

What to WATCH

GTV & STAR SPORTS1
ICC U-19 World Cup
 Quarterfinal
 Bangladesh v Nepal
 Live from 9:00am
SONY ESPN HD

Primera Liga
 Malaga v Getafe
 Live from 1:30am (Saturday)
STAR SPORTS2
Bundesliga
 Borussia M'gladbach v Werder

Bremen
 Live from 1:30am (Saturday)

ICC U-19 World Cup
 Quarterfinal
 Venue: SBNCs, Time: 9:00am

Bangladesh v Nepal
 9th Place Play-off Quarterfinals
 Time: 9:00am

Venue: SKICS, Cox's Bazar
 Afghanistan v Fiji
 Venue: SKICS Academy Ground,

DAY'S EVENT

WOLFSBURG SIGN FIFA SPECIALIST

Despite never having played professional football, David Bytheway has earned a contract to join Bundesliga side Wolfsburg. The 22-year-old has not been signed as a player, coach or as a director and will instead represent them in front of gaming consoles. Wolfsburg has given him a contract to wear the club's colours and represent them when he competes at various Fifa tournaments. "I wouldn't mind [training with them], but at the moment I'm still living in sunny Wolverhampton. Right now this move is not exactly historic, but in five years time when we look back at this we'll think, 'Wow they really started something"



Falcao makes way for Pato

AFP, London

Chelsea striker Radamel Falcao was omitted from the club's Champions League squad for the rest of the season on Wednesday, but new signing Alexandre Pato was included.

Falcao, who turns 30 next week, hasn't played for the Premier League champions since October 31 due to a thigh injury and will miss Chelsea's last-16 tie against Paris Saint-Germain.

The Colombian was though included in the Blues' Premier League squad, despite having netted just once during his season-long loan from Monaco.

Meanwhile, Brazilian forward Pato was added to Chelsea's European squad list following his arrival from Corinthians last week. The 26-year-old is on loan at Stamford Bridge until the end of the season.

Seven star Barca

AFP, Barcelona



Luis Suarez scored four and Lionel Messi hit a hat-trick as Barcelona piled more misery on Gary Neville's ill-fated reign as

Valencia boss to take an unassailable 7-0 lead in their Copa del Rey semifinal, first-leg on Wednesday.

Two fine finishes inside 12 minutes from Suarez put Barca in control before Messi rounded off a fine team move for Barca's third.

It could have been even worse for Valencia as Neymar hit the post from the penalty spot after Shkodran Mustafi was sent-off for bringing down Messi inside the area.

However, Messi and Suarez both added two more after the break to make next week's second-leg at the Mestalla a formality.

The Cup had been Neville's one refuge during a winless run of eight league games since taking charge in December, but Valencia were blown away by a Barca side back to their best and on the verge of a fifth final in six seasons.

Neymar had made headlines earlier in the week as he was quizzed by a judge in Spain's top court over the murky transfer deal which brought him to Barca in 2013

amidst corruption and fraud allegations.

However, he showed his performances continue to be unaffected by off-field problems as he drove at the Valencia defence before playing in Suarez to fire across Australian international Matt Ryan into the far corner.

Alex Vidal then cut-back Sergio Busquets's ball over the top of the Valencia defence for Suarez to slam home his 33rd goal of the season five minutes later.

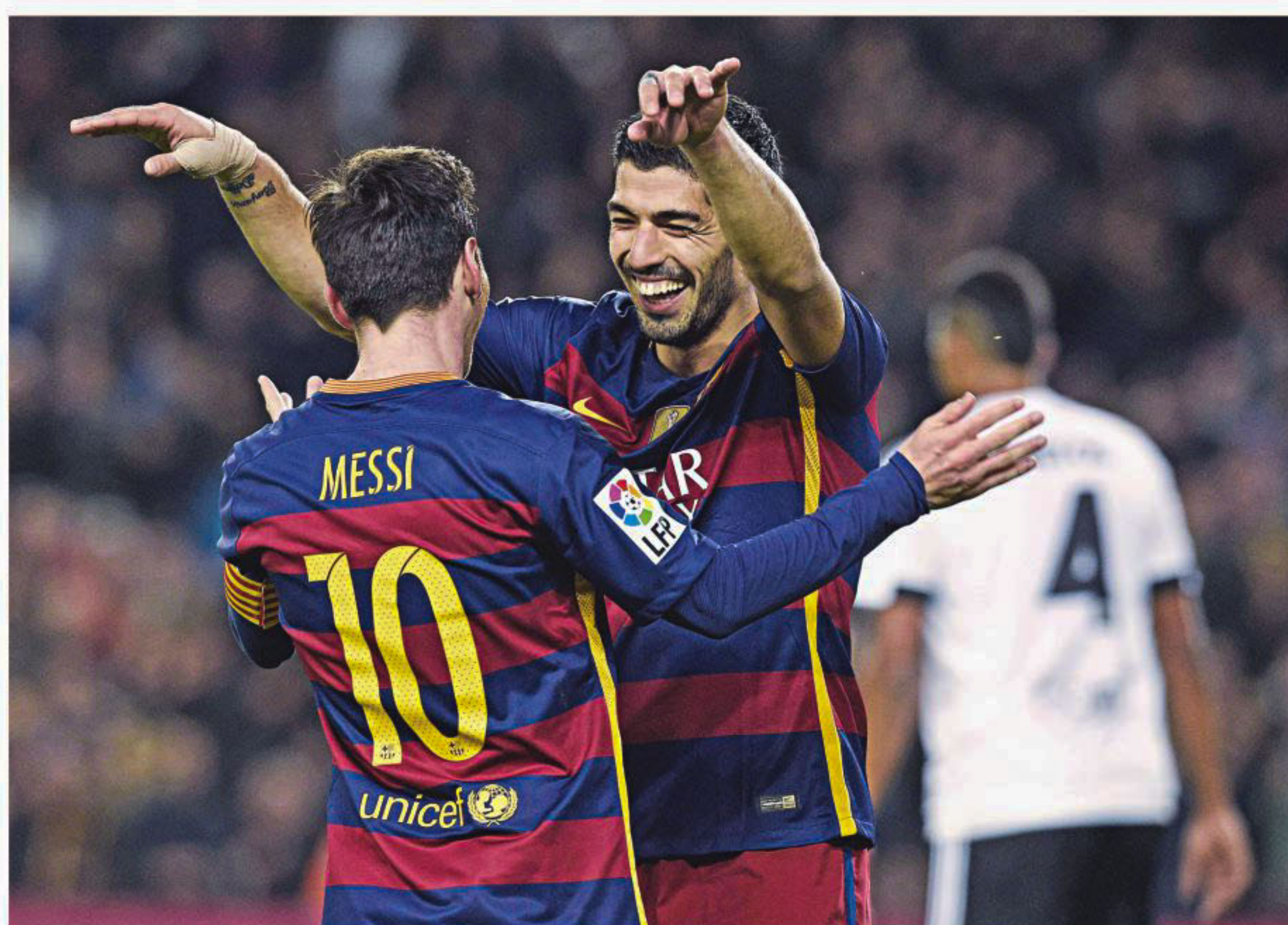
Messi was left with the simple task of slotting in his first of the evening from close range after great work by Andres Iniesta and Suarez just before the half-hour mark.

Valencia were happy to get to the break just three down as Messi then hit the bar from Suarez's brilliant low cross before the Argentine was clipped by Mustafi as he bore down on goal.

Neymar was over-confident with his one-step run-up, though, as his penalty came back off the post.

Gerard Pique, Busquets and Messi all fired just off target as Barca continued to run riot after the break.

However, the biggest cheer of the night from the home fans was reserved for on-loan Real Madrid winger Denis Cheryshev's introduction as a substitute on his Valencia debut.



Barcelona striker Luis Suarez (R) celebrates one of his four goals with teammate Lionel Messi during their Copa del Rey semifinal against Valencia at the Nou Camp on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP



UCEP students faced the England Under-19 team at the UCEP premises in Mirpur yesterday in a friendly match. The students were overjoyed as they defeated England in the six-a-side two-over game.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Racist chanting halts game

AFP, Milan



Suspected racist chanting halted play at the Stadio Olimpico on Wednesday as hosts Lazio suffered a 2-0 defeat that kept visitors'

Napoli's sterling Serie A season on track. Goals by Gonzalo Higuain, the Argentine's 23rd in as many league games, and Jose Callejon combined to keep Maurizio Sarri's men top of the table with a two-point lead on champions Juventus.

But the game was marred by a three-minute suspension in the second half on the orders of match officials for racist and insulting chanting aimed at Napoli defender Kalidou Koulibaly.

Higuain is bidding to beat Gunnar Nordahl's all-time Serie A record of 35 goals in a single, 20-team season

RESULTS			
Florentina (Valero 2, Zarate 90+3)	2 - 1	Carpi (Lasagna 73)	
Inter Milan (Icardi 48)	1 - 0	Chievo	
Juventus (De Maio 30-og)	1 - 0	Genoa	
Lazio	0 - 2	Napoli (Higuain 24, Callejon 27)	
Palermo	0 - 2	AC Milan (Bacca 19, Niang 33-pen)	
Sampdoria	2 - 2	Torino	

Callejon, who hit a brace in a 5-1 thumping of Empoli last weekend, doubled Napoli's lead three minutes later.

Lazio may now face sanctions for the racist chanting.

To make matters worse, Stefano Pioli's men dropped one place to ninth, with Empoli going the other way thanks to Manuel Pucciarelli's leveller at the death in a 1-1 draw with Udinese.

Juventus had a Sebastian De Maio own-goal, from Juan Cuadrado's angled strike, to thank for a 1-0 win over Genoa and a 16th win of the campaign amid what is set to be a tough month of competition on three fronts.

However despite setting a new club record of 13 consecutive wins, coach Massimiliano Allegri looked furious when second-half substitute Simone Zaza saw red for a rash, studs-up

(1950) and after spurning an early chance was soon into his stride, thanks to a slice of fortune.

The Argentine ran on to Callejon's through ball on 24 minutes only to see Federico Marchetti come out to block, but as the ball bounced up Higuain chested it home.

Guus defends Costa

AFP, Watford



Guus Hiddink accused Watford of trying to provoke Diego Costa after the Chelsea striker was involved in a series of clashes during a feisty 0-0 draw at Vicarage Road.

Costa appeared fortunate to avoid a red card after he pushed over Watford defender Sebastian Prodl and then shoved Juan Carlos Paredes later in the first half.

The second offence infuriated Watford's players and finally prompted referee Mike Dean to book Costa.

The Spain international had already been given a retrospective three-game ban this season after Dean failed to send him off following clashes with Arsenal pair Laurent Koscielny and Gabriel.

But Chelsea interim manager Hiddink felt Costa was more sinned against than sinner on this occasion.

"It was very clear because we were very

close. Paredes punched Diego in his back and after that they stumbled," Hiddink said.

"This is something we must not do. It's provocation to get Diego off the pitch.

"The ref saw it and didn't fall for this provocation. There's no way Diego was near the guy's face.

"This is a man's game, defenders are big guys and sometimes they go over the edge but this is something we must not do."

Hiddink said Costa never looked like losing his cool, but he did concede serial offender Costa, who reportedly punched a hole in a tunnel walk after rowing with West Bromwich Albion players recently, must do more to keep control of emotions in general.

"Yeah I talked to him but he was calm and in control, there was nothing needed to calm him down," Hiddink said.

"He felt he was provoked and when he is provoked I will protect him. Costa likes to go physical but he must do it within the rules.

"Sometimes players get physical and he has to learn to deal with it."

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