



## KLM's PR blunder

Dutch airline KLM angered Mexican fans by taking to Twitter to celebrate the Netherlands' dramatic comeback victory over Mexico in the World Cup. Within minutes of the victory, KLM let loose on its Twitter feed a picture of an airport departures sign under the heading 'Adios Amigos!' Next to the word 'Departures' is the image of a man with a mustache wearing a sombrero. The post went viral, with A-list Mexican actor Gael Garcia Bernal using two expletives in a 140-character Tweet to tell his 2 million-plus followers that he'll never fly the carrier again. --INTERNET



# Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY JULY 1, 2014  
e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net

BRASIL 2014  
FIFA WORLD CUP

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### TODAY'S MATCHES

ARGENTINA VS SWITZERLAND  
Time: 10:00pm  
Venue: Arena de Sao Paulo

BELGIUM VS USA  
Time: 2:00am (Wednesday)  
Venue: Arena Fonte Nova



The deadlock broken ... Germany midfielder Andre Schuerrle celebrates scoring his team's first goal against Algeria at the start of extra-time during their World Cup round of 16 match at Estadio Beira-Rio in Porto Alegre on Monday.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

GERMANY 2 (Schuerrle 92', Ozil 120')  
ALGERIA 1 (Djoubou 120'+1)

## Germany stave off Algeria's challenge

AFP, Porto Alegre

Andre Schuerrle and Mesut Ozil struck in extra time to earn Germany a 2-1 win over Algeria in a pulsating last 16 clash in Porto Alegre on Monday and a quarterfinal date with France.

Chelsea forward Schuerrle broke the deadlock in the 92nd minute, with Arsenal's Ozil adding a second in the 120th minute.

Abdelmoumene Djoubou struck in the first minute of stoppage time to give Algeria a consolation goal.

This was Algeria's first ever appearance in the knockout stages and they covered themselves with glory, taking the game to the three-time champions.

Sporting Lisbon striker Islam Slimani had a goal disallowed for offside in the first half while Germany's best early chance came as the break beckoned, when only the lightning reflexes of Algeria keeper Rais Mbolhi denied first Toni Kroos' and then Mario Goetze from the rebound.

Germany coach Joachim Loew introduced Schuerrle for Goetze after the interval and he almost made an immediate impact, his 48th minute drive only narrowly deflected.

Mbolhi then made a superb flying fingertip save to deny Phillip Lahm.

In an enthralling evening's entertainment at this southern port city Mbolhi once again did the north

African's proud, punching away Thomas Mueller's header with 10 minutes of regulation time remaining.

With the sides deadlocked, extra time was required, and Schuerrle finally was the man to find a way past Mbolhi, flicking the ball with the inside of his heel at close range after Mueller's cross from the left in the 92nd minute.

Ozil then struck before Djoubou's contribution.

Friday's quarterfinal at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana is a repeat of the 1986 semifinal won by the then West Germany.

### Neymar injury worry for Scolari

ESPNFC.COM

Neymar is a doubt for Brazil's World Cup 2014 quarterfinal against Colombia on Saturday after injuring his thigh during the round of 16 victory over Chile.

The Barcelona forward suffered a bruised thigh following heavy challenges from Arturo Vidal, Gary Medel and Charles Aranguiz for which he received treatment during the first half and Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari described the player's condition as "a big problem".

"We have four or five days to get Neymar in shape. It is a big problem. His thigh is swollen," Scolari told reporters.

"I remember when I was coaching Portugal against Netherlands [at the 2006 World Cup] and, in the eighth minute of the game, Khalid Boulahrouz almost broke Cristiano Ronaldo in half. Ronaldo had to go off soon after. When I saw Neymar after the game today, I remembered that."

Scolari also criticised referee Howard Webb's decision not to caution any of the Chile players who he thought targeted Neymar for rough treatment.

He said: "We couldn't understand how somebody hits with that strength and gets no card. Some people say Neymar falls too easily. He fell three times. There were 15 fouls on [Chile's Alexis] Sanchez and after 12 he went down."

Photo of the Day  
BERGER Trusted Worldwide

## Losing Onazi was the turning point

REUTERS, Brasilia

For 55 minutes Nigeria were comfortably keeping France at bay, but then Blaise Matuidi planted his studs on Ogenyi Onazi and their World Cup ambitions were as damaged as the midfielder's ankle.

Matuidi was fortunate to receive only a yellow card after his late lunge on the Lazio man's ankle arrived long after the ball had been played.

The Paris St. Germain midfielder, who had protested every decision awarded against him in the last 16 clash, knew right away he was in the wrong and successfully pleaded for mercy from U.S. referee Mark Geiger.

Nigerian players and management were clearly aggrieved at what they saw and pointed the finger at Geiger, who let a number of strong tackles go unpunished at the Brasilia national stadium on Monday.

"I am not happy about it but he is the one who decides what goes on the pitch," Nigeria coach Stephen Keshi told reporters.

"He decides what happens on the field but I am not happy with the officiating."

"On two occasions Onazi had very bad tackles. He's out now probably for weeks. This is the first time in my life I speak about the referee but it wasn't good."

It took Keshi almost five minutes before he replaced Onazi with Reuben Gabriel and the incident clearly hurt his team.

Shortly after, France hauled off the ineffectual Olivier Giroud in favour of the speedy Antoine Griezmann, but he too was fortunate to escape any punishment after a studs up tackle on Efe Ambrose.

Geiger saw nothing in the incident as Griezmann broke and put Benzema through only for the ball to be hacked off the line, the first of several chances the French created against the reshuffled but not reorganised African champions.

Nigeria defensive midfielder John Obi Mikel, without the composed 21-year-old Onazi alongside him, struggled to protect his backline as the pressure racked up.

The French zipped the ball around quicker, space was found and a goal always looked likely with Nigeria struggling to cope with the movement of Mathieu Valbuena and Griezmann and bursts by Matuidi and Paul Pogba.

The Nigerians had been grateful to Vincent Enyeama for a number of sharp saves before his error handed Pogba the easy chance to header France in front and set up a last eight clash.

Nigeria, though, were left thinking of what might have been.

Playing against 10 men for the final 30 minutes would surely have aided their bid for a first quarter-final appearance.

"Was the referee too lenient? It depends what side of the fence you are standing on," French coach Didier Deschamps said.

## Robben sorry for dive

AFP, Fortaleza

Dutch striker Arjen Robben on Sunday apologised for diving in a bid to get a penalty against Mexico but insisted he did not fake the foul that led to his side's winning penalty kick.

Mexico's coach Miguel Herrera launched a furious attack on match referee Pedro Proenca for giving the injury time penalty that Jan-Klaas Huntelaar hit home to seal a 2-1 comeback victory.

Robben was at the centre of both incidents in the World Cup last-16 clash in Fortaleza.

"I really have to say and at the same time apologise in the first half I took a dive and I really shouldn't do that," Robben told Dutch broadcaster NOS as he celebrated the victory.

"That was a stupid, stupid thing to do but sometimes you're expecting to be struck and then they pull their leg away at the last minute."

But the Dutch striker insisted Proenca was right to point to the penalty spot after he was challenged by Mexico's veteran captain Rafael Marquez. "I was fouled," he said.

Mexico had been leading until the 88th minute when Wesley Sneijder scored and then Huntelaar put away the penalty.

And Herrera said referee Proenca should take no more part in the World Cup.

"The determining factor was the man with the whistle. He put us of the World Cup," he said.

## The nights of wonder

NAIMUL KARIM

You just cannot get to watch a simple game with a simple ending in this world cup, can you? Barring the game between Colombia and Uruguay which saw the 'Coffee Growers' ride on James Rodriguez's career-changing performance, every knock-out game has managed to create nail-biting endings.

No, that's not the best of news for sports journalists during the world cup in this part of the world -- for whom sleeping during the day and staying creepily sensitive to the slightest of motions at night has now become a matter of habit -- however; it is because of intense game nights like these that many around the world have already rated this the most entertaining World Cup in recent times.

The game between Mexico and Netherlands, predictably, took centre stage on Sunday night.

Both teams proved their calibre in the group stages and while the odds were slightly against the Central Americans, the performance at Fortaleza once again proved what a difficult time bettors are going through.

While the game witnessed a neck-and-neck goalless battle in the first half, three minutes after the restart Giovanni dos Santos's spectacular drive from 25 yards out took them ahead. The stadium was abuzz and almost everything was going Mexico's way. They had another attack a few minutes later but after that it was all Netherlands.

Mexico's mistake, in this case, was to fall back and attempt to defend their way out against a strong Dutch attack. To their credit their strategy worked till the 85th minute. However, by then their defence had already looked a little weary and with the steaming runs that Arjen Robben was making down

the right flank, it seemed as though a Dutch goal was bound to arrive.

And so it did in the 88th minute when consistent pressure led to the ball, during one of the many attacks, falling in front of Wesley Sneijder -- a few feet outside the box -- who saw a clear line and hammered low to the right of the keeper.

The Netherlands did not just stop there. At one goal apiece, Mexico's defence was looking a lot more vulnerable and the dribbles from Robben continued to threaten. It was one of those spectacular runs from the right wing in the stoppage time that ultimately led to a penalty and completed the transformation of the game.

Robben, who was guilty of diving in the first half -- he apologised after the match -- played around inside the box and tempted defenders before

Mexico captain Rafael Marquez fell for the bait. A cool Klaas Jan Huntelaar stepped up and took the Dutch through.

While the other game on Sunday was not as exciting, it did not lack in twists and turns. The only difference in the tale though was made by Costa Rica's keeper Keylar Navas. He was crucial in his side's progression to the knockout stages, and he was the reason behind Costa Rica's historic berth in the last eight.

Navas's magic began to tell in the first half when he saved a clear-cut chance from Greece's Dimitris Salpingidis. Navas then gave all his might to punch a goal-bound header in the second half of the extra time to keep the score 1-1. Having saved his side on a number of occasions, it was only fair that he had the last say in the match. His reflex save to deny Theo Gekas during the penalty shootout completed a brilliant day on the field for the Levante keeper.

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