

DHAKA SATURDAY MAY 20, 2006

DOWN THE WORLD CUP LANE

Mexico 1970: The height of brilliance

AGENCIES, undated

Despite their victory in the preceding World Cup and an ensuing record that had seen them lose just four out of thirty-five games in four years, England were not the favourites when the World Cup came around in 1970. Their only four losses had come against good opposition and none had been by more than a single goal. But there had also been ten draws during that time and England were very dreary to watch. The squad though was as good as the one in 1966. Banks, Moore and Hurst were all there. Stiles had been replaced by Mullery and there was a dynamic winger in Lee coupled with a good crop of attacking full backs—very necessary in a wingless team.

So who were the favourites? Brazil, of course. They had scored 23 goals in their qualifying campaign in six matches. Tosato had got ten of them and had struck up a rich partnership with Pele, who himself bagged six. Carlos Alberto, Gerson and Jairzinho were coming into their prime and Clodoaldo provided the base at midfield while Rivelino was another exciting talent. Prior to the tournament they had as coach, Joao Saldanha, a journalist who was a huge critic of the national team. Such was his vehement criticism that the powers that be finally decided to make him national coach to relieve his constant nagging. What sounds like the recipe for disaster turned into an instant success. They cut a swathe through the qualifying campaign but Saldanha was sacked in ignominy as he was found brandishing a revolver in the face of a critic of his methods. He was promptly sacked and Zagallo, infinitely calmer took the Brazilians to Mexico.

Elsewhere, West Germany had Gerd Muller in their books but scraped through 3-2 against Scotland. Italy, the European Champions looked strong in qualifying with Luigi Riva scoring seven goals. Argentina though, were eliminated by Peru. The other teams that made it were USSR and El Salvador whose door was opened as Mexico qualified as hosts. El

Salvador qualified after three matches with Honduras, which sparked off a war that had presumably more to do with immigration than football. Three thousand people died.

Mexico's record as hosts were none to encouraging as peaceful demonstrators were shot dead by armed police before the Olympics held in Mexico City. FIFA turned a blind eye to that and the enormous problem of heat and altitude, which had left European competitor needing oxygen in the Olympics. Games were also set at noon to accommodate TV schedules in Europe as the World Cup was being broadcast in colour all over the world. Players

lost up to ten pounds and needed fluids during games. Many were sent home with heatstroke. The tournament produced some exhilarating football and one of the great forward lines but the price in human terms was a rip-off.

The first great clash of the tournament came when Brazil and England met at the group stage, with Brazil narrowly getting the better of Bobby Moore's team by a goal to nil.

The quarter-finals threw up four European teams and four Latin American teams, with one of the most intriguing matches being England versus West Germany, a repeat of the 1966 final.

With only half an hour to play, England had a two-goal lead and looked to be coasting into the semi-finals, but West Germany are never beaten until the final whistle and sure enough they fought back from the dead to sneak a 3-2 win in extra-time. Beckenbauer started the comeback with a goal and Seeler and then Mueller scored in extra time to break English hearts and exact revenge for 1966.

Meanwhile, in the South American 'local tie', Brazil finally

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Brazilian forward Jairzinho is carried by fans after Brazil defeated Italy 4-1 in the World Cup final on June 21, 1970 in Mexico City. It is Brazil's third world title after the first two won in 1958 in Sweden and 1962 in Chile.

PHOTO: AFP FILE

Lahm says he will be fit

INTERNET, undated

Germany defender Philipp Lahm is confident he will be fit in time for the World Cup after leaving hospital following an elbow operation.

The Bayern Munich full-back has undergone successful surgery on the arm injury he sustained after falling awkwardly in Tuesday's 7-0 friendly victory over fifth division side Luckenwalde.

He is expected to join the rest of the Germany squad in Sardinia on Saturday and is hopeful of being ready for their Group A opener against Costa Rica on June 9.

Lahm said: "I am confident that I will make it. The surgery went well and I am thinking positively."

"The good thing is that I can start running again on Saturday and therefore there should be no problem in terms of my fitness. It is important for me now to be with the team."

The doctor who treated him at the Munich hospital, Professor Ludwig Seebauer, was also satisfied with the results of the surgery, saying: "It could have been worse."

"It was not a fracture which would have ended the World Cup for him. I would put Philipp's

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Retirement beckons for Nedved

INTERNET, undated

Pavel Nedved admits he may join Zinedine Zidane in retiring from all football after the World Cup.

The Czech Republic playmaker, whose team face Italy, USA and Ghana in Group E next month, has come out of international retirement once and is now considering whether to stop playing altogether. France and Real Madrid midfielder Zidane has already committed to ending his playing career after the finals in Germany.

Nedved, who plays for Serie A champions Juventus, said: "I do not have much of a future in front of me and I wanted to end (playing football) in the summer."

"I will wait and see. I want to fully concentrate on the World Cup, play good soccer, then anything may happen."

"I have a number of options, and retirement is one of them. I will be 34 in the summer (in August) and I will see what motivation I will

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BITS AND BOBS

\$5,000 for a goal

REUTERS, Luanda

Angola's Banco Internacional de Credito (BIC) has promised to give 5,000 dollars to every national team player who scores at the World Cup, state-owned newspaper Jornal de Angola reported on Friday.

The bank's president, Fernando Teles, also said he would offer 5,000 dollars to the best Angola player in each of their Group D matches against Portugal, Mexico and Iran.

The Angola squad, known as the 'Palancas Negras', left on Friday for Germany, where they will play in their first World Cup finals next month.

Tens of thousands of fans, clad in Angola shirts or special World Cup t-shirts, brought the streets to a standstill on Thursday evening as the players paraded through the capital.

The 23-man squad then enjoyed a gala dinner for more than 2,000 people at the new Coqueiros stadium.

The incentives offered by BIC include 50,000 dollars to be shared among the players and technical staff for every win in Germany plus a further 50,000 dollars if Angola get beyond the group stage.

Angola face former colonial power Portugal in their opening group game on June 11 in Cologne.

'Pressure all on Brazil'

AFP, Sydney

Five-times World Cup champions Brazil have all the pressure on them ahead of their World Cup finals' match with Australia in Germany next month, qualification hero John Aloisi said Friday.

Alaves striker Aloisi, who scored the penalty against Uruguay here last November that booked Australia's passage to the World Cup finals for the first time in 32 years, is keenly looking forward to Australia's tilt with the mighty Brazilians.

Brazilian striker Ronaldo, three times world player of the year, put Australian noses out of joint last month when he told a magazine he knew none of the Socceros except

"the one from Osasuna".

That was Aloisi's former Spanish club before he moved to Alaves this year.

"I would love to beat Brazil and show Ronaldo we haven't just got one player in Australia," Aloisi told reporters here Friday.

"They (Brazil) are probably the best team in the world."

"But they've got everything to lose and we have nothing to lose."

"They've got all the pressure."

Australia will take on Brazil in its second Group F match in Munich on June 18 after opening its World Cup campaign against Japan in Kaiserslautern on June 12.

Beware of Ebay tickets!

REUTERS, Berlin

Soccer fans who missed out on the official World Cup draws will run a big risk if they buy unauthorised tickets via online auction house

Ebay, a German official said on Thursday.

For security reasons, tickets for the month-long tournament starting June 9 are personalised with the buyer's name, and are not transferable except under special circumstances. But that has not stopped a lively market from developing on the Internet.

Asked what advice he would give to a prospective Ebay buyer, German soccer chief Theo Zwanziger said: "I would just warn him he's running a risk. He's going to the stadium under a false name... and he runs the risk he will be turned away."

He dismissed a reporter's suggestion that stadium officials would in practice only be able to check a small proportion of fans' identities.

"Why are you so sure? We have a lot of stewards on the spot,"

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Rooney-less England good enough for Pele

AFP, London

Pele believes England can reach the final of this year's World Cup even if striker Wayne Rooney fails to recover from injury.

The Brazil great, himself three-times a World Cup winner, has told English fans not to despair ahead of the start of next month's finals in Germany, citing his own experience as proof that an injury to one player need not prevent a team from winning the trophy.

Rooney remains set to travel with the England squad but the 20-year-old Manchester United forward will likely miss most of England's group stage matches at least, after breaking a foot bone just six weeks before the tournament.

"I think in the last four years, there is no doubt England have improved a lot," Pele, in Britain to

promote his autobiography, said Thursday.

"In the last 10 years they have been the best organised team and have a good chance to get to the final, no doubt."

"Unfortunately for England they have a problem with Rooney having broken his foot. He is a fantastic player and is a big loss for England. He is very important for the team."

"Who in England has the same level to replace him? England do not have anyone at the same level at the moment."

"This is a big problem but even without him I think England are a very strong team for this World Cup."

However, Pele backed England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson in the Swede's decision to take Rooney with him to Germany.

"I think it is (right) because it will give confidence to the team. If the doctor thinks he can be recalled, I think it is good, it makes sense for the team and the group."

"In my first World Cup I did not play the first games in Sweden because I was injured. But then I came in and the same could happen to Rooney."

"What he has is a little more complicated than what I had. I twisted my knee, he broke his foot, but today the new technology and medicine is much better than before."

"I think Rooney is very important for the competition."

Meanwhile Eriksson has shed his image as a dour yet consistent selector by including Arsenal teenager Theo Walcott in his World Cup squad. The 17-year-old has not played first-team football since joining the Gunners from Championship outfit Southampton in January.

But Pele, who knows better than most what it is like to go from near obscurity to global stardom in a short space of time, said there was no way his situation was comparable to that of Walcott.

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Speed is the name of the game

REUTERS, Cagliari

It was on June 30, 1998, in St Etienne that Michael Owen announced himself to the world with a spellbinding goal.

In a flash, the 18-year-old England forward outpaced two Argentine defenders and smashed a high angle shot past goalkeeper Carlos Roa to put his side into the lead.

The poise with which the Owen put away the chance was impressive, but it was his blistering pace that terrified the Argentine defenders and confirmed the 18-year-old as the revelation of the tournament, even if England went on to lose the match on penalties.

It goes without saying that speed has always been a valuable asset to a forward.

But now that even the more modest teams have become expert at packing the midfield, with stifling 4-5-1 formations, the ability to burst through on a long ball forward has become invaluable.

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson and Germany's Juergen

Klinsmann know that well. Both men added untried midfielders to their World Cup squads almost solely on the basis of their speed.

Theo Walcott was included in the England squad even before making his Premier League debut with Arsenal.

Odonkor is five years older than Walcott and made his Borussia Dortmund debut back in 2002.

A regular in the under-21 side, he had not even been mentioned as a possible pick for Klinsmann's World Cup squad.

He managed just one goal in the Bundesliga this season, which is high on embarrassing for a player listed as a striker rather than a midfielder.

Odonkor is extraordinarily quick, as Germany fans discovered when he came on for the second half of this week's exhibition match against amateur club Luckenwalde in Mannheim.

His skill on the ball was less impressive, although after a few attempts he did manage to set up a series of goalscoring chances for his forwards.

"Hands down David is the fastest in the squad," Mark Verstegen, Germany's American fitness coach, said from the World Cup hosts' training camp in Sardinia.

"I've been told he can run the 100 metres in 10.4 seconds, although I haven't seen him yet myself. He's a very special young man and he's very quick."

Verstegen warns, though, that speed alone does not make a world champion.

"I've worked with players as fast as him," he said. "In America they may not be the best footballers but they have good physical traits."

"But that's not enough -- that's not what wins championships. Speed is only part of the weaponry."

No one was more surprised by Odonkor's promotion to the national team than the player himself.

"I was shocked," said Odonkor, who has a tattoo on his arm in Latin professing his belief in God and the family.

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2006 Round 2, Draw in Khulna

Competition Information, Prizes and Rules

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

Round & Draw	Starts	Answers must reach by 8pm	Lucky Draw for prizes
1 Rangpur	May 05	May 18	May 23
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

PRIZES UP FOR GRABS

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 2006".
- 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.

The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 2 Ends June 01, 2006

Tick () the correct answers

- The only player to have appeared in three World Cup final matches is: Matthaus Maradona Cafu
Munich Frankfurt Berlin
- The 2006 World Cup final will be held in: 5 3 0
- How many goals did France score in the 2002 World Cup? South Korea Saudi Arabia
- Which Asian nation made highest number of appearances in World Cup finals? Iran Ronaldinho Drogha Ronaldo
- Who is this player? 

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
You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 2006"

READ The Daily Star CATCH THE WORLD CUP FEVER



A coffin from Ghana shaped as a soccer shoe is presented in the exhibition "Football: One Game - Many Worlds" in Munich's Stadtmuseum on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP