



PREMIUM DAIRY ICE CREAM

## Klinsmann's sick note to US bosses

United States head coach Juergen Klinsmann has produced a cheeky hand-written letter for American fans who want to skip work in order to watch his team's World Cup game against Germany. The United States were to qualify for the second round of the tournament if they drew or won against Germany in Recife in a game which started at mid-day Eastern Time. In the style of a 'doctor's note', Klinsmann addressed employers and asked them to forgive their staff for their absence. The letter was distributed

PEANUT BUTTER CREAM



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ROUND OF  
16

June 28

**Brazil v Chile**  
Estadio Minieirao  
10.00pm

June 29

**Colombia v Uruguay**  
Estadio do Maracana  
2.00am

**Netherlands v Mexico**  
Estadio Castelao  
10.00pm

June 30

**Costa Rica v Greece**  
Arena Pernambuco  
2.00 am

**France v Nigeria**  
Estadio Nacional  
10.00pm

July 1

**Germany v Algeria**  
Estadio Beira-Rio  
2.00 am

**Argentina v Switzerland**  
Arena de Sao Paulo  
10.00pm

July 2

**Belgium v USA**  
Arena Fonte Nova  
2.00 am

### NOTABLE WORLD CUP SUSPENSIONS

15 months - 1994:

**Diego Maradona (Argentina).** Failed drugs test

12 months - 1986:

**Samir Shaker Mahmoud (Iraq).** Spat at referee.

6 months - 2002:

**Joao Pinto (Portugal).** Punching referee

8 matches - 1994:

**Mauro Tassotti (Italy).** Elbowed Luis Enrique

4 matches - 2006:

**Leandro Cufré (Argentina).** Kicked Per Mertesacker

4 matches - 2006:

**Daniele De Rossi (Italy).** Elbowed Brian McBride

4 matches - 1994:

**Leonardo (Brazil).** Elbowed Tab Ramos

3 matches - 2006:

**Pablo Mastroeni (USA).** Reckless tackle on Andrea Pirlo

3 matches - 2014:

**Alex Song (Cameroon).** Elbowed Mario Mandzukic

3 matches - 2006:

# SUAREZ

*punished*

## Banned for 9 games, exiled for 4 months

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

FIFA on Thursday banned Uruguay striker Luis Suarez for nine international matches and barred him from all football activities for four months for biting an Italian opponent.

The heaviest punishment ever inflicted on a player at a World Cup finals effectively booted Suarez out of the tournament in shame following his clash with Italy's Giorgio Chiellini on Tuesday.

It is the third time that the 27-year-old Liverpool forward, one of the most brilliant footballers in the world, but also one of the most temperamental, has been banned for biting an opponent.

"Such behaviour cannot be tolerated on any football pitch, and in particular not at a FIFA World Cup when the eyes of millions of people are on the

stars on the field," said FIFA Disciplinary Committee chairman Claudio Sulser in a statement.

"The Disciplinary Committee took into account all the factors of the case and the degree of Mr Suarez's guilt in accordance with the relevant provisions of the (FIFA disciplinary) code," he added.

The nine match ban would be effective immediately, ruling him out of Uruguay's World Cup second round match on Saturday against Colombia, FIFA spokeswoman Delia Fischer said.

As part of the ban on football activities, Suarez will not be allowed into a stadium for four months. He was also fined 100,000 Swiss francs (82,000 euros, \$112,000). FIFA said that Suarez was told of the ban on Thursday.

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# Algeria make history

## Ten-man Belgium beat South Korea

REUTERS, Sao Paulo

Jan Vertonghen's late goal saw 10-man Belgium beat South Korea 1-0 in their final Group H match on Thursday, despite having Steven Defour sent off just before halftime for a nasty two-footed challenge.

In the other Group H game, Algeria claimed second place with a 1-1 draw against Russia and will face Germany in Porto Alegre on Monday.

The win made it a maximum nine points for the Belgians, who will meet the United States in the last 16 in Salvador on Tuesday while South Korea head for the exit.

**Belgium 1 (Vertonghen 78) South Korea 0**

**Algeria 1 (Slimani 60) Russia 1 (Kokorin 6)**

Shin-wook, the game opened up for the Koreans after the break.

But although they had plenty of possession and a series of clear chances, they were caught on the break when Belgim's excellent substitute Divock Origi struck from distance.

Keeper Kim Seung-gyu palmed the ball into the path of the onrushing Vertonghen, who put it away with ease in the 78th minute.

An even first period saw Dries Mertens miss a golden chance for Belgium eight metres from goal when he shot well over

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## Aguero out of WC

REUTERS, Belo Horizonte

Argentine striker Sergio Aguero is out of the World Cup after suffering a muscle tear in the 3-2 victory over Nigeria, a Buenos Aires newspaper reported on Thursday.

Aguero's injury, which could not be immediately confirmed by team spokesmen, would be a major blow to the South Americans' campaign to capture a third World Cup, this time on the soil of their great rivals Brazil.

"This morning the worst news was confirmed. He has a tear and won't be able to play any more in the cup," Clarin said on its web site www.clarin.com.

The Manchester City forward, part of Argentina's so-called "Fab Four" of strikers, was taken off during the first half of the match against Nigeria that gave them top spot in Group F.

Coach Alejandro Sabella said afterwards he had a muscle problem. Argentine TV channel TyC Sports said the tear was on a muscle in Aguero's left leg.

More information was expected at an Argentine training session and news conference in Belo Horizonte at the end of Thursday afternoon.

Nicknamed "Kun" after a Japanese cartoon character, the 26-year-old is a close friend of national captain Lionel Messi and is also the

# No end to the intrigue

SAKEB SUBHAN

10 more match days remain in what has been one of the more colourful and unpredictable World Cups in recent memory. Dull matches thankfully are still few and far between, and with the last 16 -- which holds the promise of heartbreak and glory in equal measure at every kick of the Brazuca -- starting on Saturday the excitement will only be ramped up.

Thousands of miles away from the action, in Bangladesh, all that really matters is that Argentina and Brazil have gone through, and it is a point of no small pride for the chauvinistic fans that Argentina have won all three group games while Brazil have won two. Brazil followers can hit back by saying they have scored one goal more and conceded one less.

A tweet from Footbal Funnys reads -- 'Messi carrying Argentina/ Neymar carrying Brazil.... British Airways carrying England'. While taking a swipe on serial World Cup disappointers England, it is an apt description of the weight these two -- joint highest scorers with four goals each -- carry, not far less than a Boeing 747.

Messi has now scored in all three matches in the group stage, the first Argentine to do so since 1958. On Wednesday against Nigeria, in a game that both teams could have easily seen to a tame draw because of their group positions, Messi started the fireworks in the third minute when Nigerian goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama knocked back an Angel di Maria shot that found its way to Messi's lightning feet, and the rest was all too predictable, even if a treat to watch. Spare a thought for goalkeepers the world over playing against Barcelona or Argentina; if they deflect a stinging shot from one of the

forwards, instead of feeling a momentary relief they must be in a panic -- if the ball is in play, the phenom named Lionel Messi is bearing down through the best planned countermeasures to clinically drive it home.

Nigeria's Ahmed Musa matched Messi's brace, which the latter completed with a free kick of delightful precision in the first half. Messi has scored four of his side's six goals, with one of the six an own goal from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Gonzalo Higuain seems awfully out of sorts while what could have

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Islam Slimani (R) heads in the equaliser against Russia at Curitiba to fire Algeria into the last 16 of the World Cup for the very first time.

PHOTO: AFP



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