



AS EASY AS 1-2-3: Striker Diego Milito (C) is about to score Inter Milan's first goal of the Champions League final against Bayern Munich at the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid on Saturday.

The Special effect

AFP, Madrid

Two years ago Roberto Mancini was fired as coach of Inter Milan and replaced by Jose Mourinho, who was given a clear mandate: turn this team into Champions League winners.

On Saturday, Mourinho delivered as Inter beat Bayern Munich 2-0 to add the European title to their Serie A and domestic cup triumphs allowing him to become just the third coach to win the continental crown with two different teams.

In his first season at Inter, Mourinho achieved the absolute minimum, retaining the Serie A crown, while he was excused their inability to pass the Champions League second round.

It was his first crack at it with Inter and they drew the reigning champions Manchester United out of the hat.

This season their second round draw was no easier but Inter's hierarchy would have been less forgiving had Mourinho failed.

Inter ousted Chelsea, beating them home and away, and then went on to eliminate the holders Barcelona in the semi-finals.

Their success this season has vindicated the

decision to fire Mancini who had won two Italian Cups and three titles but who had failed to take Inter beyond the Champions League quarter-finals.

In Mourinho, Inter were hiring a proven winner, a coach who had already enjoyed success in two countries before arriving in Italy.

With Porto, in just two full seasons, he won the Champions League, UEFA Cup, two Portuguese titles and the Portuguese Cup.

In three full seasons with Chelsea he won the Premier League twice, the FA Cup and the League Cup twice while guiding the Londoners to the Champions League semi-finals on two occasions.

But Mourinho's story in Italy has not just been about on-field success, in fact it has been an at times hugely trying experience for the self-styled 'Special One'.

In his two years Mourinho has picked up numerous touchline bans and fines whilst he has had regular fallout with rival coaches and presidents and has struggled to control and get the best out of errant young striker Mario Balotelli.

He has had a fractious relationship with the press and despite his success is probably the most criticised coach in Italy.

At times he has seemed to revel in the regular controversies but at others he has seemed exasper-

ated, not least from his suspensions.

Mourinho is a journalist's dream who is never short of a controversial quote, a habit that saw him eventually loved by the press in England but has seen him offend the media in Italy.

He even received one fine this season for manhandling and insulting a Corriere dello Sport journalist who had strayed uninvited into a restricted team area.

But the ban that most bemused Mourinho lasted three games and was for making a handcuffs gesture to cameras during a match against Sampdoria.

Following that he decided to boycott Italian news conferences, claiming he could not afford the bans and fines he received every time he did anything.

He has also made no secret of his dislike for life and football in Italy and has refused to commit his future to Inter publically while regularly highlighting what he misses about English football.

And then there is Real Madrid sniffing around and the press in Spain are convinced he will be heading there next season.

It has all led to the palpable feeling that Saturday's Champions League victory could well be a glorious swansong in Italy for Mourinho.

And one thing is for sure, when he's gone, he will be sorely missed.

Bittersweet Italian press

AFP, Rome

The Italian press on Sunday hailed the "legendary" Inter Milan that beat 2-0 Bayern Munich to win the Champions League, but turned bittersweet at coach Jose Mourinho's decision to leave the team.

Milan daily Corriere della Sera said "the great Inter is reborn", decades after it won its last Champions League title in 1965 and commented on Mourinho's departure: "It is better to break up than to never have met you."

"Only Inter: Milito breaks Bayern," titled sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport next to a picture of Inter players holding the Champions League trophy.

Diego Milito scored both goals at the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid as Inter Milan became the first Italian team to achieve the treble of Serie A, Italian Cup and Champions League.

"Tremendous and underrated player" Milito "had already scored the scudetto (Serie A) goal and the Italian cup goal," said the Turin-based daily La Stampa.

Mourinho, now the third coach to have won Europe's premier competition with two different clubs (he won with Porto in 2004) said he wants to do one better.

"I want to be the only coach to win the Champions League with three different clubs," he said, adding that "it's more likely that I will leave rather than stay."

The press played up Mourinho's comments after the match on Italian soccer and his often tense relations with journalists and other coaches.

"Italian soccer has made me a better coach but I don't like the red cards and the controversies," La Stampa quoted Mourinho as saying.

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MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Mourinho sets his sights on Madrid

AFP, Madrid



Jose Mourinho guided Inter Milan to Champions League glory and then confirmed he will hold talks with Real Madrid on Monday.

Inter beat Bayern Munich 2-0 at the Santiago Bernabeu in Saturday's big European final, but Mourinho, having won an historic treble with the Italian giants, claimed he now has other coaching challenges ahead.

Having become only the third coach to have won Europe's premier competition with two different clubs (he won with Porto in 2004) Mourinho said he now wants to go one better.

"I want to be the only coach to win the Champions League with three different clubs," he said. "It's more likely that I will leave rather than stay."

Mourinho, who joined Inter two years ago, and has also won two Serie A titles and an Italian Cup, is being courted by Real Madrid.

He confirmed that he will meet Madrid president Florentino Perez on Monday.

"Only Real are interested in me but I haven't

spoken with anyone and I haven't signed anything," said the Portuguese coach, who has delivered Inter's first European title since 1965.

"When I win I don't stop and in Italy I have won everything. I've won the Champions League with two clubs and I can do it with three."

"There are many things (in Italy) that I haven't liked and for three to four months I've been thinking of going."

He said that only after speaking to Perez will he know if Real can offer him what he wants.

"I don't know their project yet, I need to know it first and that's why I can't (yet) say I'm the coach of Madrid," he said.

"I'm the Inter coach, I'm very proud to be Inter coach but if I become Real coach it will be because they are a club with enormous ambition, because they want the same as me, to win and to tackle important and difficult challenges."

"It seems that Madrid is a club that wants to win important things but to do so it's not the shirt that wins, it's not money, it's mentality, being ready to play for the club and being together and that's why I'm happy at Inter, it's a fantastic family."

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Diarra blow for France

AFP, Tignes

France's World Cup preparations were dealt a blow on Saturday when key defensive midfielder Lassana Diarra was ruled out of the tournament with an intestinal problem.

Diarra missed training on Friday and Saturday after complaining of stomach pains while scaling a glacier with his team-mates at France's pre-World Cup training base in the French Alps here on Thursday.

"Following the intestinal problem he contracted on the glacier at Tignes, medical examinations discovered an unforeseeable illness that necessitates rest for an indeterminate period," read a statement on the French Football Federation (FFF) website.

"As a result, Lassana Diarra is out of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. For the moment, the staff have not called up another player."

France coach Raymond Domenech took a 24-man provisional squad to Tignes but does not have to submit his final 23-man squad to FIFA until June 1.

Les Bleus begin their World Cup campaign against Group A rivals Uruguay in Cape Town on June 11.

Diarra joined Real Madrid from Portsmouth in January 2009, having previously played for Chelsea and Arsenal.

With Lyon's Jeremy Toulalan he forms Domenech's first-choice defensive midfield partnership and he played in 10 of France's 12 matches in their 2010 World Cup qualification campaign.

Arsenal's Abou Diaby played in his position in France's training session on Saturday afternoon.

Will it be a sixth for Brazil?

AFP, Paris



Condemned to win; condemned to do it by entertaining.

At every World Cup the pressure is on Brazil to deliver glory for fans who believe the trophy is their birthright.

The Seleccion did indeed get to keep the original Jules Rimet Trophy after Pele inspired them to a third tournament success against Italy in 1970, but the cup has since been stolen, believed melted down.

Victory in South Africa this summer would complete a second hat-trick of trophies and would also allow Brazil to keep up their unique record of having won the competition on every continent it has been played.

Their last triumph eight years ago in South Korea/Japan came on the back of highly inconsistent qualifying form.

This time, whereas eternal rivals Argentina laboured to emerge from the qualifiers in one piece, Dunga's Brazilians topped the group.

Even so, they were efficient rather than spectacular -- the former quality a necessity for success but the latter a vital ingredient required to placate supporters who demand style and success in equal measure.

Losses on the road to Paraguay and minnows Bolivia meant the margin over the Paraguayans and Chile was a solitary point, while Argentina were five points further back.

With the 2002 brigade now all but ushered from the stage -- Ronaldinho was named as a reserve while Ronaldo missed out on a call-up altogether -- Dunga has had to give youth his head, though that means finding room for the headstrong, such as Robinho.

Robinho, an expensive misfit at Manchester City, has been revitalised during a loan spell at his formative club Santos, who recently lifted the Paulista championship.

He and Real Madrid star Kaka will provide the creative spark in a side where defensive midfielders Gilberto Silva and Felipe Melo represent the face of Dunga's new emphasis on defensive solidity.

Roving right-back Maicon goes into the tournament off the back of a stellar season with Inter Milan, while Lyon winger

Alexandre Pato and Flamengo's Adriano also missed out.

"We have to learn to live with the favourites' tag," said Kaka after the historic 3-1 win in Argentina that secured qualification.

"We mustn't let it turn into something negative, as it has done in previous years."

Kaka and Luis Fabiano are both expected to be fit despite finishing the Spanish season with injuries.

Brazil were drawn in Group



PHOTO: AFP

Right back Daniel Alves (L) and Michael Bastos head to Brazil's training session at a training centre in the southern city of Curitiba on Saturday.

Michel Bastos has been handed the heavy responsibility of succeeding Roberto Carlos at left-back.

Sevilla striker Luis Fabiano top scored in qualifying with nine goals and there is firepower on the bench in the shape of Villarreal's Nilmar and Wolfsburg's Grafite.

Dunga's conservatism, meanwhile, meant there was no place in the squad for exciting Santos forwards Neymar and Paulo Henrique Ganso, while AC Milan attacker

G, quickly dubbed the 'Group of Death', where they will face Portugal, Ivory Coast and North Korea.

They kick off against the Asian side on June 15 in Johannesburg, where they play the Ivorians five days later, before their final group match against Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal in Durban on June 25.

"I beg the Brazilian fans that they support us," said Dunga.

"If they don't like me or something, that's fine, but I want them to support us, to be

The Daily Star
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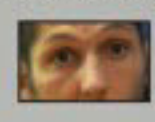
ROUND 1, DRAW IN BARISAL ON JUNE 2

PRIZES UP FOR GRABS (ROUNDS 1-5)		PRIZES FOR BUMPER ROUND		
Prize	Item	Winner	Prize	
1st	One 8 CFT Toshiba Refrigerator	YOU	1st	One Toshiba 32" LCD TV
2nd	One Toshiba 24" LCD TV	YOU	2nd	One 15CFT Toshiba Refrigerator
3rd	One Toshiba 21" Colour TV	YOU	3rd	One Toshin Heat & Cool AC (1Ton)
4th	One Toshin 21" Colour TV	YOU	4th	One Toshin 24" LCD TV
5th	One Toshin Microwave Oven (23L)	and YOU	5th	One 21" Toshin Colour TV

(See May 23 issue of the Star Sport for competition information and rules)

The Daily Star - RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 1 Ends May 27, 2010

Tick (✓) the correct answers

- Who scored the first-ever goal in World Cup history? Stable Laurent Monti
- Who is the highest scorer in World Cup history? Maradona Pele Ronaldo
- What is the name of the official ball of the 2010 World Cup? Teamgeist Fevemova Jabulani
- When did South Africa play their last World Cup? 1994 2002 2006
- Who is this player?  Materazzi Zidane Figo

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, 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 1".

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