Green Delta Premier Div Hockey Ajax SC v Sonali Bank Time: 2:00pm

S Bima v Azad SC Time: 4:00pm Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium

Hamsik steals the show

Romania draw takes Switzerland closer to last 16

AFP, Lille



Marek Hamsik set up the opener and came up with a contender for goal of the tournament as Slovakia beat Russia 2-1 in Lille on Wednesday to

claim a first European Championship finals win. Hamsik's pass released Vladimir

Weiss to score in the 32nd minute at the Stade Pierre Mauroy and the Napoli star doubled the lead in style right on the stroke of half-time.

Russia pushed in the second half but were left with too much to do, even if Denis Glushakov got one back in the 80th minute to set up a grandstand finale. The result allowed Jan Kozak's team

to bounce back from the 2-1 defeat to Wales with which they started their Euro 2016 campaign and put pressure on their Group B rivals before England take on the Welsh in Lens on Thursday. Russia prop up the group with one

point from two matches and will surely now need to beat Wales in their final group game to keep their hopes of reaching the last 16 alive.

After a slow start Russia grew into the game and their powerful centre-forward Artem Dzyuba nearly caught out Slovakian 'keeper Matus Kovacik with a header after good play down the right by Igor Smolnikov.

Hamsik undid the Russia defence with a superb left-foot pass in behind right-back Igor Smolnikov. Weiss still had work to do though, as he cut back onto his right foot and finished with aplomb past Igor Akinfeev into the far corner.

Leonid Slutsky's side were stunned but there was worse to come for them, and better from Hamsik, as the interval approached.

The Russian defence was still organising itself when Weiss played a corner short to Hamsik. Oleg Shatov came across in an attempt to block Hamsik but the 28-year-old turned back onto his right foot and curled a tremendous

effort in off the far post.

It was arguably the goal of Euro 2016 so far and it had the Slovakians at that end of the ground in raptures.

Slutsky changed his two central midfielders at half-time, replacing Roman Neustaedter and Aleksandr Golovin with Glushakov and Pavel Mamaev.

It was Glushakov of Spartak Moscow who reduced the arrears in the 80th minute, heading home after Shatov had played a one-two with Roman Shirokov and crossed from the left byline. But Slovakia held on.

Meanwhile, Switzerland were on the brink of the last 16 after they salvaged a 1-1 draw against Romania in a lively Group A clash at the Parc des Princes on Wednesday.

Bogdan Stancu's penalty gave Romania the advantage and the Swiss spurned a host of chances to score before Admir Mehmedi slammed home to level just before the hour mark.

The Swiss, who have four points from two games, will now face France in Lille on Sunday.



Slovakia midfielder Marek Hamsik is ecstatic after scoring the second goal against Russia during their Euro 2016 Group B match in Lille yesterday.

PHOTO:

AFP

Brazil sack Dunga

Tite lined up for coach's job

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro



Corinthians boss Tite has been invited to take over as Brazil coach but talks on him replacing Dunga ended early on Wednesday morning and will continue "soon," the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said.

Dunga was fired on Tuesday after a

gloomy second spell in charge of the five-time World Cup winners. He was ousted after his side lost to Peru and were eliminated from the Copa America at the group stage for the first time since 1987.

Tite is the overwhelming favourite to succeed him and flew from Sao Paulo to meet with CBF bosses in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday night.

"It was a good first chat but it was inconclusive," CBF

spokesman Douglas Lunardi told reporters after three hours of talks ended around midnight.

frustrating. It was a setting out of concepts and ideas. The sides decided to take it up again soon."

No date was set for a resumption of talks, Lunardi said.

The new man will also be charged with leading the under-23 squad in August's Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, the only major tournament Brazil have never won.

Tite took Corinthians to Brazil's Serie A title in 2011 and 2015, and led them to the Copa Libertadores and World Club Cup for the first time in 2012.

Dunga, who was in his second spell as Brazil coach, was fired after a meeting at the CBF in Rio de Janeiro.

"The Brazilian Football Confederation decided this Tuesday to dissolve the technical commission of the Brazilian national team," the CBF said in a short statement.

"National teams coordinator Gilmar Rinaldi, coach Dunga and their entire team will leave their posts.

"The CBF has began the process of choosing a new technical commission for the

Brazilian team."

Dunga had never coached until he was first hired as Brazil boss in 2006. He "The two sides decided to take stock," he led them to the Copa America in added. "It was a good first meeting. It wasn't Venezuela in his first major tournament the following year.

He was fired in 2010, immediately after Brazil were eliminated by the Netherlands at the quarter-final stage of that year's World Cup.

to whitewash

AFP, Harare

India, powered by seamer Jasprit Bumrah's 4-22, crushed Zimbabwe by 10 wickets for a one-day international series whitewash at Harare Sports Club on Wednesday.

Zimbabwe made five changes for the third and final ODI, but it made no difference as they were bowled out for 123.

India required less than 22 overs to chase a target of 124, as KL Rahul made an unbeaten 63 and Faiz Fazal marked his international debut with 55 not out.

The two teams begin a three-match Twenty20 international series at the same venue on Saturday. SCORES IN BRIEF

ZIMBABWE: 123 all out in 42.2 overs (Chibhabha 27, Sibanda 38, Maruma 17; Bumrah 4-22, Chahal 2-

INDIA: 126 for no loss in 21.5 overs (Rahul 63 not out, Fazal 55 not out) Result: India won by 10 wickets and clinched the three-match series 3-0.

Zim succumb to whitewash Ronaldo's jibe sparks uproar

AGENCIES, Saint Etienne



Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo came under fire Wednesday for describing Iceland as having a "small mentality" after the north Atlantic

Islanders held Group F favourites Portugal to a 1-1 draw.

A superb finish by Nani gave Portugal the lead before Iceland's industrious midfielder Birkir Bjarnason volleyed the equaliser. But Ronaldo stormed off after the final

whistle, clearly frustrated by his own failure in front of goal, while Iceland scored by converting one of only four chances. "It was difficult over the 90 minutes,

because they scored one goal and that was after they had put every player behind the ball," fumed Ronaldo. "They put the bus in the net. We tried

our best; we created many chances and kept the ball.

"Iceland didn't try anything, they just defend, defend, they had two chances and scored a goal, it was a lucky night for them.

"We're frustrated, they didn't try and play. It's why I think they will do nothing here. In my opinion, it's a small mentality. It's difficult when Portugal tries to win the game and the other team doesn't." Icelandic midfielder Kari Arnason

accused Ronaldo of lacking grace -- and compared him unfavourably with his rival Lionel Messi. "Ronaldo says we parked the bus? He's

just a sore loser. He didn't want to lose the game. What does he expect? For us to play like Barcelona against him? "He fannies about and dives around. We

didn't pay any extra attention to him. It just makes it sweeter that he is a bad loser." Arnason said. "He's a fantastic footballer, but he's not a

gracious human being and the thing is we almost nicked the win, so him saying we weren't going for the win contradicts that," Arnason added.

"His comments are the reason why Messi is always going to be one step ahead of him."

Former Iceland international Hermann Hreidarsson said Ronaldo was a "sore loser" who had been "beaten up" by Iceland's hard-working team.

"It's petty in a way. He's a sore loser obviously," Hreidarsson told the BBC.

"He thought he could have goals handed to him on a plate. If he would have worked as hard as every Icelandic player, he wouldn't have had to say anything because I'm sure he would have got his rewards."

Loew sorry for touchline lapses

REUTERS, Paris

Germany coach Joachim Loew apologised on Wednesday for grabbing into the front and back of his trousers during their opening Euro 2016 win over Ukraine on Sunday, in full view of the cameras.

"I saw the pictures as well and obviously sometimes



you do things subconsciously. It happened and I am sorry," said the World Cup-winning coach.

"It was adrenaline and concentration. I will try to behave differently in the future."

Loew was watching the game, which Germany won 2-0, intently from the bench when he shoved his hand into the front of his trousers

and then smelled it. He also did the same at

the back, with his actions triggering a variety of reactions and the clip going viral on social media.

This is not the first time Loew, famous for his dress sense and style, has been caught on camera in a compromising position, with the German having repeatedly been filmed sticking his finger up his nose and then putting it in his mouth.

Dhoni first Indian to 350 ODI dismissals

IANS, Harare

Limited overs skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Wednesday became the first Indian wicketkeeper and fourth in the world to complete 350 dismissals in One-Day International (ODI) cricket.

The Ranchi stumper second in the 89th achieved the feat during the ongoing third and final ODI against Zimbabwe, when he caught Elton Chigumbura off medium pacer Jasprit Bumrah in the 33rd over.

> Playing in his 278th match, Dhoni has taken 261 catches and effected 89 stumpings.

Sangakkara leads the list with 482 dismissals followed by Australian Adam Gilchrist and South African Mark Boucher with 472 and

Argentina, Chile advance to quarters

AFP, Seattle



Argentina maintained their 100 percent start to the Copa America Centenario with an easy win over Bolivia, as holders Chile booked their

place in the quarter-finals on Tuesday. The tournament favourites, already assured of a quarter-final berth after wins over Chile and Panama, wrapped up their Group D campaign with one-sided win at Seattle's CenturyLink Field.

The victory sees Argentina reach the last eight as group winners, handing them what in theory should be a straightforward assignment against Venezuela in

The two-time world champions are determined to end a 23-year wait for a major title after suffering agoniz-

America. Argentina coach Gerardo Martino elected to rest captain Lionel Messi after his devastating hat-trick

But the Argentines were still far too strong for a feeble Bolivian team who were overwhelmed in a devastating opening period.

minute.

QUARTERFINALS Thursday

United States v Ecuador (0130 GMT Friday) Friday Colombia v Peru (0000 GMT) Saturday Venezuela v Argentina (2300 GMT) Mexico v Chile (0200 GMT Friday)

Two minutes later China-based forward

from close range after Gonzalo Higuain's downward header.

Central defender Victor Cuesta made it 3-0 just after the half-hour, diverting home Lavezzi's low cross in the 32nd minute. With Messi coming on as a substitute at

half-time, the game became a question of when or if the Barcelona superstar could grab a 54th international goal to equal Gabriel Batistuta's longstanding scoring record.

However despite Argentina's dominance of possession -- which reached 87 percent at one point - Messi was unable to add to his tally. In Tuesday's other game, Alexis Sanchez

and Eduardo Vargas both scored twice as Chile advanced with a 4-2 victory over Panama.

Chile recovered from the shock of falling behind to a Miguel Camargo goal after before Arsenal's

> in the Group D game. Sanchez added his

Chile will now face Mexico in the pick of the quarter-finals on Saturday.

However they will be keen to iron out kinks in their defensive display which saw them concede two cheap goals.

The Chileans were given a scare early on when Camargo gave the Panamanians an early lead. Chile defender Gonzalo Jara was the culprit, giving away possession with a lazy pass out of defense that allowed

The ball arrived at Camargo's feet and the midfielder let fly with a venomous low shot which Barcelona goalkeeper Claudio Bravo failed to grasp to leave Panama 1-0 up.

EPL fixtures unveiled

AFP, London

Jose Mourinho faces a trip to the seaside in his first Premier League game in as they face Bournemouth Premier League fixtures unveiled on Wednesday.

days in charge of Real Madrid in Spain, former Barcelona boss Pep Guardiola now in charge of city

the dugout for Chelsea as he has a London derby with Slaven Bilic's West Ham. Another of the influx of

top class continental European coaches, Jurgen Klopp, will begin his first full season in charge -- having replaced Brendan Rodgers in the middle of last term -- by taking his Liverpool outfit to face French veteran Arsene

a gentle start away at newlypromoted Hull, but then have their credentials tested to the full when they host the Gunners, who finished runners-up, the week after.

Southampton bosses will to host Spurs, coached by his predecessor at Saints, Maurico Pochettino.

charge of Manchester United on August 13 in the 2016/17 His bitter rival from his

rivals Manchester City, will host Sunderland, who just escaped the drop last season Current Italy coach Antonio Conte faces a highly-charged first game in

Wenger's Arsenal. Champions Leicester have Two former

trade blows on the pitch as Ronald Koeman's first taste as Everton manager will be

Oscar walks on stumps in plea for leniency

AFP, Pretoria A sobbing Oscar Pistorius on Wednesday walked on his stumps across a court to demonstrate his physical vulnerability to a judge who will decide his prison sentence for

The double-amputee removed his prosthetic limbs at the request of his lawyer Barry Roux who is pleading for leniency, but state prosecutor Gerrie Nel sought a minimum 15-year jail term for Pistorius for killing Reeva Steenkamp. Wearing shorts, the Paralympic athlete

held onto wooden benches for support as he

murdering his girlfriend.

limped through the courtroom, and appeared in distress as a cushion was provided for him to rest on. Pistorius, 29, shot his girlfriend in the early hours of Valentine's Day in 2013, claiming he mistook her for a burglar when

he fired four times through the door of his

bedroom toilet. "It is three o'clock in the morning, it is dark, he is on his stumps," said Roux, whose client had both legs amputated below the knee as a child. "His balance is seriously compromised and... he would not be able to defend himself. He was anxious, he was frightened. He believed the person in the toilet was an intruder and [the] deceased was at the time in the bed," Roux said.

found Pistorius guilty of murder -- irrespective of whoever was behind the door when he opened fire with a pistol he kept under his bed. Roux urged judge Thokozile Masipa to "entertain the correct facts and not to be

In March, the Supreme Court of Appeal

drowned by the many perceptions" that Pistorius had killed Steenkamp deliberately. "The accused has lost everything. He can never ever resume his career," Roux said. "He has paid physically... he has paid financially,



Oscar Pistorius removed his prosthetic limbs and walked in the courtroom yesterday to display his disability as his lawyer pressed for leniency. PHOTO: AFP

he has paid socially. He is paying constantly." The minimum jail term for murder in South Africa is 15 years, but Pistorius's

sentence may be reduced due to the year he has already spent in prison and mitigating factors, including his disability. However state prosecutor Gerrie Nel argued that Pistorius should be jailed for at

least the minimum term, saying the

Judge Masipa, who gave the original

disgraced athlete had failed to show remorse.

verdict, is due to hand down a new sentence

after final arguments are completed. Thursday is a national holiday in South Africa, and the sentence could be given on Friday -- with Pistorius facing an immediate return to jail.

Foxborough on Saturday.

ing defeats in the finals of the 2014 World Cup and last year's Copa

performance against Panama.

The match was effectively settled within the first quarter of an hour, with Tottenham Hotspur winger Erik Lamela opening the scoring with a deflected free-kick in the 13th

Ezequiel Lavezzi marked his comeback from injury with a goal, volleying home

Panama to pounce.

only five minutes, with Vargas scoring twice

Sanchez grabbed a third

minute to complete the scoring.

Sri Lankan Kumar

424 dismissals respectively.