

What to WATCH

TEN 1 HD
Zimbabwe v India
Third ODI
Live from 1:00pm

West Indies v South Africa
Tri-Nation, 6th ODI
Live from 10:30pm

SONY ESPN
Euro 2016
Russia v Slovakia
Live from 7:00pm

Romania v Switzerland
Live from 10:00pm
France v Albania
Live from 1:00am (Thursday)

DAY'S EVENT

Dhaka Premier Cricket Super League
Time: 9:00am
Venue: SBNS
Prime Doleshwar v Prime Bank

Venue: BKSP-3
Mohammedan v Abahani
Venue: Fatullah
Victoria v Legends of Rupganj

Walton Federation Cup
Venue: BNS
Muktijoddha v Sk Russel
Time: 4:00pm

Brothers Union v Sk Jamal
Time: 7:30pm
Green Delta Premier Div Hockey
Wari Club v Railway SC

Time: 2:00pm
Mohammedan v Mariner Youngs
Time: 4:00pm
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium



Italy striker Graziano Pelle scored a wonderful acrobatic goal against Belgium to put their Euro 2016 Group E opener to bed at the Park Olympique Lyonnais on Sunday. (INSET) Earlier, Italy tactician Antonio Conte celebrated the opening goal from Emanuele Giaccherini with such fervour that he bumped heads and suffered a nosebleed.

PHOTOS: AFP



Forged in fire and blood

REUTERS, Lyon



Short on pure talent, Italy have made sacrifice, suffering and unity their watchwords at Euro 2016 although it remains to be seen whether they can keep up such extraordinary intensity throughout the tournament.

Initially discredited but inspired by the passion of coach Antonio Conte, Italy gave the best performance of the finals on Monday as they overran Belgium to win 2-0 in their opener.

Conte himself celebrated the first goal with such enthusiasm that he banged his head against substitute Simone Zaza and suffered a nosebleed.

Meanwhile, goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon narrowly escaped injury with his celebration at the end of the game.

The 38-year-old ran towards the goal, leapt and tried to swing from the crossbar, but fell and landed awkwardly.

There was an equally jubilant reaction back home, while the players promised more of the same against Sweden and Ireland.

"It's a great start but this is just the beginning," said Leonardo Bonucci. "We have come with the intention of dreaming and surprising. We mustn't get carried away. We have to reflect and try and improve things which were less good."

With only three days between matches, Italy may not be able to keep up such a hectic pace while their tactics, based on a rock-solid defence, may be less suited to their next opponents. However, it is not something which seems to bother Conte.

"I've been repeating from the beginning that this is a group first and foremost of men, and then of footballers," he said.

"In a tournament like this you need an alchemy of people who get on well together, and the biggest satisfaction for me is to see how happy they all were, including those on the bench. There's a very good spirit in this squad."

"Our objective remains the same, to get into the last 16. I think the fans are pleased when they see 23 players giving everything on the field and being willing to spill blood."

Infantino meets with Maradona

Plans to involve former players in decision-making

REUTERS, Zurich

Former Argentina captain Diego Maradona, a long-time critic of FIFA, has held talks in Paris with its president Gianni Infantino, the global soccer body said on Tuesday.

FIFA said that the meeting was part of Infantino's plans to involve top former players in making decisions on the future of the game, and added that they also discussed the crisis in the administration of Argentine football.

Maradona was a frequent critic of Infantino's predecessor Sepp Blatter and claimed that there was "a mafia" inside FIFA.

He had previously criticised Infantino himself, saying it was "very wrong to go from drawing the lots to run for FIFA president."

The remark was a reference to Infantino's previous role as general secretary of European soccer body UEFA, where his duties included supervising draws for European competitions.

FIFA has been in turmoil after a wave of

indictments of soccer officials last year, including former members of its executive committee, on corruption-related charges.

FIFA said the meeting in Paris last Friday had been "very positive and constructive."

"It is important that true legends of the game like Diego Maradona are interested in the future of the game and involve themselves in the promotion and development of football," FIFA said.

"This was another step in implementing the FIFA President's vision to reconnect FIFA with the players who have made the history of the game."

One of Infantino's first moves when he was elected in February was to form a team of top former international players, called the FIFA Legends, to play exhibition matches and also act as informal advisors.

FIFA added that Maradona had backed a joint mission by FIFA and CONMEBOL which is visiting Argentina where the football federation (AFA) is under investiga-

Barca agree to settle tax fraud

REUTERS, Madrid



Barcelona have agreed to pay a fine of 5.5 million euros to the Spanish authorities to settle a tax fraud case over the transfer of Brazil international Neymar in 2013.

Barcelona had been accused of concealing part of Neymar's transfer fee when he moved from Brazilian club Santos, with several investigations carried out.

The settlement was reported by Spanish news agency Efe last week and the club confirmed in a statement on Tuesday that its board had approved the agreement the previous day.

"The Board ... has decided to approve the agreement presented by the club's legal services with regard to the case surrounding the signing of Neymar Jr, currently being heard in the Courts of the Province of Barcelona," the statement said.

"The agreement involves the recognition by the club of an error in tax planning for the signing of the player, for the fiscal years 2011 and 2013, when they did not correctly withhold payments resulting from his incorporation.

In "addition, the club has been exonerated from responsibility for the fiscal year 2014, which was also part of the proceedings."

The vote by Barca's board approves a pact to absolve both current president Josep Bartomeu and former president Sandro Rosell of wrongdoing with regard to the transfer.

'Pistorius must pay for his crime'

REUTERS, Pretoria

Oscar Pistorius must pay for the crime of murdering his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp, which has devastated her family, her father told a South African court yesterday.

The 29-year-old Paralympian gold medalist faces a minimum 15-year jail term after his manslaughter conviction for the 2013 killing, for which he originally received a five-year sentence, was upgraded on appeal.

Called to testify by the lead state prosecutor in Pistorius's sentencing hearing, a tearful and trembling Barry Steenkamp said forgiving the runner was very hard.

"It just devastated us, I ended up having a stroke... I just don't wish that to anybody in this world," the 73-year-old said. "He has to pay for his crime."

Steenkamp said he and wife June had relied financially on their daughter, and he had hurt himself to try to relieve the pain that his daughter went through. "I jabbed myself with needles."

He asked the court to allow pictures of his daughter to be shown to the world as a deterrent to would-be killers.



Reeva Steenkamp's father Barry is overcome with emotion as he testifies to the Pretoria Court yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

But prosecutor Gerrie Nel said Pistorius has shown no remorse for shooting and killing Steenkamp when he fired four shots through a locked toilet door in his Pretoria home.

Nel also said he had had temper tantrums while serving his sentence.

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

Russia fined €150,000; risk suspension too

AFP, Moscow

Russia on Tuesday accepted a UEFA ruling that it will be kicked out of Euro 2016 if there is new stadium unrest after the European governing body slapped the country with a fine and suspended disqualification.

"We will comply with UEFA's decision. What other position can there be?" Sports Minister and Russian Football Union president Vitaly Mutko told TASS news agency.

Mutko later told the R-Sport news wire that the punishment was "excessive" but that there was no "no sense" in appealing the decision.

UEFA declared Russia responsible for the stadium disturbances, racist chanting and fireworks thrown during the game with England in Marseille on Saturday.

It ordered the "suspended disqualification" of the team in the event of any more disturbances inside stadiums during the tournament and fined the Russian Football Union 150,000 euros (\$170,000).

Reacting to the warning, Russia coach Leonid Slutsky said in France: "We are sure that our supporters will not do the same and will not give any reasons to disqualify our team."

"We are sure that we are not going to be kicked (out) -- there is not going to be any injustice."

Russia are playing Slovakia in Lille on Wednesday, sparking fears its fans will come into contact with English fans whose team is playing Wales in nearby Lens on Thursday.

After the 1-1 draw in Marseille, Russian fans crossed security barriers inside the Stade Velodrome and attacked England fans. Dozens of English supporters, including women and children, had to flee across security barriers to escape.

Fans from both sides had also clashed in brutal scenes outside the stadium in the run-up to the match.

UEFA had already warned Russia and England that it could disqualify them if there was more trouble. But only Russia was charged over the conduct of its fans.

Maria appeals ban in CAS

AP, Lausanne

Maria Sharapova has appealed her two-year doping ban to the highest court in sports, seeking a ruling ahead of the Olympics.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) says Sharapova is seeking to overturn or reduce the suspension imposed by the International Tennis Federation last week after the Russian tested positive for meldonium at the Australian Open in January.

CAS says both sides agreed to an "expedited procedure" and the court would issue its ruling by July 18.

CAS says it hasn't decided whether to hold a hearing or not.

'English fans aren't angels'

AFP, Lille

Russia striker Artem Dzyuba on Tuesday hit out at English fans, saying that they were being depicted as "angels".

"I don't really understand this kind of reaction of the British media. We have this impression that English supporters are like angels coming to this country and behaving themselves," Dzyuba said.

Dzyuba also indicated that England fans were equally to blame and that there was a campaign to take the 2018 World Cup away from Russia.

"Rotation is part of life when you have

Tecatito pulls a Messi as Mexico hang on

AFP, Houston



Porto midfielder Jesus Manuel "Tecatito" Corona scored a superb individual goal as Mexico snatched a 1-1 draw with Venezuela to qualify for the Copa America Centenario quarter-finals as group winners here Monday.

Mexico appeared to be heading for an embarrassing defeat against the Venezuelans, who led through a 10th minute overhead kick by defender Jose Manuel Velazquez at Houston's NRG Stadium.

A risky gamble by Mexico manager Juan Carlos Osorio looked to have backfired disastrously after he decided to bench most of his first-choice side for a game his team only needed to draw to top Group C.

However with time running out substitute Corona picked up the ball from around 40 yards from goal and embarked on a mazy dribble that took him past five Venezuela players before he blasted his shot past goalkeeper Dani Hernandez.

The goal gave Mexico a draw which was enough to see them take top spot in Group C on goal difference from Venezuela, who were already assured of a place in the last eight after a shock win over Uruguay in their second match.

More importantly, Mexico's first place finish means they will likely avoid tournament favorites Argentina, who are expected to clinch top spot in Group D when they play Bolivia on Tuesday.

Osorio later defended his decision to pick an untested starting line-up.

a squad of players," Osorio said. "We give opportunities to all players because we believe that they are all important. We selected a good group to compete against Venezuela," he said.

For long periods, however, it looked as if Mexico were heading for a quarter-final date with the Argentines as a well organized Venezuela side frustrated 'El Tri'.

Mexico could have few complaints after a fired-up Venezuela took the lead early on through a well-worked goal.

Alejandro Guerra swung a curling free-kick into the box and Christian Santos rose at the far post to head back across the face of goal.

Velazquez was falling away but twisted his body acrobatically to hook in a wonderful volley that flew into the roof of the net past Mexico goalkeeper Jesus Corona.

Mexico made a spirited start to the

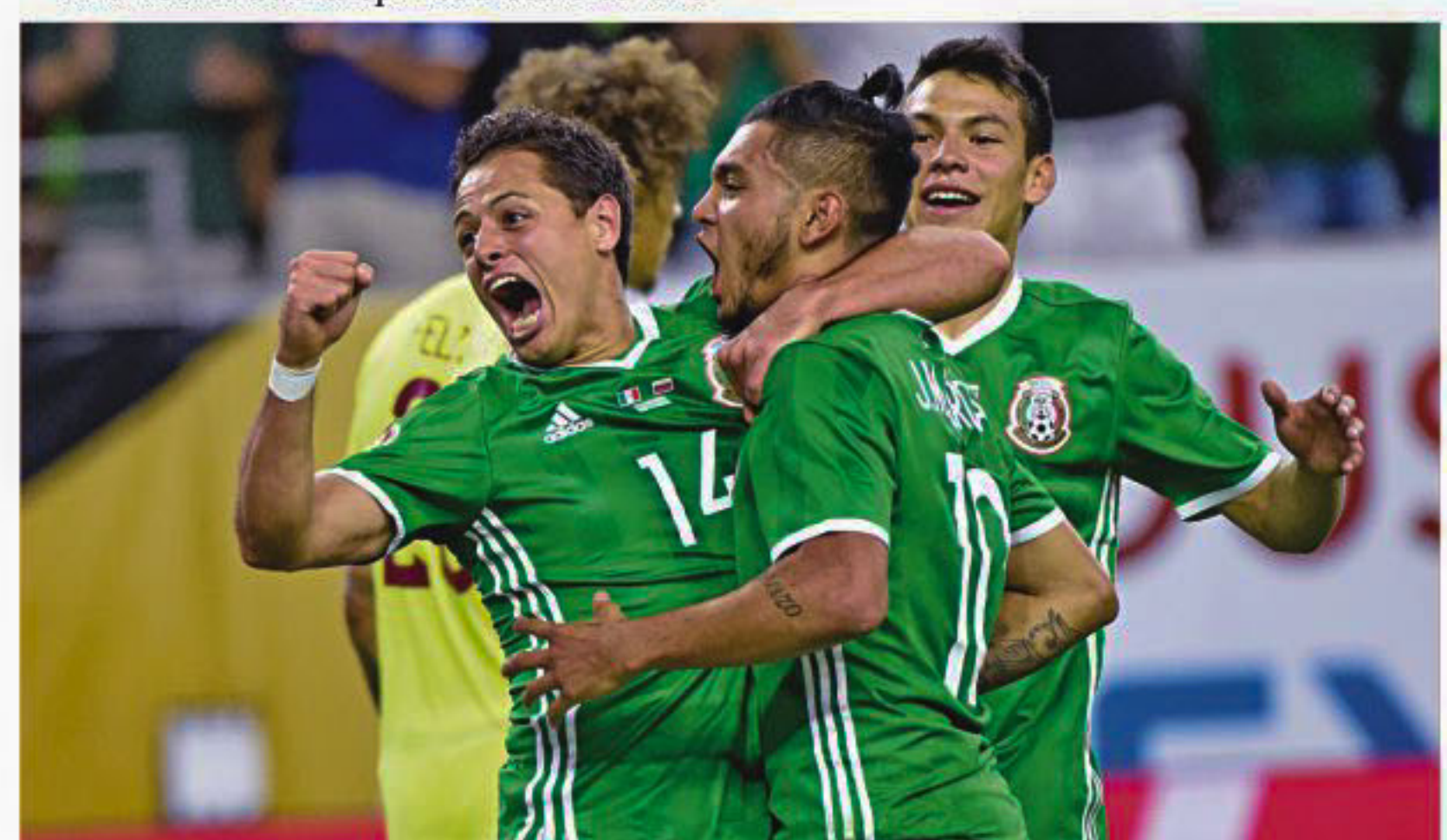
second half, with Corona shooting well wide of the post early on.

Mexico however, kept pressing but failed to avail their numerous chances. Venezuela, on the other hand, looked to have fate on their side as Dani Hernandez made incredible saves one after the other.

But six minutes later "Tecatito" produced his sublime run to save Mexico's blushes.

In Monday's dead rubber in Group C, Uruguay beat Jamaica 3-0 in Santa Clara in a match between two sides who had already been eliminated.

Uruguay secured their first win of the tournament with goals from Abel Hernandez and Mathias Corujo, either side of an own goal from Jamaican defender Je-Vaughn Watson.



Mexico midfielder Manuel Corona scripted his way through Venezuela's defence to score a brilliant solo goal and ensure a draw for his side.

Bolt to tune up in London

REUTERS, London

Usain Bolt will fine-tune his preparations for the Rio Olympics by competing at the Anniversary Games in London on July 22, organisers said.

"The London Anniversary Games will be one of my last races before Rio and running in the 200m will hopefully set me up for a successful Olympic Games," Bolt said.

"Britain has some very good young sprinters and I'm looking forward to running against them and returning to the Olympic Stadium."

Up against him will be European 200m champion Adam Gemili and Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake, the second fastest Briton of all time.

Refugee gets his big break

AFP, Berlin

Gambian refugee Bakery Jatta has signed a contract with German Bundesliga side Hamburg, the club said Tuesday, in what local media dubbed a "football fairytale".

Jatta -- who made the dangerous Mediterranean crossing from North Africa to Italy last year as a lone teenager -- on Tuesday inked a 10,000 euro a month contract with HSV.

The young striker, who had previously never played in a club, impressed HSV during a test session, but had to wait till