



STUFF THAT MAKE A LEGEND: Football legend Pele's Brazilian shirt (back) worn by him in an international match after the 1970 World Cup finals worth £3,000-5,000 (4370-7283 Euro), a pair of black leather football boots worn by him when he scored his 1000th career goal, the sole of the boot bearing a white metal plaque inscribed 13 (13, was his locker number in the changing room) and a letter of authenticity on Santos football club and his original 1960 Santos F.C contract signed and dated 5th April 1960 are up for auction at Christie's in central London on March 7. Total estimated price of the items is between £10,000-15,000 (14,570-21,850 Euro).

Ronaldo's promise

Football

AFP, Madrid

Ronaldo took a swipe at the Spanish press on Friday and vowed to conquer the hearts of "demanding" fans at Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

The Brazilian World Cup winner has still to win over Real's passionate support base since moving from Inter Milan, and the Footballer of the Year has sometimes found himself the target of jeering.

Ronaldo, who has scored 13 league goals since arriving in the Spanish capital, conceded: "I haven't yet won over the Madrid public but I will conquer them."

The 27-year-old told Friday's El

Pais that he was fed up being made a scapegoat by the fans when things were bad.

He said that hostility was fuelled



RONALDO

by "a certain reporting which gives a false image" of him.

"Some stories from the sports pages come more from writing from the heart than sports journalism," he said.

"They say that I like to go out at night, they talk about the carnival, about my cars," he added.

"All that affects me, as it's not easy to play in those conditions."

Despite the occasional frosty reaction from the terraces Real Madrid president Florentino Perez advised Ronaldo to be patient.

"The same thing happened last season with (Zinedine) Zidane and the year before with (Luis) Figo. I'm sure Ronaldo will eventually be the player all the supporters hoped he would be."

South America 2014 hosts

Football

AFP, Zurich

The 2014 World Cup will be held in South America, world soccer governing body FIFA's executive committee ruled on Friday.

FIFA president Joseph Blatter said the decision followed a recom-

mendation of a strategic studies commission, which he heads, and fulfilled a "long time wish" of the South American confederation CONMEBOL to see the world's top football tournament return to South America.

"The naming of this confederation (South America) which has not organised a World Cup since 1978 (Argentina) and which has won this event nine times, is logical," said Blatter.

FIFA said in a statement that "further discussions regarding the future rotation of the hosting of the World Cup could be put on ice".

The 2006 World Cup will take place in Germany with the 2010 event slated for Africa with six countries - South Africa, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia - bidding. The 2010 venue will be chosen in May 2004.

Blatter said CONMEBOL had also asked the executive committee to expand the 2006 World Cup to 36 national teams instead of the current plan of 32.

FIFA decided at its meeting in Madrid last December to remove the half of a World Cup qualifying slot which had previously been attributed to South American nations.

"The South Americans do not quite agree with the decision that was taken in Madrid, and they came up with an interesting, new proposal," Blatter admitted.

"We took note. And we passed the ball on to the German side. It might not be too elegant, but passing the ball is part of football, and now it's with the German organisers," he added.

The executive committee is due to make a final decision on May 3, Blatter said.

FIFA decided last year to award

the 2010 World Cup finals to an African nation, but officials had said at the time that the move was not meant to be part of a precedent setting policy of rotation.

Six African countries - South Africa, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia - are bidding to host the 2010 event.

FIFA said it would also merge qualifying for the 2006 African Nations Cup with the African round of qualifying matches for the World Cup.

While the top teams from each group in the African round will become World Cup candidates, nations finishing in the top three of each group will play off in Egypt for the African Nations Cup.

African and South American qualifying rounds will also be allowed to start before the preliminary draw of the World Cup finals, FIFA said.

At its meeting, FIFA's executive committee also endorsed the international match fixture list for the 2005 to 2008 period, which forms the basis for planning national league, international club and national team matches, including friendlies, during that period.

It awarded the 2004 "Futsal" Indoor world football championship to Taiwan, while Thailand will host the second women's under-19 soccer world championship.

Announcing financial results at FIFA, general secretary Urs Linsi said that the world governing body made a loss of three million Swiss francs (2.25m dollars) in 2002, well below the loss of 252 million Swiss francs which had been forecast.



- ESPN**
Follow Through Super Six Match-3 WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 8:00 am
English Premier Football League Chelsea vs Aston Villa
Repeat at 8:30 am
STAR Sports
Follow Through Super Six Match-3 WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 7:30 am
Asia Sport Show
Int'l Sports News
Repeat at 11:30 am
Gillette World Sports Special
Int'l Sports News
Taped Version at 4:30 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 191
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.
Competition closes at 8 pm March 21, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the Shahjalal Bank International Rating Chess title?
Lovlu Rajib Zia

2. New Zealand beat South Africa in a World Cup Group B match by:
102 runs 9 wkts 5 wkts

3. How many runs did Bangladesh score against South Africa in the World Cup Group B match?
120 108 110

4. Bangladesh lost to Canada in the World Cup Group B match?

Name
.....
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

Zico's son follows dad

Football

AFP, Tosu, Japan

The son of Brazilian legend Zico is to follow in his father's footsteps by pursuing a footballing career in Japan's J-League.

Junior, a 25-year-old midfielder, whose real name is Arthur Antunes Coimbra Junior, has signed a contract with second division side Sagan Tosu, a club official said.

The move sees Junior emulate his famous father Zico, now coach of Japan's national team, who enjoyed great success with Kashima Antlers during the 1990s.

Junior said he hoped to be as successful as his illustrious dad.

"Kashima is a small town, too. I also want to lead Tosu to becoming a big team. I've been practicing for a month. Hopefully, I can assist for two goals in each game," said Junior after arriving in Japan.

Junior turned professional in 1997 with Fluminense and then played for Centrodre Futebol Zico (CFZ) established by his father, Italian Serie A side Udinese in 2000, and New England Revolution of the United States before returning to CFZ.

Junior was expected to arrive here last month, but Zico's birthday on Monday and the Rio Mardi Gras Carnival forced him to postpone.

He joined the team Friday, eight days before the second division kicks off next Saturday.

WORLD FOOTBALL BRIEFS

INTERNET, Paris

World football briefs on Saturday:

RONALDINHO MANHANDLED?

Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian star Ronaldinho is reported to have been attacked by angry fans following the 4-2 home win over Troyes.

Stepping out of his BMW to greet autograph hunters gathered outside the stadium parking lot on Saturday, the 22-year-old World Cup winner was taken to one side by a small cluster of fans.

Angry comments were aimed at Ronaldinho and an altercation followed, according to French daily sports newspaper L'Equipe.

"He was taken aside by three or four individuals. One witness mentioned that the player received a punch on the cheek," the report in L'Equipe said.

Fellow Brazilians Paulo Cesar and Aloisio were said to have rushed over to help out their team-mate.

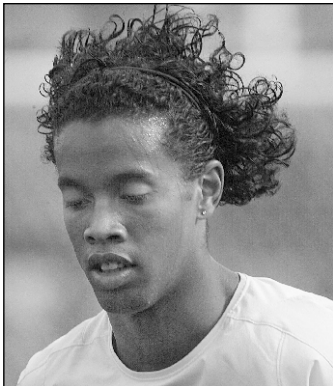
Rift could hasten Ronaldinho exit

During the ensuing melee, further punches are believed to have been thrown and Aloisio's cellphone stolen.

None of the players were said to have been hurt in the incident, but several players' cars were also reported to have been damaged after the game.

The club's press officer, Mathias Barbera, declined to comment on reports of the altercation.

PSG currently lie eighth in the first division, with fans growing increasingly restless toward the big-spending club, without a trophy in the last five seasons.



RONALDINHO

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld and commercial manager Uli Hoernes have urged the German media to lay off goalkeeper Oliver Kahn.

Kahn has been castigated in the German press for having an extra-marital affair.

But the duo have pleaded for calm, with Hitzfeld asking that Kahn be allowed to settle down and focus on his football.

"It is dramatic how things have already come to a head. He is being treated almost like a hardened criminal," said Hitzfeld.

"I am already worried that Kahn cannot put up with it for much longer.

"I just hope he can manage to carry on concentrating on football while having important discussions at home."

Hoernes admitted he was astonished by the level of the reaction in Germany, and said the club would do everything they could to help the player.

"We have other problems in our society to worry about. What happened to Oliver Kahn is not a problem," said Hoernes.

Kahn wins Golden Ball award

"It is really necessary that five camera teams are waiting every morning in front of the hospital where his wife is staying"

"It is in the best interests of Bayern Munich that we keep Kahn out of the firing line."

The 33-year-old is one of Germany's highest-profile figures and was the first goalkeeper to win the Golden Ball award for best player at last year's World Cup finals.



OLIVER KAHN

England not

FROM PAGE 16

another four weeks, however, with Fletcher spending some time off at his residence in Cape Town, following a hectic winter schedule. He is due back in England in mid-April.

Nor is there an immediate necessity for an appointment with England's first one-day international next summer against Pakistan on June 17.

"The selectors will make their observations but there's no rush," claimed Graveney.

"It's sad when these things happen but I respect that Nasser has made the decision himself - I think a lot of him as a leader and that hasn't changed."

Right to left

FROM PAGE 16

who went on to make 79.

Ganguly, however, refused to use the after-effects of the emotionally draining win over Pakistan as an excuse.

"We had six days after the Pakistan match. Whatever mental stress or tiredness there was, six days was enough. We were just not up for the game," Ganguly said and gave Kenya due credit.

"It's not a flash in the pan. I've always said the smaller teams can cause problems for the big sides."

"Kenya beat Sri Lanka and they gave us a scare. They gave us a tough time and we had to play well to pull it through."

Bodyline Brett

FROM PAGE 16

Despite a record run of 13 successive one-day international wins under their belts, Ponting has demanded more of the same against the Black Caps on Tuesday and again against Kenya in Durban next Saturday as they go through the motions of completing their Super Six campaign.

"We will pick the best side for Port Elizabeth," said Ponting.

"Although we haven't spoken about winning all the matches in the World Cup, it would be nice if we could do that. It might not happen, but our preparations will be excellent."

"We are always striving to improve and we have the individuals here who are inclined to improve all the time whether it's in the nets or in the match."

"Of course, we can be beaten. We could have lost to England last week and if we don't capitalise on our chances, then we can lose."

Philippoussis in last four

AFP, Scottsdale

Mark Philippoussis made a welcome return to the business end of a tournament for the first time in more than a year, reaching the semifinals Friday at the 400,000-dollar ATP Tempeleton Classic.

The 26-year-old Scud last booked a place in the final four of an event in Adelaide in January, 2002, only weeks after making a come-back after six months away due to knee surgery.

The 1997 tournament champion re-discovered that winning feeling as he rallied to oust Argentine Wimbledon finalist David Nalbandian, the third seed, 6-6, 6-3, 6-4.

The reassuring victory was a complement to the straight-set decision taken earlier by compatriot and Davis Cup teammate Lleyton Hewitt, who defeated Spain's Alex Corretja 6-4, 6-2.

Hewitt, the world No. 1 and top seed who won here in 2000, joined Philippoussis in producing his best result of the young year.

"I'm getting better, that's the main thing," said the two-time Grand Slam winner, who lost in the fourth round of the Australian Open and whose last foray on the court was in Davis Cup a month ago. "That's what I wanted, that's why I came here."

"Hopefully, I can keep it going. Even if something went wrong in the next couple of days, I still wouldn't be disappointed with having come here."

Hewitt, who had lost three straight matches to Corretja, improved his career record on the Scottsdale hard-courts to 15-2.

Hewitt tangles Saturday with American powerhouse Taylor Dent, the champion last month at Memphis, who moved through his quarter-final 6-1, 6-3 over out-classed Spaniard David Sanchez.

Volatile Argentine Mariano Zabaleta ousted James Blake 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 and will play Philippoussis.

Philippoussis was breathing a sigh of relief after dodging a bullet in his match with Nalbandian. He recovered from getting broken three times and had a lowly 29 percent mark on first serves in the opening set.

Respect us

FROM PAGE 16

matches for spectators and viewers, travel arrangements have been made by supporters and broadcasters, beaming pictures to 180 different countries - and they could not cope with any alteration.x

Daniela, Kim advance

Tennis

AFP, Indian Wells

Daniela Hantuchova opened defence of her biggest career triumph on Friday with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Petra Mandula in the second round of the Pacific Life Open WTA Tour tier I tennis tournament.

The third-seeded Hantuchova won her lone career title here last year, defeating Justine Henin in the fourth round and former world No. 1 Martina Hingis in the final to become the lowest seed in history to win a Tier I event.

"I felt a lot of pressure before the first match, so I was glad to get through it without any problems today," said Hantuchova, who received a first-round bye as a seeded player. "As soon as I stepped onto the court it reminded me so much of last year."

The 19-year-old Slovakian has not won another tournament, but reached her third straight Grand Slam quarter-final at the Australian Open in January. She has advanced to at least the quarterfinals in all four WTA Tour tournaments she has played this year, including a semifinal showing last month at Antwerp.

Hantuchova next meets Slovenia's Katarina Srebotnik, who defeated Belgian Els Callens 6-4, 6-0.

Top seed Kim Clijsters of Belgium held off Fabiola Zuluaga, 6-3, 7-5. Clijsters, a finalist here in

2001, won the final four games of the match to record her second win in as many meetings with the Colombian.

"The whole match she served really well but it's at those moments (serving for the set) that you get nervous," the Belgian said. "If she plays that game too well then there may be nothing you can do, but I tried to not give her a lead in that game and to keep the pressure on."

"They (lower ranked players) aren't used to being in those situations," Clijsters added. "It's definitely moments like that that you have to believe in yourself."

Clijsters lost in the second round to Nathalie Dechy here last year after a bye.

"There are so many other tournaments during the year that I never think about what I did the year before when I come back to a tournament," she said. "But I love to play here and it's nice to be back. Last year I had a shoulder injury and I was just happy to play."

Clijsters opened the season by taking the title at Sydney. She had won 23 of her last 24 matches dating to last year before a disappointing semi-final loss to eventual champion Serena Williams at the Australian Open. But the 19-year-old rebounded by reaching the final at her last two events.

Last week, Clijsters lost the Scottsdale final to doubles partner Ai Sugiyama.

No. 6 Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia became the highest seed to lose after falling, 6-1, 5-7, 6-3, to world No. 87 Barbara Ritter of Germany.

Dokic, a winner of five titles, is yet to reach a semi-final in five tournament appearances this year. But she is hoping the results will come after starting to work with Heinz Gunthardt, the former coach of Steffi Graf.

"He's much tougher than other coaches I've worked with," she said. "He knows exactly what we need to work on."

Eighth seed Chanda Rubin eased past French qualifier Marion Bartoli, 6-4, 6-3, to notch her 15th victory in 21 matches at this event.

Rubin reached the semifinals here in 1999 and the quarter-finals on three other occasions, but missed last year's event after undergoing knee surgery.

"Last year I was sitting out at this time of the year, doing rehab and watching it on TV," she said. "I feel fortunate to be healthy now and that the tennis can take care of itself."

In other results among the top 16 seeds, No. 10 Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria outlasted Stephanie Cohen-Aloro of France 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (7/1), Zimbabwe's Cara Black handed No. 11 Anna Pistolesi of Israel her fourth straight defeat, 7-6 (7/3), 6-3, No. 15 Decby thrashed Russia's Evgenia Koulikovskaya, 6-2, 6-1, and No. 16 Amanda Coetzer of South Africa routed Klara Koukalova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-2.

Radcliffe pulls out of World C'ships

AFP, London

Britain's Paula Radcliffe has opted not to try for a third successive cross country crown at the IAAF World Championships later this month in order to concentrate all her energies on the London marathon.

Radcliffe, who smashed the women's marathon record in Chicago last year, is focused on lowering her own mark of two hours 17 minutes 18 seconds in London on April 13.

"Paula's decision, taken after weeks of talks with her husband and trainers, reflects her determination to concentrate entirely on her main target, the London marathon," the English athletics association explained on Friday.

Radcliffe is the second big name to pull out of the March 29-30 event in Lausanne, Switzerland. Last month Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan was forced to withdraw after injuring an Achilles tendon.

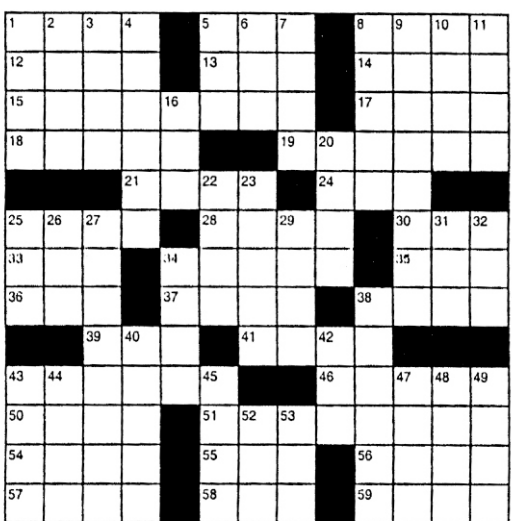


PHOTO: COURTESY

A chess competition for women to mark the International Women's Day began at the Women's Sports Complex at Dharmondi yesterday. President of Bangladesh Women Sports Federation Shamsun Nahar Khwaja Ahsan Ullah inaugurated the meet as the chief guest.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
1 Actor Brad Pitt
5 CBS logo
8 Dance lesson
12 — fix
13 Use an car
14 — Little Tender-ness
15 Happen, as a wish
17 Not entirely mine
18 Greek leader?
19 Hindu royalty
21 Make a mark
24 "Little Women" woman
25 Stud fee?
28 Leak out slowly
30 Up
33 Standard
34 Ernest of old movies
35 401(k) alternative
36 Large bird
37 Be the bread-winner
38 Celebrity
39 Flock female
- 41 Walkman manufacturer
43 Hero contents
46 Michael-mas daisy
50 Labyrinth goal
51 Make senso, perhaps
54 A Baldwin
55 Wall climber
56 Hibernia
57 "Enter-tainment Tonight"
58 Moment
59 Disposition
60 Make lace
61 NYSE counter-part
62 Type style
- 2 Fanzine subject
3 Office part-timer
4 Giggly noise
5 Blunder
6 Second person
7 Basin accessory
8 It felled Goliath
9 John Wayne movie
10 "Jane —"
11 Quarter-back's tactic
16 Make
20 NYSE counter-part
- 22 Puppets Bill and Baird
23 Sessions with the shrink
25 Mimic
26 "Platoon" setting
27 Schwarzenegger movie
29 Greek philosopher
31 History chapter
32 Distant
34 Around
38 Method
40 Eye
42 Kvetch
43 Member-ship
44 Wheel-base terminus
45 State flower of Tennessee
47 Half a sextet
48 Continental coin
49 Sax player's need
52 — Got
53 "Sixpence" Big Apple abbr.



CRYPTOQUIP

NVKD FCZ IKH O LOU
ZEIK HC QVCM, EKXXLKE
HVOH XCDKF UCKQD'H

IECYN CD QMEKKQ
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FUNNY HEADLINE I CAME UPON IN THURSDAY'S PAPER: "CROOK STEALS CLOCK, FACES TIME."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals S

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.