

### KEY STATS

France and Germany (and formerly West Germany) have met 25 times since 1931, with Les Bleus winning on 11 occasions compared with Germany's nine wins.

But in the World Cup, Germany have had the upper hand, knocking France out in the semifinals twice in the 1980s with France beating Germany only once, in 1958.

Germany have won the World Cup three times while France have triumphed once, at home in 1998.

France have lost to Germany only once in seven meetings since 1987, beating their neighbours on five occasions until Germany finally won a friendly last year.



France footballers go through fitness drills during a practice session at the Santa Cruz Stadium in Ribeirao Preto on Wednesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

মানসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী পণ্যের ব্যবহার শিল্প বিকাশে সহায়ক

**CROWN CEMENT**  
FOR SOLID FOUNDATION

### Shakira to perform before final

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Pop star Shakira will perform before the World Cup final in Rio de Janeiro on July 13, headlining a closing ceremony that includes guitar virtuoso Carlos Santana and rapper Wyclef Jean.

Shakira, who is making her third straight World Cup appearance, will sing "La la la [Brazil 2014]" with Brazilian star Carlinhos Brown, FIFA said in a statement on Wednesday.

Santana, Wyclef and Brazilian singer Alexandre Pires will perform the tournament's official anthem, "Dar Um Jeito" at the legendary Maracana Stadium.

Pires will also perform a medley of local music with Brazilian star Ivete Sangalo.

"I'm thrilled to be performing my song 'La la la [Brazil 2014]' at the 2014 FIFA World Cup closing ceremony," said Shakira, who had a son last year with Spain defender Gerard Pique.

"I have an intricate relationship with football for obvious reasons, and I truly understand what the World Cup means to so many people, myself included."

While FIFA announced the musical lineup, eight teams are left battling for two spots at the Maracana, but defending champions Spain were already eliminated in the group phase.

Shakira's native Colombia will play Brazil in Friday's quarterfinal on Friday following France-Germany. On Saturday, Argentina play

### This Argentina don't impress Maradona

REUTERS, Belo Horizonte

Argentina are playing far below their best, are over-reliant on Lionel Messi and must improve if they are to beat Belgium in their World Cup quarterfinals, according to Diego Maradona.

"We still haven't got started," Maradona, who won the 1986 World Cup with Argentina, said in a withering analysis of the team's performances so far at the tournament in Brazil.

"They need to get it into their heads that we can't be 'Sporting Messi'. Maybe he can score a great goal ... but if it doesn't come off for the kid, we can't jump on him tomorrow as if he's guilty of the Argentine disaster."

Maradona, Argentina's coach at the last World Cup where they went out in the quarterfinals, was speaking on Venezuelan TV after Argentina's defeat of Switzerland this week.

He said Argentina's big name team were playing at only 40 percent of their capacity and criticized them for only squeaking past Switzerland 1-0 with a last-gasp goal in extra time.

"Man-for-man, and collectively, Argentina are better. They [the Swiss] may make good watches but they have few footballers," the always controversial Maradona said.

Messi has won man-of-the-match in each game, and scored four of Argentina's seven goals. But the wins have all been by one-goal margins and have masked some subdued individual performances by other players expected to make bigger contributions.

"The kid [Messi] is very alone ... The team doesn't have a change of rhythm, movements in its strikers," added Maradona, saying the players lacked a give-it-all attitude.

"I feel something very strong inside, like bitterness, rage, frustration, because Argentina can play much, much better ... The coach has to impose this. If they do not improve against Belgium, 'we're in trouble,' he said.

### Five classics from past

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Ahead of their World Cup quarterfinal clash at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Friday, AFP Sport takes a look at five past meetings between European rivals France and Germany:

**GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN, JUNE 28, 1958. WORLD CUP THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF: FRANCE 6-3 WEST GERMANY**

West Germany's reign as world champions had ended in a 3-1 defeat to hosts Sweden in the semifinals, and they missed out on third place after being blown away by a prolific French side.

France recovered from a 5-2 loss to Pele's Brazil in the semifinals as Just Fontaine scored four times to finish the competition with a remarkable 13 goals.

Raymond Kopa and Yvon Douis also netted for Les Bleus, with Helmut Rahn on the scoresheet for the Germans to finish level with Pele on six goals.

**FEBRUARY 23, 1977. PARIS. FRANCE 1-0 WEST GERMANY**

West Germany were the World Cup holders when they travelled to the French capital in February 1977. The match proved to be the great Franz Beckenbauer's 103rd and last for West Germany, but an inexperienced French side ensured that the Kaiser bowed out with a defeat.

Michel Hidalgo's France team did not feature a single player with more than 10 caps to his name, but they ran out 1-0 winners, with Olivier Rouyer scoring the only goal of the encounter.

**SEVILLE, SPAIN, JULY 8, 1982. WORLD CUP SEMIFINAL: WEST GERMANY 3-3 FRANCE (AET -- 1-1 AFTER 90 MINUTES), WEST GERMANY WON 5-4 ON PENALTIES**

Played in the steaming heat of Seville, this game is one of the all-time classic World Cup matches.

It is best remembered now for the shocking challenge by German goalkeeper Harald Schumacher on France's Patrick Battiston that left the latter unconscious and with damaged vertebrae.

However, there was plenty of drama even excluding that now infamous moment. Michel Platini cancelled out Pierre Littbarski's opener, and Marius Tresor then struck the bar for France right at the death.

In extra-time, goals by Tresor and Alain Giresse succeeded in putting the French 3-1 up, only for Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Klaus Fischer to hit back and force penalties. There, Didier Six and Maxime Bossis both missed from 12 yards and France crashed out.

**GUADALAJARA, MEXICO, JUNE 25, 1986. WORLD CUP SEMIFINAL: FRANCE 0-2 WEST GERMANY**

Four years later, the teams met again at

### Korea stick with Hong

AFP, Seoul

The South Korean football association (KFA) said Thursday it had rejected an offer by the national team coach, Hong Myung-bo, to resign following a disappointing showing at the World Cup in Brazil.

"We've decided to continue to trust and support coach Hong," KFA vice-president Huh Jung-moo told reporters in Seoul.

He added that Hong would see out the remainder of his contract which runs through the 2015 Asian Cup tournament.

The coach and his players were criticised by the South Korean public and media for failing to advance beyond the group stage in Brazil, managing just a draw with Russia and then two losses to Algeria and Belgium.

When the team returned home, angry fans unfurled a banner at the airport saying "Korean Soccer is Dead" while others pelted the players with toffees—a particular insult in South Korea.

স্বাস্থ্যকর  
Freshness

### INFO ZONE

HEAD-TO-HEAD

FRANCE					GERMANY				
M	W	D	L	T	M	W	D	L	T
25	11	5	9		25	9	5	11	

LAST MEETING: FRANCE 1-2 GERMANY (6 FEBRUARY 2013, INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY)

**KEY PLAYERS**

KARIM BENZEMA PHILIPP LAHM

70	CAPS	110
24	GOALS SCORED	5
3	WC GOALS	1

**TEAM FORMATION**

4-4-2 4-3-3

4: Debuchy, Varane, Koscielny, Evra  
4: Pogba, Matuidi, Cabaye, Valbuena, 2: Giroud, Benzema

4: Hummels, Mertesacker, Boateng, Howedes  
3: Schweinsteiger, Lahm, Kroos  
3: Ozil, Muller, Gotze

HEAD-TO-HEAD

BRAZIL					COLOMBIA				
M	W	D	L	T	M	W	D	L	T
25	15	8	2		25	2	8	15	

LAST MEETING: BRAZIL 1-1 COLOMBIA (14 NOVEMBER 2012, INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY)

**KEY PLAYERS**

NEYMAR JAMES RODRIGUEZ

53	CAPS	26
35	GOALS SCORED	10
4	WC GOALS	5

**TEAM FORMATION**

4-3-3 4-4-2

4: Alves, Silva, Luiz, Marcelo  
3: Fernandinho, Willian, Oscar  
3: Neymar, Hulk, Fred

4: Zuniga, Armero, Yepes, Zapata  
4: Sanchez, Cuadrado, Aguilar, Gutierrez  
2: Rodriguez, Martinez

স্বাস্থ্যকর  
Freshness

### Acid test for Loew & co

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Under-fire Germany face rejuvenated France in Friday's World Cup quarterfinal at Rio de Janeiro's iconic Maracana Stadium in a mouth-watering clash of two European powerhouses.

This represents an acid test for Germany coach Joachim Loew with his side heavily criticised for below-par performances at Brazil 2014.

A place in Tuesday's semifinal against either Brazil or Colombia in Belo Horizonte is at stake.

"Didier Deschamps has turned France around since 2010 and we're looking forward to another classic," said Loew who took charge after the 2006 World Cup.

Their 4-0 hammering of Portugal in their opening group match confirmed their status amongst the world's elite, but a series of uninspiring performances have seen Loew's Germans receive heavy criticism.

Having been held to a 2-2 draw by Ghana, then grinding out a 1-0 win over the USA in their final group match, poor finishing saw Germany labour to a 2-1 extra-time win over Algeria in Monday's last 16 clash.

Former captain Michael Ballack, Oliver Kahn and Lothar Mattheus have all questioned Loew's selections with playmaker Mesut Ozil struggling and centre-backs Jerome Boateng and Benedikt Hoewedes being played out of position as wing-backs.

"That was the worst performance for years," Ballack reflected after the Algeria match, while Kahn was equally unimpressed: "This line-up isn't working any more."

Loew has a contract with the German FA (DFB) until June 2016, but a quarterfinal exit will put him under pressure to resign despite steering his side to the semifinals of the last three major tournaments.

In contrast, France have risen steadily under their coach Deschamps and are unrecognisable from their chaotic 2010 campaign in South Africa.

With Karim Benzema in top form, France are dreaming of their first World Cup title since their 1998 triumph on home soil, but their focus is solely on Germany.

"Everyone can dream, including me, but I'm a pragmatist and a realist, Friday is the only thing that counts," said Deschamps.

While the Germans are struggling to find the right combinations for their fast-paced attacking game, Deschamps says his harmonious squad is a "pleasure" to work with and the French will "give it everything we've got".

Honours are even in terms of recent meetings with France claiming a 2-1 win in Bremen in February 2012, while Germany claimed revenge by the exact same scoreline in Paris 12 months later.

The French lead the series with 11 wins to Germany's eight in 25 previous meetings.

Both sides played down the relevance of their legendary 1982 World Cup semifinal, which Germany won 5-4 on penalties after a dramatic 3-3 extra-time draw.

The Seville game attained notoriety when Germany keeper Harald Schumacher shoulder-charged Patrick Battiston, leaving the Frenchman unconscious on the ground.

With the media quick to ask whether France can claim some World Cup revenge, both Loew and Deschamps pointed to the fact most of their respective players were not born at the time.

Germany will have centre-back Mats Hummels back after missing the Algeria win with flu, while Lukas Podolski is fit again after a thigh strain.

There is a question mark over midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger who came off with cramp, but gave the thumbs down when pointing at his knee, which blighted him with tendinitis before the World Cup.

There is a question mark over France defender Raphael Varane, who spent the night in hospital with dehydration after Monday's 2-0 win over Nigeria in the last 16.

Liverpool defender Mamadou Sakho is fit again after knee problems, while it remains to be seen who Deschamps names as striker between Olivier Giroud or Antoine Griezmann.

A Russian politician has called on Fabio Capello to resign following the national team's early exit at the 2014 World Cup, branding the former England manager "greedy" and a "thief".

Russia failed to qualify from Group H, drawing two and losing one of their games as Belgium and Algeria progressed into the round of 16.

Former AC Milan, Real Madrid and Juventus boss Capello is the highest-paid manager in international football and, with Russia set to host the 2018 World Cup, he is under increasing scrutiny.

"We need to look into his work and ask him to resign," Vladimir Zhirinovskiy was reported as saying by the Russian media. "But he's greedy, so of course he won't. It's pretty good to get [millions] for doing nothing. The team lost and it doesn't affect his pay in any way. Thief!"

Zhirinovskiy, Russia's most controversial politician and the leader of the Liberal Democratic party, also called for Capello to be summoned to face the Duma's sports committee and criticised the Italian's appearance.

### 'Capello a greedy thief'

ESP/FC.COM

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Zhirinovskiy, Russia's most controversial politician and the leader of the Liberal Democratic party, also called for Capello to be summoned to face the Duma's sports committee and criticised the Italian's appearance.

"These things are being addressed internally because we know if we don't address them we clearly won't advance further."

### Deutsch know Matuidi lucky to be here what they need to do

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Blaise Matuidi is lucky to be able to play in France's World Cup quarterfinal against Germany, but his presence on the field at the Maracana Stadium on Friday will be vital for Les Bleus.

The 27-year-old was fortunate to escape with just a yellow card on Monday's last-16 win against Nigeria when a crunching tackle on Ogenyi Onazi left his opponent with a nasty ankle injury.

Matuidi went into the Nigeria dressing room after France's 2-0 win in Brasilia to apologise for the challenge.

Indeed, it was decidedly uncharacteristic of a player who is less known for his aggression than for his tireless running in midfield and who is now as indispensable for his country as he is for French champions Paris Saint-Germain.

He will win his 28th cap for France as they look to get the better of a German side who are among the favourites to lift the trophy and finally earn revenge for painful defeats suffered by Les Bleus in the World Cup semifinals of 1982 and 1986.

Matuidi, who scored in the 5-2 group-stage win against Switzerland in Salvador, forms a classy midfield trident with Yohan Cabaye and Paul Pogba, a trio that offers passing ability, energy and pace along with a goal-scoring threat.

Germany's midfield has dominated goals so far, with Toni Kroos and Philipp Lahm among the leading players in the competition for passes completed, but they have yet to face opposition of the quality of France.

Matuidi has made more passes than any of his colleagues, and covers more distance too, his stamina showing no sign of letting-up as he prepares to play in a 60th game for club and country since the start of the season.

"Germany are the favourites because of their past record. But anything can happen in one match," warns Matuidi, who recalled featuring in the France team that lost 2-1 to Joachim Loew's side in a friendly in Paris last year.

"[Messi] Ozil was their playmaker and we played in a 4-4-2. He slipped in between the lines and gave us all sorts of problems. But we have improved since then and this will be a different match."



Don't think I'll stumble again ... Germany forward Thomas Mueller (R) points at something as goalkeeper Manuel Neuer listens in the town of Santa Cruz Cabralia at north of Porto Seguro on Wednesday. Germany take on neighbours France in the first quarterfinal of the FIFA World Cup in Rio de Janeiro today.

PHOTO: REUTERS

COLOMBIA BANS FOAM

Colombia will ban the sale of flour and shaving foam in Bogota for Friday's quarterfinal World clash with hosts Brazil, with thousands expected on the streets and passions running high in the football-mad country.

Colombians often celebrate by dousing people in shaving cream or making flour "bombs," but police, who will be out in force for the game on the streets of the capital, want to stamp out the practise because it can lead to fights.

Alcohol sales will also be banned on Friday.

President Juan Manuel Santos, who will watch the team in Fortaleza, called on his countrymen to "keep calm."

After the victory against Uruguay on Saturday, authorities logged more than 3,200 fights and 34 were hurt in post-game violence across Colombia.

**HERO'S WELCOME FOR ALGERIA**

Algeria's World Cup team returned home to a hero's welcome on Wednesday after their historic progress to the knockout stages was ended by Germany in extra-time.

As they got off the plane, the Desert Foxes were met by Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal, who embraced the team's Bosnian coach Vahid Halilhodzic. Algerian social media is abuzz with demands that he stay on amidst rumours of his departure.

"Allah akbar, Halilhodzic," shouted fans at Algiers airport as the team emerged, a chant repeated later on the streets of the capital.

The squad boarded a bus painted green and white, with

When the Sun goes down, we turn up the heat.

Hungry? Quarter Chicken, Peri Chana Chaat, Mini Burger, Pita, Chicken Trinchado, Wedges Reg, Brownie, Fresh Fruits, Date, Buttermilk Drink, Coke/Water.

Very Hungry: Chicken Steak, Peri Chana Chaat, Mini Burger, Chicken Wrap, Pita, Chicken Trinchado, Wedges Reg, Brownie, Fresh Fruits, Date, Buttermilk Drink, Coke/Water.

Very Very Hungry: Chicken Espetada, Peri Chana Chaat, Mini Burger, Chicken Wrap, Pita, Chicken Trinchado, Wedges Brownie, Fruits, Date, Buttermilk, Coke/Water, Goa Lemon.

Very Very Very Hungry: Beef Espetada, Any Side, Chicken Salad, Peri Chana Chaat, Wedges Reg, Brownie, Blanco/Trinto 1/2 Ltr, Fresh Fruits, Date, Water.

**Nando's**

Finlays

বাত জেপে বিশ্বকাপ ফুটবল

ফিনলে চায়েব সাথে

ফিনলে চা আঙ্গাল চা

THE WORLD CUP SELFIE CONTEST 2014

The Daily Star

MI AMORE

THE ULTIMATE FAN

f/selfiecontest2014

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PREMIUM DAIRY ICE CREAM

TASTE OF TOGETHERNESS

CHOCO VANILLA

MY LOVE MY FOOTBALL

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