

Britain's Mark Cavendish (L) celebrates on the finish line after winning ahead of Norway's Edvald Boasson Hagen (R) the fifth stage of the Tour de France between Epernay, Eastern France, and Montargis, center France, yesterday.

MSC lesson for Ajax

SPORTS REPORTER

Title contenders Mohammedan kept their goal fest going in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League as they handed a massive 8-0 defeat to Ajax Sporting Club at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The star-studded Mohammedan line-up led the first half 2-0 with strikes from forward Musa Mia and defender Mamunur Rahman Chayan and came hard on the opponents in the second half to score six more goals, posting their eighth straight victory in as many matches.

After resumption, Musa and Chayan found the target once again while Mohammedan Saqlain, Rasel Atig and Zahidul Islam Rajon chipped in with one goal each to join leaders Abahani in the points table. Mohammedan have now scored eight or more goals in five out of their eight league games so far.

Fakirerpool keep lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool consolidated their lead in the Bashundhara Senior Division Football League with a 2-1 win over Victoria Sporting Club at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Fakirerpool took only six minutes to open their account as Jhontu put the leaders ahead before Wahed doubled the

advantage in the 20th minute. After the break, Doular pulled one back for Victoria, but the forward could not avert

their fifth defeat in 10 matches. Fakirerpool now have 25 points from ten matches while Victoria was stuck on 15 points

Beautiful

also from 10 outings.

FROM PAGE 17

Arjen Robben said the whole Dutch squad were delighted for their skipper: "It was super, and great for him. He was playing the last two matches of his career and now the very last one is the final of the World Cup. It's fantastic."

Van Bronckhorst's 35-yard strike sailed into the top corner off the post to leave the Dutch bench open-mouthed. Holland assistant coach Frank de Boer said: "It was incredibly beautiful, it was really a perfect shot. To strike a ball like that happens maybe once in a lifetime.

Van Bronckhorst made his Holland debut in 1996 and passed the 100-cap mark in the opening match of the World Cup against Denmark. The final will be his 106th match for the national side. Among outfield players only De Boer, with 112, has made more appearances.

utes remaining.

WC eases xenophobia

AFP, Pretoria

As South Africans savoured the final days of the World Cup, their government on Thursday sought to reassure immigrants that they would remain welcome after the foreign fans

The nation rallied around fellow African teams in the tournament and celebrated with foreign fans, but government is concerned at fears among poor immigrant communities of xenophobic vio-

Anti-foreigner attacks left 62 people dead across South Africa in May 2008, and community groups say tensions have risen again.

The police ministry, the ruling African National Congress, and even Nelson Mahmud Jimmy, Mohammad | Mandela's foundation have all made forceful statements urged South Africans to keep against xenophobia.

> After top government officials met to look into the concerns, police minister Nathi Mthethwa said government would work with churches, businesses and local leaders to ease tensions in immigrant communities.

"South Africans are not xenophobic. They have shown this over the month that we have hosted the World Cup," he told reporters.

"We will ensure this is dealt with. We are involving stakeholders in various sectors of society like politics, religion and business -- as we have with the World Cup -- to help address this issue.

No incidents have been reported, but community groups say they want to mitigate the tensions, which researchers say stem from competition for political posts

and business opportunities. "We can't simply ignore these threats as just rumours and yet we cannot give them too much credit," said Nkosikhulule Nyembezi, an advocate at human rights group Black Sash.

"We are meeting with communities trying to verify the authenticity of the allegations and put prevention measures in place," he said. President Jacob Zuma has

repeatedly praised South Africans for uniting behind the World Cup, as fans of all races have celebrated together in stadiums.

This week outside Cape Town, dozens of Zimbabweans were seen along a highway trying to hitch-hike to Johannesburg and then catch a bus home. saying they feared attacks.

Mthethwa, however, said the Zimbabweans on the move were seasonal workers leaving the area after the harvest to search for new work.

The Mandela Foundation up the inclusive spirit that has marked the World Cup.

"We have seen South Africans unite around a common support for African teams during the 2010 FIFA World Cup," it said.

"We hope that this will lead to greater appreciation by South Africans of our place on this continent and that we will show greater solidarity with non-nationals," it added.

Only two matches are left in the World Cup, with Saturday's competition for the third place spot in Port Elizabeth and Sunday's final in Johannesburg between the Netherlands and Spain.

Aviation authorities were embarrassed Friday after a logjam in landing bays caused delays for 700 fans trying to see Spain's 1-0 victory over Germany.

The delays for five planes caused some fans to miss the game, said Bongani Maseko, operations director at Durban's airport.

Other fans were late for the match, but given special buses to bring them to the stadium.

break and the La Furia Roja

should have been 2-0 up had

young Pedro been a little

selfless and passed the ball to

substitute Fernando Torres

blown, the young Germans

were inconsolable. They had

been the most impressive side

of this World Cup so far, but on

Wednesday night they came

up against a Spanish side that

was brimming with quality at

every position and have the

experience and calm to see off

challenges. This golden gener-

ation of Spain have shrugged

off their long-labelled tag of

perennial underachievers two

years ago when they lifted the

European crown for only the

second time history, and this

time they seem destined for

greater glory.

As the final whistle was

instead of going for glory.

Lula loses interest

AFP, Brasilia

The final match has sold

out, and FIFA says overall

attendance at all World Cup

matches has topped three

million, only the third tourna-

FIFA president Sepp Blatter

said Thursday that "Africa can

be proud of having organised

the World Cup" as the four-

week tournament entered its

Africa even more so and African

football can also be proud,"

have never won the World Cup,

meet in the final on Sunday at

Anderson to Eoin Morgan at

extra cover, but in between

whiles, Junaed produced a

handful of shots of real

authority, including a firm pull

through backward square to

Rokibul Hasan, who "re-

tired" in a fit of pique on the

eve of the Chittagong Test in

March, returned to the side

after Jahurul Islam was ruled

out through illness, and

announced his intentions

with a sweetly timed sweep off

Graeme Swann's off-spinning

understudy, James Tredwell.

He had moved onto 26 from 31

at the halfway mark, having

worked Luke Wright's

medium pace for consecutive

fours through the backward-

BANGLADESH: 127 for 2 in 25

overs (Junaed 48 not out,

Rokibul 26 not out, Tamim 28)

ENGLAND: Strauss

Kieswetter, Bell, Collingwood,

Morgan, Yardy, Wright,

Bresnan, Tredwell, Broad,

Anderson

Meeting

point and third-man arc.

SCORES IN BRIEF

further dent Broad's figures.

Johannesburg's Soccer City.

Good start

Blatter told a news conference.

"Africa can be proud, South

Spain and Holland, who

'Africa can

be proud'

AFP, Johannesburg

final few days.

FROM PAGE 17

ment to do so.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has lost interest in the World Cup and has little desire to watch the final with his country having gone out to Holland in the quarters, media reports on Thursday.

Asked about his thoughts on the final, where the Dutch will take on Spain, and whether he was planning on watching it with the five-time champions 'Selecao' not involved, Lula said "neither l nor you" want to watch it.

Paraguay captain's complaint

GUARDIAN

Paraguay captain Justo Villar has lashed out at FIFA for giving the World Cup to South Africa, claiming the country was not prepared to host the tournament.

South Africa has generally garnered praise for its hosting of football's showpiece event as many pre-tournament fears failed to materialise. However, Villar -- who was playing in his third World Cup -- insists that behind the scenes it was a very different story.

"I think South Africa weren't prepared to host the World Cup," the Valladolid goalkeeper told Telefuturo.

produced 12,000 of its own champion's flag since Monday, and has sold 9,000 World Cup champions are to date. "Everyone is optimistic, everyone believes (in vic-

Centrale told AFP.

Wereldkampioen 2010 (Hol-Dokkumer started prolandWorld Champion 2010). Nearly 1,000 flags of one metre (3.28 feet) by 1.5 metres have been sold since marketing started on Friday. Wednesday, the day after the "We took a risk." If the Netherlands beat Uruguay 3-

2 to reach a World Cup final for the third time in history --At a cost of 15 euros, the "Yes, we took a bit of a risk, but our trust (in the team) is

Rotterdam. Next to the wording, on an orange background, the flag is adorned with a lion composed of the names of the players of the Oranje Elftal (Orange Eleven) as the team is nicknamed, the coaches and the

"The wish is father to the

It costs 18.50 euros (about 23.40 dollars), and a second edition may be issued depending on demand, said De Jager.

stadiums where they played.

Another company, in the north of the country, has

tory). The team is good, the spirit is good ... that is why we believe," Elizabeth Visser, a spokeswoman for flag producer Dokkumer Vlaggen

"It is nice for people to have the flag ready, at home, even before the final," she said.

duction of the flag on Monday, following the Netherlands' 2-1 quarterfinal victory over Brazil last

team had lost against Uruguay, "we would have had to recycle a thousand flags".

flag on an orange background with a lion's head and the red, white and blue colours of the Dutch flag, sports the words: "2010 Holland kampioen" (2010 Holland champion).

Visser said orders for the flag kept streaming in, and the company hoped to sell

another 5,000 by Sunday. Dokkumer normally receives about 50 orders a day for its flag products.

"The Dutch believe in the power of thought," said Yvonne Fernhout, spokeswoman for the Dutch retailers' federation.

"If everyone believes that the Netherlands will be the champion, they will be the champion!" Other products in high

demand in the run-up to Sunday's final include television sets and barbeque sets and all sorts of adornments, "Everything that is orange," said Fernhout.

The federation had predicted that retailers would make an extra 200 million euros during the World Cup, "but I think it will be even more," she said.

Orange flags have taken over city streets as what is colloquially known as Orange Fever increased in line with the team's progress through the tournament.

Some people have covered their homes with plastic sheets in the national colour, others put orange adornments on themselves, their children, pets, cars and bicycles.



applications, ring tones and wallpapers on your device OVI from Ovi Store. Visit www.ovi.com

Download free games,

Kuyt terms it unreal

GUARDIAN

Dirk Kuyt hailed Holland's achievement in reaching the World Cup final after 32 years as "unreal" but urged his teammates not to squander the opportunity to claim the trophy for the first time in the country's history. The Liverpool forward contributed at each

end of the pitch as the Dutch edged out Uruguay in Cape Town on July 6, setting up Arjen Robben's third before scrambling the ball clear in the final seconds to preserve his side's 3-2 advantage. "It's an amazing feeling, almost unreal," he said. "We said before the tournament started that we could do this and get to the final. But we knew it would be a long journey. Now we are so close to the dream.

"We just have to keep going. Holland have been in two finals before but have not managed to go the extra yard and win it. Now we have the chance and to win the World Cup would be unbelievable, a dream come true for me."

Those sentiments were shared by his teammate, Wesley Sneijder, whose recent haul of trophies with Inter Milan -- the midfielder claimed the Coppa Italia, the Serie A title and the Champions League last season -- would be eclipsed should his team win the World Cup. "This is unforgettable," he said. "I played in big finals last season for my club, but nothing is better than this tournament. We've got to savour this, enjoy it, and then give everything we have to claim the trophy on Sunday."

A collision with Spain awaits in Johannesburg with the prospect of a repeat of the 1974 final in Munich mouth-watering. The Holland coach, Bert van Marwijk, praised his team's progress over his two years in charge, and their willingness to erase the complacency that has cost talented Dutch teams so regularly in major tournaments over the years, and not least some 36 years ago.

32 Army

installa-

tion in

Jersey

vessel

expanse

New

33 Coffee

34 Vast

"That game [the 1974 final] is precisely what I mean when I say that, too often in the past, the team has started well and then become too complacent," said Van Marwijk. "We lost that final when we should have won it. We had a unique generation at the time, and Johan Cruyff was the best footballer I ever saw. What we've done in the last two years, though, is to try and eradicate that complacency and overconfidence. We are always thinking about the 'next match'.

"I'm so happy and proud that such a small country is in the final of a World Cup. It's difficult to get your head around. This has been a long process, something that has been years in the making. I showed at Feyenoord, where we won the Uefa Cup, that it's not always about having the best players but more about having the best team. The players have bought into that mentality now and we have banished complacency. "I told them before this game: 'Just don't let this

chance slip away. 'They didn't. It's quite something to have achieved this after 32 years. That only really sunk in right at the end of the match when I was sitting there on the bench, but we can't stop here. Wehave one more match to go." For Uruguay, defeat in their first appearance

at this stage of the tournament since 1970 was tarnished by the controversy surrounding the second Dutch goal with Robin van Persie appearing to be in an offside position as Sneijder's shot flicked in off two defenders. "It was offside, but referees make mistakes," said Oscar Tabarez, who is awaiting terms on a new contract with the Uruguayan Football Federation. "It wasn't the first time, but it happens everywhere. Not just in the World Cup. There's no point crying about it. Sure, he was offside and the game could have been very different had it not been allowed because, after that, Holland played at ease."

A Spanish masterclass

FROM PAGE 17

organization between the midfield and attack in the German side. There was less movement and interchanging of positions, which had been a trademark so far in the tournament for the Mannschaft.

The biggest difference was probably made in the midfield where Iniesta, Alonso and Xavi had too much of class and experience to offer against a promising but inexperienced German line-up of Oezil, Khedira and Trochowski.

After a tense and tight first half, the game opened up before the hour mark through succession of Spanish attacks. That relentless pressure paid off when Barcelona centreback Puyol leaped high to head in Xaci's corner past Manuel Neuer with 17 min-

Falling behind Joachim Loew's young charges were

FROM PAGE 17 against Brazil and in the semififorced to attack, committed nal defeat of Uruguay that they men forward, which gave have the determination and a Spain more space to hit on the greater mental resilience to

> cause Spain problems. "Germany were perhaps less strong than we expected because our team did a great job. Holland play excellent football and have been trying to become world champions for many years and have an excel-

lent record," Del Bosque said.

Central defender Gerard Pique said of the Dutch: "They have a lot of good players -Robben, (Robin) Van Persie, Sneijder. We have to try to stop them but at the same time we need to play our game, to keep the ball and score goals." Barcelona's Xavi mean-

while forecast "a mind game." "They have a great team

with great players in midfield and up front. We have to impose our personality and if we play the way today we have a good chance.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 43 Genetic 22 Exist 3 Block-24 "7 Faces 1 Piano buster strand of Dr. —'

44 Bassoon's alternative man 6 Legislacousin 26 Frequent 4 Handy 45 Sign up pc. of Oscar 9 Spotted, a 47 Discard Latin nominee 49 - wave 5 Varnish la Tweety 28 Ford 52 Wander ingredient 12 Mountain flop 30 U.K. ref. **53** Raw 6 Expired crest 13 Essen rock 7 Needing bk.

54 Homes, in

tion today's 14 Mound jargon 55 Type stat 15 Gyro measures holders 56 Director 16 Self-res-Craven

exclama-

57 Put under urrecting bird a bad 18 Frail spell 20 Sit for a DOWN shot 1 Astaire 21 Crony 23 Dundee specialty

denial 2 Spoon-24 Tablecloth bender Geller material 25 Rainbow 27 Perfect D E S K U G H R U S K E L A N N E E A N T E E U R O D E L D D A Y 29 Church bellringer

poop 35 Angler's gear **37** Al or

type

31 Nincom-

OAR A H O Y A B O U N D E D
R E V G O V O E R
P R E M I E R E U G L Y R A T R P M A R T I S T C I P H E R Tipper 38 Cut into

Cubes

GRERES REEF

SEED METERST

38 Evade many 39 Construc-Stephen tion piece tales 21 Greek 40 Dorm dwellers, consooften nants Solution time: 25 mins.

19 Locale for 36 Bobcats

liniment

question

8 Personal

9 Mortise's

partner

10 Get up

17 Literary

ending

11 Pallid

42 Common PLATTE PLIERS

papa 48 Spread seeds 50 Copper head?

gen

Halloween HNK costume 45 Green land YKV N EIP IA OYQQSQF FNFK.

46 Paddock

51 1960s hallucino-

13 12 14 19 20 23 28 32 31 33 42 43 39 50 51 52 56

CRYPTOQUIP

PLV HOJ ZICVTSNQ KSQZV

AIOCVOEJ

CNONPLIQVO, LV PVQTVT PI

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER CUTTING MY

VERY FIRST TREE, THE LOGGING COMPANY'S

FOREMAN GAVE ME HIS STUMP OF APPROVAL. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals H