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DHAKA WEDNESDAY JUNE 14, 2006

banglalink  
**Goal**

banglalink picture of the day



CATCH ME IF YOU CAN: South Korean striker Jung Hwan Ahn (R) is over the moon after blasting home the match-winner against Togo at Waldstadion in Frankfurt yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Super-sub Ahn rescues Korea

South Korea 2 Togo 1

AFP, Frankfurt

Talismanic striker Ahn Jung-Hwan came off the bench to score the winner for South Korea as they came from a goal down to beat 10-man Togo 2-1 in their Group G World Cup opener here on Tuesday.

Ahn, a hero in South Korea for his vital goals in the 2002 World Cup when they reached the last four, scored with a dipping shot in the 72nd minute.

Mohamed Kader had given Togo a surprise first-half lead but the dismissal of captain Jean-Paul Abalo early in the second half and the equaliser from Lee Chun-Soo gave them a mountain to climb.

South Korea started with an attacking 3-4-3 formation as they sought an early advantage against the African debutants. Manchester United's Park Ji-Sung was deployed as a right-winger with Spurs' Lee Young-Pyo playing left midfield instead of his usual wingback position.

Coach Dick Advocaat's lineup included seven players who competed in the 2002 World Cup when South Korea strode to the semifinals, although he left Ahn on the bench.

Togo had their first real sight on goal after 10 minutes when indecision in the South Korean defence allowed Kader a shooting opportunity but his effort sailed over the bar.

Park was receiving some rough treatment and Abalo was shown a yellow card for a foul on the Korean

star in the 22nd minute with Alaixys Romao following Abalo into the book for a crude challenge.

Togo stunned the Koreans by taking the lead in the 31st minute. Kader took a long ball on his knee, darted between two flat-footed Korean defenders and shot low into the net.

It was the 50th goal Korea had conceded in the World Cup finals.

Togo nearly increased their lead in the 41st minute, a wickedly swinging free kick from Yao Junior Senaya being brilliantly palmed over by Korean keeper Lee Won-Jae.

Advocaat gambled at the start of the second half by putting on striker Ahn in place of central defender Kim Jin-Kyu. Togo nearly capitalised on the short-handed defence, the tricky Kader finding room for a shot which Lee blocked.

Togo were hit with a double blow when they were reduced to 10 men and conceded a goal in the 54th minute.

Skipper Abalo was sent off after receiving a second yellow for a foul on the rampaging Park and Lee Chun-Soo sent the resulting freekick into the top corner of the net.

Togo refused to go into a defensive shell and Moustapha Salifou clipped the ball just over in the 64th minute after great work by Arsenal striker Emmanuel Adebayor.

Ahn, who made the whole of Italy cry with his golden goal winner in the second round in 2002, took Korea back to the future with a

goal in the 72nd minute. He picked up the ball, glided across the penalty box and unleashed a dipping right-foot shot past goalkeeper Kossi Agassa.

### TEAMS

**SOUTH KOREA:** Lee Woon-jae; Song Chong-gug, Choi Jin-cheul, Kim Jin-kyu (Ahn Jung-hwan 46), Lee Young-pyo; Kim Young-chul, Lee Eul-yong (Kim Nam-il 68); Lee Chun-soo, Park Ji-sung, Lee Ho; Cho Jae-jin (Kim Sang-sik 83).  
**Yellow card:** Young-chul (41), Chun-soo (51)

**TOGO:** Kossi Agassa; Massamasso Tchangan, Jean-Paul Abalo, Dare Nibombe, Ludovic Assemoassa (Richmond Forson 62); Yao Junior Senaya (Assimou Toure 57), Moustapha Salifou (Yao Aziawonou 87), Alaixys Romao, Cherif Toure; Mohamed Kader, Emmanuel Adebayor.

**Yellow card:** Abalo (23), Romao (24), Tchangan (90+2).  
**Red card:** Jean-Paul Abalo (53)  
**Referee:** G. Poll (England)  
**Attendance:** 48,000

### LEADING SCORERS

AFP, Berlin

World Cup leading scorers after the Togo-South Korea match on Tuesday.  
 2 - Bravo (Mexico), Klöse (Germany), T Cahill (Australia), Wanchope (Costa Rica), Rosicky (Czech Republic)  
 1 - Aloisi (Australia), C. Tenorio, Delgado (Ecuador), Crespo, Saviola (Argentina), Drogba (Ivory Coast), Frings, Lahm (Germany), Golmohammadi (Iran), Nakamura (Japan), Pauleta (Portugal), Robben (Netherlands), Zinha (Mexico), Koller (Czech Republic), Pirló, Iaquineta (Italy), Kader (Togo), Lee Chun-soo, Ahn Jung-hwan (South Korea).

### STANDINGS

GROUP A	Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
GROUP A	Germany	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
	Ecuador	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
	Costa Rica	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
	Poland	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

### THIRD EYE

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM

Day 4 might have thrown up a genuine contender for the World Cup title as the Czech Republic turned in an absolute master-class to dispatch of last time quarter-finalists USA by three goals to nil. Over in Kaiserslautern, it was a sweet return for Australia who snatched a dramatic late win over Japan in their return to the World Cup after a 32 year hiatus. And in the day's late match, Italy turned in a largely assured performance that strengthened their credentials as a genuine title contender.

But it is to Kaiserslautern we go first. Japan took the lead in the first half through a controversial goal from Shunsuke Nakamura that should never have stood. But they held on until late in the second half when a remarkable Australian comeback turned the match on its head. Drama was created when Tim Cahill grabbed the equaliser in a goalmouth melee and then with not two minutes gone, curled in a superb 25 yard shot into the top

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## GERMANY V POLAND

# Relief for hosts

AGENCIES, Berlin

Booster by the return of their inspirational captain Michael Ballack hosts Germany have the chance to book a place in the second round of the World Cup when they face Poland in Dortmund on Wednesday.

Ballack declared himself fit for the Friday opening match with Costa Rica, which Germany won 4-2, but manager Jurgen Klinsmann decided not to risk his calf injury and omitted him from the starting lineup.

But the skipper has successfully returned to training and is expected to reclaim the captain's armband from Bernd Schneider. "I came through training and am now looking forward to playing on Wednesday," Ballack said.

"We want to reach the last 16 and hope the fantastic fans in Dortmund can push us to victory,"

Ballack said.

"Poland are under pressure and there is a lot of discontent back home after their defeat to Ecuador so we should beware."

Poland lost 2-0 to Ecuador in

their first match and if Germany can also taste victory over their neighbours they will become the first team to qualify for the knock-out stage.

"Polish players know their public are not happy and realise it is all or nothing," Klinsmann said.

"They will be fired up to do everything they can to stay in this tournament. It will be a heated encounter."

Germany will field two Polish-born strikers in attack with Miroslav Klose and Lukas Podolski, born in the Polish cities of Opole and Gliwice respectively, admitting the game will be an emotional occasion.

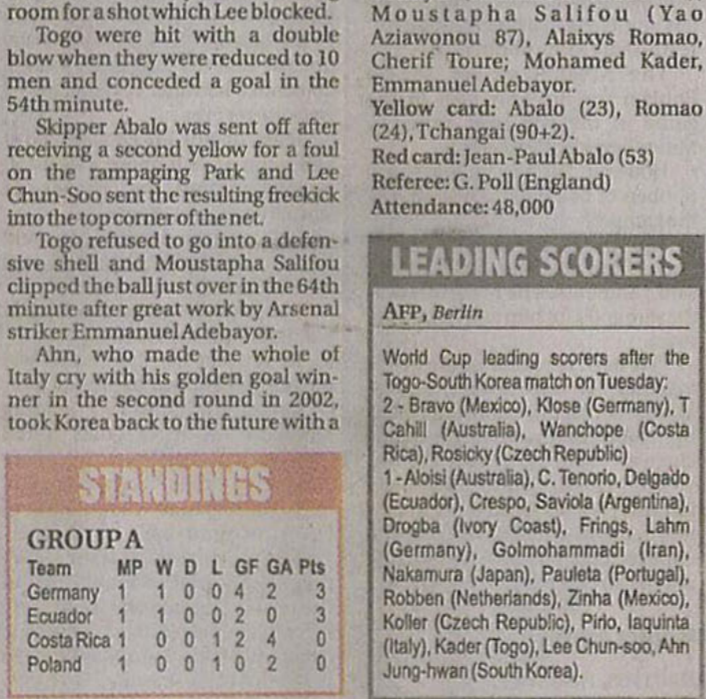
"It will be special and a bit strange to hear the Polish national anthem and then the German one afterwards," explained Podolski.

"I will not sing either of them because I feel at home in both

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**TODAY'S MATCHES**  
 ALL MATCHES LIVE ON ESPN \* LIVE ON BTV TOO

TEAM	TIME	VENUE
Spain v Ukraine	6:50 pm	Leipzig
Tunisia v Saudi Arabia	8:50 pm	Munich
Germany v Poland*	12:30 am (Thursday)	Dortmund



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**today's matches**

match1: Spain (spa) vs Ukraine (ukr)  
 match2: Tunisia (tun) vs Saudi Arabia (sau)  
 match3: Germany (ger) vs Poland (pol)



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