards high-quality football.

Ctg Abahani rope in Manik

SPORTS REPORTER
 Veteran coach Shafiqul Islam Manik will take charge of premier league outfit Chittagong Abahani for the upcoming season, having spent this season away from coaching. The former Mohammedan SC and Muktiyoddha Sangsad coach, who stepped down from the job of the All Reds at the end of last season, confirmed the news while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.
 "People have been a bit surprised that I am taking charge of a club which is not among the top, having previously coached clubs like Mohammedan and Muktiyoddha. But I have had detailed conversation with the club's chairman, Ruhul Amin, over the last two weeks and I have been impressed by his football ambitions and his plans of taking the side to a higher level," said the veteran coach.
 "I have been asked to form a strong squad and hopefully we will recruit good players in the pre-season transfer window and the youth program for the upcoming season," Manik hoped.
 Chittagong Abahani are currently in 10th position in the 11-team Bangladesh Premier League, only above already-scrapped Farashganj SC. Ahsanuzzaman Jhantu is currently the coach of the port city side.

LvG confident of De Gea stay

AFP, Manchester
 Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal believes goalkeeper David de Gea may yet play for the club again despite being dropped for their opening-day Premier League victory over Tottenham Hotspur.
 Van Gaal instead put his faith in Sergio Romero, who joined United on a free transfer in the close season after his release from Sampdoria, and he made a number of vital saves on his debut as United kept a clean sheet.
 However, Van Gaal dismissed suggestions that De Gea had played his last game for the club and revealed that the 24-year-old had agreed that he was not in the right frame of mind to feature against Spurs.
 "Can he (De Gea) play for United again? Of course," said the Dutchman. "The position of the goalkeeper is a position especially that you needed the highest concentration and the highest focus during 90 minutes."
 "And when you are in circumstances where David de Gea is, it is difficult to cope with that. And we have seen that."
 Van Gaal hinted that he may not pick De Gea until the transfer window closes at the start of next month and praised Argentina international Romero for his impressive debut performance.
 "Of course when the situation has been cleared after September 1 we will look again," Van Gaal said. "But I'm happy Sergio did well."
 It was the adventurous display of Italian full-back Matteo Darmian that drew the most praise from Van Gaal.
 "When I have to pick up one player, I think Matteo was the best player," he said. "Because he played in ball possession very good with not too many ball failure passes."

Hammer falls on Cech

AFP, London
 Petr Cech made a Premier League debut to forget for Arsenal as his errors helped West Ham United to record a 2-0 victory at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday.
 Cech's arrival from Chelsea has been acclaimed as a signing that could turn Arsenal into title contenders, but he was found wanting as Arsene Wenger's side opened their Premier League campaign with a home defeat for the second time in three years.
 Cech's rash charge allowed Cheikhou Kouyate to head West Ham in front from debutant Dimitri Payet's 43rd-minute free-kick and the Czech international's slowness to get down saw him beaten at his near post from 25 yards by Mauro Zarate shortly before the hour.
 West Ham's win echoed Aston Villa's 3-1 success at the Emirates on the first day of the 2013-14 campaign and enabled Slaven Bilic to crown his first league game as manager with a famous victory.
 Bilic named 16-year-old Reece Oxford in midfield and saw the teenager turn in a commanding display as West Ham bounced

RESULTS

Arsenal 0 West Ham 2 (Kouyate 43, Zarate 57)
Newcastle 2 (Cisse 43, Wijnaldum 48)
Southampton 2 (Pelle 24, Long 79)
Stoke 0 Liverpool 1 (Coutinho 86)

back from their Europa League elimination at the hands of Romanians Astra Giurgiu last Thursday.
 Wenger sent on Theo Walcott and Alexis Sanchez as Arsenal sought to claw back their two-goal deficit, but the closest they came to scoring was a deflected first-half shot by Aaron Ramsey that hit the bar.
 At the Britannia Stadium, Philippe Coutinho scored a stunning 30-yard winner in the 86th minute as Liverpool partially atoned for their 6-1 drubbing at Stoke City on the final day of last season with a 1-0 win.
 Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers gave starts to new signings Nathaniel Clyne, Joe Gomez, James Milner and £32.5 million (\$50.4 million, 45.9 million euros) striker Christian Benteke, while Roberto Firmino came off the bench in the second half.
 But the game was drifting to a goalless draw until Brazilian playmaker Coutinho picked the ball

up in the inside-left channel, turned, and arrowed a glorious, bending strike into the top-right corner.
 Meanwhile, Dutch midfielder Giorginio Wijnaldum scored on his competitive Newcastle United debut as former England head coach Steve McClaren began his St James' Park tenure with a 2-2 draw at home to Southampton.
 After Graziano Pelle had put the visitors in front, goals from Papis

Cisse and £14.5 million new recruit Wijnaldum put Newcastle in front, but Southampton substitute Shane Long headed in a 79th-minute equaliser.
 Chelsea opened their title defence with a 2-2 draw at home to Swansea City on Saturday, with Manchester United edging Tottenham Hotspur 1-0.
 Manchester City, runners-up last season, travel to West Bromwich Albion today.



West Ham United striker Mauro Zarate (C) celebrates his goal against Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium yesterday.

Ranieri hails local band

AFP, Leicester
 Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri said his team's 4-2 win over Sunderland in their Premier League opener on Saturday had been inspired by the music of local band Kasabian.
 Ranieri said Kasabian had fired his players up prior to kick-off.
 "I think I know the Leicester fans very well. They are (passionate) supporters and I told my players, 'When you go on the pitch and you hear the song from Kasabian, that means they want warriors,'" he told the club website.
 "Kasabian are a fantastic rock band from Leicester and I think the guitar man, Serge, is Italian. That is good."

Bielsa's shock exit

AFP, Paris
 Marcelo Bielsa stunned French football on Saturday when he quit as coach of Marseille just minutes after his team had lost their season opener 1-0 at home to Caen.
 "I have resigned from my post as manager of Marseille," the Argentine announced at the end of his post-match news conference.
 Immediately after his side's lacklustre defeat, Bielsa, who had only been in charge at the Stade Velodrome since May 2014, announced his resignation.
 "I have finished my work here, I will return to my country," said Bielsa.
 "I thank the fans for always being behind me during games and on a daily basis. I am sad and frustrated. I cannot accept the situation of instability at the club," added Bielsa.
 "To add spice to the drama, Bielsa left it to his interpreter to read out the key phrase of his letter of resignation which was sent to Marseille president Vincent Labrune.
 "We had reached an agreement on a contract extension for 2016-2017, which was missing just a signature," he wrote in his letter.
 Bielsa said he had met Wednesday with the club's chief executive Philippe Perez and Igor Levin, the lawyer of Marseille owner

Margarita Louis Dreyfus.
 "They wanted to change the contract," the Argentine wrote. "I took this final decision as working together requires a minimum of trust which we do not have."
 Marseille however came out fighting following Bielsa's resignation, accusing the Argentine of trying to hold them prisoner.
 A strongly-worded club statement claimed: "Marseille possess a sufficiently rich history to refuse to surrender to the rule of one man".
 The French giants insisted they wouldn't be "held prisoner by a man who places his personal interests high above those of the club" in resigning after Saturday's Ligue 1 curtain-raiser, a 1-0 home loss to Caen.
 "I am, like all the supporters, dazed by Marcelo Bielsa's shock decision," Labrune declared in a statement.
 "However, we take note of this decision which places the club in a difficult place having started the new season with a home defeat," Labrune added.
 He confirmed that one of Bielsa's assistants, Franck Passi, would step up as caretaker coach pending a permanent replacement.
 The club and owner Margarita Louis-Dreyfus assured fans they would "take all necessary measures in the coming days to enable Marseille to enjoy a season to the height of its expectations".



WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS Ledecy makes history

AFP, Kazan
 Katie Ledecy wrote swimming history at the World Championships on Saturday by breaking her own 800m freestyle record and claiming a historic fifth gold medal.
 The 18-year-old became the first swimmer to sweep the world titles for the 200, 400, 800 and 1500m freestyle, while she also won gold in Kazan in the 4x200m freestyle relay.
 She clocked eight minutes, 07.39 seconds over 800m to shave 2.61secs off the record she set last year.
 It was a mark of her dominance that New Zealand's Lauren Boyle set a new Oceania record of 8:17.65 to take silver, but still finished 10.26secs behind Ledecy.
 South Africa's Chad Le Clos avenged his defeat in the 200m butterfly final earlier in the week by retaining his 100m world title -- then threw down a cheeky challenge to US star Michael Phelps.
 Le Clos clocked 50.56 seconds for a new African record in the 100m final as Hungary's Laszlo Cseh finished second at just 0.31 back.
 It was sweet revenge as Le Clos, the 200m Olympic champion, lost his world crown on the wall over the same distance to Cseh in Wednesday's final, when he was edged out by just 0.20.
 Phelps clocked a stunning 1min 52.94sec to win the 200m butterfly at the US championships in San Antonio, Texas.
 Having beaten Phelps on the wall to deny the American the 200m butterfly gold at the 2012 London games, Le Clos said he is relishing their showdown at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics.
 Sweden's Sarah Sjöström became the first female swimmer to win both butterfly sprint titles at a world championship when she added the 50m crown to her 100m title.

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