



PHOTO: AFP

Fireworks light up the sky over Soccer City stadium in Johannesburg after the final of the World Cup between the Netherlands and Spain Sunday night. The month-long footballing extravaganza, staged for the first time in African soil, came to a colourful end.

## Beautiful game triumphs

AFP, Johannesburg

Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque saluted his nation's first World Cup triumph as deserved reward for their commitment to playing the Beautiful Game.

Andres Iniesta's 116th-minute strike ensured the European Champions finally overcame Holland in a final that was enthralling but partially disfigured by the intimidating tactics employed by the Dutch as they attempted to knock their opponents out of their elegant stride.

"Today is a reward for beautiful football," Del Bosque said. "Spain, the country, deserves this triumph. This goes beyond sport. We have to celebrate and are delighted to be able to offer this victory to all the people of Spain."

The Spanish coach graciously side-stepped questions about the tactics deployed by the Dutch, who had centreback Johnny

Heitinga sent off and seven other players booked by English referee Howard Webb.

"I'm hear to speak about the beautiful things of football," he said. "Holland played a good game. It was an even, balanced match. Yes it was rough at times but that is part of football."

Dutch coach Bert van Marwijk defended his players' approach, which resulted in him being accused of betraying the legacy of great Dutch sides of the past.

"We knew that we would really have to have a top day to beat Spain and tactically we did a good job. For the major part of the match we were in a good position."

Marwijk accepted that the high card count -- Spain also had five players booked -- was "regrettable for a final."

But he added: "It is not our style but then again you play a match to win. "It is a World Cup final and there is a lot of emotion -- you saw that at the end of the match."

"I would have loved to win the match, even with not so beautiful football."

Had it gone to penalties, that might have happened. As it was, Iniesta was set free by substitute Cesc Fabregas's pass and hammered in an unstoppable shot to ring the starting bell for the mother of all fiestas.

It was a painful blow for a Dutch side that had hoped to eradicate memories of the country's defeats in the 1974 and 1978 finals.

"To lose a final with four minutes to go, it leaves you with a very bitter feeling," van Marwijk added. "Even with ten men I thought it would be possible to get to penalties."

Marwijk admitted however that Spain had deserved their victory over the 120 minutes, although he could only reflect on what might have been had Arjen Robben taken either of the two great chances he had in the second half of regulation time.

On the first, the Bayern Munich winger was denied by the boot of goalkeeper Iker Casillas.

On the second he was impeded by Carles Puyol, who had already been booked, and might easily have resulted in a red card if Webb had had a better view of his challenge.

"I'm not someone to look back on the what the referee did. I think the best team usually wins the match," the Dutch coach said.

"But if you look at the second chance of Robben, the referee should give Puyol a second yellow card, which would have meant him being sent off."

"It was a crucial moment just before the end of the 90 minutes. It is very bitter, but that is sport. It is harsh. And as I said, Spain were the better team."

## Canal parade for Dutch

AFP, Amsterdam

The Dutch football team, who were beaten 1-0 by Spain in the World Cup final, will return to a heroes welcome and a parade along the canals of Amsterdam on Tuesday afternoon, city officials confirmed.

"The players will parade in a boat which will navigate the canals of Amsterdam. The tour will last between two and two and a half hours," Guus Schoker, spokesman for the city of Amsterdam, told AFP on Monday.

"The fans will gather along the banks of the canals and can see the players."

The Oranje will then make their way to a specially-erected podium at the Museumplein in the city centre where 180,000 fans gathered on Sunday night to watch the final on a giant screen.

## Mariners fourth after first leg

SPORTS REPORTER

Mariner Youngs Club finished fourth in the first leg of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League when they handed a massive 7-1 defeat to Police AC at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Moinul Islam struck three goals while Dhiman, Ripon, Farhad and Sohanir netted one goal each for the youthful Mariners, who dominated the first half with a lead of 5-0.

Rana Das struck the consolation for Police.

Title contenders Mohammedan, Abahani, Sonali and Ajax SC have already confirmed their birth in the Super Cup that will get underway on July 15 after the last game of the first leg between perennial foes Mohammedan and Abahani today.

Both Mohammedan and Abahani are equal on 21 points from eight games.

## Fighting draw for Jatrabari

SPORTS REPORTER

Both games of the Bashundhara Senior Division Football League ended in draws at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Jatrabari KC came from behind twice to hold Wari Club to a 2-2 draw after Shafiqul first gave Wari a 17-minute lead only to be canceled out by Soheli in the 37th minute.

Anwar then put Wari ahead again seven minutes into the second half, but the joy lasted only three minutes as Apu leveled the margin for Jatrabari.

In the other match, Dhaka Wanderers and Agrani Bank played out a 1-1 draw at the same venue.

Wanderers went ahead with a 10th minute strike from Motiur while Sujana equalised the margin in the 77th minute.

## NOTICE

Due to unavoidable circumstances, we could not print the CROSSWORD today. We regret any inconvenience. --Sports Editor

## England toy with Tigers

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

Andrew Strauss and Jonathan Trott made hundreds as England bounced back from last week-end's defeat to beat Bangladesh by 144 runs at Edgbaston here on Monday and so take the three-match one-day international series 2-1.

England captain Strauss made an ODI best of 154 and Trott 110, his first hundred at this level, in a huge total of 347 for seven.

Their second-wicket stand of 250 was an England record for any ODI wicket, topping the 226 shared by Strauss and Andrew Flintoff against the West Indies at Lord's in 2004.

England's total was their second highest in a 50 overs per side match after the 391 they made against Bangladesh at Trent Bridge in 2005 when Strauss -- both the man-of-the-match and the series -- posted his previous best of 152.

It was also the first time two England batsmen had both made hundreds in the same ODI innings since Alastair Cook and Ian Bell achieved the feat against India at the Rose Bowl in 2007.

Bangladesh dramatically beat England for the first time in any format in 21 matches with a five-run win at Bristol on Saturday that ended a run of 24 straight defeats against all opponents.

The Tigers, chasing a formidable target of 348, seemed they would need a substantial innings from dashing opener Tamim Iqbal.

But having made a typically brisk 16, Tamim was deceived by an Ajmal Shahzad slower ball

and skied to Luke Wright at mid-off.

Then 20 for one became 24 for two as Imrul Kayes, Tamim's fellow left-handed opener who made 76 at Bristol, fell for four when gloving a lifting Shahzad delivery through to wicketkeeper Craig Kieswetter.

There was no way back for Bangladesh from that start and they were bowled out for 203 with five overs remaining.

Earlier, Strauss and Trott came together at one for one off four balls after Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who finished with fine figures of three wickets for 31 runs in his maximum 10 overs, clean bowled Kieswetter for nought as he made the ball cut sharply in off the pitch.

But fellow new-ball bowler Shafiqul Islam undid much of his captain's good work by sending down nine overs at a cost of 97 runs while left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan conceded 75 runs.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: 347 for 7 in 50 overs (Strauss 154, Trott 110, Bopara 45 not out; Mashrafe 3-31, Shafiqul 2-97, Rubel 2-61)

BANGLADESH: 203 all out in 45 overs (Mahmudullah 42, Jahurul 27, Razzak 27, Junaid 25, Tamim 16, Shafiqul 16, Mashrafe 14, Ashraful 13; Bopara 4-38, Shahzad 2-24)

Result: England won the match by 144 runs and series 2-1.

Toss: Bangladesh.

Man-of-the-match: Andrew Strauss.

Man-of-the-series: Andrew Strauss.

Umpires: Asad Rauf and Richard Kettleborough.

## World hail Spain

AFP, Paris

Spain earned global media respect and praise on Monday for their World Cup triumph in a bruising final against Holland that added an eighth nation to the list of winners.

"Spain Reign The Game" said The Times of London with a front-page headline that spread Spain's red and gold national flag across the top. "Campeon del Mundo", declared the French sports daily L'Equipe.

"Spain cemented their position as the pre-eminent footballing nation of the era," The Times said of the nation's first World Cup win, which they added to their 2008 European Championship triumph.

But newspapers around the world also highlighted the often brutal tactics used in the match played out in front of a television audience estimated at 700 million people.

Spain prevailed "with great patience and an accustomed sense of drama" with the only goal by Andres Iniesta just for minutes from the end of extra time, said the New York Times which said the final "will be remembered more for meanness than splendour."

"The Dutch intended to take Spain away from its graceful passing game. And they frequently did, some-

times with brutal intent. Still, Spain showed hardness of its own, becoming unnerved at times but never discouraged."

L'Equipe, which severely criticised English referee Howard Webb, said the match was marked by "intimidation and destruction".

It said two Dutch players should have been sent off in the first 30 minutes for fouls including Dutch midfielder Nigel de Jong's kickboxing-style lunge at Xabi Alonso.

In the end only Dutchman Johnny Heitinga got his marching orders and by then the 90 minutes were nearly over.

China's media congratulated Spain for its first-ever World Cup victory, but also took a few swipes at how the final degenerated into violence.

"Fourteen yellows, one red -- the most-ever in a final," Sina.com, one of China's top Internet portals, said in a headline on a story about the struggles of the referees at the World Cup.

The Sydney Morning Herald in Australia commented how Spain "held

their nerve, their tempers and their discipline through 120 bruising minutes against a physically tough Dutch side who kicked, scrapped and tried -- ultimately without success -- to intimidate them from playing the possession football that has so entranced the football world during this tournament."

Spain's media was quite naturally delirious. "The national team has consolidated the leadership of a dazzling generation," said the top-selling El Pais daily.

The Dutch press expressed disappointment and sadness after the Netherlands' third defeat in a World Cup final.

"The 'Oranje' cry," said a headline in orange in the popular AD daily over a full-page photograph of Wesley Sneijder lying on the pitch, his face hidden in his arms.

The popular daily De Telegraf paid a glowing homage to the team, saying they had fought "like lions". "What will it take for the Netherlands to one day finally become champions of the world of football?" it asked.

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## Duo share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

FM Abu Sufian Shakil and FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar shared the lead in the Mercantile Bank 36th National Chess Championship at the end of the 10th round games at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Shakil and Sagar have 8.5 points each after Shakil beat Sharif Hossain and Sagar defeated GM Reefat Bin Sattar.

Reefat was in the second position with seven points.

## Sealed with a kiss

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Iker Casillas crowned a spectacular run as Spain captain when he hoisted the nation's first World Cup and celebrated by planting a kiss on his TV presenter girlfriend in front of millions of viewers back home.

After a patchy season for Real Madrid, Casillas had come under fire for a perceived lack of focus following the 1-0 defeat by Switzerland in their opening Group H match.

The presence in South Africa of the glamorous Sara Carbonero, who works for Spanish broadcaster Telecinco and conducts post-match interviews, was seen as a distraction but "Saint Iker" has silenced his critics in emphatic style.

Two years after leading Spain to glory at Euro 2008, the 29-year-old has become the Iberian nation's most successful captain, pulling off a string of vital saves in their run to the World Cup final, where Andres Iniesta's goal deep into extra time gave them a dramatic 1-0 win over Netherlands on Sunday.

"I am over the moon," he told reporters at the Soccer City stadium, moments after breaking down in an ecstatic mixture of tears and laughter at the final whistle and triumphantly

lifting the gilded trophy.

"We have deserved this from start to finish," he added. "I want to thank everyone who has supported me."

Casillas has amassed 111 appearances for the national team since making his debut in June 2000 at the age of 19 and is closing in on fellow keeper Andoni Zubizarreta's record of 126.

He was awarded the "Golden Glove" prize for best goalkeeper in South Africa and it is tough to pick out the best, or most important, save he pulled off over Spain's seven matches.

"I don't think that we really know what we have done tonight," Casillas said before the players flew home to Madrid straight after the match to join in the celebrations.

"We have achieved what every child dreams about, what until now we could only experience in video games, and it's a very special moment for us."

Casillas said the World Cup was for Carbonero and his family, as well as the millions of fans watching in Spain.

"I have been through a lot and I have had a lot of setbacks," he said. "Sara has been having a really bad time these past few days so I dedicate this to her and my family."

## Super Cup in a limbo

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The second edition of the Super Cup, which brought great enthusiasm among footballers as well as spectators in its inaugural edition last season, hangs in the balance this season following unwillingness of sponsors to spend large amounts of money.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has already placed a budget of approximately two crore taka to mobile operator Citycell as the champions of the tournament are given Tk 1 crore as the prize money and it's learned that Citycell has yet to respond to the football governing body's appeal.

The Super Cup is supposed to be start in the third week of July and completed before the start of Ramadan in August.

Not just the unwillingness of the sponsor, the different concepts of the majority of BFF executive committee members have also been playing an important role on whether the Super Cup will be held this year as the majority want to find out a way to provide more benefit to the participating clubs instead of only the champions.

The BFF members expressed their concerns with the Super Cup in the last meeting in May and the meeting asked them to submit their opinions in next 10 days, but none of the members got back to the authorities concerned, said tournament committee chairman Harun Ur Rashid.

"The BFF president (Kazi Salahuddin) had earlier said that the Super Cup would definitely be held and it depends on him. I don't know whether he has got any assurance from the sponsors," said Harun, also a BFF member.

Salahuddin, however, said that he could not say anything regarding the Super Cup at the moment and will let the press know later.

**WORLD CUP POLL**

How good was the World Cup for you?

Brilliant 47.5%

Boring 42.6%

Don't care 9.8%

**TOTAL VOTES: 61**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Who was the best player in the final?

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

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**What to WATCH**

TEN Sports & SuperSport5

Pakistan v Australia

First Test, Day One

Live from 3:30pm



PHOTO: AFP

Netherlands' chief hope Arjen Robben was a frustrated man throughout the final match as he first failed to score from a one-on-one position with the opposition 'keeper and later was muscled down by defender Carles Puyol that went unnoticed by the referee.