

Dutch stun Brazil

Uruguay ends Ghana's dream

REUTERS, Port Elizabeth

Wesley Sneijder headed a second-half winner as Netherlands battled back from a goal down to beat ten-man Brazil 2-1 on Friday and secure a place in the World Cup semifinals.

Brazil, the five-times champions, took a 10th minute lead through Robinho and dominated the first-half against a Dutch team which initially looked outclassed.

But the Dutch levelled out of the blue in the 53rd minute after a rare mistake from Brazil's usually impenetrable defence, as Felipe Melo headed Sneijder's cross into his own goal.

Then Sneijder headed a winner as the Dutch, battling to their 13th successive World Cup win to maintain a perfect record in the qualifiers and finals, avenged a quarterfinal defeat in 1994 and a semifinal defeat four years later.

"In the changing-room at half-time, everyone said to each other 'let's give everything' and that's what we did. We fought for each other," Sneijder told a television reporter after the match.

"In the second half, we put a lot of pressure on their defence and to score twice was fantastic."

He added: "We're in the last four of the world. To beat Brazil 2-1 in the quarterfinal, you have to be pleased with that. But in the next days, we will have to get our heads in focus again."

Dutch coach

Bert van Marwijk said the comeback showed how mentally strong his team were.

"In the first 20 minutes, I was happy that the score was only 1-0, and I told Frank (assistant Frank de Boer) that we still have a chance. In the second half we showed how good we are," he said.

"Tonight we're going to party and then start and fight again."

Brazil had started brightly with Felipe Melo, returning from an ankle injury which kept him out of the second round match against Chile, setting up the first goal after 10 minutes of the clash at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium.

He threaded a 30-metre pass through the Dutch midfield and Robinho timed his run perfectly to score with a first-time shot past Maarten Stekelenburg.

The game turned niggly, although Brazil managed to produce a some flowing moves and should have extended their lead.

Juan volleyed over from close range after a jinking run on the right by Dani Alves and

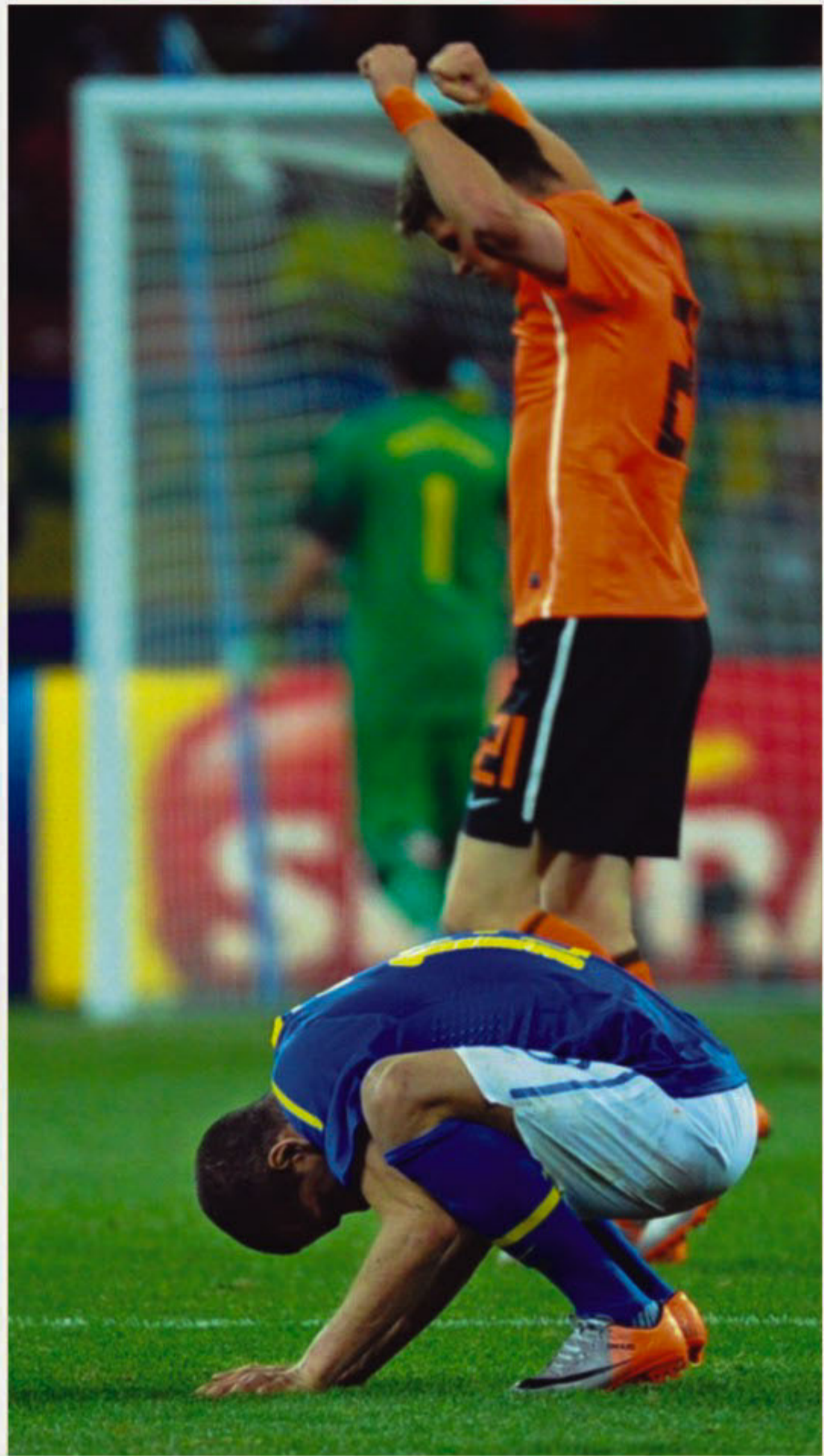


PHOTO: AFP

Stekelenburg produced a superb one-handed save to tip away Kaka's curling effort, following a dazzling Robinho run down the left.

Just before halftime, Maicon fired into the side-netting after Luis Fabiano rolled the ball into his path.

The Dutch rarely threatened with Arjen Robben far too predictable to outfox the Brazil rearguard.

But they levelled out of the blue eight minutes after the break when Felipe Melo touched Sneijder's looping cross-shot into his own net.

Kaka missed an excellent chance to put Brazil back ahead, side-footing wide from the edge of the area after the ball was gifted to him by a poor clearance.

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Netherlands striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar celebrates while Brazil defender Daniel Alves crouches on the pitch at the end of their World Cup quarterfinal match at Nelson Mandela Bay stadium in Port Elizabeth yesterday.

Another man dies in cop custody

3 such deaths in 5 days in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was allegedly killed under the capital's Darussalam police custody Thursday night.

The deceased was identified as Majibar Hossain, 45, a resident of the city's Baghbari.

This is the third such incident in the capital in four days.

The victim's family members alleged that police picked Majibar up Thursday evening from Savar area. They tortured him to death and dumped his body into river Turag.

Majibar's brother Ripon told The Daily Star that four policemen along with two informers caught him while he was returning home with his 11-year old son Iqbal from his father-in-law's house at Melartek.

Quoting Iqbal, Ripon said when his brother reached

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2,500 sued over clash in Munshiganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Assistant Police Super of Munshiganj Saifuzzaman Faruki was yesterday withdrawn from the district in connection with the police firing on agitating people Thursday.

Munshiganj Police Department yesterday assigned Additional Superintendent of Police Saiful Islam to probe the firing incident and asked him to submit the report within 24 hours.

Meanwhile, police filed a case Thursday night against around 2,500 unidentified people with Sirajdikhan Police Station in connection with vandalism and hindering police work.

The Dhaka range deputy

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QUIZZING OF MOJAHID, SAYEED

DB focuses on 'subversion' plot

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Detained Jamaat leaders Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid and Delwar Hossain Sayeede have been quizzed about an alleged plot to destabilise the government to prevent war crimes trial.

A top police official, who is in the interrogation team, told The Daily Star yesterday they questioned the two along that line as intelligence reports say Jamaat had tried to create anarchy cashing in on incidents like the BDR mutiny and violence in Rangamati and Khagrachhari.

The Jamaat duo kept mum when investigators produced some evidence of instigation in the hills unrest, added the official who would not be identified talking about the matter.

Earlier on Thursday, police took Mojahid and Sayeede to the Detective Branch headquarters for questioning in a case filed with the Paltan Police Station for violence and obstructing their work in February.

Along with Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Mojahid and Nayeb-

e-Ameer Sayeede were detained on June 29.

The following day they were placed on 16 days' remand in five cases.

Nizami has yet to face quizzing as he is reported to be sick in central jail.

During interrogation that ended on Thursday night, investigators asked Mojahid and Sayeede if Jamaat has been liaising with banned Islamist outfit Hizb-ut Tahrir to wage an anti-government propaganda campaign.

They also wanted to know whether they have any links to banned militant organisation Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh.

On both occasions, the Jamaat leaders replied in the negative.

To another query, they said they have nothing to do with those who have deserted Jamaat and joined JMB.

Shahidul Haque, officer-in-charge of Paltan Police Station, said interrogators grilled the Jamaat leaders about their alleged involvement in subversive activities during the June 27 hartal and the night before.

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ARREST OF JAMAAT LEADERS

BNP confused about its stance

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The emerging possibility that the three arrested Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami top brass might be prosecuted for war crimes, has put BNP in a quandary about how to participate in the movement for freeing its allied Islamist leaders.

The government's moves following the arrests of Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid, and Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayeede gave rise to a speculation among political circles that the three might be prosecuted for war crimes.

A majority of BNP leaders feel it would be wise for the party to be extremely cautious about extending all out support for war crime suspects likely to go on trial, said party insiders.

Although BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in a written statement on Thursday, condemned the arrests and demanded the trio's release after Jamaat had sought all out help from its key ally, BNP leaders are however divided over active participation in street demonstrations to free the three.

The BNP leaders do not want their party to be perceived by the public as one that extends support to war crime suspects, if by any chance events veer towards war crime trials.

They first want to wait and see whether the government has

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Investment conference on power sector today

UNB, Dhaka

The power ministry organises a daylong conference to attract investment in the country's power sector at the city's Sonargaon Hotel today.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith will inaugurate the conference, titled 'Investment in power sector of Bangladesh: Opportunities and Challenges', which is likely to be attended by a host of international investors.

Power division officials said they are organising the conference as a follow-up of the government's road-shows abroad that took place in London, New York and Singapore last year.

In the wake of nagging power and gas crisis, the government

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42 killed in Lahore suicide attack

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's second city Lahore was on high alert yesterday after two suicide bombers blew themselves up in an Islamic shrine packed with worshippers, killing 42 people and wounding scores more.

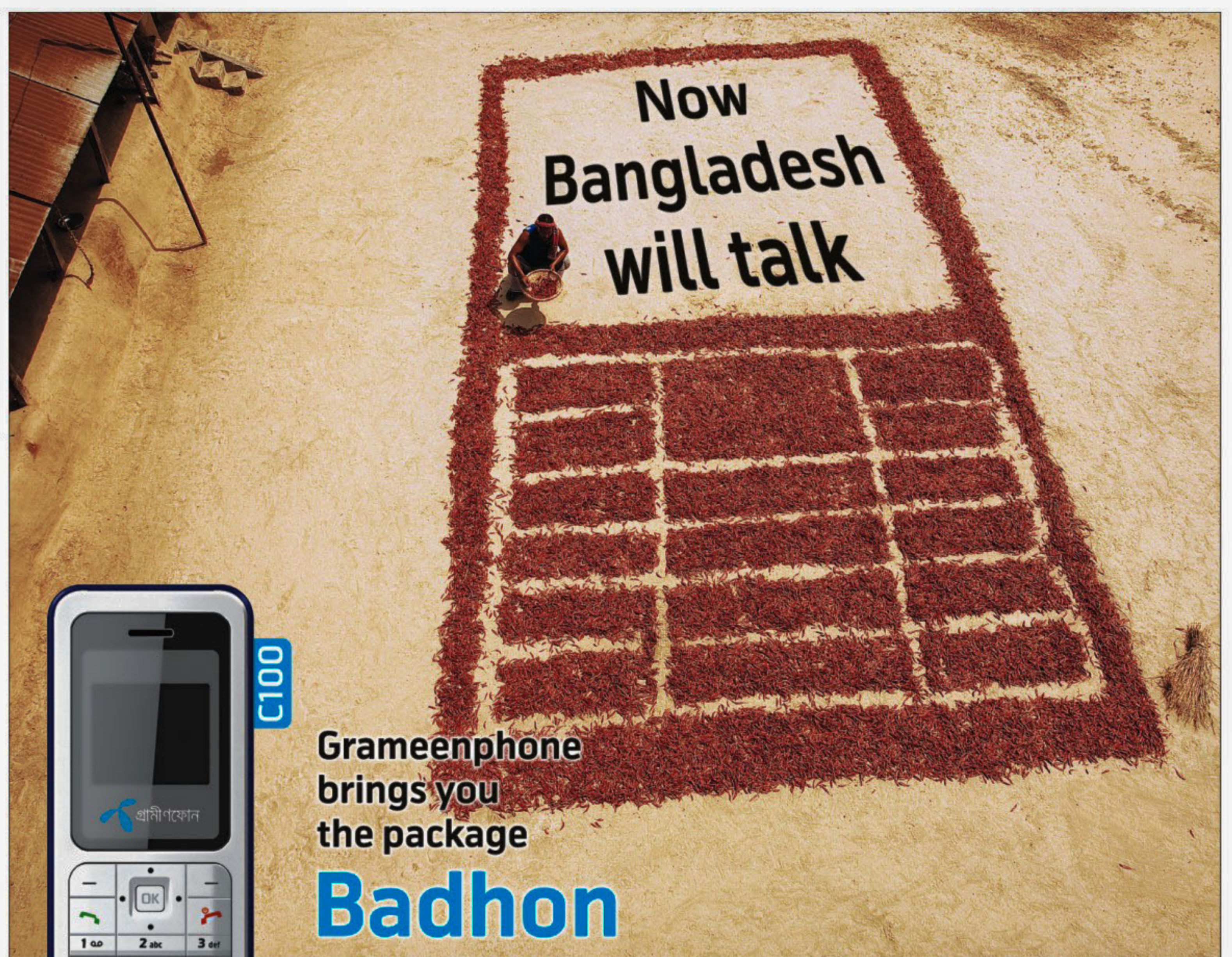
Pakistan's Taliban, which has been instrumental in a wave of deadly attacks blamed on Islamist militants over the past three years, denied it was involved in Thursday's bombing in the heart of the country's cultural capital.

Footage from the scene of the carnage at a shrine dedicated to a Sufi saint showed crowds of panicked worshippers fleeing in all directions as a huge blast sent clouds of smoke into the air.

"I saw dead bodies and injured people lying on the floor in pools of blood," said one witness.

Television pictures showed bloodied clothes strewn on the ground outside the heavily damaged shrine and people crying and beating their chests in despair.

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