



WORLD CUP SPECIAL

Ronaldo starts tweeting
 Portugal Captain Cristiano Ronaldo has joined the growing number of players signing up to social networking sites Facebook and Twitter. "Hello Facebook, welcome to my official site!" wrote the Real Madrid star on www.facebook.com/cristiano. He also published various photographs of his new Armani advertising campaign on Twitter (www.twitter.com/cristiano) attracting 45,000 followers in



Star
SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY JUNE 17, 2010, E-MAIL: sports



Uruguay striker Diego Forlan (L) takes a joy ride after scoring a gem of a goal in the 24th minute against hosts South Africa in their World Cup Group A match at the Loftus Versfeld stadium in Pretoria yesterday. He scored two goals in the South American's 3-0 win.

PHOTO: AFP

Forlan fires Uruguay

AFP, Pretoria
 Uruguay's Diego Forlan blasted a stunning 25-metre goal in the 24th minute and added a penalty kick as the two-time world champions beat host nation South Africa 3-0 Wednesday in a World Cup match.
 As a result, the South Americans moved top of the Group A standings by winning the first match of the second phase of opening-round World Cup play, with Group A rivals France and Mexico set to meet on Thursday.
 Atletico Madrid star Forlan opened the scoring by slamming a right-footed shot from well outside the penalty area which tucked under the crossbar, leaving South African goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune helpless.

SCORE BOARD

SOUTH AFRICA 0 - 3 URUGUAY

FORLAN 24
FORLAN 80-PEN
PEREIRA 90+5

South Africa: Itumeleng Khune, Siboniso Gaxa, Aaron Mokoena (cap), Bongani Khumalo, Tsepo Masilela, Siphiwe Tshabalala, Kagisho Dikgacoi, Reneilwe Letsholonyane (Surprise Moriri 57), Teko Modise, Steven Pienaar (Moneeb Josephs 79), Katlego Mphela.

Uruguay: Fernando Muslera, Maxi Pereira, Diego Lugano (cap), Diego Godin, Jorge Ciro Fucile (Alvaro Fernandez 71), Egidio Arevalo Rios, Diego Perez (Walter Gargano 90+1), Alvaro Pereira, Diego Forlan, Luis Suarez, Edison Cavanani (Sebastian Fernandez 89)

Stadium: Loftus Versfeld Stadium, Pretoria
Attendance: 51,000

The South Africans were undone in the 76th minute when Khune was issued a red card by Swiss referee Massimo Busacca. Khune was trying to keep the ball from Ajax star Luis Suarez but caught the front of

KEY STATS

South Africa Uruguay

Shots (on target)
 11(3) 19(6)

Corners
 3 4

Possession
 58% 42%

Yellow Cards
 2 0

the Uruguyan's left boot with his foot and was immediately dismissed. Reserve goalkeeper

Moneeb Josephs entered in place of South African striker Steven Pienaar to replace Khune, but was helpless to deny Forlan's powerful penalty kick high to his left and into the net in the 80th minute.
 The 10-man hosts pressed forward but were largely contained by the South Americans and they killed the game off with Porto's Alvaro Pereira adding a final goal for Uruguay in the fifth minute of stoppage time.
 "The most important thing is not my two goals, but that we have won," said Forlan.
 "It's a victory for all the team. We played well against France in the first game (0-0). We are very happy."
 South Africa had been unbeaten in their past 13 games under Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, who

guided his homeland to the 1994 World Cup crown.
 The match came on South Africa's Youth Day holiday, the anniversary of the 1976 Soweto uprising that galvanized the fight for freedom by black South Africans and helped lead to the end of apartheid in the 1990s.
 "Bafana Bafana" had hoped to provide a brighter bit of history for South Africans to remember on June 16, but the disappointing defeat delivered a major blow to the team's bid to avoid being the first host ousted in the first round.
 South African midfielder Kagisho Dikgacoi, who plays for Fulham, picked up a yellow card in the 42nd minute, his second in as many matches meaning he misses a potentially decisive final group match against France next Tuesday.

Argentina v South Korea Time: 5.30pm Johannesburg

Greece v Nigeria Time: 8.00pm Bloemfontein

TODAY'S MATCHES

TODAY'S POLL
 Can South Korea spring a surprise against Argentina?
 Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast your vote

WORLD CUP POLL
 Do you think Spain can win the World Cup this year?
 No 56.1%
 Yes 43.9%
TOTAL VOTES: 41

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 REAL FOOTBALL 2010
 SOUTH AFRICA

NOKIA N97

Spain midfield dynamo Andres Iniesta shoots past a Switzerland defender during their World Cup encounter in Durban yesterday.

Tale of Maradonas
 The infinite legacy of Maradonaism goes back as early as 1960, when a baby boy named Diego Armando Maradona was born in Lanus, Buenos Aires. A career spanning countless titles with Boca Juniors, Napoli and Argentina, an era of football brilliance was created, matched by none.
 It all started with the Romanian superstar George Hagi, who mesmerized opponents in the 90s and was called "The Maradona of the Carpathians". Then it was the brigade of talented footballers from Argentina, who were hailed as the new Maradona. Ariel Ortega, who was once hailed as heir to Maradona, played 3 World Cups but deceived in the end. Then came the sublime Juan Roman Riquelme, who showed flashes of brilliance but his temperament let him down in the long run. Next in line for the heirloom was Carlos Tevez, who is a class act but consistency was an Achilles heel for him despite getting reasonable success with West Ham, Manchester United, Manchester City and Argentina.
 Finally, a football explosion named Lionel Messi appeared on the football pitch. He is a phenomenon and a legend in the making. Maybe the heir to Maradona has been found, but to prove that Messi needs to conjure all his tricks to get past by South Korea tonight and guide Argentina to World Cup glory. No hand of Gods please.

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