

PREMIUM DAIRY ICE CREAM

Bite that earned them thousands

At least 167 bettors cashed in Tuesday when Luis Suarez chomped down on Giorgio Chiellini. Betting website Betsson offered 175-1 odds before the World Cup started on a proposition bet: Would Suarez bite again at the World Cup? Andreas Bardun, Betsson's sports manager, said 167 people placed bets on the prop. The largest amount paid out was \$3,300 to a bettor in Norway, identified as Thomas Syversen. Syversen reportedly bet around \$5 and later said, "This is probably the sickest game

PEANUT BUTTER CREAM

TASTE OF TOGETHERNESS
MI AMORE

DHAKA THURSDAY JUNE 26, 2014
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TODAY'S MATCHES

**UNITED STATES
GERMANY**
Time: 10:00pm
Venue: Arena Pernambuco

PORTUGAL GHANA
Time: 10:00pm
Venue: Estadio Nacional

**SOUTH KOREA
BELGIUM**
Time: 2:00am (Friday)
Venue: Arena de Sao Paulo

ALGERIA RUSSIA
Time: 2:00am (Friday)
Venue: Arena da Baixada



Switzerland's Xherden Shaqiri (R) celebrates one goal of his hatrick against Honduras with Josip Drmic during their World Cup Group E match at Arena Amazonia in Manaus on Wednesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Photo of the Day

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Shaqiri sets up Swiss' THIRD EYE date with Messi

A tale of two vampires

These things happen: Suarez

ESP.NFC.COM

Uruguay striker Luis Suarez has attempted to play down his apparent bite of Italy defender Giorgio Chellini, saying 'there are things that happen' during a game.

Suarez, 27, appeared to bite the shoulder of his opponent off the ball in the box when the game was goalless. The referee did not see the incident and took no action, and moments later Diego Godin headed in the goal which put Uruguay through at the expense of Italy.

Although he did not refer specifically to the clash with Chiellini, Suarez said in a post-match interview: "These are just things that happen out on the pitch. It was just the two of us inside the area and he bumped into me with his shoulder, and that's how my eye got like this as well.

"There are things that happen on the pitch and you should not make such a big deal out of them."

AFP, Manaus

Switzerland's Xherdan Shaqiri erased his side's lingering World Cup pain in Manaus on Wednesday, scoring a hattrick to see off Honduras 3-0 and secure a daunting last 16 tie against Lionel Messi's Argentina.

Four years ago the Central Americans denied Switzerland a place in the knockout rounds by holding out for a 0-0 draw but two first-half goals from the impressive Bayern Munich player gave Honduras a mountain to climb.

Coach Luis Suarez's team fought hard to get back into the game even though they had no chance of progressing but a third goal from the midfielder killed their hopes.

Ottmar Hitzfeld's team, sixth in the FIFA rankings, came into the game level on points with Ecuador in Group E, three points off leaders France, knowing a victory would likely see them progress.

They went close to scoring with their first attack of the game, when young forward Josip Drmic burst forward and centred for Shaqiri but goalkeeper Noel Valladares blocked his shot.

In just the sixth minute Bayern Munich midfielder Shaqiri found the target with an unstoppable left-footed strike from just outside the area that flew past a helpless Valladares and into the top corner.

Honduras, who came into game on the

back of two defeats, enjoyed long spells of possession but did not threaten Diego Benaglio's goal and just after the half-hour the Swiss doubled their lead following a swift counter-attack.

Victor Bernardez made a mistake in midfield and Drmic raced forward before playing in Shaqiri, who kept his composure with just the goalkeeper to beat, slotting the ball to his left.

He became the first Swiss player to score multiple goals in a World Cup match since 1954.

Honduras came out of the blocks impressively after the half-time break and Jerry Bengtson nearly pulled one back with an attempt at a diving header but failed to make contact.

Swiss defender Ricardo Rodriguez was then forced into a goal-line clearance after Bengtson beat the Swiss keeper and about 15 minutes later Fabian Schaer also had to clear off the line.

But Switzerland killed the game 20 minutes from time. Drmic, enjoying his role on the left, beat Bernardez and again found Shaqiri, who was unerring in his finish.

Despite their lofty current ranking the Swiss, playing their 10th World Cup finals, last reached the quarterfinals in 1954 when the tournament was held on home soil.

They will meet Argentina in Sao Paulo on Tuesday while France, who topped the group after a 0-0 draw with Ecuador, will

ATTIQUE ANAM

If you were watching the Uruguay versus Italy match on Tuesday night, you could have been forgiven for thinking you were watching a cheap Hollywood horror flick instead of a World Cup game. It had all the ingredients that those movies usually offer -- cheap acting, cheaper directing, a false sense of suspense and an end which is invariably comical and disastrous.

The match had pitted two former champions against each other scrambling for a place in the last 16. It could have been a classic; instead it turned out to be a horror show thanks to some un-enterprising play, some appalling decisions, and a vampire in disguise.

The first 45 minutes proved to be an absolute snooze-fest as neither side showed much urgency to venture into the opposition areas, in fear of being caught out. There were constant argie-bargies and confrontations between the two sets of players, to go with some cheap play-acting, which may have added to the comicality of the affair, but certainly not to its quality. Italy, needing only a draw to advance, were playing keep-ball while Uruguay, who needed an outright victory, were waiting for something to happen and to their

credit seized the opportunity with both hands when it did.

And that 'something' did happen at the hour mark, when all of a sudden, Italy's hardworking midfielder Claudio Marchisio went all studs-up against Uruguay defender Jose Maria Gimenez. That challenge deserved nothing less than a yellow card, but the referee, Marco Antonio Rodríguez Moreno of Mexico, came out with a straight red to the shock and bewilderment of the Italians.

The decision might have come as a shock to the Italians, but given the high stakes of the game and the reputation of the referee -- he brandished 0.65 red cards per game in 79 international matches he officiated prior to this one -- a red was always on the cards.

10 against 11, and the game suddenly came to life.

However, that red card was only the precursor to the drama and comedy that unfolded 20 minutes later. Luis Suarez, the talismanic Uruguay forward, frustrated at not being able to weave his way for a goal, unabashedly lay his teeth into the shoulder of Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini. Suarez, who has developed quite a reputation for biting opponents when goals do not come his way -- he chomped on PSV Eindhoven's Otman

Bakkal while playing for Ajax back in 2010 and repeated the dose against Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic while playing for Liverpool in 2013 -- lay grimacing on the ground, catching his tooth as if in frustration at not finding only skin and bones in Chiellini's shoulder.

Chiellini, having recovered from the shock, tried everything including pulling his shirt down to show the bite marks in order to convince the referee, but in vain. The referee, who is coincidentally known as 'Chiqui Dracula' across Central America -- albeit for his aquiline features and heavily greased hair -- turned a blind eye.

The incident unsettled the Italians, who had defended doggedly thus far, and within less than two minutes the Uruguayans scored and killed off the game to ensure their last 16 berth.

Unlike cheap Hollywood horror flicks which invariably find their way to the trash bins, this one had a more telling impact. Italy coach Cesare Prandelli resigned after the match, bringing an abrupt end to all the rebuilding work done in the past four years. For Suarez, news is that he might get a retrospective suspension of at least 24 international matches. But you will surely not bet against him coming back, with his fangs even sharper, will you?

• for details, see inner

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