

Flying start

FROM PAGE 17
superb cross from Mariano Perna, but his powerful header went straight to Shovkovskiy.

TEAMS
SPAIN: Iker Casillas; Sergio Ramos, Pablo, Carlos Puyol, Mariano Perna; Xavi, Xabi Alonso (David Albelda 55), Marcos Senna; Luis Garcia (Francesc Fabregas 77); Fernando Torres, David Villa (Raul 55).

LEADING SCORERS
FROM PAGE 17
(Spain), Frings (Germany), Golmohammadi (Iran), Iaquina (Italy), Kaka (Brazil), Koller (Czech Republic), Lahm (Germany), Lee Chun-soo (South Korea), Mohamed Kader (Togo), Nakamura (Japan), Pauleta (Portugal), Pirlo (Italy), Robben (Netherlands), Saviola (Argentina), Xabi Alonso (Spain), Zinha (Mexico).

WC BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 24
Dujkovic-Strasse, after the names of the Italian and Ghanaian handlers and hanging up the names of Mexico's Ricardo Lavolpe and Luis Oliveira Goncalves instead.



Did U Know?

Uwe Seeler of West Germany became the first European player to play in four consecutive World Cups. He played his last in 1970.



Talk Turkey

Joe Cole
(England's World Cup midfielder)
"Chelsea is a great club with great fans and when the World Cup is over I am looking forward to the new season when we will challenge again for the Champions League and all the other trophies."



Imran Ahmed, managing director of BRAC Bank, addresses a press conference of the BRAC Bank Cup at a city restaurant yesterday.

Gibbs's tips for Bhaji

Cricket
Cricinfo, undated
Legendary West Indian off-spinner Lance Gibbs spent some time with Harbhajan Singh, advising him how to bowl the straighter one without changing his action.

shared with Greg Chappell, India's coach. Gibbs had played along with Chappell at both Glenelg, at club level, and South Australia, at state level.

Time to turn on the style

FROM PAGE 17
"We know the England game will be very tough," John said. "You are only as good as your last game but we ground out a result against Sweden and hopefully we can build on it."

fans into practice sessions for team autographs. The 63-year-old former Holland and Real Madrid coach says Trinidad showed against Sweden that his players would not be intimidated by facing England's superstar line-up.

Bits and Bobs

Scots backing Trinidad
AFP, London
British bookmakers said Wednesday they were bracing for the biggest betting mismatch in World Cup history, with only a handful of Scots backing Trinidad and Tobago to beat England.

Korea and are expecting to do three or four times better for this year's tournament in Germany.

Puyol denies Sheva rift
INTERNET, undated
Spain defender Carles Puyol insists there is no bad blood between himself and Ukraine striker Andriy Shevchenko.

Nearby Bahrain has used a locally produced fizzy drink instead of champagne to spray on the podium at the end of its Formula One Grand Prix.

Anti-English sentiment
AFP, London
Scotland's leading politician has stoked anti-English racism by refusing to support the England team playing at the World Cup in Germany, an England fan charged in remarks published Wednesday.

the World Cup. "Prisoners are provided with cable television in a designated area. Some are very keen to watch the matches as their countries are playing in it. We've allowed some relaxation," said the superintendent of the prison, Anwar Mustafa told reporters.

No beer-sponsored awards
AFP, Munich
Saudi Arabian footballers will not be allowed to accept World Cup man-of-the-match awards because the prize is sponsored by a leading beer company, officials said on Wednesday.

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Late night watching permitted
REUTERS, Karachi
Authorities in one of Pakistan's biggest jails are letting football-mad inmates, including hundreds of foreigners, stay up late to watch World Cup soccer matches.

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The local World Cup

SPORTS REPORTER
The first-ever BRAC Bank Cup -- a five-a-side football tournament -- is to get underway at International School Dhaka's (ISD) indoors facilities on June 16.

Sania survives early hiccup

BBC ONLINE, undated
India's Sania Mirza was given a tough first-round game at the DFS Classic in Edgbaston by Ukraine's Alona Bondarenko before coming through 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Brazil 'planned'

FROM PAGE 24
champions they could not be intimidated. One brilliant tackle in the second half by Robert Kovac summed up their speed of thought and their commitment.

A complete washout

Cricket
AFP, Gros Islet
India hopes of victory may have been dashed, and West Indies' chances of salvation enhanced, when not a ball was bowled on the scheduled fourth day in the second Test on Tuesday.

England beat neighbours

AFP, Belfast
England won their inaugural one-day international against Ireland by 38 runs at Stormont at Belfast on Tuesday.



AFTER A LONG TIME: Former Russian tennis player Anna Kournikova (R) and her popstar boyfriend Enrique Iglesias watch the NBA finals between Miami Heat and Dallas Mavericks at the American Airlines Arena in Miami on Tuesday.

Third Eye

FROM PAGE 17
Ronaldo who took the role of a holding midfielder during their final training session before the opener, gave a pedestrian performance before the 2002 World Cup hero was substituted by his Real Madrid teammate, the young and exuberant Robinho. Brazil's striker never looked like scoring as Adriano looked short of sharpness as well. Dida could easily fill in either for Ronaldo or Adriano as striker, he scored twice in the training session, but the towering AC Milan star would be needed at Brazil goal to make up for a leaky defence that was exposed by Dado Prso's indefatigable runs.

typical European style, both trying to weigh each other's strength, perhaps bothered by the fact that France and Switzerland -- pitted in the same qualifying group -- drew both games.

pitch in the first half after kissing the far post. Frank Ribery, who for the first time started for the Les Blues, sparked occasionally while Luis Saha and Vikash Dhoraso combined to almost give France a late winner. No wonder Juventus striker David Trezeguet -- third in France's all-time goalscoring list -- was screaming from the sideline throughout the game to have a piece of the action. But it seemed that coach Raymond Domenech wasn't listening.

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