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Panama stun Mexico

RESULTS

Martinique 1 (Reuperne 92) Canada 0
Panama 2 (Torres 7, 48) Mexico 1 (Mora 47)

REUTERS, Undated

Mexico's bid to capture a third straight CONCACAF Gold Cup got off to a shaky start when they fell to a surprise 2-1 defeat by Panama in Los Angeles on Sunday.

'El Tri' entered the tournament with a young, domestic-based team and their lack of experience showed as Gabriel Torres scored twice for Panama, who completed a day of upsets after Martinique's shock 1-0 win over Canada in the opening match of the 12-team tournament.

Panama striker Torres put the underdogs ahead in the seventh minute at the Rose Bowl when he converted a penalty kick awarded after team mate Alberto Quintero was brought down in the box.

Mexico recovered to take control of proceedings and deservedly levelled the contest just before halftime when Marco Fabian settled a pass and finished.

Torres, though, put Panama back in front in the 48th minute after combining with Quintero and they held on to complete the win against Mexico and heap more pressure on coach Jose Manuel "Chepo" De La Torre.

The victory put Panama top of Group A along with Martinique, who marked their first Gold Cup appearance since 2003 with a dramatic 93rd minute winner to ditch past champions Canada 1-0.

Fabrice Reuperne was the matchwinner, the 37-year-old firing a left-footed blast from outside the box that found the upper right corner of the net and gave the Caribbean islanders, who are not FIFA members, a famous win.



Panama forward Gabriel Torres is ecstatic after scoring a penalty against Mexico during their CONCACAF Gold Cup match at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Barca agree to sell Villa

REUTERS, Madrid

Barcelona have reached an agreement to sell Spain striker David Villa to Atletico Madrid, the Spanish champions said in a statement on Monday.

The 31-year-old, Spain's all-time leading scorer, will move for a fee of up to 5.1 million euros (\$6.55 million) with Barca reserving 50 per cent of the rights over any future transfer.

Afridi movie coming out for Eid

AFP, Karachi

A Pakistani film inspired by the fairytale career of cricket star Shahid Afridi goes on release next month, a heart-warming tale of raw talent that producers believe will be a smash hit.

Pakistan's film industry has been on the skids for years, unable to compete with India's Bollywood, but filmmakers hope the phenomenal popularity of one of the country's best-loved cricketers will translate into takings at the box office.

"Main houn Afridi" or "I am Afridi" is about a young boy who dreams of becoming as great as the cricket star and chronicles the ordeal he faces en route to playing like his idol.

Producer Humayun Saeed, a top actor in Pakistan, initially persuaded Afridi to take the lead role, but the 33-year-old said it violated the traditions of his tribe on the Afghan border.

"They offered me the role but my elders didn't let me act as it is against our traditions but I happily give permission to use my name as this film will give a positive message," Afridi told AFP.

Saeed said the film, which cost around 1 million dollars to make, will be released in Pakistan for the Muslim festival Eid, as well as in the Gulf and in India.

Fiorentina tie up Gomez

REUTERS, Undated

Mario Gomez will leave Bayern Munich and join Serie A's Fiorentina after the two clubs agreed terms for him, the Bundesliga side said on Monday.

"It was Mario Gomez's wish to leave Bayern Munich for Fiorentina," Bayern's chief executive Karl-Heinz Rummenigge told the Bavarian club's official website.

The Germany striker became the Bundesliga's most expensive signing when he moved to Bayern from VfB Stuttgart four years ago and has a prolific scoring record for the Bavarians.

Women's Club Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club Limited raced to a convincing nine-wicket win over Orient Sporting yesterday in the Women's Club Cup at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. Batting first, Orient were restricted to 90 for 7 in the stipulated forty overs. In reply, Sheikh Jamal reached their target in 14.1 overs. Sheikh Jamal's Farzana Haque top scored with 45 runs.

In the day's other game Dipali Jubo Shongho (DJS) beat Indira Road Cricket Academy by 67 runs at the City Club Ground. DJS rode on Jannatul Ferdouse's 77 to score 180 for 5. In reply, Indira Road were bundled out for 113.

2nd innings for WASIM!



AFP, Karachi

Legendary Pakistan paceman Wasim Akram said Monday he will marry his Australian girlfriend, who has converted to Islam and will settle in his home country.

Australian media reported that Wasim proposed on bended knee to Shaniera Thompson in her living room.

"Yes, I will marry next year and I've known Shaniera for the last one-and-a-half years and she has converted to Islam," Wasim told AFP by telephone from England.

"I feel lucky that I have got a second chance in life."

The 47-year-old's first wife Huma died in 2009.

Wasim said Thompson, a former public relations consultant, will settle in Pakistan.

"She is close to my kids who are also excited and my in-laws [Huma's parents] also endorsed the decision after meeting her," said Wasim, who has two sons from his previous marriage.

"It will be a new life, a new beginning and I hope that we will settle down well with the best wishes of family and fans," he said.

Wasim played 104 Tests and 356 one-day internationals for Pakistan in a career lasting from 1984 to 2003.

He was regarded as one of the best left-arm fast bowlers to have played the game and remains a major celebrity in Pakistan.

Wasim was player of the tournament in the country's only triumph in the World Cup, in Australia in 1992. He captained Pakistan to a runners-up finish in the 1999 World Cup in England.

'Follow Drogba example'

REUTERS, London

Jose Mourinho will use former striker Didier Drogba as a template of how to behave as a professional when he tries to coax the best from the younger players in his squad, the Chelsea manager said.

The Ivory Coast international, now with Turkish team Galatasaray, scored 157 goals in 341 appearances for the Londoners after being bought in 2004 by Mourinho from Olympique Marseille in the Portuguese's first spell in charge at Stamford Bridge.

"I think Didier Drogba, as a man and as a professional, is a good guy to be looked at as a very special player in the history of this club," Mourinho told Chelsea's monthly magazine.

"I can use Didier as a profile to persuade the young boys to follow me

because he did follow me from day one."

Drogba helped Mourinho win back-to-back Premier League titles in 2005 and 2006 and also scored the winning goal in the FA Cup final victory over Manchester United at Wembley in 2007.

Mourinho, who on Monday took his first training session in his second stint at Chelsea after the players reported back following their close-season break, described the Ivorian as a "fantastic example" for any young player.

"He was playing in France and nobody really knew a lot about him when I asked the owner (Roman Abramovich) to buy him," the Portuguese explained.

"Some people thought he was too expensive for somebody who had not proved himself. Then, in the owner's 10th year in charge (2013), he was voted the best player in Chelsea's history."

"I think every player can have the

same ambition that Didier had because he was a guy driven by ambition, by emotion, by friendship and by loyalty," added Mourinho.

"He was loyal to the club, the manager, his fellow players and the fans."

Drogba ended his eight-year spell at Chelsea in fairytale style by scoring the winning penalty in the 2012 Champions League final shootout victory over Bayern Munich.

Mourinho did not lose at home in the Premier League in his first spell in charge, winning 46 matches and drawing 14.

He often took risks when Chelsea were trailing at Stamford Bridge in order to turn things round and he said he would take the same approach on his return.

"If I gamble...with a risky decision it can go the wrong way," said the former Real Madrid, Inter Milan and Porto coach.

Universiade underway in Kazan

The 27th Summer Universiade, a competition for university athletes from around the world, got underway through a breathtaking opening ceremony at the Kazan Arena in the capital of Russian Republic of Tatarstan on Saturday.

The colourful performance centred on the theme of Russia's ethnic diversity, the history of the Tatar people as well as Russian fairy tales and the greatest achievements of Russian scientists.

The Games, which runs through July 17, were declared open by the Russian President Vladimir Putin, said a press release.

Abidal returns to Monaco

REUTERS, Undated



Former France defender Eric Abidal has rejoined big-spending Monaco on a one-year deal after his contract ended at Barcelona.

Monaco said on their website that the 33-year-old left back, who began his professional career with them in 2000, was returning after 13 years with Lille, Olympique Lyon and Barcelona.

Abidal said an emotional farewell to Barcelona last month after the Spanish club decided not to renew his contract.

The defender, who won 61 caps for his country and played in the 2006 and 2010 World Cups, had fought his way back into the squad after having a liver transplant last year.

Monaco are bankrolled by Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev and have been active in the transfer market since winning promotion to Ligue 1 at the end of last season.

Their signings include Colombian striker Radamel Falcao from Atletico Madrid for a transfer fee that media reports said was in excess of 50 million euros (\$64.17 million).

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