

WC 2010: Africa calling

AFP, Berlin

South African organisers of the 2010 World Cup, their ardour fuelled by the country losing to Germany for the 2006 edition, said Friday they have their hearts set on a jamboree which can transform the world's perception of the whole African continent.

Delegates from participating cities were proudly showing off their wares in Berlin to the international media, under the gaze of VIP guests from South African President Thabo Mbeki -- welcomed against a backdrop of ululating supporters -- to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Mbeki said the 2010 event would be one to remember, comparing staging the event with the ending of apartheid.

"Some people didn't believe us -- but we kept that promise."

Mbeki noted that after the FIFA Executive committee awarded the event to South Africa the country's leaders had sworn to make a massive success amid the kind of scepticism about the nation's future which had been voiced in the apartheid era and its ability to instil democratic values.

"We said we will host in 2010 the most successful FIFA World Cup and we will keep that promise," he insisted, describing the tournament as "a beacon of hope."

He added: "Football is all about hope -- hope for a better world," a pastime which will "touch the world and build a better future."

"We come from a place where football is not just a game but an enduring passion."

"Africa is ready, Africa's time has come, Africa is calling. Come to Africa in 2010," said Mbeki, urging fans to "celebrate Africa in all its magnificent splendour" and seize an opportunity to spread "human solidarity" as Africa emerges "from many, many centuries of great difficulty."

FIFA President Sepp Blatter saluted the 2010 organisers for their tireless efforts in bringing momentum and "positive emotions" to the

South African campaign.

"It is African day. Today is a day of joy and a day of hope," said Blatter turning his gaze to 2010.

"You can call it justice for African football, but also justice for Africa -- for all the women and the men of this continent," Blatter said, calling on South Africa to show off the beauty of its landscapes and depth of its cultures.

After seeing off what Blatter termed the "evil devil" of apartheid he urged the South Africans to use the World Cup as a tool of development.

"I am optimistic for Africa. The whole world trusts you, the whole FIFA family -- they say yes to South Africa, we trust South Africa."

"The South African World Cup will also be part of a big initiative we are taking in FIFA by saying 'win in Africa with Africa,'" Blatter said, saying the sport had a duty to take on social responsibility in human development.



Dancers perform during a glittering function to unveil the official logo of the FIFA World Cup South Africa 2010 in Berlin on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Lippi's guns blazing

AFP, Berlin

Italy coach Marcello Lippi has been compared in looks to Hollywood legend Paul Newman and like him has won many awards but here on Sunday he can cap an outstanding career by lifting football's greatest prize -- the World Cup.

The 58-year-old is the antithesis of what many people consider the archetypal Italian -- emotional, warm and verbose he is not.

Not for him the touchline theatrics of a Luiz Felipe Scolari or the youthful exuberance of Jurgen Klinsmann.

He even played the paternalistic role in the semifinal win over Germany putting up his hands and telling Klinsmann to calm down -- to which the America-based German put up his hands and nodded.

However while he may cut an aloof and distant figure, he has the unwavering loyalty of the players, whether it has been at Juventus -- where he forged his credentials as a top class coach -- or now with the Italy squad.

He has succeeded where Giovanni Trapattoni failed in steering them to the final, an even greater feat when one takes into account

the ongoing match-fixing tribunal and the apparent suicide attempt by former Juventus and Italy fullback Gianluca Pessotto.

He even had to ride out a squall prior to the finals with some calling for him to step down after allegations, which he firmly denied, that he was forced by former Juventus general manager Luciano Moggi senior to select certain players for the national side.

Italy's outstanding goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, who himself had to ride out a storm over his alleged

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Berlin ready for grand finale

AFP, Berlin

When the World Cup final between France and Italy kicks off in the Olympic Stadium here tomorrow, the weight of history will hang heavily in the air.

The stadium was built for the 1936 Olympic Games, infamously intended by Adolf Hitler to showcase Aryan racial supremacy, an idea that black American sprinter Jesse Owens made a mockery of by winning four gold medals.

It underwent a 240-million-euro (280-million-dollar) overhaul for the World Cup, re-opening in 2004 with a spectacular new roof, improved stands and a distinctive blue running track.

Just months before the World Cup kicked off, amendments were made to the stadium, with bridges erected across the moat between the stands and the running track after a consumer watchdog criticised its safety arrangements.

The capacity for the final will be 69,000, reduced from the 72,000 for the matches in the earlier rounds because of the extra media

seating required.

The match is arguably the biggest event in the city since the ceremony to mark the reunification of Germany in 1990 after the Berlin Wall was toppled the previous year.

The Brandenburg Gate, which the wall obscured as it snaked through the city, has provided the backdrop for the Fan Mile at the World Cup, where up to one million people have watched matches on giant screens.

And as the host nation surged into the semifinals, the scenes of joy and harmony among fans from around the world have exceeded the organisers' wildest dreams.

The origins of the Olympiastadion, to give it its German name, date back to the 19th century when horse racing was held on the site.

A stadium was built there for a bid for the 1916 Olympics, but the outbreak of World War I prevented the Games taking place.

When Hitler was made chancellor in January 1933, the plans for the stadium took a new direction as the Nazis quickly grasped the

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The Daily Star  RANGS TOSHIE

WORLD CUP QUIZ 2006

The **Bumper** Round Draw on **July 11 '06**
 at the National Press Club, Dhaka at 4:30pm
 Open to All! Come One!! Come All!!!

The Bumper Round has already started from
 30th June, 2006. Try your luck and fill out as many
 coupons as you wish to win fabulous prizes.



- 1st Prize**
27" TOSHIBA LCD TV
- 2nd Prize**
TOSHIBA Plasma 3 Door Refrigerator
- 3rd Prize**
CANON Digital Camera
- 4th Prize**
TOSHIBA DVD Players
- 5th Prize**
TOSHIBA Audio Video MP3 Players

Plus! Fifteen attractive prizes will be given to the winners from the Bumper Draw audience through raffle. Participants of the previous 4 rounds have automatically qualified for the Bumper Round. Grand prize-winners will be picked from the entries of all rounds including the current one by our distinguished guests.

DON'T MISS THIS GRAND CHANCE

WC BRIEFS

AFP, Berlin

The official FIFA World Cup website has registered four billion page hits, twice as many as it recorded at the 2002 World Cup finals in South Korea and Japan.

A total of 48 million individual users have already used the www.FIFAworldcup.com site, which shows video clips of matches, FIFA Head of New Media Charles-Henri Contamine announced on Friday.

Del Piero's fan

British rock star Noel Gallagher, the lead singer of Oasis, said he will be supporting Italy when he attends the World Cup final for the first time on Sunday.

Gallagher, a keen football fan, said he believed Italy would be hungrier than France.

"Much of that French squad have won it already but the Italians need to win for Italian football. I said to my Italian friends the other night, 'If you beat Germany you'll win it', because to beat Germany in Dortmund is pretty special," Gallagher told the

FIFAworldcup.com website.

He revealed that he and his brother Liam are friends of Alessandro del Piero and the Italy star believed he had brought him luck in the semifinal against Germany -- with Gallagher watching from the stands, the Italian came off the bench in extra-time to score his side's second goal in the 2-0 win.

"After the game he said I'd become his lucky mascot so I've got to go to the final and wear the exact same clothes and underwear and socks to bring him good luck."

Sing loud

The French national committee of the Marseillaise has awarded France coach Raymond Domenech and striker Thierry Henry a special prize for "having sung the anthem with gusto before each match."

There was no mention though of Zinedine Zidane, France's midfield inspiration, who was last month accused by far-right politician Jean-Marie Le Pen of "mumbling" the anthem.

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Round 5 (Bumper), Draw in Dhaka
 at the National Press Club on July 11, 2006
 (See June 8 issue of the Star Sport for competition information, prizes and rules)

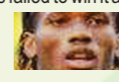
The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz Round 5 (Bumper) Ends July 09, 2006

Tick () the correct answers

- Whom did Ronaldo over take as the leading scorer in the World Cup?

Muller	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pele	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fontaine	<input type="checkbox"/>
Simunic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deco	<input type="checkbox"/>	De Rossi	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Which player was shown three yellow cards in a World Cup match?

Ze Roberto	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe Cole	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allback	<input type="checkbox"/>
Italy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uruguay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brazil	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Which World Cup champions failed to win it at home?

Essien	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drogba	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saha	<input type="checkbox"/>
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- Who is this player? 

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms)..... Age.....
 Father's name..... Occupation.....
 Address.....
 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 5."

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