

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

CHANNEL 9 & SET MAX

Indian Premier League

Punjab v Chennai

Live from 4:30pm

Rajasthan v Kolkata

Live from 8:30pm

STAR SPORTS1

Serie A

Inter Milan v Juventus

Live from 10:00pm

STAR SPORTS2

Serie A

Sampdoria v Lazio

Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

STAR SPORTS4

English Premiership

Southampton v Aston Villa

Live from 5:45pm

Tottenham v Hull City

Live from 8:00pm

Liverpool v Crystal Palace

Live from 10:30pm

Bangladesh Premier League

Venue: BNS

Mohammedan v Rahmatganj

Time: 4:15pm

Brothers Union v Soccer Club, Feni

Time: 6:30pm

RCB's nail-biting win

SPORTS REPORTER

Chris Gayle's dominant knock of 35 off 10 helped Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by six wickets at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium yesterday in a rain-curtailed match. Hyderabad reached 135 in 11 overs, while RCB were set a revised target of 81 in 6 overs.

And in a situation where runs are needed that fast, Chris Gayle is your man. His first ball was a four, the ball after a six. He pummeled his way to 24 runs off the second over, before being dismissed after facing only 10 balls, during the course of which he smote four 4s and three 6s. AB de Villiers had a brief cameo, being dismissed for a golden duck.

Virat Kohli won RCB the game in the last over, with 12 runs needed off 4 balls. Kohli blasted a shot to the boundary, before playing an exquisite shot between two helpless fielders. With four runs needed off two balls, Kohli stomped down the ground and hit a six, securing RCB the win and moving them to third with 15 points.

Kohli finished with 44 runs off 19 balls, smashing three 4s and three 6s. Hyderabad are tied on points for the fourth position with the Mumbai Indians and Rajasthan Royals.

With Hyderabad at 19 after 2.2 overs, David Warner and Moises Henriques began their onslaught. A 103-run partnership in 6.1 overs between the two was the pillar of Hyderabad's innings. Henriques scored 57 off just 22 balls -- smashing five 4s and four 6s before being dismissed - while Warner stayed unbeaten after his 32 ball 52, with five 4s and a six.

SCORES IN BRIEF
HYDERABAD: 135 for two in 11 overs (Warner 52*, Henriques 57; Wiese 2-20)
BANGALORE: 83 for four in 5.5 overs (Gayle 35, Kohli 44; Henriques 2-3)
Result: Bangalore won by 6 wkts

Chelsea snap up Brazilian starlet

Chelsea confirmed the signing of highly-rated Brazilian teenager Nathan from Atletico Paranaense. The newly crowned Premier League champions have moved quickly to bolster their squad for next season and the 19-year-old attacking midfielder will officially move to Stamford Bridge on July 1.

Nathan flew to England for his medical last month and is reported to have cost Jose Mourinho's side £4.5 million (\$7 million). The Blues also have young Brazilians Wallace and Lucas Piazon currently out on loan.

"I am very happy to be joining Chelsea, the champions of England, and I hope I will be able to learn a lot and develop my game," Nathan told Chelsea's website.

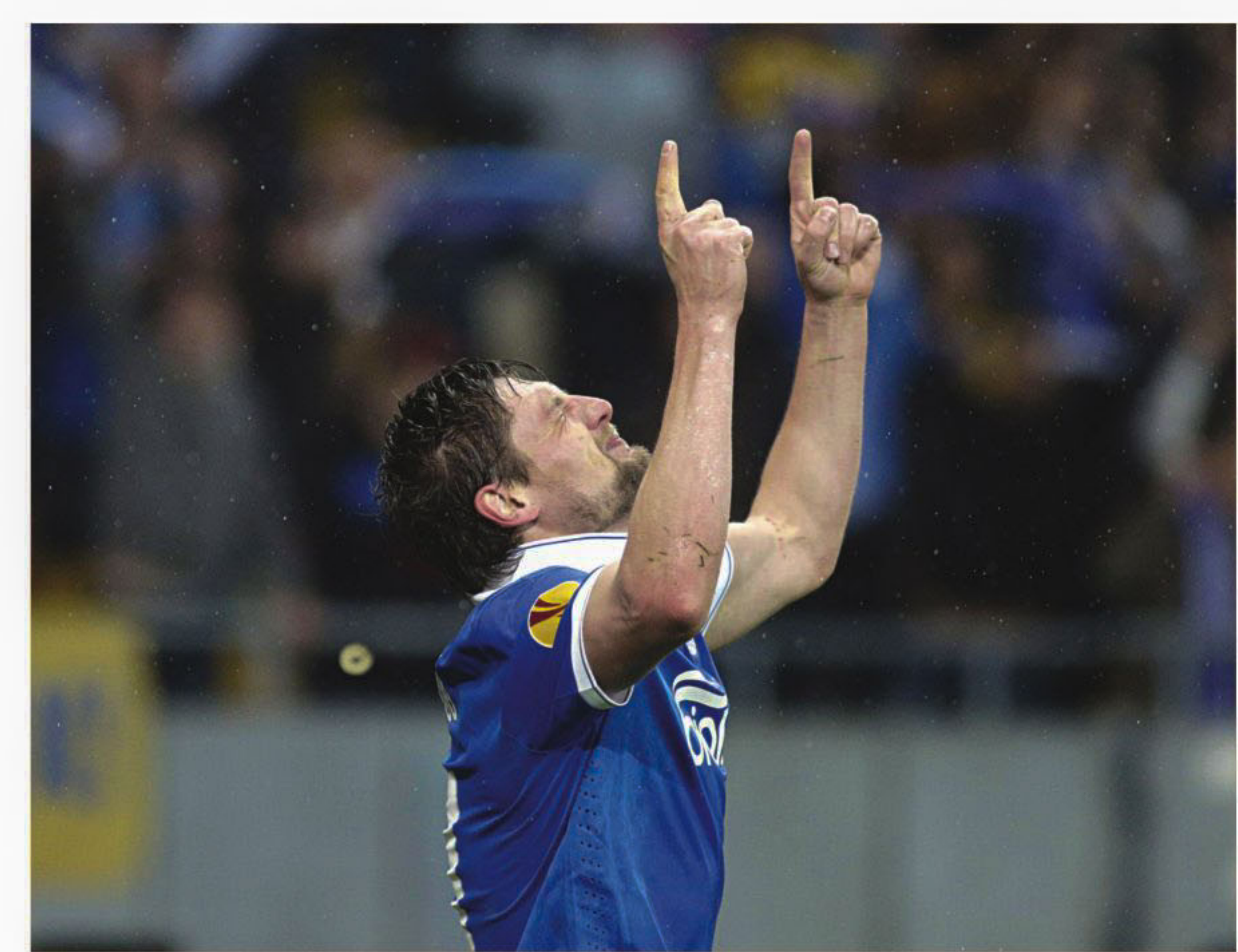
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দেশের উন্নয়নে অংশ নি।

সোনার বাংলা গড়তে হলে

মূল্যক দিবো সবাই মিলে।

-এনবিআর



Dnipro striker Yevhen Seleznyov celebrates his all-important goal against Napoli during their Europa League semifinal in Kiev on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

Relegation battle heats up

AFP, London



The penultimate round of matches in this season's Premier League gets under way on Saturday with several clubs looking to avoid joining already-relegated Burnley and Queens Park Rangers in English football's second-tier next term.

Hull currently occupy the one remaining relegation place but can do themselves the power of good, if not make absolutely certain of their top-flight status, with a win away to a Tottenham Hotspur side who have not scored in five of their last eight games. The Tigers lost 1-0 to Burnley last weekend and manager Steve Bruce has demanded a much-improved performance from his side against Spurs.

"My main concern is we haven't got anywhere near the level we're capable of and I take responsibility for that," Bruce said.

"A lot of them fell short of the level we require and we have got to try and get it back because we have still got a chance," the former Manchester United defender added.

Newcastle and Sunderland are the next two clubs in line, with the north-east rivals both on 36 points, although Sunderland do have a game in hand, against Arsenal, next week.

This weekend sees Newcastle away to QPR while Sunderland face Leicester, just a point and a place above them, in what promises to be a classic relegation "six-pointer".

Last week's 1-1 draw with West Brom ended Newcastle's run of eight straight defeats, their worst for 38 years, and left them two points above the relegation zone with two games to play.

Victory at Loftus Road, allied to a Hull failure to win, would see Newcastle stay up but Magpies caretaker boss John Carver, desperate to be the manager of his hometown club come next season, said he wanted more than that.

"My pride has been hurt by the run of results. I want to do something about it. If that means winning the next two games, that will make me feel a little bit better," Carver said.

FIXTURES

(1400 GMT unless stated)

Saturday
Burnley v Stoke, Liverpool v Crystal Palace (1630 GMT), QPR v Newcastle, Southampton v Aston Villa (1145 GMT), Sunderland v Leicester, Tottenham v Hull, West Ham v Everton

Sunday
Manchester United v Arsenal (1500 GMT), Swansea v Manchester City (1230 GMT)

Monday
West Bromwich Albion v Chelsea (1900 GMT)

Sunderland welcome Leicester to the Stadium of Light buoyed by a morale-boosting 2-0 victory at Everton.

Sunderland manager Dick Advocaat arrived on Wearside in March thinking six or seven points might be enough to see the Black Cats beat the drop.

But although the 67-year-old Dutchman and his charges have taken 10 points from six games since his arrival, Sunderland are still not out of danger.

"We thought that with six points, we had enough, and now we have 10 points and we still need three points, so hopefully we can do that on Saturday," Advocaat said.

Leicester, however, are currently on a brilliant run of six wins in their last seven matches which has seen the Foxes give themselves a remarkable lifeline after being bottom of the table for 140 days this season.

"First and foremost our concentration has to be on ourselves, on our own game, that's not going to change," said Leicester manager Nigel Pearson.

FA Cup finalists Aston Villa, within touching distance of safety on 38 points, travel to Southampton on Saturday.

At the other end of the table, Liverpool's match against Crystal Palace promises to be emotional for skipper Steven Gerrard as it will be the last time the veteran midfielder plays at Anfield before joining the LA Galaxy.

Dnipro stun Napoli

AFP, Paris



Holders Sevilla, who crushed Fiorentina, face unheralded Ukrainians Dnipro in the Europa League final in Warsaw on May 27.

The finalists progress to the Polish capital finale in wildly contrasting fashions.

Sevilla, seeking a record fourth success in the competition, were firmly in the driving seat after last week's 3-0 first leg success, and finished off Fiorentina with first half goals from Carlos Bacca and Daniel Carrico.

Dnipro, a former rocket factory side, on the other hand secured their first ever European final by grittily edging Rafa Benitez's Napoli 1-0 in Kiev to go through 2-1 on aggregate.

Napoli, the 1989 UEFA Cup winners, were the better side in the first half but Yevhen Seleznyov put paid to their Europa League dreams when heading past keeper Mariano Andujar in the 58th minute, with Yevhen Konoplyanka's cross from the left setting up the all important goal.

Napoli will be fed up with the sight of Seleznyov as it was he who had come on as a substitute last week to snatch a vital 1-1 draw in Naples.

RESULTS

Fiorentina (ITA) 0 **Sevilla (ESP) 2** (Bacca 22, Carrico 27)

Sevilla win 5-0 on aggregate

Dnipro (UKR) 1 (Seleznyov 58) Napoli (ITA) 0

Dnipro win 2-1 on aggregate

Napoli's Gonzalo Higuain had an early effort kept out by Dnipro keeper Denys Boyko, who also proved a match for the Argentine striker as the half hour approached.

In relentless rain, Dnipro emerged after the break only 45 minutes away from their first ever European final on the away goals rule.

But Ukraine international Seleznyov settled the nerves of the 'home' side - Dnipro hosting Napoli in the safety of the Ukraine capital, which is 450 kilometres further away from the conflict in eastern Ukraine than Dnipropetrovsk.

In Florence, any hopes of a Fiorentina fightback fizzled out when Colombian striker Bacca opened the scoring for Sevilla in the 22nd minute off an Ever Banega free-kick.

Five minutes later the Italians were caught napping by another setpiece, Carrico tapping in a deflected long ball up the right.

Fiorentina's attempt at a crucial early goal would have paid off if it hadn't been for Sevilla's young keeper Sergio Rico superbly denying Gonzalo Rodriguez's close range header.

Rana, Nayeem in line

SPORTS REPORTER



With two friendly fixtures scheduled for later this month and the first two matches of the Joint Qualifiers of World Cup and Asian Cup in mid-June, Bangladesh national team is still looking for a technically sound goalkeeper to do the job between the sticks.

The goalkeeping position has been a thorn in the side for Bangladesh ever since reliable 'keeper Aminul Haque played his last for the national team in 2010. Rasel Mahmud Liton, Shahidul Alam Shohel, Mamun Khan, Mazharul Islam Himel and a few others have been tried and tested, but no one has made the position his own.

Under such circumstances, head coach Lodewijk de Kruij has called up two fresh faces -- Ashraful Islam Rana of Mohammedan and Mohammad Nayeem of Team BJMC -- alongside Liton, Shohel and Himel in the preliminary squad for the upcoming matches.

The selection of Rana and Nayeem has drawn attention of people in football as these two goalkeepers are still relatively unknown on a broader scale.

Rana has so far played in four league matches for Mohammedan SC, substituting first-choice Mohammad Nehal.

"I was called into the squad after the coaches watched me in the match against Feni Soccer. It was a surprise call for me," said Rana.

The 26-year-old goalkeeper believes securing a place in the final squad is a big challenge but he is fully prepared for the battle to fulfil his dream.

Like Rana, Nayeem also played a couple of matches for BJMC in place of first-choice 'keeper Arifuzzaman Himel and caught the attention of Schweichler to get the call-up for the 32-member preliminary squad.

Villa fined over pitch invasions

AFP, London

Aston Villa have been fined £200,000 (\$315,000) after pitch invasions and crowd trouble marred the end of their FA Cup quarterfinal win over West Bromwich Albion.

Some Albion players were jostled and taunted during the invasions, prompting Villa to issue an apology saying the victory had been "marred by the actions of those who could not control themselves".

West Brom manager Tony Pulis criticised the stewarding at Villa Park and said his players' safety was in jeopardy.

Some West Brom fans were also involved in incidents including a number of seats being ripped off and thrown onto the pitch.

The FA said in a statement: "Aston Villa have been fined £200,000 after admitting spectator misconduct in relation to their FA Cup Sixth Round tie against West Bromwich Albion on 7 March 2015.

Juve seal Dybala deal

AFP, London



AFP, Rome



Palermo striker Paulo Dybala is set to join Juventus on a five-year deal worth 32 million euros (\$36.25 million) that will see the Argentinian earn 2.5m euros a season, reports said Friday.

Dybala has been one of the sensations of Italy's top flight this season, scoring 13 league goals in 33 appearances so far to attract interest from some of Europe's top clubs.

Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea, as well as Inter Milan and AC Milan, have been linked with the 22-year-old, but La Gazzetta dello Sport said Dybala has already agreed terms to join the recently-crowned Italian champions.

A report said the player's agent met Juve CEO Beppe Marotta and that the "deal was sealed" on Thursday after the parties discussed a number of clauses and incentives linked to an eventual transfer.

Palermo president Maurizio Zamparini had slapped a 40 million euro (\$45.3 million) price tag on Dybala earlier this season,

but it appears he is now ready to accept 32m euros as well as a number of incentives from the Italian champions.

If the deal is confirmed, the Sicilian club could welcome several up-and-coming players owned by Juventus who are currently out on loan at smaller league clubs.

Palermo would also receive bonuses related to Dybala's performances in both Serie A and the Champions League, added the report, and could be given a percentage of any future sale of the player by the Turin giants.

The deal could be confirmed by midweek after the player's lawyer, expected to arrive from Buenos Aires on Tuesday, meets Zamparini and Marotta.

Dybala's arrival in Turin would boost an already potent attacking line featuring Argentinian Carlos Tevez, Spaniards Alvaro Morata and Fernando Llorente, and the rarely-used Italian Alessandro Matti.

Juventus, who secured their fourth consecutive league title two weeks ago, are on course for the first Italian treble since Inter Milan won the league, Cup and Champions League under Jose Mourinho in 2010.

Argentina suspends matches

AFP, Buenos Aires

The Argentine Football Association said Thursday it was suspending all matches this weekend after a fourth-division player died of a head injury sustained during a game.

Emanuel Ortega, a player for Buenos Aires club San Martin de Burzaco, fractured his skull last week when a player from rival side Juventud Unida pushed him as they contested the ball, causing him to fall backwards into a perimeter wall used to keep fans from invading the pitch.

Ortega, 21, died Thursday morning at a hospital in the Argentine capital, after undergoing two operations.

"At first matches were suspended for just the (fourth) division, but then we all agreed that we needed to reschedule all matches and that there would be no football this weekend," said AFA president Luis Segura.

The measure does not affect Thursday's matches for the round of 16 of the Copa Libertadores, including the so-called "super-clasico" between Argentina's most famous rivals, Boca Juniors and River Plate.

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