

DHAKA THURSDAY JUNE 22, 2006



EMPEROR READY TO STRIKE AGAIN: Brazilian forward Adriano smiles during a training session at Bergisch Gladbach stadium while captain Cafu (L) and coach Carlos Alberto Parreira (R) look opposite ways on Tuesday ahead of their match against Japan.

Juninho expects harder battles

Juninho Pernambucano doesn't expect things to get much easier for Brazil at the World Cup. The defending champions struggled in their first two matches against Croatia and Australia, picking up wins but being heavily challenged. "Brazil better wake up now and realize that it will suffer a lot to win this World Cup," the Lyon player said. "This (competition) is being played at a very high level, it's being hard to hold on to results, to win matches." Juninho, a backup to Kaka in Brazil's magic quartet scheme, noted the so-called weak teams will likely continue giving a hard time to the traditional squads. "Australia played very well against us. Who would've thought something like that 10 years ago, that Australia would face Brazil like it did?" Juninho said. "Other nations, even some which have been eliminated, like the Ivory Coast, have played well, too. "We've seen Portugal struggle to beat Iran." The 31-year-old Juninho may get a chance to start Thursday in Brazil's last group match after coach Carlos Alberto Parreira hinted he may rest some of the starters ahead of the second round.

Owen England's tears

Newcastle United. Owen's injury means England are desperately short of experienced strikers with coach Sven Goran Eriksson left with a not yet fully-fit Wayne Rooney, Liverpool's Peter Crouch and untested Arsenal teenager Theo Walcott. For the moment, however, Eriksson was only concerned with Owen's welfare and the possibility he could be sidelined for up to five months. "Michael has had terrible luck with injuries since Christmas," said the Swede. "I feel very sorry for him to miss out on the rest of the World Cup -- it's a blow to him and a big loss for the team. "However I am sure Michael will work very hard to get back as quickly as possible for Newcastle and England. He is a true professional and a very mentally strong person. "I hope the team can now go on and achieve success in Germany for Michael." The Football Association (FA) issued a statement confirming that Owen's knee injury meant his World Cup was finished. "Following his injury in last night's match with Sweden, Michael Owen had his right knee scanned today," the FA said. "It has now been confirmed that the injury will prevent Michael playing any further part in the World Cup and he will return to England immediately. "Newcastle United have been kept fully informed of the facts, and Michael's medical care will now be managed by the club. "Any further comment regarding details of the injury or further treatment will be made by Newcastle United." Eriksson, whose side face Ecuador in Stuttgart in the second round on Sunday, has been under fire for bringing only four strikers to Germany. A squad overloaded with midfielders who are unlikely to play a significant part in England's campaign -- neither Michael Carrick nor Jermaine Jenas have yet kicked a ball in anger -- always looked unbalanced. Nevertheless, Eriksson put on a brave face in the immediate aftermath of England's draw with Sweden, insisting that his side have enough options in midfield as well as attack to provide a reliable source of goals. "If you talk about other options, we have many players who can take that second striker role," said Eriksson. "We have Theo Walcott, who we haven't seen yet, we have Joe Cole, "



DOWN AND OUT: English striker Michael Owen, who was ruled out of the World Cup, lies on the pitch after badly injuring his right knee during their match against Sweden on Tuesday in Cologne.

Lagerback has the last laugh

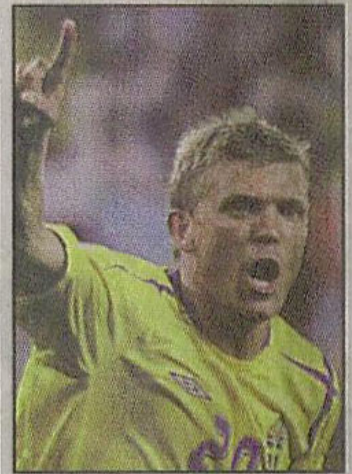
Sweden's coach Lars Lagerback thought a draw was a fair outcome in his side's Group B clash with England. The 2-2 score line reflected two contrasting halves, according to the Swede. "I think England were the better side in the first half, but at the interval I said to the players to play a little less ambitiously, we were losing the ball too much in one-on-one exchanges," said the Swedish coach, pleased with his team's recovery. "It was better in the second half. We almost deserved three points. We were the better team in the second half."

WC BRIEFS

Brazil have put in place a movable consular service to accompany their thousands of fans as they travel around Germany. In leaflets distributed to supporters, the Brazilian authorities explain under what circumstances they can get involved should any fans meet with any difficulty. Among the "can't do" items are "lending money, make hotel or car reservations, organise trips or look after luggage." A good reason German members of parliament kept their speeches remarkably short during a budget debate on Tuesday ahead of the host nation's match against Ecuador. "I note, dear colleagues, an unusual display of discipline in sticking to speaking times. I cannot remember this ever happening in a budget debate," Bundestag president Norbert Lammert joked. "I suspect there is a good reason for this!" Dutch star Phillip Cocu will be a centurion if he faces Argentina in their final Group C match as he stood to win his 100th cap for the Orange. Keeper Edwin van der Sar was also due to celebrate as he was to win his 112th cap, leveling the Dutch record of Frank de Boer. By coincidence, Cocu and Van der Sar were born the same day, October 29, 1970. Argentina prefer to stay mute but the Mexicans and even the English sing with gusto. Statistics collectors Information Builders say none of the Argentines sang their national hymn pitchside ahead of their matches with Ivory Coast and Serbia and Montenegro. Serbia and Montenegro didn't sing up much either -- perhaps not surprisingly as the Montenegrians have voted to split from the Serbians. The South Koreans and the Tunisians were other sides with not much visible desire to sing up, according to Information Builders, whereas the Mexicans, the English, the Italians, the Spanish and the players of Ecuador, Angola, Costa Rica, Brazil and Saudi Arabia all gave their tonsils an airing. Superstitious Footballers are as superstitious as ever, be it putting one boot on before the other or going out last onto the pitch. Spanish coach Luis Aragones can't abide yellow -- not even flowers, while Portuguese goalkeeper Ricardo likes to wear black. Raul is one of several players who kisses his wedding ring on scoring and Argentina's Juan Roman Riquelme wears a medalion given him by daughter Florencia. Some allegations of superstition have created some ill-feeling. Angola coach Luis Oliveira Goncalves had to deny that his team was into black magic. "Portuguese TV said we had brought a witch doctor. I think that shows a lack of respect. We work scientifically and our coaches go to the same training schools as those who work in Europe," insisted Goncalves. Eusebio for Portugal Portugal's World Cup campaign has been given a boost by the presence of legendary striker Eusebio, "

'Brazil no monster'

Japan coach Zico has told his players to have no fears when taking on mighty Brazil in their make-or-break World Cup match in Dortmund on Thursday. "We are not confronting an awful monster," Zico said. "They are a strong team. But, as professionals representing Japan, we must never give up as long as there is the slightest of chances. "We have to be more optimistic in the way we think," he told reporters Tuesday on the eve of Japan's departure from their training base here for their final Group F match. A star of three Brazilian World Cup campaigns, Zico recalled that Brazil lost to unfancied Norway at France 1998 in their last group match after having secured a spot in the second round. "They lost because they let up after reaching the second round," said Zico, who was a technical advisor to Brazil's World Cup squad in 1998. He also recalled that the three-time Asian champions battled to a 2-2 draw with Brazil in the first round of the Confederations Cup in Germany last year. Zico said Japan would have won the match were it not for an incorrect offside call which denied Japan a third goal. Zico has refused to reveal his starting lineup against Brazil, amid speculation that he would shake up a strike force which has so far failed to spark. The Japanese players focused on shooting during the evening practice while Japanese supporters were vocal in the stands of the North Sportspark stadium. In unusually direct reactions, they made catcalls and booed when players missed the target while they erupted in applause when they ruffled the net. Zico also had a dig at Australia accusing them of roughing up one of his squad trainers during their opening World Cup match. Zico recalled the incident as he continued complaining at how the football governing body FIFA is overseeing the world's biggest sporting event, ranging from a penalty mistake to mid-afternoon matches in the scorching sun. "The Brazilian legend said on Tuesday that Australia coach Guus Hiddink and his staff shoved Japanese trainer Naoki Hayakawa when he tried to get onto the pitch to take care of a Japanese player lying on the ground. "He (Hayakawa) did not block the view of the bench or intentionally interrupt the match," Zico said.



MARCUS ALLBACK Goal No. 2000 Allback's World Cup scoring landmarks: 1: Laurent (FRA), France v Mexico 4-1, 1930 Montevideo 100: Schiavio (ITA), Italy v USA 7-1, 1934 Rome 500: Collins (SCO), Scotland v Paraguay 3-2, 1958 Norrköping 1000: Rensenbrink (NED), Netherlands v Scotland 2-3, 1978 Mendoza 1500: Caniggia (ARG), Argentina v Nigeria 2-1, 1994 Boston 2000: Allback (SWE), Sweden v England, 2006 Cologne

The Daily Star
RANGS TOSHIBA
 WORLD CUP QUIZ 2006

Air-Con

2006 Round 4, Draw in Chittagong
 (See June 8 issue of the Star Sport for competition information, prizes and rules)

The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz Round 4, Ends June 29, 2006

Tick (✓) the correct answers

- Who scored the first goal in the 2006 World Cup? Klose Lahm Wanhope
- The smallest nation to have played in the World Cup finals is: Trinidad & Tobago Cameroon Jamaica
- Which Asian player scored in three World Cup finals? Nakata Sami Al Jaber Ali Daei
- Which World Cup final match ended goalless during the regulation time? Italia '90 Argentina '78 USA '94
- Who is this player? Totti Kaka Messi

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 4."

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banglalink goal pick & win contest

how to participate :

how to pick your team?
 Write Message: pw gha
 go to message option

Phone Number: 2006
 send to 2006

in case of a draw?
 Write Message: pw gha draw
 go to message option

type 'pt' and send to 2006 today's matches

match 1: Ghana (gha) vs USA (usa)
 match 2: Czech Republic (cze) vs Italy (ita)
 match 3: Croatia (cro) vs Australia (aus)
 match 4: Japan (jap) vs Brazil (bra)

to know your accumulated points