

## Bendtner punished

AFP, Warsaw

Denmark's Nicklas Bendtner was on Monday banned for one match and fined 100,000 euros (80,000 pounds \$126,000) for flashing the sponsored waistband of his underpants while celebrating a goal during Euro 2012, UEFA said.

European football's governing body said that its Control and Disciplinary Body had decided to imposed the fine and suspend the Sunderland player for "one competitive fixture" after the celebration during last Wednesday's match against Portugal.

"This suspension applies to the next 2014 FIFA World Cup match, including the qualifying competition, for which Bendtner is eligible," a statement said on the UEFA website.

Bendtner has three days from the written receipt of the sanction to appeal.

UEFA last week announced disciplinary proceedings against the player for "improper conduct (Law 4 of the Laws of the Game)" during the Group B game in Lviv, Ukraine, that Denmark lost 3-2.

Law 4, which covers "The players' equipment" states: "Players must not reveal undershirts which contain slogans or advertising. A player removing his jersey to reveal slogans will be sanctioned by the competition organiser."

Article 18.18 of the "Regulations of the UEFA European Football Championship 2010-12" also states: "All kit items worn during the final tournament must be free of any sponsor advertising."

The waistband of Bendtner's green and white underwear had the name of a Dublin-based online betting firm. The company, Paddy Power, said on its website that they were "lucky pants".

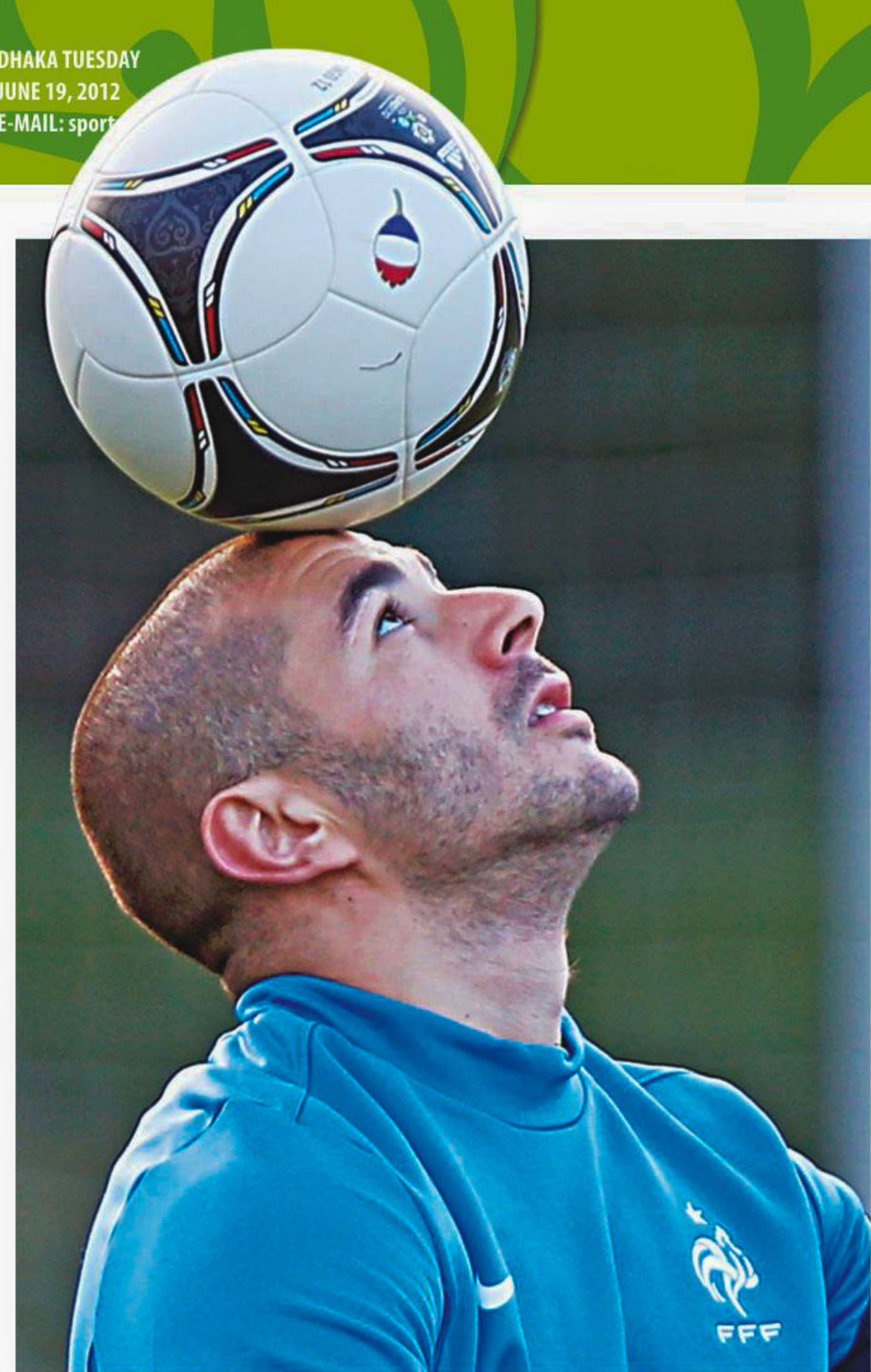


PHOTO: REUTERS

France striker Karim Benzema balances the ball on his head during a training session in Kircha on Saturday ahead of their Euro 2012 Group D clash against Sweden.

## Dilemma for France



FRANCE  
8 WINS

HEAD TO HEAD

Played: 17  
Draws 5



SWEDEN  
4 WINS

REUTERS, Kiev

France face a dilemma ahead of a game they can afford to lose when they take on eliminated Sweden in their final Euro 2012 Group D match on Tuesday.

They may have to decide whether they want to top the group and avoid a potential quarterfinal against world champions Spain or would prefer to finish second and stay in the comfort and familiarity of their Donetsk base.

Coach Laurent Blanc may also ponder resting his three players who have been booked in the tournament but he was adamant Les Bleus will try to win the game, even though a one-goal defeat could still see them through.

"It is always difficult to play against Sweden and we will prepare to win it," he told reporters.

The balance, however, is difficult to find. France train at the excellent facilities used by Shakhtar Donetsk and it has been proving beneficial.

"It is the ideal structure. We never experienced this before. Everything is available on site and it helps us gain a lot of time," said Francois Darras, one of three France physiotherapists.

If France finish top of the group they would need to travel to Kiev from Donetsk early on the day before the quarterfinal, losing precious recuperation time.

France, who snatched their first win in a major championship since 2006 when they beat co-hosts Ukraine 2-0 in their last

match, would head the standings if they beat Sweden and England defeated Ukraine without making up an inferior goal difference.

They have four points like England, with Ukraine in third place on three and Sweden on none.

A draw in both games would put France and England through with Les Bleus top on goal difference.

With the scenarios favouring France, Blanc could be tempted to rest players or spare those who have been booked.

Centre back Philippe Mexes, right back Mathieu Debuchy and winger Jeremy Menez will miss out on a potential quarterfinal appearance if they pick up another yellow card on Tuesday.

Mexes is unlikely to be left out because Blanc will not want to break up his solid partnership with Adil Rami.

Utility back Anthony Reveliere could come in for Debuchy and Menez could be rested with Florent Malouda or Mathieu Valbuena taking his place.

Yann Mvila, fit after suffering an ankle sprain in the build-up to the tournament, could return in the midfield for Yohan Cabaye after the Newcastle United player picked up a minor knock against Ukraine.

Sweden will be out to restore pride back home after throwing away leads in losses to Ukraine and England.

"We will go for it. We are playing for honour," said forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic. "We are going to bring some points home with us."

## Obsessed fans 'monkeys'

REUTERS, Kiev

Soccer fans are getting into a sinful frenzy and transforming themselves into "monkeys" by watching Euro 2012 matches, a senior Ukrainian cleric said.

"The Church does not bless the frenzy and psychosis that a person falls into when they watch these games," Filaret, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kiev Patriarchate, was quoted as saying by UNIAN news agency.

Filaret, whose branch of the Ukrainian Orthodox church has up to 10 million followers, said his church supported sports and healthy lifestyle in general.

"Just look at these people's faces," he said. "They are no longer human, they look more like monkeys than humans. That's because they lose (emotional) balance."

"It is a sinful state when a man does not control himself. That is when they drink and fight. We are against that," The 83-year-old cleric said.

Ukraine is co-hosting the European Championship with Poland at a time when Orthodox Christians are supposed to observe the Fast of the Holy Apostles and show emotional restraint.

## Rooney ready to play



ENGLAND  
3 WINS

HEAD TO HEAD

Played: 4  
Draws 0



UKRAINE  
1 WIN

REUTERS, Krakow

Key England striker Wayne Rooney is set to feature at Euro 2012 for the first time on Tuesday but co-hosts Ukraine could be without their talisman Andriy Shevchenko as they battle to stay in the tournament.

England, with four points from two games, need only a draw to progress to the quarterfinals from their final Group D match while Ukraine must win at the Donbass Arena to avoid the same fate as co-hosts Poland and be eliminated after the first round.

Rooney is available again after serving a two-match ban for his red card against Montenegro in a Euro qualifier last year, but Ukraine are sweating on the fitness of Shevchenko, who scored both goals in the 2-1 victory over Sweden in their opening game.

Shevchenko, 35, missed training on Sunday after suffering two painful blows to his knee in Friday's 2-0 defeat by France. Ukraine spokesman Oleksander Hlyvinsky said team doctors were draining fluid from Shevchenko's knee.

In four previous appearances at the stadium, Ukraine have failed to triumph and coach Oleg Blokhin has spoken of his team's

need to break a perceived curse at the modern \$400 million arena.

England manager Roy Hodgson must choose who makes way for Rooney, with Andy Carroll and Danny Welbeck netting superb goals in the 3-2 win over Sweden, but winger Theo Walcott could miss out with a hamstring injury after an inspired display as a substitute against the Swedes.

Rooney said on Sunday that he was delighted to be available again and was sure England had no cautious thoughts going into their final group game.

"The lads have done so well to put us in the position we are in now and hopefully I'll get a chance to play and try and shine and help us get through the group," he told a news conference.

"It's great that we've scored a few goals and we've got the points that we've got. I'm not going to win the Euros on my own -- there are 23 players who are going to chip in and help us win the tournament, or go as far as we can."

Rooney said he was fully-fit and ready to play, a prospect that may enhance England's prospects and improve the fluency of their attacking play, but will do little to encourage Ukraine.

## Rosicky leaves for treatment

AFP, Prague

Czech Republic captain Tomas Rosicky left Poland for Prague on Sunday for treatment on the Achilles tendon injury that ruled him out of Saturday's 1-0 Euro 2012 Group A win against Poland, Czech media said Monday.

The Czech Republic won Group A and will face Portugal in the quarterfinal in Warsaw on Thursday.

"We wanted to carry out procedures we are not able to do here. We won't say which procedures," the website of the DNES broadcast sheet quoted chief team doctor Petr Krejci as saying.

The 31-year-old Arsenal midfielder - who suffered a calf injury in his club's final Premier League game of the season that nearly cost him his place at the tournament - is due to return to the southwestern Polish city of Wroclaw, where the Czechs have set up camp, on Tuesday.

"There is just a small chance I will play in the quarterfinals but it's really not big," said Rosicky.

## Van Marwijk takes full responsibility

REUTERS, Kharkiv

Coach Bert van Marwijk took full responsibility for the Netherlands' huge failure at Euro 2012 but said he was not discussing his future.

The Dutch crashed out of the tournament after their third straight loss in Group B when they went down 2-1 to Portugal on Sunday, Cristiano Ronaldo scoring twice after Rafael van der Vaart had grabbed the lead.

"I am responsible that we failed in this tournament, but I have a contract to 2016 (World Cup) and at the moment I am not thinking about my future," he told reporters at the Metalist Stadium.

"We started every match well, we started well tonight and the scenario was right at first, but then you have to keep that advantage and force your opponent to take more risks."

"But we didn't do that and then we gave away two goals too easily."

"I could see from my position with the equaliser, we made a mistake and were punished for it."

Heading into the game, the Netherlands only had a slight chance of advancing to the last eight after losing their opening two matches to Denmark and Germany.

Van Marwijk said it was always going to be difficult to progress after the awful start they had made to the competition.

"This was a special situation. If you play a final and draw it can go to penalties and you can win it that way, but we had to win by a two-goal difference -- so we had to take risks and go forward."

"It started well, but then we didn't finish the job."

"Now is not the time to talk about my future right now. I am not thinking about it."

He also said he had tried to improve the team that lost to Spain in the World Cup final two years ago but acknowledged the balance may not be quite right.

"We have a lot of quality in the team. It's basically the same team as two years ago apart from one or two positions. We needed more pace and youth to make it better and have more strength in depth," he remarked.

"It's not an easy process and it was going to be difficult to repeat what we did two years ago, but although we started well today, mistakes let Portugal back into the game and that was the difference."

Van Marwijk also appeared to get the backing of the Dutch FA after the game when KNVB director Bert van Oostveen said: "I think this coach deserves some credit as he guided us to the World Cup final and also without any problems through two qualifying campaigns."

## Greece seek respect

REUTERS, Gdansk

Euro 2012 quarterfinalists Greece have had enough of eurozone jokes as well as the ridicule and sharp criticism of their playing style and they are seeking respect ahead of their match against Germany.

The Greeks have had to endure a flood of negative media copy despite battling through Group A with a 1-0 win over favourites Russia to set up a last-eight clash with the three-times champion Germans.

Whether it is the Italian Rai TV commentator's expletive-laden description of Greece causing a stir or German football association officials privately demanding a goalfest against the eurozone's problem child, Greece must be feeling like a pinata at a children's party.

Comic strips depicting a Greek player snatching the referee's coin at the toss-up before the start of a game and shouting "a euro" are a daily occurrence.

"Greece are a shit team, a shit team," said a Rai commentator before the broadcaster went to halftime commercials and seconds after Greece had scored what proved to be the winning goal in first-half stoppage time against the Russians.

A Germany football association official (DFB), on the flight back from Lviv after their 2-1 win over Denmark, even privately said whether it was now time for German Chancellor Angela Merkel to attend the game in Gdansk "to stick it into them."

Relations between the two countries have deteriorated in recent years due to a Berlin-backed austerity plan and German finance minister Wolfgang Schaeuble even called Greece "a bottomless pit."

Comments regarding the quality of their football have not been much kinder.

"People have been slinging mud at us and we are very sad about what has been said. Against Russia we managed to silence them. Now we must keep quiet and keep working," defender Kyriakos Papadopoulos said.

## C'Ron answers critics

AFP, Kharkiv

Cristiano Ronaldo answered his critics with the double that sent Portugal into the Euro 2012 quarterfinals on Sunday but the line coming from the dressing room and himself was it was thanks to team spirit that they had prevailed.

Ronaldo's double - his first goals of the tournament - saw the 2004 finalists beat the Dutch 2-1 and send them crashing out of the tournament two years after they reached the World Cup final.

The Portuguese will play Group A winners Czech Republic - who beat Portugal on their way to the Euro 1996 final - in Thursday's quarterfinal.

Both Ronaldo and his colleagues, who boycotted speaking to the foreign press angered at what they see as unwarranted criticism of their captain and the squad, said it was their unity which had given them the strength to prevail since losing 1-0 to Germany in the opening game.

In that they set an example to the Dutch, who loaded with more individual talent did not help their cause by being split down the middle.

Coach Paulo Bento had given the players their lead in refusing to talk about his caxcaption Ronaldo's performance preferring to reflect on how proud he was of the team effort.

"What is important, is not the player, but the team," said Bento, who received an early birthday present as he turns 43 on Wednesday.

"I am very proud of what this team has done, to have achieved our goal is wonderful."



PHOTO: AFP

Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after beating Netherlands in their Euro 2012 Group B match at the Metalist Stadium in Kharkiv on Sunday.

Ronaldo, who dedicated his two goals to his son Cristiano who was celebrating his second birthday, had reacted angrily after the 3-2 win over Denmark last Wednesday when Danish fans had chanted the name of his nemesis in the Spanish league, Lionel Messi.

However, having answered his detractors with his two-goal performance - the first time he has ever claimed a double at a major tournament - he too did not want to talk about himself.

"The team was spectacular," said the 27-year-old.

"We deserve this qualification because we believed in it right until the end and all the players deserve to be congratulated," he told Portuguese television.

## Italian FA bans four players

AFP, Rome

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) on Monday handed down a two-point deduction to Pescara for their role in the ongoing sports-betting, match-fixing scandal known as Calciocommesse.

Pescara were promoted to Serie A at the end of the season just finished, and will kick off the 2012-13 campaign in the top flight with minus two points.

In addition, Novara, who were relegated to Serie B, were handed a four-point penalty and third-tier AlbinoLeffe -- the small club at the heart of the Calciocommesse investigation -- were deducted 15 points.

Four players were also handed bans by the FIGC's disciplinary committee.

Luigi Sartor, who played for Inter Milan, Parma and Roma but is now retired, was banned from all footballing activity for five years along with Mario Cassano, Alessandro Zamperini and Nicola Santoni.

These bans are the longest handed down in the investigation so far.

In total the FIGC have so far punished 21 teams and 52 players.

**SPORTS POLL**  
Is Shakib Al Hasan rightly given a break?  
Yes **74.3%**  
No **25.7%**  
**TOTAL VOTES: 245**  
**WEEKLY QUESTION**  
Who has impressed you the most in Euro 2012 so far?  
Visit the sports page of [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net) to cast vote  
Follow The Daily Star Sport on **twitter**  
[www.twitter.com/dssport](http://www.twitter.com/dssport)

**What to WATCH**

**Channel 9**  
**South Africa v Bangladesh**  
Second Match of Tri-Series  
**Live from 5:00pm**  
**Maasranga TV**  
**Euro 2012**  
England v Ukraine  
**Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)**  
Sweden v France  
**Delayed from 2:45am (Wednesday)**  
**Star Cricket**  
**England v West Indies**  
Second ODI  
**Live from 3:45pm**  
**ESPN**  
**Sportscenter India**  
Sports News

**DAY'S EVENT**

**Bangladesh Premier League**  
Rahmatganj v Mohammedan  
Time: 5:30pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
Soccer Club, Feni v Brothers Union  
Time: 4:00pm  
Venue: Feni Stadium  
Team BJMC v Arambagh  
Time: 4:00pm