

Neymar welcome anytime at Barca, says Suarez

AFP | Barcelona

Neymar "will always be welcome" back at Barcelona, the Spanish giants' striker Luis Suarez told Mundo Deportivo yesterday.

Neymar left Barca in a world record move to Paris Saint-Germain in 2017 but has been persistently linked to a possible return to the Camp Nou.

Suarez told the paper: "Everybody knows 'Ney', we all know the affection we have for him in the dressing room."

"His ability is indisputable and he still has so much to show. He will always be welcome in the changing room, we appreciate him a lot."

Suarez, 33, recovering from right knee surgery, said it was "complicated" to talk about players joining Barca at this time of crisis with the coronavirus pandemic.

"But I can talk about players, and these are huge players," he commented when asked by the paper to discuss the rumours linking the 28-year-old Neymar with a Barca return.

The Uruguayan also had warm words for Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez, the 22-year-old Argentine whose name also been associated with a move to Catalonia.

"Lautaro is a player who is progressing in Italy, he is a flexible centre-forward, with spec-



Neymar (L), Luis Suarez (C) and Lionel Messi takes a break during a training session for Barcelona (file photo)



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LUIS SUAREZ

tacular moves and that shows what a great a striker he is."

Questioned about how any eventual new signings would fit in Suarez said: "There will always be a healthy rivalry between us, and while we are all focused on the same objective, that is winning, any players who come in to help the team achieve its aims will always be welcome."

He then turned to last week's deal with the club to cut players'

wages by 70%, with Barca captain Lionel Messi accusing the club of undermining the squad during negotiations.

"There were some things that were said that were false, like that the players didn't want to see their salaries reduced, that some were against it."

"That they (club management) were saying that without being part of the squad was annoying. It annoyed all the players."

KHK Heroes and the IOC Community partner to help others



BRAVE CF president Mohammed Shahid receives a food pack from Mohammed Mansoor, managing director for Exelon and chairman of Saara Group, from IOC Community

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa directed KHK Heroes Board of Directors to initiate campaigns to support the vision HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Premier and HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Representative for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, National Security Advisor and President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports.

KHK Heroes called on Bahrain to make food donations, contribute financially, volunteer time to KHK Heroes or take up the challenge to create and post a video online and

nominate someone else to pay it forward.

The IOC Community has answered this call and accepted the challenge. Together with KHK Heroes, the IOC Community has organised food supplies and assembled a team of volunteers to provide food packs to those in need throughout Bahrain.

The IOC Community has organized 50 plus volunteers and assembled 100 plus food packs, with the number growing daily.

Each food pack consists of 5kg rice packs, 2-liter cooking oil, 3kg wheat flour, 1kg sugar, 1 kg lentils, and 1/2 kg loose tea.

The latest initiative is targeted to help migrant workers who are struggling during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

BOC E Gaming Tournament with KHK eSPORTS and ComiCon becomes huge success on first day

AFP | Sydney

The eSports gaming tournament organized by The Bahrain Olympic Committee, in cooperation with the Khalid Bin Hamad Sports Organization (KHK) and Bahrain Comic Con (BCC) was a huge success on its first day.

The tournament was held across two different games, PUBG and FIFA 20 (the latest version of the PS4) and was



streamed live with over 4000 viewers watching the live stream and supporting the players competing in the tour-

nament.

All the participants played against each other in the safety of their homes to support the Governments 'stay at home' campaign.

After the intense competition, the number of players who qualified for the next round for PUBG was 240 players, taking only the top 10 teams in each group and a number of 370 players onto the next stage for FIFA20.

England's Ben Stokes named as leading cricketer in the world by Wisden

AFP | London

Ben Stokes has ended Virat Kohli's three-year reign as Wisden's leading cricketer in the world after playing a starring role in England's World Cup win last year.

The 2020 Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, published on Thursday, crowns the swashbuckling all-rounder as the sport's pre-eminent player.

He is the first England player to receive the honour since Andrew Flintoff in 2005.

The 28-year-old won the man-of-the-match award in the World Cup final against New Zealand at Lord's and then produced a remarkable match-winning innings of 135 not out in the third Ashes Test against Australia.

"Ben Stokes pulled off the



England all-rounder Ben Stokes reacts during a match (file photo)

performance of a lifetime -- twice in the space of a few weeks," said Wisden editor Lawrence Booth.

"First, with a mixture of outrageous talent and good fortune, he rescued England's run-chase in the World Cup final, before helping to hit 15 off the super over.

"Then, in the third Ashes Test at Headingley, he produced one of the great innings, smashing an unbeaten 135 to pinch a one-wicket win.

"Against red ball or white, he was a force of nature."

Stokes in January won the International Cricket Council's player of the year award.

England pace bowler Jofra Archer, who bowled the super over in the World Cup final, is among Wisden's five cricketers of the year.

Australians Pat Cummins, Marnus Labuschagne and Ellyse Perry have been named alongside Archer, as well as South Africa-born Essex off-spinner Simon Harmer.

Perry also reclaimed the leading women's cricketer in the world title from India's Smriti Mandhana.



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