

**VERMARCH**  
 A better economical alternative  
**TONER, INK & RIBBON CARTRIDGE**  
 HOT LINE: 988 3450, 717 3730, 815 8759

**VERMARCH**  
 Good quality, good service  
 low price, why not Evermarch?  
**Aftab IT Limited**  
 A CONCERN OF ISLAM GROUP  
 Kazi Md. Abdullah  
 AFTAB IT LTD.

DHAKA THURSDAY JUNE 29, 2006



**banglalink picture of the day**



**GO AND HIT THE ARGENTINE GOALKEEPER:** Germany, who next meet Argentina in the quarterfinals, captain Michael Ballack tries out archery, as did the rest of his teammates, on a rest day in Berlin on Wednesday.

# Clash of the titans

AFP, Berlin

It does not come much bigger than Germany versus Argentina -- a match-up steeped in World Cup history that will bring the host country to a standstill on Friday.

The quarterfinal clash in Berlin's Olympic Stadium will evoke memories of 1986 and 1990 when West Germany and Argentina faced each other in successive World Cup finals.

A Diego Maradona inspired Argentina defeated West Germany 3-2 in 1986 but four years later the Germans gained revenge with a 1-0 win in Rome.

That was the last time Germany defeated Argentina - with the South Americans enjoying two wins since - and their current coach Jurgen Klinsmann, a member of the victorious 1990 team, hopes to change that in Berlin on Friday.

"Argentina are a great team but we can compete with them and I am sure we can beat them," Klinsmann said.

"From what I have seen of the other countries in this tournament we do not need to hide from anyone."

Hosts Germany have won four matches in a row to surge into the last eight and kept three consecutive clean sheets in the process.

Klinsmann's strikers are also firing on all cylinders with Miroslav Klose leading the goalscoring charts with four while junior partner Lukas Podolski is on three.

With fan power driving them on, Germany believe a fourth World Cup title is possible but Argentina share the same ambition.

"Against Germany, we have to win -- however we can," Argentina captain Juan Pablo Sorin said. "We're playing a contender to win it, and all of the fans will be against us."

"Let's hope we can surprise them with the experience of having played more important games in the last several years."

Without competitive matches for two years many thought Germany would be rusty but they look anything but, and have delighted the home fans with attacking football you would not normally associate with German teams.

It is an intriguing contest between Germany's fit, spirited,

young team of relative unknowns and Argentina's young exciting forward line, complemented by old heads such as Roberto Ayala and Sorin.

Playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme is seen as the man that makes Argentina tick but Germany say he will not be man-marked.

"We can not make the mistake of concentrating on one player as Argentina have a lot of players that can decide the game," admitted Germany's defensive midfielder Torsten Frings.

"I can not imagine running around after Riquelme for 90 minutes."

Javier Saviola, Hernan Crespo, Carlos Tevez and Lionel Messi are just four Argentines with the potential to turn the game on its head.

Despite failing to beat a recognised top nation since October 2000 - when they defeated England 1-0 in the final match at Wembley Stadium - Germany are full of confidence.

"We do not fear anyone. Argentina are a top class team and deserve our respect but we are

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

# Spanish curse strikes again

AFP, Berlin

They came to the World Cup billed as the great underachievers.

After sliding out to France, Spain go home with the same label stuck on their suitcases and this time the early exit was almost as painful as their loss four years earlier a round later on penalties to South Korea.

Yet the pain in Spain is not unpredictable.

It was ever thus.

In throwing away the early advantage of David Villa's first-half penalty to bow out to French goals from Franck Ribery, Patrick Vieira and resuscitated galactico Zinedine Zidane the Spaniards simply reverted to type.

This was to have been the breakthrough year for "la furia", the year that young guns such as Villa and

Fernando Torres, Cesc Fabregas and Sergio Ramos were to dovetail with the experienced heads of Raul and Carles Puyol.

Instead, the great chance went begging, to the consternation of the players who had seen France as ripe for the picking, ending Spain's long wait for a first competitive victory over their neighbours.

"I don't think the final scoreline was an accurate reflection of what happened," insisted coach Luis Aragones after Spain's first defeat in 26 games.

"It was a very even game - but their equaliser hit us badly."

"We've got a young side and they gave everything but in the knockout phase we lacked that competitive edge."

Aragones said that he took "responsibility as I am the one mainly to blame for the fact we are

going home so early. As long as we don't get to a final and win it, it will always rank as a failure.

"I will carry on coaching - but I don't know where," he added, suggesting it might be time for a new man at the helm for Euro 2008 when Spain's current crop of stars should have matured to the degree that they will surely be among the favourites.

Goalkeeper Iker Casillas, shattered after long-time Real Madrid clubmate Zidane emphatically ended the dream with the third French goal, apologised to Spain's legions of fans, some of the tournament's most raucous clad in their torero (bullfighting) garb.

"That is another World Cup gone and another big tournament we let slip away. We didn't play as well as we did in our other games

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

## Muller salutes Ronaldo

AFP, Berlin

Gerd Muller, world champion in 1974, and whose 32-year 14 goal record Ronaldo broke only yesterday saluted the hotshot from Rio.

"Even before the tournament started, it was obvious that he would get at least two goals and draw level, if not three and set a new record. It wasn't a surprise," the 60-year-old told the FIFA World Cup official website.

"Although Ronaldo is now in his third World Cup, this is nevertheless still a great achievement on his part."

"Playing at such a high level over such a long period of time, always managing to be fit at the right moment is unusual nowadays. In my opinion, he's the best, most complete attacker there is at the moment," Muller opined.

"Brazil need Ronaldo, they haven't got anyone quicker than him up front," added the player known as 'Der Bomber', who was likewise portly but wonderfully effective.

"He wasn't on top of his game in the first two matches, but against Japan, he could have got about five goals."

# Order re-established

AFP, Berlin

The World Cup in Germany has confounded predictions that the power base of football has shifted and made the 2002 tournament in Asia look like a quirk of history.

The quarterfinal qualifiers four years ago were: Brazil, England, Germany, Senegal, Spain, co-hosts South Korea, Turkey and the United States.

Senegal were World Cup debutants, South Korea had never won a World Cup match in their history before co-hosting the tournament, Turkey were in uncharted territory and the Americans seemed astonished to have got so far.

Fast forward four years. Brazil, England and Germany are in the last eight again but the similarities with 2002 end there.

This year's lineup is completed by Argentina, France, Italy, Portugal and Ukraine, who between them have won six of the 17 World Cups contested.

While Ukraine are not a recognised power, it is hard to describe the former Soviet republic as a surprise quarter-finalist when they have one of the world's most expensive strikers, the 30-million-pound (54.5-million-dollar) Chelsea recruit Andriy Shevchenko, in their ranks.

Senegal and Turkey failed to even qualify for the 2006 finals and the

United States went out with a whimper in the first round.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter said: "I think it is a pity that the old powers from South America and Europe have dominated."

The question is, why? There is the undoubted advantage for the European teams of play-

## Nesta ruled out

AFP, Duisburg

Italy's central defender Alessandro Nesta confirmed Wednesday he will not play in their World Cup quarter-final against the Ukraine after failing to recover from a groin injury.

The 30-year-old, who missed Italy's 1-0 second round win against Australia, is hopeful of being fit for the semi-finals should the Azzurri advance.

"I visited a clinic here in Duisburg and there's still something not right," Nesta said at a press conference here two days ahead of their last eight clash against Ukraine in Hamburg.

"It has improved a great deal, but I can't play in this match. However I'm confident of making the next one if we get there. The doctor has given me some hope,"

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

ing in their own time zone in weather conditions they are used to, although the unseasonably high 30-degree heat in Germany should have suited teams from the southern hemisphere.

One important factor was a ruling by world governing body FIFA that the European club season must end by May 15, allowing players some rest before embarking on the World Cup that started on July 9.

European players complained of being tired in 2002 while the South Korean players seemed fresh in comparison.

And then there is the dollop of luck that all teams must have. Italy and Spain complained long and hard that refereeing decisions went against them in Asia.

Asian football, especially, has suffered a setback in Germany.

Japan reached the last 16 in 2002 under the disciplinarian coach Philippe Troussier, but their players have failed to make major inroads into the major European clubs.

After crashing out in the first round in Germany, Japan's current coach Zico, a star of Brazil in the 1980s, said more Japanese players needed to play abroad if the national team were to improve.

"We cannot be successful in the World Cup with our abilities limited to the level of Asia," Zico said.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

**HSBC**  
 The world's local bank

**THIRD EYE**  
 AL MUSABBIR SADI

Youthful vigour is always cherished but to fulfil its dreams, you need a touch of experience. Ask the 'fat' Ronaldo or an 'old' Zinedine Zidane, they will tell you with a smile that 'class is forever'.

And didn't we have enough proof on Tuesday when the round of 16, following one after other drab match produced by conservative teams not willing to lose, exploded into life? Yes, I am talking about the Brazil-Ghana and France-Spain matches, sight for bleary and sore eyes after affairs such as England-Ecuador, Italy-Australia and Ukraine-Switzerland.

It's sad to think that adventurous and exciting teams like Ghana and Spain will no more play any part in the World Cup, which is now down to eight teams and as many games, if you consider the three-play-off a real match.

As it had been expected, the last of the Africans remaining at Germany 2006 gave defending champions Brazil a run for their money even though they were

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

## Interesting WC facts

\* Switzerland exited the 2006 World Cup without conceding a goal! After defending for 390 minutes (270 mins in 1st round and 120 mins in the 2nd) they lost to Ukraine in the tie-breakers.

\* Argentina and France are the two teams that won in the Round of 16 coming from behind. Mexico took an early lead against Argentina while France came from behind

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



**LOOK WHAT HAS HE DONE:** Spanish fans in Madrid react in anguish after France captain Zinedine Zidane scored a last-gasp goal to give his side a thumping 3-1 win over Spain in Hanover on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Log on [www.squarepharma.com.bd](http://www.squarepharma.com.bd)  
**FIFA World Cup 2006 Quiz**  
**Part B**  
 27th to 30th June  
**Event 1**  
**Participate & Win**  
**SQUARE** - The Leader of Bangladesh Pharma Market since 1985

**upper class** now costs only **Tk. 150\***  
 line rent and call charges are **19%** less than other operators  
 \* security deposit applicable  
 For more information dial 100 or 0191304100  
**banglalink**  
 upper class