



PLEASE SELECT US: The Argentine striking trio of (L-R) Tevez Carlos, Julio Cruz and Lionel Messi, who did not play in the first match against Ivory Coast, train at the HerzogsPark on Monday.

Bangladesh fans enraged

AFP, Dhaka

Police will be deployed outside electricity board offices in southwestern Bangladesh during World Cup matches after an attack by hundreds of furious fans who missed Tuesday's Brazil v Croatia game due to a power cut, officials said Thursday.

The fans threw stones and chanted "we want Brazil" outside the offices in Khulna city on Tuesday night.

"The power supply office cannot guarantee that there will be power during the matches so people may attack again," Khulna police inspector Enamul Hoque told AFP.

Board officials were afraid for their safety and concerned that equipment could be damaged by further attacks, he added.

"Therefore officers will be deployed outside the offices during all games from now on," he said.

The month-long World Cup is expected to draw a record television audience in sports-mad Bangladesh where Brazil and Argentina are the two most popular teams.

Although only 25 percent of the 140 million population has electricity, nearly half the nation has access to television.

In recent years, however, development has led to massive shortages with demand constantly outstripping supply.

Outages can last up to six hours a day even in the capital Dhaka. The shortages have also led to violent protests with 17 people killed in three recent incidents.

Sorin, the unsung hero

AFP, Herzogenaurach

Argentina's captain Juan Pablo Sorin cuts an eloquent dash off the pitch with an ear for the telling quote and an incisive one on it with a neat flourish.

Although less renowned, the Villareal's attacking wing back provides cover for the more fragile playmaking of his better known clubmate Juan Riquelme.

And Riquelme's freedom on the pitch is the key to a revival in Argentina's World Cup fortunes in Germany.

Sorin, the son of the dean of the top architectural college in Buenos Aires, also has an intellectual bent that has been uncommon in the footballing world since Socrates graced the field for Brazil in the 1980s.

While a self-deprecating Francesco Totti penned a book of his renowned verbal goofs for charity, Argentina's defender found equal success in a book alongside famous Latin American intellectuals, including the campaigning Uruguayan professor Eduardo Galeano.

Proceeds from "Grandes chicos" ("Big boys") went to help schools in the northern province of Santiago del Estero, one of Argentina's poorest.

"I want to help our kids to regain hope and give them the space they deserve," the 30-year-old explained.

"Even if that won't happen just with this book, they should be able to count on the minimum for their

upbringing and education without any trouble," he added.

Born in 1976, under Argentina's then military regime, Sorin has also given prominent backing to human rights campaigns.

Helped by his telegenic gaucholike looks and piercing gaze, he honed his communication skills -- a valuable asset for a modern athlete -- on a radio show.

The captain affectionately nicknamed "Juanpi" also knows how to play to the more basic instincts of the national gallery, amid intense pressure on the two time World Cup winners after they were knocked out in the first round in 2002.

"We'll give our souls for the Argentine shirt at the World Cup in Germany," Sorin told a horde of appreciative national media at the team's training base in southern Germany before the first match.

He then admitted he was moved by Argentine fans who filled the 49,000 stadium for the team's 2-1 victory against Ivory Coast.

"The world cup is special. The atmosphere in a world cup is unique, distinct. Fundamentally the support we got from the Argentine people in the game was sensational."

Coining the phrase "23 brothers", Sorin - who shoved aside the unselected Juan Veron as captain -- also subtly made it known that his squad was not ready to succumb to the kind of internal rivalry that has undermined previous Argentine efforts.

Sorin emerged from the same

stable as Diego Maradona at Argentinos Juniors.

A powerful but skillful tackler, his changes of pace contrast with the casual way he ambles onto the pitch.

The 30-year-old's career has been somewhat nomadic on the field as well as off it, betraying a restless mind. But his range from sweeper to left winger has in turn given him the kind of versatility that his manager enjoys.

"I know the qualities of Argentina's players, who can play in different positions. That increases the wealth of a team," said Pekerman.

During Argentina's first Group C match in Germany, Sorin switched between an offensive midfield role, winning balls and beating players on the left wing, to a defensive one, dropping back to shut down his opponents.

Few of Ivory Coast's dangerous surges came down his side of the pitch.

Sorin was snapped up by Juventus in 1995 after his spell with Argentinos Juniors.

He went back to Argentina and River Plate a year later, then passed through the hands of six top clubs in four countries -- Brazil, France, Italy and Spain -- before he landed at Villareal nearly two years ago.

Amid all that he has managed a steady run of 70 caps with the national side, and 10 goals, after leading the under-20s to a World Youth Championship title in 1995 - once again under Pekerman's wing.

Germans rejoice late relief

AFP, Dortmund

Germans celebrated deep into the night after the hosts notched a late 1-0 win over rivals Poland on Wednesday to all but cement their place in the last 16 of the World Cup.

Delighted fans danced through the streets from Berlin's Brandenburg gate to Hamburg's Rieperbahn after over 90 minutes of hard-fought scoreless play, substitute Oliver Neuville latched on to a low cross from David Odonkor to slide the ball past Polish keeper Artur Boruc.

"Last 16 here we come," headlined Bild daily, Germany's top selling newspaper. "Our target of becoming world champions is now that step closer."

After being reduced to ten-man

in the final quarter hour, Poland had been bombarded by attacks and finally caved in when David Odonkor fed a cross to fellow substitute Neuville.

"Last minute!" exclaimed Die Welt. "Two substitutes help us to second World Cup win. We are almost in the knockout round."

Germany manager Jurgen Klinsmann went for the throat by bringing on winger Odonkor for right back Arne Friedrich in the 63rd minute and Neuville for the ineffective Lukas Podolski after 70 minutes.

It was a bold move but proved the right one and Klinsmann picked up the plaudits.

"Winning goal seconds before the end," said bi-weekly magazine Kicker. "Klinsmann uses the right

jokers against ten man Poland." Unless Costa Rica defeat Ecuador in their second group game Germany will qualify for the second round and have a great chance to go through as group winners.

"The fact we got a late goal may seem lucky, but it was wholly deserved," said Germany captain Michael Ballack, who sat out the first match due to injury and was in a large part responsible for the far more stable performance from the German team. Ballack also hit the bar late in the game on a rebound after Miroslav Klose too had hit the woodwork.

"It was a good performance by the team as we kept on putting them under pressure. We controlled the game well in the first half and produced a number of

chances," added the captain. Man of the match Philipp Lahm had told in the closing stages.

"I think you could see what goal meant to us," enthused Lahm. "We knew it would be difficult and it was. But we saw that fitness is vital in football. We kept the tempo high until the very end."

Klinsmann was delighted with the never say die attitude of his young team and urged them to win the group by defeating Ecuador on June 20 in Berlin.

"The team was so offensive and really wanted the goal. We kept going and that is what pleased me most. The team never stopped believing," Klinsmann purred.

"I was getting nervous and

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SHOWSTOPPER: German super-sub Oliver Neuville (L) punches the air after scoring the injury time winner against Poland as Michael Ballack (C) and Miroslav Klose rush to congratulate him at Dortmund's Westfalenstadion on Wednesday night.

WC BRIEFS

AFP, Berlin

There's no time even to sleep at the World Cup -- at least if you're a Dutch fan who won a Radio Caz! competition to see who could stay awake the longest.

Amid tough competition from five other diehards, Danny from Amsterdam won by going without shuteye for 82 hours, 15 minutes and 57 seconds. The station said he watched all the games live then stayed up for post-match fun as he ousted final challenger Ron, who finally slumped to the table after three sleepless nights.

Danny's reward is two tickets for the final.

Happy birthday, Kahn
 German reserve keeper Oliver Kahn received a special "birthday present" as he turned 37 Thursday. "First of all, we gave him a nice win," joked defender Per Mertesacker, referring to the narrow win over Poland.

"Everyone congratulated him," said Mertesacker of the Bayern Munich star who lost his place this time round to Jens Lehmann after starring in the run to the final in 2002.

Mexicans in misery
 Hundreds of Mexico supporters thought they had pre-booked tickets but on arrival in Germany found they have no seats for the upcoming matches against Angola and Portugal in Hannover and Gelsenkirchen.

"I arrived on a train and found around 300 people had the same problem," explained Mario Pineda, 42. "In Mexico they (the agencies) only gave us plane tickets and hotel reservations. They gave us a form with addresses of places where to get the tickets."

He added they had a ticket for the opening match with Iran "but then they gave us an envelope in which we thought there would be tickets for the other games. But there was only a letter saying the company didn't have them." He added they were offered tickets for other matches not involving Mexico and hence "of no interest."

NOTICE

Dear readers,
 Due to unavoidable reasons, the draw of The Daily Star-Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2006 Round 3 in Sylhet cannot be held today as scheduled. It will now be held on June 20.

The Daily Star
RANGS TOSHIBA
 WORLD CUP QUIZ 2006

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2006 Round 4, Draw in Chittagong
 (See June 8 issue of the Star Sport for competition information, prizes and rules)

The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz Round 4, Ends June 29, 2006

Tick (✓) the correct answers

- Who scored the first goal in the 2006 World Cup? Klose Lehmann Wanchopie
- The smallest nation to have played in the World Cup finals is: Trinidad & Tobago Cameroon Jamaica
- Which Asian player scored in three World Cup finals? Nakata Sami Al Jaber Ali Daei
- Which World Cup final match ended goalless during the regulation time? Italia '90 Argentina 78 USA '94
- Who is this player? Totti Kaka Messi

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) Age

Address Occupation

Telephone (if any) Signature Date

Write with a ballpoint pen in clear BLOCK letters.
 Cut along the dotted lines and mail to OR drop in the Quiz Box at The Daily Star
 You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 4."

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- SMS during the first 75 minutes of the match and get 10 points
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how to participate?

- go to message option, type pw<space> 1st 3 letters of country and send to 2006
- in case of a draw:
- go to message option, type pw<space> 1st 3 letters of country<space>draw and send to 2006

today's matches

match1: Argentina (arg) vs Serbia & Monte Negro (ser)
 match2: Netherland (net) vs Ivory Coast (ivo)
 match3: Mexico (mex) vs Angola (ang)

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