



Jubilant Italian players celebrate their World Cup triumph in the dressing room after the final against France on Sunday night.

PHOTO: AFP

# Italians over the moon



AFP, Rome

Rome erupted in a dam burst of joy, firecrackers, flags and tearful embraces as Italians celebrated their country's World Cup triumph after a nail-biting penalty shoot-out against France.

In Bibio's Bar across the road from Prime Minister Romano Prodi's party headquarters, pandemonium broke out after Italy's full-back Fabio Grosso buried the decisive penalty.

The final triumph was almost operatic. And like all good opera, there was tragedy as Zinedine Zidane, aged 34 and arguably the month-long competition's finest performer, ended his career with a sensational sending off for headbutting an opponent.

## Hero or anti-hero?

AFP, Paris

The French press found it difficult Monday to forgive Zinedine Zidane for his red-card exit in the World Cup final defeat to Italy, bemoaning the "cruel" fate they said had cost them a win.

# The world is Azzurri's



AFP, Paris

A triumphant Italian press hailed their World Cup winners as legends Monday, saying their victory over France had deservedly delivered the nation and earned themselves proper acclaim.

"Fantastic Italy, the world is yours." The press also roundly condemned French captain Zinedine Zidane's headbutt on defender Marco Materazzi in the second period of extra time, for which he was sent off.



French defender Lilian Thuram (bottom L) is consoled by teammate Patrick Vieira (top L) and Italian forward Alessandro Del Piero (R) after the end of the final at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Final from the orbit

AFP, undated

World Cup final fever rose all the way up into orbit Sunday, as astronauts aboard the International Space Station made rival predictions for the France-Italy clash.

## Greetings from South Africa

AFP, Johannesburg

South African newspapers Monday hailed Italy's win over France in the World Cup 2006, but eyes were turning on the country's preparations to host the prestigious event in four years' time.

# Champs Elysees shocked



AFP, Paris

First there was hope and expectation, then there was undiluted joy, a reality check, exasperation, despair and finally deflation -- that was the Champs Elysees during the World Cup final.

People who had watched the final at home and trundled off to the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs in search of the party found little to encourage them to stay and wandered like lost souls.

A couple of groups of people drummed away making music, mostly it seemed to get their faces on television. Crews of cameramen and journalists quickly sparked high spirits and encouraged cheering happy faces.

## Momentary lapses of reason

AFP, Berlin

Zinedine Zidane's sending-off in the World Cup final is the latest in several incidents that showed the darker side of France's inspirational playmaker.



French talisman Zinedine Zidane goes down into the tunnel after being red carded in his last match for France during the World Cup final against Italy in Berlin on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 'Today' network 4 Low voice 8 'The Da Vinci' — 12 A Gershwin 13 Hodge-podge 14 Barber-shop sweepings 15 Long-popular game show 17 Incite 18 Ignite 19 It's up your sleeve 21 Torched 22 Volkswagen model 26 Brawny type 29 AAA job 30 New Deal org. 31 Winged 32 Recipe quantity 33 Brewer's kiln 34 Crafty 35 Erstwhile TV network

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55

### CRYPTOQUIP

S J R Z O M K O R H V W U N R J L N S Z S D H N L S K R H M F I O L R K R R Z S K O I R S V V U M Z O R J J D M W W K R D F R S Z O . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE GIRL USES PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SO MUCH THAT SHE CHANGED HER NAME TO RHODA BUSS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals E