



PREMIUM DAIRY ICE CREAM

Saving it all for World Cup

81-year-old Pannalal Chatterjee and his wife 72-year-old Chaitali are on their way to Brazil to watch their ninth World Cup. The Chatterjees had their first taste of top-level football in 1982 when a friend in London got them tickets for the tournament in Spain. Since then the couple, who have no children and live off Pannalal's monthly pension of 7,500 rupees from his time as a shipping clerk, scrimp and save all year round to be able to afford their trips every four years.

--AFP

CHOCO VANILLA



TASTE OF TOGETHERNESS
MI AMORE



DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 22, 2014,
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TODAY'S MATCHES




BELGIUM RUSSIA

Time: 10:00pm
Venue: Estadio do Maracana




SOUTH KOREA ALGERIA

Time: 1:00am (Monday)
Venue: Estadio Beira-Rio




UNITED STATES PORTUGAL

Time: 4:00am (Monday)
Venue: Arena Amazonia



Germany's striker supreme Miroslav Klose performs a somersault as he celebrates his goal, which also put him alongside Brazil legend Ronaldo with World Cup record 15 goals, against Ghana in their Group G match at the Estadio Castelao in Fortaleza on Saturday.



Photo of the Day



BERGER
Trusted Worldwide

Record-equalling Klose salvages the Germans

REUTERS, Fortaleza

Germany striker Miroslav Klose came off the bench to score a record-equalling 15th World Cup goal and salvage a 2-2 draw against Ghana in a pulsating Group G game on Saturday.

Klose, with his first touch of the game, poked home at the back post from a corner in the 71st minute to move level with former Brazil striker Ronaldo.

Ghana, who trailed to Mario Goetze's goal early after the break, stormed back to level through Andre Ayew and take the lead when Asamoah Gyan lashed home, but Klose secured a point to leave Germany top of the group on four points from two games.

"Twenty [World Cup] matches and 15 goals is not bad at all," said Klose, 36, who celebrated his goal with a somersault.

Coach Joachim Loew said his players were "exhausted" from an engrossing encounter.

"Ghana did a good job. They succeeded in closing down space, we weren't able to get the open spaces. It was an incredible high pace and the players gave everything," he said.

After a cautious, evenly-balanced first half, the match came alive in the 51st minute with Goetze putting the Germans ahead with a downward header that came off his knee before beating Fatawu Dauda in the Ghanaian goal.

But the Africans hit straight back, Andre Ayew out-leaping the towering figure of Per Mertesacker in the German defence to head his side level on 54.

Nine minutes later, Ghana took the lead with Gyan breaching the German back line and firing a right foot shot past goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

Germany coach Joachim Loew turned to experience, throwing on Klose and Bastian Schweinsteiger and it proved

GERMANY 2 (Goetze 51, Klose 71)

GHANA 2 (Ayew 54, Gyan 63)

SEE PAGE S4 COL 1

Italy 'baked and eaten' 'Costa Rica can go far'

ESPNEC.COM

The Italian media has begun an inquisition into what Sky Sport Italia commentator Fabio Caressa called one of the country's "most embarrassing defeats" after the 1-0 loss to Costa Rica on Friday.

After the optimism sparked by the opening 2-1 win over England in Manaus last Saturday, the pre-tournament pessimism has returned with a vengeance.

"Baked and eaten," says La Gazzetta dello Sport. "A tired and lifeless Italy are tormented by Costa Rica and complicate their own lives. To go through, at least a draw this coming Tuesday against Uruguay is necessary. It is going to be tough."

"A nightmare for Italy" adds an inside page headline over a picture of a forlorn Andrea Pirlo and a confused-looking Gianluigi Buffon. "A physical collapse of a Nazionale which was always struggling" the paper says. "A nightmare after the midnight beauty against England; a carriage that turns into a pumpkin; horses that become mice. What happened to the lions of Manaus who roared even at the Amazon humidity?"

All three of Italy's sports dailies express shock at losing a game which only coach Cesare Prandelli had refused to see as the easiest of the group in paper -- and Prandelli is not spared of blame.

Matteo Darmian, so impressive in Italy's opening match against England, was switched to the left as his partnership with Antonio Candreva down the right was broken up to make room for Ignazio Abate, while Thiago Motta

failed to justify his inclusion instead of Marco Verratti.

"Prandelli could just have left his system unchanged," argues Tuttosport, with the Turin-based newspaper suggesting one change to make Italy stronger. "There's always [Torino striker] Ciro Immobile," its editorial says.

"But he's only seen as an alternative to Mario Balotelli. Will the coach now have the courage to leave Super Mario on the bench and thrust last season's top scorer into the action?"

"Once again, our whole World Cup is on the line going into our last group game. This is our uniquely Italian tradition: how to complicate your lives against the smaller nations."

Finally, Il Corriere dello Sport tries to consign only the third defeat in competitive matches under Prandelli to the history books and move on. "We only need a draw against Uruguay," it says -- although the Celeste's own 2-1 win over England shows that is no simple task.

RAI television asked Carlo Ancelotti for his opinion. "It's all gone awry, but now we've got to focus on Uruguay," he said. "That is the most important thing."

"We need to be careful about the potential they have in attack but they've got problems at the back, as you could see against Costa Rica and in the first half against England.

"It's very positive to have two potential results which would take you through. They are going to be forced to throw men forwards while Italy can then hit them on the break. I don't see Uruguay as a side without any problems. The Azzurri are stronger."

Costa Rica can go far'

AFP, Recife

Costa Rica coach Jorge Luis Pinto said the sky's the limit after the central Americans claimed their second major scalp of the World Cup on Friday to secure their place in the last 16 for only the second time.

Costa Rica, whose only previous last 16 appearance was in 1990, are ranked only 28th in the world, 19 places behind Italy and 21 places behind Uruguay.

But less than a week after a 3-1 come-from-behind win over Uruguay, Pinto's team added another touch of magic to their impressive campaign so far with a deserved 1-0 win over four-time champions Italy.

"We're delighted with the win, which has put us into the second round, but we don't want to stop there. It's only the start," said Pinto, a 61-year-old Colombian known for winning league titles in Peru, Colombia, Costa Rica and Venezuela.

"It's not easy to play against a team like Italy, given their history and the individual talents they have.

"We tried to contain their play by restricting (midfielder) Andrea Pirlo. But we were also solid in defence."

Costa Rica restricted Italy to only two real goal chances in the first half, both coming from striker Mario Balotelli following deliveries by Pirlo, before claiming a deserved 1-0 win thanks to Bryan Ruiz's header.

Two minutes after seeing claims for a cast iron penalty waved away following Giorgio Chiellini's charge on forward Joel Campbell, the central Americans stunned their opponents on the stroke of half-time.

Gianluigi Buffon, who sat out the England win due to an ankle knock, failed to come for a Junior Diaz cross to the far post and Fulham forward Bryan Ruiz produced a superb header, which beat the 2006 World Cup winning goalkeeper.

"It came just at the right moment," said Pinto.

"It was an epic win, but we believed we could do it," said 28-year-old PSV Eindhoven striker Ruiz.

"Since beating Uruguay we've been super confident. But beating Italy is even more special.

"I don't think we've properly realised the importance of what we have achieved so far."

D for death

ATIQUE ANAM

When the draw for the World Cup was made back in December 2013, Group D was billed as the Group of Death. Rightly so, as three former champions with a total of seven trophies among themselves, were pitted together, along with Costa Rica. The group is living up to its name, but not quite the way many people had predicted. One of the three giants, England, have already packed their bags while the other two -- Italy and Uruguay -- find themselves scrambling for a place in the last 16. And it has become all true, thanks to two outstanding performances from tiny Costa Rica -- a Central American country with a population of just over four and a half million and a World Cup history even more negligible. Yet, they deserve to be where they are now, albeit at the expense of the so-called giants, because whatever resources they have, they were quietly efficient in their planning and execution of those plans.

Take the game against Italy, for example. Costa Rica stuck to their game plan of fielding three centre-backs, so as to minimise the threat that would have come from the passing game of the Italians. They took a risk of playing a very high line, which thankfully did not backfire, but caught the Italians offside on too many occasions. When they did not have the ball, the two wing-backs fell to a deeper position to cut out the Italian wings. When they did have the ball, those two wing-backs rushed forward, and provided the long balls for the attacking trio. The pace and guile did the rest.

For Italy, it was a case of plummeting to an extreme low from the steep highs of Manaus. Italy coach Cesare Prandelli did

not change his formation to start with, but he did tinker with personnel. Thiago Motta was started in midfield at the expense of the more creative Marco Veratti, in the hope that it would give the midfield more solidity and increase the involvement of Andrea Pirlo. Unfortunately, Motta proved to be the worst player on the pitch, and not for the first time in crucial matches in the Prandelli era. Pirlo was his usual self in the first half, as he provided some audacious passes. Those passes mostly found Mario Balotelli, who lived up to his reputation of blowing hot and cold. Down by a goal in the first half -- and it could well have been by two had the referee allowed a very legitimate appeal for a penalty just before the goal was scored -- Prandelli switched to plan B+, with FOUR forwards in a 4-2-3-1 system. But by then, Pirlo's impact had waned while the rest of the team just disappeared.

Fortunately for Prandelli, the defeat did not prove to be too damaging for his side's qualification chances. Italy can still make the last 16 with a draw against Uruguay in their last group match. But going by Friday's performance and considering the threat from the Luis Suarez-Edinson Cavani partnership, a draw could prove to be a task too hard to achieve.

Meanwhile, the goal glut (77 in 26 matches) continues unabated and no one is having more of it than France. They are having all the fun they wished they had in 2002 and 2010. Karim Benzema has emerged as the leader of a French side teeming with talent yet devoid of the big egos, which often hindered their progress in the past. Is this French side the real thing? Or will they flatter to deceive once the business end nears? We'll just have to wait and see.

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