



Uruguay midfielder Alvaro Pereira takes a flight into ecstasy after scoring the all-important goal against Mexico during their Copa America encounter at the Ciudad de La Plata Stadium on Tuesday.

PHOTO:
AFP

Chile pip Peru

It's Uruguay v Argentina

AFP, Buenos Aires



Chile took neighbourly bragging rights on Tuesday at the Copa America, winning their Pacifico clasico with Peru to top Group C while Uruguay edged Mexico to book a quarterfinal with hosts Argentina.

Four-time finalists Chile have been playing some of the best football at the championship and deservedly saw off two-time champions Peru - though it took an injury-time own goal from Peruvian defender Andre Carrillo to settle the encounter at Mendoza.

Both sides went into the game with the pressure largely off as they had garnered four points from their opening two games to guarantee further progress.

A flare-up between Jean Beausejour of Chile and Peru's Giancarlo Carmona proved a low point, both men sent off on the hour by Brazilian referee Salvo Fagundes - to the fury of Peru coach Sergio Markarian, who contested the wisdom of Fagundes.

Beausejour apologised to his teammates afterwards. "I am sorry. There is no justification for what I did," said Beausejour after starting the set-to which saw him and Carmona head for an early bath.

Uruguay meanwhile snapped out of their insipid early tournament form with Alvaro Pereira netting on the quarter-hour against the Mexicans at La Plata following an error by Mexico keeper Luis Michel.

Veteran Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan ran the show, having a hand in the goal while winning a record-equalling 79th cap for his country to go level with former keeper Rodolfo Rodriguez.

Another two goals and Forlan, whose last strike in sky blue came in the World Cup third-place play-off loss to Germany a year ago, will also share the national scoring record with Hector Scarone, who netted 31 times between 1920 and 1930.

Saturday's quarterfinal against the renaissance, Lionel Messi-inspired Argentinians, will be eagerly anticipated as both the hosts and the Uruguayans have won a joint record 14 continental titles.

The celeste also are the only team in 95 years of the tournament to deny Argentina victory on the home front - Argentina have won six out of eight events they have hosted but came a cropper to their near neighbours on the other two occasions, back in 1916 and 1987.

City reject Tevez offer

Football

AFP, London

Carlos Tevez's agent says a move for the striker to join Brazilian club Corinthians from English Premier League side Manchester City "will not be simple".

Last week Argentina forward Tevez, currently playing for his country in the Copa America, confirmed one of the worst-kept secrets in football when he said he had to leave England in order to be closer to his children, despite leading City to FA Cup glory and Champions League qualification last season.

Tevez, 27, arrived in English football at West Ham from Corinthians in August 2006 and the Brazilian side are reported to have tabled a £40 million (\$63.57 million) offer for their former player on Monday.

Selling Tevez to Corinthians would enable City to offload him to a club with

whom they are not in direct competition, either domestically or in Europe, whilst allowing the player to be nearer his daughters, who live with his estranged partner in Buenos Aires.

But both Britain's Press Association and Sky Sports reported Tuesday that City had rejected the offer, although there was no confirmation from the club.

Earlier, Kia Joorabchian, Tevez's agent, told Sky Sports: "It is a big deal and a tough deal, because it is one of a very big nature and it might not be simple."

"We wait to see. First and foremost we have to respect that City have to make a formal answer."

"If they do accept, then everyone will be running to make it happen. If they don't we will have to see what other options would be available for him."

Tevez, in an interview last week, spoke of his fondness for City and insisted his desire to move had been

fuelled solely by his personal circumstances.

"He did mention that he has a lot of respect for City, the fans and the owners," said Joorabchian.

"But unfortunately his wife and daughters have not been able to adapt."

"They have lived in Manchester for just over four years and last year they found it very hard."

"In fact, they returned back to Argentina and the commute and the situation was very difficult for Carlos from a family and personal perspective."

"I think he decided that he would like to move somewhere where his wife and two daughters would move with him, and where they would find it easier to adapt, whether that was in Europe or somewhere else."

"Now with Corinthians coming in with this offer, it is a very attractive proposition for the family."

Goalie scores directly

Football

AP, Santa Clara

Rookie goalkeeper David Bingham scored from more than 90 yards out in his professional debut to help the San Jose Earthquakes beat West Bromwich Albion 2-1 in an exhibition match Tuesday.

Bingham scored after corraling an errant through pass from West Brom. The 21-year-old goalkeeper stepped up and unleashed a punt from the top of his own penalty box in the third minute.

The ball took one large bounce over the head of new West Brom goalkeeper Boaz Myhill, who was starting directly into a setting sun at Buck Shaw Stadium without the benefit of a hat, and bounced once more before nestling in the open net.



DAVID BINGHAM

Sandro pulls out of Copa

AFP, Campana

Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Sandro pulled out of Brazil's Copa America squad on Tuesday after picking up a knee injury that will leave him on the sidelines for at least a month.

The Selecao team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar announced the news after tests on Monday confirmed that the 22-year-old had ruptured the meniscus in his left knee.

Sandro played no part in either of Brazil's first two games in Group B, in which Mano Menezes' side were held to a goalless draw by Venezuela, before scraping a point in a 2-2 draw with Paraguay.

'Zidane has lot to learn'

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho has insisted that the Spanish giants' new director of football Zinedine Zidane "has a lot to offer, but still has a lot to learn".

Mourinho was speaking shortly after Madrid's arrival in Los Angeles at the start of their US tour.

"I like that he is working with us and that he personally decided to change his life and be part of this project," said the Portuguese coach in an interview with Real Madrid TV.

"He believes in this and thinks he can help. He has a lot to offer, but he also has much to learn."

"It is one thing to be the best player in the world for many years and another to be director of football of the first team at a club as important as Real Madrid."

"His intelligence, calm nature and the fact that he is completely open to communication make him a welcome addition to this group, in which everyone is excited to work together."

Zidane, who arrived in LA with Mourinho and the squad, replaces Jorge Valdano as director of football.

Barton denied US visa

Football

AFP, London

Joey Barton's criminal past came back to haunt him when the Newcastle midfielder was denied a US visa, meaning he will miss his club's pre-season Stateside trip.

The 28-year-old, who was given a six-month jail sentence after admitting assault and affray in 2008, has been denied the necessary permission to travel with the rest of the first-team Magpies' squad when they leave on Sunday.

Newcastle said that Barton will instead link up with Peter Beardsley's reserves when they head for Holland on July 20.

Barton said in a statement on Newcastle's official website: "Unfortunately, I was denied my visa due to my past."

"I regret not being able to travel with the club on this trip, but at the same time, I don't expect to be treated any differently or more favourably than anyone else in a similar situation."

"All I can do is continue to improve as a person, which is what I intend to do."

"Again, apologies to all the NUFC supporters - as well as the fast growing legions of football supporters in the United States who I was looking forward to meeting. I will see you in the future."

On his Twitter account, Barton described the US Embassy's decision to deny him an entry visa as "hypocrisy". "Visa story is correct; they told me am not allowed in until I have 5yrs without any trouble. 3yrs down, 2yrs to go..."

Forlan equals caps mark

AFP, La Plata

Veteran striker Diego Forlan on Tuesday won his 79th cap, equalling a Uruguayan record held by former keeper Rodolfo Rodriguez, as he ran out to face Mexico at the Copa America.

The former Manchester United player made his debut for the Charruas in 2002 in a pre-World Cup friendly against Saudi Arabia.

He went on to make an appearance in the 2002 finals before appearing in all seven of his country's matches at last summer's tournament in South Africa.

Rodriguez, who played his club football for Nacional of Montevideo and Brazilian giants Santos, won his caps between 1976 and 1986.

Forlan, 32, hopes to add at least one cap and also wants to bag two more goals which would take him level with all-time Uruguayan top scorer Hector Scarone.

Scarone netted 31 between 1920 and 1930 and who was an Olympic and world champion.

SPORTS POLL
WEEKLY QUESTION
Which Copa America team has impressed you the most?
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DAY'S EVENT
Super Cup
Muktijoddha v Sk Russel
Time: 4:00pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium