

DHAKA FRIDAY JULY 7, 2006

# Portuguese dream shattered

AFP, Lisbon

Portuguese football fans were left saddened Wednesday after Portugal crashed out of the race for its first-ever World Cup title with a 1-0 loss to France in the semifinal.

Thousands of fans in red and green jerseys who had watched the match on a giant screen set up in central Lisbon fell silent after the final whistle and drifted home with flags stuffed in their pockets.

Many squatted on the ground staring into space for a while. Some were in tears.

"I really believed we would go all the way this time. This is so sad, it's beyond words," said 23-year-old student Cristina Perreira.

The crowd had been subdued ever since French captain Zinedine Zidane scored the winning goal with a hotly-disputed penalty on 33 minutes.

Portugal have never reached a World Cup final and have only appeared in the semifinals once before - in 1966 when they lost 2-1 to hosts and eventual winners England.

Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates, who travelled to Munich to watch the match, said the team had proven it is amongst the best in the world despite its loss to France.

"I think the team did a lot for Portugal's international prestige and we are indebted to them for this. I am very proud of this squad and I am sure all Portuguese peo-

ple are as well," he told private television SIC after the game.

Many supporters who had donned national colours and put up flags in recent weeks, in one of the biggest outpourings of patriotism since the nation returned to democracy in 1974, expressed frustration at the team's historic inability to beat France.

"They always seem to pull the rug from underneath us. It would have been such a huge party tonight if we won," said 26-year-old warehouse worker Bruno Aguiar.

Portugal's last victory over France came in 1975. The Portuguese national team headed into Wednesday's World Cup semi-

SEE PAGE 22 COL 8



DELIGHT AND DESPAIR: French fans (L) celebrate their country's victory over Portugal at the Eiffel Tower in Paris while a Portuguese supporter, with his son sitting on his shoulders, looks dejected after his side's demise at Munich on Wednesday.

# No cheers for Ronaldo

AFP, Munich

Cristiano Ronaldo, a hate figure in England after his involvement in Wayne Rooney's sending off, discovered Wednesday that the animosity has spread well beyond English shores.

The Portugal winger was loudly jeered whenever he touched the ball in Portugal's 1-0 semifinal loss to France at Munich's Allianz Arena, a chorus that was relentless from start to finish.

While there was a smattering of England flags and fans in the stadium, the booing came from many of the 66,000 people packed into the impressive complex, with Ronaldo in tears at the end of the game, though that was probably more to do with

losing than the personal abuse.

He didn't help himself with several blatant dives, one of which had French coach Raymond Domenech angrily gesturing the international sign for diving from the sidelines to the referee.

Another, a first half penalty claim, saw Ronaldo climb high to get on the end of a Luis Figo cross only to fall theatrically to the ground. Former England striker Alan Shearer, commenting for the BBC, said: "Cristiano Ronaldo's penalty claim was a dive straight away. He flings himself forward."

Yet the hostile reception didn't deter the dangerous winger.

Instead, he appeared to be fired up by it and his lightning speed and trickery on the ball caused all sorts

of problems for the French defence, as he played first on the left, then on the right and then as centre forward.

His part in Rooney's red card in their quarterfinal showdown sparked outrage in England and calls for Sir Alex Ferguson to show him the door at Manchester United.

Rooney was sent off for stepping on Ricardo Carvalho's groin, but it was Ronaldo's 40-yard dash to protest to the referee and his subsequent wink at his bench after the England striker was dismissed that rattled so many cages.

He later said there was no animosity between the two of them, but the reaction of the crowd in Munich suggests plenty remains between him and football fans.

# Klose-r to Golden Boot

AFP, Berlin

Germany striker Miroslav Klose says he is desperate to win the Golden Boot title after missing out on Sunday's World Cup final in Berlin.

Klose leads the scoring charts with five goals and has the chance to put more distance between him and his rivals when hosts Germany take on Portugal in Saturday's third-place play-off in Stuttgart.

"Finishing top-scorer at the World Cup is a great honour and it would be fantastic if one title stayed in Germany after these finals," Klose said at Thursday's press conference.

Werder Bremen striker Klose is two goals ahead of his main rival French striker Thierry Henry who will face Italy in Sunday's final.

German Player of the Year Klose admits he is still struggling with a calf injury picked up in the 2-0 semifinal defeat to Italy on Tuesday and is not certain to play.

"I still have pain in my calf. I want to play but if it is not 100 percent I won't risk it," Klose declared.

"We want to beat Portugal as third is better than fourth. We wanted to be in the final but unfortunately it did not work out that way."

The 28-year-old Klose, top-scorer in the German league last season, has put himself in the shop window with his performances at the finals but refused to discuss speculation he could be set for a big money summer move.

"I am glad to have a few weeks off on holiday before the season restarts. I will see how it goes with Werder Bremen," Klose said.

"I have a contract at Bremen until 2008. I want to go abroad at some stage but I do not want to talk about it now."

If Klose, born in the Polish city of Opole, can score against Portugal on Saturday it will take his World Cup goals tally to 11 - level with Germany manager Juergen Klinsmann.

## WC BRIEFS

AFP, Berlin

Colombian singer Shakira will perform ahead of the final at the Olympic Stadium in an 11-minute-long pre-match ceremony, organisers have revealed.

"We wanted to keep it short as it precedes the most eagerly awaited match of the tournament," said organising committee spokesman Gerd Graus.

Quartet Il Divo and 400 dancers aged between six and 45 will join Shakira at the gate to the stadium for a performance choreographed by US arranger Doug Jack, whose experience in such matters goes back to the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

### Kaiser wants Klinsi

As Juergen Klinsmann mulls his future former Germany coach Franz Beckenbauer is urging him to "complete the job" and do another cycle.

"If he had won the title I could understand him stepping down - but as it is he must carry on to complete what he has started with this team. The players believe in him," Beckenbauer told Bild daily.

### Concrete evidence

Berlin police arrested two men on suspicion they placed nine balls filled with cement around the city with messages placed alongside in

English challenging passers-by: "Can u kick it?"

Three people had a go at the balls attached to trees and lamp-posts and promptly wished they hadn't risen to the spoof challenge.

The men aged 26 and 29 are now facing charges for causing injury. Three other balls were found at their homes.

### Four-legged Totti

In the Dusseldorf suburb of Gerresheim, Italy fans have been gathering in the hope of celebrating an Italian win over France in Sunday's final.

But an injury worry is spoiling match preparations for one woman, who spent some of semifinal day fretting over injury problems for her Totti.

But Italy forward Francesco was not her concern.

Rather, her dog Totti, replete with a neck scarf in Italian red, white and green, needed vaccinating.

The animal, just three months old, was called Moro "but he runs after every ball and has a very muscular body."

### Hence the name change

On the outside in Turkmenistan Television audiences for the World Cup have been breaking all records with messages placed alongside in

SEE PAGE 22 COL 7

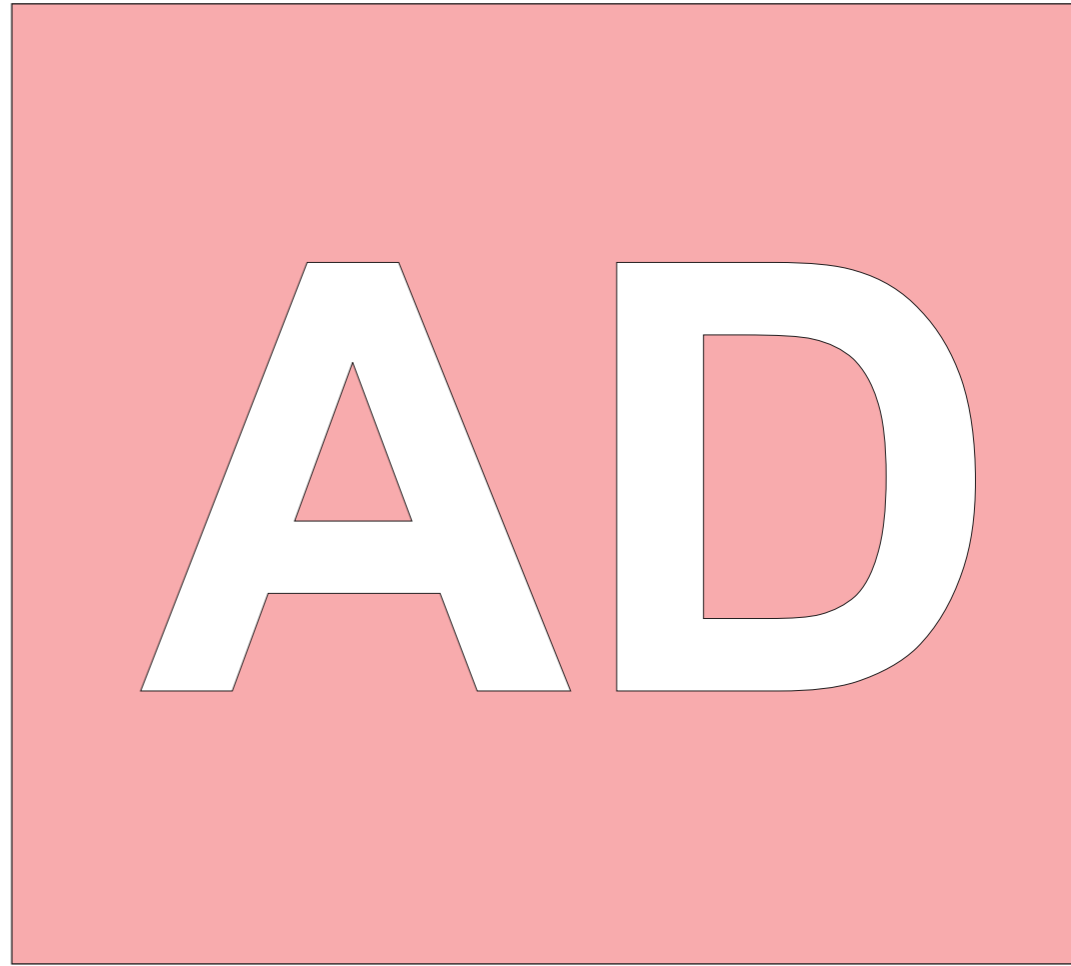


PHOTO: AFP

FRANCE ALLOVER: A French supporter, with her face and body painted in tricolor, enjoys her time at the Munich's Allianz Arena before the start of the semifinal between France and Portugal on Wednesday.

2006 Round 5 (Bumper), Draw in Dhaka at the National Press Club on July 11, 2006  
 (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