

# My chapter has ended'

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Argentina coach Diego Maradona said his "chapter had ended" on Monday, although the country's local football association and a close friend told Reuters he had not resigned.

"It's done, my chapter has ended," Cronica newspaper quoted Maradona as saying, two days after Germany's resounding 4-0 win over Argentina in the World Cup quarterfinals. "I gave everything I had."

A spokesman for the Argentine Football Association (AFA) said Maradona had not officially resigned and that AFA President Julio Grondona would meet him after the World Cup had finished.

A close friend of Maradona's told Reuters: "I still can't confirm it, (the resignation) is something that's being discussed."

The friend said Maradona's decision would be announced during a press conference but he did not say when.

"Diego is at home with his family thinking this over," he said.

Maradona's assistant and former international team mate Alejandro Mancuso said he believed Maradona would continue as Argentina's coach.

"Knowing Diego it's hard to think that he'd step down after not reaching the goal of winning the World Cup," Mancuso told local radio. "We can't dismiss all the good things he's done."

Maradona returned to Buenos Aires along with the rest of the national team on Sunday, a day after Germany trounced Argentina to advance to the World Cup semifinals.

Argentines still suffering from their team's stunning loss debated whether Maradona should remain coach of the national squad.

In some online polls conducted by the country's main newspapers, most respondents say Maradona should quit.

But Maradona, who rose from a slum to win the 1986 World Cup and took over the team as coach in 2008, still has plenty of supporters.



SPAIN BEWARE: Germany's star midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger (L) and left-back Jerome Boateng do some leg-swings during a training session in Pretoria on Monday. The rampant Germans take on 2008 European champions Spain in tonight's semifinal.

# Bayern chiefs want Loew to stay

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich directors Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Uli Hoeness muscled into the ongoing debate over whether Joachim Loew should be offered a new contract by the German Football Federation (DFB) on Tuesday by saying that there was no alternative.

Rummenigge, who played in two World Cup finals in 1982 and 1986 losing to Italy and Argentina, told Bild that the vibrant and young German side - who play European champions Spain in Durban on Wednesday in their World Cup semifinal - had the chance to dominate football as the one of the 1970's had done but only if 50-year-old Loew was in charge.

"It would be an enormous mistake by the DFB not to extend the contract of Loew and the DFB must be prepared to pay foreign-style salaries," Rummenigge, the Bayern chairman, told the newspaper.

"There is no alternative to Loew. It is imperative that this team is not separated from its coach."

"They have the potential to play the starring role in world football like the Germany of Franz Beckenbauer and Gunter Netzer in the 1970's."

# Octopus chooses Spain

TELEGRAPH

Germany have been dealt a 'massive' blow to their World Cup chances after the psychic octopus, Paul, picked Spain to win their semifinal clash.

Paul has predicted all of Germany's World Cup results correctly so far, including wins against England and Argentina.

Paul even said that Serbia would beat Germany 1-0 in the group stage.

However, there is still a glimmer of hope for Germany. In all his years of making predictions, the only one Paul has ever got wrong was the Spain v Germany final at Euro 2008.

The octopus opted for Germany but Spain were the victors, winning 1-0.

German fans are now hoping the opposite will

happen and by picking Spain to win it will actually be Germany who come out on top.

Such is the popularity that surrounds the octopus the German news channel n-tv actually broadcasted its Germany-Spain prediction live, even having two reporters commenting on it.

The handlers of the psychic octopus at Aquarium Sea Life in Oberhausen encourage Paul to make the predictions by putting mussels into two glass cubes, with each cube having one of the nation's flags on the front.

The mussel Paul chooses first is taken to be its prediction.

Paul initially went to the Spain-marked container before moving around the tank and then hovered over the German box. But he eventually opted for the European champions.

Paul has become world renowned, but this good humoured, quirky phenomenon has not been well received by everybody.

Following the quarterfinal prediction where Paul correctly guessed Argentina would lose to Germany the Argentineans threatened to kill the octopus and put it in a paella.

The newspaper El Dia gave this recipe for anyone daring to capture Paul: "All you need is four normal potatoes, olive oil for taste and a little pepper."

Argentinean chef Nicolas Bedorrou has suggested on Facebook a far more simplistic and brutal way to cook the octopus.

"We will chase him and put him on some paper. We will then beat him (but correctly!) in order to keep the meat tender and then put it in boiling water."

# Diego's men decline presidential invite

AFP, Buenos Aires

Diego Maradona and his Argentinian World Cup squad declined an invitation by the country's president Cristina Kirchner to be received at the presidential palace because they deemed themselves unworthy, the president revealed.

The President - who succeeded her husband Nestor as head of state in December 2007 - also said that she had tried to speak to Maradona following the 4-0 hammering by Germany in Saturday's quarterfinal but the former playing great had been too upset to talk.

"You know that this president shows her true colours to the people in the difficult moments and not just the good ones," the 57-year-old told a rally in the northern suburb of San Miguel.

"And I invited our squad to come to the Pink House (the presidential palace).

"The players refused because they felt they did not deserve such an accolade but I believe

they are wrong because they all deserved it and I will wait for them. Yes, long live Argentina," she added.

Kirchner, who was a senator for 12 years before being elected to the presidency, told all Argentinians to be strong in such a moment of sadness which saw the two-time winners fail to reach the last four for the fifth successive finals.

"On Saturday when Germany beat Argentina, Argentinians were very sad," she said.

"But have patience (gather your strength) Maradona, the squad and the country, even if the sadness will last."

However, like most Argentinians, some of whom gave the squad a warm welcome at the airport, she offered her unqualified support to Maradona, who almost single-handedly inspired the Argentinians to World Cup glory in 1986 where they beat West Germany and then to the final in 1990 where the Germans avenged their defeat.



FORTUNE-TELLER GOES SOUTH: Paul the octopus sits on a box decorated with a Spanish flag and a shell inside yesterday at the Sea Life aquarium in Oberhausen. Paul, who had predicted correctly the results of five matches earlier in the tournament, this time decided for Spain.

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# Loew creates his own style

SOCCERNET

Germany coach Joachim Low has revealed that he cherry picked the best aspects from English, Spanish and Italian football to create the Nationalmannschaft's impressive new style.

Low's side smashed four goals past three different teams enroute to securing a World Cup semifinal against Spain and have thrown off the stereotype of workman-like German teams of the past.

The former Freiburg player has tried to fuse English pace, Spanish fluidity and Italian defending to create a new cosmopolitan, and winning, approach.

"I've seen a lot of international football, I have soaked it all up and taken away many aspects," Low explained.

"In England the tempo is incredible and something to be emulated. In Spain, there is the free-flowing style, technique and skill and you can see that's something that is second nature to them, even to their youth teams.

"In Spain the game is not just played or worked [at] but celebrated. It impresses me how easy it looks even though, of course, it isn't easy at all. I like combination passing football and that is what I work towards."

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

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

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

**QUIZ SCHEDULE**

Round & Draw	Starts	Ends	Answers must reach by 12pm	Lucky Draw for prizes
Bumper Round, Dhaka	July 03	July 11	July 13	July 16

**The Daily Star -RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Bumper Round Ends July 11, 2010**

Tick (✓) the correct answers

1. Who was the highest scorer in 2002 World Cup?	Crespo <input type="checkbox"/>	Ronaldo <input type="checkbox"/>	Podolski <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Who headed in the last goal of World Cup 2006?	Materazzi <input type="checkbox"/>	Ballack <input type="checkbox"/>	Wiltford <input type="checkbox"/>
3. How many teams participated in the World Cup 1994?	24 <input type="checkbox"/>	30 <input type="checkbox"/>	32 <input type="checkbox"/>
4. What was the name of the official ball of World Cup 1970?	Magpie <input type="checkbox"/>	Discogs <input type="checkbox"/>	Telstar <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Who is this player?	Milito <input type="checkbox"/>	Villa <input type="checkbox"/>	Melo <input type="checkbox"/>

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.  
 You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz Bumper Round"

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