

SPORTS  
sports

## Hair today, gone tomorrow - Neymar sends message to fans

Reuters | Sochi, Russia

Neymar's new blonde 'spaghetti' haircut might have got tongues wagging in Russia but the world's most expensive player is hoping his footwork has the same effect when Brazil kicked off their World Cup campaign against Switzerland yesterday.

His on-off romance with a Brazilian soap opera star, his flamboyant social life and his endless new looks and haircuts have kept him in the news, which is exactly where he wants to be when he is not kicking a ball.

But that visibility has come with criticism and his latest haircut, a dyed blonde semi-perm, has provoked hilarity.

While some people suggested he had "dumped a bowl of spaghetti on his head", there were also memes doing the rounds in which he was com-



Brazil's Neymar during training

pared with Ronaldo, whose famous almost skinhead look in 2002 was roundly ridiculed.

Neymar had an Instagram answer for that, posting another video for his detractors.

Taken while he sits back in a salon getting his locks washed, he looks at the camera and uttered only one word: "Shhh..."

## Lorenzo wins second straight MotoGP for Ducati



Ducati Team's Jorge Lorenzo celebrates with a hammer after winning the race

AFP | Montmelo, Spain

Ducati's Jorge Lorenzo powered from pole to claim victory in a second straight race at the Grand Prix of Catalunya on Sunday ahead of championship leader Marc Marquez and Valentino Rossi.

The three-time world MotoGP champion won at Mugello last time out in his first win for Ducati, and celebrated his win at Montmelo wildly after a race in which half the competitors failed to finish.

After seven of the season's 19 races, Lorenzo stands seventh

in overall standings on 66pts, with Marquez atop the pile on 115, followed by Rossi (88) and Maverick Vinales (77).

Lorenzo, who will quit Ducati to join up with Marquez at Honda next season, finished 4.479sec ahead of Marquez, with Rossi at almost 7sec.

Marquez and Suzuki's Italian rider Andrea Iannone briefly passed Lorenzo before the latter regained the lead and led through to the finish line.

"In claiming a second straight victory it's incredible to see how things can change so quickly," said Lorenzo.

## Toyota win Le Mans with Alonso

AFP | Le Mans

Fernando Alonso strung together a series of fast laps through the night to set up his Toyota to retake the lead on his 24 Hours of Le Mans debut just after dawn on Sunday.

The Spaniard put the Toyota No. 8 in position for Japanese co-driver Kazuki Nakajima to overtake stablemates Toyota No. 7, driven by Kamui Kobayashi, at 0620 local time (0420 GMT).

When Alonso took his second turn at the wheel at 0130,

the car was 2min 15sec behind No.7 after the car's third driver, Swiss Sebastien Buemi, had picked up a one-minute "stop and go" penalty for speeding in a temporary slow zone.

When Alonso handed over to Nakajima two and a half hours later, the two-time Formula One champion had closed the gap to 45 seconds, after once again demonstrating extraordinary ability to adapt, following two brilliant overtaking manoeuvres to claim lead during his first stint.

## Federer marks No 1 ranking in Stuttgart

He lifted his 98th tour-level title of his garlanded career

Reuters | Stuttgart

Roger Federer celebrated returning to the top of the world rankings by defeating Milos Raonic in the final of the Stuttgart Open on Sunday and lifting the 98th tour-level title of his garlanded career.

The 36-year-old, who by reaching the final had already guaranteed his return to world No.1, supplanting Rafael Nadal when the new rankings are released on Monday, continued his domination over the Canadian with a 6-4 7-6(3) victory.

Federer's 78-minute win, sealing his first Stuttgart triumph, was the perfect tonic for the Swiss in the build-up to defending his Wimbledon crown, having extended his unbeaten 12-month sequence in grass-court matches to 16.

"It's a great comeback for me," said Federer, who was playing his first tournament after an 11-week break, having sidestepped the entire claycourt season.

"I'm really happy. I thought



Switzerland's Roger Federer celebrates winning the final against Canada's Milos Raonic

it was a good final from my side. I think I played very well throughout the tournament, actually, having not played for a while.

"Maybe I was a little bit better on the bigger points. Of course I'm so happy to have won here, finally, in Stuttgart."

Federer, who beat Raonic en

route to winning Wimbledon last year, broke his opponent's powerful serve just once in the third game -- but that was a major feat in itself as the Canadian had entered the final having won all 41 of his service games.

With his own delivery proving unbreachable -- he dropped serve only twice all week -- it



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ROGER FEDERER

was enough for Federer to claim the first set.

In a decisive tiebreak after no breaks in second set, a double fault from Raonic at 3-4 paved way for Federer to claim 18th grasscourt trophy of his career.

## Chandimal charged with ball-tampering



Dinesh Chandimal

Reuters | Castries, St Lucia

Sri Lanka captain Dinesh Chandimal has been charged with altering the condition of the ball in the second test against West Indies, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said yesterday.

Angry Sri Lankan players refused to take the field on the third day of the match in St Lucia on Saturday, delaying the resumption of play for almost two hours, after the ICC said umpires Aleem Dar and Ian Gould had changed the ball and awarded West Indies five penalty runs.

"Sri Lanka captain Dinesh Chandimal has been charged for breaching Level 2.2.9 of the ICC Code of Conduct," the ICC tweeted.

The breach relates to changing the condition of the ball. The same charge was levelled against Australia batsman Cameron Bancroft who was caught on camera rubbing sandpaper on the ball against South Africa in March.

## Roy joy as England see off Australia again

Reuters | Cardiff, England

Explosive batting from Jason Roy and Jos Buttler helped England record their highest ever ODI score against Australia and fire them to a second successive win by 38 runs at Cardiff.

Roy's fifth ODI century and Buttler's unbeaten 91 propelled England to 342 for eight and although Shaun Marsh replied by also reaching three figures for the first time in an ODI for five years, the visitors were all out for 304 in the 48th over.

Another victory at Nottingham on Tuesday would clinch the five-match series for England and erase the embarrassment of their recent loss to Scotland in their opening white-ball game of the summer.

With captain Eoin Morgan ruled out before the start of play with a back spasm, England needed Roy to come out firing and the opener responded with a century from 97 balls.

His departure, to a sharp catch from Tim Paine moments after the keeper had been cut on the face by a ball that reared up, did not check England's momentum and Buttler took up the charge, finishing the innings with a boundary.

Australia were left to chase what would have been their highest ever ODI winning total. Although debutant D'Arcy Short briefly prospered with



England's Jason Roy and Australia's Marcus Stoinis during the match

## scorecard

**England 342 for 8 (Roy 120, Buttler 91\*) beat Australia 304 (Marsh 131, Plunkett 4-53) by 38 runs**

21, it was not until Marsh was joined by Ashton Agar (46) that he received proper support.

But after the pair put on 96 runs from 70 balls, Agar was smartly stumped off a Adil Rashid googly. Liam Plunkett then put an end to Marsh's superb innings on 131 from 116 deliveries to snuff out any lingering Australian hopes.

Plunkett ended with four wickets.