



## Zuma

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Mandela at the opening ceremony of the 60th FIFA Congress here Wednesday.

The 60th FIFA Congress will take place on Thursday and an opening ceremony was arranged a day before.

During the ceremony, South African president Zuma said: "Nelson Mandela worked hard that we should win the right to host this tournament. We dedicate the World Cup to him."

"There are a few moments that define a nation's history. We stand on the threshold of one as we draw closer and closer to Friday, June 11 when the World Cup officially begins," he added.

There has been a tug-of-war in recent months as whether Mandela will be present at the opening match between South Africa and Mexico between FIFA local organizing committee and Mandela's family because 91-year-old Mandela is too frail to be present. However, his grandson Nkosi said Tues-

day that Mandela will greet players and fans briefly at the opening match.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter said the World Cup was a love story between him, his organization and the African continent and the love story will culminate at Friday's opening game. Two hundred and eight member associations of FIFA made their appearance at the congress, which will talk about the 2009 activity results, FIFA Financial Report and budget estimates for 2011-2014. (Xinhua)

## Tragedy

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lated to recreation and culture, and others that occupy their limited free time in the midst of the duties that take up a large portion of their time dedicated to daily chores.

Shortly, the Football World Cup to be contested in South Africa will take up all of their free hours as they follow with growing excitement the vicissitudes of the most popular characters.

They will follow every step taken by Maradona and remember the spectacular goal he scored that determined Argentina's victory in one of the classics. Again, another Argentinean is coming up spectacularly; he is a short man but he is very fast, he whizzes like a lightning and with his head or legs shoots the ball at amazing speed. His last name, Messi, of Italian descent, is already known to and repeated by the fans.

The fans imagination goes

wild with the images of the numerous stadiums where the competitions take place. The architects and designers have created works never dreamed of by the public

The governments, forced to go from one meeting to another to discharge the obligations that the new times have placed on their shoulders, have no time to know the mountain of news constantly carried by radio, television and the printed press.

Almost everything depends exclusively of the information provided by their advisers. Some of the most powerful and important Heads of State, who make the fundamental decisions, customarily use the cell phones to communicate among themselves several times a day. An increasing number of millions of people in the world live attached to such devices even though no one knows the effect they will have on human health.

This softens the envy we could feel for not being able to enjoy such possibilities in our

time, a time that is rapidly moving away in very few years and almost imperceptibly.

Yesterday, in the midst of the turmoil, there was a report that today the UN Security Council might vote a pending resolution to decide on the imposition of a fourth round of sanctions to Iran for refusing to cease the enrichment of uranium.

The irony of this situation is that if it were Israel, the United States and its closest allies would immediately say that Israel did not sign the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty and veto the resolution.

However, if Iran is simply accused of producing up to 20% enriched uranium, there is an immediate request to apply economic sanctions to strangle that country; and it is obvious that Israel would act as usual, with fascist fanaticism, the same as the soldiers of the elite troops dropped from helicopters before daybreak on those traveling in the solidarity flotilla carrying food to the people besieged in Gaza, killing several people and injuring tens of them who were later arrested alongside the crews of the ships.

Obviously, they will try to destroy the facilities where Iran is enriching part of the uranium it produces.

It is also evident that Iran will not accept such inconsistent treatment.

The consequences of the US imperial imbroglios could be catastrophic and affect every inhabitant of the planet much more than all of the economic crises combined.

## Jackson

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ator.

When we were repatriated back home in 1989, I vividly recall the day when we were at Thuringer Hof Hotel having a drink and I had to interview him for a story that later appeared in my cultural page of the then revived Namibia Today. I remember that somewhere in the said story I indicated that "beautiful melodies never die" but continue to echo around the globe long after the singer/composer is gone from us.

Attending music shows where Kaujeua was the star attraction abroad made hundreds of us truly proud to be Namibians. It is also significant to note that Swapo appreciated his music and allowed him to fight with his 'guitar' instead of the gun. He travelled around



globe placing his motherland musically on the map, later did it together with the Ndimilimani Cultural Troupe. As the sun rises above the mountains of Ovitoto everyday, some proud Namibian man, woman or child will be sing-

ing one of his songs. Some of us may be listening to Kaujeua's music on the car radio as we go to work. His music will continue to echo throughout the land of the brave and the people he so much love. Rest in peace JK.

## World Cup 2010: Nelson Mandela expected at opening ceremony and South Africa's opener

Nelson Mandela appears increasingly likely to defy his age and frailties to attend the opening ceremony and first game of the World Cup in Johannesburg on Friday.

By Paul Kelso, Chief Sports Reporter in Johannesburg

**High hopes:** Nelson Mandela played a huge role in South Africa's World Cup bid and there is said to be a 'great chance' of his presence on Friday.

There have been doubts about whether the former president, 92 next month, would be able to attend the event at Soccer City, but his determination to see the start of a tournament he played a huge role in delivering for his country may see him appear in person.

Organising Committee chief executive Danny Jordaan said this morning that there is "a great chance" Mandela will attend for at least a short time.

Comparing the anticipation on the eve of the World Cup to Mandela's release from prison in 1990 and the achievement of universal suffrage in 1994, Jordaan



Former South African President Nelson Mandela

said his presence would be "the cherry on the cake"

"We have to remember that Nelson Mandela is 92. But he wants to be there, and as things stand there is a great chance that in fact he will be there. We will just be happy if he is able to show his face," Jordaan said.

"Whether he stays five

minutes or for the whole match is not our decision. It would be the cherry on the cake, but the cake is iced and it is ready."

Mandela was a key figure in South Africa's successful bid for the World Cup and his presence in the stadium would deliver a further boost to the mounting excitement here.



Some fastest players at 2010 World Cup

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