

## Third Eye

FROM PAGE 17  
right hand corner. It was a fitting comeback and it was made complete when John Aloisi dribbled past two Japanese defenders on the counter and thumped a shot past Yanagisawa in goal. It ended 3-1 although that was not a general representation of the pattern of play. Guus Hiddink wove his magic again and who is to say what his team will do this time around.

Czech Republic have made a hash of qualifying for the last two World Cup's but now that they are here they showed that they are genuine contenders with easily the best performance by a team in the World Cup so far. Their domination of play over the USA was so superior that they almost strolled to win without breaking sweat. The victory might have been tempered slightly with the injury to Jan Koller but the Czech's are definitely one to look out for come July. But most importantly, remember the name Rosicky. The newly recruited Arsenal man was the standout performer for the Czechs and he has quickly marked himself out as one of the stars of this tournament.

Not to be outdone, Italy too turned in a sterling performance to beat Ghana 2-0. The end result may have been a bit unfair to the Africans after they had made a lot of the play for most of the match. But the Italian defence as usual stood firm against pressure and kept their opponents at bay. Nesta and Cannavaro looked assured in defence and untested wingbacks Grossi and Zaccardo also did well. Andrea Pirlo turned in an eye-catching performance that was topped off by a super 25-yard strike. However Italy will have Samuel Kuffor to thank after the Roma defender played an inexplicable back pass into the path of Vincenzo Iaquinta for the Udinese forward to score his first international goal. Heartbreak for Kuffor after playing so well alongside partner Mensa. For their part, Italy looked very assured and made some intricate passing moves which might help them shed the 'catenaccio' image that has stuck to them over the past. Victory might however be soured slightly with the injury to Francesco Iotti.

All in all it was a day for midfield goal-scorers as Tim Cahill, Andrea Pirlo and most spectacularly Tomas Rosicky dominated the headlines.

## Philosophical

FROM PAGE 24  
team problem.

"It is the character of this team to play an offensive style but we should try to improve defensively now that the big opponents are waiting," he warned.

"Conceding so many goals is a problem of the team, not just the defence."



## Did U Know?

The first own-goal of the 1978 World Cup was credited to the unlucky Emery Brants of the Netherlands for his blunder against Italy.



## TALK TURKEY

FROM PAGE 24

Around Poland, where some 90 percent of the population are Catholic, masses are being said for the team and coach Pawel Janas, derided in the press after the Ecuador debacle.

Ordinary Poles and clerics, including Cardinal Henryk Gubbinowicz, have said private prayers for the team.

"When I was at Jasna Gora, I prayed that our players would win. I'm with them with all my heart," Gubbinowicz told mass circulation tabloid, Super Express.

Jasna Gora, in the southern town of Czestochowa, is home to Poland's most sacred place, the shrine of the Black Madonna, believed to have miraculous powers.

Super Express said it has "commissioned" two masses for the national squad in the hope of "transforming a duck into an eagle" so that the World Cup won't be over for us tomorrow."

**Million on the mile**  
More than one million fans from all over the world have walked the Fan-Mile in central Berlin, the place to be for supporters without tickets around the Brandenburg Gate.

Fans can watch games on giant screens and countless groups from all participating nations have been joining in the fun, snapping up souvenirs and downing sausages.

## What to WATCH

TEN Sports  
West Indies v India  
Second Test, Day Five  
Live at 8:00 pm



PHOTO: AFP  
Indian legspinner Anil Kumble celebrates with teammates after dismissing West Indian opener Chris Gayle on the third day of the second Test at The Beausejour Stadium in Gros Islet on Monday.

## Rain obstructs India



AFP, Gros Islet

India were looking to deliver the knockout punch when it rained on their parade in the second Test against West Indies on Monday at the Beausejour Cricket Ground.

After being asked to follow-on 373 runs behind from the first innings, West Indies were 43 for one in their second innings, when a torrential downpour swept across the ground with 11.3 overs remaining on the third day.

Replies to India's first innings total of 588 for eight declared, West Indies had been bowled out for 215 about 10 minutes past the scheduled tea break.

Virender Sehwag, bowling his uncomplicated off-spin, took three wickets for 33 runs from 16.1 overs to be a thorn in the side of the Windies' bowler.

Munaf Patel took three for 51 from 17 overs to undermine the home team's stopper, and leg-spin bowler Anil Kumble became the fourth highest wicket-taker in Tests, when he had three for 57 from 30 overs.

Chris Gayle hit seven fours and six in the top score of 46 from 106 balls. He added 51 for the fourth wicket with fellow left-hander Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who scored 30.

Apart from Gayle and Chanderpaul, Denesh Ramdin gleamed 30 and Dwayne Bravo made 25 to beef up the West Indies first innings total when they added 61 for the sixth wicket.

Following on, West Indies suffered an immediate setback when Gayle was caught behind off Irfan Pathan for two with the third ball of the innings, driving lazily at a delivery moving away outside the off-stump.

West Indies lost their last three wickets for five runs in the space of 57 balls.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second Test between West Indies and India at the Beausejour Cricket Ground on Monday:

## WC BRIEFS

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**Royal rewards**  
The president of the Saudi Football Federation Sultan bin Fahad bin Abdul Aziz is offering rich rewards to motivate the rank outsiders at the World Cup ahead of their opener against Tunisia in Munich on Tuesday.

Each man will receive 100,000 dollars in the event of a win.

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## burgers and beer as they enjoy the occasion and the hot weather.

## Listen to your body

With the weather having been sticky in the first few days of the tournament doctors are warning fans to drink enough water and not to sweat too much.

Professor Carsten Stick of the Institute for Climatological Medicine at Kiel University says that "if you sweat too much your risk of fainting when you breathe too quickly and too deeply."

His advice: "Listen to what your body is telling you."

## The size matters

Four Swiss-based Argentina fans and four friends from Puerto Esperanza (Cape of Good Hope) have brought an 80-kilo flag to the World Cup. But the 50 by 22-metres flag can't be taken to the stadium as the official limit such fan accoutrements is three-by-one metres.

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