

FIFA's choice of Englishman Howard Webb to take charge of Sunday's World Cup final has irked Spain as he was the man in charge of their opening loss to Switzerland, media reports noted Friday. "Bad news - Webb will referee the final," trumpeted sports daily Marca, while AS sports daily described the choice of Webb as "debatable", given that he had "made two mistakes" which cost Spain against the Swiss, shock 1-0 winners over the reigning European champions in their first group match.

Star  
**SPORT**

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**A LA BEATLES:** (From L) Germany midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger, strikers Thomas Mueller and Mario Gomez and midfielder Sami Khedira walk to a training session at the Super stadium in Atteridgeville yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

# Fight for solace

**PREVIEW**

AFP, Port Elizabeth

Two-time winners Uruguay and three-time champions Germany clash here on Saturday in a match that neither side wanted to be contesting - the playoff to decide third place.

Both coaches, Oscar Tabarez of Uruguay and Germany's Joachim Loew will have an extra day to absorb their disappointment and 63-year-old Tabarez is known to be a shrewd motivator of men.

He has already been firm in his resolve following the 3-2 defeat by the Dutch that they would put aside the loss and aim to finish third going one better than their performance in 1970.

"To use a term that is common in the team -- we have to bury this match and get over our sorrow," said Tabarez, in his second spell in charge having guided Uruguay to the last 16 in 1990.

He will definitely have Ajax hitman Luis Suarez back after he served his one match suspension for being sent off for punching the ball off the line in the quarterfinal against Ghana.

And it looks likely he will be reunited with his inspirational strike partner Diego Forlan, who had been in danger of missing the match through injury after playing through the pain barrier in the semifinal.

The 31-year-old Atletico Madrid star - scorer of four goals in the finals - carried the unspecified injury throughout the loss to the Dutch but Tabarez is confident he can play some sort of role in the match and Forlan appeared to concur with the coach.

"I think it will be an attractive game - Germany play very good football," said Forlan.

"But we also have our style of play. I hope it will be a good game - but our goal is to go out there and win this third place for Uruguay.

Unlike the South Africans Germany will feel third or fourth place is a poor consolation for the chance of a fourth title.

Loew, though, will want his side to bow out of this tournament on a high and give him another boost as it was reported on Friday that he would be granted a new two year contract after initial talks broke down earlier this year.

Certainly German captain Philipp Lahm, who was in tears after the 1-0 loss to Spain, said a night's sleep had allowed him to digest the defeat a little bit more and had reflected on his initial decision that it was not worth playing in the consolation match.

"Four years ago, we said Forlan. "But we also have our style of play. I hope it will be a good game - but our goal is to go out there and win this third place for Uruguay.

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# Oracle trumps for Germany

AGENCIES, Berlin

The oracle has spoken. Germany will beat Uruguay in the third-place play-off on Saturday, according to Paul, the "psychic" octopus with an unblemished record in picking winners.

who has become a World Cup sensation by correctly predicting all six Germany games, plumped for his country of residence on Friday carried live on national television.

The art of football predicting has become a dangerous job for the English-born

clairvoyant cephalopod with some bitter German fans threatening to turn him into sushi after he predicted a semifinal defeat for the Mannschaft.

Paul's home, an aquarium in western Germany, has received death-threat emails saying "we want Paul for the pan," said entertainment supervisor Daniel Fey.

"Since yesterday our colleagues have kept a very close eye on Paul," Fey added.

No less an authority than Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luiz Rodriguez Zapatero has called for octopus bodyguards.

"I am concerned for the octopus ... I am thinking of sending him a protective team," joked Zapatero on Radio Cadena Ser.

Spanish Industry Minister Miguel Sebastian has called for the creature to be given an "immediate" free transfer to Spain to

"ensure his protection."

Stung by Paul's "treachery" at picking Spain over Germany in the semifinal, some sections of the 350,000-strong crowd watching the game on giant screens in Berlin sang anti-octopus songs.

The honour of Paul's mother was called into question, according to witnesses.

Friday's prediction is expected to be the last for Paul, who in octopus terms is a pensioner, at the grand old age of two-and-a-half. Octopuses generally live three years at the latest.

Soon after his exploits in picking the winner of the third placed encounter, the two-year-old celebrity octopus, who has accurately picked the outcome of all six of Germany's World Cup matches so far, quickly tipped Spain to beat the Netherlands. It took him only three minutes to make up his mind.

# Flu hits German camp

AFP, Atteridgeville

Germany have been hit with flu worries as well as concerns over the fitness of star striker Miroslav Klose ahead of Saturday's World Cup third place play-off against Uruguay, team sources said on Friday.

Coach Joachim Loew is suffering from the flu - and so are skipper Philipp Lahm, striker Lukas Podolski - though it is hoped they will both be fit for the match.

Klose meanwhile missed training as he struggles to get over a back problem which affected him in the semifinal loss to Spain on Wednesday.

"Loew is confined to his bed and will not take part in the pre-match press conference at Port Elizabeth this evening," said spokesman Harald Stenger.

Assistant coach Hansi Flick

# Ashrafal to join hurt Tigers

Cricket

2nd ODI against England today

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Ashrafal flew off to London yesterday morning after being called up to the injury-hit Bangladesh squad.

The out-of-form batsman, who was left out for his poor showing in the Asia Cup last month, was given the nod after Rokibul Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim were hurt during the first one-day international against England in Nottingham on Thursday.

Mushfiqur has been ruled out for a week while Raqibul Hasan is out for the rest of the tour after fracturing his toe after being struck by a James Anderson yorker.

The wicketkeeper was struck in the face while standing up to the left-arm spinner Faisal Hossain and had to be stretchered off the field. X-rays showed there was no fracture, but he is being kept in hospital for observation.

Junaed Siddiqui deputised behind the stumps for the remainder of a match where Mushfiqur had previously shown his class with the bat by striking seamer James Anderson for two sixes late on in a Bangladesh innings of 250 for nine.

Ashrafal will be joined by all-rounder Naeem Islam and Sahagir Hossain, who awaits visa approval.

With no reserve keeper in the squad, Bangladesh face the

**THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF**  
Uruguay v Germany Time: 12.30am (Sunday) Port Elizabeth

**TODAY'S MATCH**

**WORLD CUP POLL**

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

- Aweful 75.8%
- Satisfactory 21.2%
- Superb 3.0%

**TOTAL VOTES: 103**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Which young player has impressed you the most?

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

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**Vuvuzela: The sound of the FIFA 2010 World Cup**

You may hate them or love them but the distinct sound of the vuvuzela has already become the sound of the FIFA 2010 World Cup. The sound of the vuvuzelas on field sounds like a stampede of elephants which on television seems like a swarm of hummingong buzzing bees. Let's take a look at the history of this horn to see what it's all about:

- Originally it was made from a kudu horn and said to be from the ancient days of South Africa and was used to summon people to gatherings.
- To get the pure blast of sound from a vuvuzela you need some descent lung capacity to produce the monotone obstreperous sound that shows the full extent of what this horn can really do.
- So where does the word vuvuzela come from. One theory suggested is that it came from the word Zulu which means making a vuvu sound. Another is that it's a township slang word for taking a shower.
- The world's largest Vuvuzela is located in South Africa's Cape Town. At a staggering 114 feet long this horn is powered by air horns which themselves can reach noise levels of 123.5 decibels. This is an immense sound that will shatter ear drums.
- Cape Town shops have sold out of "Vuvu-Stop" earplugs, which reduce the noise level of a nearby vuvuzela by 31 decibels. Each packet has a label on the back of the packet which reads: "Highly effective noise reduction. Uses include soccer, rugby, or to block out your wife's moaning."

Source: Internet

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