

Pele blames Parreira

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Carlos Alberto Parreira was mainly to blame for Brazil's failure to justify their favourites tag at the World Cup finals said Brazilian legend Pele on Monday.

Pele told daily newspaper O Globo that he hoped their exit in the quarterfinals to bogey team France would act as a lesson for future campaigns for the five-time champions.

"The expectations from the whole of the world placed on the Brazilians was enormous," said Pele, a World Cup winner in 1958, '62 and '70.

"The psychological pressure, too little time to prepare physically and the lack of strategy on the pitch did not help them.

"I really hope that this unexpected defeat will be a big lesson for the next World Cups," he added.

While Pele refused to single out Parreira or any individual player he did say that the top players had failed to step up to the plate.

"The feebleness of the best players at the most important moments did not help," said Pele, who added that despite a poor campaign Barcelona ace Ronaldinho remained the best player in the world.

However, Pele recalled that before the finals he had said that the favourite for the World Cup never takes the biggest prize of them all.

"That was always my biggest fear because in 1974 The Netherlands were favourites but West Germany won.

"In 1982, Brazil with coach Tele Santana and a superb squad were favourites, but it was Italy who won.

"Unfortunately here in Germany, it was the same thing, but there again that may be a coincidence."

Ronaldinho statue set ablaze

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Angry Brazilian football fans have destroyed a seven-metre tall statue of World Player of the Year Ronaldinho following the national team's World Cup quarterfinal exit at the hands of France.

The statue, made out of resin and iron, in the southern town of Chapeco in Santa Catarina state, was burnt in the night of Saturday to Sunday, after the Selecao's 1-0 defeat to Les Bleus, according to the local mayor's spokesperson.

"All that's left is a burnt out metal skeleton of a statue," the source said.

The monument, depicting Ronaldinho with a ball, was inaugurated two years ago to celebrate the player's first World Footballer of the Year award in 2004.

The Barcelona forward, who is from the neighbouring Rio Grande do Sul state, was a major disappointment for Brazil during the tournament, failing to shine as he had done all season in his club's colours.



PHOTO: AFP

IT'S HOT OUT THERE: German fans Steffi (L) and Marcel share ice-creams outside the Westfalenstadion in Dortmund before the semifinal between Germany and Italy on Tuesday.

Portugal seek revenge

REUTERS, Marientfeld

Portugal are determined to beat France in their World Cup semifinal on Wednesday to avenge a defeat at the same stage of Euro 2000.

The match will be a repeat of a fiery encounter six years ago which the Portuguese lost 2-1 after Zinedine Zidane scored a controversial golden-goal penalty winner late in extra time.

"The rivalry is enormous, the 2000 game has stuck in our throats a bit," Portugal striker Helder Postiga told reporters on Monday recalling their European Championship defeat.

"The way we lost was frustrating. We started well and thought we would win. I hope the story is different this time."

The Euro 2000 semifinal ended in chaos and defender Abel Xavier was banned for nine months, reduced to six, as Portugal's players went crazy after the penalty was given for handball.

At the World Cup Portugal have already passed the original target set by coach Luiz Felipe Scolari who said before the tournament that he wanted to at least reach the quarterfinals.

The Portuguese went further by beating England on penalties on Saturday following a goalless draw to reach the last four.

"We knew we were good enough to get here and we've done it on our own merit," defender Miguel told reporters on Monday.

"We've great respect for France but, on Wednesday, we're going for a victory as usual."

"The campaign has been excellent and it has not finished yet. Our idea is to get to the final and then see what happens.

"It's a long time since Portugal have been in a situation like this," he added. "It's an important moment for us, for all the Portuguese and we don't want to let them or us down."

Portugal, beaten finalists in the 2004 European Championship which

they hosted, have reached the last four for the first time since 1966, their best previous performance.

Miguel said the return of midfielder Deco, who was suspended for the England game, was a great boost.

"Deco's our magician, he's the player who can see a pass that other's don't see," he said.

But he added that the Portuguese were wary of the threat posed by French playmaker Zinedine Zidane.

"There's nobody who treats the ball like he does," said Miguel. "I hope he keeps a low profile."

He saw the French flanks as the weak point during their 1-0 quarterfinal win over Brazil.

"Brazil concentrated too much through the middle and should have played down the flanks," said Miguel. "The weak point is the fullbacks and that's what we can exploit."

WC BRIEFS

AFP, Berlin

Brazil and Argentina's defeats to France and Germany in the World Cup has left distraught the team's many supporters in poverty-wracked Haiti. At least two people died in trouble that broke out after Brazil's elimination. Haitian football fans had been counting on a Brazil v Argentina final and interest has dropped off sharply since then with little enthusiasm for Germany and France.

Come Zidane

The Brazilian media has urged France's inspirational captain Zinedine Zidane to spend his retirement in Sao Paulo. The 34-year-old was the driving force as France dumped Brazil out of the World Cup at the quarterfinal stage, prolonging the playing career he says he will end after the tournament.

"Come Zidane," said a headline in the Sao Paulo edition of sports daily Lance.

"After the World Cup, why not say goodbye to Real Madrid and try to make up for the sadness you have caused to more than 180 million people... Come and shine your light here."

Zidane has said he wants to return to Madrid and will work for a sponsor and coach Real youngsters.

Rapping for Ribery

Franck Ribery's emergence as a midfield star for France has inspired a new rap song from French group Rag Street. The duo of Egal-G and Dom-Arri both hail from the same town of Boulogne-sur-Mer on the French Channel coast where Ribery is idolised. "All

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English shun Portugal as holiday resort

AFP, London

England fans seeking solace from their World Cup woe were shunning Portugal as a holiday destination after the national squad knocked England out of the tournament, travel agents said Tuesday.

Portugal beat England on penalties after Saturday's goalless quarterfinal in Gelsenkirchen, causing misery for England supporters hoping their team could become world champions.

"Last week, Portugal was our fourth most-searched destination -- but since Saturday it's fallen down to 15th place," said John Bevan from online travel agent Lastminute.com.

"We expect interest will bounce back but at the moment the loss is still a bit raw. But we hope that English holidaymakers don't boycott the Algarve for long as a result of the match."

Meanwhile competitor Thomas Cook said bookings surged by 35 percent on Sunday and Monday as fans looked to get away from it all following England's failure to make the World Cup semi-finals.

Lady luck smiles on locals

Draw of The Daily Star-Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz Round 4

SPORTS REPORTER

It took four rounds for The Daily Star-Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz to find a local winner as Sumon of Chittagong ran away with the first prize of a 21-inch Toshiba Bomba Flat TV.

But Sumon was not that lucky until Chittagong Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, chief guest of the round four draw at the Muslim Institute Hall on Tuesday, picked his name for the second time.

A 26-year-old service holder who lives at North Muradpur of the port city, Sumon's name had already been picked as one of the 10 fourth prize winners and it

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Carlos calls time on Brazil

REUTERS, Sao Paulo

Brazilian Roberto Carlos has quit international soccer following Brazil's 1-0 quarterfinal defeat to France in which he was widely blamed for failing to mark goalscorer Thierry Henry.

"On the Brazilian national team, my story has ended," he said on his official Web site.

"I want to open space for new blood. I hope I can give this number six jersey to someone who might carry on this victorious history."

"I thank my team mates and the supporters who were always on my side. Abig hug to everyone."

Roberto Carlos, famous for his booming left-footed shot, played at the 1998, 2002 and 2006 World Cups and won 125 caps for Brazil in full internationals.

However, he has had a chequered history with the national side.

He was much criticised for his performances in 1998, when Brazil finished as runners-up to France, and also criticised after being quoted as saying he could not understand how anyone could live on less than several thousand dollars a month.

"I wear an apartment on my arm,"

he added in a newspaper interview, referring to a watch worth thousands of dollars.

Brazilians -- most of whom scrape by on around 100-dollars a month -- replied by giving him a new



ROBERTO CARLOS

nickname: "O mascarado" (the masked one).

In this context, it meant big-headed.

Roberto Carlos claimed that he

had been misinterpreted, that he has always been proud to represent his country and that he has not changed since his humble upbringing in the state of Sao Paulo.

In 2002, he bounced back, playing an important part in the team which won Brazil's fifth world title.

But this year, he was under fire again and many critics said it was he who should have been marking Henry when he scored France's winner on Saturday.

Roberto Carlos, whose club future with Real Madrid is also in doubt, started as a player with provincial club Uniao Sao Joao.

He joined big city Palmeiras at the age of 18 and quickly made an impression, winning the Brazilian championships in 1993 and 1994.

He left for Europe in 1996 to play for Inter Milan in Italy, moving to Real Madrid after one season where he won three Champions League titles.

With Brazil, he also won the Copa America in 1997 and 1999 and the Confederations Cup in 1997.

He is likely to be haunted by some of his brash predictions during the 2006 World Cup. "Brazil aren't going to lose this cup," he said at one stage.

AD

2006 Round 5 (Bumper), Draw in Dha

(See June 8 issue of the Star Sport for competition information, prizes and rules)

The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz Round 5 (Bumper) Ends July 09, 2006

Tick () the correct answers

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Whom did Ronaldo overtake as the leading scorer in the World Cup? | Muller <input type="checkbox"/> | Pele <input type="checkbox"/> | Fontaine <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Which player was shown three yellow cards in a World Cup match? | Simunic <input type="checkbox"/> | Deco <input type="checkbox"/> | De Rossi <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Who scored the 2000th World Cup goal? | Ze Roberto <input type="checkbox"/> | Joe Cole <input type="checkbox"/> | Allback <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Which World Cup champions failed to win it at home? | Italy <input type="checkbox"/> | Uruguay <input type="checkbox"/> | Brazil <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Who is this player? | Essien <input type="checkbox"/> | Drogba <input type="checkbox"/> | Saha <input type="checkbox"/> |



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

Father's name.....Occupation.....

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."

READ The Daily Star CATCH THE WORLD CUP FEVER



PHOTO: STAR

In front of a packed audience (L) at the Muslim Institute Hall in Chittagong, chief guest City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury (R) displays the coupon of the first prize winner of The Daily Star-Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz Round-4 during the draw ceremony on Tuesday.

