



PHOTOS: AFP

Dutch fans (L) cheer their team while (R) Prince Willem Alexander and Princess Maxima of Netherlands celebrate the opening goal during their World Cup semifinal against Uruguay at the Green Point stadium in Cape Town on Tuesday.

Dutch go Oranje crazy

AFP, The Hague

Dutch football fans scrambled Wednesday for pricey, last-minute tickets to South Africa as the country went football crazy after reaching the World Cup final for the first time in 32 years.

Orange flags took over city streets after the national team's 3-2 win over Uruguay in the semifinal. Some people covered their homes with plastic sheets in the national colour, others wore orange or put it on their cars and bicycles.

"It is typically Dutch: once the orange craze erupts everyone wants to be part of it!" Dick Gussen of the Corendon travel agency told AFP ahead of Sunday's final at Soccer City in Johannesburg.

Corendon chartered two extra Boeing 747's to fly about 1,000 supporters to Johannesburg on Saturday night, at a package price of some 2,000 euros (2,500 dollars) per person.

This provides a night flight and bus transport to fan parks on Sunday and then taken them to the stadium for the evening match, and a flight back home that night.

"They will be in transit for 48 hours," said Gussen, adding that most of the group already had stadium tickets or were in the process of obtaining them.

Those without tickets would follow the match on big screens around Johannesburg.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime happening," the spokesman said. "People just want to be part of it."

The whole nation wants to be part of the football fever though after the tense semifinal win on Tuesday night.

Arrangements were made for giant-screen gatherings across the Netherlands on Sunday. But thousands of fans jammed the lines of travel companies to see if there was any way to be in South Africa for the final.

"Our telephone lines are buzzing," Wim Gramsma, marketing director of travel company Oad, told AFP.

He said Oad had about 8,000 people wanting to travel on standby but only about 1,000 would be successful.

"As soon as we get an indication from FIFA as to how many extra tickets we will get and have paired those with flights, transfers and hotels, we will alert all these people by e-mail," said Gramsma.

"I find it quite surprising that so many people are willing to travel so far, for so much money, at such short notice," he added.

Simone van den Berk of the TUI travel

company said they had about 5,000 people on standby for a last-minute flight to South Africa.

"We are dependent on extra match tickets from FIFA and extra seats from airlines. So far, we managed to arrange one extra flight that left for Johannesburg this morning with 272 people on board."

Van den Berk said demand has grown sharply as the Netherlands has progressed through the tournament "and peaked once it became certain they will be in the final."

"Yes, it is far and expensive and a lot has been written about security concerns, but it is a World Cup and we are in the final. People want to share in the experience."

Dutch airline KLM said it had scheduled three extra flights that will take some 1,000 people from Amsterdam to South Africa on Saturday night.

"We would love to do more, but the authorities can only give permission for a certain number of flights. I am afraid we will have to disappoint some people," said spokeswoman Ellen van Ginkel.

Dutch football body KNVB said it has asked FIFA for extra tickets for the finals. So far, 2,900 Dutch fans have tickets for the final, ranging in price from 440 to 990 dollars (350 to 790 euros).

De Zeeuw given all-clear

REUTERS, Cape Town

Netherlands midfielder Demy de Zeeuw was taken to hospital with a suspected broken jaw after their 3-2 World Cup semifinal win over Uruguay on Tuesday.

However, an examination showed only loose teeth and he was able to return shortly afterwards to join the rest of the celebrating Dutch squad, a team spokeswoman said.

De Zeeuw got an accidental kick in the jaw from Uruguay's left back Martin Caceres just before the half-hour mark leading to the Dutchman's substitution at the break.

The spokeswoman added that De Zeeuw had briefly been knocked out by the blow but there was no lasting damage.

Van Persie desperate for glory

AFP, Cape Town

Dutch striker Robin van Persie has admitted he is desperate to win the World Cup on Sunday to follow in the footsteps of his hero Maradona.

The Netherlands are bidding to win their first World Cup title and after beating Uruguay 3-2 in Tuesday's semifinal, will now face either Germany or Spain in Sunday's finale at Johannesburg's Soccer City.

Van Persie is delighted to be in the final and has even allowed himself to dream of what it will feel like to part of the first Dutch team to win the World Cup.

"I am used to watching other teams in the final, but this time I will be in it, I will be in the middle," said the Arsenal striker.

"I don't know how good it will feel (to win the World Cup), but I have a really big picture in my games room back home of Maradona holding the World Cup."

"It is an unbelievable picture, he is on his teammates' shoulders holding the trophy with this huge smile on his face. If we win, I would like to make a picture like that."

The Netherlands reached the World Cup final in 1974 and 1978, losing to West Germany and Argentina respectively.

Van Persie said to go a step further than the star-studded Dutch teams of the 1970s, led by Johan Cruyff, would be a dream come true, but will not be easy.

"It is difficult to cope with the pressure, because you have to fight against the memories of the teams that went before you in 1974 and 1978," he said.

"They were such great players, they didn't do it, somehow, but we have the chance to do it now for the first time and then we will have done better than them."

"You grow up with the memories of those teams, when players from those sides talk, everyone listens. Maybe one day they will listen to me," he said.

Van Marwijk praises team

AFP, Cape Town

Dutch coach Bert van Marwijk has praised his side for reaching their first World Cup final in 32 years, but said their achievement counts for nothing yet.

The Netherlands' 3-2 semifinal win over Uruguay has put them in Sunday's final where they will face either Germany or Spain at Johannesburg's Soccer City.

The Dutch are bidding to win their first World Cup title and having lost both the 1978 and 1974 finals, van Marwijk says the current side must win on Sunday if they want to write themselves into Dutch footballing history.

"It is quite something we have achieved after 32 years, but we are not there yet and there is one more match to look forward to," he said.

The former Feyenoord coach has instilled a strong team spirit by removing any hint of arrogance and has always insisted his team think only of their next

game.

"What happened before my time, with all due respect, I don't look at it," said the 58-year-old.

"I did things my way, we play good football and sometimes beautiful football, but in the past we started winning and got over-confident."

"I try to tell my players there will always be a next match. I try to give them more stability by teaching them how to defend properly, I love attacking football, but we must have possession of the ball."

Van Marwijk showed signs his icicle public face may be thawing as he opened up about what it means for the success-starved Dutch to reach the final.

"Of course I am very very happy and proud that such a small country is in the World Cup final, it is hard to understand," he said.

"It is something I started working on two years ago and it's been a long pro-

cess.

"Then, as now, you get atmosphere in the team and I told them 'don't let this chance get away'."

Van Marwijk praised his side for not panicking despite conceding a late Uruguay goal which made the score 3-2 with time almost up.

"We started well and had excellent organisation then got the confidence to play a bit more freely and be a bit braver," said van Marwijk.

"We lost grip in midfield, but at half-time we corrected that."

"Things went wrong every now and then, but we took the initiative a bit more and when we scored 2-1, I had full confidence."

"But opponents can all of a sudden score a goal and it becomes really exciting."

"We didn't make 4-1 or 5-1 but we survived and we were just so relieved in the dressing room."

A tangerine dream

REUTERS, Amsterdam

The Netherlands woke up to a full-blown case of Orange fever on Wednesday morning after the national side beat Uruguay 3-2 to reach their first World Cup final in 32 years.

De Telegraaf, the country's largest newspaper, led its front page with a lion screaming "FINALE!" and photos of the team's stars, including Wesley Sneijder and Giovanni

van Bronckhorst, who both scored, smiling ear to ear at Tuesday's semifinal in Cape Town.

State TV was in a similar mood, opening with shots of screaming crowds across the country, more than a fair few of them fully covered with either orange facepaint or the national red, white and blue flag.

Reports suggested more than 80,000 people -- or over 10 percent of the city's entire

population -- watched the match on big screens in Amsterdam's Museum Square, which erupted in orange fireworks and flares when the final whistle blew.

"It's really fantastic, I'm really pleased and happy. We will win the final against Germany 3-0!" said Jelle Groenendaal, a spectator in the massive crowd, sporting a fuzzy orange chicken hat.

Although Germany and Spain meet later on Wednesday in Durban for the right to meet the Dutch in the final on Sunday in Soccer City, Johannesburg, most Dutch are expecting -- if not anticipating -- a final against bitter rivals Germany.

The Netherlands lost their previous two World Cup finals, against West Germany in 1974 and Argentina in 1978.

After the win, Dutch soccer anthems such as "Viva Hollandia" blasted from loudspeakers as people

danced and waved flags, sporting orange wigs, hats and feather boas.

Crowds of people streamed into garland-decked bars in Amsterdam's squares to celebrate after the match, while honking car horns and cyclists' bells were heard along the city's canals late into the night.

Other than 18 arrests in The Hague, there was little evidence of serious problems throughout the country following the match, aside from the odd report of people jumping into canals, on to trams and even on to the roofs of houseboats.

Some 8.5 million viewers, on average, tuned into the match in the country of 16.7 million.

Mobile phone operator T-Mobile reported some 800,000 text messages being sent directly after the match. Dutch news agency ANP said, and some 900,000 phone calls as well.



The Sneijder touch

REUTERS, Cape Town

Netherlands playmaker Wesley Sneijder is on course to clinch every trophy he played for this season after the Dutch beat Uruguay in the first World Cup semifinal on Tuesday.

Sneijder won the Italian double and Champions League with his club, Inter Milan, and now is set to feature in the World Cup final and could even end the tournament as top scorer.

"This is a great achievement and wonderful thing for the Netherlands, winning six matches in a row (at the World Cup finals) and now we have five days to prepare us for one more 90 minutes," Sneijder told reporters.

"This is so special. I experienced it already with Inter, playing a final is special and you must savour the moment as it doesn't happen very often."

"I have told my team to savour it and enjoy

it then give it all you've got," he added.

The Dutch had a tough second half after Uruguay replied to Giovanni Van Bronckhorst's opening goal by Diego Forlan just before the break but a tactical change effectively settled the match.

With Rafael van der Vaart beside him, Sneijder moved forward and restored the lead 20 minutes from time with a deflected shot, his fifth of the tournament which levelled him with Spain's David Villa.

"It was a tough match and at the end we made it unnecessarily difficult but we won and that was what it was all about," said Sneijder.

"When you get in such a situation you just have to shoot and if you are lucky the ball goes in," he said of his goal.

"Wesley Sneijder plays a very important role," said coach Bert van Marwijk. "But it is also very important that everyone on the bench can play as well."

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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 Toshiba 24" LCD TV	YOU	2nd	One 15CFT 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			

Prizes for the audience (For First Five Rounds)

1st. 20L Toshin Microwave Oven
2nd. 14" Toshin Colour TV
3rd. 3 Toshiba DVD Players

Prizes for the audience (For Bumper Round)

1st. Toshiba Washing Machine
2nd. 21" Toshin Colour TV
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

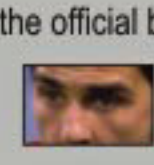
Tick (✓) the correct answers

1. Who was the highest scorer in 2002 World Cup? Creso Ronaldo Podolski

2. Who headed in the last goal of World Cup 2006? Materassi Ballack Wiltord

3. How many teams participated in the World Cup 1994? 24 30 32

4. What was the name of the official ball of World Cup 1970? Magpie Discogs Telstar

5. Who is this player?  Milito Villa Melo

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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