



**PREVIEW**

# Hungry Spain can't wait

AFP, Durban  
European champions Spain make their World Cup bow against Switzerland here on Wednesday with star midfielder Cesc Fabregas saying they were "hungry for the title".  
Spanish football is riding the crest of a wave following Spain's Euro 2008 victory and

The country would only appear in two more World Cups until 1978, but have qualified for every tournament since then.  
But in players like goalkeeper Iker Casillas, midfielder magicians Xavi and Andres Iniesta and lethal strikers David Villa and Fernando Torres they possess the kind of quality that emerges only once in a generation.

Spain, coached by Vicente Del Bosque, qualified with a flawless record, winning all 10 matches in their European qualifying group, and Fabregas said maybe the time had come for Spain to step forward for a first World Cup crown.

"We are hungry for the title and we can show we are the best at this championship," said Fabregas, the Arsenal playmaker who struggles to get in the Spanish team such is their embarrassment of riches.

"We are in a very competitive group, but we are keen to show that this is our moment and we are hungry to show that Spain can be the best."

After the Switzerland game, Spain face Honduras on June

**THE KNOWLEDGE**

Spain have never failed to score against Switzerland.  
In 2006, Switzerland became the first side to exit a World Cup finals tournament without conceding a single goal.

the record-breaking achievements of Barcelona in 2009, and La Roja have rightly been installed as joint favourites for the World Cup with Brazil.

Spain hold the distinction of being the only side to ever be ranked number one in the FIFA standings without winning a World Cup. Their best placing remains fourth place in 1950.



Spain's midfielder Cesc Fabregas (R) tries to slip past teammate Martinez during a training session at the North West University Sports Village in Pochefstroom on Sunday. The Matadors launch their World Cup campaign against Switzerland in Durban today.

21 in Johannesburg and Chile four days later in Pretoria.  
Switzerland, who reached the last 16 in 2006 before falling on penalties to Ukraine, overcame a shock 2-1 defeat to minnows Luxembourg to top their pool in European qualification.

The team, now coached by former Bayern Munich boss Ottmar Hitzfeld, features a healthy blend of youth and experience, combining talented youngsters Eren Derdiyok, Tranquillo Barnetta and goalkeeper Diego Benaglio with seasoned campaigners like skipper Alexander Frei and Congo-born striker Blaise

N'Kufo.  
In their warm-ups, the Swiss drew 1-1 with reigning world champions Italy, but suffered a 1-0 loss to Costa Rica and midfielder Gelson Fernandes was under no illusion how tough an opponent Spain represented.

The Spanish team, he said, were "the best team of all time -- they play like Barcelona".  
"I have rarely seen such dominance in collective play. You can see they all fit together well as a unit on the pitch and it's really great to see -- it will be magnificent to play against them.

"They are the favourites as they are very strong tactically and technically. We will have to put them under pressure high up the field."  
But the Swiss have been dealt a harsh blow with Frei and Kosovo-born West Ham midfielder Valon Behrami both out injured.

## Pele slams Maradona

AFP, Sao Paulo

Brazilian legend Pele on Monday launched a broadside against Argentina coach Diego Maradona, charging that he only took the job as he was out of work and needed the money, Brazilian media reported on Monday.

Pele and Maradona -- widely considered as the two best players of all time -- have regularly indulged in verbal sparring.

But Pele rose to the bait when the Brazilian media asked him about comments attributed to Maradona during the inauguration of the World Cup in South Africa.

Maradona allegedly implied that a "dark gentleman" -- taken to mean Pele -- had questioned the ability of the host nation to be the first African country to host the World Cup.

Pele hit back, saying: "I don't understand a few things. When he did his first television programme [in 2005] in Argentina and needed some help I went to Buenos Aires, played football with him and helped him out.

"Then I tried to help out with some adverts -- but either he was late or never showed up."

The Brazilian continued sardonically: "I know he has remembered me now in South Africa. He must love me."

Former sports minister Pele, who said he had no intention of ever coaching Brazil "as I don't want to suffer the way [current coach] Dunga is suffering", took another swipe at Maradona, who took control of Argentina in November 2008.

"Maradona accepted the job as he needed work and needed the money. I saw how Argentina qualified with difficulty. But it is not Maradona's fault; it is the fault of those who put him in charge."

# Maiden point in injury time



STOPPAGE TIME HERO: New Zealand defender Winston Reid (L) goes ga ga after scoring an injury time equaliser against Slovakia during their Group F first round match of the World Cup at the Royal Bafokeng stadium in Rustenburg yesterday.

AFP, Rustenburg  
A stoppage time equaliser by defender Winston Reid saw New Zealand claim their first World Cup point in their history with a 1-1 draw with Slovakia on Tuesday.

The All Whites, who lost all three matches in their only other finals appearance in 1982, looked destined for defeat after Robert Vittek had headed Slovakia into a 50th-minute lead in the Group F match.

But three minutes into

injury time, Reid popped up at the back post to head Shane Smeltz's cross in off the post to deny Slovakia victory in their first World Cup match as an independent nation.

It was no more than New Zealand deserved from a scrappy encounter in which Slovakia did little that will worry group rivals Italy or Paraguay, who also drew 1-1 when they met on Monday.

With Slovakia struggling to get their passing game going in cold, windy condi-

tions, it was the All Whites who had the better of the chances with both Chris Killen and Smeltz (twice) failing to take good chances before Reid found the net.

Middlesbrough's Killen needed only five minutes to underline the threat he poses in the air, outjumping both centrebacks to meet

Simon Elliott's inswinging free-kick with a header that was directed straight at Slovakia's goalkeeper Jan Mucha.

Twenty minutes had elapsed before Slovakia produced a moment of menace, captain Marek Hamsik curling a shot beyond the far post.

Gradually they began to assert themselves and, after being played into the box by the lively Vladimir Weiss, Stanislav Sestak toe-poked a shot inches wide of Mark Paston's left-hand upright.

Paston, who had already flapped hesitantly at one cross, was fortunate to escape unpunished after completely missing the ball as he attempted to punt the ball clear from the left edge of his box.

Vittek then sent a long range effort wide before New Zealand's best chance of the opening period fell to Smeltz. The forward's strike from a tight angle was cleanly struck but Mucha's touch was enough to deflect it into the side netting.

Hamsik's dipping shot had to palmed over by Paston just before half-time and, five minutes after the restart, the Slovaks broke the deadlock.

Allowed time on the right, Sestak whipped in a cross and Vittek, who may have been fractionally offside, got away from Reid to send a header beyond Paston and into the bottom corner.

Vittek should have made it two at the end of a sweeping counterattack with 20 minutes left, only to be frustrated by Reid's full-stretch block.

With three minutes left, Smeltz got above Liverpool defender Martin Skrtel only to steer his header wide. New Zealand's last chance looked to have gone but Reid had other ideas.

**SCORE BOARD**

**SLOVAKIA 1 - 1 NEW ZEALAND**  
VITTEK 50 REID 90

**New Zealand (4-3-3):** Mark Paston; Winston Reid, Ryan Nelsen, Ivan Vicelich (Jeremy Christie 78); Tommy Smith, Leo Bertos, Simon Elliott; Tony Lochhead, Rory Fallon, Shane Smeltz, Chris Killen (Chris Wood 72)

**Slovakia (4-1-3-2):** Radoslav Zábavník; Jan Durica, Martin Škrtel, Marek Cech, Zdeno Strba; Vladimir Weiss (Juraj Kucka 90+1), Stanislav Sestak (Filip Hološko 81), Marek Hamsik; Robert Vittek (Miroslav Stoch 84), Erik Jendrisek

**Venue:** Royal Bafokeng Stadium, Rustenburg, South Africa

**KEY STATS**

**Slovakia N Zealand**

Shots (on target)  
14(2) 10(2)

Corners  
10 3

Possession  
51% 49%

Yellow Cards  
1 2

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**ROUND 4, DRAW IN KHULNA ON JUNE 29**

| 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 Toshin 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)

| Prizes for the audience (For First Five Rounds) |                           | Prizes for the audience (For Bumper Round) |                            |
|---|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1st   | 20L Toshin Microwave Oven | 1st  | Toshiba Washing Machine    |
| 2nd   | 14" Toshin Colour TV      | 2nd  | 21" Toshin Colour TV       |
| 3rd   | 3 Toshin DVD Players      | 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 |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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               |
| <b>Bumper Round, Dhaka</b> | <b>July 03</b> | <b>July 11</b> | <b>July 13</b>             | <b>July 16</b>        |

The Daily Star - RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 4 Ends June 23, 2010

Tick (✓) the correct answers

- Who scored the first goal of World Cup 2010? Marquez  Tshabalala  Mphela
- Which team recorded the first win in World Cup 2010? South Africa  South Korea  Argentina
- What is the name of the World Cup 2010 mascot? Jabulani  Zakumi  Zangalewa
- How many African teams have qualified for World Cup 2010? 4  5  7
- Who is this player? Gerrard  Cahill  Kaka

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.  
Khulna readers can also drop entries at Khulna Press Club, Sadar Thana, Khulna.  
You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 4".

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