



USA striker Jozy Altidore performs a ritual dance to celebrate his all-important goal against Guadeloupe at LiveStrong Sporting Park in Kansas on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

USA in last 8

Football

AFP, Kansas City

Jozy Altidore scored the lone goal in a 1-0 victory over Guadeloupe on Tuesday as the United States seized the last quarterfinal berth on offer in the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

The United States advance as the runners-up in Group C behind Panama, who sealed their group win with a 1-1 draw over Canada.

That result also insured that Group A's El Salvador would advance as one of the top two third-placed teams.

The Americans, whose shock loss to Panama had put them in a precarious position, gained some breathing room when Altidore buried a driving shot from 25 meters in the ninth minute.

The defeat was the third in a row for Guadeloupe, surprising semi-finalists four years ago.

Earlier at Sporting Park, Luis Tejada scored in a goalmouth scramble in the first minute of injury time to give Panama their 1-1 draw.

After Anibal Godoy's attempt was blocked, Canadian keeper Milan Borjan couldn't get the ball cleared from in front of the goal and Tejada was able to nudge it across the line.

Canada's Dwayne De Rosario had converted his second penalty in as many games in the 62nd minute to give Canada the lead.

The Canadians, knowing they needed a victory to guarantee a quarter-finals berth, pressed hard from the start.

They failed to convert several chances but got an opportunity from the spot when De Rosario was fouled in the penalty area by Eybir Bonaga.

DeRosario induced Panamanian keeper Luis Mejia to go the wrong way and powered a low shot into the left corner of the net.

The quarterfinals of the tournament, which is the regional championship for North and Central America and the Caribbean, will be held next weekend.

On Saturday at New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, defending champions and Group A winners Mexico will take on Guatemala and Costa Rica face Honduras.

Mexico are trying to repeat despite a squad reduced to 17 after the national federation withdrew five players who tested positive for the banned substance clenbuterol during a pre-tournament training camp in May.

Football turns into mass riot

AFP, Dushanbe

At least 12 people were injured when Tajik football fans clashed and wreaked havoc in the southeast of the country following a match, Tajikistan's interior ministry said Wednesday.

"Twelve people were wounded, and 20 more of the most active hooligans have been detained," ministry spokesman Makhmadullo Asadulloev told AFP after the disturbances in the town of Kulyab following a match Tuesday evening between local team Ravshan and Istiklol, a team from capital Dushanbe.

Fans of the two clubs "clashed in fist fights" after the local team lost 1-0 to Istiklol, where Rustami Emomali, the eldest son of Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, plays as a striker. It was not clear if he was involved in this game.

Gullit's honeymoon over

Football

AFP, Moscow

Dutch legend Ruud Gullit was returning home on Wednesday after his "adventure" as manager of the top Chechnya club came to a dramatic end amid humiliating defeat and accusations of a playboy lifestyle.

Terek Grozny offered Gullit the paltry consolation of coaching their youth side after he was ruthlessly sacked as manager following an ignominious 1-0 defeat with a 90th-minute goal against unfancied Urals minors Perm in the Russian Premier League.

The sacking was personally ordered by Chechnya's leader Ramzan Kadyrov, a former rebel turned Kremlin loyalist and strict Muslim, who had rebuked Gullit for showing too much interest in nightclubs and drinking.

Kadyrov, who keeps a private zoo of wild cats and personally takes part in operations to eliminate Islamic militants, had issued Gullit with an astonishing ultimatum to either win the match or be sacked immediately.

Looking resigned to his fate, Gullit said in his televised post-match news conference that he had "already said goodbye to the team before the match as I knew I would be fired even if we won".

Terek midfielder Andrei Kobenko declined to give his views on Gullit's sacking but expressed sympathy for the manager, whom he described as a "good and decent person who understood everyone".

Chechnya Sports Minister Haidar Alkhanov told the Sovetsky Sport daily that Gullit would now be offered "work with the youth team". But Gullit showed no interest in taking up the offer.

Asked about Gullit's severance package, Alkhanov said: "We are going to discuss all these questions. Don't worry about Gullit's finances. We always behave decently in such situations."

Gullit himself made clear he had no intention of staying with Grozny to coach Chechen youths, quoted in the Dutch daily De Telegraaf as saying he was "so tired that now I just want to relax".

With mild understatement he added: "Obviously this was not good for my CV. But on the other hand it has been an adventure."

In comments to Russian television overnight Kadyrov again lashed out at Gullit's apparent discomfort with Chechnya's Islamic customs, saying that "some people don't like that we have no discotheques, bars and drunkenness".

Chelsea set to name coach

AFP, Kuala Lumpur



Chelsea's chief executive said on Wednesday the English Premier League club would name a new coach within two weeks and was looking to buy at least two players ahead of the new season.

Ron Gourlay said the team were close to announcing a new manager following the sacking of Carlo Ancelotti after the club's poor performance last season.

"The process is moving along very well... We would look to have a new coach in place maybe within a week, two weeks," Gourlay told reporters in Kuala Lumpur.

"We are certainly working to a week, two weeks. But it could be sooner," he said.

Blues captain John Terry has backed former Chelsea striker Mark Hughes or Turkey coach Guus Hiddink to take charge at Stamford Bridge.

But Gourlay, in Kuala Lumpur to launch a football training programme ahead of the Blues' visit next month, would not reveal who was in the running.

He said the squad, including a new manager and several more new players, would be unveiled when the Blues play their friendly against Malaysia's national side on July 21.

"I'm delighted to tell you that we will bring our full squad," Gourlay said, but remained

equally tight-lipped on the club's transfer targets.

"I think we are looking at probably two to three players minimum coming into this side," he said.

"It's just making sure we can get the right players available who can strengthen the team. Because we are a very, very strong team," he said. "We are in good shape. There is not too much meddling with the team to be done."

On speculation that the team could let go of Didier Drogba, Gourlay said as far as he knew the Ivorian would be staying.

"Didier is very much a mainstay of the Chelsea team so yes, Didier will be here with us in a few weeks' time," he said.

SPORTS POLL
WEEKLY QUESTION
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Third Test, Day 1
Live from 4:00
TEN Cricket
West Indies v India
Fifth ODI
Live from 8:00pm
ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News

DAY'S EVENT
Bangladesh League
Mohammedan v Sk Jamal
Dhanmondi Club
Time: 4:15pm
Venue: Bangabandhu

Maradona sues Chinese firms

Football

AFP, Beijing

Argentine football icon Diego Maradona is suing popular Chinese web portal Sina and an Internet company for using his name and image to promote an online game, state media said Wednesday.

Maradona is seeking 20 million yuan (\$3 million) in compensation from Sina and The9 Limited which designed the game "Winning Goal", the Global Times quoted an official from the Beijing No. 1 Intermediate Court as saying.

"The case was accepted yesterday (Monday)," said Chen Shi, a spokesman for the court.

Officials at the court in the Chinese capital would not respond to AFP requests for comment and calls to The9 went unanswered.

A Sina spokeswoman who declined to be named said the matter "is a legal procedure. We cannot comment."

The9 and Sina launched the game last June claiming Maradona was a celebrity spokesman, the report said.

But Maradona says he never gave permission to the Chinese companies to use his image, the official Xinhua news agency said earlier this month, citing a statement from the football legend.

The9 apologised and said they had been tricked by a Chinese football agent who told them Maradona had signed an endorsement contract, Xinhua said.

"I do not accept the apology from The9 Limited, and I will continue to protect my legitimate interests through legal procedures," Maradona said in the statement.

Maradona is extremely popular among China's legions of football fans, with state media hailing the World Cup-winning former captain the "King of Football" during a visit to Beijing last November.

Fabregas undecided on Barca move

AFP, Madrid

Arsenal skipper Cesc Fabregas avoided discussing speculation over his possible return to Barcelona when he attended a ceremony in Madrid Wednesday, insisting he remains "an Arsenal player".

"If sometime I have to move from Arsenal I will say so when it happens, without disrespecting the club that has given me so much, but right now I'm an Arsenal player and I'm very happy there," Fabregas said during the presentation of some perfumes in Madrid.

"I'm very happy to be where I am, otherwise it would mislead people and lead to speculation," he said, but admitted he was unhappy at Arsenal's lack of silverware in recent years.

"Yes, I'm frustrated at not winning titles, I've always wanted to win and not winning always hurts more when you've given so much."

Spanish media has said recently that Gunners coach Arsene Wenger has abandoned efforts to hold on to Fabregas who could be set for a return to Spanish giants Barcelona.

নদী রক্ষার আহ্বান

অবেধ দখলদার এবং বিষাক্ত বর্জ্যে ঢাকার চারিদিকের বুড়িগঙ্গা, শীতলক্ষ্যা, তুরাগ ও বালু নদী মৃত প্রায়।
নদীগুলোর প্রাণ ফিরিয়ে এনে নির্মল ঢাকা গড়তে আপনার নাগরিক দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

আর নয় বিষাক্ত নদী

নদীতে

- অবেধ স্থাপনা নির্মাণ করবেন না
- পলিথিন বা বর্জ্য ফেলবেন না
- দৈনন্দিন গৃহস্থালি বর্জ্য ফেলবেন না
- হাসপাতাল, ট্যানারী বা শিল্প বর্জ্য ফেলবেন না
- সুয়েরেজ সংযোগ দিবেন না
- মল-মূত্র ত্যাগ করবেন না
- মৌষানে ব্যবহৃত পোড়া তেল ফেলবেন না
- মাটি বা বালু দিয়ে ভরাট করবেন না
- স্বাভাবিক গতি প্রবাহ বাধাগ্রস্ত হয় এমন কাজ করবেন না

চাই স্বপ্নের নির্মল নদী

মনে রাখবেন,
নদী দখল এবং দূষণ
করা পোর্ট রুলস-১৯৬৬ এবং
বাংলাদেশ পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ
আইন-১৯৯৫ অনুযায়ী
শাস্তিবোধ্য অপরাধ।

জন সচেতনতায় : **বিআইডব্লিউটিএ**

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