

Soccer-cides

May 1964 - PERU - In one of the worst ever soccer disasters, more than 300 fans died and 500 were injured in a riot during an Olympic qualifying match in Lima.

Jan. 1971 - BRITAIN - Sixty-six people died in a crush at Ibrox stadium in Glasgow as they were leaving a match between Rangers and Celtic.

Oct. 1982 - RUSSIA - Fans were crushed as they left a UEFA Cup tie between Moscow Spartak and Dutch side HFC Haarlem at the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow. Officials from the former Soviet Union did not disclose

the tragedy for years. When they did, the authorities gave an official death toll of 66 although the number who died could have been as high as 340.

May 1985 - BRITAIN - At least 56 people were killed and more than 200 injured when fire broke out in the stands at Bradford.

May 1985 - BELGIUM - Thirty-nine fans, mostly Italians, died in rioting before the European Cup Final between Italy's Juventus and English club Liverpool at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels.

March 1988 - NEPAL - A stampede

towards locked exits in a hailstorm at the stadium in Kathmandu killed more than 90 fans.

April 1989 - BRITAIN - Ninety-six people were killed and at least 200 injured in Britain's worst sports disaster after a crowd surge crushed packed fans against barriers at the English F.A. Cup semifinal match between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest at the Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield.

Oct. 1996 - GUATEMALA - Up to 82 people died when an avalanche of fans tumbled down seats and stairs at

a World Cup qualifying match between Guatemala and Costa Rica in Guatemala City.

April 2001 - SOUTH AFRICA - At least 43 people were crushed to death when fans tried to force their way into Johannesburg's top Ellis Park stadium during a huge South African league match.

May 2001 - GHANA - Around 126 people were killed in a stampede at Accra's main soccer stadium when police fired teargas at rioting fans.

Feb. 2012 - EGYPT - Fans rioted at the end of a match in Port Said when



(Above) Players of Al-Ahly Club run for safety after pandemonium erupted following their league match against home team Al-Masry at a soccer stadium in Port Said in Egypt on Wednesday. (Top) Police look on as angry fans set part of the stands afire with flairs in one of the deadliest violence in soccer history that left at least 74 people killed. (Inset) People gather around a train at Ramses metro station in Cairo as they wait for the arrival of those wounded during clashes in the stadium.

PHOTOS: REUTERS

EFF dissolved, Al-Ahly coach returns home

Football

AGENCIES, Cairo

Egypt's prime minister has dissolved the Egyptian Football Federation's board and referred its members for questioning by prosecutors after post-match clashes that left at least 74 people dead.

The Prime Minister Kamal el-Ganzouri announced the decision during Thursday's emergency parliamentary session, a day after a match between Al-Ahly and Al-Masry in Port Said had devastating consequences. It was the worst case of soccer violence in Egypt and the deadliest worldwide since 1996.

El-Ganzouri also says the governor of Port Said province and the area's police chief have resigned. Witnesses have claimed that riot police stood by as supporters of home team Al-Masry rushed

the field after their 3-1 win over Al-Ahly.

The Al-Ahly coach Manuel Jose, meanwhile, has returned to Portugal to consider his future.

"I was beaten with fists and kicks to the neck, head and feet. [In the dressing room] I saw our fans die before us and we were unable to do anything. Nothing happened to any of the players but we feel overwhelming sadness and the return flight was made in silence, full of respect for the lives of our fans who died.

"I have to think about my life differently now. Although everybody loves me greatly here, this experience has changed my life completely."

His assistant, Pedro Barny, said: "What happened was an unspeakable catastrophe. From the beginning of the game, the fans of the opposing team were allowed to fire rockets and stones at us without any intervention."

Ghana, Mali in last 8

AFP, Libreville

Ghana and Mali completed the quarterfinal cast list as the first round at the Africa Cup of Nations concluded in a tense climax on Wednesday.

Ghana's 100th Nations Cup goal earned the Black Stars a 1-1 draw with Guinea up in Franceville while in the Gabonese capital Mali progressed with a 2-1 win over Botswana.

The permutations were plentiful before the start of play on day 12 with all four Group D teams sporting various degrees of chance to qualify, even pointless Botswana.

As group winners Ghana stay in Franceville to take on Tunisia, while Mali remain in Libreville to try and derail co-hosts Gabon - both matches scheduled for Sunday.

Valencia hold Barca

REUTERS, Madrid

Lionel Messi had a penalty saved early in the second half as Barcelona were held to a 1-1 draw at Valencia in a hard-fought King's Cup semifinal first leg on Wednesday.

Valencia snatched a 27th-minute lead at their Mestalla stadium when Jeremy Mathieu found space down the left wing and Jonas clipped the Frenchman's low cross high into the net past goalkeeper Jose Manuel Pinto.

Barca captain Carles Puyol equalised 10 minutes before the break when he met a deep Cesc Fabregas corner and nodded past Diego Alves, who had come out to collect the ball but watched it sail over his head.

Alves, who has an impressive record saving spot kicks, made amends 11 minutes into the second half when he flung himself to his left and parried away Messi's penalty, awarded after Miguel felled Thiago Alcantara in the area.

Barca substitute Daniel Alves smashed a shot against the post after a brilliant one-two with Messi around 15 minutes from time.

Milito 4 Palermo 4

AFP, Rome



AC Milan handed Juventus the advantage in the Serie A title race as they lost 2-0 at Lazio on Wednesday, with Inter Milan held to a draw in an eight-goal thriller against Palermo.

Milan trail Juve by a point at the top but the Old Lady of Turin have a game in hand after their match at Parma on Tuesday night was called off due to snow.

Third-placed Udinese closed the gap to the leaders to three points with a 2-1 win at home to Lecce while fourth-placed Lazio are now just two points behind that.

It was a game of little action and few chances in the capital but Milan came closest to scoring in a tight first period.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic sent over a whipped cross that found Antonio Nocerino breaking from deep but his header from 12 yards was brilliantly saved by Federico Marchetti.

Milan opened up their hosts when young forward Stephan El Shaarawy played a one-two with Ibrahimovic but was then perhaps guilty of being too honest as he took the ball around Marchetti.

But 14 minutes from time Tommaso Rocchi's clever dummy put Hernanes in and he hooked his shot across the Milan goalkeeper.

Rocchi then made the points safe five

minutes from time as he clipped home a cross from Senad Lulic.

Diego Milito scored all four Inter goals at the San Siro but Fabrizio Miccoli bagged a hat-trick for the visitors to earn a point.

On a snow-covered pitch that made viewing the ball difficult, Palermo took the lead when Miccoli's corner somehow found its way to the back post where Andrea Mantovani slid in to poke home two yards out.

But a deep ball into the box from Maicon caused havoc in the Palermo backline and the ball fell to Milito to shoot home.

Miccoli restored Palermo's lead with a left-foot shot but Ezequiel Munoz then brought down Yuto Nagatomo in the box and Milito despatched the resulting penalty.

Milito shot home from six yards to complete his hat-trick and put Inter in front for the first time just past the hour mark.

But Federico Balzaretti's driven cross from the left was met with a diving header by Miccoli, who nipped in front of Nagatomo to restore parity again.

Milito again put the hosts in front with his fourth from close range as Giampaolo Pazzini's scuffed effort from Javier Zanetti's cross fell kindly to him.

But Josip Ilcic slipped in Miccoli to complete his treble with a cross-shot that beat Julio Cesar.

RESULTS

Cagliari 4 (Thiago Ribeiro 6, 48, Pinilla 41, Ekdal 90) Roma 2 (Juan 13, Borini 34)
Inter Milan 4 (Milito 22, 55-pen, 61, 69) Palermo 4 (Mantovani 17, Miccoli 52, 66, 85)
Lazio 2 (Hernanes 76, Rocchi 85) AC Milan 0
Udinese 2 (Pazienza 2, Di Natale 36) Lecce 1 (Di Michele 26)

Arsenal struggle

AFP, London



Newcastle moved up into fifth place in the English Premier League with a 2-0 win away to strugglers Blackburn Rovers on Wednesday as Arsenal lost ground in their bid for a top four finish.

Victory at Ewood Park saw the Magpies leapfrog both Liverpool and Arsenal, held to a goalless draw away to strugglers Bolton Wanderers on Wednesday.

Newcastle took a 12th minute lead when Blackburn's Scott Dann deflected a 25-yard shot from Ryan Taylor past stranded Rovers goalkeeper Paul Robinson.

Blackburn, who remain in the bottom three, had a gilt-edged chance to equalise before the break but David Dunn's penalty was saved by Tim Krul and the Newcastle keeper blocked Gael Givet's follow-up.

Rovers' failure to convert several second half chances was compounded when Gabriel Obertan made it 2-0 to Newcastle in the closing seconds.

At the Reebok Stadium, visitors Arsenal dominated possession but, with star striker Robin van Persie off-target, dropped down into seventh place.

Sunderland's revival under Martin O'Neill continued as they beat promoted Norwich 3-0 with a convincing victory at the

Stadium of Light that took the north-east side into eighth spot.

Frazier Campbell smashed home a 21st minute opener and seven minutes later he provided the cross for Stephane Sessegnon to head in the home side's second.

Sunderland's sixth win in nine league matches under O'Neill was completed when Norwich defender Daniel Ayala deflected in a Phil Bardsley cross in the 54th minute.

Elsewhere Djibril Cisse marked his return to English football by scoring on his Queens Park Rangers debut in a 2-2 draw away to Aston Villa.

The 30-year-old French striker, thrust into the side a day after completing a transfer deadline day move from Italian side Lazio on Tuesday, took just 12 minutes to open his Rangers account.

Cisse, who had previous spells in England with Liverpool and Sunderland, struck a fierce shot past Shay Given before celebrating with a somersault.

Rangers went 2-0 up when Villa defender Stephen Warnock headed a cross from Taye Taiwo into his own net in the 29th minute when under no pressure at all.

But Villa pulled one back on half-time when striker Darren Bent turned in an Alan Hutton cross for his 100th Premier League goal.

And the resurgent hosts equalised 11 minutes from time when Charles N'Zogbia volleyed in a Stiliyan Petrov cross.

RESULTS

Aston Villa 2 (Bent 45, N'Zogbia 79) QPR 2 (Cisse 12, Warnock 29-og)
Blackburn 0 Newcastle 2 (Dann 12-og, Obertan 90)
Bolton 0 Arsenal 0
Fullham 1 (Dempsey 69) West Brom 1 (Tchoyi 82)
Sunderland 3 (Campbell 21,

SPORTS POLL

WEEKLY QUESTION

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STAR Cricket

Australia v India

Second Twenty20

Live from 2:35pm

TEN Cricket

England v Pakistan

Third Test, Day 1



Premier League

Sk Russel v Soccer Club Feni

Time: 3:15pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National