#### **Scary websites**

INTERNET, undated

Ronaldinho can put quite a scare in opponents. Fans, too, it seems.

The Brazilian's Web site is among the most likely to lead viewers to unsafe screensaver sites, including adware, spyware and malicious downloads, according to a survey by McAfee, Inc. David Beckham and Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo also pose significant risk among player sites, while Angola is the most dangerous team Web site.

"Soccer fans are famous for the depth of their feelings for player, club and country, but sadly, the vendors of spyware, adware and other unwanted software know how to exploit fans passions for financial gain," said Chris Dixon, director of strategy for McAfee SiteAdvisor. "This survey shows yet again that the problem of Web security has truly gone global."

McAfee SiteAdvisor searched Google for each of the 736 World Cup players, adding the phrase "World Cup Screensaver." It then cross-checked the results with its own database of spyware and spam safety test results for more than 3.8 million of the Web's most popular sites. The "winners" were searches resulting in the highest percentage ofrisky Web site.

Angolan goalkeeper Lama's Web site was the most dangerous among players, with visitors having a 45 percent chance of landing at an unsafe site. Fans visiting Ronaldinho and Beckham's sites had as much as a 30 percent chance of being taken to dangerous sites.

Among teams, Angola topped Brazil 24 percent to 17 percent, followed by Portugal, Argentina and the United States.

#### **Ecuador erupts** in celebration

INTERNET, undated

The Tricolours gave Ecuador a

Ecuador erupted in massive street celebrations Thursday after its team beat Costa Rica to advance to the second round of the World Cup for the first time. President Alfredo Palacio called to congratulate the team, saying there would be "popular celebrations with bands" in Quito, Guayaquil and El

"Dear players, distinguished Ecuadoreans... on behalf of our country, we're here united and proud, willing to follow your example," Palacio said. "It's an enormous achievement that unites us

In Quito, Ecuador's capital, the streets filled with yellow, blue and red flags after the team's 3-0 victory over Costa Rica in Hamburg. Fans formed honking car caravans.

"Germany, here we come!" shouted Romel Andrade, who watched the game in a restaurant

in northern Quito. Ecuador plays Germany on

Tuesday with a chance to claim first place in Group A. "Let it come, let it come, let

Germany come!" said another group of raucous fans in Guayaquil, the country's second-

Although the government did not declare an official holiday as it did after Ecuador's 2-0 victory over Poland last week, every activity stopped after the match began at 8 a.m. local time. Stores opened late, and people gathered to watch the game on big-screen televisions in plazas, restaurants, cafes and workplaces.

#### **Barcelona** to let Saviola go

AFP, barcelona

Argentina international striker Javier Saviola has been told he is not wanted by Barcelona, the Spanish champions confirmed on

Saviola is under contract at the Nou Camp until the end of the coming season but he has spent the last two years on loan at Monaco

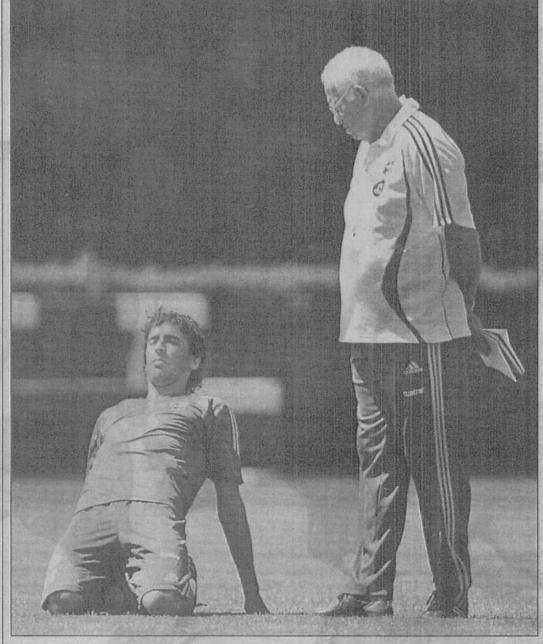
Barca manager Frank Rijkaard has no plans to keep the pacy forfor his country's second World Cup

sports director Txiki Begiristain told the club's website: "The situation with Saviola is closed, he does not interest us and I think that is

"We will have to look for the best solution for both parties when the World Cup finishes.'

Begiristain also admitted Eidur Gudjohnsen's signing from Chelsea this week may not be the

because it is our responsibility to always keep an eye on the market."



Spanish forward Raul (L) stretches as coach Luis Aragones instructs during a training session in Kamen on Tuesday.

# Raul facing WC wilderness



AFP, kamen

Spain returned to their team base here Thursday still on a high after their impressive 4-0 win over World Cup Group H rivals Ukraine but with starstriker Raul down in the dumps.

Looking to erase their tag as perennial under-achievers by moving past the quarterfinals for the first time in 56 years, Spain face Tunisia on Monday in a bid to seal their place in the second round. But while the football-mad

Spaniards awake from the hangover of Wednesday's triumph in Leipzig. knowing their team are now real contenders, more than a few will spare a thought for Raul.

The country's record scorer, with 43 goals in 95 games, was confined to making a second half substitute appearance replacing two-goal hero David Villa of Valencia in the 55th

And the Real Madrid striker, who

looked gloomy on Tuesday after top scored for Spain in the qualifiers learning he would not be starting the game, was just as subdued as he played down their heady start to the 'It's a great victory for the start of

the World Cup, but we have to go step It will boost our confidence, but

let's not get carried away. It's just the Whether Raul gets to play any further part with Luis Aragones'

youth-packed squad is a big ques-Despite a season hugely compromised by a three-month injury lay-off, Raul came off the bench and came close to scoring with a

header that fell into the hands of UKraine keeper Oleksandr However, when given the chance, Raul looked a pale imitation of the

player whose speed and nose for goal once left many defenders bamboo-And by the end of the game his

efforts were easily eclipsed by those of Atletico Madrid's Fernando Torres

Torres, who is only 22 years old,

as both South Korea's Dick Advocaat, never in any case one to hide his

with seven goals while 24-year-old

Villa finished second behind

Barcelona's Samuel Eto'o in the

Spanish league's scoring charts at the

In comparison, Raul -- who in

Aragones' previous 4-4-2 formation

would normally have partnered

Torres -- has seen his form dip and

scored only 25 goals in the past three

In the past week he has already

suffered the relative indignity of

training with players who were not

part of the anticipated starting line-

With both Torres and Villa work-

ing well so far alongside Liverpool's

Luis Garcia in Aragones' 4-3-3, Raul's

insist that 29-year-old Raul is still the

football since he was in his mid-

teens, it has already been whispered

in Spain that Raul's most serious

career setback, his knee injury earlier

this season, is a sign that his body is

Torres and Villa would be first to

However, having played top level

chances of starring look slim.

teamboss.

end of the season.

that praise from the press is a rarity, This prompted an astonishing and Mexico's Ricardo Lavolpe. Both made second-half substitu-

ing for a game, just for a 'scoop' sad Hwan, who scored the winner in the and disappointing. 'I could understand if you had 2-1 success over Togo.

The last training session is having the last word.

### **Hands off Lahm**

German giants Bayern Munich on Thursday told English champions Chelsea they have no chance of signing Germany defender Philipp Bayern moved quickly to quash

speculation that Chelsea would land the highly-rated young leftback this summer. Lahm, 22, has starred for Germany at the World Cup and it had been reported that Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho was pre-

paring a 10 million pound (18 million dollars) bid for the player. But Bayern director Karl Hopfner said: "We don't want to sell Philipp Lahm. We still need

Lahm is determined not to let the speculation affect his World Cup campaign and told Bild: "This is the World Cup and that's the only thing I'm interested in. I'm not

thinking about what will happen

#### **Italians** ignorant about Americans

REUTERS, duisburg

Italy face the United States in World Cup Group E on Saturday but Marcello Lippi's players admit they have little clue about who they will be up against.

Of three Italian players asked what they knew about the American team, only midfielder Andrea Pirlo was able to name a single member of the USA squad. "There is (Claudio) Reyna,

who plays in Europe and then there is the other lad from PSV Eindhoven," said Pirlo, referring to midfielder DaMarcus Beasley. "I don't know much about the

players who don't play in Europe but we will watch some videos," added the Italy midfielder who scored the opening goal in Monday's 2-0 win over Ghana.

Striker Vincenzo Iaquinta, scorer of Italy's second against the Africans, knows even less about Bruce Arena's American

"I know very little about them, I know they have some players in Europe. Certainly they are a good side. We will be talking about them with the coach and watching the videos," said the forward.

Striker Alberto Gilardino said the USA team had not been a matter of discussion among the Italian squad.

"We haven't talked about them yet. This afternoon (Thursday) we will watch some videos. I know they like to play the ball around but we have two days to weigh them up," he said.

The USA lost their opening group game 3-0 to the Czech Republic.

#### **Ghana practise** in secrecy

INTERNET, undated

Ratomir Dujkovic wants his players' full attention.

The Ghana coach closed practice Thursday at the team's training site in Wuerzburg in southern Germany. When fans and reporters gathered outside the gates for a peak of the Black Stars, the team bus and van blocked the view.

An elderly Ghanian man, equipped with cow bells and a cassette recording of beating drums, was allowed to stay in the stadium. But a group of Turkishspeaking Germans who drove from Stuttgart to see Fenerbahce star Stephen Appiah arrived too

#### Time off for good show

AFP, kamen

pain coach Luis Aragones rewarded his players by allowing them to spend Friday with their wives, girlfriends and children before resuming training in the early evening.

Spain got off to a perfect start in Group H with a 4-0 demolition job on Ukraine in Leipzig on Wednesday - a performance which confirmed Spain's status as real contenders.

At the very least, Spain look capable of breaking the 56-year hoodoo which has seen them fail to get past the quarter-final stages.

The next match for the perennial World Cup underachievers is against Roger Lemerre's Tunisia in Stuttgart on Monday.

On Friday, Spain were allowed a day of leisure before being called to an evening training session which has been scheduled for 1800 local

Spain will leave for Stuttgart on Sunday hoping to claim the three points that would secure qualification for the second round where, depending on whether they finish first or second, they will meet either the winner or runner-up of Group G.

#### Berlusconi re-elected **Milan president**

AFP, Rome

Former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi has been reelected as president of Serie A side AC Milan, the club confirmed on

when the club is embroiled in the

match-fixing scandals currently

"Silvio Berlusconi was re-elected as

president at the assembly of the

shareholders which was held on

engulfing Italian football

Berlusconi was forced to step down from the position in December 2004 because of a potential conflict of interests with his role in the Italian government. He had been president of the

club since 1986 and presided over a glorious period which included four European Cup victories. But Berlusconi returns at a time

Brazil, in particular, and Portugal. A club spokesman told AFP:

> Cruyff praised the Germans, who have posted wins over Costa Rica (4-2) and Poland (1-0), as "very fresh.

The woes of being Ronaldo lost 3-0 to host France.

GERMANY 2006

Forget all the talk about proving

everybody wrong at this World Cup.

Ronaldo wasn't even able to get in

indeed, overshadowed all his team-

mates so far -- including

Ronaldinho, Kaka and Cafu -- but

a weight controversy that even

involved the Brazilian president.

Then it was blisters on his foot and a

mild respiratory infection. The

latest was a visit to a hospital late

And then there was his dismal

performance in Brazil's 1-0 opening

win against Croatia on Tuesday,

when he barely touched the ball and

that I'm always supposed to play well," Ronaldo said Thursday, add-

ing that all his problems are in the

past, and that he was ready to play

repercussion of all of this," he said.

and blamed the media for making a

big deal out of what he called "small

But given Ronaldo's past with injuries and off-the-field problems,

it's hard to believe something else

1998 World Cup final, he had unex-

plained convulsions and had to be

taken to a medical centre. Tests were

negative and he got back in time to

play, but performed poorly. Brazil

For example, hours before the

won'tcomeup.

Sincerely, it bothers me, the

against Australia on Sunday.

'It's not written in my manual

was replaced in the 69th minute.

Wednesday because of dizziness.

His World Cup woes started with

for all the wrong reasons.

The 29-year-old striker has,

shape for Brazil's opening match.

AP, koenigstein

A year later, Ronaldo seriously hurt his knee while playing with Inter Milan in the Italian league. He had surgery and was sidelined

about four months. His second knee injury -- which nearly ended his career -- came during his first match back in action, in the 2000 Italian Cup final. He badly twisted his knee just six minutes after entering the match, and wept as he was carried off on a stretcher. The injury also required surgery, and the rehabilitation kept him sidelined for nearly 17 months.

Many doubted Ronaldo would play at a high-level again, but he recovered nicely and was the key player in Brazil's run to a fifth title in 2002. He was the tournament's top scorer, netting eight goals in seven

There was a period of calm for the superstar striker after that World Cup, but things began going downhill again as this year's tournament approached.

Real Madrid fans started to jeer him because of a series of bad performances, and a string of injuries kept him from playing in many matches. He netted only five goals in Real Madrid's first 19 games of the year and said he considered leaving the Spanish club because of the

Even Pele criticised him, as did former French star Michel Platini, who said Ronaldo "has too many vears" and is "carrying too many

After arriving for Brazil's training camp admittedly overweight and not in form, Ronaldo was forced to leave a warm-up match because of blisters caused by defective soccer

A few days later he missed practice because of a mild respiratory

The speculation about his weight only increased after Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva asked whether he was fat during a video conference with

players days before Brazil's debut. Just as that seemed to fade, came news of the dizzy spell. 'We can't rule out the possibility

that increased stress could have caused the dizziness," Brazil Dr. Jose Luiz Runco said. His off-the-field problems included a stormy marriage and

divorce barely three months later in 2005 with Brazilian model and television hostess Daniella Cicarelli. Still, Ronaldo approached this World Cup full of confidence, saying

that now he knew he was "strong

enough to overcome" challenges. He is motivated, too, because there's a chance to break several

Ronaldo is only three goals shy of becoming the World Cup's all-time eading scorer. He is tied with Pele with 12 goals, one behind Just Fontaine of France and two behind Gerd Mueller of West Germany.

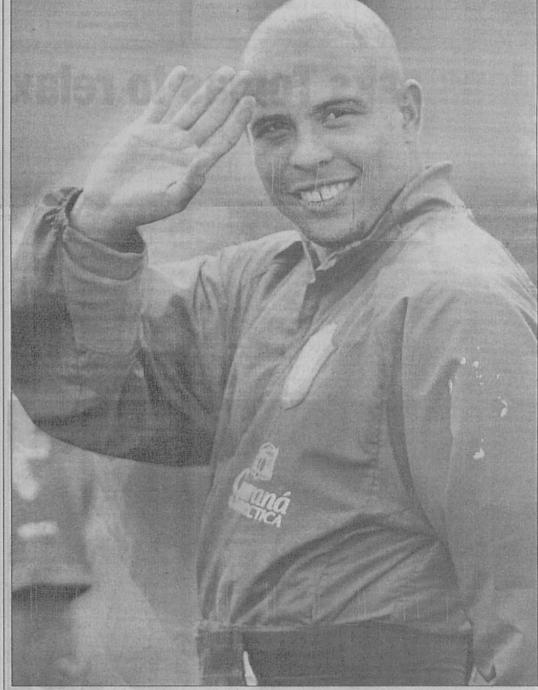
If Brazil win the title Their sixth

overall -- Ronaldo also will equal Pele as a three-time champion. Despite being only 17 years old, Ronaldo was a member of Brazil's quad that won the 1994 World Cup in the United States, and he was part of the 2002 championship team.

Brazil captain Cafu said Ronaldo is fine and will remain crucial for the national team."

In the 100 matches Ronaldo has played for Brazil, the team have lost only eight times.

Ronaldo is important for what he represents to the national team," Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said. "He still deserves to be trusted.



Brazil's under-fire striker Ronaldo jests during a training in Konigstein on Thursday.

## **Brazil disappoint Cruyff**

AFP, stuttgart

finalist with the Netherlands in 1974 and 1978, said Thursday he had been "pleasantly surprised" by the opening games of this World Cup but disappointed by Brazil.

Johan Cruvff, twice a World Cup

The level of football is good across the board, even very good. Several teams are playing a much more attacking style than expected," said Cruyff, speaking here ahead of Friday's Group C match between the Netherlands and Ivory Coast.

"Italy, Spain and Ghana have really seduced me. However, I'm a little disappointed by the showings of

"It was a real hash. Brazil showed very little (in scrambling to a 1-0 win over Croatia) and Portugal even less, but then we are only at the start of the tournament."

added. the dressing room as well. The atmosphere seems excellent and that's open."

Not always efficient but nice to watch. It's good for the tournament". On the Marco van Basten-

"The first match (a 1-0 win over Serbia and Montenegro) was very good and I think the team will get

coached Dutch side. Cruyff said he

was confident the team would only

etter and better. "The media have highlighted the performance of Arjen Robben in attack. But I was especially impressed by the work of the defend-

"John Heitinga, Andre Ooijer and Joris Mathijsen have never played a big tournament but they gave the impression of being very mature.'

He insisted he had confidence, like van Basten, in the likely return to form of Manchester United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, who was largely ineffective against the Serbs and

replaced after 69 minutes. Van Basten deserved to be praised for installing his own game style after just two years in charge, Cruyff

"It's evident on the pitch and in

Van Basten has bid to bury the infighting that has bedevilled Dutch squads in previous World Cup cam-

He controversially ditched the old guard, leaving at home such seasoned campaigners as Edgar Davids and Clarence Seedorf, often linked to dressing room dissent, and brought on board a raft of talented young-

The Netherlands go into Friday's group of death match against Ivory Coast seeking a win that would almost certainly book their passage into the second round of the World

But Cruyff warned that the west Africans would provide stiff opposi-

'Ivory Coast surprised me against Argentina (despite Iosing 2-1). They have power and technique. But their inexperience was clearly a downside.

"They are undoubtedly dangerous opponents. They have not had their last word and I cannot wait to watch a match which should be very

### Thursday. and Sevilla.

ward, who is currently preparing match against Serbia and Montenegro on Friday, and will either sell him or agree another loan move. The European champions'

quite clear.

last new arrival at the Catalan club He added: "I cannot say categorically that we are not going to have any more new players

for coaches

**Pressing matters** 

AFP, berlin National football coaches don't just have to plan their tactics for the next game at a World Cup they have to also think long and hard on how to

play against their domestic press It is not just the English coach who has to cope with constant barrages -though countless ones have had to deal with prying into their private lives unlike their foreign counter-

Sven-Goran Eriksson has dealt with it in a typically Buddhist-style

with calm and tranquillity to the fore. However the mantle of the most harassed national coach of recent times may fall to the French hotseat where four successive coaches have had a rough ride and seldom seemed capable of handling it.

Aime Jacquet started it all by going head to head with French sports paper L'Equipe who criticised him constantly and not only did he then guide France to the 1998 World Cup but he also sued them. Roger Lemerre could expect no

mercy from the press once he failed so catastrophically with the French in the 2002 finals, Jacques Santini passed through timidly, and now Raymond Domenech has taken up the mantle of lambasting the press while several players are publicly boycotting speaking to the journal-At the centre of the row with

Domenech was the revealing of

details of a closed training session

which suggested the plan was to start

Frank Ribery, the rising star of the

team, for the first time in Tuesday's

World Cup clash against Switzerland.

Two newspapers, L'Equipe and Le Parisien, carried the reports in their Monday editions, saying the Marseille player was set to replace David Trezeguet

outburst by Domenech at a tense eve of match press conference. 'I find this spying on a closed training session, when we're prepar-

spied on the opposition but that our own media does it to us and tells everyone else I find that upsetting.

always the one where you finalise the "Iam sorry, but it's a shame." And if those Frenchmen thought they got a rough ride then their compatriot Henri Michel could tell

them it gets a lot rougher in Africa as

he has found out for the best part of In his latest incarnation as Ivory Coast coach he has taken them to the African Nations Cupfinal and to their first ever appearance at the World Cup finals -- but even a praiseworthy 2-1 defeat by Argentina in their opening match still had the press on

The 2006 World Cup: A personal defeat for Henri Michel," read one of the headlines as they laid into him over his failure to put Lens striker Aruna Dindane up front with Didier "I make my choices and that is

why I am sitting here and you are sitting there," was the 57-year-old's curt response at one point to a journalist's question about his team Journalists write about the news, and if I wasn't here what would you

writeabout," headded. Others take a different tack and prefer to take the credit when it is due

talents under a bushel though having twice been Dutch coach he knows

tions in their first group matches that had a match winning effect. "It was a big success," said Advocaat of his sending on Ahn Jung-

And for once not one of the press could find anything to come back with -- a rare victory for the coaching corps but that is the battle won and not the war and the press always like