

# Robinho fires for Brazil

## Mexico in quarterfinals

AGENCIES, undated



Robinho scored a hatrick as Brazil kept their Copa America hopes alive with a 3-0 victory over Chile in Maturin on Sunday evening.

After losing their opening game to Mexico, Dunga's side bounced thanks to the Real Madrid star, but only made sure of the points late in the game.

The Brazilians took the lead after 35 minutes when Miguel Rizzo was adjudged to have fouled Robinho in the box and the striker despatched the resulting penalty past Claudio Bravo despite the goalkeeper's best efforts.

The 52,000-capacity stadium, built in less than one year, was ruled fit to stage the games even though it was clearly not ready.

The area around the arena was a sea of mud strewn with building materials and piles of debris. Inside, dust covered the seats and more debris was piled into corners.

Despite the result, Brazil were far from convincing for most of the game and spared by poor Chilean finishing in the second half.

Brazil struggled to find a way through Chile's packed defence early on and Robinho, apart from a couple of trademark stepovers, saw little of the ball.

Chile wasted opportunities to equalise and were not helped by the fact coach Nelson Acosta was forced to replace injured duo Rodrigo Melendez and Rizzo, while Brazil midfielder Elano was also forced out of the contest.

However, Brazil wrapped up the

game on 83 minutes when Vagner Love fed Robinho and the 23-year-old clinically beat Bravo.

Four minutes later, Robinho eluded three Chile defenders to complete his treble and draw level with Paraguay's Roque Santa Cruz as the tournament's top-scorer.

Both sides finish their Group B campaigns on Wednesday in Puerto La Cruz as Brazil meet Ecuador and Chile play Mexico.

Nery Castillo and Omar Bravo were on target as Mexico qualified for the quarterfinals of the Copa America thanks to a 2-1 win over Ecuador.

After opening their Group B account with an unexpected 2-0 victory over Brazil, Hugo Sanchez's side proved too strong for the Ecuadorians and booked their place in the last eight.

Castillo took advantage of some ordinary defending to open the scoring after 21 minutes with his second of the tournament.

Ecuador went in search of an equaliser but found it hard to break down a determined Mexican rear-guard despite controlling the majority of possession.

And they paid the price 10

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## STANDINGS

Copa America Group B standings after Sunday's matches (Played-won-drawn-lost-goals-for-against-points):

GROUP B									
Team	M	W	D	L	G/F	G/A	Pts		
Mexico	2	2	0	0	4	1	6		
Brazil	2	1	0	1	3	2	3		
Chile	2	1	0	1	3	5	3		
Ecuador	2	0	0	2	3	5	0		



ONE MORE TO COME: Brazil's Robinho spreads his arms to celebrate his second strike against Chile in the Copa America at Maturin on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Federer the exception

AFP, London



Four-time champion Roger Federer could afford to relax and watch the pretenders to his Wimbledon throne play catch-up on Monday as All England Club chiefs hoped for an end to the torrential rain which played havoc with the first week.

Top seed Federer was handed a free pass to the quarter-finals when fourth round opponent Tommy Haas pulled out with a stomach injury.

In stark contrast, second seed Rafael Nadal has yet to play his

third round match after his scheduled clash with Sweden's Robin Soderling was one of the matches which was washed away in Saturday's deluge.

Federer won't play again until Wednesday while the Spaniard, the runner-up to the world number one last year, faces the prospect of three matches in three days.

Women's top seed Justine Henin, who has yet to win a Wimbledon title, opens Centre Court action with a fourth round clash against experienced Swiss Patty Schnyder.

Play on the two main show courts was brought forward by two hours on Monday in an effort to clear the backlog after Saturday's rain -- but the weather frustrated

organisers once more with showers forcing players to kick their heels in the locker rooms for over an hour.

Only two matches were completed in the 75 minutes of action seen on Saturday -- and the wash-out cost tournament organisers an estimated one million pounds (two million dollars) in ticket refunds.

Also in action on Monday are former women's champions Venus and Serena Williams while, in the men's event, 2002 winner Lleyton Hewitt takes on Guillermo Canas in his delayed third round match.

Meanwhile, security was stepped up around Wimbledon in the wake of the attempted car bomb attacks in Glasgow and London.

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PHOTO: AFP

Former captain and French great Zinedine Zidane and food group Danone's chairman Franck Riboud (R) congratulate South Africa's captain after they won the Danone Nations Cup final at the Gerland Stadium in Lyon on Sunday.

# Robben Real-bound

Football

AFP, Madrid

Dutch winger Arjen Robben is to quit Premiership giants Chelsea for Real Madrid, who will shell out 20 million euros (26 million dollars) on the winger, Spanish media said Monday.

"Green light for Robben," trumpeted AS sports daily, quoting chairman Ramon Calderon as saying that "we need a director of the orchestra."

AS said at the weekend that Liga champions Real had struck an agreement in London with Robben's father and agent and were waiting only on Chelsea's acceptance.

Robben is currently in negotiations with Chelsea over a contract extension until 2012 but has not always been in favour of the club's Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho, who AS said has now reconciled himself to the transfer.

AS said Mourinho would replace Robben, 23, with France midfielder Florent Malouda, who is widely expected to quit French champions Lyon.

The newspaper also reported that Real would see off opposition from Barcelona and Inter Milan for AS Roma's Romanian defender Cristian Chivu, quoting agent Victor Becali as saying: "Who wouldn't want to play for Real Madrid. Of course Chivu does."

Saying the transfer was immi-

nent, Becali added Chivu would go to the club "which puts the most money on the table" which would see Real land their man for some 16 million euros.

Real's other major targets as they seek to rebuild in the post-David Beckham era are AC Milan's Brazilian playmaker Kaka and Arsenal's Spanish midfielder Cesc Fabregas.

The club are also building from the top down and were later in the week widely expected to confirm German Bernd Schuster, a former star midfielder with Real as well as Barcelona.

Schuster is fresh from leading modest Getafe to the Spanish Cup final and turning them into a top half of the table Liga outfit.

## DANONE NATIONS CUP Bangladesh win Fair Play trophy

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh won the "Best Fair Play Team" trophy in Danone Nations Cup 2007 which concluded in Lyon, France on Sunday.

The under 12 boys from Chittagong, who made the Bangladesh team, also clinched the 23rd place among 40 participating nations.

South Africa lifted the title defeating hosts France. French great and World Cup winner Zinedine Zidane handed over the champions' trophy after the final.

The Bangladesh kids, who played a total of eight matches, will return home today.

## Police quiz Wiltord

AFP, Lyon

French international striker Sylvain Wiltord was briefly questioned by police on Monday in connection with a road-traffic violation, police said.

The 33-year-old player was detained by Lyon road traffic police, but was later released after being questioned and he returned to the training ground.

A Lyon official told AFP that the player had been caught speeding in his car several times and had failed to respond to police charges.

The L'Equipe website said that several months ago Wiltord was clocked speeding at 135 kilometres an hour in a 50 kilometres an hour traffic zone.

The 33-year-old player has been in dispute with Lyon, the reigning French champions, over disciplinary matters for the last few months and his future at the club had been in doubt.

The former Arsenal striker appeared before a Lyon disciplinary committee on May 14 to answer charges that he had broken club rules.

## Costa joins Wolfsburg

AFP, Berlin

Portuguese international defender Ricardo Costa has moved to Bundesliga club VfL Wolfsburg from FC Porto in a transfer worth four million euros (5.4 million dollars), the German club confirmed on Monday.

The 26-year-old will sign a three-year deal this week.

Wolfsburg's new coach Felix Magath said: "I am very happy that we have got this player. He will strengthen the team."

Costa, a member of Portugal's 2006 World Cup squad, has been signed to fill the hole left by the

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# Venus's date with Maria

AFP, London



Triple champion Venus Williams set up a potentially explosive Wimbledon fourth round showdown with Maria Sharapova on Monday as women's tennis unveiled a new teenage talent.

Former triple champion Williams won the last four games of her third round clash with Akiko Morigami of Japan to move into the fourth round with a 6-2, 3-6, 7-5 win.

But the American had to battle hard on the dreaded Court Two.

Morigami, who converted just four of 23 break points, had the chance to serve out the match in the eighth game of the final set in a tie which had been suspended from Saturday because of the rain.

Williams's clash with Sharapova will be a repeat of their 2005 semi-final when the American relieved the defending champion of her title.

By the time the 23rd seed had wrapped up her third round encounter, top seed Justine Henin was already back in the locker room having secured her

quarterfinal place by brushing aside Switzerland's Patty Schnyder 6-2, 6-2.

The world number one, bidding to win the only Grand Slam title to have eluded her, will face either Serena Williams or Daniela Hantuchova for a place in the semifinals.

"I was surprised the match was so quick," said Henin after her 56-minute Centre Court outing.

"They were very tough conditions with the wind in the court. But I am doing my job perfectly and I concentrate on fighting hard for every point."

Austria's 16-year-old Tamira Paszek shocked Russian 12th seed Elena Dementieva, a quarterfinalist last year, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, to reach the fourth round on her Wimbledon debut.

The teenager had lost the first set when play was halted on Saturday.

Paszek, coached by Larri Passos who took Gustavo Kuerten to three French Open titles, now faces former US Open winner Svetlana Kuznetsova for a place in the last eight.

Fifth seed Kuznetsova saw off Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-2, 6-3 and Czech 14th seed Nicole Pietrangeli defeated Victoria

Azarenka of Belarus 6-4, 6-2.

Vaidisova meets defending champion Amelie Mauresmo for a quarterfinal spot while Russian 11th seed Nadia Petrova, who saw off Spain's Virginia Ruano-Pascual 6-3, 7-6 (7/3), goes on to face French Open finalist Ana Ivanovic.

The Serbian sixth seed made sure of her place in the last 16 by beating Aravane Rezai of France 6-3, 6-2.

Serena Williams was 1-1 with Hantuchova in the first set of their fourth round tie when heavy rain, which has plagued the championships, returned to send the players off court.

Later Monday, if the rain relents, Serbian third seed Jelena Jankovic faces France's Marion Bartoli in the fourth round with the winner to face either Michaela Krajicek or Laura Granville for a semifinal place.

Meanwhile, security was stepped up around Wimbledon in the wake of the attempted car bomb attacks in Glasgow and London with even the players unable to drive into the grounds.

A police helicopter hovered above the venue in south-west London while all entrances were protected by a series of vehicle-blocking concrete slabs to foil similar attacks.



American Venus Williams is ecstatic after defeating Akiko Morigami of Japan in the fourth round of the Wimbledon Championships in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Money doesn't lure Tamira

AFP, London

Sixteen-year-old Tamira Paszek marked her debut Wimbledon on Monday by reaching the fourth round but insisted that the 100,000 dollars she has already pocketed means nothing.

Paszek stunned Russian 12th seed Elena Dementieva 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 to set up a quarterfinal clash with another Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova and guarantee the biggest pay cheque of her young career.

"I don't play for the money," said the Austrian girl with a Tanzanian-born father and Chilean-born mother.

"I'm 16. I play for the love of the game. It's so much fun for me. I have enough time to make money. I need to develop my game and keep working hard on myself. If that improves, the money will be there later on."

Paszek, the world number 54, is getting used to causing shocks.

When she won the 2006 Portoroz tournament, she became the seventh youngest champion of all time and the lowest-ranked champion at 259.

In the run-up to the Wimbledon, she pushed former champion Maria Sharapova to three sets in the Birmingham event to give Dementieva notice of her ability.

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# Arsenal sign Da Silva

AFP, London

Arsenal have signed striker Eduardo da Silva on a four-year deal from Croatian side Dinamo Zagreb to boost their strike-force following the transfer of Thierry Henry to Real Madrid.

The fee was believed to be around six million pounds (8.8 million euros).

The 24-year-old was born in Brazil, but having moved to Europe at the age of 15, he took Croatian nationality in 2002.

Da Silva scored the first competitive goal at Emirates Stadium when the Gunners beat Dinamo during last season's Champions League third qualifying round in late August.

He has also scored seven goals in 12 appearances for Croatia - including one against England during the 2-0 Euro 2008 qualifier victory in Zagreb last October.

Manager Arsene Wenger had been keen to recruit a proven goalscorer, with Newcastle duo Obafemi Martins and Michael Owen reported to be on his shopping list.

However, the Gunners boss is now likely to turn his attentions to defensive cover following the signing of da Silva, who finished the Croatian season as their top scorer with a record 34 goals.