WORLD CUP QUOTES

AFP, Berlin

the Brazilians.

What they are saying at the World

"Ronaldo says he's yet to reach his ideal level of fitness.

Brazil goalscorer Kaka diplomatically reacts to the sluggish showing of striker Ronaldo after the 1-0 win over Croatia.

"Their feet are golden. Azadeh Naem, an 18-year-old member of the newly formed Afghan women's team, describes

"I've come to terms with people criticising me as a footballer, but when it comes to my family that's one thing I won't accept and never

England captain David Beckham hits back at German tabloid Bild which lampooned his sister, mother and sons.

"All these things are Japanese to me and Ivan't read Japanese.

Spain's outspoken coach Luis Aragones reacting to a question about pairing Xavi and Xabi Alonso in midfield.

"It was the most amazing victory in the history of Australian sport," Sydney's Daily Telegraph goes wild over the 3-1 defeat of Japan, Australia's first win in World Cup

"If you sustain that over four weeks you'll blimp out, you'll end up looking more like a soccer ball than a soccer player.

Dietician Karen Inge warns Australian men about snacking while watching the Socceroos on

"African players take it very easy they think they are going to win before the game.

Coach Otto Pfister gets to grips with Togo's mentality after defeat by South Korea.

"Are you deaf or what? I said I wouldn't make any comment."

Pfister refuses to say why he walked out on team, only to return on the eve of the match.

"England might do well, and although theyre missing Rooney, they have got Crouch. He can score goals, cant he? Hes a typical goalscorer,"

England's lanky striker has a fan in 1978 Argentinian World Cup winner Mario Kempes.

'Extra time' for sex workers

AFP. Berlin

Sex workers in Berlin have gone into extra time at the World Cup and are doing double shifts to cash in, a German newspaper said

"Berlin's hookers are groaning all brothels are creaking at the seams," mass daily Bild reported.

'In some establishments the girls already have to put in double shifts owing to the World Cup," the paper added, saving clients were virtually queuing up to get in to the host nation's 'Freudenhauser' (literally, joy houses).

One taxi driver was quoted as saying he had taken a fare from four would-be customers of some of the capital's estimated 8,000 prosti-

"But they were turned away. The places are too full."

German police said last week there were no signs of forced prostitution being on the rise.

Be that as it may, with around a million fans having come over for the month-long football showpiece and with prostitution legal in Germany, supply is clearly meeting demand.

Bild quoted Josephine Conte of Berlin's upmarket Bel Ami establishment, one of 400 "joy houses" in the city, as saying demand had gone through the roof and that her employees were having to put in special shifts."

She explained: "We have VIP reservations right through to the end of the tournament. Sometimes we don't know where to put all the

According to 'Joy', a 21-year-old woman doing the morning shift with seven colleagues, "the guys come for a massage as they want to

relax before the game." But "the guests must be patient with waiting times of up to two

hours," according to Conte. It's hard work, says another 'Joy,' a blonde aged 23 who says she sometimes puts in a 16-hour day, though some of that is on call after a regular shift.

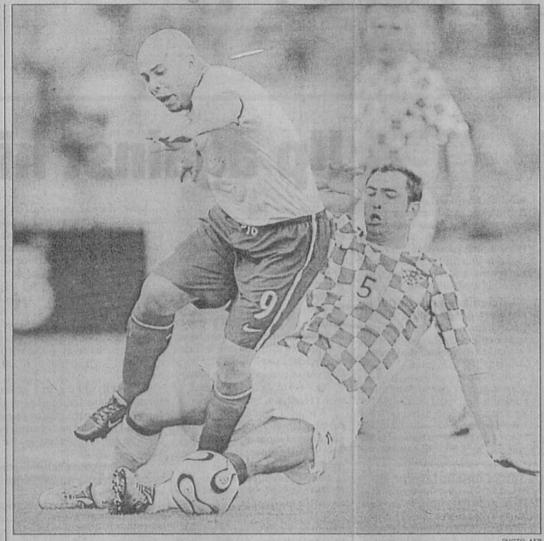
"We are earning as much in one day as we normally would in a

"But after the World Cup I'll

International organisations and foreign governments warned in the run-up to the tournament that

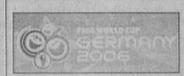
women were being forced to travel to Germany for the World Cup to serve as prostitutes for an army of football fans and that up to 40,000 women could be abused in this way.

Germany legalised prostitution in 2002 meaning that brothels can advertise their services openly, which many are doing. Procuring, however, remains illegal.



Brazilian forward Ronaldo (L) is tackled by Croatian defender Igor Tudor during their World Cup Group F game at Berlin Olympic stadium on Tuesday.

Critics sharpen Ronaldo knives



Ronaldo's subdued display, for Brazil against Croatia in the champions' World Cup opener has rekindled the debate about whether he is fit enough to keep his place in the

Aside from one brief moment in Tuesday's match, when he moved forward with some urgency to fire just over the bar, Ronaldo was indolent for the 69 minutes he played in the 1-0 opening win in Berlin. With Ronaldo struggling, AC

Milan star Kaka rescued ers with a fine individual strike.

Ronaldo, the two-time World Player of the Year, came into the finals with a question mark hanging over him after an injury-ravaged and chaotic season at Real Madrid saw him score just a dozen goals, while extending his and the club's trophyless spell to three years.

Since arriving in Germany, he has been plagued by blisters and a fever, but it is the weight issue which will not go away in his third

Tuesday's sluggish showing was more than deja vu - after all the 29year-old headed for Asia four years ago having endured a slew of knee

The French press on Wednesday were

of Les Bleus' performance in their

openingWorld Cup match, a 0-0 draw

double entendre, alluding to both the

stiffling heat in Stuttgart and the fact

page, although the meaning in French

can also be translated as: "We got

late save from goalkeeper Fabien

Barthez with his foot at point blank

range from Swiss striker Daniel Gygax.

frustrating 0-0 draw with solid

Switzerland for their opening World

"France could only manage a

thatFrance could easily have lost.

Sports daily L'Equipe went for a

"We had it hot," screamed its front

Their picture shows a desperate

AFP, Paris

with Switzerland.

awaywithit!"

barely 70 games in five seasons at David Beckham, but he admitted Once there, the 'Phenomenon'

blew away all the doubts in style with eight goals, including a pair in the final win over Germany But on the cusp of 30 the extra

few kilos are making a difference,

and Ronaldo's growing irritation with the fascination shown by the world's media, fans and even Brazil's president regarding how he tips the scales are throwing an uncomfortable spotlight on him. his critics in Japan, he failed to do

so against the Croatians, who could

hardly believe they were up against

the man who has scored as many World Cup goals as Pele and who stands just two behind all-time record holder Gerd Muller. It was very easy. I've played difficult," said Croatian defender

Robert Kovac after Tuesday's encounter. "He must be tired, he hardly

touched the ball." his teammate.

while pointedly adding it was the defensive shape of the side which

operations which restricted him to dispense with England skipper Sunday.

Press lambasts sorry France

ideas, power and spontaneity, les

ahead of their clash with South Korea,

On the inside, L'Equipe shows a

picture of shrugging teammates

Zinedine Zidane and William Galls at

loggerheads in the second half of the

The damning verdicts continued

was: "Without puff. With a draw

against Switzerland, France messed

play-on-words with the word France.

ing the word 'rance', which means a

hide their failings in a laboured draw

tone with its headline: "We didn't

Le Parisien seemed to take a fighter

But then it joined the Bleus-

Despite the indefatigable

The F was confined to brackets leav-

1998 champions' ineptdisplay.

upit'sWorldCupstart.

rancidsmell.

with Switzerland."

who beat Togo 2-1.

Bleus remain confident five days lacked rhythm and decisiveness."

from Liberation whose assessment question about France's attacking

On the inside, Liberation pulled no insisting France had created several

punches: "Youstink," was the jist of it's chances and should have had a first

(Franck) Ribery, les Blues could not losing two of their three group games

impotence.

halfpenalty

competition.

his striker was "lacking a little sharpness'

"He has not been playing for the past two months and has had only two friendlies so it was natural he felt a bit heavy as it was very hot," the coach added.

Despite his disappointing showing, Ronaldo was no less anonymous than strike partner Adriano and it was left to Ronaldinho to try his hand at centre-forward when he went close Whereas Ronaldo answered all with a late header following a superb run and cross from the ageing Cafu.

For defender Ze Roberto, the supply line to Ronaldo was another mitigating factor.

The main difficulty was we were up against a side who kept it very tight at the back and blocked against him before and it was very us. I think the heat also played a part-we were a bit tired. "It was the first game and we

were a little bit nervous," he added. For fuventus star Emerson, "you have to take into account it was our Goalscorer Kaka spoke up for first game and there are various things to tighten up. But what "Ronaldo says he's yet to reach matters are the three points and his ideal level of fitness," he said, that's what we came out to do

Ronaldo himself was unwilling Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira - have to find his appetite in time for has in the past indicated that he what could prove a physical would no sooner drop Ronaldo encounter against Group F cothan Sven-Goran Eriksson would leaders Australia in Munich on

stiffling heat in Stuttgart, les Bleus

And in a final blow the newspaper

It seems all is not well among the

piled on the pressure: "Already they

have no room for error and must beat

players. As well as the spat between

Henry reacts angrily in L'Equipe to a

little bit jingoistic," he replied before

Zidane and Gallas a perturbed Thierry

You're a little bit nasty. Let's be a

The final word, went to L'Equipe,

already making unhelpful compari-

sons to France's dismal title defence

in 2002 when they failed to score in

to bow out at the first stage of the

tight game which has reignited the

fires of doubt and in adequacy," it said.

It is uphill all the way for the under-

"France could not win a slow and

South Korea on Sunday

Tostao blasts bureaucratic Brazil

AFP, Brasilia

The Brazilian press on Wednesday expressed dissatisfaction with the nation's footballers following their narrow 1-0 win over Croatia in their openingWorldCup clash the previous evening.

"A meagre victory -- they didn't produce the fireworks the world was expecting," was how O Globo saw the win by Carlos Alberto Parreira's allstars as they chase a sixth title or "Hexa-campeao."

"Ronaldo put in a poor showing --Ronaldinho, the best player in the world, didn't shine either," O Globo added.

For the Folha de Sao Paulo daily the match was "one of Ronaldo's worst performances."

If Ronaldo was the focus of much of the criticism -- he was substituted by Robinho -- the press were not shy of venting their spleen on the squad in general.

"There was no magic. The squad put together by Parreira felt the weight of an out of form Ronaldo and the lack inspiration of (strike partner) Adriano' "Correio Braziliense wrote.

Kaka's goal saved the side's blushes but Folha's guest columnist and 1970 champion Tostao slammed the team as "slow and bureaucratic, with the exception of a good goal."

Tostao gave scorer Kaka and goalkeeper Dida eight out of ten and only 5.6 for Ronaldinho. Adriano got a measly three and Ronaldo only two.

No mystery this time

AFP, Berlin

Observers claim that Argentine team officials like to cultivate an aura of mystery during Argentina's major international outings. But the media, World Cup officials and some locals have a less generous view of the squad's protected ways and haphazard sense of time at their base in Bavaria.

Media events generally materialised hours behind schedule amid initial chaos, while one FIFA official was heard despairing while he tried to pin down Argentina's movements before the Ivory Coast match. Some players have tried to step aside for a few moments to sign autographs for young fans, and they were clearly moved by the huge support in Hamburg.

But locals bedecked in sky-blue and white outside an official function were less elated when the team coach turned up and the players were ushered to the dignitaries behind a screen. Instead of "Argentinos", some bystanders dubbed them "Arrogantinos", the Nuernberger Nachrichten newspa perreported.

Croats hailed by media

The Croatian press on Wednesday hailed its footballers for their "bravery" against Brazil after a narrow 1-0 loss to the world champions in their opening World Cup clash the previous night.

"We were brave," read one headline. "We are proud of you," said another front page, while a third newspaper urged the Croatian players to "Keep their heads up!"

"Regardless of the narrow loss, Croatia opened the World Cup rather well," said the daily Jutarnji List.

"In a game played out on an equal-footing, we showed that we know to defend and also how to attack the team which is playing the most spectacular football on the globe," itadded.

The daily said that based on such a performance, the Croatian team could rightly feel optimistic ahead of its remaining Group F matches against Japan and Australia

"A defeat to be proud off: Now we we know that we are ready and powerful," commented the daily Sportske Novosti.

"Croatia left the turf of the Olympic Stadium with their heads up and now, despite the defeat, it can look forward with more optimism to the games against Japan and Australia," said the newspaper.

Bad guys busted

AFP, Sydney

Australian police said they smashed an Asia-based illegal World Cup betting operation Wednesday after arresting eight people in raids in Sydney.

Hong Kong men and two Malaysian vomen were arrested when officers from central Sydney and a special South East Asian Crime Squad swooped on three rooms in a city hotelearly Wednesday. The officers also seized comput-

ers, networking equipment, calculators, mobile phones, documents and cashin the raids. "Police will allege all were part of an

eminating from Asia and that they flew into Australia three days ago, police said in a statement.

appearin court on July 4.

Les Blues not panicking



AGENCIES, Hamelin

Nobody in the France team seemed too concerned after a dull opener against Switzerland left the former champions waiting for a goal on the World Cup stage after nearly eight

Tuesday's 0-0 Group G draw with the Swiss means France have not scored at the World Cup since Emmanuel Petit sealed their 3-0 win over Brazil in the 1998 final at the Stade de France. It also suggested that the ghosts of

2002, when France disappeared from the finals without a win or goal in the group phase, could soon return to haunt coach Raymond Domenech's

The players, however, kept their cool after struggling in the Stuttgart

"It would have been better to start with a win but there were positive aspects in this game," said Thierry Henry, who failed to live up to his tag as possibly the world's best striker, hardly creating a chance.

"I am not worried," he added, already looking forward to France's next match on Sunday against group leaders South Korea, who beat debu-

tantsTogo2-1. "It will not be easy but we have to win," he said. "They were in the (World Cup) semifinals the last time but they're not as defensive as

Switzerland and they should allow us more space." France are one match short of Bolivia's unwanted record of five games at the finals without a goal but midfielder Vikash Dhorasoo promised they would soon find the back of

"We will play better and better and we will qualify," he predicted.

Apart from a decent performance from ageing maestro Zinedine Zidane and an outstanding one from defensive midfielder Claude Makelele, who named Man of the Match, Domenech had few reasons to be optimistic

Top prospect Franck Ribery, starting for the first time, did not live up to the huge expectation placed upon him and is likely to revert to his usual role as a substitute to bring on when fresh legs are needed to decide

Like his players, the France coach, who dismissed a suggestion that several of his team were too old to keep up with the pace of modern football, sounded in confident

"It was not a physical problem," he said. "The players were fit and

match but great players and great teams must be able to raise their level

on big occasions." He also came up with a novel excuse for failing to score -- dry grass. Domenech led the chorus of criticism from the 1998 champions

over the decision to water the ground

too soon before kick-off when

Stuttgart like the rest of Germany was

bang in the middle of a heatwave. To water the grass six hours before a match in this weather isn't

that useful," said Domenech. "All the players were saying it. I'd like the ground to be watered much nearer the game. At the expense of the forwards I think the conditions suited defenders."

He added: "The ball was finding it hard to roll, we saw scuffed shots from both sides. The attackers couldn't flow with the ball, often it got

Henryagreed with his boss. "You must have seen that there was definitely something making life. difficult for us dribblers

"It's not easy when you have players like Zizou (Zinedine Zidane) or Frank (Ribery). Sometimes the ball was sticking at their feet. And the ball vasn'ttakingoff when you kicked it.

"I hope they'll start to water the pitchesalittlemore."



French midfielder Zinedine Zidane (L) vies with Swiss midfielder Johann Vogel during their Group G match in

Heat taking its toll



Even coaches who had prepared for every eventuality have been caught out at the World Cup by unexpectedly high temperatures in Germany.

The teams arrived in northern Europe under grey skies and temperatures so low for the season that Japan's players complained of being constantly chilly. But once the tournament kicked

off last Friday, the sun came out with a vengeance, turning matches into sweatbaths and slowing the pace of play in the second half. The Netherlands tore into Serbia and Montenegro in the opening 20 minutes of their 1-0 victory in Leipzig

topped 30 degrees Celsius (86 Dutch goalscorer Arjen Robben admitted that as the mercury went up, the tempo of the game went

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on Sunday, but with the match kick-

ing off at 3:00 pm, the temperature

keep the ball sometimes," Robben said.

finding the going tough Australia's players had to sit in ice baths and wear special tights to get

victory over Japan. The thermometer mercury topped 30 degrees in Kaiserslautern for that game on Monday, which was

think the average everyone lost was plenty," said defender Lucas Neill.

Institute of Sport in Canberra before coming to Germany.

ball means it takes a greater toll experts say. Hot conditions means players

essential they take on liquids as often as possible. Which is why England players were furious when Mexican referee Marco Rodriguez tried to prevent them taking swigs from bottles on

the sideline as the temperature hit 30

degrees Celsius when they beat FIFA have said since that they will increase the amount of water avail-

able to players during marches. But just as coaches were beginning to pay as much attention to kickoff times as to the opposition's

lineup, nature was set to play a hand. Rain was forecast in the western city of Dortmund on Wednesday for Germany's second match, against Poland, and thunderstorms were expected to creep eastwards in the

Cup match," it continued. "Lacking bashing brigade by adding: "Under a fire French from nowon. 'We can make last 16' spectacular goals from Lee Chun-

INTERNET, undated

Dick Advocaat believes South Korea have a fighting chance of making the last 16 after storming back to defeat Togo.

The 2002 semifinalists were stunned when the African nation, new at this level, took the lead through Mohamed Kader. But the turning point came when

their skipper Jean-Paul Abalo was sent off for two yellow cards. South Korea took full advantage,

and secured a 2-1 victory thanks to the break and it worked out for us in gonfident, and we paid the price."

soo and substitute Alin Jung-hwan. Advocuat said: "It is our first victory in the World Cup in Europe, and it is so important.

have a chance to stay in the tournament. If you lose, you make it difficultior yourself. You can see from the teams who won their first game what it means

to them. The relief is evident." Advocaat changed to a more attacking formation in the second bonuses. half, and it paid dividends. He said: "We were like two differ-

ent sides. The team were nervous at the start, and so were Togo. "But the players stayed calm at opponents. Everyone was over-

"We took a lot of risks and worked hard. 'It was fortunate to have worked

out for us, but I think our luck was

"If you win the first game you welldeserved. Advocaat praised Ahn, saying: 'He made a difference, and I was pleased for him that he got on the

Otto Pfister was back in the fold

as Togo coach after walking out at the weekend in a row over unpaid Pfister was angry at the way his team went about their business.

He said: "If you coach an African team, you have to respect your

New South Wales police said six

organised betting operation

All eight were charged with unlicensed bookmaking under Australia's Unlawful Gaming Act. They are due to

another 3:00 pm kickoff. "It was hard work on the pitch. I

two to three kilograms, which is Coaches revealed they had been working closely on the heat issue with experts at the Australian

"We've done a lot of research and alot of work on recovery and our boyshave recovered fantastically," assis-

tant coach Graham Arnold said.

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Solution time: 24 mins

6 Piercing

tool

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CRYPTOOUIP

ZBG

BLKHL ZIJKHSDDI KP JQGIDQU LGNUQU? HNTZ SPW TGW Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE FELLOWS WORKING THE SNEAKER FACTORY COULD HARDLY

SURVIVE ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals H

47 Teeny bit The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostophe give you clues to locating vowers. Solution is by trial and error. 48 Scopes reference

Hot conditions are nothing new "I think it was the conditions. It at World Cups, especially when the was hot, hot. In those conditions take place in the European summer you just have to control yourself and time, but the speed of modern foot-Even teams from countries where extreme heat is commonplace are perspire more and are therefore at an increased risk of dehydration, so it is rid of the buildup of lactic acid after their historic come-from-behind