Maasranga TV & STAR Cricket **ICC Champions Trophy England v New Zealand** Live from 3:30pm

Maasranga TV & STAR Sports FIFA Confederations Cup Mexico v Italy Live from 1:00am (Monday) Spain v Uruguay Live from 4:00am (Monday)

Venue: BNS

Super Cup

Time: 5:00pm Soccer Club, Feni v Abahani

Time: 7:00pm Muktijoddha v Sk Russel

ITALY V MEXICO

## Time to turn around

AFP, Rio De Janeiro



Italy and Mexico will both be looking for an upturn in recent fortunes when they open their Confederations Cup campaigns against each other in Rio de

Janeiro on Sunday.

Italy's last outing was a 2-2 friendly draw with minnows Haiti on Tuesday that coach Cesare Prandelli described as "embarrassing", while Mexico were booed off after a goalless draw with Costa Rica on the same day.

The Italian stalemate followed a 0-0 draw with the Czech Republic in a World Cup qualifier, but Mexico's situation is far more troubling.

The draw with Costa Rica was their fifth in six World Cup qualifying matches this year and has fuelled discontent among fans regarding the position of manager Jose de la Torre.

Mexico are in a perilous position in CONCACAF qualifying, just a point above Honduras in the third and final automatic qualifying place, having played a game more than every other

Libya boost

WC hopes

AFP, Johannesburg

Yaounde to come.

Cameroon are away to

the Democratic Republic of

Libya have nine points,

five and Togo are out of the

Cameroon six, DR Congo

running with four as only

group winners advance to

penalty on seven minutes

amid tight security at the

Komlan Amewou conceded

an own goal not long after.

Tripoli Stadium and

It was a pleasing

improvement by the

the same ground.

Libyans, whose captain

Ahmed Osman had a pen-

alty saved last weekend in a

0-0 draw with DR Congo at

Togo were reluctant

demonstators and militia

visitors to Libya after

clashed in second city

Benghazi last weekend,

wounded.

line-up.

leaving 31 dead and 100

France-based Alaixys

pulled out of the trip, but

Serge Gakpe changed his

mind and was in the starting

Libya came closest to

qualifying for the World Cup

in 1985 when beaten 3-1 by

Morocco on aggregate in the

final elimination round.

Romao and Jonathan Ayite

Faisal Saleh converted a

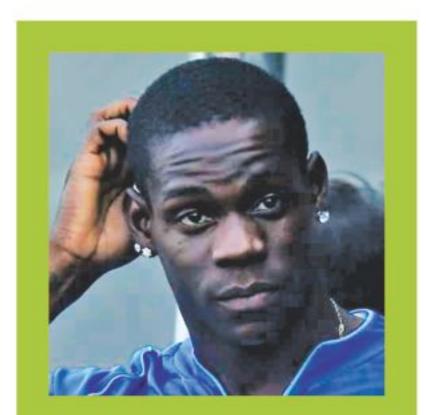
the 10-team final stage.

Congo Sunday and their

chances of making the

play-offs would greatly

diminish if they lose.



Italy striker Mario Balotelli is doubtful for the game after withdrawing from training on Friday due to pain in his right thigh.

Andrea Pirlo, if he plays, will win his 100th cap as the fifth Italian player

Striker Javier Hernandez will go into the match as the only player to score in a competitive game for Mexico in 2013.

team except bottom-ranked Jamaica.

Not since they were barred from the 1990 tournament for fielding an overage player at a youth tournament have Mexico failed to appear at a World Cup, but Italy midfielder Claudio Marchisio does not think it will affect their focus.

"It's a problem for the team, but I think that once they're on the pitch, the players will forget about it and cause us some problems," said the Juventus midfielder.

Italy lost 2-1 to Mexico when the sides last met in a friendly in Brussels in June 2010, but it was the first time the Azzurri had been beaten by the Central American powerhouses in 11 encounters.

However, Mexico are Confederations Cup veterans, having featured in five of the previous eight editions, prevailing on home soil in 1999, and despite his side's recent travails, De la Torre believes they are capable of springing a surprise.

"Whenever there's a tournament, you always think Italy, Spain or Brazil have a chance, but you can never afford to rule out the other teams," he said.



PHOTO: AFP

Argentina superstar Lionel Messi scored a hattrick during

Maradona's total and put him level with Hernan Crespo as the team's second highest scorer.

### a friendly soccer match in Guatemala City on Friday. "Football is evolving quickly. Living daddy's dream

SPORTS REPORTER

Libya moved closer to a hood, there is one father in first World Cup appearance Bangladesh who deserves special after defeating Togo 2-0 in mention. National skipper Tripoli Friday. Mushfiqur Rahim's father Mahbub The Mediterranean Hamid's enthusiasm during Knights have nine points Bangladesh's matches is unmatched. from five games in Group I Even with his son being on the scene three more than Cameroon for the last eight years, Mahbub with a September fixture in cheers every boundary hit and wicket

> first game. He once said that he does not cheer just for his son but for the entire

taken by Bangladesh with the enthu-

siasm of a supporter watching his

On this day that celebrates father-

team because they are all his sons. This vigour has driven Mushfiqur in his career, and he paid tribute to his father on the eve of Father's Day, terming Mahbub as the main driving from the past.



"My father has been my main driving force from a very early age. He went with me to the BKSP after I got admitted there. On the parentteacher meeting day chief coach Najmul Abedin asked him why he admitted me here. My father, without thinking too much, firmly said that he wanted to see me on TV. It showed what he expected of me and drove me force and reminiscing on an anecdote there. It was his dream," said Mushfigur.

## Summer meet for top clubs?

THE GUARDIAN

Rupert Murdoch's global broadcasting company is exploring an ambitious plan to create a summer football competition featuring Europe's top clubs, including English Premier League sides, with matches to be played in cities from Los Angeles to Shanghai.

Leading clubs such as Manchester United and Chelsea would be invited to participate, should the tournament come to fruition, competing with the biggest clubs from Europe's other top leagues - the likes of Real Madrid, Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

The idea would see a 16-team competition run for 10 years with a potential start date of 2015 in the close season when clubs traditionally play exhibition matches.

Matches would be aired on Sky and by Murdoch's other broadcasters worldwide. The mogul's 21st Century Fox company also owns broadcasters in Italy, Germany, Asia and the United States.

### Pellegrini wants to win it all

AFP, Manchester

Manuel Pellegrini has pledged to bring titles and style to Manchester City after being named as the new manager of the English Premier League giants.

The 59-year-old Chilean left Malaga to pen a threeyear deal as Roberto Mancini's replacement.

His task is to snatch the league title back from neighbours Manchester United and go deep into the Champions League where Mancini constantly fell short. "Everyone knows if you

arrive at a club like Manchester City you need to win titles," Pellegrini, nicknamed 'The Engineer' told ManCity TV.

"I think Manchester City have invested a lot of money to improve the squad every year and try, every year, to win titles.

"They were not successful in winning some titles but I am sure we are going to win - maybe the Premier League, the Champions League. We will try to win a lot. "My first message is to

tell all the supporters they will enjoy the season. I am sure they will enjoy the way our team will play. "We will play an attrac-

tive, offensive play."

Pellegrini has more than 25 years' of managerial experience in South America and Spain and has taken Malaga and Villarreal to the latter stages of the Champions League.

# 'Reds should listen'

Gabriel Batitusta holds the record with 56 goals.

overtakes

Maradona

Lionel Messi scored a hat-trick to help a sec-

ond-string Argentina record an easy 4-0 away

win over Guatemala in a friendly and overtake

Messi, who came on as a substitute in recent

Diego Maradona's international goals tally.

Messi, scoring his third hat-trick for his country, pro-

He completed his hat-trick four minutes after halftime

Apart from Messi, coach Alejandro Sabella fielded a

Messi, whose previous hat-tricks were against

"That was the least important thing," Messi told TyC

Argentina's next match is a friendly away to Italy on

Sports when he was asked about overtaking Maradona's

tally. "We wanted to play well in this friendly. The team's

AFP, Madrid

Aug. 14.



attitude was right."

bid for him continued on Saturday as he once again said he would find it hard to turn down an offer if they came knocking in the The 26-year-old Uruguayan signed a contract tying him

Liverpool striker Luis Suarez's open court-

ing of Spanish giants Real Madrid to make a

to the Premier League club until 2018 just last August, but he has endured another controversial season in England and ended the campaign serving a 10-game ban for biting Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic.

"I think every player aspires to be at the top and if you ask any eight-year-old child they will tell you that one day they would want to go to Real Madrid or Barcelona. They are big teams and everyone wants to go there," he told Spanish sports daily Marca on Saturday.

"Firstly, I have a contract with the club. But if one day they wanted to sign me, Liverpool would listen to the offer, as they have with other players and as all clubs do.

"Then the teams would have to come to an agreement, although, of course, the word of the player, in this case mine, is important. If one needs a change, they have to listen to the player."

Suarez was one of the Premier League's standout players last season with 23 goals and five assists in just 33 appearances.

However, Suarez was also banned for eight matches in the 2011/12 season for using racist language towards Manchester United defender Patrice Evra and he repeated his belief that the English press have gone overboard in

criticising some of his on-field antics. "Simply (I want) the people to not remember me for this, that they don't attack me as a person for this. I prefer footballing, technical criticism than for the attitudes I have had once in a while. This is what distresses me currently in the Premier League.

"The love that I have for Liverpool I will never forget. I love the city, the club and the fans. They have received my family very warmly. We are all happy there. I don't have to say or demonstrate it. They all love me there, but I ask for respect for what they have suffered due to what has been said, because my family can suffer at hearing these things that are far removed from football."

With Argentine striker Gonzalo Higuain looking set to leave Real Madrid, the nine-time European champions are expected to be in the market for a striker and have also been linked with a move for Suarez's international teammate Edison Cavani.

However, it is unlikely the Spanish side will make any moves in the transfer market until they appoint a coach for next season with Paris Saint-Germain boss Carlo Ancelotti still the favourite to succeed Jose Mourinho.



CONFEDERATIONS COLOURS: The Hakkeijima Sea Paradise Aquarium in Yokohama puts a Yellow Tang and a Blue Palett of Surgeon fish on display to symbolise the colours of Brazil and Japan in a fish tank designed as a football pitch with a ball placed as a their bait ahead of the two nations' Saturday night's Confederations Cup match.

