

**Sick leaves expected to rise!**

INTERNET, undated

Employers can expect a surge in staff taking "sickies" when the football World Cup kicks off in June with one in seven men expected to take time off, according to a survey by YouGov.

A poll of over 2,000 adults, commissioned by leading UK expert in workplace issues Croner, found that 13% of men and 4% of women admitted to calling in sick to watch a match or to recover from match-related drinking.

But, with many matches due to fall in working hours, employers who provide TV access at work could avoid the problem of absences and actually benefit from improved employee relations and boost morale by helping staff enjoy the World Cup season.

Croner urges employers to consider allowing employees to watch matches at work, but they should also update their annual leave policies now to include special advice for employees on the procedure for taking time off for sporting events, to serve as a reminder to employees who are thinking of bunking off to the pub.

Richard Smith, employment services director at Croner says: "absence management always features high on employers' lists of concerns around major spectator events like Wimbledon, the Olympics, and of course the imminent World Cup."

"We're quite surprised by such a high proportion of people admitting they are feigning illness so they can enjoy a major sporting event, but we are advising our clients on how they can actually turn this to their advantage."

"Rather than worry about employees being struck down with 'World Cup-itis' on match days, they should be thinking of how temporarily relaxing the rules can have positive returns for their business."

"We strongly advise employers to provide on-site TV access to important games and to encourage employees who wish to enjoy alcohol during games to request annual leave around match days. Annual leave policies should be updated with clear guidelines issued to all employees, emphasising that unauthorised absence could lead to disciplinary action."

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



ON TOP OF THE WORLD AGAIN: Master coach Vittorio Pozzo holds the Jules Rimet trophy at the Yves du Manoir stadium in Colombes in the suburb of Paris on June 19, 1938 as Italy clinch the World Cup for the second consecutive time.

**Riquelme: Can he or can't he?**

INTERNET, undated

The hopes of three countries rested on the shoulders of Juan Roman Riquelme as he placed the ball on the penalty spot, face to face with Arsenal goalkeeper Jens Lehmann.

Fans in both Spain and England could only look on nervously as Arsenal and Villarreal's Champions League campaigns hung in the balance. Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, millions of Argentines were glued to their screens, ready to see if the main man in Jose Pekerman's tactical scheme could pass the ultimate test of nerves.

Unfortunately for Riquelme, Germany No1 Lehmann guessed right and saved, sparking riotous celebrations back in England and reopening the debate over the midfielder's key role in the Argentine national team. A thorny issue ever since Pekerman took charge of Argentina, the Riquelme question again took centre stage in the media in the aftermath of last week's game.

While some lauded the Villarreal star's intelligent play, others criticised his lack of pace, with no stone left unturned as fans queued up to

have their say. But one thing is for sure: the player who once endured an unhappy spell at Catalan giants Barcelona will still have his hand on the Albiceleste rudder at this summer's FIFA World Cup.

Having made his full national team debut under Daniel Passarella back in 1997, neither him nor his successor Marcelo Bielsa saw fit to give Riquelme a regular starting berth. Nevertheless, Pekerman wasted little time in moulding his team around the gifted playmaker, ahead of the likes of Pablo Aimar and the forgotten figure of Juan Sebastian Veron.

The consensus among the country's top sports journalists is that when Roman is on his game, Argentina move up a gear, although many have questioned the wisdom of placing such a burden on just one player. What if he were to have a quiet game, critics ask. However, Pekerman himself believes Riquelme is up to the task. "They say he doesn't play at a high tempo, but I don't see him as a slow player. It's the ball that needs to move quickly, not the players."

Pekerman's faith in Riquelme's

innate footballing genius has already reaped substantial rewards for a new-look Albiceleste side. Riquelme played a starring role in the resounding 3-1 win over Brazil that booked Argentina's place at Germany 2006, as well as leading his country to second place at the FIFA Confederations Cup last summer.

During qualifying for Germany, Riquelme hit three goals in eight appearances. At the FIFA Confederations Cup the midfielder's talent shone even brighter, as, featuring in all five Argentina games, he scored three goals and collected the adidas Silver Ball for the tournament's second-best player.

Statistics apart, Riquelme's missed penalty prompted scores of fans to express their support for the 27-year-old while many others took the opportunity to criticise the Villarreal man.

Jorge Valdano, a FIFA World Cup winner in 1986, was also quick to throw his hat into the ring. "Riquelme's very clever," he said. "He knows how to find space, his timing's immaculate, he always

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



**DOWN THE WORLD CUP LANE**

**France 1938: Winds of War**

AGENCIES, undated



The World Cup was coming back to the land of its fathers, but any celebrations were tempered by events elsewhere.

The threat of war hung over Europe as the third edition of the greatest football show on earth prepared to kick off in France in 1938, after world governing body FIFA upheld its decision to go ahead with the tournament despite the growing threat of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi forces.

Under German occupation, Austria, one of the great football powers, was not even a country any more. Others were soon to follow, including Czechoslovakia, where the Nazis would soon take the Sudetenland without a peep from the West. There was civil war in Spain. And Italy, now firmly established as Germany's sidekick, were still strong on the football field.

Only the inside-forwards Meazza and Ferrari remained from the triumphant 1934 team. Three others came in from the side which won the 1936 Olympics, and there was only one South American this time, the Uruguayan Andreolo in Monti's place. Above all, the latest centre-forward, Silvio Piola, was the best in Europe.

Thirty-six nations had been whittled down to 14 qualifiers who joined hosts France and the holders in the first round knockout format. Brazil and Cuba were the representatives from the Americas and the Dutch East Indies also joined the party as Asian representatives. FIFA's decision not to rotate the host continent infuriated many South American countries who boycotted the tournament altogether.

Czechoslovakia still had Planicka, Nejedly and Puc. Brazil, as usual, had not played for more than a year. Hungary were full of goals, Sarosi scoring seven, no less, in an 8-3 win over Czechoslovakia, who had Planicka in goal. The other goal came from the 21-year-old Zsengeller, who later scored five in the 11-1 qualifying win over Greece.

Uruguay again did not turn up. Nor did Argentina, who had won the Copa America the previous year (with Guaita back from Italy). Meanwhile, England had won 6-3 in Germany and 4-2 in France, fielding players like Matthews, Bastin, Drake and Hapgood. Still outside FIFA, they apparently turned down an invitation to take Austria's place.

In October the Austrians had beaten lowly Latvia 2-1 to qualify. On 12 March, German troops crossed the border. On 12 April the Austrian FA announced that it had ceased to exist. The Nazis had been welcomed in by a surprising percentage of the population, keen on the idea of 'Greater Germany' and presumably proud when Austrian players were added to the German squad. Nine in all, but not Matthias Sindelar, who was now required to

wear a Star of David on his clothing. On the pitch, Brazil and Poland produced a fabulous spectacle in Strasbourg.

Leonidas -- better known as "The black diamond" -- hit four goals only for Ernst Wilimowski to hit back with four of his own as the match went into extra-time before Brazil emerged with a 6-5 victory.

That set up a quarterfinal against Czechoslovakia, a tumultuous match that was later classed as "the Battle of Bordeaux".

Three players were sent off, one Brazilian left with a broken leg and a final score of 1-1 forced the two sides to do it all over again the following day.

This time in calmer circumstances Brazil won 2-1.

Inexplicably, Leonidas was left out of the semifinal against Italy, when coach Ademir Pimenta opted

to rest him for the final, a match they never played as the holders knocked them out 2-1 in Marseille.

Italy prevailed in a tough opening battle against Norway before ending French hopes with a 3-1 victory in Paris to set up the semifinal against Brazil.

Hungary were their surprise opponents, having rarely been threatened on their path to the final, thrashing Sweden 5-1 in the semi thanks to a Zsengeller hat-trick.

Italy, however, proved stiffer opponents and courtesy of two goals from Silvio Piola and Gino Colaussi the Italians won their second straight title with a 4-2 win in front of 45,000 supporters on the outskirts of Paris.

It was to be the last World Cup for 12 years.



**BITS AND BOBS**

**Sheva faces fitness race**

REUTERS, Rome

AC Milan's Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko has been sidelined for 25 days with a knee injury, the Serie A club said on Monday.

Shevchenko is the key player for Ukraine in their first World Cup finals campaign which starts with their Group H opener against Spain on June 14 and his injury could affect his preparation for the tournament.

The former European Player of the Year picked up the injury early in Milan's 3-2 win over Parma in Serie A on Sunday.

Milan said the forward had suffered "a sprain and stretching of the medial collateral ligament" but ruled out any need for an operation.

Shevchenko will miss Milan's final game of the season at home to Roma.

Milan trail leaders Juventus by three points with one game remaining -- Juve face Reggina at the neutral venue of Bari.

Ukraine will also face Tunisia and Saudi Arabia at the World Cup finals in Germany

**Davids overlooked**

AFP, The Netherlands

Dutch veteran Edgar Davids has been left out in the cold by coach Marco van Basten who announced Holland's 28-man, World Cup pre-squad on Monday.

Eighteen of those players, expected to be in the final 23 by FIFA's May 15 deadline, will be undergoing national training from Tuesday to Friday this week. The other 10 have not yet been released by their clubs.

Absentees compared to the 33-man squad named last month, apart from Tottenham midfielder Davids, include Aston Villa's Wilfried Bouma, Ron Vlaar of Feyenoord, Ajax's Urby Emanuelson, Patrick Lodewijks of Feyenoord and AZ Alkmaar's Martijn Meerdink.

Van Basten, who had already left out Bayern Munich striker Roy Makaay and AC Milan midfielder Clarence Seedorf from the 33 named in April, has not commented on whether or not omitted players could be reprieved and included in the final squad at the last minute.

Ajax defender Johnny Heitinger, not included in the original 33, has

made it to the 28-man squad however.

**"Rooney battling for dream"**

AFP, Manchester

Wayne Rooney is enduring two punishing sessions a day in an oxygen chamber in an effort to save his World Cup dream, said Manchester United

manager Sir Alex Ferguson.

The 20-year-old, who has a broken foot, was expected to be named later Monday in England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson's provisional World Cup squad of 27 players.

Rooney will have a scan just days before England head to Germany for the finals which is likely to determine whether he can play any part in the tournament.

"He is in that oxygen chamber

twice a day and showing great dedication to do it because it is not the best thing to sit in," said Ferguson.

"I think Wayne will be in the squad on Monday. I would do the same if I was in Sven Goran Eriksson's position.

"We just have to see how he gets on over the next few weeks. What is needed here is a realistic approach, and that is what he will get from Manchester United when the time comes to assess his readiness for an elite competition involving the best players in the world.

"Wayne is young and it would be easy to persuade him to play despite not being fully fit.

"For the sake of the boy and the rest of the England team we will do everything possible to get him fit.

"But I am not going to go along with this half-baked idea of him going to Germany 80% fit, then find him being pressurised into playing before he is ready.

"That was the experience of David Beckham in the last World Cup and it was a disaster because he wasn't right."

**Iran to train in Switzerland**

AFP, Berlin

Iran's national football team will base themselves in the central Swiss town of Spiez for 11 days from Monday ahead of the World Cup finals.

The Iranian team will play three friendly matches against local teams and then integrate national players playing their trade in the German league before rejoining in Croatia.

The team is scheduled to play fellow World Cup qualifiers Croatia in Osijek on May 28.

Iran will then play Bosnia and Herzegovina three days later in Tehran before relocating to its southwestern German training base of Friedrichshafen from June 5.

Iran have been drawn in Group D and kick off their campaign against Mexico in Nuremberg on June 11, followed by Portugal in Frankfurt on June 17 and Angola in Leipzig four days later.

Togo will be the first of the 32 World Cup teams to arrive in Germany.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



Wayne Rooney, with his ankle in a cast, shares a light moment with teammate Cristiano Ronaldo after the match against Charlton on Sunday.

**Rooney, Walcott in provisional squad**

REUTERS, London

Sven-Goran Eriksson selected injured Wayne Rooney and took an even bolder gamble on teenage Arsenal striker Theo Walcott when he named his provisional England World Cup squad on Monday.

Manchester United striker Rooney was included despite being a major doubt for the finals with a broken foot.

Eriksson, who said last week it could take a miracle for the inspirational 20-year-old to play in Germany, is still hoping Rooney can take some part in the finals.

The 17-year-old Walcott has yet to even play for Arsenal's first team since joining the club in January from Southampton for an initial five million pounds (\$9.33 million).

Rooney is not Eriksson's only injury worry as strike partner Michael Owen missed Newcastle's final game of the season against Chelsea on Sunday following a setback in his comeback from long-term injury.

FIFA rules allow Eriksson to change an injured player from his squad up to 24 hours before kick off in their first Group B match, against Paraguay on June 10.

**Goalkeepers:** David James (Manchester City), Robert Green (Norwich City), Paul Robinson (Tottenham Hotspur)

**Defenders:** John Terry, Wayne Bridge (Chelsea), Jamie Carragher (Liverpool), Rio Ferdinand, Gary Neville (Manchester United), Ashley Cole, Sol Campbell (Arsenal)

**Midfielders:** Joe Cole, Frank Lampard (Chelsea), Steven Gerrard (Liverpool), David Beckham (Real Madrid), Michael Carrick, Jermaine Jenas, Aaron Lennon (Tottenham Hotspur), Owen Hargreaves (Bayern Munich), Stewart Downing (Middlesbrough)

**Forwards:** Peter Crouch (Liverpool), Wayne Rooney (Manchester United), Michael Owen (Newcastle United), Theo Walcott (Arsenal)

**Players on stand by:** Scott Carson (Liverpool, goalkeeper), Luke Young (Charlton Athletic, defender), Nigel Reo-Coker (West Ham United, midfielder), Jermain Defoe (Tottenham Hotspur, striker), Andy Johnson (Crystal Palace, striker).

**2006 Round 1, Draw in Rangpur**  
 Competition Information, Prizes and Rules

**Information**

- The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2006 is a series of competitions on World Cup Soccer being held in Germany from June 9 to July 9.
- There will be FIVE rounds of competition.
- Each round will have a separate draw with attractive prizes from the house of RANGS TOSHIBA as per announcement.
- Participants of all the FIVE rounds will automatically qualify for the Bumper Draw, which will have even bigger prizes.
- For each round, a set of questions including a photographic quiz will be published in the Daily Star.
- Names and addresses of all prize winners will be published in the Daily Star.
- Winners will have to collect their prizes from the Daily Star office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.
- Any taxes or levies, as per law, for all the above prizes will have to be borne by the prize winners.

**Rules**

- Residents of Bangladesh are eligible to participate in Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2006. Employees of and Rangs Toshiba and their immediate family members shall not be eligible to participate.
- All entries must be submitted in the original form printed in the Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.
- Forms will have to be cut along the dotted lines.
- Participants are to put a tick ( ) mark in the box alongside their answer to each question.
- A person may send numerous entries for each round. Entry forms should be completed with a ballpoint pen.
- Name, address, father's name and particulars of participants must be clearly written. Each entry form must also bear the signature of the participant and date.
- Incomplete forms will not be accepted.
- Entries must reach the office of the Daily Star on or before the closing date marked on the entry form. Late entries will not be accepted.
- Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 1"
- Entries may be hand delivered or posted to the Daily Star, 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
- Entries will be placed in a sealed box for the draw to be held on a notified date in public in presence of invited guests and Quiz participants, if any.
- Winners will be decided on the basis of correct entries drawn out from the box.
- Entering this Quiz competition shall be construed as the respective agreement by each participant to abide by all rules, instructions and guidelines as may be issued by the Daily Star.
- Any decision of the Daily Star in the conduct of the Quiz competition/including the answers selected as correct shall be deemed final and binding on all participants and shall not be called in question and/or challenged in any manner whatsoever.
- The Daily Star management, in their absolute discretion, reserves the right to amend, modify or substitute any of the above rules and/or change or reschedule any and all dates of the Quiz competitions under any circumstances.

**PRIZES UP FOR GRABS**

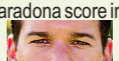
Prize	Item	Model	Winner
1st	One 21" Toshiba Bomba Flat TV	21CZ8DE	YOU
2nd	One Toshiba Refrigerator	GRM-19BPT	YOU
3rd	One Toshiba Washing Machine	VH-7200	YOU
4th	Ten Canon Cameras	BF-800	YOU
5th	Twenty Toshi Irons		and YOU

**QUIZ SCHEDULE**

Round & Draw	Starts	Answers must reach by noon	Lucky Draw for prizes
1 Rangpur	May 05	May 18	May 19
2 Khulna	May 19	June 01	June 02
3 Sylhet	June 2	June 15	June 16
4 Chittagong	June 16	June 29	June 30
5 Dhaka (Bumper)	June 30	July 09	TBA

**The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 1 Ends May 18, 2006**

**Tick ( ) the correct answers**

- How many teams will make their World Cup debut in Germany? 10  6  8
- Which team finished third in the 2002 World Cup? Turkey  Senegal  Spain
- Who won the golden boot in the 1998 World Cup? Vieri  Batistuta  Suker
- How many goals did Maradona score in the 1986 World Cup final? 1  2  0
- Who is this player:  Morientes  Ballack  Shevchenko

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms).....Age.....  
 Father's name.....Occupation.....  
 Address.....  
 Telephone (if any).....Signature.....Date.....

Write with a ballpoint pen in clear BLOCK letters.  
 Cut along the dotted lines and mail to OR drop in the Quiz Box at The Daily Star

**READ The Daily Star TO CATCH THE WORLD CUP FEVER**