



DHAKA FRIDAY JUNE 9, 2006

### Win would be perfect present for Klose

AFP, Berlin

Germany striker Miroslav Klose celebrates his 28th birthday on Friday and there is no doubt what the perfect present would be - an opening World Cup win over Costa Rica in Munich.

Klose scored a hat-trick of headers in Germany's opening 8-0 drubbing of Saudi Arabia at the last World Cup and hopes to improve on the five goals he scored at the 2002 finals.

"I don't want to say I am a world-class striker. That is for other people to say," Klose said at a press conference on Thursday.

"I hope for a good World Cup and want to score more goals than I did at the last World Cup. I am fit and full of confidence."

Werder Bremen striker Klose, born in the Polish city of Opole, has enjoyed his best season to date top-scoring in the German league with 28 goals and being voted German Player of the Year.

After a disappointing Euro 2004 - when he was half-fit - Klose is raring to go and promised Germany would go for the throat.

"We will be pumped up from the first whistle and play at a high tempo," Klose said.

"If we can keep Costa Rica penned in their own half and away from our goal then we have a great chance of scoring the first goal."

"We just need to keep it tight at the back and we will be fine."

Klose, scorer of 24 goals in 55 internationals, admits the finals should be a shop window for him to showcase his talents and earn a big-money move abroad.

"I want to play broad at some stage. I've said I want a new challenge and I stick by that," Klose said.

"But I'm contracted to Bremen and am not thinking of a move just yet."

### Terry feared the worst

AFP, Buhlertal

John Terry has revealed he feared his World Cup could be over before it had started when he collided with Wayne Bridge at a training session here this week.

The 25-year-old Chelsea captain was caught on the ankle by his Chelsea team-mate Bridge on Tuesday and dire consequences flashed through his mind.

"One tackle can do it," he said at England's training ground in the tiny village of Buhlertal just outside Baden-Baden in southern Germany.

"When he caught me on the ankle it was one of those ones where for a few minutes you think 'oh, I'm struggling here, I could be on the way home'."

"He caught me on the ankle and it was bad. But thankfully a few minutes later I was up and running around."

Terry said being injured on the training field was always a possibility with England because the players all gave it 100 percent.

"The tempo we train is a plus for us. You can see how sharp it is. When Sammy Lee gave a corner the lads were swearing at him and going mad."

"None of the lads want to lose, and that's a great thing."

## England smiles with Rooney

AFP, Buhlertal

England's hopes of landing their first World Cup in 40 years have been given a huge boost after talismanic striker Wayne Rooney was given a green light to play in Germany.

The 20-year-old Manchester United forward arrived back at England's Black Forest base at midnight on Wednesday after a day-trip back to Manchester for a scan on his injured right foot, which confirmed that he would be able to play in the tournament at some stage.

Rooney's own confidence in his ability to repeat the kind of impact he made as an 18-year-old at Euro 2004 was reflected in a gung-ho declaration on his return to England's training camp.

"The big man's back in town," Rooney was quoted as saying by reporters based in the team hotel.

But when exactly Rooney will be ready to pull on an England shirt again remained unclear early Thursday.

United said in an eagerly-awaited statement in the small hours that there was a "good chance" he would be available after the group stages, should England qualify, but they still struck a cautious note.

"He is now in the care of the England medical team. The expert independent medical view is that Wayne has a good chance of being fit after the group stage," the club said on its website.

"At that point, the expert independent medical view is that his participation in the tournament will require very careful assess-

ment in order to address his suitability, as he will not have had the opportunity to play in less demanding games."

The statement confirmed widely-held predictions that Rooney will not play any part in England's group B matches against Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago and Sweden.

But England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson has always been hopeful of having Rooney available from the start of the knockout stages.

Yet such an outcome had looked



WAYNE ROONEY

highly unlikely when Rooney broke a metatarsal bone in his right foot while playing against Chelsea on April 29, exactly six weeks before the World Cup opener against Paraguay.

Observers - particularly British newspapers - took the sight of Rooney clambering up the steps of a private jet at Manchester Airport, eight hours after undergoing a crucial x-ray at a private Manchester

hospital, as proof of his fitness.

His return to the England camp came at the end of a hectic day that began with an early morning flight from Germany.

The midday scan only took 25 minutes to complete, leaving Rooney with a free afternoon which he spent at the family home of his girlfriend, Coleen McLoughlin, in his home city of Liverpool.

Rooney returned to the clinic in the early evening and was cloistered there for two hours as discussions continued between the England team's Swedish doctor, Leif Sward, and Manchester United's top medic, Tony Gill.

An official from FIFA, who had been primed to mediate between club and country in the event of a dispute over the interpretation of the scan, was also present.

United have appeared reluctant to risk Rooney playing in the World Cup but the player himself has always been desperate to play, and his youth and fitness and fitness appear to have enabled him to make an odds-defying recovery from a serious injury. Rooney has been training and kicking a football since the end of last week and his energetic approach to England's workouts had triggered a surge in optimism that he would be given the all-clear to play.

The broad grin of FA executive director David Davies as he accompanied Rooney out of hospital also spoke volumes about the importance of the Liverpool-born star for England's quest to win the World Cup for the first time since 1966.

### 'Poet' under scrutiny

AFP, Berlin

With the eyes of the world on him Argentinian referee Horacio Elizondo is set to ensure the game flows as smoothly as the lines of his beloved poetry when he puts the whistle to his lips Friday at Germany's World Cup curtain-raiser with Costa Rica.

Elizondo, by profession a 43-year-old physical education teacher from the central town of Parada Robles, got the nod amid a glowing assessment from FIFA, whose secretary general Urs Linsi described him as "a very experienced referee."

A decade on from taking charge of his first international between Ecuador and Colombia, Elizondo is now looking forward to "the most important game of my life."

At the same time, he will be conscious of being under the microscope with referees' performances being scrutinised more than ever before.

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### Totti bemoans bad luck

REUTERS, Rome

Italy striker Francesco Totti has bemoaned the Azzurri's bad luck after they were hit by a series of late injuries ahead of their opening World Cup match against Ghana on Monday.

"What a great start we have made! We really have been unlucky," he was quoted as saying in La Repubblica on Thursday.

"I'm going to end up being the player in the best shape around here," said Totti who has himself only recently recovered from a serious ankle injury.

In the past 48 hours, fullback Gianluca Zambrotta and midfielder Gennaro Gattuso have been ruled out of Italy's opener with thigh injuries.

Alessandro Nesta also risks missing the match after aggravating an old adductor muscle injury. The central defender will have tests on Saturday to decide if he is fit to play.

Italy's lengthening casualty list unfolded in front of a bemused

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### Blatter wants another term

AFP, Munich

FIFA President Sepp Blatter confirmed on Thursday that he would seek re-election in 2007.

"I want to be your candidate for re-election next year," Blatter said in his closing comments to the FIFA Congress on the eve of the World Cup finals.

The 70-year-old former Swiss lawyer succeeded Brazilian Joao Havelange at the head of the world governing body in 1998 after serving as secretary-general for many years.

He won re-election in a landslide victory over Cameroon's CAF (Confederation of African Football) president Issa Hayatou before the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan.

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French forward Djibril Cisse is carried away on a stretcher after breaking his leg in Saint-Etienne on Wednesday.

## Cisse's world crashes

AFP, St. Etienne

France's World Cup hopes have suffered a cruel blow after striker Djibril Cisse broke his leg in their last warm-up game before leaving for Germany.

The Liverpool forward was forced out of Raymond Domenech's squad after undergoing surgery here late Wednesday on a fractured right fibula and shinbone picked up in the friendly against China.

Watched by a crowd of 40,000 including French President Jacques Chirac, Cisse, France's top goalscorer in qualifying, was cut down by China captain Zheng Zhi in the 10th minute.

The 24-year-old, who was set to team up with Thierry Henry for France's opening Group G game against Switzerland in Stuttgart next Tuesday, was operated on at Saint-Etienne's CHU hospital.

"Djibril Cisse underwent surgery yesterday. The operation went well," the French Football Federation reported in a statement on Thursday.

"Raymond Domenech and Dr Paclet have been to see him to find

out how he is getting on and to pass on to him the best wishes of the staff and French team."

"Jacques Chirac, the President of the Republic, has been kept informed on the player's condition," the statement went on, adding that Cisse's replacement would be announced as soon as possible.

The loss is a major setback for Les Bleus who suffered a similar fate preparing for their ill-fated 2002 World Cup campaign when Zinedine Zidane injured his left thigh in the last friendly against South Korea.

But while the Real Madrid star was to eventually play a minor role in the 1998 champions' failed defence in Asia, Cisse's World Cup is over before it began.

Domenech, who with the 22 players still standing flies out to France's World Cup headquarters south of Hannover later Thursday, has until Monday, the day before their 2006 campaign opens, to name a replacement.

The gravity of Cisse's injury was quickly evident from the concern shown by his teammates who

rushed to his side when he fell to the ground.

William Gallas was seen telling Domenech "it's finished".

Cisse's replacement, David Trezeguet, went on to give France a 30th minute lead in the game which marked Zidane's last on home soil and the Juventus attacker is likely to be chosen to start in his place against the Swiss.

China levelled with a 69th minute penalty and appeared to be holding on for a draw as France failed to unlock a defiant Chinese defence.

But an own goal in the final minute and a long range shot from Henry in extra time sealed a fortuitous 3-1 victory to complete the 1998 champions' warm-up schedule.

One positive from the encounter though was the contribution made by the rising star of the French camp, 23-year-old Franck Ribery.

Introduced as a second half substitute the Marseille player's darting runs up the midfield injected real urgency to the French attack and one of his charges was at the heart of their third goal.

## Lehmann ready to brave Munich crowd

AFP, Berlin

Germany goalkeeper Jens Lehmann says he can't wait to finally make his World Cup debut against Costa Rica on Friday at the age of 36 and is unfazed by the possible hostile reception he could receive from the Munich crowd.

After playing understudy to Oliver Kahn at the 1998 and 2002 World Cups, and at the European Championships in 2000 and 2004, Lehmann has finally dislodged his rival and made the number one jersey his own.

"It is my World Cup debut but I will not be nervous or afraid about the game," Lehmann said.

"I'm not looking at the tournaments in the past when I didn't play. I have had a long career and can't reflect on everything."

"I am just looking forward to playing in the opening game. I have been waiting a long time for this."

Ironically Lehmann, capped 32 times, will make his World Cup bow in Munich on the home ground of Bayern Munich's favourite son Kahn.

The last time Lehmann played an international in Munich was on May 31 last year and he was jeered throughout the benefit match between Bayern and a select Germany XI.

Manager Jurgen Klinsmann said afterwards that he could understand Munich fans supporting Kahn, but could not accept the harsh treatment of his rival Lehmann.

"I don't know how the Munich fans will receive me. We will have to wait and see," said Lehmann.



JENS LEHMANN

"But there will be fans from the north, south, east and west of Germany in Munich for the game."

"I also think the German fans realise they need to motivate us by getting behind everyone in the team and give us their full support."

After tasting defeat in the Champions League final with

Arsenal - when he was sent off in the early stages of the match - Lehmann is desperate for glory with Germany and believes the team has a lot to offer.

"Every team that wants to do well at a World Cup needs to have a great team spirit and we have that," Klinsmann said.

"We are a strong physical team and have home advantage too which is a big help. The fans have shown their fantastic support over the past few warm-up matches."

Germany's suspect defence remains a concern ahead of the finals but Lehmann believes there is still time to get it right.

"We've enough time to stabilise the defence," said the former Schalke 04 and Borussia Dortmund goalkeeper.

"We conceded goals against Japan (2-2) but it was the whole team rather than the defence."

Lehmann is also convinced that Germany's tournament pedigree can give them an edge over their rivals.

"We've been there and done it. We have experience in World Cups and know how to stay the course in a tournament," he headed.

Germany have won three World Cups and reached the final four years ago against all the odds before falling 2-0 to Brazil.



Pamela Diaz (L), wife of Chile's football star Manuel Neira, Italy's goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon's girlfriend Alena Seredova (C) and Brazil's Ronaldo's girlfriend Raica Oliveira (R) pose in football-styled lingerie during the Triumph Fashion Cup 2006 in Munich on Wednesday.

### BITS AND BOBS

#### Govou replaces Cisse

AFP, St. Etienne

France have called up Lyon forward Sidney Govou into their World Cup squad to replace the injured Liverpool player Djibril Cisse.

Cisse was stretched off with a broken right leg sustained in the friendly against China here on Wednesday night.

It is the second time in successive championships that 26-year-old Govou, scorer of three goals in his 19 international appearances, has been a late call-up.

He joined the Euro 2004 squad when the then Monaco playmaker Ludovic Giuly, who was surprisingly overlooked for the squad this time around, pulled out when he failed to recover from an injury suffered in the Champions League final defeat by FC Porto.

Govou is set to join up with the French squad here later on Thursday before they leave for their German base.

#### The sun is shining

AFP, Berlin

Summer finally came to Germany on Thursday, one day before the 2006 World Cup kicks off, and the good weather is forecast to last.

Temperatures of around 25 degrees Celsius (77 degrees Fahrenheit) were expected over large parts of the country, and forecasters said the mercury could reach 30 degrees on Friday.

Most of Germany has suffered

cold weather in recent weeks as the country prepared to host the football extravaganza, with rain falling almost daily in Berlin and snow returning to some parts of Bavaria in the south.

Meteorologists forecast a slightly overcast 24 degrees Celsius for Munich on Friday when Germany meets Costa Rica there in the curtain raiser.

#### Croatians becomes holiday nation

AFP, Zagreb

Nearly a third of Croatia's workforce will go on vacation during the World Cup to be able to watch their national team, local media reported Thursday.

Some 500,000 of the Balkan country's 1.4 million workers had saved up their annual holidays for the event, which kicks off on Friday, said the daily Vecernji List.

"Since Croatians traditionally use June to go on vacation ... all companies have already included that in their budget, so there will be no losses," trade union official Goran Bakula told the newspaper.

Some 20,000 Croatians have bought tickets to go to Germany for the World Cup, and many others will have to settle for cheering their team on television at home or in bars.

In May, sales of television sets in Croatia rose by 30 percent compared with the same month a year earlier, while bookmakers expect a

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**The Daily Star**  
**RANGS TOSHIBA**  
 WORLD CUP QUIZ 2006

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**2006** Round 3, Draw in Sylhet  
 (See June 8 issue of the Star Sport for competition information, prizes and rules)

**The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 3 Ends June 15, 2006**

Tick (✓) the correct answers

1. The only player to have scored a hat-trick in a World Cup final match:	Hurst <input type="checkbox"/>	Zidane <input type="checkbox"/>	Vava <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Which nation will host the 2010 FIFA World Cup?	South Africa <input type="checkbox"/>	England <input type="checkbox"/>	Colombia <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Just Fontaine played for:	France <input type="checkbox"/>	Peru <input type="checkbox"/>	Mexico <input type="checkbox"/>
4. The scoreline of the first-ever World Cup match is:	4-1 <input type="checkbox"/>	4-2 <input type="checkbox"/>	4-3 <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Who is this player?	Beckham <input type="checkbox"/>	Nistelrooy <input type="checkbox"/>	Torres <input type="checkbox"/>

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 3."

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