

## Everton deducted 10 points

REUTERS

Everton have been deducted 10 points for a breach of the Premier League's profitability and sustainability rules (PSR) for the season ending 2021/22, the league said on Friday.

An independent commission imposed an immediate deduction which will see Everton drop from 14th in the standings into the relegation zone, above bottom side Burnley on goal difference.

The Premier League said it had issued a complaint against the Merseyside club and referred the case to the independent commission earlier this year.

"During the proceedings, the club admitted it was in breach of the PSRs for the period ending season 2021/22 but the extent of the breach remained in dispute," the league said in a statement.

"The Commission determined that Everton FC's PSR Calculation for the relevant period resulted in a loss of £124.5 million pounds (\$154.70 million), as contended by the Premier League, which exceeded the threshold of 105 million pounds permitted under the PSRs."

Everton said the sanction was "wholly disproportionate and unjust" and announced its intention to appeal the decision to the Premier League.

"Everton maintains that it has been open and transparent in the information it has provided to the Premier League and that it has always respected the integrity of the process," it said.

"Both the harshness and severity of the sanction imposed by the Commission are neither a fair nor a reasonable reflection of the evidence submitted."



Lionel Messi grabs Mathias Olivera by the throat as tempers flared during yesterday's FIFA World Cup qualifying match between Argentina and Uruguay at La Bombonera stadium in Buenos Aires. Messi avoided a red card but the defending world champions went on to suffer their second defeat in four years and four months. (Bottom) Luis Diaz celebrates one of his two goals against Brazil during their 2-1 win in Barranquilla yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Socceroos focused on football for Palestine game

AFP, Melbourne

Australia coach Graham Arnold said it has been "quite stressful" preparing to play Palestine next week against the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas conflict, but hopes football can bring some joy.

The Socceroos head into the 2026 World Cup qualifier in Kuwait on Tuesday in early control of Group I after thumping Bangladesh 7-0 in Melbourne.

Australia's game with Palestine was originally set to be played in the West Bank but has been relocated to Kuwait City because of the war.

"With everything that's going on in the Middle East at the moment it's been quite stressful for me and just making sure that everything (preparation) is great," said Arnold.

"What we do have control over is our performance and playing against Palestine and going out and getting the job done for Australia," he added.

"Obviously we are very sympathetic for everyone with what's going on, but again, it's a game of football and that brings a lot of joy to everybody."

Leicester City defender Harry Souttar, who opened the scoring against Bangladesh, said the team must be professional in Kuwait and put aside other emotions.

"Obviously we know kind of what's going on for both sides — it's horrendous," he told reporters.

"I'm not going to stand here and give a political view but all I can say is we will be going into that focusing on purely the game and nothing else."

"We know that Palestine are going to be right up for it. We know that they're going to be playing for a lot more than just football."

"But we're there to get a result and get a job done."

Australia are targeting a sixth consecutive World Cup, having made the last 16 at Qatar in 2022.

## Emotional Diaz sinks Brazil; Uruguay beat Argentina

REUTERS

Brazil lost their second consecutive World Cup qualifier match as Colombia fought back to win 2-1 against the five-times champions, who dropped to fifth place in the South American standings on Thursday.

It was a cathartic evening for Liverpool forward Luis Diaz, who scored twice within four minutes late in the second-half to give his country the shock win just days after Colombian guerrillas freed his kidnapped father.

Brazil started well and dominated early proceedings, taking the lead in the fourth minute through a strike by Gabriel Martinelli, assisted by Vinicius Jr.'s fine first touch pass.

The jet-heeled Real Madrid winger was forced out due to a thigh injury halfway through the first-half after which the home side slowly took control, roared on by the crowd at the sold-out Metropolitano stadium in Barranquilla.

Luis Diaz alone created 10 attempts on target for Colombia, but was denied the equalised by a string of fine saves from his Liverpool team mate Alisson, before defensive mistakes helped him net two headers in the 75th and 79th minutes.

Diaz burst into tears as he dedicated the win to his father who was celebrating emotionally in the stands.

Winless in the last three games, Brazil will be under heavy pressure as they are set to host long-time rivals Argentina at the iconic Maracana in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday.

Argentina will also be looking to bounce back after dropping their first points in five



games in the South America World Cup Qualifiers, losing 2-0 at home to Uruguay on Thursday but keeping their place at the top of the standings.

Goals in each half from Ronald Araujo and Darwin Nunez gave Uruguay victory over Lionel Messi's Argentina in a nervy affair at the World Cup champions' Bombonera stadium in Buenos Aires.

The visitors were the better side from start to finish and the win put them second in the standings on 10 points, two behind Argentina.

Araujo scored in the 41st minute with a first time strike from inside the box that was just beyond goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez, and Nunez secured the points with a tidy finish in the 87th.

"They are a strong and physical team and played with more intensity. We struggled mightily to find ourselves and our game," Messi told TyC Sports.

"We never felt comfortable, didn't find a way to end up with the ball or the control of the actions, were not able to have long possessions, didn't create chances and played the game that they wanted, in their rhythm. They are a physical team that bring a lot of danger in the counter attacks and they showed that with the goals they scored."

Colombia are third on nine points, one ahead of Venezuela who were held to a goalless draw at home by sixth placed Ecuador, who are one point behind Brazil, who are fifth on seven points.



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates in trademark fashion after his 128th goal in national colours helped Portugal break the deadlock, resulting in a 2-0 victory over hosts Liechtenstein at the Rheinpark stadium in Vaduz on Thursday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Camavinga suffers ligament damage

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid midfielder Eduardo Camavinga suffered knee ligament damage while training with the French national team, the club said on Friday.

Camavinga, 21, suffered the injury in his right knee on Wednesday as he trained with his France teammates for Euro 2024 qualifiers and then returned to Spain for scans that revealed the extent of the problem.

"Following tests carried out today it has been diagnosed that Camavinga has torn the lateral collateral ligament in his right knee," Real Madrid said in a statement. "Further developments are awaited."

Real did not immediately say how long he would be sidelined for, but serious knee ligament injuries tend to require months to heal.

Camavinga has become a key part of Real's lineup this season and is seen as one of the players the Spanish giants will build around for the future, alongside 20-year-old English midfielder Jude Bellingham.

## Arteta charged over VAR rant

AFP, London

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta has been charged by the Football Association over an explosive VAR rant following his side's controversial defeat against Newcastle.

Arteta said the VAR decision not to disallow Anthony Gordon's goal in the 1-0 loss at St James' Park earlier this month was embarrassing and an "absolute disgrace".

"Mikel Arteta has been charged with a breach of FA Rule E3.1 following comments that he made in media interviews after Arsenal's Premier League game against Newcastle United on Saturday, November 4," an FA statement said on Thursday.

"It's alleged that his comments constitute misconduct as they are insulting towards match officials and/or detrimental to the game and/or bringing the game into disrepute."

VAR checked to see whether the ball had gone out of play before Joe Willock's cross, whether Joelinton had fouled Arsenal defender Gabriel and whether Gordon had been offside.

All three decisions went in Newcastle's favour, even though the ball appeared to have gone out, while Joelinton clearly pushed Gabriel in the back.

Arteta could not hide his anger after the match, saying: "You have to talk about how the hell did this goal stand up? Incredible. I feel embarrassed."

"I have to now come in here and try to defend the club and please ask for help because it's an absolute disgrace that this goal is allowed. An absolute disgrace."

In the aftermath of their manager's blast, Arsenal issued a statement the following day saying the club "wholeheartedly" supported the Spaniard.

## Clubs make 33,000 km round trips for French Cup games!

REUTERS

Tahitian football club AS Pirae and French side US Thionville Lusitanos took going the extra mile to the next level when they undertook round trips of around 33,000 kilometres for their Coupe de France seventh round matches.

AS Pirae flew over 15,500 kilometres from the Pacific Ocean to mainland France where they will play sixth-tier side Saint-Méziéry.

Meanwhile, Thionville have travelled to New Caledonia to play Hienghène Sport.

The competition is open to overseas teams affiliated to the French Football Federation and it has had clubs from territories such as Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Tahiti compete in the preliminary rounds.

Pirae are no strangers to long distance travel. The team represented the Oceania region at the 2021 FIFA Club World Cup after Auckland City withdrew due to New Zealand's strict COVID-19 protocols.

At the time, Pirae travelled nearly 17,500 kilometres to Abu Dhabi where they lost to local side Al-Jazira in the first round.

Another overseas club making the trip to mainland France for a seventh-round tie is AS Rosadó from Mayotte, an archipelago in the Indian Ocean between Madagascar and Mozambique. They will play fifth division side Olympique Ales.