



'Have a nice trip'
 A Rio de Janeiro tabloid lent Chile a cheeky 'helping hand' before their round-of-16 clash with Brazil on Saturday by publishing the schedule for flights home to Santiago. "Hello, we've got some Chilean customers," the paper, Meia Hora, wrote in a banner headline above a list of five flight options for the Chilean capital, from Aerolineas Argentinas at 3:20 am to Delta Airlines at 9:42 pm. "Have a nice trip and please come back," it quipped.
 --INTERNET



Star DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 29, 2014
 e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net
SPORT



TODAY'S MATCHES

NETHERLANDS vs MEXICO
 Time: 10:00pm
 Venue: Estadio Castelao

COSTA RICA vs GREECE
 Time: 2:00am (Monday)
 Venue: Arena Pernambuco



Colombia playmaker James Rodriguez celebrates his second goal against Uruguay during their World Cup Round of 16 match at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro yesterday.
 PHOTO: REUTERS



Rodriguez brace sends Brazil relieved, Colombia through

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

James Rodriguez knocked Luis Suarez out of the headlines with an exquisite goal as Colombia beat Uruguay 2-0 on Saturday to set up a World Cup quarter-final against hosts Brazil.

The pre-match build-up had been dominated by talk of Suarez's four-month ban for biting Italy's Giorgio Chiellini, but by the final whistle at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana, there was only one name on everyone's lips.

Having previously illuminated the group phase, Rodriguez broke the deadlock shortly before the half hour with a breath-taking strike, chesting the ball down and volleying home from 25 yards.

The 22-year-old Monaco playmaker added a second early in the second half, sending him to the top of the scorers chart with five goals and confirming his emergence as one of the players of the tournament.

His goals took Colombia into the quarterfinals for the first time, meaning the northern Brazilian city of Fortaleza will turn completely yellow when Jose Pekerman's side play the hosts on July 4.

Uruguay's fans sported Suarez masks and brandished banners in support of their wayward star, who flew home to Montevideo on Friday, while his shirt was hung up in the Uruguay changing room.

But they were to endure a night of disappointment on their return to the Maracana, scene of the country's seismic 2-1 win over Brazil in the deciding game of the 1950 World Cup.

Diego Forlan replaced Suarez for Uruguay, while Colombia coach Pekerman sprang a surprise by selecting two centre-forwards in Jackson Martinez and Teofilo Gutierrez.

Although Martinez lined up on the left flank, there was no lack of ambition to Colombia's play. Juan Cuadrado and Juan Zuniga set the tone with pur-

poseful early runs at the Uruguay defence, with one of the latter's raids culminating in a low shot that Fernando Muslera gathered at the second attempt.

Uruguay were content to cede possession to their opponents, sitting deep on the edge of their own box, but their defences were breached in the 28th minute by a goal of jaw-dropping splendour.

After Abel Aguilar saw a chipped pass cleared back to him, he headed the ball up to Rodriguez, who was standing just outside the penalty area.

The Colombia number 10 controlled the ball on his chest, turned, and unleashed a magnificent dipping volley that crashed in off the crossbar.

Rodriguez, who has now scored in each of his last six international games, celebrated with appropriate abandon, screaming 'Vamos!' at the hordes of jubilant yellow-shirted fans in the front-row seats.

Uruguay set about trying to wipe out the deficit, but Edinson Cavani's free-kick narrowly cleared the bar and Alvaro Gonzalez was foiled by a full-length parry from Colombia goalkeeper David Ospina.

Colombia doubled their lead five minutes into the second half with a fine team goal.

Pablo Armero's deep left-wing cross was headed down by Cuadrado and Rodriguez swept home his second of the night from close range.

Ospina kept Uruguay at bay thereafter, parrying shots from Gonzalez, Cristian Rodriguez and Cavani and saving bravely from Maxi Pereira.

Uruguay's frustration began to tell, with substitute Gaston Ramirez booked for a wild kick at Armero.

Four years after reaching the semifinals in South Africa, Uruguay's World Cup ended at the scene of their greatest triumph.

COLOMBIA 2 (Rodriguez 28, 50) URUGUAY 0

REUTERS, Belo Horizonte

Brazilians rejoiced on Saturday when their nervy team edged past Chile to book a place in the World Cup quarterfinals in a nail-biting penalty shootout after the game finished 1-1 following extra time.

The reaction was more relief than jubilation, after a pulsating match in which both sides attacked at pace but failed to convert their chances once Chile striker Alexis Sanchez had cancelled out David Luiz's opener in the 32nd minute.

Brazil's players cried for joy after Gonzalo Jara's spot kick bounced back off the upright to send them through 3-2 on penalties, prompting nationwide celebrations across the country as the team remain on course for a record sixth title.

"Four years ago I gave an interview, very upset, very sad," said Brazil goalkeeper Julio Cesar, referring to Brazil's quarterfinal exit to the Netherlands at the 2010 World Cup.

"I will repeat it again, but this time I am happy," added the man of the match, struggling to keep his emotions in check.

"Only God knows, and my family, what I went through. My teammates gave me support and strength. My big dream is that Brazil have a party," added the keeper who saved two shootout penalties.

Only lifting the trophy in Rio de Janeiro on July 13 will be enough to satisfy Brazil's expectant fans, and they next face Colombia in another Latin American clash that underlines the region's domination of the tournament so far.

For Chile, the team's tears were shed in the despair of going out for a fourth time to their World Cup nemesis, especially when the margin between victory and defeat in Belo Horizonte had been so narrow.

In the final minute of extra time, Chile's Mauricio Pinilla rattled the crossbar with a fierce shot, but Cesar saved spot-kicks from Pinilla and Alexis before Jara missed and the hosts went through to the last eight.

But it was not to be and Brazil won 3-2 on penalties at the Mineirao stadium to advance to the quarter-finals, leaving Chile's players disconsolate on the floor as celebrations erupted around them.

"Well that near goal right at the end has been really hard for us. We so nearly won, it was harsh," said Sampaoli, still looking in shock at a news conference minutes after the game.

"If we had scored then, we would have made history for ever. It would have been the 'Mineirazo'," he said, in reference to Brazil's shock 1950 defeat to Uruguay known as the 'Maracanazo' at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

Victory over Brazil would have been all the sweeter for Sampaoli given his nationality, Argentine, and the rivalry between those two South American heavyweights.

"I'm very proud of my players. I'm proud for Chile. Everyone was against us in the stadium, but we have given everything, we fought hard. The players have represented our country in a beautiful, wonderful way," he said.

"Our team nearly won today, but moral victories don't count in situations like this."



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