

TEN CRICKET

Zimbabwe v Pakistan
First ODI
Live from 1:30pm
Europa League
Warszawa v Napoli

TEN ACTION

Europa League
Monaco v Tottenham
Live from 11:00pm
Liverpool v Sion
Live from 1:00am (Friday)

TEN SPORTS

Europa League
Lazio v St. Etienne
Live from 11:00pm
PAOK v Dortmund
Live from 1:00am (Friday)

BECKS IN DUBAI

David Beckham jetted to Dubai on Tuesday for the opening of a new flagship adidas store in Dubai's Mall of Emirates shopping centre - to the delight of thousands of fans. Beckham personally welcomed the lucky locals to the all-new 'HomeCourt' store before signing autographs and posing for photographs. After the opening Beckham said: "I always love coming to Dubai - it's a special place that's constantly evolving, just like adidas and their stores. Spending some time here today, it was great to get a sense of the energy people have for sport. In Dubai I've met people from all around the world who are united in their passion



Can't stop scoring

AFP, Munich

Pep Guardiola said Bayern Munich will toast their 5-0 rout of Dinamo Zagreb during Wednesday's annual visit to Oktoberfest after Robert Lewandowski's phenomenal goal-scoring run continued with a hat-trick.

Poland hot-shot Lewandowski has now scored 10 goals in his last three games after netting five in just nine spectacular minutes of Bayern's 5-1 hammering of Wolfsburg last Tuesday before claiming two more in Saturday's 3-0 win at Mainz.

"I am happy to get three more goals, but the main thing is that we won 5-0," said Lewandowski.

"It doesn't matter how many goals I score as long as we keep picking up points.

"The whole team played well, which creates opportunities for me."

"He's had an unbelievable week behind him," admitted Lahm, who joked that he expects at least three goals from Lewandowski per game



Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski celebrates his hat-trick against Dinamo Zagreb during their Champions League encounter in Munich on Tuesday.

Platini to stay in FIFA race

AFP, Paris

UEFA president Michel Platini has insisted he will stay in the race for the FIFA presidency despite being named in a Swiss criminal investigation into the world football body.

The French football legend told AFP on Tuesday he had done "nothing wrong" and defended a \$2 million payment approved by FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

"I am still determined to present myself as a candidate for the FIFA presidency so I can introduce the governance reforms that are necessary to restore the order and credibility to world football," Platini told AFP.

Swiss prosecutors say they are investigating whether Blatter approved a "disloyal" two million Swiss franc (\$2 million) payment to Platini.

The money was paid for work carried out between 1998 and 2002 but the payment was only made in 2011. The Frenchman, who has led UEFA since 2007, said

Chelsea slump continues

AFP, Porto



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho was left to defend his team selection and his side's performance after their slump continued on Tuesday with a 2-1 Champions League defeat to Porto.

Maicon got what proved to be the winning goal for Porto at the Estadio do Dragao after a superb Willian free-kick had cancelled out Andre Andre's opener in a tremendous Group G encounter as Mourinho returned to face his former club.

The Chelsea manager was furious with his team's display in drawing 2-2 with Newcastle United in the Premier League last weekend and made significant changes to his line-up, but on this occasion he simply said that two mistakes cost them dear in Portugal.

"It was a performance with two ridiculous mistakes. Sometimes you make that kind of mistake and you are not punished but we were," said Mourinho of Chelsea's defending of the corner that produced Maicon's winner and of a later delivery that Danilo headed off the post.

"The second goal is a really bad mistake. We watch dozens of repetitions of Porto taking corners -- I thought we were completely ready for that.

"We had another similar mistake when they hit the post but apart from that it was a balanced performance. The defenders played well, had no problems, but two ridiculous mistakes and we were punished."

Mourinho, who coached Porto to Champions League glory in 2004, has now gone back to his old club three times with Chelsea and is still to win.

This defeat followed a loss by the same score in late 2004 and a 1-1 draw in 2007, but of more importance is the defeat in the context of Chelsea's season.

They languish in 15th place in the Premier League and have already suffered five defeats in 11 games in all competitions, winning only four times.

"The players reacted in a positive way," added Mourinho of their second-half performance, when Diego Costa hit the woodwork and Chelsea had appeals for a penalty for handball against Ivan Marcano waved away.

English clubs crash

Lewandowski fires hat-trick

AFP, Paris



Arsenal and Chelsea had a Champions League night to forget on Tuesday as a Robert Lewandowski

hat-trick helped Bayern Munich crush Dinamo Zagreb.

And champions Barcelona, with injured icon Lionel Messi watching from the stands, followed up their opening Group E draw at Roma with a stirring come-from-behind 2-1 win against Bayer Leverkusen.

The Germans appeared to have the three points in the bag after Kyriakos Papadopoulos's header before the break.

But Luis Suarez turned the game around in the final 10 minutes as Sergi Roberto tapped home the rebound after the Uruguayan's initial effort had been saved.

And the former Liverpool striker thumped home a stunning effort to hand Barca a hard-fought three points, two minutes later.

There was a sting in the tail as captain Andres Iniesta hobbled off after an hour.

With Roma sent on their way 3-2 by BATE Borisov it left Barca shading Group E.

Jose Mourinho's return to Porto, the team who the Portuguese guided to the 2004 title, proved an unhappy affair.

Andre Andre's opener for Porto late in the first half was quickly cancelled out by a superb Willian free-kick, but

Maicon's 52nd-minute header proved to be the difference in this Group G clash played at a rip-roaring pace.

Dynamo Kiev, 2-0 winners over Maccabi Tel Aviv, top the table on goal difference with Chelsea in third.

Arguably the most stunning result of the evening emerged from the

RESULTS			
Barcelona (Roberto 80, Suarez 82)	2 - 1	Bayer Leverkusen (Papadopoulos 22)	
BATE Borisov (Stasevich 8, Mladenovic 12, 30)	3 - 2	AS Roma (Gervinho 66, Torosidis 82)	
Bayern Munich (Costa 13, Lewandowski 22, 28, 55, Goetze 25)	5 - 0	Dinamo Zagreb	
Arsenal (Walcott 35, Sanchez 65)	2 - 3	Olympiakos (Pardo 33, Fortounis 40, Finnbogason 66)	
Porto (Andre Andre 39, Maicon 52)	2 - 1	Chelsea (Willian 45+2)	
Maccabi Tel-Aviv	0 - 2	Dynamo Kiev (Yarmolenko 4, Junior Moraes 50)	
Zenit (Dzyuba 35, Shatov 67)	2 - 1	Gent (Matton 56)	

Emirates Stadium, where Greek champions Olympiakos shocked Arsenal 3-2 to leave the Gunners stone last in Group F.

The Greeks, ending a 12-match losing run in England, left pointless Arsenal and their coach Arsene Wenger ashen-faced, and the team's fans

jeering at the final whistle.

After falling behind to Felipe Pardo's deflected opener, Arsenal equalised through Theo Walcott.

But then a horrendous mistake from goalkeeper David Ospina, selected over regular first choice Petr Cech, allowed a Kostas Fortounis corner to slip through his grasp for an embarrassing own goal.

Alexis Sanchez dragged Arsenal back into it with a second half equaliser, but incredibly the north Londoners imploded again with more slack defending gifting Iceland striker Alfred Finnbogason the winner.

Beaten in the group curtain raiser in Zagreb Arsenal are now up against it to extricate themselves from the pool stages.

To compound their plight free-shooting Bayern Munich await, the German giants flexing their muscles in Zagreb.

Bayern top the table, Pep Guardiola's side cruising towards the knockout stages after Lewandowski's treble, and goals from Douglas Costa and Mario Goetze steamrolled Dinamo Zagreb 5-0.

Poland hot-shot Lewandowski has now scored 10 goals in his last three games after netting five in just nine spectacular minutes of Bayern's 5-1 hammering of Wolfsburg last Tuesday before claiming two more in Saturday's 3-0 win at Mainz.

Elsewhere, Zenit St Petersburg remained unbeaten with a 2-1 home win over Belgian outfit Gent to top Group H from Valencia, 1-0 winners at

Iniesta adds to injury woes

AFP, Madrid



Barcelona's injury problems continue to mount as captain Andres Iniesta hobbled off during their come-from-behind win against Bayer Leverkusen on Tuesday with a hamstring injury.

Iniesta was replaced after an hour by Jordi Alba with

Barca trailing 1-0, but goals in the final 10 minutes by Sergi Roberto and Luis Suarez handed the Catalans a 2-1 win.

The European champions are already without four-time World Player of the Year Lionel Messi for the next two months.

Barcelona refused to state how long Iniesta would be sidelined for, but Catalan sports daily Sport reported the 31-year-old will be out for a month.

That would see Iniesta miss Saturday's visit to Sevilla and home games against Rayo Vallecano and Eibar, as well as Spain's final two Euro 2016 qualifiers against Luxembourg and Ukraine.

"The information regarding Iniesta is sad, firstly for the player himself and also because (the injuries) now seem like a joke," said Barca boss Luis Enrique.

"It is a handicap and we will show that we are competitive. I am very happy with how the team coped with it and I ask for more confidence to be shown in the players."

With Brazilian international Rafinha ruled out for at least six months with a cruciate ligament injury, Enrique now has just seven midfielders and strikers available.

The blow is just the latest strain on a Barca squad hampered by injuries and a year-long ban from registering new players which will expire in January.

Barca appealed to FIFA to have Turkish midfielder Arda Turan added to their squad due to the seriousness of Rafinha's injury.

Turan and Alexis Vidal were both signed during the summer transfer window, but can't be registered to play until January.

However, FIFA believe such a move would be in contravention of their rules.

Ref wields pistol, sees red

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

A Brazilian football referee didn't bother with a red card. He went straight for his pistol.

Things started to go wrong during the weekend amateur league game in southeastern Brazil when the subs and coach of Amantes da Bola poured onto the pitch in response to what they considered a dangerous play by rival Brumadinho.

The referee, a policeman identified by the Globo news site as Gabriel Murta, was kicked and slapped during the melee. So instead of reaching into his shirt for the card, he went back to the changing room for his firearm.

Video footage emerged Tuesday of the referee, clad in yellow and black, brandishing a handgun at players before being led away by other match officials.

Wenger under fire

AFP, London



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger found himself attacked from all sides on Wednesday after his selection

decisions backfired to leave his team facing an embarrassing group-stage exit in the Champions League.

Wenger elected to pick David Ospina instead of first-choice goalkeeper Petr Cech at home to Olympiakos on Tuesday, but the Colombian committed a first-half howler, palming a corner into his own net, as Arsenal lost 3-2 to register a second consecutive Group F defeat.

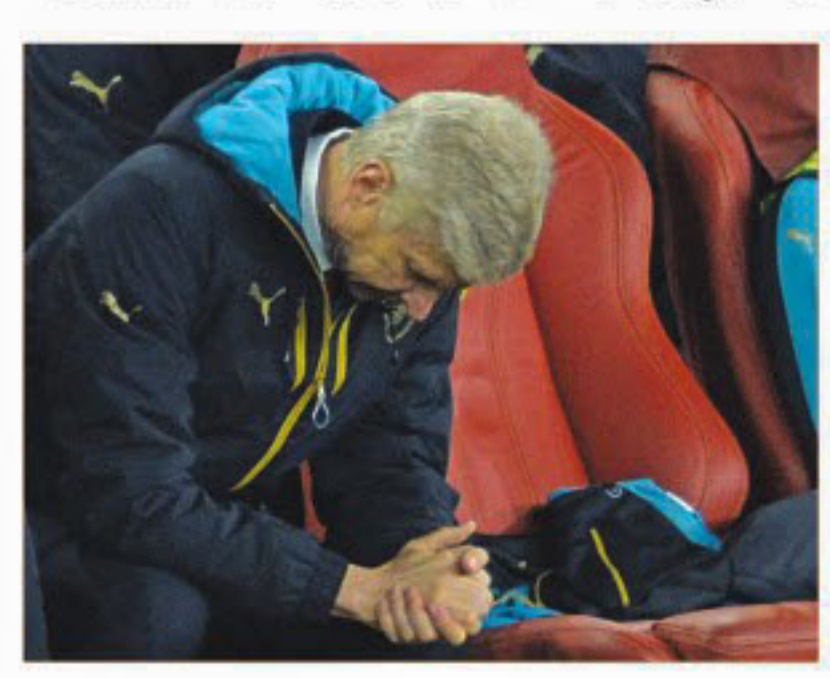
"OOSPINA" was the headline in British newspaper the Daily Mirror, while the Daily Express said the former Nice goalkeeper had committed a "calamity" and The Sun said Wenger's men had been "humiliated".

Wenger claimed afterwards that Cech had been left on the bench due to a "slight (fitness) alert" prior to Saturday's 5-2 win at Leicester City, but Arsenal great Ian Wright said the Frenchman had made a "big mistake".

"For somebody who's not playing

often -- and this is a must-win game -- how can you put Ospina in goal? You've got to question the manager there," Wright, Arsenal's second-highest all-time goal-scorer, said on BT Sport.

"I think that's a big mistake. Why not start with Petr Cech, simply because of the experience he's got? Because we have to win this game.



Arsenal have to win this game."

Wenger made six changes for the group opener, a 2-1 defeat at unheralded Dinamo Zagreb, and five for Tuesday's game, which saw Olympiakos prevail on English soil for the first time after 12 consecutive defeats.

Arsenal may have shared the back page of The Sun with Chelsea -- beaten

2-1 at Porto -- beneath the banner "EURO TRASH", but whereas the Premier League champions' trip to Portugal represented their toughest Group G assignment, Arsenal's biggest battles are still to come.

Their next group fixtures are a double-header against Pep Guardiola's formidable Bayern Munich, in-form Robert Lewandowski and all, who eliminated Arsenal in the last 16 in both 2013 and 2014.

Should Arsenal fail to win at least one of those games, they will face elimination at the group stage for the first time since 1998.

"Normally we're out by the quarterfinal, last 16," added Wright. "This time we've got a massive hill to climb."

Wenger has built his reputation on his success in establishing Arsenal as Champions League perennials, leading them to the competition's group stage 18 times in succession and to the knockout phase for the past 15 seasons.

But their record in recent years has been one of diminishing returns. They were beaten finalists in 2006 and semi-finalists in 2009, but have gone out in the last 16 for the last five seasons in a row.

Portugal drops Scolari probe

AFP, Lisbon

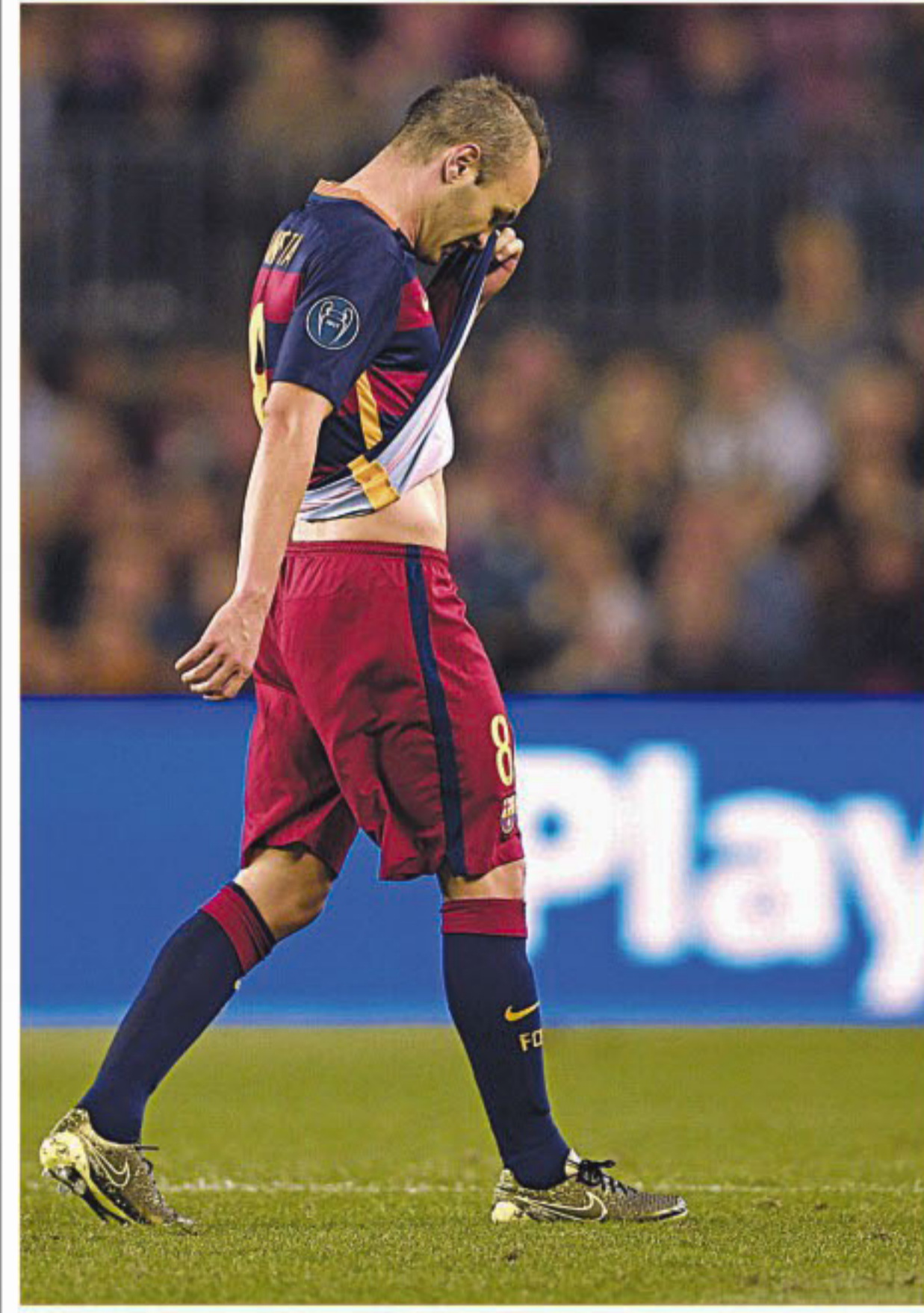
Portuguese authorities have closed a tax fraud probe into former Brazil and Portugal football coach Luiz Felipe Scolari after he paid three million euros (\$3.4 million), officials said.

Scolari was charged with tax fraud a month before the 2014 World Cup kicked off in his native Brazil while he was coach of the national team.

The closure of the investigation was posted on Portugal's public ministry website.

The charges related to between 2003 and 2007 when Scolari was Portugal's coach and hinged on an alleged failure to declare income from image rights.

According to press reports, the amount of non-declared funds was 7.4 million euros.



Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta leaves the field after being injured during their Champions League clash against Bayer Leverkusen at the Nou Camp on Tuesday.