England die a sudden-death



Goalkeeper Ricardo converted a match-winning sudden-death spot kick to give Portugal a 6-5 victory over England on penalties and a Euro 2004 semi-final place after their thriller finished 2-2 following extra time on Thursday.

Ricardo, who had just saved a penalty from England substitute Darius Vassell, made no mistake and sparked mass celebrations across the nation as he sent the hosts into the last four to face Sweden or the Netherlands on June

England's cruel luck in shootout's continued with captain David Beckham slicing their first penalty over the bar. They were also controversially denied a 'goal' by defender Sol Campbell in the 90th minute after a foul on Ricardo.

But at the end of a match that enthralled the fans in the Luz stadium Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, in charge of Brazil when they beat England in the World Cup quarter-finals in 2002, took the plaudits as the hosts reached the

"I said to them 'One Portuguese is worth, with his enthusiasm, the 40,000 English that are here'. And to all the Portuguese, congratulations," said the Brazilian.

"All wins are delicious, but this

one especially, after everything that happened, it was spectacular,

"Culminating with that penalty that Ricardo both saved and made. That's the kind of thing that makes

"It's very hard," said England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson. "We were not lucky with some things out there today. The spirit out there was fantastic. But losing like that is

The heart-stopping finale, in which England's shootout curse came back to haunt them, followed 120 minutes of spectacle and late goals that riveted the Luz stadium crowd to their seats

Both sides came within minutes victory in a pulsating game which started with England striker Michael Owen scoring his first goal of the tournament after only three

England, who lost teenage odigy Wayne Rooney to an ankle njury after only 27 minutes, looked to have weathered the unrelenting pressure until Portugal substitute Helder Postiga headed an equaliser seven minutes from the end.

Campbell then hit the bar with a header and although he nodded home the rebound Swiss referee Urs Meier had seen a foul on Ricardo by England's other central defender John Terry.

Portugal's way in extra time when Rui Costa crashed home a stunning 20-metre drive which clipped the underside of the bar after 110

The match continued to swing

However, England hauled themselves back into the game five minutes later when Frank Lampard swivelled to score in a packed area after a knockdown by Chelsea team mate Terry.

Deadlocked after extra time, England made a calamitous start to the shootout when Beckham, who also missed a penalty in England's opening 2-1 Group B defeat by France, seemed to slip on the wet turf and ballooned his shot into the

Rui Costa then turned villain minutes later when he also sent his spot-kick over the top to make it all square and line-up Ricardo's victorious duel with Vassell.

It was a familiar scenario for England who lost on penalties to Germany in both the Euro 96 and 1990 World Cup semi-finals and to Argentina in the 1998 World Cup second round.

England were also left to rue Campbell's disallowed 'goal'.

Yet Portugal had dominated possession and, with Figo pulling the strings before making way for Postiga after 75 minutes, there was some breathtaking approach play in the final third.

However, their shooting was poor in open play and from a string of free kicks and the England defence, superbly marshalled by Campbell, soaked up the pressure.

England, wearing black armbands in memory of a fan who was killed chasing a pickpocket in Lisbon on Tuesday, could not have

Goalkeeper David James hit a long upfield clearance and the ball flicked off defender Costinha straight into the path of Owen, who spun round to hook it past a helpess Ricardo.

England did not have to wait long for Portugal's response as superb passing between Deco, Figo and winger Cristiano Ronaldo forced them into a series of lastditch clearances.

Portugal continued to dictate the rhythm and England's attack suffered a body blow when Rooney hobbled off after coming under pressure from defender Jorge Andrade.

Substitute Vassell settled quickly enough, though, to tee Owen up for a shot which drew a superb one-handed save from Ricardo as England threatened on

Portugal kept up the pressure after the re-start but found it increasingly difficult to sustain the high tempo of the opening 45 minutes, with Ronaldo fighting a largely losing battle with outstanding left back Ashley Cole.

But they levelled with Postiga's header from almost point-blank range and looked to have won it with Rui Costa's drive until Lampard lined up the decisive shootout.

In the other quarter-finals champions France play outsiders Greece on Friday, Sweden face the Netherlands on Saturday and the Czech Republic meet Denmark on

Hail Dick!

Nearly two thirds of Dutch fans

believe their Euro 2004 team will

beat Sweden in Saturday's quar-

ter-final and the country is now

offering its full support to coach

A survey showed 62 percent of

those polled by peil.nl expect the

Netherlands to win after their 3-0

defeat of Latvia on Wednesday

helped secure a place in the last

Dutch politicians are among

those to have expressed support

followed his controversial substi-

Ministers criticised a call by a

television commentator after that

game for Advocaat to be stoned

and hanged, saying they were

afraid viewers might take such

"Such abuse goes absolutely

too far," Interior Minister Johan

Remkes was quoted as saying in

A new website offers fans T-

shirts to show their real feelings

for the coach: "Our Dick has

balls", "Our Dick never gives up",

"Our Dick will always score", "Our

Dick is 1.69 m tall" are some of the

A website set up to thank the

Czech "saviours of Orange" has

registered almost 75,000 Dutch

Myskina, Coria

grass before making the final in

Hertogenbosch last week, went

down to a second round defeat at

the hands of 20-year-old German

As Coria was packing his bags,

Roddick and Williams were plan-

ning their assaults on the rest of

Roddick eased past Austrian

qualifier Alexander Peya 6-3, 7-6,

6-4 and will now face fellow

American, and 26th seed, Taylor

Serena, bidding for a third

successive title, brushed past

French qualifier Stephanie Foretz

6-0, 6-4 and will now face Spain's

BKSP still best

Rajshahi in the semifinals

extended BKSP's supremacy in the

competition scoring a field goal in

State Minister for Youth and

Sports Fazlur Rahman distributed

the third minute of extra time.

prizes after the final.

WHiZZ KID-213

correct answers

Dent in a clash of the big servers.

the tournament.

Magui Serna.

Florian Mayer 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-4.

comments seriously.

the Algemeen Dagblad.

slogans to choose from.

quarter-final place.

thank-yous.

tution of winger Arjen Robben.

REUTERS, Amsterdam

Dick Advocaat.



BYE BYE JAMES! Portugal's goalkeeper Ricardo (R) scoring the winning sudden-death penalty past England custodian David James at the Estadio da Luz in Lisbon on June 24.

Bright Oranje

one holding midfielder against the Czech Republic. They were unlucky to lose 3-2.

Although their campaign was faltering, the Dutch stuck with the system against Latvia and an assured performance has given them hope of emulating their 1988 European Championship success.

"We need everyone to be fit on match day and that comes down to luck," said defender Jaap Stam. "All the teams remaining are capable of reaching the final and we certainly

Their only injury problem is central defender Wilfred Bouma but his replacement Frank de Boer performed well on returning to the side against Latvia and is likely to keep his place.

Sweden have a bigger worry in right back Teddy Lucic, who has not fully recovered from a painful rib injury suffered in their opening game against Bulgaria.

With Erik Edman, another fullback, suspended there is little experienced cover in the squad in those positions. Sweden's team doctor Magnus Forssblad rates Lucic only 50-50 but co-coaches Lars Lagerback and Tommy Soderberg may be forced to risk

Happy hunting

FROM PAGE 13

Awlad put the Narshingdi boys ahead after 41 minutes but Mymensingh Abahani took the match into a shootout when Ashra levelled three minutes from time.

In today's five matches Brothers Union of Cox's Bazar face Sabujbagh Krira Chakra of Madaripur at Chandpur, Alinagar Janakalvan Sangha of Chapainawabganj take on Nawaberhat Adarsha Club of Lalmonirhat at Natore, Khulna Mohammedan Sporting Club are pitted against Narail Abahani Krira Chakra at Bagerhat, Chuadanga Mohammedan meet Jhankar Krira Chakra of Gaibandha at Jhenaidah and Surjotorun Club of Tangail play Rajbari's Doctor Abul Hossain College at Narshingdi

By Eugene Sheffer

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Fleming dislikes it

Series opener rained off

Cricket

AFP, Manchester

Fleming attacked the format of the triangular one-day series, saying it was unfair to expect international teams to play back-to-back matches.

Fleming's side will also confront the

spared themselves back-to-back Fleming, speaking after rain saw

the series opener between England and New Zealand at Old Trafford here Thursday abandoned without a ball being bowled, told reporters: "I'm not happy full stop with backto-back games. I've strongly stated "The fact that it is the case in this tournament so be it, now is not the

time to complain about it. "But on principle, looking further

having at least one day, even three Fleming whose side face West Indies

paying public get the opportunity to see athletes at their best, not those that have had a big day before and are trying to repeat that which can be quite tough over 100 overs.



BKSP forward Masum (L) hits the ball inside the Dhaka box during the final of the 21st National Youth Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhashani

New Zealand captain Stephen ahead, I don't think they should play a part because I don't think it is realistic to expect high-class performances during a whole weekend. This weekend West Indies face the "Two teams do it and it tends to be one team that misses out. I'm tricky task of playing matches on successive days and later in the series strongly in favour of the scheduling days in between games," added However, hosts England have

in Cardiff on July 3 and 24 hours later take on England in Bristol.

"That's just to make sure the



National Stadium vesterday.

Sheffer	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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CRYPTOQUIP

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HKQGZO' UZHEIO Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A TIGHT NECKLACE HELPING A PERŜON IN LIFE, IS THAT A

RGHRSG

ACTICAL CHOKER? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals W

Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for her. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the tie. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Fleming was optimistic about the prospects of Daniel Vettori, the only recognised spinner in the New Zealand squad, being fit following a hamstringinjury for what will now be

But he was coy about whether the left-armer would have been fit

"We didn't have to make that decision. He's going to improve in the next 24 hours so should be fit well

Fleming added that his squad, depleted by injuries during their recent 3-0 Test series whitewash in England, were "pretty much at full strength.'

important everyone in the team had a specific role, saying New Zealand had been caught out in the past by having too many bowling options.

ing at seven or eight bowlers you can sometimes get muddled and you lose your pattern.

"We're looking to put the onus back on the specialists," explained opening batsman Fleming. "With six bowlers you get a much

better result. They know they have to

hook for the rest of the game. mances have improved by operating in this manner," said Fleming, who

recently led his side to a 5-1 one-day home series victory over South For England coach Duncan

Fletcher, Thursday's washout meant half of England's last 10 one-day games had been abandoned without a ball being bowled.

show how good they are.

ankle injury, was a major blow. But he added he hoped the Lancashire ace would be fit for the

always concerned that any injury may take some time but we've been informed that it will be about two

"He should be really ready for the Test matches but we'll just have to

wait and see on that one. "He's a very big player for us. He changes the whole balance of our

Both England and New Zealand

Feels like

side as to who we play.

FROM PAGE 13 traffic.

deflated instantly and crowds quickly dispersed after the shoot-

England's shock loss to France earlier in the tournament triggered running battles between police

An hour after the match Lon-Ans: Roteiro don's police force, Scotland Yard, said there were no reports of major disturbances.

Everyone was far too depressed.

the Black Caps' opener against the West Indies at Edgbaston on Satur-

enough to have played Thursday

and truly for the next game."

Looking ahead he said it was

"As a captain when you are look-

Dutch supporters have deluged the Czech embassy with messages of thanks and flowers after the Czechs' 2-1 defeat of Germany ensured the Dutch a

come back and if they have one bad spell they know they are not let off the "We have found that perfor-

"We keep wanting these guys to get some experience. Now we keep losing opportunities for players to

Fletcher added that the absence of all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, ruled out of the entire tournament with an

subsequent four-Test series against the West Indies starting at Lord's on "At the end of the day you are

were awarded three points each for a no result after the umpires finally decided to abandon all hope of play in what should have been a day/night match at 1700GMT.

1. Who became man-of-the match in the second and final Test between Bangladesh and West Indies? Huge screens were set up in all Ans: Sarwan major cities but the atmosphere 2. How many Test matches has Michael Slater played? Ans: 74

3. What was the result of the WC qualifier between Japan and India? Ans: 7-0 4. What is the name of the Euro 2004 ball?

> 5. Who won the French Open men's crown? Ans: Gaudio

Thank you guys!



Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari dedicated his team's European championship quarter-final win over England to a colony of fisherman and said he was dreaming of

Scolari had set the semi-finals as his target before the tournament for Advocaat, slammed after a 3-2 and said that, now it had been defeat by the Czech Republic reached, he wanted to go all the

Portugal, who won 6-5 on penalties after the match had finished 2-2 after extra time, have never won a major tournament but are in the championship's semi-finals for the second time in a row. They lost to France at Euro 2000.

Scolari again thanked the Portuguese public for their support, especially the people who lined the route from the team's training camp at Alcochete outside Lisbon to the

In particular, he wanted to thank group of fisherman who saluted the team from the river.

"Those fisherman are always

waiting for us in their boats," he said. "I dedicate this victory to He added: "I feel the same happiness as all the Portuguese. Although

I'm Brazilian, I'm just as enthusias-Scolari said Swiss referee Urs Meier was right to disallow a Sol

2-1 win in normal time. "I think it was a foul and the



decade-long reputation for disappointing at international tourna

in three Group A games, bowing out with a 1-0 defeat by hosts Portugal. The front runner to take over from Saez is Mallorca's Luis

about it," he said.

after coming on.



celebrated on the pitch after their dramatic Euro 2004 quarter-final win over England on Thursday night, one man was conspicuous by his absence.

third game in a row

He was about to take a corner when the number seven appeared on the substitution board. Figo handed the armband to Nuno Gomes, walked slowly around the touchline, ran the gauntlet of England fans behind the goal and

If the Real Madrid winger is enjoying taking part in the first major tournament to be hosted by

Campbell goal in the 90th minute which would have given England a

referee gave it. I have nothing to say

REUTERS, Madrid Euro 2004 meeting.

FREEZE ENGLAND! Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari gives instructions in an animated way to his players on June 24 at the Estadio da Luz in Lisbon.

Scolari was also asked whether

his substitutions were down to luck

or inspired coaching after Helder

Postiga and Rui Costa both scored

work, it's luck, a lot of luck," he

said. "I have won 16 lucky titles in

his homeland, he is certainly not

Figo may be smiling in a televi-

of the time he bears the long face of a

man who thinks he is carrying the

In his only two appearances at

news conferences Figo has given

born midfielder Deco into the team.

saying "national anthems can be

"As a lot of people say I don't



'We have done what we set out

to do, now we are dreaming of a lot

more," said the Brazilian, who led

his own country to World Cup

victory two years ago. On that occa-

sion, they also knocked out Sven-

Goran Eriksson's England in the

to dream and the dream is to reach

"We have evolved...now we have

Captain Luis Figo slunk off to the dressing room after being replaced by coach Luiz Felipe Scolari for the

Brazilian, has said the matter is closed. But the more Figo broods, the more speculation increases that he is still unhappy -- especially as Deco outlasted him on the pitch against England.

Scolari said after Thursday's 6-5 victory over England on penalties

program, when his health improves. "He lives in Cuba...Diego's future is in Cuba," Cahe said. Maradona, 43, is being treated

urbs of Buenos Aires where he was last month.

a psychiatric clinic in the sub-

He spent 12 days in intensive care before discharging himself and was seen playing golf hours later. But Maradona was back in hospital a week later with breathing problems.

Inaki Saez resigned as Spain coach

"I have explained to the (board of the Spanish football federation) the motives that have led me to take an irrevocable decision not to train the Spanish team," Saez told journalists after leaving a board

World Cup in Germany in 2006 but changed his mind after he was savaged by the media for his deci-

Saez had little reason to complain about the early return home after the team scored just two goals

Aragones, according to Spanish media, a coach with 30 years' expe-

Other front runners are Juande Ramos, a Malaga coach and former Espanyol trainer and former Alaves trainer Jose Manuel Esnal, usually known as "Mane'

What's bugging Figo?

world on his shoulders.

learned but can't be felt".

every question.

showing it.

REUTERS, Lisbon

quarter-finals.

As Portugal's players and officials

went unhappily down the tunnel.

Figo's conduct. "I didn't see him walk off the pitch

angrily and it's not something I have sion advertisement but for the rest to bother myself with," said Scolari. "I'm paid to watch the game and that's what I did. I'm not here to see if a

monosyllabic answers to nearly Last year, he openly criticised room, listening to the penalties and Scolari's decision to bring Brazilianpraying.

Figo insisted his comments were not personal and Scolari, himself a

criticised.

"He played well and was always an example to the younger players, said the sports daily Record. "But what we really didn't like, not at all. was the way he walked off the field when he was substituted.

that did not seen anything wrong in

Brilliant Diego!

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Diego Maradona has shed over 20 kilos (44 pounds) in weight since being hospitalised in Argentina for cocaine addiction. His personal doctor Alfredo

Cahe told local radio on Thursday that the Argentina World Cup

winner, who tipped the scales at over 100 kilos (220 pounds) before going into hospital, had lost between 20 and 21.5 kilos. Cahe added that Maradona would return to Cuba, where he has spent most of the past four years undergoing a drugs rehabilitation

taken against his will by his family The former Argentina captain was rushed to hospital in April with a swollen heart and breathing

Saez leaves

Saez said earlier this week he would take his team to the next

The Spanish press called for him to leave after a performance that only reinforced Spain's nearly two-

rience and a glowing reputation in

player goes into the dressing room or if he sits on the bench. "If, at the end, I feel something is wrong I will take action. But they told me that Figo was in the changing

In the briefest of conversations

with the Portuguese media, Figo said:

I'm very happy to be in the semifinals. I like to be on the pitch but it's the coach who decides. The importantthingistowin." Nevertheless, his attitude was

"The team didn't deserve it."