

Former French football star Zinedine Zidane denied media reports claiming he had been interfering with France's tactics at the World Cup.

"I have always respected the rules," Zidane told a press conference in South Africa. "Even as a player I never spoke my opinion of line-ups or tactics. I have always respected the coach."

"That people think I may have called players to pressure the coach is

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Portugal poach North Korea

AFP, Cape Town

A merciless Portugal tore North Korea to shreds in a 7-0 rout on Monday, putting them within reach of the knockout rounds and eliminating the Asian nation from the World Cup.

With Brazil already qualified from Group G, Portugal now have four points to Ivory Coast's one, leaving Didier Drogba's team with only an outside chance of making the round of 16.

North Korea have lost both their games and will head home after their last match against the Africans.

A Raul Meireles strike put Portugal in front with the Porto midfielder pouncing in the 29th minute. But it wasn't all one-way traffic, with North Korea creating their own chances as they powered forward on the counter-attack.

The game changed though with three quick second-half goals from Simao, Hugo Almeida and Tiago that left North Korea shellshocked before substitute Liedson banged in the fifth.

Captain Cristiano Ronaldo got the sixth, ending his two-year international goal drought, before Tiago made it seven.

North Korean coach Kim Jong Hun took responsibility for their collapse.

"In today's match, our players I think played to their full potential but tactically

speaking it fell apart and we could not block their attacks and that's why they scored so many goals," he said.

"As a coach, it was my fault for not playing the right strategy."

"As they game went on, Portugal became more aggressive and after we conceded the first goal, the desire and wish to equalise led to my team's collapse."

Portugal coach Carlos Queiroz made four changes to the team that drew 0-0 with Ivory Coast, with Tiago replacing the injured Deco and Simao, Almeida and Miguel in for Danny, Liedson and Paulo Ferreira.

The revamped team started brightly on a slippery pitch after persistent rain.

Ronaldo signalled his intentions by unleashing a long-range strike on two minutes that goalkeeper Ri Myong-Guk did well to collect.

Ricardo Carvalho also had an early chance, rattling the post with a header, as Portugal set about their task with vigour.

The opportunities were coming thick and fast as Portugal used wingers Simao on the right and Ronaldo on the left effectively.

North Korea finally got a shot at goal on 10 minutes with defender Cha Jong-Hyok whipping a 30 yard piledriver just past the upright.

As the rain returned, the Koreans were starting to look handy and far more aggressive than when they lost 2-1 to Brazil, surging

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GOAL RUSH: Hugo Almeida (R) roars after scoring the third of Portugal's seven-goal master class against a hapless North Korea during their World Cup Group G match at Green Point stadium in Cape Town yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

KEY STATS	Portugal	North Korea
Shots (on target)	29(11)	15(3)
Corners	5	1
Possession	59%	41%
Yellow Cards	2	2

SCORE BOARD
PORTUGAL 7 - 0 NORTH KOREA
MEIRELES 29, SIMAO 53
ALMEIDA 56, TIAGO 60, 89
LIEDSON 81, RONALDO 87
Portugal (4-2-3-1): Eduardo; Miguel, Bruno Alves, Ricardo Carvalho, Fabio Centrao, Raul Meireles (Miguel Veloso 70), Pedro Mendes, Tiago, Cristiano Ronaldo, Simao Sabrosa (Duda 74), Hugo Almeida (Liedson 77)
North Korea (5-3-2): Ri Myong-Guk; Ri Kwang-Chon, Cha Jong-Hyok (Nam Song-Chol 75), Pak Chol-Jin, Ri Jun-Il, Ji Yun-Nam, Mun In-Guk (Kim Yong-Jun 58), An Yong-Hak, Pak Nam-Chol (Kim Kum-Il 58), Hong Yong-Jo, Jong Tae-Se

BIGGEST WINS
1982 Hungary 10 El Salvador 1
1954 Hungary 9 South Korea 0
1974 Yugoslavia 9 Zaire 0
1950 Uruguay 8 Bolivia 0
1938 Sweden 8 Cuba 0
2002 Germany 8 Saudi Arabia 0
1954 Uruguay 7 Scotland 0
Turkey 7 South Korea 0
Poland 7 Haiti 0
2010 Portugal 7 North Korea 0

TODAY'S POLL
At the end of the second round of games, which team has impressed you the most?
Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast your vote
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Jabulani: myth and fact

As the second round of games in South Africa 2010 draws to a close, the one thing that has dominated headlines more than any team performance or player has been the Jabulani ball. Players, coaches, experts and viewers have raised questions about the ball. Adidas have claimed that this is the best ball they have produced. With so much contrasting opinion, the Sports Aerodynamic Research Centre led by Dr Firoz Alam at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia has undertaken a series of experimental testing in RMIT Industrial Wind Tunnel using six component force sensor. The tests have revealed some interesting findings:

- (1) The 8 panel Jabulani and the 14 panel Teamgeist balls have the same magnitude of aerodynamic drag coefficient at speeds above 40 km/h. Therefore, both balls will have the same aerodynamic resistance in flight
- (2) The drag coefficient variation between the two sides of the 8 panel Jabulani ball is around 9% in the range of 30 to 120 km/h speeds. This variation is enough to create unpredictable flight path (flight trajectory)
- (3) In comparison, the drag coefficient variation between the two sides of the 14 panel Teamgeist ball is approximately 4% in the range of 30 to 120 km/h speeds, which is 5%

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Mexico v Uruguay Time: 8.00pm Rustenburg

France v South Africa Time: 8.00pm Bloemfontein

Nigeria v South Korea Time: 12.30am (Wednesday) Durban

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MAX Skin Lightening

MAX Spot Reduction

MAX Sun Protection

TODAY'S MATCHES

NOKIA N900

Forlan story, South African dreams and French Pride

Diego Forlan, the Uruguayan football star has football running in blood. His father Pablo was a national player for Uruguay in 1966 World Cup and 1974 World Cup in Germany, while his maternal Grand father Juan Carlos Corazo played in the Argentinean football league. Interestingly, Forlan had his eyes on becoming a tennis player before a switch to family traditions. Well already taken his side to the second round, Forlan will set his eyes to score a few more tonight against the Mexicans, who are also comfortably placed to go the second round.

The match between South Africa and the French is a starking contrast of emotions. South Africa is on the verge of becoming the first host nation to exit in the group stages. Honestly said, they are in the World Cups because of being the host, otherwise their football skills lack the punch or the class to survive in the big league. And the French are in tatters with Anelka gone and low spirit, they need to score big and hope Uruguay prevails over Mexico. But do they have someone to score for them?

And the hard working South Koreans will be looking to get back their eye soothing, never say die aggression to overwhelm Nigeria and bounce back from the Messi lessons. Today, the story is all about survival, dominance and dreams.

Swiss midfielder Goekhan Inler (R) shoots past Chile's Carlos Carmona during their Group H encounter yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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