



READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text and do the exercises below.

PARIS ATTACKS TIMELINE: WHAT HAPPENED AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM OF FRANCE

Eurosport France journalist, Maxime Dupuis, has charted the horrific happenings on Friday evening starting when an explosion was heard during the France v Germany match at the national stadium of France.

The first explosions heard near the national stadium of France came during the first half of the match between France and Germany before the evacuation of spectators two hours later. Here is Maxime's timeline of the happenings enveloping a horrific night in Paris.

9:17pm

An explosion is heard near the stadium with the France and Germany match continuing. Spectators are not warned. The home fans continue to encourage their side unaware of the goings on nearby.

9:19pm

A new explosion is heard near the stadium.

9:35pm

While other attacks take place in Paris, the President of France, François Hollande, present at the national stadium of France, leaves the stadium. The Head of State joins the Place Beauvau for a crisis meeting at the Interior Ministry.

10:00pm

A helicopter flies over the stadium. Throughout the second half and for many minutes, it remains over the top of the stadium.

10:42pm

A few minutes from the end of the match, Christian Jeanpierre advises viewers of TF1 (*Télévision française 1*) in France that the evening is marked by "terrible" events in the streets of Paris and the channel disrupts its programmes for the evening.

10:53pm

The announcer at the stadium confirms that an "incident" on the outside of the grounds will force fans to leave with assistance from the authorities. They have been asked to leave the stadium through three doors (north, south and west).

10:56pm

On TF1, Grégory Goupil, from the police trade union, says after the meeting that the two explosions near the stadium were caused by two suicide bombers, who were carrying "explosive belts". "We have no exact news for now, the police are trying to secure the perimeter to allow the evacuation of 80,000 people", he adds.

11:00pm

A stampede occurs with the fans aware of what has happened in the evening in Paris. Spectators who had quickly left return in large numbers to the pitch at the stadium. Some people run, but nobody seems to panic. Everything is done in peace and a security cordon is set up by stewards.

11:05pm

The music covers the sound of voices on the pitch. Police sirens are the only sounds which correspond to the drama outside.

11:16pm

The speaker announces that spectators massed on the pitch will get out of the stadium. Everything is "secure," he says. All means of traditional transport work perfectly.

11:20pm

The press conferences of both teams are cancelled.

11:45pm

The pitch begins to empty. Stewards are the latest on the pitch. In front of the stadium, no one gives in to panic.

0:23am

AFP (*Agence France-Press*) announces that, at least, one of the deadly explosions near the stadium is caused by a suicide bomber who himself died. The two explosions killed at least three, according to these sources.

0:47am

The English FA (Football Association) will make contact with their French counterparts at the weekend to discuss the friendly match between the two teams, scheduled for Tuesday at Wembley. It is likely to be cancelled with French President, Francois Hollande, declaring three days of mourning.

Worksheet

1. During the first half of the match, spectators...

- a. were conscious of the terrible events that were happening outside the stadium
- b. did not know anything about the horrifying episodes
- c. were warned to leave the stadium with assistance

2. According to the information in the text, a Head of State is...

- a. a male sovereign; a man who holds, by life tenure and usually by hereditary right, the chief authority over a country and people
- b. a person exercising absolute power and who has unrestricted control in a government without hereditary succession
- c. the person who holds the highest position in a national government

3. A helicopter flew over the stadium...

- a. at the beginning of the second half
- b. at the end of the first half
- c. almost at the end of the match

4. The friendly match between England and France at Wembley...

- a. might be cancelled
- b. is going to be cancelled
- c. is going to be played

5. Finally, spectators...

- a. were told to leave the stadium in the half time of the match
- b. were told to leave the stadium in the middle of the second half of the match
- c. were told to leave the stadium at the end of the second half