Premier Div Cricket League

Victoria v Kalabagan, Venue: BKSP-2

Gazi Tank v Khelaghor

Venue: Bogra

Faroe Island v Germany

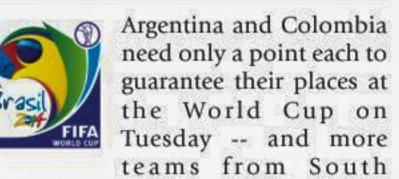
Prime Bank v Brothers

Argentina need a point

Sony Six HD

FIFA WC Qualifiers

AFP, Montevideo



need only a point each to guarantee their places at the World Cup on Tuesday -- and more teams from South

America could also confirm their tickets depending on results. The Argentines travel to Asuncion to

face resurgent Paraguay, who are all but mathematically eliminated despite recording a thumping 4-0 win over Bolivia in Friday's round of qualifiers. Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella

is without four first choice players following the bruising clash with Ecuador in June, with Gonzalo Higuain, Javier Mascherano and defenders Federico Fernandez and Ezerquiel Garay suspended.

Argentina were 3-1 winners over the Paraguayans in their home fixture a year ago, and Paraguay, quarterfinalists at the 2010 World Cup, have had a miserable campaign which leaves them languishing second from bottom of the standings.

However, under new coach Victor Genes, the Paraguayans have shown signs of a recovery, securing a creditable 3-3 draw in a friendly with Germany in August before Friday's big win.

FIXTURES

Tuesday

Bolivia v Ecuador (2000), Uruguay v Colombia (2200), Venezuela v Peru (2355) Wednesday

Paraguay v Argentina (0140)

Paraguay's resurgence has probably come too late -- it would take an unlikely sequence of results elsewhere for them to scrape into contention for a play-off berth -- but they could well cause problems for Argentina on Tuesday.

"It will be a difficult match," Argentina captain Lionel Messi said. "But things have been going well for us and I hope we can continue in the same way."

Argentina's game against Paraguay is the last of four South American qualifiers to kick off on Tuesday. Argentina are already guaranteed at least a play-off spot but could be assured of automatic qualification before a ball is kicked in Asuncion if results elsewhere go their way.

Second-placed Colombia meanwhile face the trickiest test of any of the leading contenders when they travel to Montevideo to face two-time World Cup winners Uruguay.

The Uruguayans have struggled

through the qualifying campaign but dug out a vital 2-1 victory over Peru in Lima last Friday thanks to two goals from their talismanic Liverpool striker Luis Suarez.

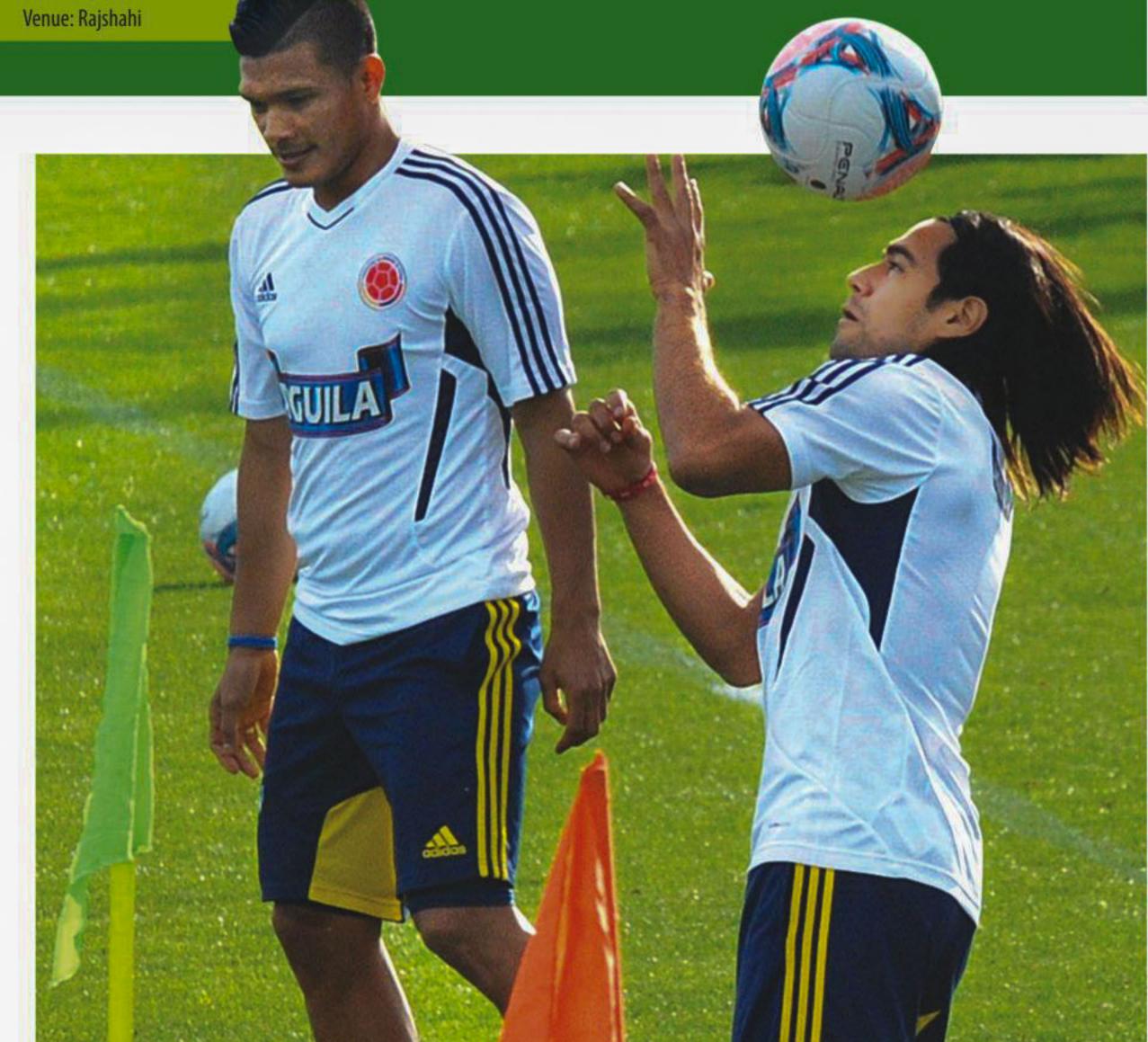
That result saw the 2010 World Cup semifinalists tighten their grip on fifth place, and another three points against the highly rated Colombians would all but guarantee them at least a play-off spot.

Colombia all but secured a top-five finish after their 1-0 win over Ecuador in Barranquilla on Friday and look certain to be heading to their first World Cup since their appearance at the 1998 finals in France.

Elsewhere on Tuesday, fourth placed Ecuador travel to La Paz to face Bolivia in a high-altitude derby. A win for Ecuador would put them level on points with third placed Chile, who have a bye.

Venezuela and Peru meanwhile face a must-win game but depending on the results of Tuesday's earlier games involving fourth-placed Ecuador and fifth-placed Uruguay, their faint hopes may already have been extinguished. The top four finishers in South

America's qualifiers are guaranteed places at next year's finals in Brazil. The fifth placed team faces a two-legged play-off with their Asian counterpart, either Jordan or Uzbekistan.



Colombia star Radamel Falcao (R) heads the ball during a training session at Parque Franzini in Montevideo on Sunday ahead of their 2014 World Cup qualifier against Uruguay.

РНОТО:

AFP

'Bale not worth it'

AFP, Paris

Real Madrid assistant coach Zinedine Zidane on Sunday dubbed the astronomical transfer fee his club paid for Wales winger Gareth Bale "incomprehensible" in the current economic climate.

Bale signed for the Spanish giants from Tottenham Hotspur last week on a six-year contract for a fee of around £80 million (\$124 million, 94 million euros).

Asked whether Bale was worth the hefty fee paid for him, ex-France playmaker Zidane replied: "You need to ask that question in a year's time.

"Ten years ago, they bought me for 75 million euros and I said I wasn't worth it," Zidane told Sunday's Canal Football Club television programme.

"Today, I tend to say a player is not worth that. Two clubs agree on a price and no-one is forcing the

other to do anything. "That's football. Unfortunately, it's incomprehensible with what's happening today to pay so much."

No laughing matter

REUTERS, London

The English FA will not take any action against defender Kyle Walker who has apologised for inhaling nitrous oxide, commonly known as "laughing gas", on a night out in Sheffield during the close season.

The 23-year-old Tottenham Hotspur defender, who is with the England squad preparing for Tuesday's World Cup qualifier against Ukraine in Kiev, apologised after a photograph of him inhaling the gas from a balloon was published on Sunday.

Nitrous oxide is not illegal but it can lead to medical problems and Walker admitted he had made a poor judgement.

"Now I know the health risks, it was poor judgement on my part. I hope no-one is influenced into putting their health at risk by my actions," he said in a statement issued to the media.

In a statement on their website the FA said: "Kyle has accepted this mistake. He will not face any action under the England Player Code of Conduct. The FA and the England manager have spoken to Kyle about the matter and he has assured us it will not happen again."

Sepp defends stance Giants set to finish job

AFP, Paris



FIFA president Sepp Blatter defended his support of switching the 2022 World Cup to winter in Qatar, saying in an interview published on Monday that rescheduling reflected the

sport's worldwide appeal. Blatter told Inside World Football that members of the federation who have complained about the proposed change in dates should have been well aware of the possibil-

ity, as it was contained in the bidding process documents. "The loudest critics, the ones who should know better because they signed the exact

same bidding documents as Qatar did... must know that point 1.2.1 stipulates that the 22nd edition of the FIFA World Cup is 'scheduled to take place' in June and/or July 'in principle'," he was quoted as saying on insideworldfootball.com. "It does not say that it 'must' take place in

these months, nor is it a 'condition sine qua non' to host the World Cup in June and July. What the document does is express FIFA's wish to host the World Cup in June or July."

European countries, in particular England, have cried foul at the possibility of holding the world's most-watched sporting event in January and February because Qatar initially bid to host the tournament in the June-July close season in Europe and changing the dates would disrupt their domestic leagues.

Temperatures in Qatar can reach a blister-

ing 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) but cool to the mid-20s in December.

Blatter accepted that, despite knowing that technology was available to cool venues, playing in Qatar's summer was "simply not a responsible thing to do".

But he said there needed to be flexibility to ensure that as many countries as possible have the chance to host the tournament, rather than it being organised to suit European nations. "If we maintain, rigidly, the status quo,

then a FIFA World Cup can never be played in countries that are south of the equator or indeed near the equator," he added. "We automatically discriminate against

countries that have different seasons than we do in Europe and we make it impossible for all those who would love to host the world's biggest game in a global tournament to ever get the chance to do so." He went on: "I think it is high time that

Europe starts to understand that we do not rule the world anymore and that some former European imperial powers can no longer impress their will on to others in far away places and we must accept that football has moved away from being a European and South American sport.

"It has become the world sport that billions of fans are excitedly following every week, everywhere in the world."

Blatter said he would raise the issue at FIFA's next executive committee meeting on October 3-4 before consulting more widely on the impact of rescheduling on the international calendar.

REUTERS, London



No World Cup finals would be complete without Italy and Germany on the cast list, and both nations will take their places in next year's

Brazil showpiece with victories on Tuesday.

Four-times world champions Italy will qualify if they beat the Czech Republic in Turin, while Germany, bidding for their 16th successive appearance, can follow suit with a win over the Faroe Islands, though a Sweden victory against Kazakhstan would delay the Germans' passage.

The Netherlands, assuming they beat Andorra, will be guaranteed top spot in Group D if Romania fail to beat Turkey.

For other European powerhouses the task is less straightforward.

England will be wary of their trip to Ukraine despite going top of Group H after a 4-0 win over Moldova on Friday. Ukraine warmed up for the potential group decider with a 9-0 hammering of San Marino.

Ukraine are one point behind England, and one of their three remaining ties is against San Marino.

"It's a massive game against Ukraine, but we have nothing to fear and can go there full of confidence,"

FIXTURES

Tuesday

Wales v Serbia (1845), Armenia v Denmark (1600), Malta v Bulgaria (1800), Italy v Czech Republic (1845), Faroe Islands v Germany (1845), Austria v Republic of Ireland (1845), Kazakhstan v Sweden (1600), Andorra v Netherlands (1830), Romania v Turkey (1800), Norway v Switzerland (1700), Russia v Israel (1500), Slovakia v Bosnia-Herzegovina (1815), Greece v Latvia (1845), Ukraine v England (1845), Georgia v Finland (1700), Belarus v France (1900)

England captain Steven Gerrard, who scored the opener against Moldova,

mance, because if we were to get all three points it puts us in the driving seat."

England look more certain qualifiers than France, whose hopes of topping world champions Spain in Group I look forlorn after a 0-0 draw with Georgia on Friday left them three points behind with two games to go.

They must win in Belarus on Tuesday to keep alive any realistic chance of heading the group and avoiding a playoff.

Switzerland fluffed their lines in a

dramatic 4-4 home draw with Iceland on Friday and could be vulnerable when they travel to Group E's secondplaced side, Norway, on Tuesday.

Victory, and a draw between Iceland and Albania, would be enough to ensure the Swiss will be in Brazil next

Russia, who will qualify automatically in 2018 as hosts, will put themselves back in pole position over Portugal in Group F if they win their game in hand at home to Israel on Tuesday.

Italy are renowned for grinding their way through to World Cup finals, having qualified for all but two of the 19 editions of the tournament

They were at it again on Friday with "We need to believe in ourselves, a gritty 1-0 win over Bulgaria, which roll our sleeves up and put in a perfor- put them seven points clear in Group B with three matches remaining, starting when they host the Czech Republic in Turin.

> The Czechs were stunned by Armenia on Friday, meaning they are now looking at a playoff spot at best, but Italy coach Cesare Prandelli is taking nothing for granted.

> "We are one step from the World Cup, but at the moment everything is complicated by our physical condition, which is not optimal," he said. "We will try to recover as much as possible."

Eto'o quits Cameroon

AFP, Johannesburg

Chelsea striker Samuel Eto'o has told Cameroon teammates he is quitting the national team ahead of World Cup qualifying play-offs.

Eto'o, record four-time winner of the African Footballer of the Year award, broke the news after a 1-0 win over Libya at the weekend.

A Cameroon football official told AFP in Yaounde that Eto'o, 32, announced his retirement to teammates in the dressing-room after the match. "He did not give reasons

why he is retiring from the national team," said the official. "Samuel thanked his

teammates for all the efforts they have made to allow him to become a better player. They prayed together and he left." An Eto'o corner led to

Aurelien Chedjou heading the winner and enabling Cameroon to top Group I after struggling for much of the campaign.

The recent Chelsea recruit from Russian club Anzhi Makhachkala limped off injured on the hour mark.

Chedjou sinks Libya

AFP, Johannesburg



Cairo.

Cameroon defender Aurelien Chedjou turned goalscorer Sunday to sink Libya 1-0 and move his country closer to the 2014 World Cup finals in Brazil

The Yaounde victory sealed first place in Group I for the 'Indomitable Lions', who finished four points clear of their oppo-

Chedjou, who recently signed a four-year contract with Turkish club Galatasaray, netted three minutes before half-time.

Cameroon suffered a blow on the hour mark when new Chelsea signing Samuel Eto'o limped off to be replaced by Jacques Zoua. A draw would have been enough for six-

time World Cup qualifiers Cameroon while Libya needed maximum points to keep alive their dreams of a first appearance. Libya set the pace for much of a six-round

mini-league that began in mid-2012, but Togo did them no favours last June. The Togolese fielded a suspended player

in a 2-0 win over Cameroon, who were awarded a 3-0 victory and three points. Instead of facing Libya in second place

two points adrift, the 'Lions' had a onepoint lead and home advantage at Stade Ahmadou Ahidjo. Cameroon were the last nation to reach

the play-offs, joining Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Senegal. A seeded draw, based on the latest FIFA

And the winners of five two-leg ties scheduled for October and November, go to Brazil.

Togo finally had cause to celebrate when a stoppage-time goal from Backer Aloenouvo delivered a 2-1 home win over

the Democratic Republic of Congo. Lalawele Atakora put the Togolese ahead during the first half in Lome and Saoule

Ebunga equalised nine minutes from time. Benin completed their Group H campaign with a 2-0 victory over bottom side Rwnada in Porto Novo through goals from

Mickael Pote and Bello Babatuinde. Kenya ended a five-match win drought in the qualifying competition by edging visit-

ing Namibia 1-0 in Nairobi. Defender David Owino scored after five

minutes to give the 'Harambee Stars' maximum points from their final mini-league fixture.

The result meant a change of positions in the final standings with Kenya climbing to third and Namibia dropping to last place.

African champions Nigeria won Group F on Saturday by defeating Malawi 2-0 in Calabar as they look to qualify for their second straight World Cup after going out in the first round in South Africa.

Zimbabwe and Mozambique drew 1-1 in Harare, leaving the southern Africa neighbours winless after six Group G matches each.

Captain Masimba Mambare put the home side ahead just before half-time and substitute Maninho levelled on the hour mark.

Egypt were runaway winners of the group and complete their schedule Tuesday at home to second-placed Guinea in El-Gouna. Mozambique finished third and rankings, will be made on September 16 in

Zimbabwe last.