

Philips Lighting — Official Sponsor of WorldCupUSA94

Bats in the belfry?

SOFIA, July 11: Bulgarians flooded the streets on Sunday in a nationwide outburst of joy at their 2-1 World Cup quarter-final victory over champions Germany, reports Reuter.

In Sofia, old people sat over their balconies, smiling and clapping as youngsters ran below shouting, waving flags and spraying each other with champagne and beer.

Hundreds of thousands of fans jammed the streets, heading in cars, buses, trucks and on foot for the centre of town, where crowds filled the square in front of the national palace of culture.

President said they had never seen so many flags in the streets, or such noisy celebrations, even during the overthrow of communism four years ago.

Armed police, out in force to control the crowds, joined in the celebrations, driving around with sirens blaring, some hugged overjoyed fans.

"Hristo Stoichkov for president" sang the crowd, exulting in the first goal which levelled the score after Germany had taken the lead.

The scenes were repeated in towns all over the country. Cars screeched around the packed streets while fireworks and guns punctuated the evening sky.

In a live speech on Bulgarian television, President Zhelev congratulated the nation on the unprecedented victory, saying it had been made possible by the end of the communist regime.

"Democracy had to come in order to allow our footballers to play in the most prominent European and world teams and really show their talent," said Zhelev, a former dissident, in a reference to the many foreign-based players in the national squad.

GOAL SCORERS

UNDATED (Reuter): Following are the World Cup '94 goal scorers after quarterfinal matches played on Sunday:

6-goals Oleg Salenko (Russia)

5-goals Juergen Klinsmann (Germany), Hristo Stoichkov (Bulgaria)

4-goals Martin Dahlin (Sweden), Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina), Romario (Brazil), Florin Raducioiu (Romania), Kennet Andersson (Sweden)

3-goals Bebeto (Brazil), Gheorghe Hagi (Romania), Roberto Baggio (Italy), Jose Caminero (Spain), Dennis Bergkamp (Netherlands)

2-goals Tomas Brolin (Sweden), Juan Goikoetxea (Spain), Ilie Dumitrescu (Romania), Georges Bregy (Switzerland), Adolfo Valencia (Colombia), Luis Garcia (Mexico), Fausto Anwar Amin (Saudi Arabia), Claudio Caniggia (Argentina), Hong Myong-Bo (South Korea), Daniel Amokachia (Nigeria), Rudi Voeller (Germany), Philippe Albert (Belgium), Wim Jonk (Netherlands), Dino Baggio (Italy), Emmanuel Amuneke (Nigeria), Yordan Lechkov (Bulgaria)

1-goal Julio Salinas (Spain), Hwang Sun-Hong (South Korea), Soo Jung-Won (South Korea), Eric Wynalda (United States), Ray Houghton (Ireland), Marc Degryse (Belgium), Kjetil Rekdal (Norway), Roger Ljung (Sweden), David Embe (Cameroon), Francois Omam-Biyik (Cameroon), Rai (Brazil), Gaston Taument (Netherlands), Diego Maradona (Argentina), Bryan Roy (Netherlands), Rashidi Yekini (Nigeria), Finidi George (Nigeria), Alberto Garcia (Mexico), Alain Sutter (Switzerland), Stephane Chapuisat (Switzerland), Adrian Knup (Switzerland), Ernie Stewart (United States), John Aldridge (Ireland), Marcio Santos (Brazil), Dmitry Radchenko (Russia), Sami Al-Jaber (Saudi Arabia), Georges Grun (Belgium), Mohamed Chaouch (Morocco), Samson Siasia (Nigeria), Daniel Bortimirov (Bulgaria), Harold Lozano (Colombia), Karlheinz Riedle (Germany), Erwin Sanchez (Bolivia), Josep Guardiola (Spain), Daniele Massaro (Italy), Marcelino Bernal (Mexico), Fahd Al-Ghishyan (Saudi Arabia), Roger Milla (Cameroun), Saeed Owairan (Saudi Arabia), Hassan Nader (Morocco), Nasko Sirakov (Bulgaria), Fernando Hierro (Spain), Luis Enrique (Spain), Aitor Begiristain (Spain), Abel Balbo (Argentina), Branco (Brazil), Aron Winter (Netherlands), Lothar Matthaeus (Germany), Dan Petrescu (Romania)

Own goal — Andres Escobar, Colombia (vs. United States)

Daring escape

KAIERSLAUTERN, Germany, July 11: Two Albanians escaped from jail while their warders watched the World Cup on television, it was revealed today, reports AFP.

The two used part of a bed frame to dig a hole through their cell wall and climbed over a three-metre wall using bed sheets.



An ecstatic Bulgarian midfielder Jordan Letchkov raises his hands in joy after heading home the match winner against favourites Germany during their quarter-final match at the Giants Stadium on July 10. Bulgaria won the match 2-1. — AFP photo

Records in contrast

LOS ANGELES, July 11: Nowhere is Bulgaria's giant-killing feat of ending Germany's World Cup campaign on Sunday more pronounced than in their starkly contrasting mundial records, reports Reuter.

The Bulgarians, with no World Cup wins before coming to the United States, were stacked up against the tournament's aristocrats.

Germany, triple champions and three-time runners-up, were playing in their 73rd match, the most ever spanning over 13 World Cups, and trailed only Brazil in the number of victories, 48-43.

Bulgaria's four victories at USA '94 broke a depressing run of 16 matches over five finals appearances without victory. Bulgaria's 4-0 group win over Greece last month was their first World Cup win and now their record stands at 21 games, 4 wins, 6 draws, 11 losses.

Including Sunday's goals, Bulgaria have scored 20 times overall, but have conceded twice as many, 40.

In contrast, Germany, who have appeared in five of the last seven finals, have accumulated 155 goals with 96 against.

"Now that we've reached the semifinals everyone will look at us in a different way. We've played well in all our games, but because this took us to the semifinals it has the greatest value."

The President of Bulgaria, as he did after the successful penalty shoot-out against Mexico, telephoned the team dressing-room to congratulate the players who were busy planning yet another party.

They did not train for almost two days following the celebrations that greeted the Mexico result and coach Penev's birthday on Tuesday will be the third such excuse to raise a glass the squad has had in the space of five days.

Coach Penev said Lechkov's knowledge of the German players gained from playing for Hamburg in the Bundesliga had been one of the reasons behind Bulgaria's triumph.

"Even since the World Cup qualifying matches started, we have tried to build the side

second yellow card and miss Wednesday's semifinal at Giants Stadium, claimed the Germans had misjudged their opponents.

"Germany were scared of us ... there was no doubt we were the better team. Now we've beaten two World Cup winners and we're waiting for a third."

Since their opening game when a 3-0 loss to Nigeria extended their sequence without a win World Cup finals to 17, Bulgaria have beaten Greece, Argentina, Mexico and Germany in succession, scoring nine goals and conceding two.

Apart from Stoichkov and Emil Kostadinov up front, Yordan Lechkov and Krasimir Balakov have emerged as top-class players in a team that continues to shrug off persistent rumours of internal disagreements.

Coach Penev said Lechkov's knowledge of the German players gained from playing for Hamburg in the Bundesliga had been one of the reasons behind Bulgaria's triumph.

"We have nothing to lose. I think we'll have as big a success against Italy in the semifinal," said the Barcelona striker, who has now scored five goals in the tournament.

Substitute Ivaylo Yordanov, brought on late by coach Dimitar Penev to ensure that Stoichkov would not receive a

second yellow card and miss Wednesday's semifinal at Giants Stadium, claimed the Germans had misjudged their opponents.

"Germany were scared of us ... there was no doubt we were the better team. Now we've beaten two World Cup winners and we're waiting for a third."

Since their opening game when a 3-0 loss to Nigeria extended their sequence without a win World Cup finals to 17, Bulgaria have beaten Greece, Argentina, Mexico and Germany in succession, scoring nine goals and conceding two.

Apart from Stoichkov and Emil Kostadinov up front, Yordan Lechkov and Krasimir Balakov have emerged as top-class players in a team that continues to shrug off persistent rumours of internal disagreements.

Coach Penev said Lechkov's knowledge of the German players gained from playing for Hamburg in the Bundesliga had been one of the reasons behind Bulgaria's triumph.

"We have nothing to lose. I think we'll have as big a success against Italy in the semifinal," said the Barcelona striker, who has now scored five goals in the tournament.

Substitute Ivaylo Yordanov, brought on late by coach Dimitar Penev to ensure that Stoichkov would not receive a

Bulgarians not yet blaze

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, July 11: Bulgaria's players, ecstatic over their remarkable

2-1 quarter-final win against Germany on Sunday, insisted they would vanquish yet another World Cup champion on their way to the USA '94 final, reports Reuter.

"I think we have a great chance of beating Italy ... they're not as good a team as Germany," said captain and goalkeeper Borislav Mihailov after his side had scored twice in three minutes late in the game to shock the defending champions.

Hristo Stoichkov, whose goal direct from a free-kick in the 76th minute hauled his side back into the match, was equally confident.

"We have nothing to lose. I think we'll have as big a success against Italy in the semifinal," said the Barcelona striker, who has now scored five goals in the tournament.

Substitute Ivaylo Yordanov, brought on late by coach Dimitar Penev to ensure that Stoichkov would not receive a

second yellow card and miss Wednesday's semifinal at Giants Stadium, claimed the Germans had misjudged their opponents.

"Germany were scared of us ... there was no doubt we were the better team. Now we've beaten two World Cup winners and we're waiting for a third."

Since their opening game when a 3-0 loss to Nigeria extended their sequence without a win World Cup finals to 17, Bulgaria have beaten Greece, Argentina, Mexico and Germany in succession, scoring nine goals and conceding two.

Apart from Stoichkov and Emil Kostadinov up front, Yordan Lechkov and Krasimir Balakov have emerged as top-class players in a team that continues to shrug off persistent rumours of internal disagreements.

Coach Penev said Lechkov's knowledge of the German players gained from playing for Hamburg in the Bundesliga had been one of the reasons behind Bulgaria's triumph.

"We have nothing to lose. I think we'll have as big a success against Italy in the semifinal," said the Barcelona striker, who has now scored five goals in the tournament.

Substitute Ivaylo Yordanov, brought on late by coach Dimitar Penev to ensure that Stoichkov would not receive a

second yellow card and miss Wednesday's semifinal at Giants Stadium, claimed the Germans had misjudged their opponents.

"Germany were scared of us ... there was no doubt we were the better team. Now we've beaten two World Cup winners and we're waiting for a third."

Since their opening game when a 3-0 loss to Nigeria extended their sequence without a win World Cup finals to 17, Bulgaria have beaten Greece, Argentina, Mexico and Germany in succession, scoring nine goals and conceding two.

Apart from Stoichkov and Emil Kostadinov up front, Yordan Lechkov and Krasimir Balakov have emerged as top-class players in a team that continues to shrug off persistent rumours of internal disagreements.

Coach Penev said Lechkov's knowledge of the German players gained from playing for Hamburg in the Bundesliga had been one of the reasons behind Bulgaria's triumph.

"We have nothing to lose. I think we'll have as big a success against Italy in the semifinal," said the Barcelona striker, who has now scored five goals in the tournament.

Substitute Ivaylo Yordanov, brought on late by coach Dimitar Penev to ensure that Stoichkov would not receive a

second yellow card and miss Wednesday's semifinal at Giants Stadium, claimed the Germans had misjudged their opponents.

"Germany were scared of us ... there was no doubt we were the better team. Now we've beaten two World Cup winners and we're waiting for a third."

Since their opening game when a 3-0 loss to Nigeria extended their sequence without a win World Cup finals to 17, Bulgaria have beaten Greece, Argentina, Mexico and Germany in succession, scoring nine goals and conceding two.

Apart from Stoichkov and Emil Kostadinov up front, Yordan Lechkov and Krasimir Balakov have emerged as top-class players in a team that continues to shrug off persistent rumours of internal disagreements.

Coach Penev said Lechkov's knowledge of the German players gained from playing for Hamburg in the Bundesliga had been one of the reasons behind Bulgaria's triumph.

"We have nothing to lose. I think we'll have as big a success against Italy in the semifinal," said the Barcelona striker, who has now scored five goals in the tournament.

Substitute Ivaylo Yordanov, brought on late by coach Dimitar Penev to ensure that Stoichkov would not receive a

second yellow card and miss Wednesday's semifinal at Giants Stadium, claimed the Germans had misjudged their opponents.

"Germany were scared of us ... there was no doubt we were the better team. Now we've beaten two World Cup winners and we're waiting for a third."

Since their opening game when a 3-0 loss to Nigeria extended their sequence without a win World Cup finals to 17, Bulgaria have beaten Greece, Argentina, Mexico and Germany in succession, scoring nine goals and conceding two.

Apart from Stoichkov and Emil Kostadinov up front, Yordan Lechkov and Krasimir Balakov have emerged as top-class players in a team that continues to shrug off persistent rumours of internal disagreements.

Coach Penev said Lechkov's knowledge of the German players gained from playing for Hamburg in the Bundesliga had been one of the reasons behind Bulgaria's triumph.

"We have nothing to lose. I think we'll have as big a success against Italy in the semifinal," said the Barcelona striker, who has now scored five goals in the tournament.

Substitute Ivaylo Yordanov, brought on late by coach Dimitar Penev to ensure that Stoichkov would not receive a

second yellow card and miss Wednesday's semifinal at Giants Stadium, claimed the Germans had misjudged their opponents.

"Germany were scared of us ... there was no doubt we were the better team. Now we've beaten two World Cup winners and we're waiting for a third."

Since their opening game when a 3-0 loss to Nigeria extended their sequence without a win World Cup finals to 17, Bulgaria have beaten Greece, Argentina, Mexico and Germany in succession, scoring nine goals and conceding two.

Apart from Stoichkov and Emil Kostadinov up front, Yordan Lechkov and Krasimir Balakov have emerged as top-class players in a team that continues to shrug off persistent rumours of internal disagreements.

Coach Penev said Lechkov's knowledge of the German players gained from playing for Hamburg in the Bundesliga had been one of the reasons behind Bulgaria's triumph.

"We have nothing to lose. I think we'll have as big a success against Italy in the semifinal," said the Barcelona striker, who has now scored five goals in the tournament.

Substitute Ivaylo Yordanov, brought on late by coach Dimitar Penev to ensure that Stoichkov would not receive a

second yellow card and miss Wednesday's semifinal at Giants Stadium, claimed the Germans had misjudged their opponents.

"Germany were scared of us ... there was no doubt we were the better team. Now we've beaten two World Cup winners and we're waiting for a third."

Since their opening game when a 3-0 loss to Nigeria extended their sequence without a win World Cup finals to 17, Bulgaria have beaten Greece, Argentina, Mexico and Germany in succession, scoring nine goals and conceding two.

Apart from Stoichkov and Emil Kostadinov up front, Yordan Lechkov and Krasimir Balakov have emerged as top-class players in a team that continues to shrug off persistent rumours of internal disagreements.

Coach Penev said Lechkov's knowledge of the German players gained from playing for Hamburg in the Bundesliga had been one of the reasons behind Bulgaria's triumph.

"We have nothing to lose. I think we'll have as big a success against Italy in the semifinal," said the Barcelona striker, who has now scored five goals in the tournament.

Substitute Ivaylo Yordanov, brought on late by coach Dimitar Penev to ensure that Stoichkov would not receive a

second yellow card and miss Wednesday's semifinal at Giants Stadium, claimed the Germans had misjudged their opponents.

"Germany were scared of us ... there was no doubt we were the better team. Now we've beaten two World Cup winners and we're waiting for a third."

Since their opening game when a 3-0 loss to Nigeria extended their sequence without a win World Cup finals to 17, Bulgaria have beaten Greece, Argentina, Mexico and Germany in succession, scoring nine goals and conceding two.

Apart from Stoichkov and Emil Kostadinov up front, Yordan Lechkov and Krasimir Balakov have emerged as top-class players in a team that continues to shrug off persistent rumours of internal disagreements.

Coach Penev said Lechkov's knowledge of the German players gained from playing for Hamburg in the Bundesliga had been one of the reasons behind Bulgaria's triumph.

"We have nothing to lose. I think we'll have as big a success against Italy in the semifinal," said the Barcelona striker, who has now scored five goals in the tournament.