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# Turan sinks Juve

AFP, Madrid



Atletico Madrid got their Champions League campaign back on track as Arda Turan's goal 15 minutes from time was enough for a 1-0 win over Juventus on

Wednesday.

Chances had been hard to come by in a physical contest between the Spanish and Italian champions, but Turan's cool finish to end Juventus' run of over 500 minutes without conceding this season sealed a vital three points for Diego Simeone's men.

Malmo's 2-0 victory over Olympiakos means all four sides in Group A are tied on three points with four matches to play.

Last season's beaten finalists Atletico came into the game desperate for the points having been surprisingly beaten away to Olympiakos on matchday one.

However, Simeone's decision to opt for the more defensively minded Saul Niguez ahead of 30 million euro summer signing Antoine Griezmann was a hint of the cagey encounter to come as chances were few and far between.

Indeed the most noteworthy moment of the opening half was Atletico striker Mario Mandzukic tearing off the mask he had been

wearing to protect a broken nose after receiving an elbow in the face from Leonardo Bonucci, for which the Italian defender was booked.

Mandzukic also had the only effort on target of the first period as his low effort was comfortably beaten to safety by Gianluigi Buffon.

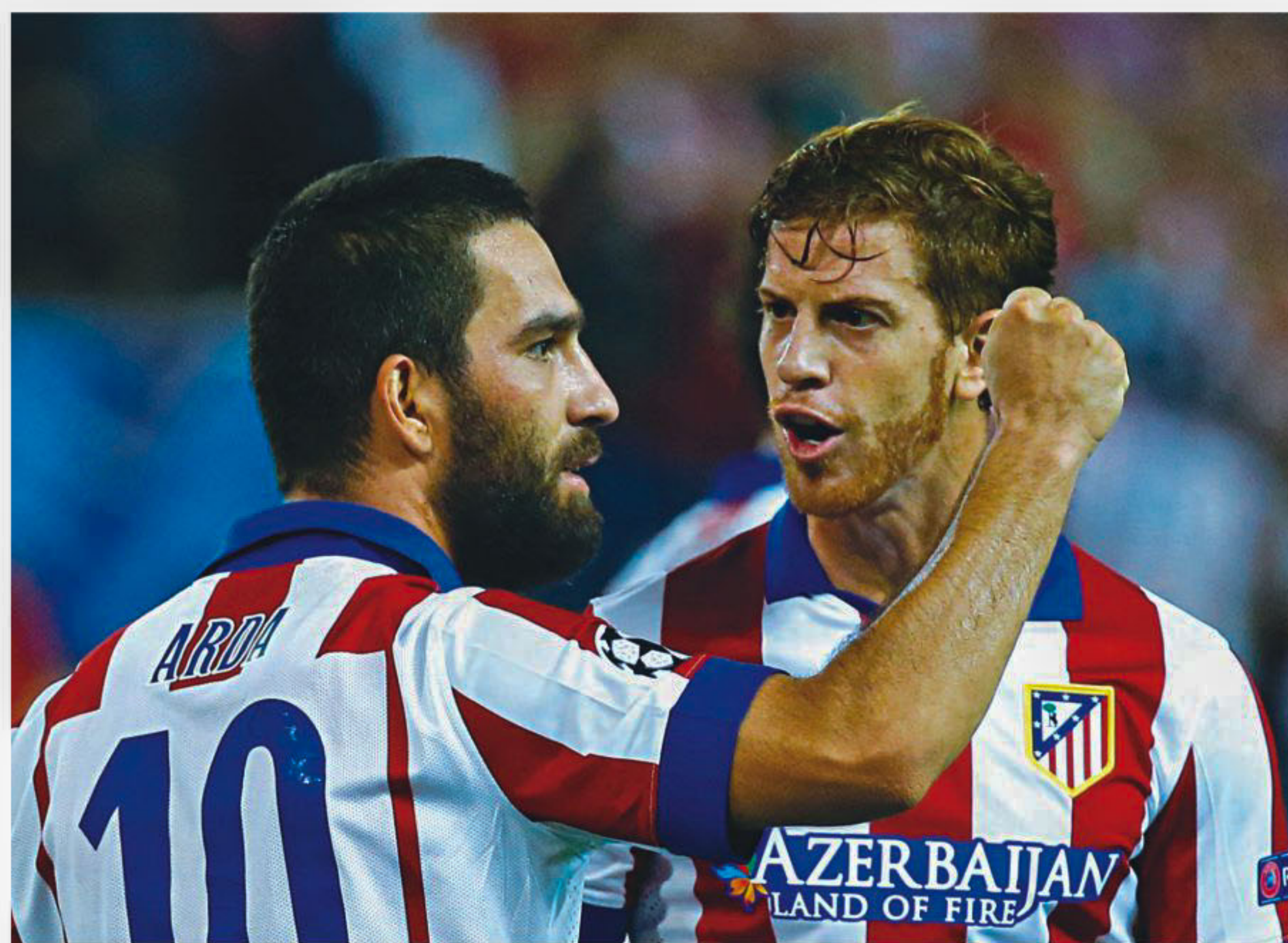
Juventus were enjoying over 60 percent of possession, but the closest they came to breaking the deadlock before the break came from a Paul Pogba shot from outside the box that curled just past the post.

Simeone introduced Griezmann for Saul eight minutes into the second-half and was rewarded with Atletico's best spell of the match.

The home fans cries for penalty were turned away by German referee Felix Brych just before the hour mark despite the ball clearly striking the arm of Martin Caceres from Raul Garcia's cross before Buffon scrambled it clear.

Juventus had seemed to have weathered that spell as the game became disjointed with both sides giving away possession far too cheaply.

However, with 15 minutes remaining Turan sneaked in ahead of Stephan Lichtsteiner at the back post to turn home Juanfran's cross.



Atletico Madrid midfielder Arda Turan (L) celebrates his all-important goal with teammate Cristian Ansaldi during their Champions League encounter against Juventus at the Vicente Calderon Stadium on Wednesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## 'It was like playing rugby'

GOAL.COM

Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo compared his side's 2-1 UEFA Champions League victory over Ludogorets to a rugby match after suffering an injury on a late challenge.

The Portugal captain was left limping in the final minutes of Wednesday's Group B clash in Sofia with an apparent ankle injury following a tackle by Anicet Abel.

Ronaldo had earlier cancelled out Marcelinho's sixth-minute opener with the second of two penalty kicks, the first of which was saved by Ludogorets goalkeeper Vladislav Stoyanov, before Karim Benzema netted the winner.

However, the nature of the challenge that led to his injury left Ronaldo seething.

"It was an intentional kick and we'll see [on Thursday] how it is, but it's a little open at the moment," he is quoted as saying. "It was a very ugly tackle and it seemed as if we were playing a game of rugby, but the most important thing is we got the three points and are now halfway toward qualifying for the next stage."

Speaking after the match, coach Carlo Ancelotti said of the injury: "Cristiano has had a knock. It's painful but nothing serious."

## Clyne, Shelvey get England call-ups

AFP, London

Uncapped Southampton right back Nathaniel Clyne and Swansea City midfielder Jonjo Shelvey were on Thursday called up for England's 2016 European Championship qualifiers against San Marino and Estonia.

Clyne, who scored a stunning goal against Arsenal in the League Cup recently, has never previously been called up, while Shelvey has made one previous appearance, coincidentally against San Marino, in October 2012.

Arsenal left back Kieran Gibbs returned to the squad, but Liverpool striker Daniel Sturridge missed out due to a thigh injury.

In Sturridge's absence manager Roy Hodgson named only three strikers in Rickie Lambert, Danny Welbeck and captain Wayne Rooney.

Having won 2-0 away to Switzerland in their opening Group E game last month, England host minnows San Marino at Wembley Stadium next Thursday before tackling Estonia in Tallinn the following Sunday.

## SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Fraser Forster (Southampton), Ben Foster (West Bromwich Albion), Joe Hart (Manchester City)

**Defenders:** Leighton Baines (Everton), Gary Cahill (Chelsea), Nathaniel Clyne (Southampton), Kieran Gibbs (Arsenal), Phil Jagielka (Everton), John Stones (Everton)

**Midfielders:** Fabian Delph (Aston Villa), Jordan Henderson (Liverpool), Adam Lallana (Liverpool), James Milner (Manchester City), Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Arsenal), Jonjo Shelvey (Swansea City), Raheem Sterling (Liverpool), Andros Townsend (Tottenham Hotspur), Jack Wilshere (Arsenal)

**Forwards:** Rickie Lambert (Liverpool), Wayne Rooney (Manchester United)

# Gabi denies match-fixing

AGENCIES, Madrid



The captain of Spanish league champions Atletico Madrid, Gabi Fernandez, denied on Thursday allegations that a match he played for his former club Real Zaragoza was fixed,

judicial sources said.

Gabi is the first high-profile player to admit to wrong-doing, but he maintains the stance that he did not know what the money was being used for, saying that he only did what the club told him.

The 31-year-old midfielder denied in questioning by anti-corruption prosecutors that players accepted money to rig the match between

Zaragoza and Levante in 2011.

Fernandez was the hero of Zaragoza's 2-1 victory that day, scoring both goals for his then club to save it from getting relegated from Spain's top league.

At Thursday's hearing, "he denied that the match was fixed," a judicial source told AFP.

Prosecutors questioned Fernandez about a payment of 90,000 euros (\$114,000) he received from Real Zaragoza around the time of the match.

He told them the payment was a bonus and he returned it in cash when the club asked for it back a few days later, the judicial sources said.

The move would not benefit the midfielder even though the alleged rigging allowed Zaragoza to remain in the First Division, since at that stage he

had agreed his return to Atletico Madrid after four seasons at Real Zaragoza.

Real Zaragoza filed for bankruptcy protection in June 2011.

Spanish newspapers said several other Zaragoza players were accused of receiving money from the club and passing it on to their Levante opponents who let them win the match.

Prosecutors have summoned a total of 33 people for hearings on Thursday and Friday for questioning over an alleged scam involving illegal betting. The prosecutors will then decide whether a full investigation should be opened.

Among those summoned are the coaches of the clubs at the time of the suspect match. Match-fixing is a crime in Spain and can lead to prison sentences for individuals and a club being banned from official competition.

## Park named Man United ambassador

AFP, London

Former South Korea captain Park Ji-sung has been appointed as an ambassador by his former club Manchester United, the Premier League giants announced on Thursday.

Park, now 33, played for United for seven years, winning four Premier League titles, three League Cups, one Champions League title and one Club World Cup, making him the most decorated Asian footballer in history.

## Chennai & Brisbane approved

IANS, Dubai

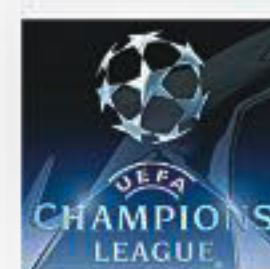
The International Cricket Council (ICC) Thursday announced that Cricket Australia's National Cricket Centre in Brisbane and Chennai's Sri Ramachandra University have been accredited as testing centres for suspected illegal bowling action.

The ICC took the decision after assessing several criteria at the venues which include an indoor area large enough to allow a player to bowl off his or her normal full run-up, a motion analysis system with a minimum of 12 high speed cameras capable of producing three-dimensional data and suitably qualified personnel.

The two centres join Cardiff Metropolitan University as testing facilities for players reported in international cricket under the ICC Regulations for the Review of Bowlers reported with Suspected Illegal Bowling Actions.

# Welbeck hits hattrick

AFP, Paris



Danny Welbeck answered former coach Louis van Gaal's criticism in style on Wednesday, scoring a hattrick in Arsenal's 4-1 romp over Galatasaray in their

Champions League group match while both Madrid clubs also recorded wins.

Welbeck, let go by van Gaal as the Manchester United handler considered his scoring record was not what it should be, became only the sixth Englishman to score a Champions League hattrick, celebrating Arsene Wenger's 18th anniversary in charge of the club in style.

"That instinct of a goalscorer in Danny Welbeck was more aggressive and he finished well," Wenger said.

"He has such good pace it gives him time to finish calmly."

"We had good pace in all areas and over-

all the performance was good."

Borussia Dortmund, who outclassed Arsenal in their opening game, top the group as they eased to a 3-0 win away at Anderlecht, Adrian Ramos scoring a double after Italian international Ciro Immobile had given them an early lead.

Holders Real were far from impressive in eking out a 2-1 win over Bulgarian minnows Ludogorets, Cristiano Ronaldo missing a penalty and having a goal disallowed before converting another opportunity from the penalty spot to take him to within three goals of overtaking Raul as the all-time leading scorer in the competition.

Frenchman Karim Benzema grabbed a late winner against their obdurate hosts, who had served warning of their resilience in coming within minutes of drawing away at Liverpool in the opening game.

Meanwhile, the English side's poor start to the season continued as they went down 1-0 to Basel in Switzerland.

Real coach Carlo Ancelotti was far from disappointed with his side's stuttering performance although there was a measure of relief in coming away with the three points.

"For us the result is good. We started by trailing 1-0 but then pressured Ludogorets and managed to score for 1-1 and then take the lead.

"We could have scored more goals but in general I am content. I am glad that we won."

Real's neighbours Atletico enjoyed a more noteworthy victory, not only putting behind them a surprise opening defeat by Olympiakos, but also becoming the first side in 11 games to breach the Juventus defence as Arda Turan scored the only goal of the game in Madrid.

Atletico's group looks like being a really tight affair as, with Olympiakos slipping to a 2-0 defeat to Malmo in Sweden, all four sides are on three points.

## RESULTS

**Atletico Madrid (ESP) 1** (Turan 74) **Juventus (ITA) 0**  
**Malmo (SWE) 2** (Rosenberg 42, 82) **Olympiakos (GRE) 0**  
**Ludogorets (BUL) 1** (Marcelinho 6) **Real Madrid (ESP) 2**  
(Cristiano Ronaldo 25-pen, Benzema 77)  
**Basel (SUI) 1** (Streller 52) **Liverpool (ENG) 0**  
**Bayer Leverkusen (GER) 3** (Kießling 25, Son Heung-min 34, Calhanoglu 64-pen) **Benfica (POR) 1** (Salvio 62)  
**Zenit St Petersburg (RUS) 0** **Monaco (FRA) 0**  
**Arsenal (ENG) 4** (Welbeck 22, 30, 52, Sanchez 41) **Galatasaray (TUR) 1** (B. Yilmaz 63-pen)  
**Anderlecht (BEL) 0** **Borussia Dortmund (GER) 3** (Immobile 3,

Group C, too, could go down to the wire as Zenit St Petersburg and Monaco top it with four points after they played out a 0-0 draw in Russia but German side Bayer Leverkusen are in the mix after beating last season's Europa League finalists Benfica 3-1 with Korean star Son Heung-min their inspiration.

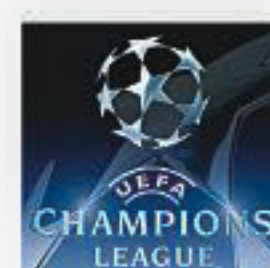


Arsenal striker Danny Welbeck runs off to celebrate his opening goal against Galatasaray during their Champions League tie at the Emirates Stadium on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Karim silences detractors

REUTERS, Madrid



Real Madrid forward Karim Benzema has many detractors in Spain and in his native France but scoring important goals like his winner in Wednesday's Champions League game at Ludogorets will help silence them.

Benzema's critics say he should be a lot more prolific, while his supporters, including Real president Florentino Perez and coach Carlo Ancelotti, highlight his work for the team, which they say often goes unnoticed.

The 26-year-old came off the bench in the second half in Sofia and his strike 13 minutes from time to make it 2-1 helped Real complete a comeback from a goal down and preserve the European champions' perfect record in Group B with two wins in two matches. "For me the most important thing is the way we play together, although for a forward it is obviously very important to score," Benzema told reporters.

"Today I helped the team a lot," added the former Olympique Lyon striker.

"People want me to score a lot of goals but we will continue to work hard like today."

The criticism of Benzema seems exaggerated when you look at his record for Real since he joined the world's richest club by income in 2009 along with Cristiano Ronaldo and Kaka.

His best season was in 2011-12 when he netted 31 goals in 50 appearances in all competitions as Real ended Barcelona's three-year run as La Liga champions and reached the Champions League semifinals.

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