



THE RUSSIAN RECORD

From space to Stalin's bunker

AL-AMIN from Samara

Like many other cities in Russia, Samara has a rich history and two of its most historical places have attracted the travelling World Cup fans in droves. On the morning of the Brazil-Mexico match, supporters from both camps turned up in numbers at the Samara Space Museum. As we neared the museum, a real R-7 rocket, firmly fitted on one side of the small but tidy facility, greeted us.

When we entered the facility we came upon an enlightening quote by Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, who is considered as Russia's father of rocket science, paired with an image of the bearded scientist hanging on the wall. And despite our meagre understanding of cosmonautics, the statement struck us the most.

"Earth is the cradle of the mind, but one cannot live in the cradle forever," read Tsiolkovsky's quote.

However, to get an English version of what else was on display in the galleries, we had to download an app. We then learned that Samara was one of the main hubs of the Soviet Union's space programme. It was here that the 'Vostok rocket', which was the first in mankind's history to reach outer space, was assembled. Hence, it was here that the Soviet Union's prominence in aerospace engineering



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began.

The museum is dedicated to Sergei Korolev, the lead engineer and rocket designer for the Russian space programme in the space race against America in the 1950s. While being driven to the museum, our taxi driver informed us that they have a factory in Samara which still builds satellites and rockets, but

that it is a restricted facility. The radio from Sputnik 1, Earth's first artificial satellite, was also on display but it was the ejection seats and the real space food, including an apple, which attracted tourists the most. After enjoying the wealth knowledge on rocket science, we set off for Stalin's Bunker.

By the time we reached the bunker, which is near the great Volga River, we found ourselves at the back end of a huge queue of Brazilian and Mexican fans. They facility's staff, who were truly struggling to maintain the surprise influx of visitors, said that this was a refreshing sight for them. 30 people at a time can be accommodated inside the Soviet Union era bunker, which was built during the Second World War as a secret hideout for their leader Joseph Stalin, who used the facility as a key strategic platform for their fight against Nazi Germany. Being a journalist has its perks though as we were allowed to enter the bunker, which is goes about 37-

meters deep, without standing in line.

As we descended a dimly lit stairwell, the air smelt foul inside the old structure. The thick iron curtain and the giant locks seemed like the stuff of movies, but this was the real deal. Once we reached the ground floor of what could be considered as a 12-story building, the guide proudly announced that the area was safe from even a nuclear bomb. The chamber was a big conference room for Stalin, where his desk and many other personal belongings were also on display. If you want to take a picture wearing a replica of the Russian leader's uniform, you will have to pay 250 rubles. The ground floor is divided into two rooms, the main chamber has a capacity of 115 people while the other was Stalin's personal chamber. The upper levels made up the rooms for guards, technical support staff and storage.

It was truly an unforgettable experience for us.

Loew stays in Germany job



AFP, Berlin

Germany coach Joachim Loew will remain in his job despite the World Cup holders' shock elimination in the group phase in Russia, the German Football Association (DFB) said on Tuesday.

The DFB said Loew, who has been in the job for 12 years, had told German football chiefs he wanted to carry on and oversee the "rebuilding" of the national team.

Loew was told he continued to enjoy "the support of the entire leadership" despite the team's failure to progress from the first round for the first time in 80 years.

Shortly before the tournament, Loew signed a contract extension until the 2022 World Cup.

Loew said: "I am very grateful for the confidence that the DFB has again shown in me and I feel a lot of support and encouragement despite the justified criticism of our elimination.

"I am still hugely disappointed, but now my team and I would like to get started on the rebuilding. I will analyse with my team, hold discussions and draw conclusions before the start of the new season. That all takes time, but it will be done by the time international matches start in September."

Poland coach Nawalka quits



REUTERS, Warsaw

Poland's coach Adam Nawalka will step down at the end of July after his team crashed out of the group stage of the 2018 World Cup tournament.

"We have decided that Adam Nawalka will remain Poland's team coach until July 30 and after that day we will be looking for a new coach. We will try to build a national team in a new way," the head of the Polish Football Association, Zbigniew Boniek, said during a joint news conference with Nawalka.

The 60-year-old, whose contract was expiring after the World Cup anyway, and the Polish FA decided not to extend it, Boniek said.

"Of course I feel responsible that we did not meet expectations, we did not meet our plans, ambitions, our fans' expectations ... that we disappointed and I take full responsibility for that ...," said Nawalka.

Poland lost their two opening games and were the first European side to be knocked out of the competition, while Nawalka's tactics and choice of players were widely questioned. A win in the third and final group match against Japan was not enough to change the outcome.

Sampaoli facing Argentina sack



AGENCIES

Argentina Coach Jorge Sampaoli is heading for the exit door following his team's World Cup elimination by France, reports said on Monday.

Rumoured to be at odds with his players, including captain Lionel Messi, Sampaoli is expected to be sacked after just a year in charge, even though there are another four years to run on his contract.

"More alone than a lone madmen," screamed sports newspaper Ole on its front page. "The exit is that way."

The problem lies, though, in Sampaoli's reluctance to resign and a contract clause that would oblige the Argentine Football Association (AFA) to pay the 58-year-old around \$15 million (13 million euros) to get rid of him, reports said.

"Management want Sampaoli to go, but the coach is resisting," added Ole, which organised a poll among 100,000 Argentines and found 82 percent wanted rid of the former Chile and Sevilla boss.

Sampaoli's record since he was hired in June 2017 makes grim reading given Argentina's usually high standards: seven wins, four draws and four defeats in 15 matches.

Maradona offers free coaching



REUTERS, Sochi

Former Argentine great Diego Maradona has offered to coach his country for free, eight years after his last attempt ended in World Cup failure.

Maradona, who watched his side eliminated 4-3 by France last weekend in Kazan, was asked if he fancied another shot at the job - even though current coach Jorge Sampaoli has a contract until 2022.

"Yes, and I would do it for free," Maradona said on a Venezuelan TV show. "I wouldn't ask for anything in return."

Maradona coached Argentina at the 2010 World Cup, where his team were beaten 4-0 by Germany at the quarter-final stage.

Since then, the player who guided Argentina to their last World Cup win in 1986, has only coached two club sides in the United Arab Emirates.

Maradona, though, produced some of this World Cup's lasting images - celebrating victories in iconic poses, giving the finger to fans, and being seen by doctors after suffering from low blood pressure.

"People think I am happy but my heart is heavy," Maradona said about Argentina's elimination. "I feel really bad that everything we built with so much effort we destroyed so easily."



INFO-ZONE



HARRY KANE

6

TOP SCORERS

GOALS SCORED

ROMELU LUKAKU

4



CRISTIANO RONALDO

4

GOALS SCORED



ARTEM DZYUBA

3



DENIS CHERYSHEV

3

GOALS SCORED



KYLIAN MBAPPE

3



GUILLERMO OCHOA

25

TOP SAVES

SHOTS SAVED



KASPER SCHMEICHEL

21



IGOR AKINFEEV

14

SHOTS SAVED



EIJI KAWASHIMA

14

TOURNAMENT STATS

GOALS SCORED

146

AVERAGE

2.6

OWN GOALS

10

YELLOW CARDS

189

AVERAGE

3.4

RED CARDS

4



Members of the French national team were quite relaxed in training yesterday as they gear up for their World Cup quarterfinal clash against Uruguay. One of the youngest teams at the tournament, Les Bleus have taken to the festivities both on and off the pitch. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Marcelo and Costa back in training

AFP, Sochi

Brazil were given a boost in the build-up to their World Cup quarterfinal against Belgium as Marcelo and Douglas Costa both took part in training on Tuesday.

"Douglas Costa was released to return to training and took part in today's activity," wrote the Brazilian Football Confederation on Twitter.

The Juventus winger has only featured once in Brazil's campaign in Russia so far, coming off the bench in the 2-0 victory against Costa Rica in their second group outing.

Marcelo missed the last 16 game against Mexico with a back problem, with Filipe Luis filling in at left-back.

Midfielder Casemiro will miss that game due to suspension, with Fernandinho expected to replace him in the starting line-up.

RANGS TOSHIBA Round 02 The Daily Star

World Cup Football Quiz-2018

Round 02 Prizes: 1st Prize: Toshiba 40" LED TV, 2nd Prize: Toshin Freezer, 3rd Prize: Toshiba Refrigerator

Question: Who scored the most number of goals in a World Cup match?

Answer:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

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