## A mouth-watering battle

AFP, Paris

They have seen offold adversaries England without even needing penalties, but Germany can now look forward to an equally intense showdown with another old foe in the shape of Argentina.

Both nations have a rivalry going back decades with the English, and the Argentinians, of course, will later hope to duel with giant neighbours Brazil in the final. Yet Saturday's showdown, which will

have millions glued to television screens from Buenos Aires to Berlin, comes wrapped in tournament history. The Germans saw off the Albiceleste 3-1

in their first meeting at the 1958 event, ahead of a goalless draw in 1966 on their way to a final loss to England.

Franz Beckenbauer played in that match and had graduated to the dugout when the Argentinians beat his German team 20 years later in a Mexico final that saw Diego Maradona inspire his side to a thrilling 3-2 win.

Four years later and the boot was on the other foot as a tough-tackling Argentina lost in the decider of the 1990 tournament to an Andreas Brehme penalty, leaving Maradona fuming after a bad-tempered showdown.

In 2006, Juergen Klinsmann's new-look

German side-slipped through a quarterfinal meeting on penalties after over-cautious counterpart Jose Pekerman better football," he said.

elected to leave Lionel Messi on the bench. With Messi now the fulcrum of a side that looks unbeatable for pure fire-power, Maradona stands three games away from emulating Beckenbauer as the only man to have skippered and then coached a country to World Cup glory.

And el pibe de oro (the golden kid) is now bristling with confidence as he looks to show the world that he is more than just a dugout side-show.

"I feel like pulling on the jersey and playing myself," Maradona admitted after his charges beat Mexico 3-1 in the round of 16.

"They said I had no idea about how to coach, but suddenly I am winning matches and I am still the same guy."

Amid media speculation that he still does not know his best line-up, Maradona says confidently: "We will send out the best team to showcase our talents against Germany. We know Germany are a different team to Mexico. They are stronger, but

we will field the right players to beat them." Argentine daily Clarin says Argentina must now face German "tanks", but inform striker Carlos Tevez says the South Americans do not fear Germany despite their three titles and the fact they've not

failed to reach the last eight since 1938. "I was more afraid of Mexico -- they play

"(Germany) won their game and so reached the quarters, but they are not better than Argentina.'

German striker Miroslav Klose, who helped rip England apart just as Maradona did in 1986, will win his 100th cap for the Germans and is looking forward to boosting his international goal tally, which now stands at 50.

And he begs to disagree with Tevez.

"Argentina are a class up from England, but we can hurt them with our tactics and we have to believe in ourselves," says the 32year-old, whose opening goal in the 4-1 win over England was his 12th at the World Cup-- taking him level with no less than Pele.

Maradona's men endured a shambolic qualifying campaign, not least when they went down 6-1 in Bolivia.

But after getting through more than 100 players in Maradona's 19-month tenure, the record books at the finals show only two goals in the goals against column -both consolation strikes, for South Korea in the group and then Mexico.

Ten goals scored in four games tell their own story, while the health of the Argentine attack is demonstrated by the fact that not one was netted by Senor Messi.



Netherlands players wave at photographers trying to capture a training session closed to media in Johannesburg yesterday. The Dutch take on Brazil in the first quarterfinal on Friday.

## Spain hitting their stride

AFP, Cape Town

Spain are finally hitting their stride after crushing Portuguese hopes in a 1-0 round of 16 victory, with Paraguay the next target on their World Cup radar.

The European champions have long been fancied as a strong contender to win their first ever World Cup, but an opening defeat against Switzerland dented their prospects.

Coach Vicente Del Bosque blamed the hiccup on anxiety and they bounced back to defeat Chile and Honduras before David Villa put their Iberian arch-rivals Portugal to the sword late on Tuesday.

Playmaker Xavi, who was named manof-the-match, said it was their best performance so far.

"We were on top of our game," he said. "Especially in the second half, when

we had control of the ball and played our best football. The goal did us a power of good and that's when we started hitting top form.

"Basically, we enjoyed our football. It was the best match we have played in the World Cup."

Spain had a second-half Villa strike to thank for their victory, with the in-form Barcelona forward grabbing his fourth goal of the tournament, chipping a rebound over goalkeeper Eduardo after his first shot was saved.

"Portugal were very tight at the back and their keeper was in great form," said Villa.

"They didn't make it easy for us, but I got one sight on goal and luckily it was

Johannesburg after the South Americans

beat Japan 5-3 in a penalty shoot-out following their 0-0 draw.

If Spain overcome that hurdle then Argentina or Germany await them in the semifinals, although Del Bosque is only looking ahead one match at a time.

"The match was extremely intense," he said of the Portugal encounter.

"It was quite even in the first half, but we always controlled the game and in the

second half we were better than them. "We had greater depth but it was a difficult game and our rivals were

extremely solid." He added that it would be a mistake to underestimate a Paraguay team playing in its first-ever World Cup quarterfinal.

"We shall not underestimate Paraguay Next up is Paraguay on Saturday in and prepare for them with great respect," he said.

#### Ghana won't Tevez embodies switch style Argentine spirit The Black Stars are looking to

REUTERS, Pretoria

INTERNET, Undated

of the tournament.

teams in the world.

player.

become the first African

nation to reach the World Cup

semifinals when they face

Oscar Tabarez's men on July 2.

Rajevac says his side will not

change the style of play that

has seen them reach this stage

impressive," he said. "They

have to be one of the best

respect and Forlan is a fine

has brought success so far."

"Uruguay have been very

"They deserve every

"But we will play the way that

But Ghana coach Milovan

Carlos Tevez, Argentina's man of the people, has embodied the determination of his country to win a third World Cup.

"I want the Cup and let no one take it from me," said Tevez, who enjoys a popularity with Argentina's fans akin to that of

coach Diego Maradona. The commitment of the player who, like Maradona rose from a tough Buenos Aires shanty town, shone through with his twogoal performance in the 3-1 second round win over Mexico four days ago.

But Tevez, known by those closest to him as Carlitos, was not sure of his place in Maradona's side until the final build-up to the tournament.

He is the first to recognise he had a poor qualifying campaign in which he was sent off twice and missed a penalty away to Ecuador. Tevez worked hard to regain Maradona's confidence and was

rewarded when the coach came to the conclusion he could not leave him out.

"It's tough to leave Carlitos out," Maradona had said in Buenos Aires before Argentina left for South Africa. A tactical switch freed up a place in attack and Tevez has

slotted into a trident with Lionel Messi and Gonzalo Higuain. "Diego came to my room one day and told me 'I know you're

going to be brilliant'", Tevez told the Argentina Sports daily Ole. World Player of the Year Messi has yet to get off the mark but Higuain and Tevez have contributed six of Argentina's 10 goals.

### **Iberians** begin to dream

AFP, Madrid

Spain's hopes of lifting their first World Cup and adding it to their European crown gained all round approval from the previously sceptical Spanish media on Wednesday following the 1-0 win over Iberian rivals Portugal in their Last 16 match on Tuesday.

"Spain begins to dream" was the headline in El Pais, while ABC said that the "dream stays alive."

Spain's goalscorer David Villa, who took his tally to a joint top mark of four in the finals and edged him ever closer to all-time Spanish marksman Raul as his total went to 42 just two shy of the Real Madrid icon, received special praise.

"Villa relaunches Spain's dream," was the headline in El Mundo, beside a photograph of the Barcelona striker at the moment of the goal.

2nd. 21" Toshin Colour TV

3rd. 20L Toshin Microwave Woven

4th. Two Toshiba DVD Players

#### 11 June - 11 July 2010 **World Cup 2010 South Africa** June 28 - 1830 GMT June 29 - 1830 GMT 1 Rustenburg 2 3 Johannesburg EP\*\* 0 1 Cape Town 0 (5-3 pens) Pretoria 0 2 Port Elizabeth 1 4 Bloemfontein 1 3 Johannesburg SC+ 1 Durban July 2 - 1830 GMT Quarter-finals Quarter-finals Johannesburg SC\*-Port Elizabeth Johannesburg EP\*\*-July 6 - 1830 GMT uly 7 - 1830 GMT Semi-finals Stade Neison Mandela Ba Durban uly 10 - 1830 GM1 July 11 - 1830 GMT for 3rd place

# Poster boys fail to shine

Johannesburg SC\*

REUTERS, Johannesburg

\*SC: Soccer City \*\* EP: Ellis Park

Images of Wayne Rooney, Cristiano Ronaldo and Samuel Eto'o are still festooned on posters all over South Africa -but sadly for them that's their only involvement as the World Cup reaches its final stages.

Along with the likes of Didier Drogba of Ivory Coast,

ROONEY

Lionel Messi of Argentina and

Fernando Torres of Spain, they

were supposed to score goals,

lead by example and have a

battle royal to prove them-

player.

without scoring a goal, and Torres, who has had an indifferent tournament without scoring either, are still involved with Argentina facing Germany in their quarterfinal and Spain playing Paraguay in theirs.

They still have time to leave an indelible mark on this World Cup but the chance has

form Rooney would lead England to the semi-finals at

Rooney though, was never on form, played without a smile as if he would rather be anywhere else, and although he came close to a goal in England's final Group C match against Slovenia, he had a miserable sullen cam-

DROGBA

It was summed up by a

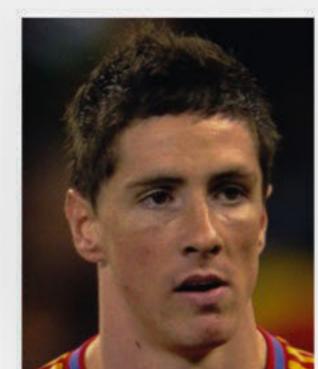
during England's 4-1 second

long dry spell for the national side with a comical late goal.

Port Elizabeth

With Portugal's defensive approach in the final group game against Brazil, the winger saw little of the ball and, excepting the odd useful pass, his threat was nullified by imposing centre back

The second round tie



**TORRES** 

against the Spaniards offered Ronaldo a great chance to shine but Portugal's direct method to counter their opponents' passing game left him with little service and his main chance came from a fierce, swerving free kick that Iker Casillas struggled to defend.

able to make darting runs and

sourly after he told journalists statement.

Spain's Torres came in direct opposition to Ronaldo on Tuesday, with coach Vicente del Bosque deploying him in a two-pronged attack with strike partner David Villa.

After returning from knee surgery shortly before the tournament, he has been totally outshone by Villa, who has netted four in four matches to draw to within two of Raul's national scoring record of 44.

Torres looks to be lacking the pace and strength that have made him such a terror for defenders in the past and is a shadow of the player who scored the brilliant winning goal in the Euro 2008 final against Germany.

Prize

information and rules)

"It's not easy coming back after an operation," the 26year-old said last weekend. "I think I still have a little way to go before I am back at 100 percent, although I am close."

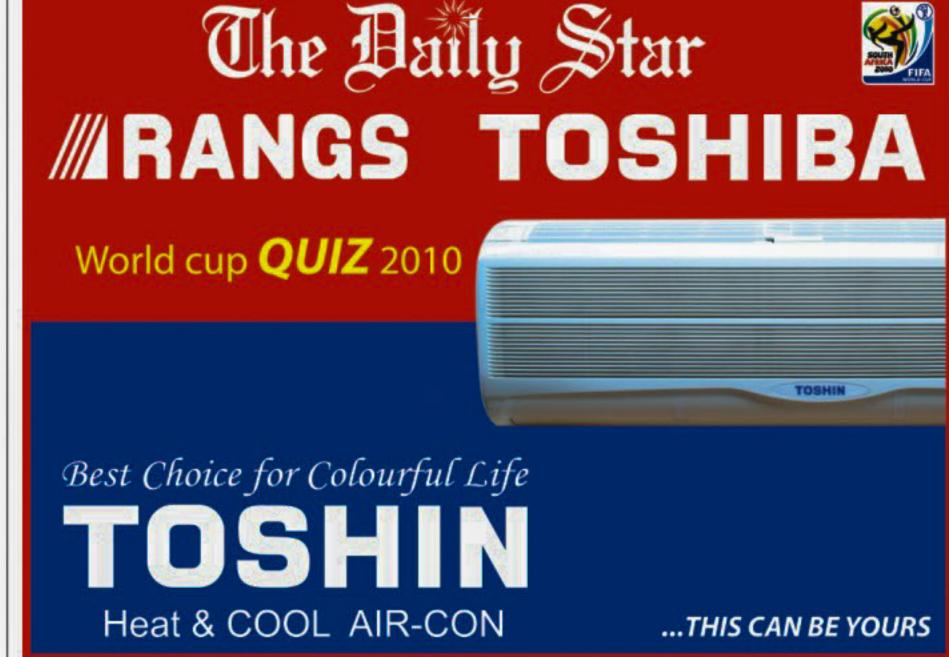
Torres at least, like Messi, is still involved. Messi, the World Player of the Year, has had a series of excellent games with Argentina seemingly on course for a final showdown with Brazil.

Of all the "poster boys" Messi still has the chance to etch his name on the finals just as Diego Maradona did in 1986. The two big African stars of

the pre-tournament build-up had moderate successes, even though their teams failed to survive the group stage.

Drogba played with a protective cast for Ivory Coast after fracturing his arm before the tournament, and at least had the satisfaction of becoming the first African to score a goal against Brazil in the World Cup when he netted in their 3-1 defeat at Soccer City.

aged to get on the scoresheet twice before his side also exited at the group stage. They never came close to emulating the 1990 Roger Milla campaign and will be remembered among the footnotes when the story of this tournament is



#### ROUND 5 DRAW IN SYLHET ON JULY 06

	HOUND O, DILAW IN OTEHER ON OUL! OU										
PRIZES UP FOR GRABS (ROUNDS 1-5)			PRIZES FOR BUMPER ROUND								
	Item One 8 CFT Toshiba Refrigerator One Toshin 24" LCD TV One Toshiba 21" Colour TV One Toshin 21" Colour TV	Winner YOU YOU YOU YOU	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	One Toshiba 32" LCDTV One 15CFT Toshiba Refrigerato One Toshin Heat & Cool AC (1To One Toshin 24" LCDTV	r n)	Winner YOU YOU YOU YOU					
	One Toshin Microwave Oven (23L) and YOU  (See May 23 issue of the Star Sport for competition		Pri (Fo	One 21"Toshin ColourTV  zes for the audience or First Five Rounds)  L Toshin Microwave Oven	Prizes for the audie (For Bumper Roun 1st. Toshiba Washing Machi	d)					

2nd. 14" Toshin Colour TV

3rd. 3 Toshiba DVD Players

**QUIZ SCHEDULE** Round & Draw Ends Answers must reach by 12pm Lucky Draw for prizes 4. Khulna June 15 June 23 June 25 June 29 Sylhet June 24 July 02 July 04 July 06 July 13 **Bumper Round, Dhaka** July 03 July 16 The Pally Star -RANGS TOSHIRA World Cup Quiz Round 5 Fnds July 02 2010

Tick ( $\checkmark$ ) the co			,,,,,,,
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
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". READ The Daily Star TO CATCH THE WORLD CUP FEVER

AROMATIC PHILIPS FREE TRANSCOM

gone, for at least another four years, for Rooney and wild, ludicrous "shot" at goal Ronaldo. For Drogba, who will be 36 in 2014 and Eto'o, who round defeat to Germany in will be 33, the chance may selves as the world's best have gone for good. Rooney undoubtedly had The build-up to the tourna-

ETO'O

It did not quite work out the worst World Cup of the lot.

Messi, who has had an ment in England was domi-

sense and simplicity

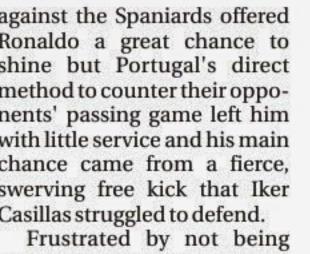
**PHILIPS** 

Bloemfontein when his effort appeared to be heading for the landlocked nation of Lesotho

80 miles away rather than the back of the German net. excellent tournament so far nated by stories of how an-in His old Manchester United team mate Cristiano Ronaldo, the world's most expensive player, also rarely rose above

> the mediocre. He came close to starting the tournament in glory with a long-distance strike that crashed against the Ivory Coast post and was mostly ineffective for the rest of that game.

He did shine, though, in the 7-0 rout of the North Koreans, firing shots against the bar, the side netting and the keeper as well as making some delightful passes and breaking his



with his free kicks mostly flying into the stands, Ronaldo spent most of the tournament His tournament ended

to "speak to Carlos Queiroz" when asked to explain the loss to Spain and then had to retract the comments in a

Cameroonian Eto'o man-

recalled in the history books.