

## PREVIEW

# It augurs well for Argentina

AFP, Johannesburg

Coach Diego Maradona and his Argentina superstars are in Polokwane to face Greece Tuesday with the promise of more World Cup goals and a perfect record going into the second round.

The two-time champions opened with a 1-0 win over Nigeria that was more convincing than the scoreline suggests before giving a broader hint of what they can do by thrashing South Korea 4-1 in another Johannesburg game.

Gonzalo Higuain, a member of the all-star Real Madrid cast, snatched a hat-trick and established himself as early favourite for the Golden Boot awarded to the leading tournament scorer.

A far-post header, a tap over the line after wonderful work from world footballer-of-the-year Lionel Messi and an angled header made up only the fourth World Cup hat-trick in 80 years from an Argentine.

"I know what it takes to win the World Cup," says superstar-turned-coach Maradona, whose 'Hand of God' goal against England helped his country conquer the football planet a second time 24 years ago.

A coach who can afford the luxury of keeping Inter Milan Champions League hero Diego Milito and Sergio Aguera from Europa League winners Atletico Madrid on the bench knows he has an embarrassment of talent.

Not that Argentina are the perfect team with the Korean goal raising fears that for all the magic of Messi, a sometimes suspect defence could prove their undoing in the far tougher knockout rounds.

A Martin Demichelis blunder gifted Korea a goal that kept the match in the balance for much of the second half and also revealed a gentler side of the sometimes abrasive Maradona.

"My feeling was I had earned the insults of 40 million Argentines after that error, except for Diego, his technical team and my 22 teammates," the Bayern Munich defender told reporters.

"Diego is a phenomenal human being. He spoke to me a lot at half-time, saying I had the support of him and my teammates. He told me not to be nervous, not to start hitting long balls from the back."

While only an amazing collapse at Peter Mokaba stadium in a northern city



PHOTO: AFP

**DAUGHTER'S GIFT:** Argentina coach Diego Maradona fixes his goggles, which were presented by his daughter on father's day, during a press conference at Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria yesterday.



where French substitutes were wrapped in blankets to fend off the cold can deprive Argentina of a last-16 place, Greece are desperate for points.

A draw would suffice if pointless Nigeria defeat South Korea in Durban, otherwise the shock Euro 2004 winners must avenge a four-goal drubbing from the Argentines at the 1994 World Cup and collect maximum points.

But German coach Otto Rehhagel seems to fear the worst when a team composed largely of interna-

## Messi may captain

AFP, Pretoria

Diego Maradona plans on making seven substitutions to his starting lineup for Argentina's match with Greece, but star Lionel Messi will play Tuesday because benching him would be sinful.

Maradona, whose squad is all-but assured a berth in the round of 16, will give his reserves a chance to see some action.

"We wanted to give Lionel a break but he will play," Maradona said. "He's the best player in the world. I think it would be a sin not to give him to the team, to the people, and leave out a player who could decide the match."

Messi, who spectacularly set-up three Argentina goals in a victory over South Korea, could wear the Argentine captain's armband with regular captain Javier Mascherano of Liverpool set to sit out after an earlier yellow card.

tional unknowns tackle one of the favourites to lift the World Cup come July 11 in Johannesburg.

"We are going to take on Argentina, a world class team that will clearly be better than us and we have to see how to cope with them," said the architect of the Euro final triumph over hosts Portugal.

Midfielder Costas Katsouranis offered a slightly more positive spin: "Argentina are very difficult opponents for any team, but we will fight and do what we can as long as there is hope."

# Chile's dream run goes on

AFP, Port Elizabeth

Chile continued their dream World Cup run with a 1-0 defeat of 10-man Switzerland here on Monday to move within touching distance of the last 16.

The South Americans climbed to the top of Group H after second half substitute Mark Gonzalez finally broke down a steely Swiss defence in the 75th minute.

Chile, who had beaten Honduras 1-0 last week, will be assured qualification if Monday's late game between Spain and Honduras ends in a draw.

Switzerland, stunning 1-0 winners over favourites Spain in their first match, were up against it after going a man down on 30 minutes when Valon Behrami was sent off.

The West Ham midfielder was given his marching orders by Saudi Arabian referee Khalil Al Ghamdi for a tangle with Arturo Vidal after he appeared to elbow the Bayer Leverkusen player in the face.

Chile, who had impressed with their attacking passion in their opening 1-0 win over Honduras, had the first shot on target when Italy-based Carlos Carmona fired in from

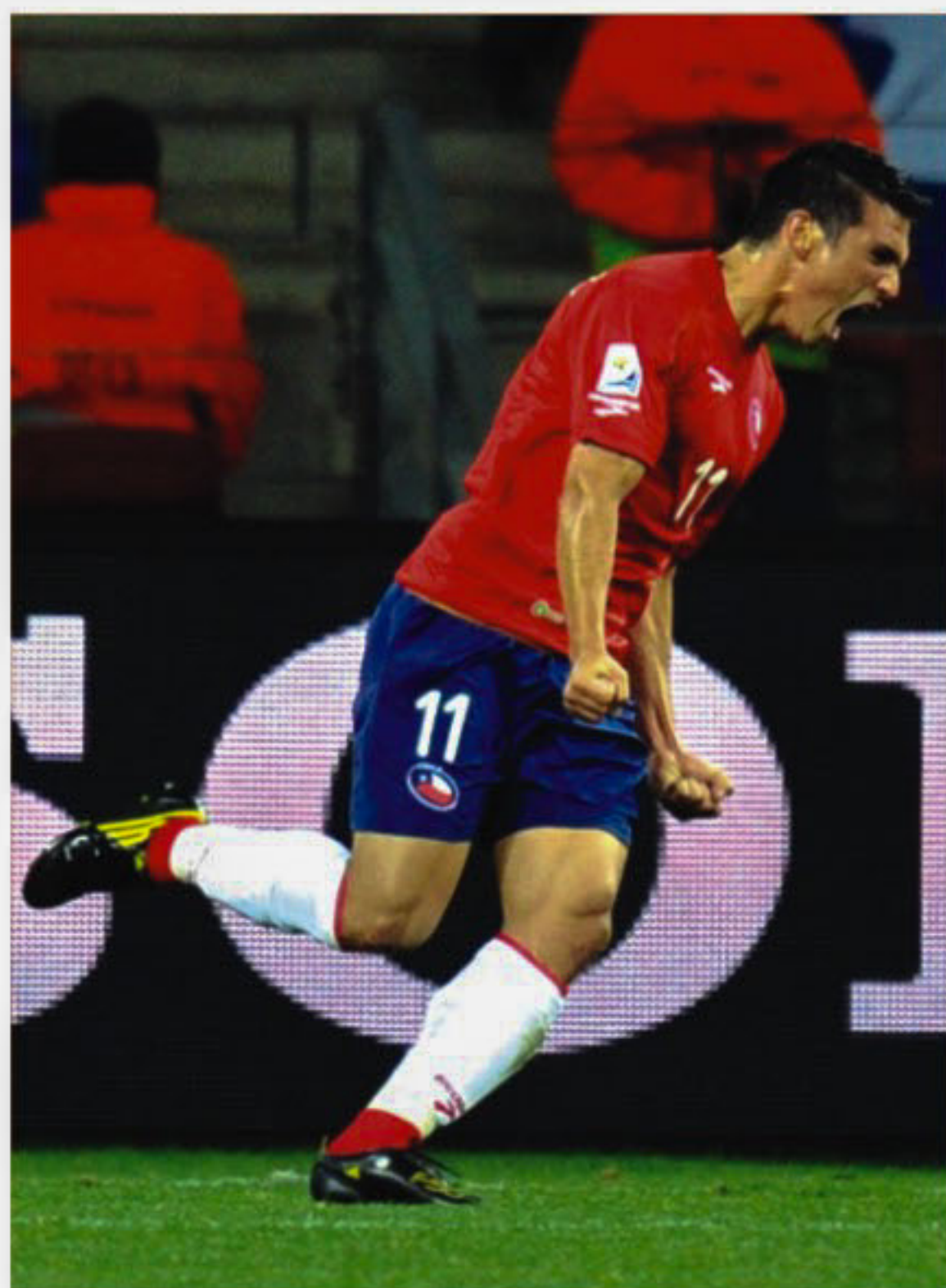


PHOTO: AFP

**Chile forward Mark Gonzalez is ecstatic after scoring the all-important goal against Switzerland during their Group H first round match at Nelson Mandela Bay stadium in Port Elizabeth yesterday.**

20m, the ball safely scooped up by Swiss keeper Diego Benaglio.

Carmona then ensured he would miss Chile's closing

Group H match with Spain on Friday by picking up a yellow card for a challenge on Behrami in the 21st minute to add to the one he

received last week.

Four minutes before the interval Swiss coach Ottmar Hitzfeld made a tactical switch, pulling off striker Alexander Frei and replacing the team captain with Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Tranquillo Barnetta.

After the break Chile's Argentinian coach Marcelo Bielsa replaced midfielder Vidal with Gonzalez, the CSKA Moscow striker.

Alexis Sanchez thought he had scored in the 49th minute, celebrating ecstatically only to then see out of the corner of his eye the linesman's flag raised for offside.

The Swiss were having to defend with a capital D against a country that had only come in one point behind Brazil in qualifying.

It was all Chile now as the ball rarely left the Swiss side of the Nelson Mandela Bay pitch.

On 55 minutes the Europeans were let off when Gonzalez jumped over the white wall only to head a corner high.

Trigger happy Al Ghamdi then dished out three yellow cards in the space of one minute to Swiss defender Reto Ziegler and Chilean duo Gary Medel and Matias Fernandez to take the tally to eight with one red and still 20 minutes on the clock.

Chile finally made the breakthrough they had been threatening for so long when Esteban Paredes, who had only entered the fray 10 minutes earlier as a replacement for Matias Fernandez, raced around Benaglio and found Gonzalez who headed into an empty goal. Switzerland almost grabbed an unlikely last minute equaliser when substitute Eren Derdiyok shot just wide of Bravo's left post.

Small consolation but the Swiss set a new World Cup record of 559 minutes played without scoring a goal, to overtake Italy's mark of 550 minutes.

KEY STATS		SOUTH AFRICA 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP	
Chile	Switzerland		
Shots (on target)			
19(6)	5(0)		
Corners			
5	3		
Possession			
69%	31%		
Yellow Cards			
6	3		

SCORE BOARD	
<b>CHILE 1 - 0 SWITZERLAND</b>	
<b>GONZALEZ 75</b>	
<b>Chile (4-3-3):</b> Claudio Bravo (cap) - Mauricio Isla, Gary Medel, Waldo Ponce, Gonzalo Jara - Arturo Vidal (Mark Gonzalez 46), Carlos Carmona, Matias Fernandez (Esteban Paredes 65) - Alexis Sanchez, Humberto Suazo (Jorge Valdivia 46), Jean Beausejour	
<b>Switzerland (4-4-2):</b> Diego Benaglio - Stephan Lichtsteiner, Steve von Bergen, Stephane Griching, Reto Ziegler - Valon Behrami, Gokhan Inler, Benjamin Huggel, Gelson (Albert Bunjaku 77) - Alexander Frei (cap) (Tranquillo Barnetta 42) - Blaise Nkufo (Eren Derdiyok 68)	
<b>Red Card: Valon Behrami, 31</b>	
<b>Venue:</b> Nelson Mandela Bay stadium, Port Elizabeth	

## 'God would score once'

AFP, Pretoria

Argentina coach Diego Maradona says that Brazilian star Luis Fabiano can score all the goals he wants off unwhistled handballs, but there is only one "Hand of God" goal.

The Argentine legend, who famously netted his controversial goal with a handball against England in a 1986 World Cup quarterfinal, spoke here Monday ahead of his team's final Group B match on Tuesday against Greece.

Maradona did not miss the chance to tweak rival Brazil and Fabiano, who admitted after Sunday's 3-1 victory over Ivory Coast that his second goal was scored after the ball bounced off his hand and shoulder.

"Brazil is not playing well as it is," Maradona said. "But Brazil can take it all, even if they have to use their arms."

After the ball went in off his hand in 1986 in what was eventually a 2-1 victory over England, Maradona's landmark line was that the goal was "a little bit the head of Maradona and a little bit the hand of God."

When asked about Fabiano comparing his goal to Maradona's own "Hand of God" feat, the hero of Argentina's run to the 1986 World Cup crown said there is simply no comparison.

"No no, he had it on the arms. It's quite obvious. Twice he hit the ball on his arm," Maradona said.

French referee Stephane Lannoy, however, made the bigger impression upon Maradona by laughing with Fabiano moments after missing the handball call.

"The tragicomic thing was the referee's smile after the goal," Maradona said. "I didn't see the referee when I scored the goal against England. Looked at the people and it was a goal."

Maradona also had a rough assessment for European sides, notably France after a rift between its coach and top players and Italy after the Azzurri settled for a 1-1 draw with New Zealand.

"I'm a bit disappointed with France," Maradona said. "France is not having the best of times. The intrinsic value of the players in France should get them on a higher level."

"Italy, my God. It must be a huge scandal in Italy when they see that."

"I think they are all going to make it (to the last 16)."

## Elano injury not serious

AFP, Johannesburg

Brazil expect to have midfielder Elano back for their final World Cup Group G match against Portugal although he was stretchered off in the 3-1 win over Ivory Coast.

The five-times World Cup winners booked their last 16 berth on Sunday with an impressive win over Sven-Goran Eriksson's Ivory Coast, but had star midfielder Kaka controversially sent off for a second yellow card.

Kaka will miss Friday's match against Portugal in Durban through suspension, but goal-scorer Elano is expected back in the side despite having been stretchered off after a heavy knock to his right leg on 67 minutes at Soccer City.

"He suffered a very heavy knock, but it is only a knock and we hope within two days he will be able to play," said Brazil's man-of-the-match Luis Fabiano whose goals either side of half-time sealed the victory.

"It will be sore, but he will be able to play."

Galatasaray midfielder Elano now has two World Cup goals having also scored in the opening win over North Korea last Tuesday before converting a Kaka cross on 62 minutes to score Brazil's third against the Ivory Coast.

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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

**Prizes for the audience (For First Five Rounds)**

1st. 20L Toshin Microwave Oven  
2nd. 14" Toshin Colour TV  
3rd. 3 Toshiba DVD Players

**Prizes for the audience (For Bumper Round)**

1st. Toshiba Washing Machine  
2nd. 21" Toshin Colour TV  
3rd. 20L Toshin Microwave Woven  
4th. Two Toshiba DVD Players

(See May 23 issue of the Star Sport for competition information and rules)

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

- 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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