

Sub saves Spain's blushes

AFP, Innsbruck

An injury-time goal from substitute Fernando Llorente saved Spain blushes on Saturday with a last-gasp 3-2 victory over Saudi Arabia in a pre-World Cup friendly here.

The Saudis had taken the surprise lead over the European champions when Osama Hawsawi found the net with a header after 16 minutes.

Spain poured into attack with David Villa (30) and Xabi Alonso (58) putting Vicente Del Bosque's side back in control before an Mohammed Al-Sahlawi equaliser looked set to upset a team who are among the World Cup favourites.

Athletic Bilbao striker Llorente, however, found the net two minutes into extra time to give Del Bosque's side a victory in the first of three friendlies ahead of the World Cup finals.

"They (Saudis) played well. We were sluggish in our ball handling. If we'd been more alert we could have won by a bigger margin," said Del Bosque.

Saudi Arabia's Portuguese coach Jose Peseiro added: "They deserved to win. They had more chances and we needed a bit of luck."

Midfielder Xavi Hernandez said that Spain were finding their rhythm two weeks ahead of the World Cup.

"The team felt comfortable together despite conceding two goals," he said. "These games are good to find our rhythm."

Spain had dominated early play with Sergio Ramos heading a corner just wide after 13 minutes.



PHOTO: AFP
England striker Wayne Rooney (L) and Japan's defender Marcus Tanaka are locked in an aerial tussle for the ball during their international friendly match in Graz, Austria yesterday. Tanaka scored twice including an own goal as England came from behind to win the match 2-1.

Cacau shines in German stroll

AFP, Budapest



Striker Cacau scored his third goal in two games for his adopted country to seal Germany's 3-0 win over Hungary in a World Cup warm-up friendly here on Saturday.

Brazilian-born Cacau, who only qualified to play for Germany last year, came off the bench to add to the two goals he scored in the 3-0 win over Malta to strengthen his case for the starting line-up for the World Cup side.

Germany begin their World Cup campaign in Group D on June 13 against Australia and fly to South Africa on June 7 after their final warm-up game against Bosnia-Herzegovina next Thursday.

Alongside Cacau, Lukas Podolski and Mario Gomez weighed in with goals to cap impressive performances.

Germany coach Joachim Loew was pleased with the performance, but must

cut two players to announce his final 23-man squad on June 1 for the World Cup.

"There will be lots of speculation in the next few days," said Loew.

"The coaches will sit down together on Sunday and Monday with the coaching staff and announce the squad on Tuesday.

"Of course, it will hurt for the players concerned, but unfortunately we can only take 23."

With Germany captain Michael Ballack injured and out of next month's World Cup, Bayern Munich striker Miroslav Klose took over the skipper's armband.

Having played in last weekend's Champions League final defeat, Bayern Munich quartet Bastian Schweinsteiger, Thomas Mueller, Hans-Joerg Butt and Germany's new World Cup captain Philipp Lahm were all rested.

Like Loew, Hungarian coach Erwin Koeman opted for a 4-2-3-1 formation with Augsburg forward Sandor Torghelle as the lone striker.

Germany opened the score at the

Ferenc Puskas Stadium when Podolski, playing as an attacking midfielder, drilled in a long-range shot which Hungarian goalkeeper Gabor Kiraly palmed over the bar.

From the resulting corner, defender Per Mertesacker was fouled in the penalty area and referee Claus Larsen of Denmark had no hesitation awarding the penalty.

Kiraly dived to his left and Podolski rifled his shot into the top right-hand corner to make it 1-0 to Germany after four minutes.

To compound things for the hosts, defender Laszlo Bodnar was shown the first yellow card moments later for hauling down Podolski on the edge of the penalty area.

Germany hammered the Hungarian defence in the first 20 minutes with Bremen's Mesut Oezil going close with three clear chances to score.

Trochowski was booked in the 41st minute for a heavy tackle.



PHOTO: AFP
Portugal's star striker Cristiano Ronaldo (R) shares a light moment with his teammates during their morning training session at the Santos Pinto Stadium in Covilha yesterday.

Ronaldo feels the pressure

SOCCERNET



Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo says that he is "used to the pressure" of playing at the highest level, but admits that it is more intense when he plays for his country.

Ronaldo is set to lead a struggling Portugal side to South Africa, with the team coming under fire of late for some poor performances including a 0-0 draw with minnows Cape Verde Islands.

The Real Madrid midfielder knows that he has a chance to impress on the biggest stage of all, but admits he is starting to feel the pressure.

"Wearing the captain's armband is an honour and makes me proud," he told the News of the World. "I don't mind if there are demands on me, but sometimes there is exaggeration, and it always falls back on me.

"I'm used to the pressure. But I admit that I feel more pressured with the national team than with Real Madrid, but I always try to do my best and take the name of Portugal as far as possible.

"But nobody wins anything alone and a

team can't be just one player. A team can't arrive with only three or four players in form, but must have at least six or seven."

Ronaldo also claimed that he won't be bullied by fans or players who want to see him play differently.

"I'm an entertainer, that's my job. Anyone who likes football likes me," he insisted. "I don't know why they [the fans] boo me. Maybe it's because they see me as a dangerous opponent. I've got experience and know what I can't do.

"I can't react badly, although it's sometimes difficult to control myself. I don't mind if they boo me. It gives me more strength. Whatever they do, I have to help my team. I won't change the way I am and the way I play."

The focus on his private life is something Ronaldo has learned to live with and the midfielder claims it won't detract from his focus on the pitch.

"Everything about Cristiano Ronaldo is a bit of speculation. Everything I do generates a certain interest from the media and from society," he said. "I'm used to being in the news but most of it isn't true. I don't think people know the real Ronaldo. I know who I am and I don't care what some people think about me."

Own goals deny Japan

AFP, Austria



Two own goals saved England from embarrassment in their final World Cup warm match as they came from behind to beat Japan 2-1 here on Sunday.

But the unconvincing victory threw up as many questions as answers for manager Fabio Capello just 48 hours before he must cut his squad for South Africa from 30 to 23.

The unfortunate Yuji Nakazawa and Marcus 'Tulio' Tanaka, who put his side ahead after six minutes, both turned the ball into their own net in the second half - just when it looked as though Japan were heading for the first victory over England in their history.

But although Capello can be pleased with the result there is no hiding the fact that his experimental side underperformed for large sections of the match and needed five second-half substitu-

tions to bring them to life.

At times until then England were outplayed by a Japan side who went into the friendly fixture low on confidence following three defeats in four games and with manager Takeshi Okada said to be under intense pressure.

England's performance in the first half in particular was miserable as Capello's side were slovenly in attitude, sloppy in possession and short on ideas.

That was in part down to an experimental 4-2-4 formation that featured Aaron Lennon on the left wing and Theo Walcott on the right, a tactic which left Frank Lampard and the one-paced Tom Huddlestone fighting a losing battle in midfield where Japan enjoyed plenty of possession.

Okada's side were ahead after only six minutes when Glen Johnson lost his man from a Yasuhiro Endo corner and Tulio swept home. The Japanese visibly grew in confidence after that, shaking off memories of recent defeats, including a 2-0 home reverse against South Korea earlier

in the week, to dominate possession in areas that England would normally expect to call their own.

But in truth Japan were comfortable for most of the opening 45 minutes, even threatening a second when Rio Ferdinand slipped and Shinji Okazaki fired over the bar when well placed to score.

It was no surprise when Capello made five changes at half-time, bringing on Joe Cole, Shaun Wright-Phillips, Jamie Carragher, Joe Hart and Steven Gerrard, with the disappointing Darren Bent, Walcott, David James and Huddlestone going off.

However, just when it seemed the Japanese were set to celebrate a landmark victory they finally cracked, Joe Cole's near-post cross headed into his own net after 71 minutes by the unfortunate Tanaka.

Then when Joe Cole fed Ashley Cole down the left 10 minutes later the Chelsea left-back's cross was turned into his own net by a sliding Nakazawa, sealing Japan's fate.

'All my friends in prison'

SOCCERNET



South African midfielder Steven Pienaar claims that many of the friends he made while growing up in the rough streets of Johannesburg are now in prison.

Pienaar, who has been tipped to star for Bafana Bafana this summer after a good season with Everton, has not forgotten his roots and still keeps in contact with his friends, but maintains that the worries over security at the World Cup are being overhyped.

"All the friends I made when I was growing up are still in South Africa," he told the

"People can say what they like, the World Cup is coming because we can stage the competition as well as anyone. I'd say to the people who are worried, 'You don't have to come if you don't want to but it will still be a great tournament without you'." **South African midfielder Pienaar**

Mirror. "I still have contact with them but, sadly, a lot of them are now in jail.

"There is a lot of crime in the country, but I still phone them when I'm back in South Africa because they are still my friends. I'd rather not say what kinds of things they have done. But I would still say South Africa is a safe place.

"Every country has its problems with crime, but I think there's certain prejudices that make people paranoid about South Africa. Of course you have to think about your own safety, but

most people there just get on with their lives. When I was growing up I didn't realise what South Africa's problems were because I was just getting on with my life. You get up, go to school and play in the streets.

"Thoughts about how your family are going to get food to give you dinner don't come into your mind at that age. I remember being 10, playing football in the streets, when people started asking me to play for their team. But I didn't want to have a boss telling me when to come to training and

it was only a bit later when I had an opportunity to go to country's school of excellence that I stepped my football up."

Pienaar, who plays his trade on Merseyside, maintained that South Africa has the same image problem as Liverpool when it comes to crime.

"South Africa is not so different to how people talk about Liverpool," he said. "The reality is that most visitors have no problems and there are a lot of positive things people can talk about.

"People can say what they like, the World Cup is coming because we can stage the competition as well as anyone. I'd say to the people who are worried, 'You don't have to come if you don't want to but it will still be a great tournament without you'."

The Daily Star

RANGS TOSHIBA

World cup **QUIZ** 2010

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ROUND 2, DRAW IN CHITTAGONG ON JUNE 11					
PRIZES UP FOR GRABS (ROUNDS 1-5)			PRIZES FOR BUMPER ROUND		
Prize	Item	Winner	Prize	Item	Winner
1st	One 8 CFT Toshiba Refrigerator	YOU	1st	One Toshiba 32" LCD TV	YOU
2nd	One TOSHIN 24" LCD TV	YOU	2nd	One 15CFT Toshiba Refrigerator	YOU
3rd	One Toshiba 21" Colour TV	YOU	3rd	One TOSHIN Heat & Cool AC (1Ton)	YOU
4th	One TOSHIN 21" Colour TV	YOU	4th	One TOSHIN 24" LCD TV	YOU
5th	One TOSHIN Microwave Oven (23L)	and YOU	5th	One 21" TOSHIN Colour TV	and YOU
(See May 23 issue of the Star Sport for competition information and rules)			Prizes for the audience (For First Five Rounds)		Prizes for the audience (For Bumper Round)
			1st. 20L Toshin Microwave Oven 2nd. 14" Toshin Colour TV 3rd. 3 Toshiba DVD Players		1st. Toshiba Washing Machine 2nd. 21" Toshin Colour TV 3rd. 20L Toshin Microwave Woven 4th. Two Toshiba DVD Players

QUIZ SCHEDULE					
Round & Draw	Starts	Ends	Answers must reach by 12pm	Lucky Draw for prizes	
1. Barisal	May 19	May 27	May 29	June 2	
2. Chittagong	May 28	June 05	June 07	June 11	
3. Rajshahi	June 06	June 14	June 15	June 16	
4. Khulna	June 15	June 23	June 25	June 29	
5. Sylhet	June 24	July 02	July 04	July 06	
Bumper Round, Dhaka	July 03	July 11	July 13	July 16	

The Daily Star - RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 2 Ends June 05, 2010

Tick (✓) the correct answers

1. How many times did Holland make it to the final of the World Cup?	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Who scored the first goal of the 2006 World Cup in Germany?	Wandchoppe <input type="checkbox"/>	Lahm <input type="checkbox"/>	Frings <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Who is the youngest player to have a scored in the World Cup?	Pele <input type="checkbox"/>	Owen <input type="checkbox"/>	Milla <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Which player scored most goals in a World Cup match?	Eusebio <input type="checkbox"/>	Salenko <input type="checkbox"/>	Batistuta <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Who is this player?	Baggio <input type="checkbox"/>	Maldini <input type="checkbox"/>	Rossi <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, 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
Chittagong readers can also drop entries at 67 Jamal Khan Road, Chittagong Bureau Office.
You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 2".

