

Paul the "psychic" octopus, who has become a global star after correctly forecasting all six of Germany's World Cup games, will predict the final, but only if his hefty workload has not exhausted him. The mollusc medium, who stunned Germany by tipping Spain in the semifinal -- spot on as it turned out, will on Friday make his prediction for the third-place Germany match with Uruguay, a spokesman for his aquarium told.

Star  
**SPORT**

DHAKA FRIDAY JULY 9, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net



Bangladesh's top-order batsman Junaed Siddiqui pulls one on way to scoring a fighting 51 against England in the first one-day international at Trent Bridge in Nottingham yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

**Good start for Tigers**

**Cricket**

CRICINFO

Junaed Siddiqui produced a measured 63-ball 48 to build on a typically turbo-charged cameo from Tamim Iqbal as Bangladesh batsmen laid the foundations for a competitive total by reaching 127 for two after 25 overs in the first one-day international against England at Trent Bridge in Nottingham yesterday.

After winning the toss on a warm but cloudy day, Bangladesh's new captain, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, trusted his batsmen to make the most of a firm wicket, and his faith was rewarded with a confident collective performance.

Tamim, inevitably, went off like the clappers -- aided and abetted by some ropery bowling that betrayed England's lack of gameplan against one of the finest hitters in world cricket. James Anderson's first delivery of the innings was a leg-stump half-volley; his second was tossed up wide outside off stump -- both were eased for four with impeccable timing. At the other end, Tim Bresnan fared no better with his initial offerings -- a long-hop that was cut through point, and a slower ball that was turned off the toes past fine leg.

After ten deliveries, Tamim was up and running on 20 not out, and when Imrul Kayes joined the fun with a punched drive off Anderson for his first four of the innings, Andrew Strauss decided it was time for a change of bowling. Into the attack came Stuart Broad, who started with a brace of wides but tightened his line in his second over to nail Tamim lbw with one that skidded through low to beat an attempted glide to third man.

Inevitably, Bangladesh's run-rate slowed after Tamim's departure, with seven runs coming from the next four overs, but the tempo was revived in slightly fortuitous fashion as Junaed and Imrul each fenced Broad over the slips for four. Imrul's stay eventually came to an end when he lobbed the returning

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

**Meeting of like minds**

INTERNET

Spain turned their sights on the Netherlands Thursday as they basked in the glory of reaching a World Cup final for the first time following a 1-0 victory over Germany.

Coach Vicente del Bosque was all smiles and good humour as he spoke to journalists after watching his side eventually overcome Germany with another display of controlled passing.

"From defence through to attack I think we played a great game," he said of the victory which sets up an all-European final in Johannesburg on Sunday and means a new name will be added to the list of World Cup winners.

It will also be the first World Cup final that does not involve one of Brazil, Argentina, Italy or (West) Germany.

The final won't be the grudge match a Germany-Netherlands meeting would have been.

The Spanish and Dutch have never met in a major tournament, but it could be said to be a meeting of like minds.

Since the days of total football epitomised by the Johan Cruyff-led teams of the 1970s and through to the later eras of Marco van Basten and Ruud Gullit, the Dutch have been renowned for their

attacking flair.

The current side under Bert van Marwijk is less flamboyant but players like Arjen Robben and Wesley Sneijder can match Spain's midfield maestros Andres Iniesta and Xavi for skill.

Carles Puyol's headed goal from a corner in the 73rd minute proved the difference between Spain and Germany but Del Bosques's team enjoyed greater possession and had 13 shots on target to Germany's five.

"We deserved it," said midfielder Xavi who was named man of the match after he was again the orchestrator of a patient passing game.

"The team did a great job, we dominated the match. The Spanish personality imposed itself. We had the ball virtually all the time and we felt at ease on the pitch."

It was perhaps Spain's best performance at the tournament so far, and a boost for the confidence of the European champions who are facing a Dutch side who have won their last 14 games since September 2008.

The Germans themselves were out to reach an eighth final as well set up another World Cup final meeting with their old footballing foes who they beat 2-1 in 1974.

Wednesday's semifinal came on the

36th anniversary of that match against the Dutch in Munich, but there were no shades of Franz Beckenbauer or Gerd Mueller in Durban. Indeed it would have been hard to see that West Germany team of old succumbing so meekly in a World Cup semifinal.

Greater comparisons could be drawn with Germany's loss in extra-time to Italy in the semifinal four years ago in Dortmund when the match against the team which went on to win the World Cup proved a hurdle too far for the Germans under Juergen Klinsmann.

That German side featured six players who started against Spain, while coach Joachim Loew was Klinsmann's assistant. Now they face the consolation of the match for third-place against Uruguay.

"We didn't perform as well as we could," said captain Philipp Lahm.

"We wanted to reach the final but we didn't manage it, but now we want to win the match for third place so that we can return home with a good feeling."

Loew and his players acknowledged that Spain were the better side. Germany's young team in the end proved too lightweight despite the stunning victories over England and Argentina.

The more experienced Dutch showed

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

**Beautiful game**

GUARDIAN

Holland captain Giovanni van Bronckhorst has said that his last competitive match, at the World Cup final, will be the most "beautiful game" of his life.

The former Arsenal, Rangers and Barcelona defender will retire from professional football after Sunday's final in Johannesburg, after playing a huge part in seeing his Dutch side to the final.

The 35-year-old not only scored what was arguably the best goal of his career to give Holland the lead, but also headed a shot off the line to deny Uruguay.

Van Bronckhorst, who played his final three seasons for Feyenoord, said: "There were no tears, just joy. The last game in my career and it's a World Cup final, what can you say? It could not be more beautiful."

"I hope it will be the most beautiful game of my life. For everyone, it will be the game of their life."

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

**A Spanish masterclass**

ATIQUE ANAM

Spain have confirmed they are no longer underachievers at world stage when they reached the final of the World Cup for the first time by masterfully orchestrating the fall of the Mannschaft at the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban on Wednesday night.

Carles Puyol's 73rd minute header was enough to make the difference in the final outcome of a game where the Spanish Matadors dictated terms with a combination of flair, flamboyance, skill and calm against a German side that surprisingly decided not to upset the opponent's rhythm and waited too long to pounce on a mistake.

Spain coach Vicente del Bosque dropped out-of-form striker Fernando Torres and opted for Barcelona wideman Pedro Rodriguez while

Joachim Loew chose Piotr Trochowski to replace suspended Thomas Mueller. Both teams were playing a 4-2-3-1 formation with Villa and Klose the lone strikers.

Pedro proved pivotal in many of Spain's attacks combining with architect-in-chiefs Andres Iniesta and Xabi Alonso to keep the German side under pressure with constant passing and pressing.

As many as seven Barcelona players were in the starting line-up for

Spain with three from Real Madrid and one from Villarreal. The Spaniards looked so attractive in their passing and seemed so assured defending that it probably won't be an overstatement if said that at times it seemed as if Pep Guardiola's Barcelona were playing in a different league.

The Germans, who had

been the most destructive side of the tournament taking down the likes of Australia, England and Argentina on their way to the semifinals, showed only glimmers of their counter-attacking flair.

There was clear lack of

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



**WORLD CUP POLL**

Do you think South American teams are on the decline?

Yes 63.6%  
No 30.3%  
Undecided 6.1%

TOTAL VOTES: 33

**TODAY'S POLL**

How has the standard of refereeing been at the World Cup?

Visit the sports page of [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net) to cast vote

Follow The Daily Star Sport on **twitter**

[www.twitter.com/dssport](http://www.twitter.com/dssport)

**ovi**  
Ovi Store

Get the latest **football** content from **Ovi Store**

Visit [store.ovi.com](http://store.ovi.com) Now

**NOKIA** N900

Spain's David Villa (L) and Jerome Boateng of Germany are in pursuit of the ball during their World Cup semifinal at the Moses Mabhida stadium in Durban on Wednesday. PHOTO: REUTERS

**10 Simple Facts about the World Cup**

It is a world of some called gods, kings and warriors...it's the world of football. A World Cup played in Africa will create new facts, new stories and new passions. This tournament acclaimed by millions is filled of simple facts out and inside the field:

- Brazil is the only South American team to win a World Cup in Europe, America and Asia.
- Europeans haven't won a World Cup outside Europe.
- For this occasion, all the champions are seeded in a group: Brazil, Italy, Germany, Argentina, France, England and Uruguay.
- Only Italy - 1934 and 1938 - and Brazil - 1958 and 1962 - have won 2 cups in a row.
- Argentina, Uruguay, Italy, West Germany, England and France won a trophy as hosts. Brazil lost at home in 1950.
- 2 finals were decided in penalties: 1994 and 2006.
- 3 finals were decided in extra time: 1934, 1966 and 1978.
- Morten Olsen is the only coach who is in charge of his National Team since the World Cup 2002 in Japan. He is the Danish head coach.
- Holland almost won the World Cup in 1978 but they didn't have their superstar Johan Cruyff. He stayed in Europe after being threatened by terrorists.
- Maradona failed while playing in Spain but after leaving Barcelona he won the World Cup in Mexico, while Messi is amazing in Spain but he can't win the major trophy of football....

Source: Internet

Visit [www.ovi.com](http://www.ovi.com) from your Nokia device to enjoy all these exciting Ovi services

Ovi Store Ovi Sync Ovi Mail Ovi Chat Ovi Share