

STAR SPORTS 1
Women's World Cup
India v England
Live from 3:30pm
SONY SIX
Confederations Cup

New Zealand v Portugal
Live from 9:00pm
TEN 1HD & TEN 2
Confederations Cup
Mexico v Russia
Live from 9:00pm

Portugal to rest Ronaldo

AFP, Sochi

Portugal are set to rest Cristiano Ronaldo for Saturday's clash against New Zealand as the Euro 2016 winners look to confirm their passage into next week's Confederations Cup semifinals.

Ronaldo brushed off allegations of tax evasion in Spain with man-of-the-match performances in the 2-2 draw with Mexico and 1-0 win over Russia, when he scored the winner.

Ferdinand Santos is expected to rest some stars, including captain Ronaldo, against the Kiwis.

AC Milan's new signing Andre Silva should lead Portugal's attack in the David versus Goliath clash in St Petersburg.

Things remain tight in Group A before Saturday's final round.

Mexico, top of Group A equal with Portugal on four points by virtue of having scored one more goal, face Russia, who are just a point behind in third.

Only fourth-placed NZ have no chance after losing their two games so far.

The Kiwis will breathe a slight sigh of relief if Ronaldo is rested with the Real Madrid star having netted 15 times in

his last nine games for club and country.

"Even if you take Ronaldo out of the team, you still have world-class players like (Ricardo) Quaresma and Nani, we have a game plan and we won't be over-awed," said Kiwi coach Anthony Hudson.

"The Portuguese probably don't want to be playing New Zealand right now."

Like he did before the Mexico game, Hudson called on the Kiwis to be 'brave' against the European champions.

This will be the first senior meeting between eighth-ranked Portugal, and New Zealand, who are 95th -- sandwiched between Guatemala and Madagascar.

The Kiwis are without a win in all of their 11 Confederations Cup matches and bow out against Portugal after already losing to hosts Russia and Mexico.

The plucky All Whites gave the Mexicans a scare in Wednesday's 2-1 defeat in Sochi with Leeds striker Chris Wood giving the Kiwis a shock first-half lead.

It was their first goal in 555 minutes of Confederations Cup football before Raul Jimenez and Oribe Peralta scored second-half goals for Mexico as the Kiwis faded.

"We took a great side all the way

against Mexico and we can do that against Portugal," said Wood.

"If we play like we did the other night, I have all the confidence in the world."

It promises to be a battle royal in Kazan where Mexico need just a point to make the semis, while Russia need to win or their prospects hinge on Portugal losing.

After the draw with Portugal, Mexico's coach Juan Carlos Osorio made eight changes against New Zealand, which back-fired and his side only reacted when they fell behind.

"Russia are going to be a different proposition, they like to keep the ball and bring it out of defence," said Mexico's midfielder Juergen Damm.

"We'll try to counter their strengths and exploit their weaknesses, but we need to be focused."

Having spent the New Zealand game on the bench, star striker Javier Hernandez is expected to start while Osorio must make changes after injuries to defenders Carlos Salcedo and Hector Moreno.

Russia coach Stanislav Cherchesov has said he will decide his starting lineup after training with an electric atmosphere expected for the national team's first game at the Kazan Arena.

TENNIS STAR ROUGHED UP BY COP SETTLES

New York City agreed on Wednesday to create a new position with a watchdog agency that hears complaints against the police as part of a settlement with retired tennis star James Blake, who was roughed up by a plain-clothes officer in 2015. The settlement creates a fellowship in Blake's name with the Civilian Complaint Review Board to help people with complaints against the police. Blake, who was the No. 4 ranked tennis player in the world in 2006, was waiting for a car outside a Manhattan hotel to take him to the U.S. Open on Sept. 9, 2015, when Officer James Frascatore tackled him without provocation or warning in what police said was a case of mistaken identity. Blake was bodyslammed, handcuffed and led away in an incident recorded by a security video camera and widely circulated, sparking outrage at a time of rising tension nationwide over police relations with minorities. Blake has a black father and a white mother, while Frascatore is white.

—REUTERS



Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo (R) and midfielder Joao Moutinho take part in a training session in Saint Petersburg yesterday on the eve of their Confederations Cup group A match against New Zealand.

PHOTO: AFP

Messi set to be fined 250k euros

AFP, Barcelona

Prosecutors in Barcelona say they are not against replacing football star Lionel Messi's 21-month jail sentence for tax fraud with a fine, a spokeswoman announced Friday.

They said they were willing to give the 29-year-old a fine of 400 euros (\$450) a day for the duration of the sentence -- an option that the defence of the Argentina international has also proposed.

That would amount to more than 250,000 euros, although the court has the final decision over whether to go ahead with this option.

The daily fine would come on top of the 2.09-million-euro fine Messi was also given when he and his father Jorge Horacio Messi were found guilty of tax fraud in a trial last year and sentenced to 21 months in jail.

Both appealed, but Spain's Supreme Court last month confirmed the jail term for the Barcelona striker, although it reduced Messi's father's sentence to 15 months.

The pair used companies in Belize, Britain, Switzerland and Uruguay to avoid paying taxes on 4.16 million euros of Messi's income earned from his image rights from 2007-09.

The income related to Messi's image rights that was hidden includes endorsement deals with Danone, Adidas, Pepsi-Cola, Procter & Gamble and the Kuwait Food Company.

Bastia in double nightmare

AFP, Paris

Bastia were condemned to the third division by French football's financial watchdog on Thursday, just over a month after the club was relegated from Ligue 1 after finishing rock bottom.

The DNGC gave no reason for the decision, but Bastia released a brief statement saying it was a "provisional relegation" and that they would look to offload players to balance the club's accounts before the next hearing.

Bitter Corsican rivals Ajaccio, who finished 11th in Ligue 2 last season, were also banished to the third tier on Wednesday. They are expected to appeal the decision.

Sanchez makes history

AFP, Kazan



Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez became Chile's all-time top-scorer with his 38th international goal in Thursday's 1-1 draw with Germany at the Confederations Cup.

The Gunners' star, the man of the match, wrote himself into the record books by capitalising on an early mistake in the German defence.

"I'm very happy to be Chile's top-scorer now, our dream is to win this tournament and we feel we have a chance," said Sanchez, who refused to be drawn about his Arsenal future.

"We played well in the first half, but Germany adapted very well to how we were playing."

"Now we need to rest up for Sunday's next game."

Lars Stindl netted his second goal of the tournament to equalise for the world champions just before the break.

"We knew they would come at us with a lot of pressure and power," said goal-scorer Stindl.

"But the result is not undeserved. We now know we can stand up well against great opponents."

The result leaves South American champions Chile top of Group B on goal difference from World Cup winners Germany.

With both teams on four points, three ahead of Australia and Cameroon who drew 1-1 earlier, they are in pole position to reach next week's semifinals.

Germany play Cameroon on Sunday in Sochi while Chile face the Soccerroos in Moscow.

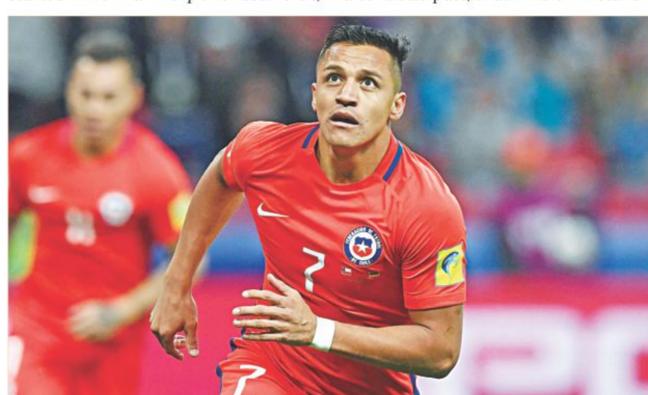
Despite leaving all his World Cup-winning stars at home, Germany's head coach Joachim Loew still managed to name four of his first-choice team.

He started with wing-backs Jonas Hector and Joshua Kimmich with Liverpool's Emre Can and Paris St-Germain's Julian Draxler, who all impressed in Monday's 3-2 win over Australia.

"Overall, I am very happy," said Loew.

"It was a very high level match, and a tactical challenge for a young team like ours."

Chile boss Juan Antonio Pizzi started with an experienced side,



Chile forward Alexis Sanchez celebrates his goal against Germany during their Confederations Cup group B tie at the Kazan Arena Stadium on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

including nine of the team which beat Argentina on penalties in the 2016 Copa America final.

"It was a very high-level game with two teams playing very aggressively going forward, which was very attractive for the fans," said Pizzi.

"Both teams are very ambitious, so sometimes they neutralise each other."

"The result reflects the high level on the pitch."

After their opening 2-0 win over

Cameroon, Chile took the lead with just six minutes gone.

There was nothing on when goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen harmlessly rolled the ball out towards Joshua Kimmich.

However, Kimmich's Bayern Munich team-mate Arturo Vidal reacted fastest, deflected the ball into Sanchez's path and the striker fired home off the inside of the post.

"Unfortunately we went behind after a bad pass, that kind of mistake is

punished, but the team's reaction was very good," said Loew.

"As the match went on, we got forward with more and more boldness."

Despite Loew's positive appraisal, Chile could have been 2-0 when Eduardo Vargas rattled the crossbar on 20 minutes with Barcelona goalkeeper Ter Stegen beaten.

Despite the early scare, Germany regained their composure and pushed forward.

Southampton appoint Pellegrino

AFP, London

English Premier League side Southampton named Argentine coach Mauricio Pellegrino as their new manager on Friday to replace Claude Puel, who was sacked after just one season in charge.

The 45-year-old Pellegrino, who had been in charge of Alaves in Spain, has agreed a three-year contract at St Mary's and will officially join up with Southampton next week, the club said.

"I am really happy to become the new coach of Southampton Football Club. The club has a great reputation for having a strong and stable structure, competing in the Premier League and playing attractive football," said Pellegrino.

He added: "I think my philosophy and the culture of the club will work well together."

"We have to be a team on and off the pitch; I want to make the supporters proud of the players and to feel part of the game every week."

"I want to win matches, be successful and develop a team spirit where everyone gives 100 percent and supports each other."

"I am excited and passionate about what the future holds for us and look forward to meeting the players and beginning our preparation for the new season."

Stindl seizes his chance perfectly

AFP, Sochi



Lars Stindl is undoubtedly the winner in regards to Joachim Loew's decision to leave Germany's World Cup winning stars at home and blood fringe players at the Confederations Cup.

After the first two rounds of matches, Borussia Moenchengladbach's captain is the tournament's unlikely top-scorer in Russia.

Stindl netted in both Monday's 3-2 opening win over Australia and Thursday's 1-1 draw with Chile - a good return from his four shots on goal from both Group B games.

"No, I haven't taken a glance at it," he modestly admitted when asked if he had looked at the list of top-scorers -- with his name ahead of goal kings Cristiano Ronaldo and Javier Hernandez.

Had Germany boss Loew decided to bring his full strength team to Russia, it is unlikely Stindl would be here. In the last few years, the 28-year-old was always overlooked by Loew despite eye-catching performances for Hanover 96, then Gladbach, whom he joined in 2015.

However, Stindl's chance came when Loew announced he was not taking his established stars to the Confed Cup.

Stindl pushed his way into Loew's plans with a series of strong performances, netting 18 goals for Gladbach, including two against Celtic in the Champions League last season.

Cometh the hour, cometh the man. Stindl has seized his chance to impress at an international tournament with both hands.

His rise is exactly what Loew wanted to see in Russia: new names stepping up so established stars, like Toni Kroos or Mesut Ozil, must fight for places at next year's World Cup.

Against Chile on Thursday, Stindl put in a strong performance in Kazan.

He worked tirelessly to offer a platform on attack and calmed German nerves when Alexis Sanchez gave Chile an early lead.

With half-time approaching, he timed his run into the area so when Jonas Hector put in a low, hard cross it was Stindl's out-stretched boot which claimed a classic centre forward's goal to equalise.

"He is a very refined player with incredible game intelligence and good orientation in space," said Germany boss Loew.

"He has absolutely convinced us of his qualities."

"He is quiet and self-assured, shows no signs of nervousness, is a very good personality and a very good player," added Loew.

L'pool seal Salah deal

AFP, Liverpool



Liverpool on Thursday completed the signing of Egyptian winger Mohamed Salah from AS Roma for a fee reported to be 39 million euros (\$43.5 million).

The 25-year-old agreed a five-year contract with the Premier League giants.

Salah, who has also played for Basel, Chelsea and Fiorentina, has been capped 52 times, scoring 29 international goals.

"I'm very excited to be here. I'm very happy," said Salah who spent two seasons at Roma where he grabbed 29 goals in 65 Serie A appearances.

"I will give 100 per cent and give everything for the club. I really want to win something for this club."

"We have a great team and very good players. I was watching the games last year and everyone was giving 100 per cent to win something."

"Everyone can see the coach gives everything. I hope to see that together we can give everything to win something for the club,

for the supporters and for us."

Salah was a long-term target of Liverpool, who previously tried to sign him three years ago when they were pipped by Chelsea, and current manager Jurgen Klopp was keen to add more pace to his side.

Klopp said he had been a fan of the winger since his early days at Basel and believes his experience in Italy will be key for a Liverpool side returning to the Champions League next season.

"He knows the Premier League, he has pedigree in the Champions League and he is one of the most important players for his country," Klopp told www.liverpoolfc.com.

"His record in Italy has been outstanding and he possesses qualities that will enhance our team and squad. I have followed him since he emerged at Basel and he has matured into a really good player."

"His pace is incredible, he gives us more attacking threat and we are already strong in this area. I like that we will make it even more competitive."

"Most important though, for us, is that he is hungry, willing and eager to be even better and improve further."



U-16 women win last match

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-16 women's football team yesterday wrapped up their Osaka tour with a victory after consecutive defeats against local sides.

Golam Rabbani Choton's charges, who lost their opening match against a Sakai-based team 4-2 before being thrashed by Sakai Academy side 5-0, won 3-1 against Sheisho High School.

Krishna Rani, Anuching Mama and Marzia scored a goal apiece for Bangladesh. Krishna scored the opening goal in the first half, but the hosts leveled early in the second half before goals from Anuching and Marzia confirmed a morale-boosting victory for the visitors.

The team is expected to return today from their weeklong tour, which is part of their preparations for September's AFC Under-16 Women's Championship finals to be held in Thailand.

International conference on Skills for the Future World of Work and TVET for Global Competitiveness

The IDEB and CPSC are going to organize jointly the International Conference on "Skills for the Future World of Work and TVET for Global Competitiveness" in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 27-29 July 2017.

Inaugural Session

Chief Guest : Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina
 Hon'ble Prime Minister, Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Date : 27 July 2017, 10AM

Venue : Osmani Memorial Auditorium & IDEB Bhaban, Dhaka, Bangladesh

The TVET Expert from developing & developed countries, CPSC member countries, development partners and local experts are requested to participate in the event.

For details

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