IS ALLAH TICKED OFF AT IRAN?

The mullahs have had a lot of bad news in recent days - news with a particularly sinister aura, in fact. So sinister that they are asking themselves what they have done to incur the Wrath of Allah.

I kid you not.

First is the loss of one of their terrorist stars, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the *deus ex machina* of the terror war against us in Iraq. Not only does that deprive the mullahs of a prime instrument for generating Sunni/Shia civil war, but it is a serious blow to recruitment throughout the terror network.

It is as bad for them as the beheading videos were good. Potential jihadis want to do the beheading, not suffer the consequences of 500-pound bombs.

The quick Iranian deception, pretending they were pleased at the death of Zarqawi, shouldn't fool anybody. They have lost a basic building block of the terror structure.

Second is the worldwide campaign against terror cells, many of which were linked to Zarqawi, or to Iran itself. Some of the Canadians now in jail in Ontario had been in contact with Zarqawi, and the cell in Sarajevo had longstanding ties to Tehran.

Third is this ominous line from al-Reuters on the occasion of President Bush's jaunt to Baghdad:

> BAGHDAD, June 13 - U.S. President George W. Bush told Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki in Baghdad on Tuesday Iran's "interference" in Iraq must end, said Iraqi government sources who attended the talks.

Can it be that, at long last, we are going to take steps against the mullahs to save the lives of our fighters and the Iraqi civilians who have been targeted by the terrorists who are armed and manipulated by the Iranians and the Syrians? Faster, please!

But all of this is *nothing* compared to the clear message from Allah on the soccer fields of Germany. No, I'm not talking about the demonstrations against President Ahmadinutjob, I'm talking about the Mexican victory over Iran in the first round of the World Cup.

With the game tied 1-1, a Mexican player named Omar Bravo scored for Mexico, which went on to win 3-1. That name, Omar Bravo, sends chills down the spines of the mullahs.

"Bravo" is a universal plaudit, enthusiastic praise for the person to whom the "bravo" is directed. And Omar? Well...Omar is the most hated name in the Shia lexicon, the symbol of the forces of evil, the incarnation of satanic influence on earth.

And why? Recall that the origin of the Sunni/Shia split was a fight between Ali (Mohammed's son in law, married to his daughter Fatima as he had no sons) and Abu Bakr (one of Mohammed's two lieutenants) to be Caliph, leader of all Moslems after Mohammed's death.

Thanks to the help of Omar, the other chief lieutenant, Abu Bakr won, became the first Caliph, and when he died, Omar became the second Caliph, founding Sunni Islam. The *Shi'at Ali*, followers of Ali or Shia, have hated Omar ever since for usurping Ali's rightful inheritance as ruler of Islam.

For Shias, no one in Islamic history is spoken of with more intense hatred than Omar. In Iran today, one of the harshest things you can say about another person is *Iaanat be'Omar*, cursed by Omar.

To a devout Shia of the sort that governs Iran today, the defeat of the Iranian national team by somebody named Omar Bravo cannot be easily dismissed as a random event.

It cannot possibly be a coincidence (it is hard for Iranians to believe that *anything* is a coincidence), and it is most certainly a terrible augury. Many Iranians are interpreting it as a message to the mullahs: just as Ali was defeated by Omar, so your doom has been signaled by a modern Omar. And that "bravo," can it be an accident? No way.

As I said, tough times for the mullahs. Very tough. Allah is ticked.