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WORLD CUP SPECIAL

**Play semis
yellow-free**

FIFA has shifted its usual amnesty for yellow cards from the end of the first round until after the quarterfinals instead. That means players would only miss the final if they receive two yellow cards - or of course a straight red - in a semifinal game, rather than in the past when they may have carried one yellow card going into a semifinal.

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Star
SPORT

DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 20, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@the



PHOTO: REUTERS

END OF THE ROAD FOR LIONS: Denmark winger Dennis Rommedahl (L) scores the second goal past Cameroon goalkeeper Souleymanou during their Group E match at the Loftus Versfeld stadium in Pretoria last night. Cameroon became the first team to bow out of the World Cup following a 2-1 loss to Denmark.

Denmark KO Cameroon

AFP, Pretoria
Cameroon became the first team to be knocked out of the World Cup after a 2-1 defeat to Denmark on Saturday, a result which also ensured Group E leaders Holland became the first country to reach the last 16. The defeat, their second in a row, completed a miserable tournament for the under-performing Indomitable Lions, who also lost to Japan in their opening game. Saturday's result leaves Japan, who earlier lost 1-0 to the Netherlands, to take on Denmark in Rustenburg next Thursday for the runners-up spot in the pool and a place in the knockout round. Cameroon scored first

when Samuel Eto'o coolly shot into the corner of the net after 10 minutes, but Arsenal's Nicklas Bendtner struck back for the Danes, converting a cross in the 33rd minute. Dennis Rommedahl gave Denmark the lead, curling a neat finish around Cameroon keeper Hamidou Souleymanou on 61 minutes. On seven minutes, Rommedahl had a great chance to open the scoring as Christian Poulsen played him in behind the defence, despite a hint of offside, but the Ajax star blazed his shot high and wide. Three minutes later, though, Poulsen was at fault when he played a blind pass

SCORE BOARD

CAMEROON 1-2 DENMARK

ETO'O 10 BENDTNER 33

Cameroon (4-4-2): Hamidou Souleymanou - Stephane Mbia, Nicolas Nkoulou, Sebastien Bassong (Mohammadou Idrissou 72), Benoit Assou Ekoto - Alexandre Song, Geremi, Eyong Enoh (Jean Il Makoun 46), Achille Emana - Pierre Webo (Vincent Aboubakar 78), Samuel Eto'o (cap)

Denmark (4-3-3): Thomas Sorensen - Lars Jacobsen, Simon Kjær, Daniel Agger, Simon Poulsen - Jesper Gronkjaer (Thomas Kahlenberg 67), Christian Poulsen, Martin Jorgensen (Daniel Jensen 46) - Dennis Rommedahl, Jon Dahl Tomasson (cap) (Jakob Poulsen 86) - Nicklas Bendtner

Venue: Loftus Versfeld Stadium, Pretoria, South Africa

KEY STATS

| Cameroon | Denmark |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Shots (on target) | 23(7) 13(5) |
| Corners | 7 2 |
| Possession | 57% 43% |
| Yellow Cards | 2 2 |

he fluffed a far-post header from the resulting corner. Denmark were starting to exert control and Cameroon goalkeeper Hamidou Souleymanou had to be alert to dash out and block at the feet of Tomasson. And they got the equaliser they deserved on 33 minutes as Rommedahl got behind Benoit Assou-Ekotto to latch onto Daniel Agger's long crossfield ball before crossing for Bendtner to slide home. In a thrilling end to the half Alexandre Song made a goal-saving block to deny Tomasson before Eto'o clattered the post and Achilles Emana burst through only to chip into goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen's hands.

that Pierre Webo intercepted before crossing for Eto'o, restored to a central striking role, to blast home. Former Chelsea winger Jesper Gronkjaer had two chances in quick succession but his curler from distance was deflected behind and then

Slovakia v Paraguay Time: 5.30pm Bloemfontein

Italy v New Zealand Time: 8.00pm Nelspruit

TODAY'S MATCHES

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think Ivory Coast can stop Brazil?

WORLD CUP POLL
Do you think Argentina have peaked too early?
Yes 55.4%
No 45.6%
TOTAL VOTES: 65

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REAL FOOTBALL 2010
SOUTH AFRICA

NOKIA N97

Beautiful Babes, Samba Beats and One Touch Football

Team Brazil. Its about football at its best and beyond. It has just about everything - the breathtaking beauties, the colors of the Rio Carnival and the football splendors of Pele to Kaka. Tonight the men in yellow are up against the Drogbas. With the heavyweights of football in a black magic jinx at the South African stadiums - France nearly gone, Spain down, English down, Germany down, Brazil is looking towards the sky for blessings and the ball skills of Kaka, Robinho, Fabiano and Maicon to get them past Ivory Coast (sorry it is Côte d'Ivoire).

Côte d'Ivoire became an official colony of the French in 1893, thus the French touch to name. In 1960, the country became independent and was led by Félix Houphouët-Boigny till 1993. French is the official language, Islam is one of the dominant religions and Drogbas plays for Chelsea.

Coming back to the vibrancy of the Brazilians, Samba is a Brazilian dance and musical genre originating in African roots. And Rio Carnival is one of the greatest shows of the world which started in 1723. Guess what, the participants of the festival are mostly out of Samba Schools with specially set curriculums for bringing out the best performances. And the women with carnival attires on are a treat for the male minds.

Don't miss the action of the Italians taking on the Kiwis either. The ex-Champions need to step on the gas.

Australia's Carl Valeri fights for the ball with Ghana's Dede Ayew (R) during their Group D match in Rustenburg yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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