

Ready to rise from dismay

Spain won't change

PREVIEW

REUTERS, Pochestfroom

Spain are optimistic that a shock 1-0 defeat by Switzerland in their Group H opener will stun the European champions into action for their second match against Honduras on Monday.

"The loss helps to show you that there are no easy matches, that every team at a World Cup will make it hard for you," defender Raul Albiol told a news conference on Saturday.

"The favourites are not winning," he added, in reference to defeats for France and Germany against Mexico and Serbia respectively and England's surprise draw with unfancied Algeria.

"If you look at past World Cups, we have often seen teams that start off losing go on to win the final."

Coach Vicente del Bosque was criticised by his predecessor Luis Aragonés, among others, for fielding a cautious 4-5-1 formation against the Swiss.

He may switch to a more ambitious 4-4-2 lineup on Monday, with fit-again Fernando Torres partnering strike partner David Villa up front.

Spain dominated possession against the Swiss but failed to take their chances and suf-



PHOTO: AFP
NO LOVER BEHIND THE GOAL: Spain midfielder Cesc Fabregas (L) tries to go past goalkeeper Iker Casillas during training at the North West University Sports Village in Pochestfroom on Friday.

SOCCERNET

Vicente del Bosque will remain as coach of Spain even if he fails to guide his team out of the group stage in South Africa, according to Spanish Federation President Angel Villar Mar.

Del Bosque's side suffered a shock 1-0 defeat to Switzerland in their opening game, casting some doubt over Spain's progression in the tournament.

Despite this, Villar Mar claims Del Bosque's job is safe whatever happens, and went on to add that it would not be a disaster if Spain were eliminated in the first round.

"Whatever happens, Del Bosque will continue as coach," Villar Mar said. "It's not a disaster if we don't get out of the first phase."

Striker Fernando Torres has claimed Spain will not change their passing approach to the game, even if it results in their elimination.

"If we go down we will do so remaining true to our ideas," Torres said. "The important thing is to stick to our style, which is what makes us win. We must not go crazy and start changing things."

"We are not going to start playing a long ball game, or put pressure on our opponents by pinning them in their own area or being cagey and staying back - that is not the Spanish way. Spain want the ball."

"If you have a Xavi, a Alonso, a Busquets, a Fabregas and you haven't got the ball then you are doing something wrong."

Argentina top bet

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Argentina have become the bookies' favourite to win the first World Cup on African soil, after two clear wins in their opening matches while their closest competitors have failed to impress.

Bookmaker William Hill said England's lacklustre goalless draw with Algeria on Friday was one of the most profitable matches involving the national team ever as fans lost money on bets for them to win in Cape Town.

William Hill spokesman Graham Sharpe said, "On that match I estimate that the British bookmaking industry made 10 million pounds."

Sharpe said the overall turnover may be affected if England, who meet Slovenia on Wednesday in their last group match, do not qualify for the second round.

"What will happen is that overall turnover will go down," he said. But he said internet sales from 188 countries would continue.

Both bookmakers Ladbrokes and William Hill had Spain as favourites to win ahead of the tournament but their surprise 1-0 loss against Switzerland in their tournament opener prompted a fall from grace.

The bookmakers now have Diego Maradona's team as favourites after wins against Nigeria and South Korea have virtually guaranteed their place in the second stage.

"On the weight of their performance and that they are now going to qualify, it's pretty logical that they are now favourites," said Sharpe.

WILLIAM HILL
Argentina 9/2
Spain 5/1
Brazil 5/1
Holland 13/2
Germany 8/1

LADBROKES
Argentina 7/2
Brazil 4/1
Spain 5/1
Germany 7/1
Holland 7/1



ferred only their second defeat in 3-1/2 years following a 2-0 loss to the United States at the Confederations Cup in South Africa last June.

That defeat deprived them of a place in the final against Brazil but if they finish second in Group H they could play the five-times champions in the last 16.

Del Bosque, who is not known for making sweeping tactical changes, told As newspaper on Saturday if there were alterations to the starting 11 against Honduras they would be minimal.

"We have to reestablish

ourselves, gain confidence and believe in what has given us so much success in the past," the 59-year-old said.

"We expect (Honduras) to

THE KNOWLEDGE

Three Spain players don't play in the Primera Liga.

close ranks but, on the other hand, they have to open up at some point and those spaces are what we have to take advantage of," he added.

"This team has had fabulous runs of form and now we are going for six wins. This is the message I have been sending to the players. There is no point in looking back only forwards."

"The positive side of this setback is that it's better to fail at the start than at the end," he added.

He may have been thinking of the 2006 World Cup in Germany when Spain won all three of their group matches, including a 4-0 thrashing of Ukraine in their first game, before losing to eventual runners-up France in the second round.

Honduras coach Reinaldo Rueda expects the wounded

Spanish to come out fighting but said if his players work together they can cause another upset that would leave Spain's hopes of winning a first World Cup in tatters.

"These games (the Switzerland defeat) happen, just like they lost to the United States a year ago," Rueda said on Friday.

"They're the strongest squad in the world but we don't fear any one player," he added. "Collectively they are strong but if we work together we can overcome them. If we don't think we can win we may as well not play."

Paraguay brighten chances

SOCCERNET

A first-half strike from winger Enrique Vera and a late strike from Cristian Riveros saw Paraguay claim a deserved 2-0 victory over Slovakia.

It was just the result Paraguay coach Gerardo Martino was looking for after the draw with reigning world champions Italy in their opening game and puts the team in sight of the second round.

Vera made the breakthrough in the 27th minute after a spell of sustained pressure at the Free State Stadium and, while Paraguay then squandered a number of good chances to extend their advantage, Riveros sealed the win with five minutes to go.

It is Slovakia's first appearance in the finals and they are heading for an early exit. The team's only effort of note came in stoppage time when substitute Filip Holosko's shot was turned over the bar by goalkeeper Justo Villar.

Paraguay dictated the pace from the start and Manchester City striker Roque Santa Cruz, who returned after a minor injury, came close to scoring twice. He almost gave his side the lead in the third minute, his effort turned away at the post by Everton-bound goalkeeper Jan Mucha.

Then Nelson Valdez turned quickly but saw his effort go wide before play switched back down the other end. Marek Hamsik played the ball out to Jan Durica but he sent his shot over the bar.

Paraguay were having the majority of possession and Paulo Da Silva was only inches away from making contact at the back post following a free-kick by Claudio



PHOTO: AFP

TELLING THE WORLD: Midfielder Cristian Riveros (R) is the toast of his teammates after scoring Paraguay's second goal against Slovakia in their Group F tie at the Free State stadium in Bloemfontein yesterday.

Morel.

Cristian Riveros then drilled a shot from the edge of the area but Mucha was equal to it before Lucas Barrios was off target from an acute angle. Slovakia again found themselves on the back foot in the 24th minute but Valdez fired wide.

Paraguay's pressure paid on the 27th minute when they made the breakthrough. Barrios released Vera and he got the better of Durica to hook the ball home.

Slovakia hit back and Kornel Salata headed over the bar from inside the area in the 72nd minute following a swift counter attack. However, he steered a header wide in front of the posts following a cross and some good skill from Santa Cruz, who was unhappy at some of his treatment from

looked well in control.

Vera should have scored his second goal of the game in the 72nd minute following a swift counter attack. However, he steered a header wide in front of the posts following a cross and some good skill from Santa Cruz, who was unhappy at some of his treatment from

Liverpool's Martin Skrtel.

Substitute Aureliano Torres then saw his effort take a deflection off a Slovakia defender and finish high over the bar.

Paraguay extended their advantage in the 85th minute when Da Silva played the ball into Riveros and he curled a shot into the corner.

SCORE BOARD

SLOVAKIA 0 - 2 PARAGUAY

VERA 27
RIVEROS 86

Slovakia (4-4-1-1): Peter Pekarik, Martin Skrtel, Kornel Salata (Miroslav Stoch 83), Jan Durica, Stanislav Sestak (Filip Holosko 70), Zdeno Strba, Marek Hamsik (cap), Vladimir Weiss, Jan Kozak, Robert Vittek

Paraguay (4-3-2-1): Justo Villar (cap), Carlos Bonet, Paulo Da Silva, Antolin Alcaraz, Claudio Morel, Enrique Vera (Edgar Barreto 88), Victor Caceres, Cristian Riveros, Roque Santa Cruz, Nelson Valdez (Aureliano Torres 68), Lucas Barrios (Oscar Cardozo 82)

Venue: Free State Stadium, Bloemfontein

KEY STATS

Slovakia Paraguay

Shots (on target)
6(1) 11(5)

Corners
3 1

Possession
52% 48%

Yellow Cards
3 1

PHILIPS
sense and simplicity

AROMATIC
Soap FREE

TRANSKOM ELECTRONICS

The Daily Star
RANGS TOSHIBA
World cup QUIZ 2010

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ROUND 4, DRAW IN KHULNA ON JUNE 29

PRIZES UP FOR GRABS (ROUNDS 1-5)		PRIZES FOR BUMPER ROUND			
1st	One 8 CFT Toshiba Refrigerator	Winner	1st	One Toshiba 32" LCD TV	Winner
2nd	One Toshiba 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	1st.	Toshiba Washing Machine
2nd.	14" Toshin Colour TV	2nd.	Toshin Colour TV
3rd.	3 Toshin DVD Players	3rd.	Toshin Microwave Woven
		4th.	Two Toshiba DVD Players

QUIZ SCHEDULE

Round & Draw	Starts	Ends	Answers must reach by 12pm	Lucky Draw for prizes
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 4 Ends June 23, 2010

Tick (✓) the correct answers

1. Who scored the first goal of World Cup 2010?	Marquez <input type="checkbox"/>	Tshabalala <input type="checkbox"/>	Mphela <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Which team recorded the first win in World Cup 2010?	South Africa <input type="checkbox"/>	South Korea <input type="checkbox"/>	Argentina <input type="checkbox"/>
3. What is the name of the World Cup 2010 mascot?	Jabulani <input type="checkbox"/>	Zakumi <input type="checkbox"/>	Zangalewa <input type="checkbox"/>
4. How many African teams have qualified for World Cup 2010?	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Who is this player?	Gerrard <input type="checkbox"/>	Cahill <input type="checkbox"/>	Kaka <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.
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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