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DHAKA WEDNESDAY JUNE 28, 2006

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**THIRD EYE**

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM

From Beijing to San Francisco, every single person who is an Australian or of Australian persuasion by whatsoever means will follow a common train of thought.

"We wuz robbed" they would say using that ever so familiar Aussie parlance.

And they were. Palermo left-back Fabio Grosso raced down the left flank, shrugged off the attentions of Craig Moore and got into the area where he evaded (yes, evaded) the last grasp tackle of Lucas Neill via a nice cutback onto his almost useless right foot. But what he did then will be called professionalism by some and cheating by others. Which side you belong to I know not, but the trailing leg that Grosso so fittingly left behind helped him trip over the, until then impressive, Neill and go tumbling to the ground.

Penalty for Italy. As for the Italians, they will say that it is poetic justice for what happened to them against South Korea in 2002.

And the man who stepped up to take the spot kick was none other than Francesco Totti.

Plagued by the media for his poor form, Totti hit back at his critics in the perfect way possible.

A glance at the keeper, squinted eyes, a short run-up, another look up to check Schwarzer's position and then a thumping finish into the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 3



PHOTO: AFP

FOR RECORD AND RONALDO: Brazil forward Ronaldo (C) celebrates with Kaka (L) and Adriano after scoring his record 15th World Cup goal in the round of 16 match against Ghana at the Dortmund Stadium on Tuesday.

# Ronaldo on target, Brazil in qtrs

**Brazil 3 Ghana 0**  
 AFP, Dortmund

Brazil striker Ronaldo became the all-time World Cup scoring leader with 15 career goals, helping the defending champions defeat Ghana 3-0 on Tuesday to secure a berth in the World Cup quarterfinals.

Ronaldo scored the historic goal with a spectacular solo effort in the fifth minute, racing past Ghana's defence for a pass from Kaka that set him up alone against Ghana goalkeeper Richard Kingson.

The 29-year-old Real Madrid forward faked right then used his trademark stepover move to switch

left, leaving the goalkeeper sprawled behind him as he flicked the ball into the net ahead of defender John Pantasil.

"I'm very happy with the result, and with breaking the record -- but we win as a team. I get goals and on we go," Ronaldo said.

Adriano scored in first-half injury time and Ze Roberto added another in the 84th minute of the second-round match as Brazil advanced to face either Spain or France on Saturday at Frankfurt.

Ronaldo moved past Germany's Gerd Muller, who had a total of 14 in the 1970 and 1974 Cups. He scored twice in a 4-1 first-round triumph over Japan, four times in the 1998 World Cup and eight more in 2002 to surpass "Der Bomber".

"That record belongs to him. He's on top of every other player in history. His name is right there," Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said.

"He's a player for the big and great moments. I hope he's getting enough confidence for the quarterfinals. Ronaldo is going to be a big player in this World Cup."

Joyous teammates mobbed Ronaldo in celebration and delighted Brazilian supporters chanted his name in tribute after his 62nd goal in 96 appearances for his homeland.

Parreira, who led the suriverde to the 1994 title, said Brazil had to expect the road to further glory to get even more gruelling.

"We won the game but the result

doesn't show that it was not an easy game at all. The big guys are coming to the quarterfinals. Brazil is one of them.

"Everyone wants to beat the world champions, so it's getting tougher and tougher."

"Today, winning was very important for the emotional side," Parreira said.

"The second round and the quarterfinals are the most difficult rounds of the World Cup. Unless you have nerves of steel, you don't go through."

After Ronaldo's record-breaking effort, the five-time winners took a 2-0 edge in first-half injury time when a cross from Cafu bounced off defender Iliassu Shilla and onto Adriano's thigh before

finding its way into the goal.

Brazil captain Cafu, a 36-year-old AC Milan fullback, set a Brazil record with his 19th World Cup appearance and a record for the number of wins at the World Cup finals -- 16 -- as the South Americans stretched their World Cup winning streak to 11 matches.

Ghana coach Ratomir Djukovic was ejected moments after the second Brazilian goal -- TV replays showed Adriano was clearly offside when the ball was played in by Cafu -- after telling Slovakian referee Michel Lubos "that it would be better for us if you put on a yellow jersey."

Parreira would have none of it, saying, "That's a loser's crying game. Those who lose cry or weep or cringe."

Ghana pressed into attack in the second half, but had no answer for the Brazil defence even before forward Asamoah Gyan's sending-off in the 81st minute after a second yellow card.

Ze Roberto delivered a final dagger to the Cup debutants' dream six minutes from full time, nudging a high ball past Kingson near the edge of the penalty area and speeding past him for a tap-in.

"They are unbeatable and they are untouchable," Djukovic said. "This is a team to be respected by everybody. If you give them a few seconds, they will finish you like

they did with us."

John Mensah's header from point-blank range off a corner kick in the 42nd minute proved Ghana's best chance but the ball bounced off the right leg of Brazil goalkeeper Dida and out of danger.

"That was a very great save, a miracle save," Parreira said.

The Black Stars, who upset second-rated Czech Republic to become the lone African team in the final 16, were without Chelsea midfielder Michael Essien, suspended after two first-round yellow cards.

"That was very crucial for us," Djukovic said.

## TEAMS

**BRAZIL:** Dida; Cafu, Lucio, Juan, Roberto Carlos; Emerson (Gilberto Silva 46), Ze Roberto; Kaka (Ricardinho 83), Ronaldinho; Ronaldo, Adriano (Juninho 61).  
**GHANA:** Richard Kingson; John Pantasil, John Mensah, Iliassu Shilla, Emmanuel Pappoe; Eric Addo (Derek Boateng 60); Stephen Appiah, Sulley Muntari, Haminu Dramani; Asamoah Gyan, Matthew Amoah (Alex Tachie-Mensah 70).  
 Yellow card: Appiah (7), Muntari (11), Pantasil (29), Addo (38), Gyan (48)  
 Red card: Gyan (81)  
 Referee: L. Michel (Slovakia)  
 Attendance: 65,000

# Rising from the shadows

AFP, Herzogenaurach

Chelsea forward and Argentine star Hernan Crespo is enjoying life at the World Cup all the more with his three goals having done much to draw a line under the days when he used to play second fiddle to Gabriel Batistuta.

Batistuta kept Crespo in the shadows at France 98 and more controversially four years ago in Japan -- 'Batigo!' clearly being too slow for that level by then -- as he racked up a national record 57 goals for the 'albiceleste' as one of his country's biggest stars since Diego Maradona.

Batistuta's ten goals in World Cup action are an Argentine record -- Maradona managed eight, as did Guillermo Stabile.

But Crespo's trio here -- he has claimed and FIFA has awarded him the opener against Mexico rather than put it down as a Jared Borgetti own goal -- means he stands just two behind Maradona's 34 now in the all-time stakes, all competitions included.

That has put a smile on the veteran forward's face and coach Jose Pekerman has found himself blessed with a tandem of Crespo and Javier Saviola which is firing on

all cylinders, even if it was Maxi Rodriguez's brilliant winner against Mexico which caught the eye.

"The understanding with Saviola is getting better and better and I really feel settled in my position," says Crespo, who hopes that by the time he turns 31 on July 5 he will be celebrating a place in the final.

The Saviola-Crespo tandem is only the tip of the attacking riches which Pekerman can call on.

Teen star Lionel Messi of Barcelona and Carlos Tevez, who turns out for Brazil's Corinthians, are likely to feature against the hosts on Friday in Berlin in what could be a terrific quarter-final -- a repeat of the 1986 and 1990 finals where honours were shared.

Crespo made his debut 11 years ago and has won more than 60 caps since he caught the eye in the early days with River Plate.

After a goal every other game with River over three years he moved to Serie A with Italian sides Parma, Lazio and Inter Milan -- the Lazio move in 2000 made him briefly the world's most expensive player at 70 million dollars.

Since sharpening his 'Calcio' SEE PAGE 18 COL 3

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