REUTERS, Hamlin

Striker David Trezeguet said on Sunday he found it difficult to understand why he was not an automatic starter for France.

The prolific luventus forward has scored 32 international goals, just one less than Thierry Henry, but has been used mostly as a substitute over the years.

When you have players like Thierry Henry, Zinedine Zidane or myself, you should not ask yourself questions," Trezeguet told report-

"In my opinion the example to follow is Brazil," he added. "Look at them, they play with Ronaldinho, Ronaldo, Adriano and Kaka all together in the same team and see nothing wrong with that."

France coach Raymond Domenech was expected to pair Djibril Cisse with Henry in their World Cup opener against Switzerland on Tuesday until Cisse broke his leg in a warm-up game against China last Wednesday and was replaced in the squad.

Now Domenech could play Henry alone up front or pair him with either Louis Saha or Trezeguet

While waiting for the final decision, which Domenech was expected to announce on Monday. the 28-year-old Trezeguet made it clear he has had ha enough of being a substitute.

You can accept that when you're 23 or 24 but now, with everything I have achieved at club level, my ambition is to always be in the starting lineup," he said.

Togo in disarray

FROM PAGE 22

iar position in the hot seat. He also took over one week before an African Nations Cup qualifier in 2002 when Diego Garzito left after one match in charge.

Mawuena also coached Togo in 1998 and again in 2000 during the African Nations Cup in Nigeria when German Gottlieb Goeller walked out after one game.

Although Schaefer has set a clear deadline, Togolese officials say they will not jump the gun on their decision and have invited the German to watch Tuesday's game

as a guest. The players have demanded 155,000 euros (\$196,200) each to play in the World Cup plus 30,000 each per win and 15,000 per draw.

Officials from a country with average per capita income well below \$1,000 said that was too much and remained noncommittal on Sunday, simply saying talks were progressing.

Togo are due to hold a news conference on Monday afternoon. The other teams in Group G are

Ghana love 'Pap'

REUTERS, Hanover

Ghana's players love their coach Ratomir Dujkovic so much, they call him "pap", team captain Stephen Appiah said on Sunday.

"He is more like a father to us than a coach. We even call him Pap," Appiah told reporters ahead of his team's opening Group E game against Italy on Monday.

"It is a special relationship. He talks to us not like a boss but like a person and this means a lot to the players.

Serbian Dujkovic took over in December 2004 and masterminded Ghana's first appearance at the finals. The African nation sacked three other coaches during qualification for Germany.

All I want to say is that coach Dujkovic finished what other people started and he deserves great respect," Appiah said.

"We have a strong team now with a strong belief."

The 25 year-old midfielder played for eight seasons in Italy before moving to Turkey's Fenerbahce. Most notably he spent two seasons at Juventus where he was a Serie A winner.

He is one of six players in the squad that have played in Italy's top division and he hopes this insider knowledge of their opponents can help cause what would beahugeshock.

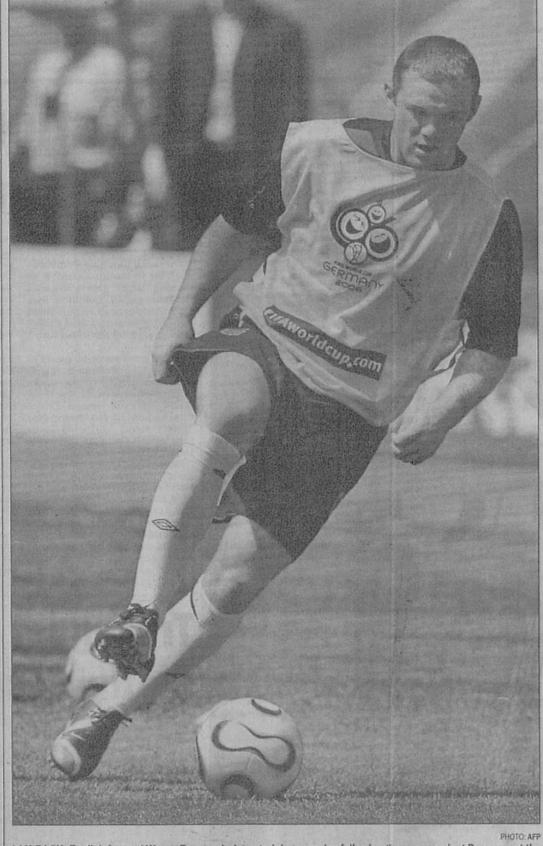
"Italy are a good team, but so are we. We need to give them respect, but when we talk about these big-name players, I explain that they should not be frightened," hesaid.

Appiah said his Black Cats must also learn from the experience of the Ivory Coast who lost 2-I against Argentina on Saturday, despite dominating possession.

"We are a different type of team but we must take our chances when they come or we will also be punished," Appiah said.

"We are here to compete and not just to play a few games."

Ghana also face the Czech Republic and the United States later in their group.



I AM BACK: English forward Wayne Rooney during a training exercise following the game against Paraguay at the

Rooney poised for T&T return



AFP, Baden Baden

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson is poised to unleash Wayne Rooney upon Trinidad and Tobago on Thursday as his team seeks to wrap up qualification from

impressed in training after returning from injury and is now set to make an appearance from the substitutes bench against the 'Soca Warriors' in Nuremberg.

The 20-year-old's absence was keenly felt in England's drab 1-0 victory over Paraguay on Saturday, where chants of 'Rooney, Rooney' echoed around Frankfurt's Waldstadion towards the end of a lacklustre match.

Eriksson was cautious about the prospect of a swift return for

day by day, to be honest," Eriksson said after the Paraguay victory. "I'm very optimistic, always, I will change something in the team if we

have some problems. Results of a scan last week showed that the fracture in Rooney's right foot had healed. England's coaches say the only issue now preventing the player's

return is his match fitness Any appearance by Rooney during the group stages will infuriate Sir Alex Ferguson, who believes

round before using the player.

But Eriksson has made it clear

Rooney's chance could come sooner than expected after Theo Walcott picked up a minor injury during a post-match five-a-side on Saturday that left the teenager needing strapping to a sore calf.

Ironically, Walcott picked up the The Manchester United star has knock courtesy of a clattering tackle by Rooney. "Theo has a slight knock and it has been strapped up for compression purposes," the FA confirmed.

"It's precautionary and after a day off on Monday he will take part ered it was tactical," he said. in our next training session on

Walcott's knock in theory leaves England with only one fully fit striker, Peter Crouch, following Eriksson's decision to include only four forwards in his 23-man squad for Germany

Michael Owen, who missed "We have to decide on Rooney most of the Premiership season after breaking his foot on New Year's Eve, looked desperately short of match sharpness against Paraguay and was replaced after 53

'I'm sure Michael Owen will get better and better," Eriksson said. Eriksson said Owen's substitution for Stewart Downing that saw Joe Cole shifted into a central role was tactical but the switch was sharply criticised by former

England captain Alan Shearer.

Eriksson has gone back on an dit for Britain's BBC television, agreement to wait until the second described the decision to replace

Owen as "unbelievable" "Sven brought Theo Walcott as a that he will not bow to pressure centre-forward but when he took from United over the use of their Michael Owen off and put loe Cole in Michael's place, Walcott must have been on the bench thinking: 'There's a midfielder in my posi-

"Eriksson probably doesn't think he's ready at this moment in time, but if that's the case, why take

him in the first place?" Former England coach Sir being baffled by Owen's substitution. "I assumed at first that Owen

Former Scotland international Alan Hansen blasted Eriksson's tactical tinkering as 'appalling' and said England were paying for the decision not to include Tottenham's Jermain Defoe as a fifth forward.

"It all goes back to this issue of not taking Jermain Defoe," said Hansen. "If you're taking Michael Owen off it should be like for like -off goes Owen and on comes

Defoe meanwhile has denied weekend reports that quoted him criticising Eriksson's decision to send him back to Britain.

"It's a strange one. I am still trying to understand it. It's a strange decision and everybody I speak to thinks so as well," Defoe was quoted as saying. Defoe's representatives said he had not spoken to any media, however.

first goal as the two-time World Cup

AFP, Herzogenrach

Buoyed by their hard fought victory against a tough Ivory Coast side, Argentina's players found added cause for relief Sunday after Group C rivals

"I'm glad one of the two won," said Chelsea striker Hernan Crespo. With three points under their belt. the "Albiceleste" preferred to have a

non-qualifier, he added. The players who met the media the day after their 2-1 victory over the West Africans looked more relaxed, having eased some of the pressure on their shoulders following the 2002

tournament.

winners made the most of their few chances, insisted it was a "very good" start even though the squad wanted to improve.

"It's not easy to play a game of this kind against physically strong rivals, it was not simple," said Crespo.

"It was the game we had expected. The idea was to open the scoring, but getting there was difficult. I'm happy, it was quite a full night.

The players were also taken by the vociferous crowd of Argentina supporters who appeared to make up a good half, if not more, of the 49,000 people in Hamburg's Arena stadium

"When we went in to look at the ground, we felt the number of Argentinians who were there, the atmosphere, it was really moving," said captain Juan Pablo Sorin.

Argentina face Serbia and situation had changed. Momtenegro on Friday in I'm here to play a World Cup and for Gelsenkirchen and the Netherlands

A monk-ey of rules

AFP, Phnom Penh

The chief monk in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh on Monday warned his charges away from the World Cup, but said that if they must watch matches, they should do so quietly.

"Nobody should allow monks to watch the World Cup or bet on the games," said Non Ngeth.

"But because of the world's new technology, it is hard to ban the monks from watching the games because World Cup is too famous,' he told AFP.

"If the monks cannot avoid watching the games, they should not scream and cheer as they watch," he said, adding that those who did enjoy the football spectacle would suffer bad karma. "Buddha's rule does not allow

monks to watch or to play games. Those monks who are found watching World Cup must be punished and kicked out from their pagodas," the capital's supreme religious patriarch said.

There are more 40,000 Buddhist monks in Cambodia. The World Cup matches, which kicked off in Germany last Friday, have been widely broadcast across the Southeast Asian kingdom.

Lemerre extends **Tunisia contract**

AFP, Schweinfurt

Tunisia coach Roger Lemerre looks like having a happier ending to the 2006 World Cup than the previous one as he extended his contract by another two years with the 2004 African Nations Cup champions on Sunday.

The soon to be 65-year-old Frenchman also has an option to extend it by a further two years said Tunisian Federation president Hamouda Ben Ammar.

"The federation believes that Roger Lemerre's work has been a positive factor for Tunisian football and wants him to continue in the same manner," read a statement from the Tunisian football federation.

Lemerre won the Euro 2000 tournament as coach of France but then suffered the humiliation of seeing the defending champions crash out in the first round of the 2002 World Cup.

He was subsequently sacked but rebounded to coach Tunisia to the 2004 success at home in the African Nations Cup -- they failed to successfully defend their title this year in Egypt.

Tunisia are attempting to reach the second round of the World Cup for the first time here.

They start off their campaign against Asian football giants Saudi Arabia on Wednesday in Munich, then they play Spain in Stuttgart on June 19 and then Ukraine on June 23 in Berlin.

Wenger guns

FROM PAGE 19 He said: "We can't blame the strikers for not scoring if our ballwinners are not providing us with the possession and Vieira is such a strong player."

Domenech will not blood Ribery, 23, in competitive action

until he feels he is ready. He added: "Since Ribery is coming from a class below, he needs to be eased in a little.

"We want to create a good feeling so we can enter into the World Cup spirit."

Gallas

FROM PAGE 19 featuring two Lineker penalties.

"I wanted Cameroon to win that but it was a fantastic match," said Gallas, who will play his first FIFA World Cup game when France open their Group G campaign against Switzerland on Tuesday in

"Being at a World Cup as a player is amazing," he said. "I have so many World Cup memories from when I was a kid watching matches on television. "I have two dreams, one is to lift

the World Cup one day and the other is to see an African team win it," said the 28-year-old, who was born in France but whose roots are in the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe. The versatile Gallas, who often

Thuram in central defence and likes that better. "I prefer that position," he said. Lilian is somebody I respect enormously and playing alongside him is great. We talk a lot. He's some-

had to play wing-back for France, is

now being paired with Lilian

body who always listens to others and he's such a fantastic player." Gallas has said he wanted to leave Chelsea for AC Milan but the deal is not done vet. "I don't know and I don't care,"

he said when asked whether the "I know where I want to go but

Brazil beaten by reserves Ronaldo, whose weight has been Cup of health, intensity and prepa

INTERNET, undated

Carlos Alberto Parreira appeared exasperated Sunday after he had faced a barrage of questions about why Brazil's first team had lost to their reserves in a 40-minute practicematch

Parreira, who has already named his side to face Croatia in Berlin Tuesday, often stages games between the first team and the reserves, many of which are broadcast live on TV at home, and the media tend to place a lot of emphasis on the results of them.

"I've been coach for three and a half years, we've played around 50 matches and I can't believe people are judging me by what happened in one 40-minute training session," he said. "We've had eight or nine of these games and, when the first team wins, nobody asks anything. As soon as the reserves win, I get lots of questions.

one of the main talking points of the past week, agreed with the coach. "We have two first teams here," he said. "Our reserve team is good

enough to play in a World Cup." Both were also of the mind that the world champions are getting itchy feet as they wait for the first game of their defence of the trophy. These players are used to playing every three days, they've been here

for three weeks." Parreira said. Brazil began their training camp in Switzerland on May 22 and arrived in Germany on June 4 but they played only one friendly during that period, when they defeated New Zealand 4-0 in Geneva. "I want it to start more than anyone so that we stop talking nonsense and start playing football," Ronaldo said. "Of course you get a few butterflies before the first game but, when the game starts, everything changes

and it's just happiness. Parreira said the intensity of the early group matches had caught his attention and noted that physical conditioning will be an important issue. "This World Cup, differently from the others, will be the World tional ones."

ration. We've seen this with all teams... the physical conditioning

will be a fundamental factor. "Germany was the team that impressed me most. They looked strong, they were well-positioned and they imposed themselves from

the start. Parreira added that the matches had also demonstrated the importance of defending well on set plays, particularly when facing European nations which seem to rely on them. "They are very precise on free-kicks and corner kicks. It's always a dangerous play. England's goal came on a set play, on a [David] Beckham free-kick; Argentina also got one, on a free- kick well taken by [Juan]

Riquelme.' The captain Cafu, asked if he had seen anything new, agreed: 'The main thing has been the physical strength. We saw how Ecuador ran from start to finish, for example lin the 2-0 win over Poland). The traditional teams will get to the final though. Of course there are others who are good enough, but from what I've seen it will be the tradi-

Saudi desert sons killed by kindness



AFP, Berlin Saudi Arabia embark on a fourth World Cup finals campaign on Wednesday with fears that the vast sums of money lavished on the game in the kingdom could prove

fatal to its long term health. The Saudis and Italy have the distinction of being the only two teams here who draw all their 23 players from their home leagues and, as far as the Saudis are con-

cerned, it's not hard to see why. Only veteran striker Sami al-Jaber, now 33, has ever played club football outside the kingdom when he spent an ill-fated and injury-hit five months on loan at wolvernampton wanderers in

England in 2000. If recent developments are any indication, he may well remain a

Last year, midfielder Yasser al-Qahtani moved from Al Qadasiyah to fellow Saudi rivals Al Hilal for a World Cup and I will then talk to my whopping seven million dollars, simply a fee that no European team would have been willing to pay for an untested player.

There are many players in Saudi Arabia who are better than some in Europe," Faisal Abdulhadi, the general secretary of the Saudi Arabia Football Federation (SAFF)

"Of course, they would have to move to prove it. Technically it is no problem, but Saudi players don't receive good enough offers." Al-Qahtani's Al Hilal teammate

Nawaf al-Temyat, another World Cup veteran, was on the verge of moving to Roda in The Netherlands four years ago when, as Asian Footballer of the Year, his star was atits brightest.

refused to accept. "I'm still looking to play

abroad," insists al-Temyat. 'That's one of the reasons why I came back to the national team. My

Afro-Asian battle

fired after the tournament and German Pfister was called in to

Pfister grew tired of the wrangling over players bonuses which has disrupted training since the squad arrived in Germany and his walkout led to Kodjovi Mawuena being put in charge of preparations for the match with South Korea.

Togo have since managed to

rope in former Cameroon boss

Winfried Schafer but he will not be there to lead the team out in their World Cup debut, instead he will be watching the game as a guest. Adebayor claimed that the

chaos surrounding the team's this kind of story. On one hand you preparations would not put Togo

off their stride. "It has always been like that in said. logo," said Adebayor, who scored

be professional - we are hungry and want to have a good tournament."

Despite the upheaval in the Togo camp, the Koreans will have to stifle the attacking threat of Emmanuel Adebayor who was top scorer in African qualifying for the World Cup.

We know he is their best player by far," said Korea's assistant coach Pim Verbeek, who was also Hiddink's right-hand man in 2002.

But we have no plans to manmark him. That's not our style." Verbeek said the pay dispute

could work in Togo's favour, pushing the players to perform better. "There are always two sides to

can say they are not training any more, they are not motivated," he

"On the other hand they may 10 goals in the Sparrowhawks think they will try to show the qualifying campaign. "We have to whole world how good they are."

Questionable French

FROM PAGE 19

notch two or more goals has every chance of collecting all three points in the Group Gopener.

Judging by France's recent friendlies, the duo most likely to deliver appeared to be Henry and Saha. The former was typically mobile and quick to drift out wide, while the latter admirably answered the call for a target man. Those impressions were not

shared by Domenech, however, who seemed to have pencilled in Henry and Cisse as his first-choice duo for Tuesday's FIFA World Cup opener. In his defence, both players boast impressive returns in a blue shirt, but a double fracture to Cisse's right leg (fibula and shinbone) in the game against China ruled the Liverpool marksman out of the tournament His replacement Sidney Govou joins the squad more as an attack-minded right midfielder than an out-and-out

Thus the whole debate has been re-ignited. Presuming that Henry's inclusion is a given, will it be Saha or Trezeguet sharing the goalscoring duties with the Arsenal star? Well, the answer is perhaps not so straightforward after all...

Ribery, the livewire Between Saha's relative inexperience at this level (nine caps) and the oft-tried but still-unproven combination of Henry and the momeat nothing else matters." | Trezeguet, Domenech may opt for gained his favour.

a more tactical alternative. "We learnt a lot during the warm-up games," revealed Claude Makelele this week. "Today we know we can play as well with one striker as we can with two."

The Chelsea man's comments were no doubt inspired by the performances of Franck Ribery, who could well be in line for a starting role as a free spirit alternating between the midfield and the forward line. Should Domenech make that decision, it would not only ease the pressure on Zinedine Zidane but also inject some muchneeded creativity into France's build-up play.

Arriving in Germany on the back of a superb season for Olympique de Marseille, newcomer Ribery has both fans and team-mates buzzing. Powerful, direct and capable of explosive acceleration, he could pose enormous problems to a solid but somewhat lethargic Swiss defence. The only issue that remains is whether he can be as influential as a starter as he has been coming off the bench.

Many are convinced he can, but the final decision naturally rests with Domenech. "I never hesitate," declared the former U-21 boss recently. "When I make a choice, I stick to it!" The whole of France must now wait to see who has

agent about my future. Fellow international Omar al Ghamdi believes exposure to foreign leagues will only be good for the Saudis, who start their 2006 World Cup campaign here on Wednesday against Tunisia in

Munich. "The fact that we have no players in Europe is very negative," said

the Al Hilal man. "It would give us more experience as the league in Saudi is very mediocre.' The 23 players in the Saudi

tact is a worry for national coach Marcos Paqueta. "I'm concerned that there is not He was also targeted by Italian a single Saudi playing abroad as

squad all enjoy lucrative deals at

home and the lack of foreign con-

clubs Parma and Brescia, but it was this means lack of exposure and the Dutch side who offered two million dollars, a fee that Al Hilal "But on the flip side I can call the "But on the flip side I can call the players whenever I need them. Saudi players-need more exposure against strong teams to make up for

the lack of playing abroad, "The exposure to all kinds of contract with Al Hilal ends after the football styles helps improve the players technically and also help you to be ready to face any oppo-

Follow the leader

Leverkusen's BayArena.

FROM PAGE 22 ried that while the grass at the Frankfurt stadium was 28-mm long, Korea had been training on grass 25-mm in length at Bayer

"It was 28 (mm) today," the 58year-old said. They cut it at the beginning of the week but we talked to the stadium director and they have let it grow to 28-mm."

Advocaat was also wary about

the managerial upheaval at group rivals Togo, saying it could act as a motivating factor for the Africans. "You never know if it's an advantage or a disadvantage-that they

have so many problems. The team could unite more than they would normally," he said. "But we have seen Togo playing the way they play. The most impor-

tant thing is that we can get a sys-

tem that will beat Togo."

Unhealthy

FROM PAGE 22 company logos cover the entire facades of major city tower blocks.

lamented Han Seung-Joo, a foreign language student and football lover in Seoul, who says he plans to watch as many World Cup games as possible. South Korean companies find

"It is all about money,

the World Cup hard to resist because it brings together national pride and aspirations, as well as youth, fashion and fun. "Because of the youth, the spirit of challenge and progressive image of the Red Devils (the World Cup)

will help increase brand loyalty for KTE" said a statement from the Some 90 percent of South Koreans believe the team will progress to the second round from

France, Switzerland and Togo. But despite their success of 2002, South Korea have never won a World Cup game on foreign soil. and high expectations could easily

The Korea Herald, in a recent

Group G, where they are joined by

editorial, blamed big business groups and TV networks for hyping World Cup expectations for com-"How are we going to cope with

fails to make it, the newspaper

Wanchope eyes Roma switch AFP, Rome

Costa Rican star Paulo Wanchope, who scored his team's two goals against Germany in the World Cup's opening match, said Sunday he wants to play for Italian Serie A club AS Roma. The towering 30-year-old for-

ward told the Corriere dello Sport

newspaper he received a firm offer

from the Rome club's then-coach Zdenek Zeman in 1999 but club president Franco Sensi recruited Brazilian Fabio Junior instead. Clubs in England, Spain, Germany, Russia and Greece are keen to acquire the services of the 1.86-metre striker who played for English clubs Derby, West Ham and Manchester City

"All offers would be considered but Rome would be the best," Wanchope was quoted as saying.

before going on to play for Malaga in

Spain and then spending a brief but

unsuccessful stint in Qatar.

Shearer, now working as a pun-**Argentines relieved**

the Netherland's 1-0 defeat of Serbia.

cushion over the closest potential

World Cup team's early exit from the Crispo, who scored Argentina's fivedayslater.

Bobby Robson also admitted to was injured when he went off ... I

couldn't believe it when I discov-

Defoe