



CROATIA WERE BEAUTIFUL YESTERDAY! Two Croatian girls draped in their national colours at Ibaraki during the match against Italy yesterday.

It feels too good

AP, London

After 16 years of misery, this was the sweet revenge England had craved so badly.

From Buckingham Palace to pubs, factories and offices all across the country, England celebrated Friday as its national soccer team beat archrival Argentina 1-0 at the World Cup in Japan.

The hero? None other than celebrity superstar David Beckham, who has gone from hated figure to national icon since the last World Cup four years ago.

England came to a virtual standstill as the game in Sapporo, Japan, kicked off at 12:30 p.m. local time.

Millions of people gathered to watch the game in city squares, pubs, factories, theatres, shopping malls, supermarkets, offices and even churches. Huge TV screens were set up in public places for what newspapers described as "the

longest lunch hour in history."

An estimated 6 million people -- one in every five employees stayed away from work to watch the match. In London, an Old Bailey judge even gave jurors in a rape case time off to follow the game.

Across the land, there was an explosion of joy as Beckham scored on a penalty kick to put England ahead 1-0 just before halftime.

After England withstood a surge of pressure from Argentina in the second half to hold on for the victory, much of the nation erupted in wild celebrations.

Fans piled into the streets chanting "Eng-a-land, Eng-a-land," waving red and white England flags, dancing, hugging and honking car horns. In London, hundreds of revellers gathered in Trafalgar Square, with some splashing in the

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B FOR BEER, B FOR BECKHAM! Ecstatic England fans celebrate the victory over Argentina while drinking beer at Sapporo yesterday.

Bye Slovenia

AFP, Daegu

Slovenia became the third team to exit the World Cup finals after losing 1-0 to South Africa here on Saturday.

The South Africans recorded their first ever victory at a finals thanks to an early goal from Siyabonga Nomvethe, who proved an inspired change from the team that drew 2-2 with Paraguay.

Jomo Sono's team move on to four points and have given themselves a great chance of qualifying behind Spain in Group B.

Slovenia meanwhile saw their hopes snuffed out after a disastrous week and join Saudi Arabia and Nigeria among the first-round casualties.

Star playmaker Zlatko Zahovic was thrown out of the squad for criticising coach Srecko Katanec's tactics in the 3-1 defeat to Spain and the coach himself has said he is quitting after the tournament.

Katanec's influence on his team was limited here after he was expelled from the dugout early in the second half, apparently for arguing with officials.

South Africa took the lead after just four minutes when Nomvethe jumped to head a teasing Quinton Fortune cross but instead directed the ball in off his thigh.

Nomvethe, a former South

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Penalty or no penalty?

REUTERS, undated

David Beckham's penalty that gave England a 1-0 victory over World Cup favourites Argentina on Friday was no penalty, Franz Beckenbauer has said.

"The refereeing so far has been good but the referees have been very generous with penalties, as we

saw again yesterday (Friday)," the German all-time great said at the Germany camp in this southern Japanese seaside resort.

Unlike respected match referee Pierluigi Collina, Beckenbauer judged that Michael Owen had not been brought down by Mauricio Pochettino.

"This comes to prove that even

the greatest referee in the world can make mistakes," said Beckenbauer, speaking at a news conference of the organising committee of the 2006 World Cup in Germany, of which he is the chairman.

England captain Beckham converted the resulting spot-kick on 44 minutes for the only goal of the match.

Meanwhile, Juergen Klinsmann, the 1990 Germany World Cup winner famous for his diving skills, said that the decisive penalty kick had been undeserved.

Klinsmann, a commentator for Germany's ZDF television, said striker Owen had fooled Collina by falling after brushing past Pochettino.

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I'VE SCORED! Siyabonga Nombethe (L) of South Africa runs to celebrate his strike against Slovenia at Daegu yesterday.



WELL EARNED NAP! England captain David Beckham rests beside teammate Nicky Butt during practice at Awaji yesterday.

Maldini equals Seeler feat

AFP, Ibaraki

Italy skipper Paolo Maldini set a joint World Cup record here Saturday as he emulated Germany's Uwe Seeler in playing every second of 21 World Cup Finals matches during his side's 2-1 defeat by Croatia at the Kashima Stadium.

Maldini, competing in his fourth World Cup - his first big tournament was Euro 88 in West Germany, set the mark in an era when the use of all three substitutes is commonplace while Seeler's feat came at a time when substitutes were not used until the later stages of his career in Mexico 1970.

It is a remarkable feat for Maldini who had nearly missed the match with an ankle injury sustained in training on Friday here but being on the wrong end of a 2-1 scoreline means the 33-year-old AC Milan veteran will not have sweet memories of this match.

This was also Italy's first defeat in 90 minutes in a World Cup match since the 'Azzurri' lost 1-0 to the Republic of Ireland in their opening match of the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

TVangle

SHAYAN KHAN

The World Cup would not have been completed unless we got to see Aghahowa celebrate after scoring a goal. Today, we finally got to see his multiple somersaults, but this day will always be remembered for England-Argentina match.

Sweden and Nigeria played one of the best games of the tournament so far, with both sides playing an open, attacking brand of football.

Sweden, driven by Ljungberg, had a bright start, but it was the Nigerians who took the lead when Aghahowa rose to head home Yobo's cross. The Swedes however soon levelled when Larsson was put through by Ljungberg and the Celtic striker outpaced the Nigerian defence to toe-poke the ball past Shorunmu. The finish was well improvised. Neither side sat back after that

though. And it was Sweden who got the next goal, from the spot. There was no arguing with the referee's decision, as Udeze clearly tripped Larsson, who himself put the spotkick away. Nigeria created most of the chances in the end and went very close on a few occasions. But the equaliser did not come. It was a great game from both teams and surely deserved more than three goals.

Spain, still playing within themselves, became the first side to go through to the second round today. It started very badly for them against Paraguay though, Puyol scoring the third own goal of the tournament to put the South Americans one up. Predictably, Paraguay sat back after that, putting almost everybody


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Round 5, Draw in Chittagong on June 21

(Competition information, prizes and rules on June 7 issue)

The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 5 Ends June 20, 2002

Tick (Ö) the correct answers

- Record of most World Cup finals appearances goes to Joff Matthaus Milla
- Only country to play in every World Cup Argentina Brazil Germany
- Middle name of Diego Maradona is Alberto Armando Admundo
- Which WC final was decided in penalty shoot-out 1998 1994 1990
- Who is this?  Figo Raul Batistuta

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms).....Age.....

Father's nameOccupation

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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