

Friendship can wait

AFP, Pretoria

Bayern Munich's Argentinian central defender Martin Demichelis will set friendships aside on Saturday when he faces Germany in the World Cup quarterfinals as he tries to make the most of a chance he thought had passed him by.

Demichelis may have made Munich his second home since 2003 - his superb season last term pushing him to the front of the queue of Argentinian central defenders - but he will put club affiliations aside when he faces Philipp Lahm, Bastian Schweinsteiger, Thomas Mueller and Miroslav Klose.

He had already made his intentions clear even before the friendly between the two sides in Munich back in March which Argentina won 1-0.

"I am sorry for them (his Bayern Munich teammates), but I want to win and if I have to tackle them, I will do so," said the defender fondly known as 'Micho'.

Preparation paying off

INTERNET

Brazil are often hailed for their outstanding technique and breathtaking individual talent but the five-times world champions are also among the leaders when it comes to preparation.

While a number of European teams have looked jaded in South Africa, Brazil, who have undergone a meticulous training programme since the squad assembled in late May, still look fresh and raring to go.

In fact, coach Dunga says his biggest job is to get his players to take it easy.

"These lads love to train and to be with the ball," he told reporters after his team demolished Chile 3-0 to reach the quarterfinals.

"But we have to try and put the brakes on their enthusiasm. At this point in the competition, our main job is to make sure they relax and recover so they are fit for the next game."

"We are slowing down the training so the players devote their energy to the games themselves."

"Some people don't understand that we have to slow down the rhythm of training, have a special nutrition programme, tell them to go to bed early and not stay up until late on the computer."

"This is a very well-planned campaign," he added. "Every aspect has been well-thought out, including the physical side and the medical side."

Brazil have long been ahead of the pack in terms of preparation.

Back in 1958, they broke new ground by taking doctors, a dentist and a sports psychologist to the World Cup in Sweden, where they won the first of their five world titles.

At the 1970 World Cup in Mexico, Brazil seemed hardly bothered by the altitude and midday heat thanks to their preparation while eight years ago in Japan and South Korea, they looked fresh while other teams - notably Argentina and France - overdid the warm-up and looked exhausted.

Dunga said one of the biggest challenges this time was to get striker Luis Fabiano and playmaker Kaka back to peak fitness after injury-plagued seasons in Spain.

"They weren't worn out but, on the other hand, they didn't have any rhythm," he said. "We had to set up a tailor-made programme for them."

"Kaka hadn't played a full 90 minutes in the last five months, so we had to build him up to allow him to play. But we didn't have much time, so this made it complicated."

A style of his own

INTERNET

When it comes to charisma, not many soccer coaches can rival Argentina's Diego Maradona. But a deep discussion over tactics? Not the man's style.

"Great one, you beast!" you often hear Maradona shouting affectionately at a player during training. Even when a shot balloons over the crossbar, he bubbles with the same infectious enthusiasm.

His critics, who called him a naive tactician in the buildup to the World Cup, could be made to eat their words if Argentina continues its impressive form in South Africa and wins a third title.

The Albiceleste have won four matches in a row, scoring 10 goals - and the tally would've been far higher but for some excellent goalkeeping by their opponents.

Maradona says he himself preferred to be a free spirit as a player. As a result he intentionally won't tell Argentina's latest global superstar - Lionel Messi - what to do.

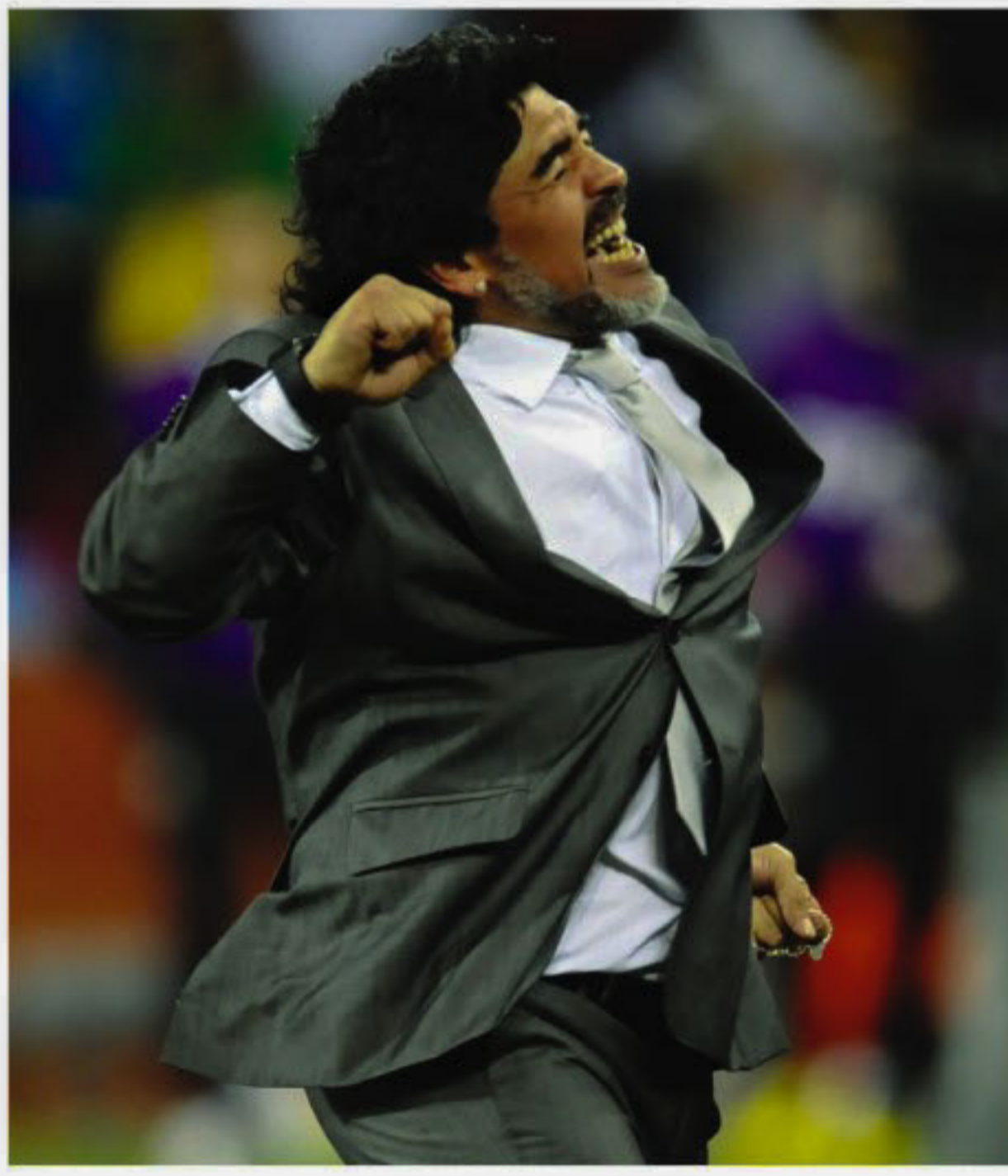
"I went to tell Messi (at Barcelona) that nobody ever told me where to play. So, I shouldn't have to tell Messi where to play either," said Maradona.

included him on his squad out of sentimentality - or as a lucky charm - after the Boca Juniors striker scored a last-gasp goal that more or less sealed Argentina's qualification for the 2010 World Cup.

With Argentina struggling

smoking Cesar Menotti, who led the nation to the title eight years earlier.

When Maradona got the Argentina job, Bilardo was brought in to help on tactics. But the pair immediately fell out and, even though they're



DIEGO MARADONA

"It was up to him to decide where to play. He's a grown-up. I did it back in my era and now it's his turn."

The former Argentine captain - for some the best player of all time - has embraced and kissed his players before all the matches in South Africa.

And it seems as though he's kicking every ball in his mind when prowling around the coaches area wearing a suit.

The players seem to be thriving.

Martin Palermo, Argentina's 36-year-old fifth-choice striker, is a case in point. Many thought Maradona

to break down Greece in the final group game, Maradona was told by his assistants to bring on Gonzalo Higuain.

Instead, he chose Palermo, who within minutes got on the scoresheet.

The advice from Maradona as Palermo ran onto the field?

"I said, Get out there. Finish this match for me."

It's a far cry from the tactically astute and results-driven approach of Carlos Bilardo, who coached Argentina to World Cup success in 1986. Not to mention the almost obsessively philosophical and romantic vision of soccer advocated by the chain-

both at the World Cup, it's thought that Maradona is reluctant to listen to his advice.

Whether Maradona's approach will work when Argentina comes up against tactically savvy Germany in this weekend's quarterfinal is another matter.

And it's sure to be troubling thenation.

Asked by an Argentine journalist after the 3-1 defeat of Mexico on Sunday how he would approach the Germans, Maradona snapped, "Let me enjoy this match. Why think of Germany? How about you name the players YOU want."

'Chile lacked punch'

AFP, Johannesburg

Chile coach Marcelo Bielsa admitted his side lacked the necessary punch to trouble Brazil on Monday after they were beaten 3-0 in and exited the World Cup.

Brazil have now set up a mouth-watering quarterfinal against the Dutch in Port Elizabeth on Friday while Chile licked their wounds after a sixth successive loss to their South American rivals.

"I had hoped we would have got closer to Brazil, it wasn't such a one-way match, we had some good chances coming down the right side, but we lacked the necessary punch to convert dangerous situations into goals," said Bielsa.

"We weren't able to attack with a real hunger for goals, we tried to score, we got close, but had few genuine chances to score."

After nearly three years in charge, the Argentinian said now is not the time to decide whether he will continue as Chile coach.

After guiding Chile to South Africa, their first World Cup finals since France 1998, a disappointed Bielsa said he will wait before deciding his future.

"The situation is not right for an evaluation," he said. "You can never leave such a tournament without a feeling of disappointment, you would give anything to continue, I just feel sad and disappointed. I am sorry."

The Argentinian admitted his side were always playing catch-up against Brazil.

"The players made a huge effort to showcase their talent and prove their worth," said the 54-year-old.

"Right or wrong, we tried to impose our methods within the idea of some noble play."

"We fought hard, but it was a good and valuable performance, it is sad to know we are not in the tournament any longer."

"We have seen that it was difficult for us to get the ball towards the players who were free, where the spaces were open."

"But Brazil were quick to open up every crack in our defence."

"It is very hard when you are behind against Brazil, they take a corner and they have players queuing up, they have four men who can head the ball well and you never know where the attack is coming from."

"It is difficult to adapt when a team has such a huge advantage."

Bielsa admitted the gulf in class between his side and the star-studded Brazilians was too great to bridge.



A Brazil fan from Rio de Janeiro is all decked out as she watches her team win 3-0 against Chile in the Round of 16 match on Monday.

Liberty works for 'em

AFP, Johannesburg

Robinho celebrated his first goal at the World Cup and a man-of-the-match performance as Brazil cruised past Chile and into the quarterfinals on Monday.

The five-time champions spanked their South American rivals 3-0 with defender Juan and striker Luis Fabiano also on the scoresheet.

Robinho featured in the build-up to Luis Fabiano's 38th-minute strike and then splendidly finished a chance created for him by a surging midfield run from Ramires on 59 minutes.

Robinho's form is a big plus for coach Dunga as Brazil remained unbeaten after four games in South Africa.

"I am very happy with both the goal and the victory," the on-loan Santos attacker said.

"If I am able to be the top scorer that will be fine, but I am focused on us doing well as a team."

Dunga said Robinho, Luis Fabiano and former world player of the year Kaka were being given freedom to attack from any part of the pitch.

"I have said the players have the liberty to play, I try to give them advice to guide them so when we know the midfield is closed we attack down the flanks," the 1994 World Cup-winning skipper said.

"We are fortunate to have players who can interchange quickly, as the Chileans packed the midfield, Kaka moved more down the flanks as did Robinho."

"We have a group of players who have a great range of skills and we allow them to perform at their peak."

While Kaka is working his way back into form after a thigh injury, Robinho has been one of Brazil's best in South Africa, using his acceleration and verve to pose problems for opposing defences.

Blatter says sorry

AFP, Johannesburg

England and Mexico received a fulsome apology from FIFA President Sepp Blatter on Tuesday over refereeing errors during their World Cup last 16 matches and announced FIFA would discuss the introduction of goal-line technology at a meeting next month in Cardiff.

The Swiss was reacting to two incidents on Sunday when England's Frank Lampard had a goal disallowed even though it was clearly over the line in the clash with Germany which would have made it 2-2. The Germans went on to win 4-1.

Mexico were also left aggrieved when Argentinian striker Carlos Tevez was clearly offside when he scored their first goal and it was made worse when the incident was shown on the big screen.

Referee Roberto Rosetti was unable to disallow the goal as he is forbidden to take into account such evidence. Argentina went on to win 3-1.

"Personally I deplore it when you see evident referee mistakes but it's not the end of a competition or the end of football, this can happen," said Blatter.

"The only thing I can do is yesterday I have spoken to the two federations (England and Mexico) directly concerned by referees' mistakes."

"I have expressed to them apologies and I understand they are not happy and that people are criticising."

"I apologised to England and Mexico. The English said 'thank you' and accepted that you can win (some) and you lose (some), and the Mexicans bowed their head and accepted it."

Blatter said that the only technology that would be discussed would be goal-line technology which would have made no difference to the Mexican game or indeed to the incident when Thierry Henry's handball set up what proved to be the crucial goal in the France v Ireland World Cup play-off last November.

"The only principle we are going to bring back for discussion is goal-line technology," said Blatter.

"Football is a game that never stops and the moment there was a discussion if the ball was in or out, or there was a goal-scoring opportunity, do we give a possibility to a team to call for replays once or twice like in tennis?"

Octopus scare for Argentina

AFP, Oberhausen

An octopus in Germany that has shot to fame for correctly predicting the result of all of the country's World Cup matches so far on Tuesday forecasted a win over Argentina in the quarterfinals.

Two plastic boxes containing tasty morsels, one with a Germany flag and one with an Argentina flag, were lowered into the tank that houses Paul the octopus at its home in Sea Life in Oberhausen, western Germany.

Watched by a scrum of photographers, Paul plumped for Diego Maradona's all-stars crashing out to Joachim Loew's side in Saturday's eagerly anticipated encounter.

Earlier in the tournament, the eight-legged oracle correctly tipped Germany to beat Ghana and Australia in their group D matches and was also right to predict they would lose to Serbia.

And even though it was born in England, the octopus also teacherously but correctly foretold Germany's win over its native country in their last-16 clash on Sunday.

The Daily Star

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PRIZES UP FOR GRABS (ROUNDS 1-5)				PRIZES FOR BUMPER ROUND			
Prize	Item	Winner	Prize	Item	Winner		
1st	One 8 CFTT Toshiba Refrigerator	YOU	1st	One Toshiba 32" LCD TV	YOU		
2nd	One Toshiba 24" LCD TV	YOU	2nd	One 15CFTT Toshiba Refrigerator	YOU		
3rd	One Toshiba 21" Colour TV	YOU	3rd	One Toshiba Heat & Cool AC (1Ton)	YOU		
4th	One Toshiba 21" Colour TV	YOU	4th	One Toshiba 24" LCD TV	YOU		
5th	One Toshiba Microwave Oven (23L)	and YOU	5th	One 21" Toshin Colour TV	and YOU		

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. 21" Toshin Colour TV
3rd. 3 Toshiba DVD Players	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 5 Ends July 02, 2010

Tick (✓) the correct answers

1. How many goals did Fernando Torres score in WC qualifying? 0 1 5

2. How many teams participated in the first World Cup in 1930? 12 16 13

3. Which was the first team to not score in the World Cup final? Germany Netherlands Argentina

4. Who is the only player to have scored goals for two different teams in the World Cup finals? Suker Prosinecki Stankovic

5. Who is this player? Bolatti De Rossi Podolski

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.
Sylhet readers can also drop entries at Rangs Toshiba Showroom, Dorga Gate, Sylhet.
You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 5".

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THE MARINE SOOTHSAYER: Paul, the octopus, swims past two boxes containing Germany and Argentina flags at the Sea Life aquarium in Oberhausen yesterday. After hesitating a while, Paul decided again on the box that contained Germany's flag.