

GTV & STAR SPORTS 7
ICC U-19 World Cup
 Pakistan v Sri Lanka
 Live from 9:00am
TEN CRICKET
 First ODI

South Africa v England
 Live from 5:30pm
STAR SPORTS 2
 Premier League
 Everton v Newcastle
 Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

STAR SPORTS 4
 Premier League
 Watford v Chelsea
 Live from 1:45am (Thursday)
SONY SIX
 Serie A

ICC U-19 World Cup
 Time: 9:00am
 Venue: SBNCs

DAY'S EVENT

BECKHAM DOES IT AGAIN

David Beckham has proved once again that he is one of the nicest people of all time. A paramedic, Catherine Maynard was treating a patient in central London as they waited for an ambulance to transfer him to the hospital. Beckham was passing by and he thought they looked a bit chilly, so he decided to warm them up with a couple of hot drinks. "I was waiting with my patient and it was very cold outside," Maynard said. "I saw someone who looked like David Beckham, he said hello and got in his car. I said to the man I was treating, 'I think that was David Beckham'. Ten minutes later, he came back with a cup of coffee for me and a tea for the patient. "I couldn't believe it when he



Messi chooses Copa over Olympics

AGENCIES, Barcelona

Barcelona's Lionel Messi won't be included in Argentina's squad for the 2016 Olympic Games but will be named in the Copa America party.

Argentina coach Gerardo Martino, formerly of Barca, confirmed in an interview with Radio La Red that Messi will be part of the Centenary Copa America, to be held in the United States this summer, but will miss the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. "Messi won't go to the Olympics because there will be a lot of competition with the main team," Martino said, Marca reports.

Mancini punished

AFP, Milan

Inter Milan coach Roberto Mancini has been handed a 5,000-euro fine and a one-match ban by Serie A officials following a series of incidents at Sunday's 3-0 derby defeat to AC Milan.

Mancini was sent from the touchlines in the second half after arguing with the fourth official when the referee failed to award a penalty after Milan 'keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma clashed with striker Eder.

As Mancini was entering the players' tunnel, he offered a one-fingered gesture to AC Milan supporters and then afterwards was involved in a foul-mouthed rant on live television.

City's dream realised

AFP, Manchester



A dream four years in the making was finally realised when Pep Guardiola was announced as Manchester City's next manager, a development the club's billionaire owners hope will transform world football on and off the field.

On it, the respected 44-year-old, currently seeing out his final season with Bayern Munich, will be handed the simple target of winning the Champions League within the three-year contract he has agreed, and which will pay him a reported 20 million euros (\$21 million) a season.

Off the field, and into the realm of football finance and commercialisation, City believe Guardiola will eventually help elevate them to the level of Manchester United, Real Madrid and Barcelona, not only because of his own profile and standing in the sports world but because of the quality of player he will be able to attract to Eastlands, armed with the bottomless wealth of their Abu Dhabi royal family ownership.

A mooted attempt to sign Barcelona's star striker Lionel Messi has long since been back page gossip for English tabloid newspapers but now, with the world's wealthiest club having signed, arguably, the world's best manager, such a move no longer sounds quite so fanciful.

It is precisely that kind of signing City will be hoping to pull off this year, in an attempt to improve on their displays in Europe which have so far seen them fail to progress beyond the last 16 of the Champions League.

But, of more far-reaching importance, the arrival of a global footballing icon like Messi would help City in their aim to become the most famous and successful football club on the planet, instead of just the wealthiest.

Signings such as David Silva and Sergio Aguero rank among the greatest talent ever seen in the Premier League but those players, and the rest of the current City squad, lack the commercial clout and presence carried by a Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo or



PEP GUARDIOLA

Neymar.

A deal late last year saw Chinese consortium CMC invest £265 million for a stake in City, leading to reports the club will tour China later this year, where Guardiola may be unveiled for the first time.

In such relatively 'new' football markets, Guardiola will carry far more impact than his predecessor Manuel Pellegrini and the level of high-class superstar City could now attract will lift the club even higher in terms of their global presence.

This was the vision City had in 2012 when they first approached Guardiola before being rebuffed and turning to Pellegrini as a distant second choice a year later.

City's Spanish executives Ferran Soriano and Txiki Begiristain continued to drive the courtship, with Guardiola's move eventually developing into the worst-kept secret in the industry.

"The team is going to play way better football and that is some statement because they already play great some great football at times," said former Barcelona forward, now TV pundit Thierry Henry.

"They will play better under him. He will come in and some guys are going to have to leave the place, trust me."

Suarez set for int'l return

AGENCIES, Barcelona

Fifa has confirmed the date of Brazil's upcoming World Cup qualifier with Uruguay, which will see the long-awaited international return of Barcelona star Luis Suarez.

The 29-year-old has now served the nine-match ban he received for biting Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini at World Cup 2014 and will return to action against the Selecao on March 25.

The five-time world champions were initially set to host their historic rivals at the Arena Pernambuco in Recife on Thursday, but the match has been moved back to the Friday.

Bordeaux sign Debuchy

AFP, Bordeaux

Right-back Mathieu Debuchy has joined Bordeaux on a six-month loan deal from Arsenal, the Ligue 1 side said on Monday.

The 30-year-old France international defender has only started 12 Premier League matches since joining the Gunners from Newcastle United 18-months ago, having also spent 10 years and played 301 games at Lille.

"It's hard to imagine it. Bordeaux signing a France international from the Premier League," Bordeaux president Jean-Louis Triaud said after the signing.

Jan spending hits 5-yr high

AFP, London



English Premier League clubs' gross spending on transfers in the January transfer window reached a five-year high of £175 million (\$250.1 million, 230.1 million euros), financial consultants Deloitte said on Tuesday.

The figure represented the biggest collective mid-season outlay by English top-flight teams since 2011 (£225 million), when Liverpool sold Fernando Torres to Chelsea for a then British-record £50 million and used the proceeds to buy Andy Carroll and Luis Suarez.

Teams at the bottom of the table were the most active, reflecting the importance of avoiding relegation in a year when new television rights deals worth up to £8 billion are due to take effect.

The combined spend by the Premier League's bottom six clubs was £90 million -- over half of the league total -- whereas the equivalent figure in January 2015 was £20 million, less than 20 percent of the total.

Overall, spending in January took the Premier League's transfer outlay for the 2015-16 season to £1.045 billion -- a new record.

Stoke City's £18.3 million capture of French midfielder Giannelli Imbula from Porto, concluded late on Monday, was the biggest deal.

Neymar to give evidence

AGENCIES, Madrid



Brazilian footballer Neymar is due to give evidence in a Spanish court over allegations of corruption and fraud surrounding his transfer to Barcelona.

The current and former president of the club denied wrongdoing at the court in Madrid on Monday.

Barcelona said it paid €57m (£43m) for Neymar in 2013, his parents receiving €40m and Brazilian club Santos €17m.

But investigators say the fee was closer to €83m and Barcelona concealed part of the deal.

The case was brought by Brazilian third-party investment fund DIS, which owned 40% of the Brazilian player's sports rights.

DIS alleges it was financially harmed by the transfer when it received €6.8m of Santos's €17m fee and argues it was deprived of its full share.

Rosicky's new injury setback

AFP, London

Arsene Wenger says Arsenal midfielder Tomas Rosicky is devastated by the latest injury setback which could see him ruled out for over a month.

Rosicky suffered a thigh problem just moments after coming off the bench for his first appearance of the season as a substitute in Saturday's FA Cup fourth round win over Burnley.

A knee injury had kept the 36-year-old Czech Republic international out until that point and, with his contract due to expire at the end of the season, he fears he could have played his last game for the Gunners.

"He's devastated. Unbelievable," Wenger said. "Nobody understands (how he got injured)."

Cheryshev joins Valencia

AFP, Madrid

Gary Neville's Valencia have completed a loan deal for Real Madrid winger Denis Cheryshev until the end of the season, the club confirmed on Monday.

"It is a big opportunity for me and I hope to be up to the challenge," the Russian international told Valencia's website.

Cheryshev made just six appearances for Real this season since returning from a successful loan spell at Villarreal last season.



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