

What to WATCH

GAZI TV & STAR SPORTS1
Bangladesh v India
First ODI (D/N)
Live from 3:00pm

TEN CRICKET
Sri Lanka v Pakistan
First Test, Day 2
Live from 10:00am

SONY SIX HD
Copa America
Peru v Venezuela
Live from 5:30am
(Friday)



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DAY'S EVENT
Bangladesh v India
Venue: SBNSC, Mirpur
First ODI (D/N)
Time: 3:00pm

Eder sinks Italy

AFP, Geneva

Eder scored the only goal of the game as Portugal recorded their first win over Italy since 1976 with a 1-0 friendly success in Geneva on Tuesday.

Fernando Santos's men were in buoyant mood after last Saturday's 3-2 Euro 2016 qualifying victory in Armenia and they produced a solid display against the Azzurri, who were previously unbeaten under coach Antonio Conte.

With World Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo given a rest, Portugal handed a start to Sporting Braga striker Eder, who had scored 10 league goals this season for his club in the Portuguese Primeira Liga.

After a low-key first half in Switzerland, the 27-year-old striker -- born in the Portuguese colony of Guinea-Bissau -- grabbed his first goal for his country with 52 minutes gone after an assist from Ricardo Quaresma.



Argentina forward Sergio Aguero celebrates his all-important goal against Uruguay during their Copa America encounter in La Serena on Tuesday.

Argentina rebound

AFP, Santiago

Sergio Aguero reignited Argentina's Copa America campaign with the only goal in a 1-0 victory over historic rivals Uruguay, as the tournament was rocked by the arrest of Chile star Arturo Vidal for drunk driving after a car crash.

Aguero bagged his second goal of the tournament in the 56th minute of a niggly battle between the 1930 World Cup finalists in their 199th meeting.

The result leaves Argentina firmly on course to win Group B, with only one game against tournament minnows Jamaica, beaten 1-0 by Paraguay in Tuesday's early game, remaining.

Argentina captain Lionel Messi praised his teammates for keeping their cool in a hard-fought win over Uruguay.

"It was a tough match from their side. They didn't want to play that much," said Messi, who was subjected to a series of cynical fouls throughout.

"They were tough. They were hard on us. But we showed that we can also play that kind of game if we need to.

"Yet we tried to keep playing our game and that's how we found the goal through Kun (Aguero)."

In Tuesday's other game, Paraguay edged closer to the last eight with a 1-0 win over Jamaica.

A freak goal from Edgar Benitez proved the difference, the striker unwittingly deflecting a hapless headed clearance by Jamaica goalkeeper Duwayne Kerr into an empty net on 36 minutes.

RESULTS

Argentina 1 (Aguero 56) Uruguay 0

Paraguay 1 (Benitez 36) Jamaica 0

Mamunul sees hope

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh skipper Mamunul Islam sees hope of collecting more points from the six remaining fixtures of the Joint Qualifiers of the World Cup and Asian Cup following their enterprising performance in a 1-1 draw against Tajikistan on Tuesday.

Bangladesh played some beautiful passing football against the Persian Lions with built-up play, which is their usual style, to keep the superior Tajikistan side at bay for most part of the game. The hosts deservedly took the lead early in the second half, but conceded a needless free-kick in front of the danger zone which led to the equalising goal towards the fag end of the match.

With just a single point from two matches, Bangladesh's initial target of securing a direct entry into the final round of the Asian Cup Qualifiers by dint of finishing third in the group looks all but over. But the Bangladesh skipper believes all is not lost yet.

"Securing more points from remaining six matches is possible because in football anything can happen. It is a game where Germany scored 7 goals against Brazil. However, we must carry the momentum to our next matches and keep up the good work," said the midfielder yesterday over phone from Chittagong.

"We have been in constant action in recent times. We played two friendlies and then



played two qualifiers and are set to return to domestic competitions before going back to the qualifiers. All the players now need to dwell with football in our thinking, consciousness and ideas," said Mamunul. "With the supervision of the coach (Lodewijk de Kruijf), the federation should start the camp early before the next qualifying match."

Bangladesh will play their next qualifying match away to Perth against the Socceros on September 3 before hosting Jordan five days later.

Mamunul believes they are now at the half-way level in terms of reaching international standard, and that they will need more international exposure through playing against a number of international friendlies against strong opponents to get to the top.

The Sheikh Jamal DC midfielder believes that the team put up their best performance of the last six to seven matches against Tajikistan on Tuesday, but they were not lucky enough to secure full points because of the last ditch free-kick converted by Tajikistan midfielder Fatkhullo Fatkhuloev.

South Korean referee Lee Min Hu blew awarded the free-kick for an aerial challenge from Zahid Hasan Emily on a Tajikistan player before awarding a retake from three yards inside after Mamunul had raced out of the wall before time to defend the free-kick. The Bangladesh skipper defended his move by saying that he only did it to spoil the concentration of the shooter. However, it backfired as Fatkhuloev found the target with ease this time.

Messi refused MOTM award!

GOAL.COM

Argentina captain Lionel Messi refused the man of the match award for his side's 2-2 draw against Paraguay because he was furious with how his team threw away a two-goal lead in their Copa America opener.

Messi was key in the build-up to Sergio Aguero's strike and scored Argentina's second from the penalty spot, but missed chances in the second half to put the game out of Paraguay's reach and was in no mood for a photo call following the final whistle on Saturday.

A representative from MasterCard, who hand out the awards in every match in the continental competition, went to the Argentina dressing room to inform the 27-year-old he had been chosen to receive the prize but was told Messi would not accept the award.

Following the Barcelona forward's refusal, MasterCard were keen to pick another Argentine player after the fantastic first half performance from Gerardo Martino's men, but the mood in the dressing room was sombre and the representative was told that none of the players were willing to accept the accolade.

It was then decided to give the prize to one of Paraguay's two goalscorers and Nelson Valdez - who netted the first for the Albirroja before Lucas Barrios' late leveller - was on hand to pick up the unwanted man of the match award.

Vidal freed and tipped to play

Court revokes Chile star's license after drunk-driving arrest

AFP, Santiago

Chilean football star Arturo Vidal was stripped of his driver's license Wednesday after being arrested for crashing his Ferrari while driving drunk, but the national team decided not to suspend him from the Copa America.

After spending the night in jail, the Juventus midfielder appeared in court in Santiago, where the judge freed him from custody but suspended his license and ordered him to report to the Chilean consulate in Milan every month under the terms of his release.

Vidal, who is home playing with Chile's national team in the South American championships, where he is currently the leading scorer, collided with another car late Tuesday as he and his wife, Maria Teresa Matus, drove home from a casino following a day off from training.

The couple were briefly taken to hospital after the accident on the outskirts of the Chilean capital, which left Vidal's red Ferrari badly mangled on the driver's side, its airbags deployed.

Vidal, 28, was then escorted from the hospital by police and carted off to jail in the back of a police car.

Officials have not disclosed how much alcohol he had in his blood.

After leaving court, where crowds of fans had gathered outside, Vidal rushed off to join the national team's practice session, which was already under way.

After a night of hand-wringing for Chilean fans, whose hopes of winning their first Copa America on home soil hang largely on Vidal, coach Jorge Sampaoli said he would not suspend the star from the team.

"Arturo's accident worried all of us. The first thing we're worried about is his health and that of his family. The second is the measure we're going to take with the coaching staff this afternoon," said the coach.

"He's just arrived and we're going to see how he is and try to make him understand that he maybe made a mistake, which for us is not so decisive that we need to suspend him."

He said Vidal has always shown "very good behavior" under his watch, despite his previous brushes with controversy.

"This accident of Arturo's is not going to affect Chile because he's a player who is with the team, beyond any mistake," he added.

Vidal does not face jail time because only he and his wife were hurt in the accident. He suffered "minor injuries" and his wife "moderately serious injuries," police Colonel Ricardo Gonzalez told reporters.

Under Chile's zero tolerance law on drunk driving, Vidal could have his license suspended for up to two years.

After the accident, he posted a video message on YouTube to proclaim his innocence.

"Today, I had a car accident. It was not my fault. I'm fine, my family's fine. Thank you for everything," he said, giving a thumbs up.

He is currently the top scorer in the Copa America finding the back of the net three times in two games.

Chile are top of Group A and meet Bolivia in their final first-round match on Friday.



The wrecked remains of the red Ferrari of Arturo Vidal in Buin after an accident on Tuesday. (Inset) Vidal in court during hearing. PHOTOS: AGENCIES

Kiwis post 349 for 7

AFP, Nottingham

New Zealand made 349 for seven in the day/night fourth one-day international against England at Trent Bridge on Wednesday.

Kane Williamson top-scored with 90, passing 3,000 ODI runs in the process. Opener Martin Guppill made 53 and all-rounder Grant Elliott an unbeaten 55 off 52 balls.

New Zealand, after winning the toss, had threatened a huge score at 187 for two off 30 overs. But England fought back well with the ball until Mitchell Santner smashed 44 off just 19 balls, including 28 off one over from Adil Rashid when he struck the leg-spinner for four sixes.

New Zealand lead the five-match series 2-1.

SCORES IN BRIEF

New Zealand 349 for 7 (Guppill 53, Williamson 90, Elliott 55 not out, Santner 44, Willley 2-89, Stokes 2-73)

Capello faces the axe?

AFP, Moscow

Under-fire Fabio Capello's reign as Russia manager looks doomed after the country's sports minister said a decision on the Italian's future had already been taken.

"There's no secret, we've already taken certain decisions (about Capello's fate)," ITAR-TASS news agency quoted minister Vitaly Mutko as saying on Wednesday.

"All the questions concerning national team management will be settled before the end of the month," the minister said.

Ex-England manager Capello -- reputed to be the highest paid international coach -- has come under increasing pressure following a dismal run of results in Russia's Euro 2016 qualifying campaign.

The R-sport agency quoted an unnamed football union source as saying that the official announcement of Capello's departure will be made once the two sides hammer out the vast sum it will likely cost to buy him out of his contract.

"The decision has already been taken. But there are still some technical details concerning the size of compensation for cancelling Capello's contract," the agency report said.

Press reports also said that the RFU were considering three new candidates, naming CSKA head coach Leonid Slutsky, FC Krasnodar manager Oleg Kononov and former Russian assistant coach Alexander Boroduyk.

Meanwhile, the RFU said Wednesday that no official decision about Capello's fate has been taken yet.

Day One of Galle Test washed out

AFP, Galle

Bad weather washed out the opening day's play without a ball being bowled in the first Test between Sri Lanka and Pakistan in Galle on Wednesday.

The umpires abandoned play at 2.00 pm (0830 GMT) after incessant rain showed no signs of abating and the large covers at the Galle International Stadium became water-logged.

Sri Lanka and Pakistan are due to play three Tests, followed by five one-day internationals and two Twenty20 matches.

Chelsea open campaign against Swansea

AFP, London

Chelsea will start the defence of their Premier League title with a home game against Swansea when the 2015/16 season gets underway on August 8.

Next season's calendar released Wednesday gives Liverpool a chance to banish memories of their 6-1 drubbing at Stoke on the final day of last season, as they return to the Britannia on day one of the new campaign.

Another highlight of the opening weekend is Tottenham's visit to Manchester United.

Manchester City start out at West Brom, while Arsenal kick-off against new West Ham boss Slaven Bilic at the Emirates.

Promoted Bournemouth begin life in the top flight at home to Aston Villa, with fellow newcomers Watford and new manager Quique Sanchez Flores at Everton. Play-off winners Norwich host Crystal Palace.

Elsewhere on day one, Steve McClaren - one of three new bosses - starts out as Newcastle manager against Southampton at St James' Park and Leicester are at home to Sunderland.

Once the opening weekend is out of the way Chelsea head to Manchester City for an early-season blockbuster, followed by clashes

Wawrinka felled at Queen's

AFP, London

Stan Wawrinka became the latest star to suffer a shock exit from Queen's Club as the French Open champion was beaten 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (13/11) by South Africa's Kevin Anderson on Wednesday.

Wawrinka couldn't find a way to subdue the big-serving Anderson, who fired down 22 aces en route to his first win over a top five ranked opponent this year.

A hard-fought first set looked to have swung Wawrinka's way when he secured two set points at 6-5, only for the Swiss to let Anderson off the hook as the 29-year-old raced through the subsequent tie-break.

The players went to a second set tie-break where Wawrinka save five match points and Anderson rescue two set points before the South African finally sealed his win.