

SONY ESPN
Euro 2016
Austria v Hungary
Live from 10:00pm

Portugal v Iceland
Live from 1:00am (Wednesday)
Copa America
Chile v Panama

Live from 6:00am (Wednesday)
Argentina v Bolivia
Live from 8:30am (Wednesday)

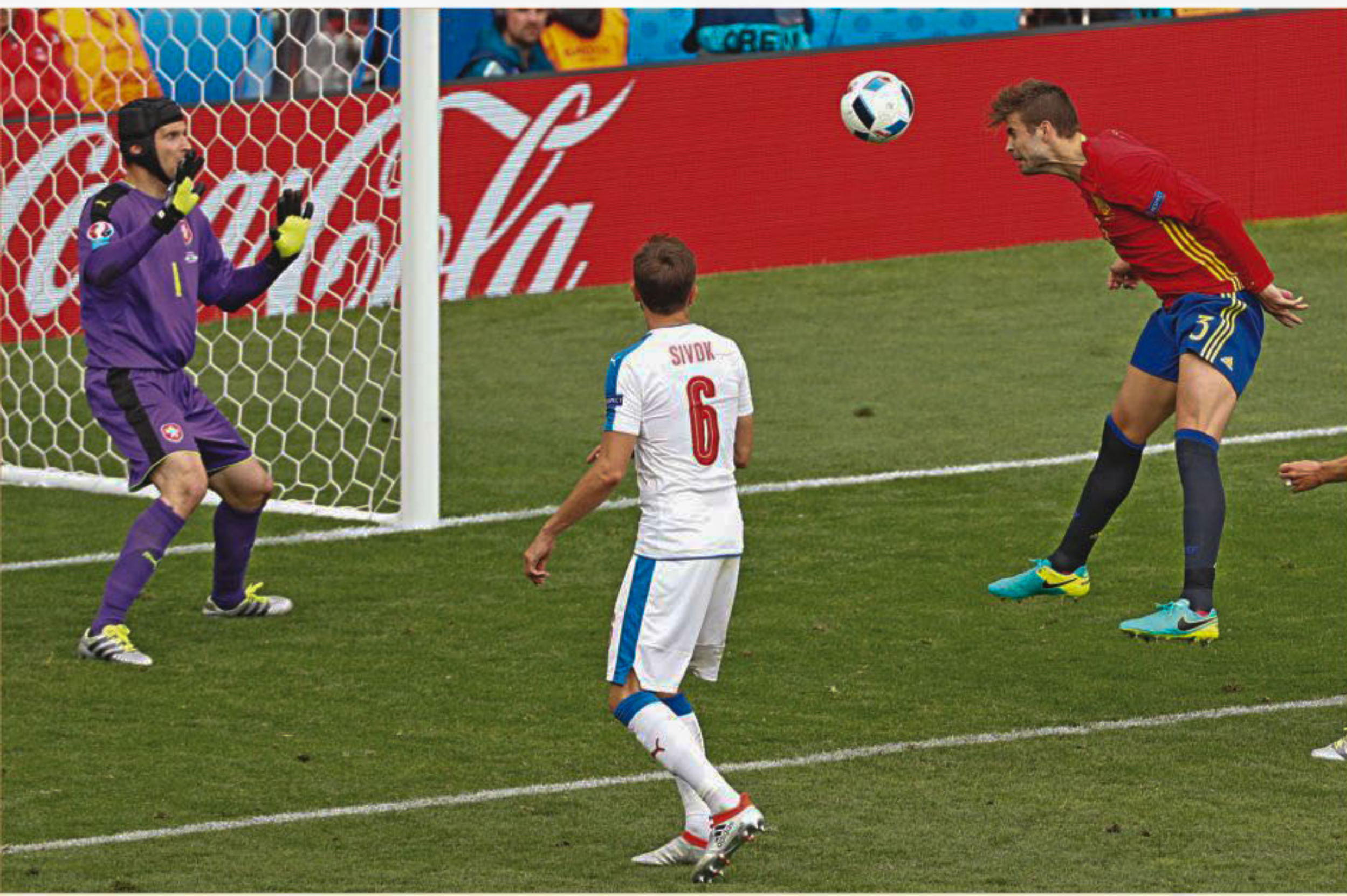
DAY'S EVENT

Walton Federation Cup
Venue: BNS
Feni Soccer v Abahani

Time: 4:00pm
Mohammedan v Team BJMC
Time: 7:30pm

Green Delta Premier Div Hockey
Dhaka Wanderers v Bangladesh SC
Time: 2:00pm

Usha KC v Sonali Bank
Time: 4:00pm
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium



Spain defender Gerard Pique (R) heads in the all-important goal against Czech Republic during their Euro 2016 Group D match in Toulouse yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Pique sinks Czech

Own goal denies Ireland victory

AFP, Toulouse



Barcelona defender Gerard Pique headed a late winner as defending champions Spain overcame a resolute and determined Czech Republic 1-0 in their Group D opener in Toulouse on Monday.

In the day's other game, an own goal from Aston Villa defender Ciaran Clark gave Sweden a 1-1 draw with the Republic of Ireland.

Spain's build-up to the tournament was rocked last week when reports claimed goalkeeper De Gea had been involved in a sex scandal.

But coach Vicente del Bosque showed his faith in the Manchester United stopper by handing him the gloves ahead of legendary Iker Casillas.

Spain were frustrated throughout by the Czechs' stubborn defensive game, which finally fell apart when Pique got his head to Iniesta's cross towards the

back post where he beat Cech in the 87th minute.

It took Spain until the 16th minute to fashion their first real chance, right-back Juanfran sending David Silva through on the right flank for the Manchester City man to fire in a perfect delivery for Morata.

Cech, however, was well positioned to block the Juventus striker's first-timer from close range. The Czechs were defending with plenty of heart and only a desperate sliding tackle from centre-back Tomas Sivok stopped Juanfran's short delivery reaching Morata as the Spaniards edged closer.

When Iniesta picked up a mis-hit clearance just outside the area to set up Morata, the Juventus striker feinted before flashing a low drive wide of Cech's far post on the half hour.

A counter-attack involving Czech captain Tomas Rosicky gave Tomas Necid the chance to test De Gea from the edge of the area but the keeper saved comfortably.

Spain finally made the breakthrough three minutes from the end but at the death they had De Gea to thank for keeping out a dangerous shot by Vladimir Darida.

In the day's other game, Wes Hoolahan's goal at the start had sparked scenes of joy amongst the Irish supporters at the Stade de France and it looked like Martin O'Neill's men would pick up their first points at a European Championship finals in 28 years and their first ever competitive win over Sweden.

But Sweden heaped pressure on the Irish goal and Clark suffered the anguish of costing his side two vital points when he headed Zlatan Ibrahimovic's cross into his own net.

Ireland worked tirelessly to try and take three points from their easiest-looking Group E fixture and deny Ibrahimovic the chance to make his mark on the tournament, but a tenacious first-half performance gave way to a tired final quarter and Sweden capitalised.

Paraguay coach steps down

AFP, Philadelphia

Paraguay coach Ramon Diaz resigned Sunday following his team's first-round exit at the Copa America Centenario, the Paraguay Football Federation said.

Following Paraguay's elimination from the Copa America Centenario, Ramon Diaz has confirmed his resignation as national team coach with immediate effect, the federation said in a statement.

Paraguay were dumped out of the tournament after collecting just one point from three games, a draw against Costa Rica.

It was a disappointing performance and it was what led to the coach's resignation.

Their exit was confirmed on Saturday after they lost a must-win game to the United States, who advanced from Group A along with Colombia.

Diaz, a former Argentina international, had taken over as Paraguay coach in 2014, successfully guiding the team to the semi-finals of the competition last year in Chile.

Brazil crash out

AFP, Foxborough



The Copa America Centenario erupted into controversy on Sunday after a refereeing blunder sent Brazil crashing to a 1-0 defeat against Peru -- and out of the tournament.

The defeat left Brazil struggling to digest their worst performance in the Copa America since 1987, the last occasion the five-time world champions failed to make it past the group stage.

Brazil, needing only a draw to qualify for the quarter-finals as winners of Group B, looked to be on course for a place in the last eight with 15 minutes to go against Peru.

But a rare foray into Brazilian territory from Peru ended with Raul Ruidiaz bundling in Andy Polo's cross from the byline, appearing to use his arm to score.

Ruidiaz wheeled away to celebrate and Uruguayan referee Andres Cunha signalled the goal.

Brazil's players protested furiously, swarming around Cunha in a bid to persuade the official to reverse his decision.

The protests appeared to have swayed Cunha, who looked to be frantically checking with the fourth official via his headpiece to determine whether the goal should stand.

Yet after a chaotic delay of around four minutes -- with players from both sides surrounding the referee -- Cunha ruled the goal should stand.

Multiple replays from different angles, however, showed that Ruidiaz had used his arm to knock the ball into the net past Brazil keeper Alisson.

Brazil pressed forward in the final closing

minutes in an attempt to find an equaliser that would take them through but it was to no avail.

Elias squandered a golden chance from close range in injury time and Brazil's fate was sealed.

Peru will now play Colombia in the quarter-finals after finishing top of Group B. Brazil coach Dunga lambasted the decision to allow Peru's goal.

"I am sure the Brazilian fans saw the game and saw how Brazil was eliminated," Brazil coach Dunga said.

"There is no way to anticipate imponderables. The team was not eliminated by anything to do with football," he added, criticizing the lengthy deliberations between the match officials which held up the game.

"I do not quite understand who or what the referee was consulting," Dunga said, adding that he had watched replays of the incident on screens in the Gillette Stadium.

"It was such a clear handball, but we have no influence over the referee," he said.

Peru coach Ricardo Gareca meanwhile insisted his side had deserved to win. "I thought we did enough to deserve to win," Gareca said, adding he had not had a clear view of the handball incident.

"I haven't seen it yet. I've heard some comments. But I never think too much about mistakes by officials," he said.

Brazil's early exit is certain to pile pressure on Dunga after what was a lacklustre tournament.

A 0-0 opening draw with Ecuador -- where a refereeing decision which might have given Ecuador a victory went in Brazil's favour -- was followed by a 7-1 drubbing of Haiti, arguably the weakest team in the tournament.

Riise calls it quits

AFP, Oslo

Former Norway international left-back John Arne Riise, who played for top European clubs including Liverpool, Monaco and AS Roma, announced Monday he is retiring from football.

The 35-year-old, who stepped down from national duty in 2013 with a record 110 caps for Norway, had been playing in recent months with Aalesund, the Norwegian club where he began his career in 1996.

"I feel that the joy, the flame and the desire are no longer strong enough for me to play at my top level," Riise said on his official website. "I want to play football but the motivation is no longer enough for me to play at the highest level."

Riise, who won the French Ligue 1 title with Monaco in 2000 and the Champions League crown with Liverpool in 2005, nevertheless left the door open for a possible return.

"If the desire, the joy or the urge returns in a month or two ... It's not something that I'm thinking about now."

Ruthless Germans

AFP, Lille



Germany stars Manuel Neuer and Toni Kroos warned the world champions will only improve after seeing off Ukraine 2-0 in Lille to make the perfect start to their Euro 2016 campaign.

Kroos was named man of the match and goalkeeper Neuer made several key saves as Ukraine threatened to expose a makeshift German defence weakened by injuries to Mats Hummels and Antonio Ruediger before half-time.

However, Shkodran Mustafi's early header and a first international goal in five years by Bastian Schweinsteiger, deep into stoppage time, gave Joachim Loew's men a perfect start in their bid to match their success in Brazil two years ago.

"We played well and kept up our good standards in defence," said Bayern Munich's Neuer. "We haven't shown yet everything that we have to show, we will keep improving."

Kroos's brilliant cross set up the opener, but he admitted Ukraine were unlucky not to have at least levelled before the break as Neuer's heroics and a spectacular goalline clearance from Jerome Boateng kept them at bay.

"It is always good for the confidence to win 2-0 and keep clean sheet," said Kroos, who shone fresh from winning the Champions League with Real Madrid.

"The last 15 minutes before half-time we didn't concentrate well, so we couldn't complain if we had conceded.

"In the second half we were much stronger, we dominated the game and didn't concede any chances.

"We've learned a lot, we're not at the level we want to achieve during this tournament yet, but it is a good start."

It was a special night for Schweinsteiger, who had only played 23 minutes since tearing a knee ligament in March, but battled back to fitness just in time to make the squad.

And he made a huge impact in just three minutes on the field as he sprinted forward to slam home Mesut Ozil's low cross in the 93rd minute.

N Ireland fan plunges to his death

AFP, Nice

A Northern Ireland fan became the first fatality at Euro 2016 after plunging to his death from a guard rail overlooking the sea in the French city of Nice, a police source said.

The young fan, who was in his twenties, fell between seven and eight metres into the Mediterranean at around 2.00am (0000 GMT), the source told AFP.

An investigation was underway to determine the cause of his death, which was believed to be accidental and have no link to the clashes between fans that marred the opening of the tournament in nearby Marseille at the weekend.

By contrast with the violence during Saturday's England-Russia game in Marseille, the game in Nice passed off without incident.

But a day before the match in Nice seven people were injured in the city after scuffles broke out between French locals and Northern Ireland supporters following the England-Russia game.

Pistorius a 'broken man'

REUTERS, Pretoria



Oscar Pistorius has shown no remorse for the murder of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp, a prosecutor told a court on Monday, while a psychologist described him as "a broken man" who should not be jailed.

The 29-year-old Paralympic gold medalist, known as "Blade Runner" for the carbon-fibre prosthetics he used to wear when racing, faces a minimum 15-year jail term after his original manslaughter conviction for the 2013 killing was upgraded.

The case has prompted a fierce debate in a country beset by high levels of violent crime. Some rights groups have said the white athlete has received preferential treatment.

Professor Jonathan Scholtz, a psychologist called by Pistorius' lawyer Barry Roux, told the sentencing hearing that the athlete was on medication for depression, anxiety and insomnia.

"One would describe him as broken. In my opinion his current condition warrants hospitalisation," Scholtz said.

Prosecutor Gerrie Nel questioned Scholtz's assertion that Pistorius was not fit to testify, saying the athlete had given a TV interview.

Nel told the court Pistorius only "feels sorry for himself".

Nel also disputed a claim by the psychologist that Pistorius was traumatised after he saw a prisoner who had hanged himself, saying it was unlikely that he could have seen the victim.

Pistorius initially received a five-year sentence for culpable homicide for shooting Steenkamp through a locked toilet door in his Pretoria home. He had argued he mistook her for an intruder.

The conviction was later upgraded to murder after an appeal heard by the Supreme Court.

Original trial judge Thokozile Masipa started hearing the pre-sentencing arguments at Pretoria High Court on Monday.

State prosecutors who lodged the appeal say Pistorius intended to kill Steenkamp and that the law graduate and model had fled to the toilet during an argument. A final ruling on his sentence is expected by the end of this week.

SHARP

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