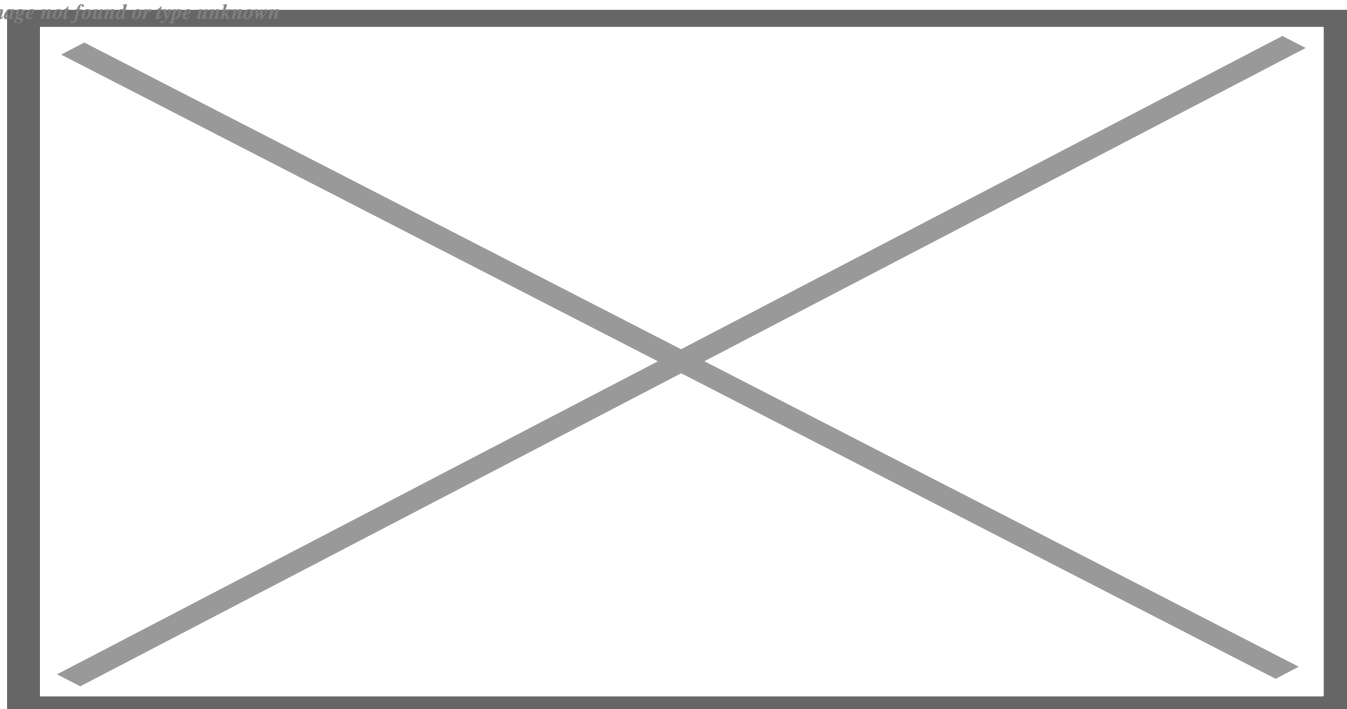


Thousands bid farewell to Maradona at Casa Rosada in Buenos Aires

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People pass by the coffin of soccer legend Diego Maradona at Casa Rosada in Buenos Aires. (Photo: Reuters)

Buenos Aires, November 26 (RHC)-- Argentines gathered at the Casa Rosada presidential palace in Buenos Aires on Thursday, where the casket of football/soccer icon Diego Maradona lay in state, draped in an Argentinean flag and his famous Number 10 shirt.

Maradona died at the age of 60 following a heart attack at home on Wednesday. Huge crowds are expected to pay their respects as part of three days of national mourning. Maradona's body lay in a wooden coffin with the blue and white national flag and an Argentina soccer jersey with the number 10 that had been part of his nickname "D10S" - a play on "dios", the Spanish word for God.

Fans held back by a barrier threw football shirts, flowers and other items towards the casket as they tried to get near the player, who was a hero in Argentina and around the world.

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