

Spain dominate their way to flight back home

SAMAMA RAHMAN

Spain head coach Luis Enrique proved that he was a man of his word, delivering exactly what he had promised in La Furia Roja's Round of 16 clash in the World Cup against Morocco.

"I am not concerned about the result," Enrique had proclaimed ahead of the match. "This might be cliché but I want to

control the things I can and as a coach, I want my team to play in a certain way."

Enrique was, of course, speaking about micromanaging the team to mimic the legendary tiki-taka, which transformed football from simple sport to decadent art.

The philosophy saw Spain complete 3,542 passes in Qatar,

nearly 1,000 more than the next-best team in the 2022 World Cup of Passing, Argentina, have attempted.

"I want my players to forget about the result and concentrate on the way they play. For me, this is a show, we need to entertain the fans. We should not just go and get a victory any way we can."

Against Morocco, Spain turned the dial up to 11 in terms of entertainment. They completed 969 of 1088 passes, with euphoric fans bleeding from their palms as they clapped for each with increasing fervour.

Dig deep into the football

analytics wormhole and you can even see that Spain had "field tilt" of 82.2 percent at this World Cup, which compares the share of possession each team has in their attacking third compared to their opponent. It is undeniable territorial dominance.

But, despite fate, fortune and football's favour going Morocco's way in a penalty shootout, Luis Enrique was unbothered: "Were you at the game? Did you have your back turned? If we did one thing, it was dominate. I am more than satisfied with what my team has done. They perfectly executed my idea of

football. I am proud of them."

Spain legend Zhavi summed it up best: "Football is not measured by shots. It doesn't matter that Spain had only one shot. What matters is how many times Spain made the crowd gasp, how much their players enjoyed each delicately caressed pass. It is equally about dominating your opponent, stepping into their territory and letting them know that the boss has the ball. There are only two things that truly matter in our sport: how many beautiful passes you have completed and the length of the grass."



Triggered by ‘seasonal fan’ tag, man quits job to watch football

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

What else could be more humiliating than to be called a “seasonal fan”, that too in the midst of the enthralling football world cup?

Nazmus Sakib, one of a million other Nazmus Sakibs of Bangladesh, decided to concentrate fully on football watching after quitting his job. He decided this after being fed up of people calling him a “seasonal fan” whenever he tried to give some expert opinion regarding the Qatar World Cup, despite his obviously scanty football knowledge.

“Yesterday, when my colleagues were talking about offside rules, I asked them to tell me about legside rules. Hearing this, they laughed and said ‘tumi mia seasonal fan chup thako’. Such humiliation in a public place forced me to take this bold decision,” he said.

As Nazmus Sakib believes dignity is more important than money, he didn’t think twice before handing in his resignation letter in order to become more knowledgeable about football.

“Not only did I get this tag from my colleagues, I was poked on social media with this tag for failing to post something relevant about football,” he said.

Nazmus Shakib’s bold decision made the entire country sit up and take notice, but it left others burdened with the seasonal fan tag particularly shaken.

“We have tirelessly been mocked for long, but neither we nor someone else could raise a voice against this fascist tag. This resignation is a tight slap on the faces of those who consider themselves Messi-Ronaldo just because they watch football irrespective of special tournaments,” Salahuddin, an alleged seasonal fan, said while wondering why Germany were knocked out from the group stage despite winning their final group match, and Spain qualified for the next round despite losing their final group match.

Motivational speakers, the country’s most advanced thinkers, spent no time in

introducing their new session, “Be proud of your scanty football-knowledge”.

Bholamon Bhubon, the leading motivational speaker, said, “Don’t suffer from inferiority complex just because you know little about football. Even the great Socrates, Einstein, Newton, Rabindranath, Nazrul and so on knew less about football than you. So, don’t lose heart for such an idiotic tag, instead raise your heads high.”

The Satireday correspondent confronted Nazmus Sakib, who was on holiday. As soon as he saw the correspondent, he said, “You don’t need to select a public holiday to get my appointment anymore; every day is a holiday for me now.”

When asked whether he could have managed his job and watch football simultaneously, he said, “I just want to focus on one thing and that is football. In 2026, I will name the whole country ‘seasonal fans’ as I am going to be the most knowledgeable person by then.”

Corporate to give out awards based on social media vibe

AFIZAN HADIAR

Board members of Bangla Tamak were in a flux. A large number of their employees had started having an ethical dilemma. Many of the company’s employees had already quit after company data on farmers’ actual earnings and carbon footprint got anonymously released.

On Friday, top personnel of the company sat down to address the issue and come up with a plan.

“How could this happen, Morshed? Aren’t we still giving out gift baskets full of Nutella and small tea time snacks? Why aren’t they working?!” exclaimed Executive Director Akram Gomez.

Senior responsibilities manager, Morshed Aukad, turned his mic on with trembling fingers.

“Sir, due to budget cuts we stopped giving out those baskets for almost a month and a half now. We didn’t realise that this would trigger an existential crisis among most.

“I don’t want excuses! We need to come up with something so vain and insubstantial that it not only stops them from asking these questions, but also makes them think that we actually care about them,” said Akram.

“We’re not sucking the life out of their souls effectively enough,” Akram added, punching the desk with his fist.

There was silence in the room. Until the head of social media, Samiul Shimul, started to speak.

“People love to show off. And what better place to show off than on social media? So, I propose that we start analysing our employees’ social media impressions and give out awards based on that,” said Shimul.

“That is absolutely ... the most ... brilliant idea I’ve heard all week!,” said the executive director and asked him what he had in mind.

“So, this is what we do: we will create a few obscure qualities like ‘bold’, ‘brave’, ‘inquisitive’, ‘curious’, ‘jokemaster’, ‘party animal’. This way we will be able to award more employees based on a range of categories,” Shimul replied.

“But aren’t ‘bold’ and ‘brave’ almost the same thing?” asked the executive director.

“As long as we’re feeding their sense of importance by bringing them on stage, I don’t think it’ll even matter sir,” joked Shimul.

A round of evil laughter roared through the room.

“Well then, the meeting is adjourned. Now let’s go crack misogynist jokes about our wives in their absence,” said the executive director in a laugh as the members walked out of the room.

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