

## What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS4  
English Premiership  
Swansea City v Stoke City  
Live from 1:00am (Tuesday)

## DAY'S EVENT

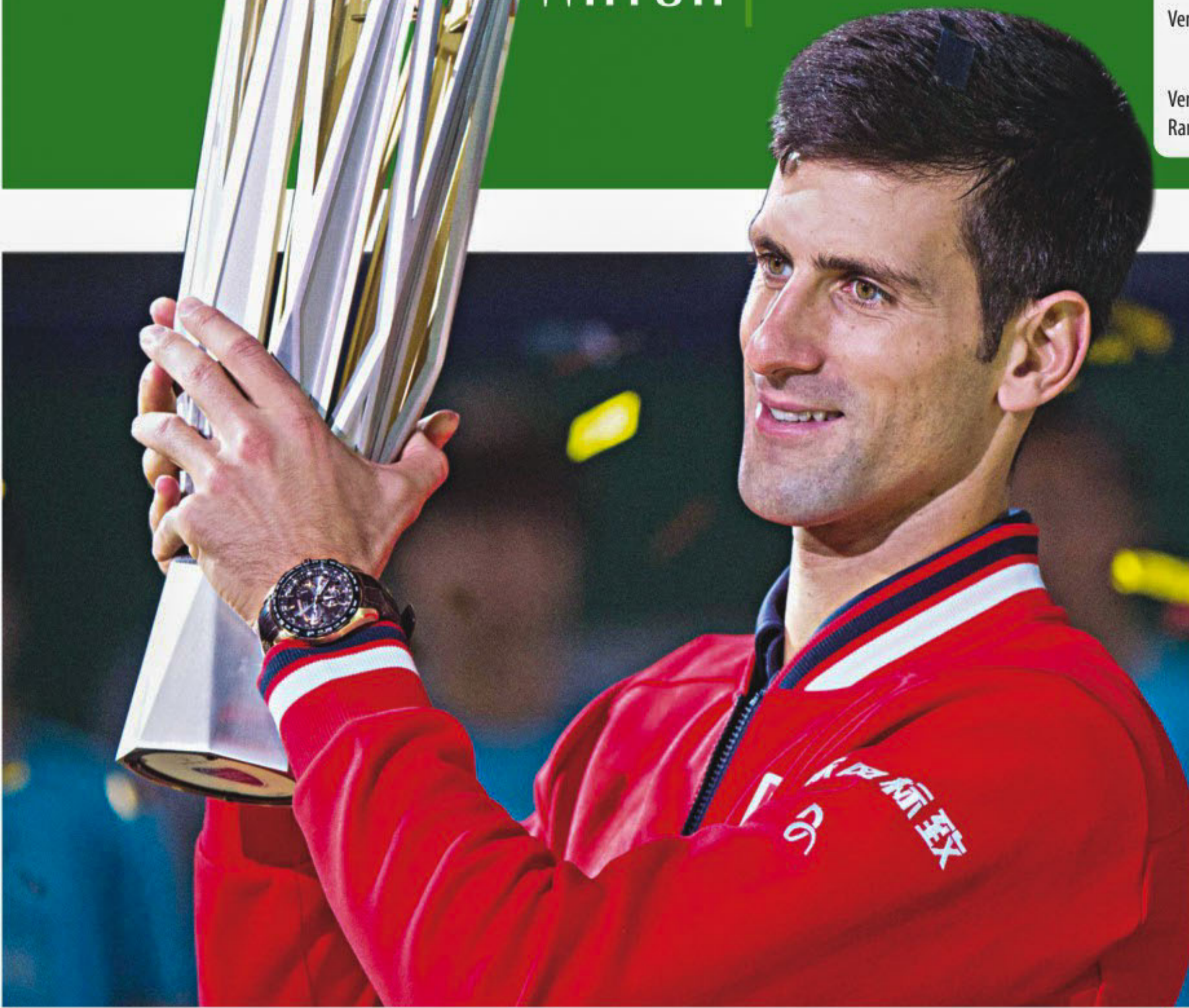
NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE  
Day 3 (Four-day Match)

Venue: Bogra Venue: Fatullah

Venue: Khulna Venue: Ctg  
Rangpur v Dhk Metro

## THE BECKINGHAM PALACE

Having ticked off most of the luxuries he could ever have wished for, David Beckham is set to acquire the ultimate status symbol -- a country estate in the Cotswolds. The former England captain will turn lord of the manor after falling for the 27 million pound Abbotswood Estate in Gloucestershire. Abbotswood House has several impressive reception rooms and 12 bedrooms. It sits in 774 acres, on which there are 13 farmhouses and cottages, with hunting grounds also available. Another lure for the recently retired ace is the River Dikler which runs through the estate. The Beckhams are currently renting in London while



World Number 1 Novak Djokovic breezed past Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the final to take the Shanghai Masters title, his ninth of the season, on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Novak romps to Shanghai title

AFP, Shanghai

Novak Djokovic handed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga a 6-2, 6-4 beating on Sunday as the world number one claimed his third Shanghai Masters title to brutally strengthen his rule over men's tennis.

The one-sided victory in one hour and 18 minutes at the Qi Zhong Stadium gave Serbia's Djokovic his ninth trophy of a season in which he also won three out of four Grand Slam finals.

Djokovic's serve was broken once but he broke the floundering Tsonga four times, collecting his 10th title in China on the back of a 17-match winning streak including 22 straight sets.

Djokovic was similarly dominant over Andy Murray in the semis and has looked untouchable in both Shanghai and Beijing, where he beat Rafael Nadal to win his sixth China Open last week.

"I think I've played the best tennis ever in these two weeks in terms of back-to-back. Honestly, that's how I felt," said Djokovic, who was showered with golden confetti at the victory ceremony.

"Energy-wise, I was great. I didn't get tired. I always had plenty of intensity, concentration, high performance level from the first match in Beijing to today's match."

Top-ranked Djokovic now expands his rankings points tally to 16,785, nearly double the 8,750 of second-placed Murray, and will finish world number one for the fourth time in five years.

Tsonga could only shake his head in admiration at the "really impressive" Serb after hardly managing to get a foothold in

what was his second final of the year.

"Today there is nothing to say. He's playing a lot better than everybody, I think. He's really consistent," said the Frenchman.

"You have to be in your best shape to beat him anyway, and everybody knows that it's not easy to play your best tennis every match."

"Yeah, I think his level is just better than everybody for the moment."

After a rock-star welcome complete with dry ice and ear-splitting music, Tsonga was quickly in trouble and he nervously netted on break points in the first and third games to go 3-0 down.

Some rare Djokovic errors gave Tsonga a break of his own but he immediately handed back the initiative to the Serb, who calmly served out to love for 6-2 and a one-set lead.

Tsonga hammered his second ace of the afternoon to get off the mark in the second set, and then two service winners and two more aces helped him neutralise a break point and go 2-1 ahead.

Djokovic held his first three service games to love, ramping up pressure on the Frenchman, but Tsonga held firm and he unleashed a crunching forehand to stay in front 4-3.

The Frenchman stared down five break points in the second set but on the sixth, he finally cracked with a double fault to put Djokovic 5-4 ahead and serving for the match.

The Serb did not need asking twice, grabbing the first match point when Tsonga put a lob long, and then soaking up the acclaim from the below-capacity, early evening crowd.

## Inter set for Etihad windfall

AFP, Milan

Inter Milan are reported to be set for a major cash boost with the arrival of Etihad as the Serie A giants' shirt sponsor over the next five years.

Reports in Gazzetta dello Sport said Manchester City sponsors Etihad, who own 49 percent of the Alitalia airline, will replace Italian tyre giants Pirelli as the Nerazzurri's new sponsor in a deal worth 125million euros over five years.

The report added that former club president and owner Massimo Moratti was "closer to saying goodbye" to the club.

Moratti held meetings with Inter president and majority shareholder, Indonesian Erick Thohir, earlier this week, fuelling speculation that he is ready to sell his remaining 30 percent share in the club.

Some reports claimed investors from the United Arab Emirates, possibly Etihad, were ready to step in and purchase Moratti's share.

If the shirt sponsorship deal goes through, it would be a huge boost to Roberto Mancini's side.

Inter currently earn 12million euros a season with tyre giants Pirelli, who have been linked to the club for close to 20 years, but the current deal expires at the end of the season.

Juventus (Jeep) and AC Milan (Emirates) earn 17million euros a year from their respective shirt sponsorship deals.

# Hungary test for Norway

## Playoffs also pit Sweden against Denmark

REUTERS, Nyon



Hungary will have to overcome Norway if they are to qualify for their first major tournament in 30 years following Sunday's

draw for the Euro 2016 playoff round while Sweden and Denmark will clash in a Scandinavian derby.

Hungary, who have been in the international wilderness since they appeared at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, will play the first leg away against the Norwegians, who themselves have not played at a major tournament since the 1998 World Cup.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic's Sweden, who lost out to Portugal in a playoff for the last World Cup, will be at home in the first leg against their neighbours.

In the other ties, Ukraine, who co-hosted Euro 2012 with Poland, will meet

Slovenia and Bosnia will face Ireland.

Hungary, semifinalists in the 1964 and 1972 European championships, have won six and lost five of their 16 meetings with Norway but have not beaten the Scandinavians since a 4-1 win in Budapest in 1981, a run of nine games.

Their last appearance in a playoff

PLAYOFFS		
Norway	v	Hungary (Nov 12, 15)
Bosnia	v	Ireland (Nov 13, 16)
Ukraine	v	Slovenia (Nov 14, 17)

was in the 1998 World Cup qualifiers when they crashed to a 12-1 aggregate defeat to Yugoslavia.

"I know Norwegian football very well -- no one needs to introduce the opposition to us -- so we know an excellent team awaits us," Hungary coach Bernd Storck told reporters.

History does not favour Ukraine who have yet to beat Slovenia in four games, with two draws and two defeats, and lost out to their opponents in the playoffs for a place at Euro 2000.

"There is no need to look for motivation against the teams of Spain or France's calibre, but we have to play with double motivation against the likes of Slovenia," said Ukraine midfielder Taras Stepanenko.

Sweden and Denmark have met 104 times with 45 wins for the Swedes and 40 for the Danes, who are the only former European champions in the playoffs.

Bosnia have lost on both their previous two appearances in a playoff round, having been eliminated by Portugal in the final qualifying stages of the 2010 World Cup and then Euro 2012.

They qualified directly for Brazil last year when they made their first appearance at a major tournament as an

# Napoli edge Viola

AFP, Milan



Gonzalo Higuain's fifth league goal of the season helped Napoli to a precious 2-1 win over Fiorentina on Sunday as Maurizio Sarri's men moved up to fourth

place in Serie A.

Napoli welcomed Fiorentina to the San Paolo looking to maintain a recent purple patch that has seen Sarri's side remain unbeaten in their last six outings.

Paulo Sousa's Fiorentina have been rightly described as one of the most stylish teams in the league and were unlucky not to snatch a share of the points at the San Paolo.

Fiorentina were tough customers, but after Nikola Kalinic had levelled Lorenzo Insigne's superb opener for the hosts, Higuain struck in the 75th minute to secure Napoli's fourth win of the campaign.

Fiorentina, conceding just their second

RESULTS		
Bologna	0 - 1	Palermo (Vazquez 24)
Napoli (Insigne 46, Higuain 75)	2 - 1	Fiorentina (Kalinic 73)
Atalanta (Pinilla 8, Gomez 43, Cigarini 63-pen)	3 - 0	Carpi
Verona (Pazzini 41-pen)	1 - 1	Udinese 1 (Therreau 84)
Genoa (Pavletti 13, Galke 17, Tachtsidis 90+3)	3 - 2	Chievo (Paloschi 1, Pellissier 77)
Sassuolo (Berardi 7-pen, Missiroli 60)	2 - 1	Lazio (Anderson 67)
Frosinone	2 - 0	Sampdoria

defeat, remain top but now have just a one-point lead on Roma.

Elsewhere, Sampdoria's promising start came to a shuddering halt with a 2-0 defeat at Frosinone, while Lazio were stunned 2-1 away to Sassuolo and Atalanta romped to 3-0 win against Carpi in Bergamo.

# Neymar hits four

AFP, Madrid



A spectacular performance from Neymar ensured Barcelona didn't miss the injured Lionel Messi as he scored four to help the European champions come from behind to beat Rayo Vallecano 5-2 on Saturday.

Javi Guerra had given Rayo a shock lead at the Camp Nou, but Neymar twice converted from the penalty spot after he had been brought down to give the hosts a half-time lead.

The Brazilian then struck twice in a minute after the break and teed up Luis Suarez to rifle home a fifth before Jozabed pulled a goal back for Rayo as Barca got back to winning ways after a 2-1 defeat at Sevilla last time out.

"I'm very happy for the victory and how we played. Everyone deserves congratulations," Neymar told Canal

Plus. "It was very difficult, they have quality players that play their football. We struggled a bit, but we did our job."

Barca should have had the game wrapped up by half-time against an incredibly open Rayo defence as Tono made brilliant one-on-one saves from Ivan Rakitic and Suarez in the first 10 minutes.

However, it was the visitors who took the lead on 14 minutes when Manchester United reject Bebe's driven cross was turned in by Guerra.

Barca responded immediately as Neymar was chopped down by Diego Llorente and he dusted himself down before sending Tono the wrong way from the spot.

Neymar had the ball in the net again moments later, but the goal was ruled out as Suarez was adjudged to have interfered with Tono's view from an offside position.

Barca were soon in front as an

## Afghanistan level series

CRICINFO, Bulawayo

Mohammad Nabi's maiden ODI century powered Afghanistan to a series-leveling win in the second ODI against Zimbabwe at Queens Sports Club yesterday.

Nabi overcame a few early jitters to raise to his century at close to a run a ball. Backed up by Noor Ali Zadrani's patient 60, Afghanistan raced to 271 for 6. Zimbabwe were all out for 213 in 46.4 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF  
AFGHANISTAN: 271 for 6 (Nabi 116, Noor 60)  
ZIMBABWE: 213 all out (Jongwe 46, Ervine 43; Dawlat 2-25)  
Result: Afghanistan by 58 runs.

# Watford win fires up Wenger

AFP, London



Arsene Wenger believes his side's 3-0 win at Watford on Saturday is perfect preparation for Tuesday's crucial Champions League meeting with Bayern Munich.

The Gunners have yet to pick a up single point in European competition following defeats by Dinamo Zagreb and Olympiakos this season.

But they are going well in the Premier League, with Saturday's victory, courtesy of goals from Alexis Sanchez, substitute Olivier Giroud and Aaron Ramsey, lifting them back into second spot.

"For me the important game was today," Wenger said. "Because I knew that first of all that to win today was vital to stay in touch with the top teams."

"Secondly, the best way for us to prepare for Tuesday night was to win the game today."

Wenger opted to play his strongest side against Watford, who matched Arsenal until Sanchez broke the deadlock in the 62nd minute to record his tenth goal in just six games for club and country.

And those players will, in the main, start against the German champions at the Emirates Stadium in the first instalment of a back-to-back double-header.

"Obviously there is no obvious reason to change completely the team," Wenger added. "There might be some, I don't know yet, I will have to see how completely everyone recovers."

"I was able to rest a little early Mesut Ozil and Sanchez."

## STANDINGS (TOP 5)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	PTS
Manchester City	9	7	0	2	21
Arsenal	9	6	1	2	19
Manchester United	9	6	1	2	19
West Ham United	9	5	2	2	17
Leicester City	9	4	4	1	16

"We have of course to put pace into the Bayern game. We are playing against a big team."

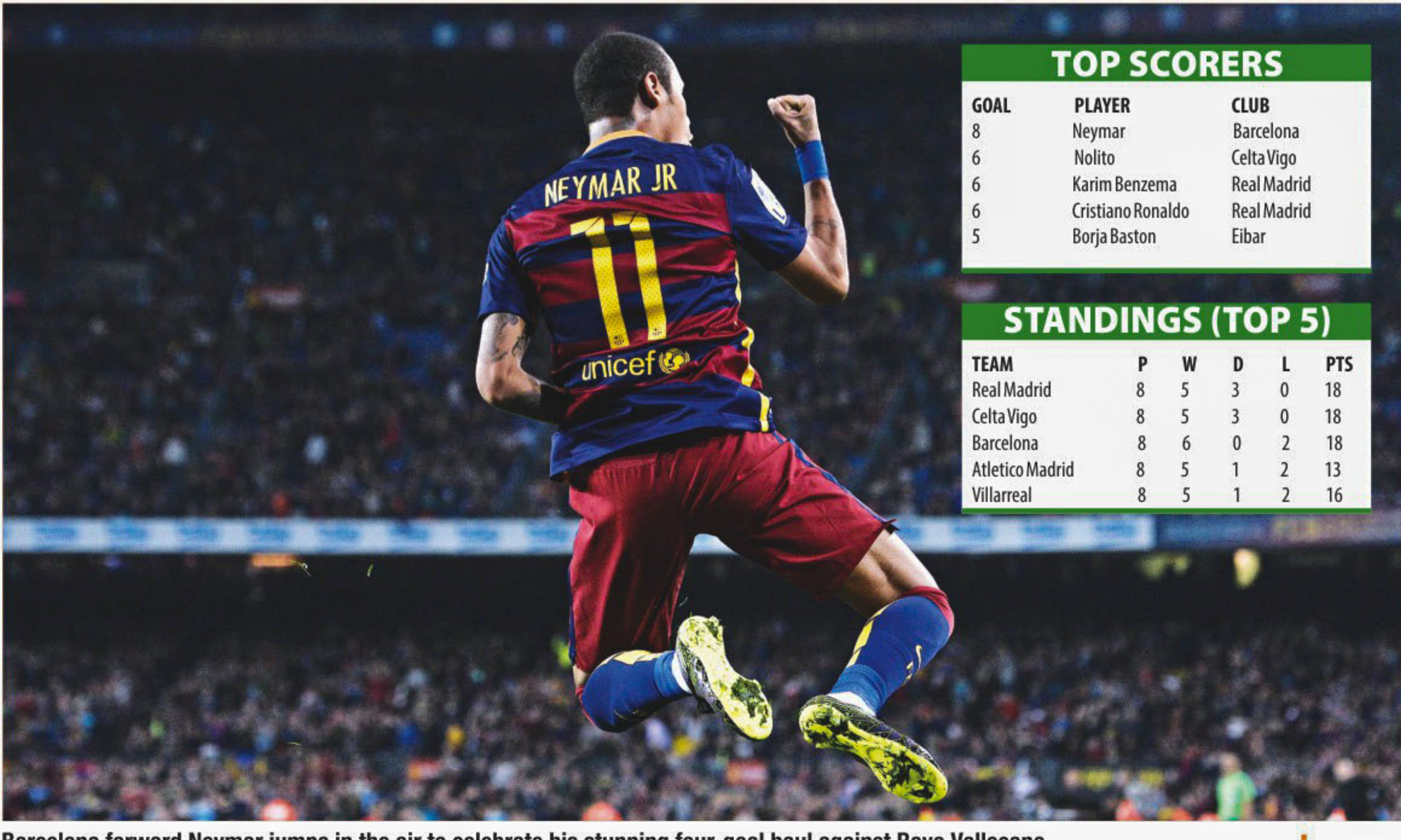
"We know we have put ourselves in a bad position in the Champions League. And we want to make something special against Bayern because that's the only way we can stay in the race."

Wenger admitted he had been tempted to rest Sanchez as the forward had travelled to South America and back to play two games for Chile, which saw him score two goals.

"Yes, I was," he said. "But yesterday, in the training session, he looked quite sharp and the medical people told me he had no problem at all."

## TOP SCORERS

GOAL	PLAYER	CLUB
9	Jamie Vardy	Leicester City
6	Alexis Sanchez	Arsenal
6	Sergio Agueero	Manchester City
5	Callum Wilson	Bournemouth
5	Romelu Lukaku	Everton
5	Riyad Mahrez	Leicester City
5	Graziano Pelle	Southampton
5	Odion Ighalo	Watford



Barcelona forward Neymar jumps in the air to celebrate his stunning four-goal haul against Rayo Vallecano at Nou Camp on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

## TOP SCORERS

GOAL	PLAYER	CLUB
8	Neymar	Barcelona
6	Nolito	Celta Vigo
6	Karim Benzema	Real Madrid
6	Cristiano Ronaldo	Real Madrid
5	Borja Baston	Eibar

## STANDINGS (TOP 5)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	PTS
Real Madrid	8	5	3	0	18
Celta Vigo	8	5	3	0	18
Barcelona	8	6	0	2	18
Atletico Madrid	8	5	1	2	13
Villarreal	8	5	1	2	16