Refs the culprits! Sachin honoured

AFP, Cape Town

The standard of refereeing at the World Cup has inevitably come under the microscope, with some controversial decisions and claims that some officials aren't up to the job.

Refereeing on the world's biggest stage is a dream come true, but it can also be a thankless task with players and coaches free to lash out without the official able to answer back.

FIFA appointed 30 referees from 28 countries for the tournament and many have been praised for their fitness and keeping their cards in their pockets, but some decisions have been questioned.

One of the most high-profile came when Mali's Koman Coulibaly disallowed Maurice Edu's goal for the United States in the 85th minute of their 2-2 draw with Slovenia, denying them a vital win and sparking an outcry in the United States.

the Ivory Coast, while he allowed Luis Fabiano's second goal to stand despite a clear double handball.

To make matters worse, Lannoy was seen laughing with Fabiano after the incident.

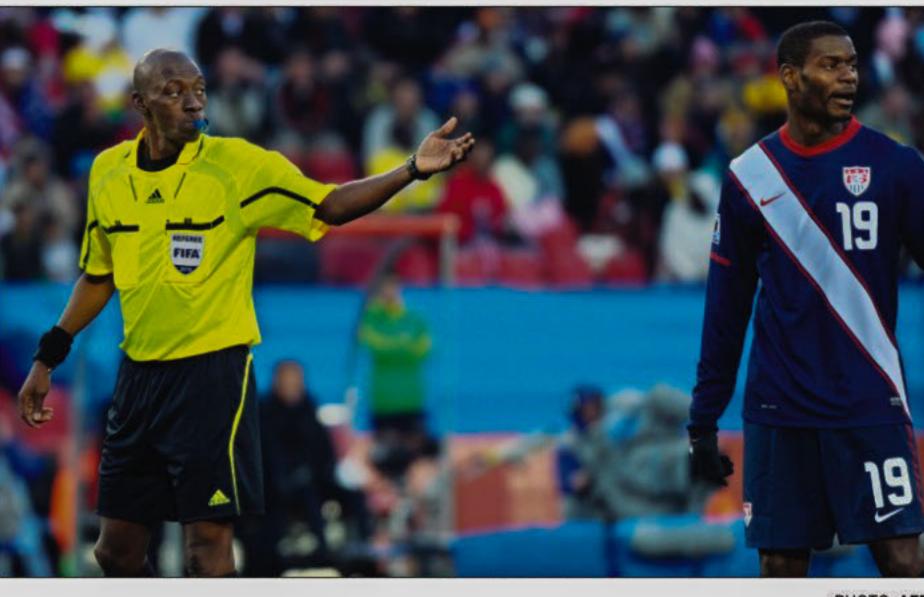
Nevertheless, FIFA's head of refereeing Jose-Marcia Garcia-Aranda told reporters that overall he was satisfied with the performances, but also said mistakes were inevitable.

"We are trying to improve those decisions that we consider are not good enough and for that reason we are training every day," he said.

Referees are, of course, human, and it inevitably brings up the question again of whether video technology should be used.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter has previously spoken out against the use of cameras, arguing that they would interrupt the flow of the game, although he appears to have softened his stance more recently.

The pressure was turned up on Blatter fol-



Mali referee Koman Coulibaly made one of the most controversial decisions of the World Cup when he disallowed United States a winning goal against Slovenia on June 19.

South Africa coach Carlos Parreira, meanwhile, blasted Swiss referee Massimo Busacca for reducing his team to 10 men in their 3-0 loss to Uruguay that crippled their dream of World Cup advancement.

"He is the worst referee in this competition," Parreira said. "I hope we don't see his face again in any game anymore. He probably does not deserve to be here."

And on Monday, Switzerland defender Stephane Grichting attacked Saudi Arabian referee Khalil Al Ghamdi who was in charge of their 1-0 defeat against Chile which saw nine bookings and a sending-off.

"At 11 against 11 we would have had a different match. The problem was that we came up against a referee that week in, week out is officiating in the first or second division," he said.

"But here he is at an international level and so he isn't up to the standard. And we saw that throughout the entire game."

French referee Stephane Lannoy also came under fire for sending off Brazil's Kaka against

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa insisted

Wednesday it would remain

the perfect World Cup host but

a string of first round failures

by African teams on their

home turf threatened to muz-

After South Africa bowed

out on Tuesday afternoon

despite a brave victory over

France, Nigeria followed them

out of the tournament by

drawing with South Korea,

ESPN

2010 FIFA World Cup

Slovakia v Italy

Live from 8:00pm

Cameroon v Netherlands

Live from 12:30am (Friday)

STAR Sports

2010 FIFA World Cup

Paraguay v New Zealand

Live from 8:00pm

Denmark v Japan

Live from 12:30am (Friday)

STAR Sports &

SuperSport5

Wimbledon Championships

Second Round

Live from 5:00pm

NEO Cricket

Sri Lanka v India

Asia Cup Final

Live from 3:00pm

STAR Cricket

England v Australia

Second ODI

Live from 7:30pm

zle the buzz of the vuvuzela.

lowing Thierry Henry's controversial handbal which led to France's extra-time winner against the Republic of Ireland in their World Cup qualifying play-off. Concern has also been raised that referees

need to do more to protect the flair players of the tournament, like Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. Portugal's Ronaldo, who picked up a booking for diving in their opening game, said the

top stars need more protection than they are currently getting. "I don't understand the decisions of the

referees sometimes," said Ronaldo. "They are supposed to protect the best players." Argentina coach Diego Maradona, mean-

while, urged referees to do more to enforce fair play.

"This is football and not kung fu fighting. So I don't think yet we've seen the fair play we want to see," he said after his captain Javier Mascherano was booked in their game against South Korea.

"This is the last time you'll

hear the vuvuzela. But the

spirit will go on because South

Africans are going to choose

other countries," said

colours to another African

mast, the 23-year-old IT

consultant said she would

now rally behind one of the

South Africans are going to do

the same because the T-shirt is

the same colour, yellow and

have their own criteria in choos-

ing which teams to root for, on a

day when the likes of United

States, England and Germany

could all fail to make the second

England and those countries

are important because they

have been core markets in

which we have been working,

and seeing them qualify is,

from a touristic point of view,

in our interest, if truth be

told," said Thandiwe January-

McLean, head of South

"For us Germany and

"I support Brazil. Many

Tourism officials said they

Rather than nail her

leaving only Ghana and Algeria support would come down a

Khumalo.

favourites.

round.

with realistic hopes of progress.

ing challenge to stay in the

tournament, facing up respec-

tively against the mighty

Germany and the United

States in their final first round

will have no representatives in

the second round for the first

time since 1982. A record six

teams from the continent took

part this time in what is the

first tournament to be held on

Africa," read a headline in

The Star newspaper as it

urged South Africa not to

allow the disappointment

to become overwhelming

and to keep blowing their

some of their oomph from

today, but we must immedi-

ately assume our rightful role -

- as warm and wonderful

hosts," said the newspaper in

South African who saw the

France game at a

Johannesburg fan park,

shots from Defoe and Gerrard.

hit Handanovic's right post.

second goal proved beyond them

Valter Birsa.

cheers as they walked off at the break.

England maintained their high tempo pace.

first booking of the game in the 46th minute.

acknowledged the volume of African Tourism.

Capello gamble pays off

The boos that had followed England off the pitch after

Seconds after the restart Defoe could and should have got his

Friday's woeful performance against Algeria were replaced by

cards German referee Wolfgang Stark had been refreshingly

restrained, with England defender Glen Johnson picking up the

A rejuvenated Rooney then grimaced as his close range effort

Slovenia though gave them a scare in the 67th minute when

Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole made his 2010 World Cup debut,

With England having regained the form that saw them sail

Terry, Johnson and James combined to deny a trio of quickfire

shots from Milivoje Novakovic, substitute Ziatko Dedic and

coming on for Rooney, with Defoe later making way for Heskey.

through their World Cup qualifying group it looked a matter of

delight, and no doubt relief when the final whistle blew.

when, not if, they put the game to bed but hard as they tried a

Nokuphila Khumalo, a

"The vuvuzelas might lose

ear-splitting trumpets.

"Ghana, Do It For

African soil.

an editorial.

FROM PAGE 17

Defeat would mean Africa

matches on Wednesday.

But even they face a daunt-

with Air Force rank

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Sachin Tendulkar will be conferred the honorary rank of a senior officer of Indian Air Force.

"Under the provision of grant of honorary rank by Armed Forces to eminent personalities acknowledging their contribution towards the nation, the President and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of India is pleased to confer Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar the honorary rank of Group Captain of the Indian Air Force," the IAF said in a statement. Tendulkar is not just the first

sportsperson to be conferred this honour, he is also the first person with no aviation background to have this honour.

The 37-year-old Tendulkar said he was proud to be part of IAF family.

"It is indeed a great honour that I have been considered for honorary Group Captain in the IAF. As an Indian, I am proud to be associated with the dynamic force and I shall do my very best to be brand ambassador for the IAF," Tendulkar said in a statement from London.

Emphatic win for Sonali

SPORTS REPORTER

Sonali Bank recorded an emphatic 3-0 win over Police AC in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Sonali Bank led the first half 2-0 with strikes from Iqbal Nader Prince and Syed Al Mamum.

After resumption, Police bit back with one seven minutes into the second half before defender Shamsuddin Tuhin made the result safe for Sonali having scored the team's third goal in the 55th minute.

Shaheen decides encounter

SPORTS REPORTER

A first-half strike from Shaheen helped Wari Club edge Purbachal Parisad in the Bashundhara Senior Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapuryesterday.

Vuvuzela vanishing? Shaheen separated the sides in the 38th minute to award Wari its fourth win in eight matches while Purbachal remained glued to four points after five consecutive defeats.

ASIA CUP

Indo-Lankan final today

AFP, Dambulla

Kumar Sangakkara's Sri Lanka go into Thursday's Asia Cup one-day final against India confident of securing a hattrick of titles.

Sri Lanka, who won the last

two editions of the region's

top one-day prize, in 2006 and 2008, are buoyant after thrashing India by seven wickets in a league match on Tuesday. The prospect of winning a

major one-day title in front of passionate home fans excited Sangakkara.

Sri Lanka and India qualified for the final after defeating Pakistan and Bangladesh, Asia's other two Test nations,

in the preliminary league. India will miss aggressive opener Virender Sehwag, who was ruled out of Tuesday's match and the final due to a hamstring injury sustained against Pakistan last week.

SA, Windies draw Test

AFP, Basseterre

South Africa's batsmen, led by Jacques Kallis, took the time to have a glorified net session, and improve their batting averages, as the second Test against West second, but his goalmouth effort after great work by Rooney on the left, went wide. He then had a goal disallowed for offside as Indies meandered to an inevitable draw on Tuesday. Unusually for this World Cup which has been raining yellow

Kallis finished with an unbeaten 62, to follow-up his first innings hundred, as the South Africans declared on 235 for three in their second innings to effectively end the match about an hour after tea on the fifth and final day at Warner Park.

The result meant that the Proteas continue to lead the three-Test series 1-0, after they won the opening Test in

Trinidad by 163 runs. The third and final Test But they held on, with Capello raising his hands in the air in | starts on Saturday at Kensington Oval in Barbados.

Argentina on a roll

MOHAMMAD ISAM

It would take something very special to stop this Argentinean juggernaut.

Seven goals, nine points and a myriad of brilliant moves later, the team that only managed to qualify to the World Cup finals have romped into the last sixteen. And it was apt that Martin Palermo, a 36-year-old striker who was recalled after a 10-year international hiatus, put the exclamation mark after coming on as a late substitute. Palermo's tap-in after the little genius Lionel Messi forced the impressive Greek goalkeeper Alexandros Tzorvas into a parry made it 2-0 in the 89th minute, on a night when the former European champions became roadkill of another Argentina special in Polokwane.

As Greece were forced to trot back, Messi and co drove in shot after shot in the second half after Tzorvas stopped at goal in the first 45 minutes.

Demichelis rammed home from close range in the 77th minute after his header from Messi's corner bounced back off teammate Diego Milito, who himself got a first call-up to the starting eleven after Diego Maradona decided to make seven changes to the side.

Mexico will now be Argentina's second round



opponents after they finished second behind Uruguay in Group A. Uruguay's 1-0 win in Rustenburg over Mexico sealed the fate of hosts South Africa and France, who duly finished at the bottom of the group standings. While South Africa became

least four clear attempts on the first host nation to be knocked out in the first round, Eventually Martin Africa as a continent face the

imminent danger of going unrepresented in the rest of the tournament after Nigeria were also eliminated from Group B.

They drew 2-2 with South Korea who made all of Asia proud with their progress into the second round. Their tie against equally free-spirited Uruguay on Saturday promises to be a cracker.

But it wasn't an entirely perfect day of football.

Aiyegbeni Yakubu is probably kicking himself somewhere between Durban and Abuja after his 'miss of the tournament'. Yakubu managed to turn the ball wide from six yards out, in the centre of the goal with no Korean goalkeeper or defender in sight.

And if that was bad, the red

Ovi Mail

card by referee Oscar Ruiz to French midfielder Yoann Gourcuff was a sham. But this overtly officious refereeing is slowly becoming a standard of some sort at this World Cup.

Gourcuff's routine jump for a corner had his elbow hit Siphiwe Tshabalala, but it didn't look malicious. Funnily, Djibril Cisse was given the marching orders and it was after he had gone a fair distance weeping, it was discovered that Gourcuffwas sent off.

Raymond Domenech did his already stinker of a reputation no favours when he refused to shake hands with Carlos Alberto Parreira at the end of the match.

That summed up France's World Cup campaign.



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Hosts switch support

AFP, Bloemfontein

England, Brazil, or Argentina? South Africa fans are split on which team they will switch their allegiances to following the demise of their beloved Bafana Bafana.

The home supporters dared to dream during their match with France on Tuesday in Bloemfontein when South Africa surged into a 2-0 lead with the scoreline in the other Group A clash between Mexico and Uruguay also going in their favour.

But despite a brave effort by their side in downing the 1998 world champions 2-1, they saw their dreams die, becoming the first host nation to crash out at the first stage of a World Cup.

Now the yellow-clad supporters who were roaring on their team at the Free State stadium are lining up behind other sides left in the tournament. "Generally I'm an English supporter

because of all the soccer we see. It's always been the Premier League we've seen most over the years," said Rashaad Domingo, who had travelled from Cape Town for the match.

"We also like Portugal and Brazil and

the way they play their soccer," said Domingo, an avid Manchester United fan.

Dany Chung, originally from Mauritius but who now lives in South Africa, is also transferring his allegiances to Fabio Capello's men. "After Bafana I support England," said

the Liverpool supporter, who also said he liked watching Argentina play. Page Makhalemele said he was disappointed that African teams had not

done better in the first World Cup on the continent's soil, saying he would like to see Diego Maradona's Argentina go all the way. "Brazil will win but I want the competition to go to [Lionel] Messi and would like to see Diego Maradona lift the trophy for

Argentina as a coach," said the vuvuzela-

wielding Makhalemele. Marco Badenhorst is also a fan of the two-times winners "because Messi is very good and they play great football" but his brother Fredre is putting his money on Dunga's Brazil

"For me the second team I'm going to support is Brazil. The style that Brazil play is almost the same as South Africa play. South Africa has not perfected what Brazil are doing," said Mokete Mekhoe.

Argentina have also caught his eye but his verdict on England, who struggled in their first two games, is that are a "team of big names and since the beginning of the tournament haven't gelled.'

Brazil. "They're one of the biggest names

and have done well so far. Also, they usu-

Meiring Vanderbergh is also backing

ally score goals and they are are a team to support." Amanda Geldart also wants to see the five-time winners do well but is disappointed with what she has seen from England so far "because I thought they

were a really good team." American Susan Darby wants to see the United States go all the way and Thomas Porotloane is gunning for Germany. "They are a good team, strong in defence and good at counter-

Despite the demise of the Bafana Bafana, South African President Jacob Zuma, who met the team in the dressing room after the match with France, said they had done the country proud.

attacking," he said.

"It would have been great to have Bafana Bafana progress to the next stage, but their exit doesn't mean the end of the tournament," said Zuma.

Henin, Clijsters sail

AFP, London



winners Justine Henin retirement. and Kim Clijsters breezed into the third round of Wimbledon on Wednesday as men's

champion Roger Federer prepared to reassert his authority after a rocky start. Henin, making her first appearance at

the All England Club since 2007 after coming back from retirement, is chasing the one Grand Slam title she never won, having twice been a beaten finalist here. But the 17th seed wasted little time in

downing Germany's Kristina Barrois 6-3, 7-5 on Court Two to set up a third-round tie with either Russian 12th seed Nadia Petrova or Taiwan's Chan Yung-Jan.

Henin admitted she still needed time to Meanwhile eighth seed Clijsters, the

US Open champion, beat Croatia's

adjust to the swing of Grand Slam tennis.

Clijsters is making her first appearance Belgian Grand Slam at Wimbledon in four years after a spell in The former world number one now faces either Russia's Maria Kirilenko, the

Karolina Sprem 6-3, 6-2 on Court One.

27th seed, or America's Shenay Perry. As the second round of matches got underway, Federer, who came back from two sets down to reach the second round,

was to face Serbian qualifier Ilija Bozoljac on Court One. The Swiss would normally expect to be playing on Centre Court, but Wimbledon

organisers seem to be giving fans without the showpiece venue tickets a chance to see the big favourites. Britain's Andy Murray has also been

shifted out to the smaller, 11,400-seater bowl. Beforehand on Court One, Australia's Lleyton Hewitt, the 15th seed here and 2002 men's champion, was due to play

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31 Parched

35 Luxury

36 Jewish

Greatest"

market

section

Evgeny Korolev of Kazakhstan. On Centre Court, last year's beaten

40

PHDZG

PXBII

NQHZG

men's finalist Andy Roddick, the US fifth seed, was opening proceedings against France's Michael Llodra, who is being coached by 2006 Wimbledon winner Amelie Mauresmo.

Venus Williams, the five-time Wimbledon champion and the second seed here, was then to face Ekaterina Markova of Russia.

Serbia's Novak Djokovic, the third seed, takes on American Taylor Dent.

Djokovic was involved in the latest ever finish at Wimbledon when he finally saw off Belgium's Olivier Rochus in five sets under the Centre Court lights and roof on Monday at 10:58 pm, with two minutes to spare before play would have had to have been suspended.

French 11th seed Marion Bartoli, who lost to Venus Williams in the 2007 Wimbledon final, was the first person through to the third round after her Croatian opponent Petra Martic pulled out.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 37 Albanian 56 Improve, 20 "EI

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CRYPTOQUIP

42 43

AKG EIYYF, H

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN AN ATTEMPT TO SOLVE THE ART THIEVES' CRIMES, INVESTIGATORS ARE PLANNING TO CANVAS THE AREA.

WQGPP H'X B ZHOGF PHWKAGF.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals M

Y D

Premier Div Hockey League Mohammedan v Ajax SC Time: 2:30pm Sonali Bank v Wari Club Time: 4:30pm Venue: Maulana Bhasani Nationa

Hockey Stadium