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Kaiserslautern's Miroslav Kadlec tumbles after being tackled by Stuttgart's Adrian Knap during their German soccer league match in Stuttgart on Thursday. The game ended in a 1-1 draw. —AFP photo

## AC in to crown high of highs



ROME, Apr 1: Defending champions AC Milan can cap a victorious week for owner Silvio Berlusconi—Italy's newest political sensation—when they host fourth-place Parma on Saturday at San Siro Stadium, reports AP.

Berlusconi, a media magnate and one of Italy's richest men, led a right-wing alliance to victory in general elections and could wind up prime minister of Italy's 53rd post-war government.

The Red and Black go into the 30th round—moved up a day because of Easter Sunday—with a seven-point lead in the First Division with just five matches to play.

Following their 1-0 shock defeat at Napoli on Sunday and a lackluster 0-0 draw with Anderlecht in the European Champions league on Wednesday night, Milan will try to recover their winning form against powerful Parma.

Parma, beaten 2-1 by Benfica in the first-leg Cup Winner Cup semifinal on Tuesday in Lisbon, is nine behind Milan and shares a place in fourth with Lazio of Rome.

But Parma have played one game less, and could reach Sampdoria of Genoa and Juventus of Turin in second with a win in next week's make-up match against relegation-bound Reggina.

A win by Milan combined with losses by Parma, Sampdoria and Juventus would sew up the Devils' third successive scudetto (title).

But it won't come easy. Coach Fabio Capello will likely be without striker Dejan Savicevic, who is still nursing a leg muscle injury. He may also miss midfielder Stefano Erano, who could be replaced by Romanian Dorin Raducioiu.

Parma will as usual feature their front line of Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla,



SILVIO BERLUSCONI

Swede Tomas Brodin and diminutive leading scorer Gianfranco Zola.

Elsewhere, Juventus will try to take advantage of Internazionale of Milan's season-long slump when they host the Blue and Black on Saturday.

Player-of-the-year Roberto Baggio is expected to return to the lineup after knee trouble kept him out for two weeks. He'll likely join Gianluca Vialli, who returned to action last week following three months off with a fractured foot.

Earlier this week, Inter appointed former Napoli coach Ottavio Bianchi as head coach for next season. Bianchi, who won the 1987 title with Napoli, replaces Giampiero Marin.

Inter, picked as favorites in the fall, has plunged to eighth place this season.

Rumours abound that Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp, who has failed to meet expectations since being acquired amid much fanfare last year, may be released at season's end.

Sampdoria are expected to be in top form at Cremonese, where Dutchman Ruud Guilit and captain Roberto Mancini will try to break a combined team scoring record.

In other Sunday matches, Genoa host Lazio; Udinese visit Atalanta of Bergamo; Piacenza travel to Foggia; Lecce host Torino; Napoli play at Reggina; and Roma host Cagliari.

## A test for soaring 'Eagles'



TUNIS, Apr 1: Egypt, who shrugged off the absence of several stars to win Group B, face surprise package Mali here on Saturday in the second African Nations' Cup quarter-final, reports AP.

The Hassan twins, fullback Ibrahim and striker Hossam, were they key figures in Egyptian preparations for the tournament, but both fell foul of soccer officialsdom this year.

Ibrahim received a worldwide one-year ban for attempting to assault a referee and Hossam was barred from domestic competition for several months after being sent off.

But fears that the defence would leak without Ibrahim and goal supply would dry up without Hossam proved unfounded as Egypt whipped Gabon 4-0 and held Nigeria 0-0.

Bashir Abdel Samad is the new darling of Egypt, scoring twice against Gabon, while even crack Nigerian striker Rashidi Yekini could not find a way past goalkeeper Ahmed Shoubair.

Only Shoubair, defender Hani Ramzy and midfielders Ashraf Kashem and Ahmed Al-Kass remain from the squad that reached the 1990 World Cup finals.

Mali, considered likely whipping boys before the finals, caused a sensation by defeating highly rated Tunisia 2-0 in the opening Group A match of the 16-day soccer showcase.

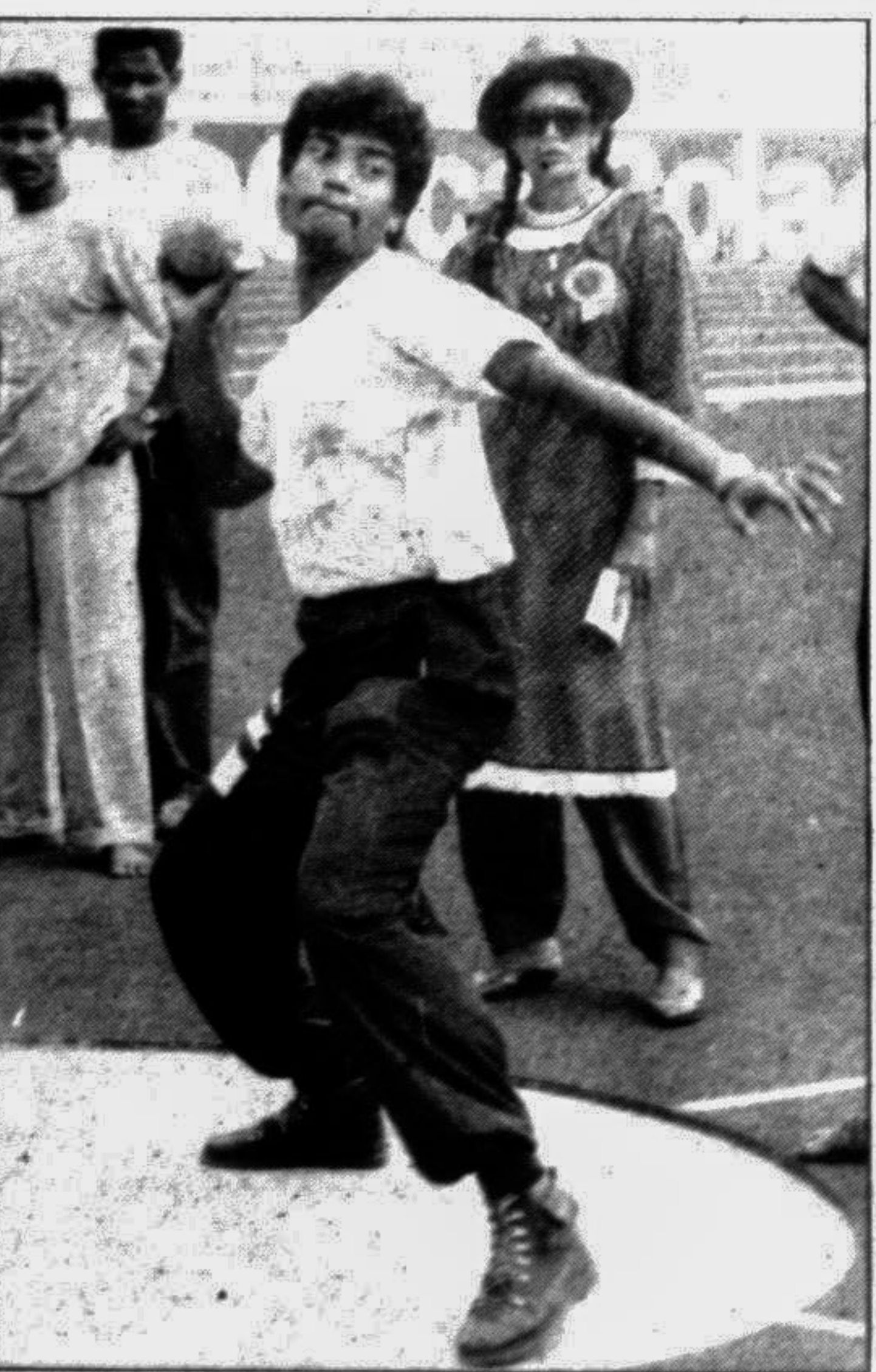
The Eagles from West Africa

## Rotary deaf sports

The first Rotary deaf sports competition was held at the National Stadium at Mirpur yesterday, reports BSS.

Dhaka Association of the Deaf and Rotary International District Bangladesh jointly organised the event.

Eighty-nine deaf competitors took part in the meet. Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah was present as chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners.



A competitor hurls the shot put during the first Rotary deaf sports meet at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

## Maradona thinks it's over

BUENOS AIRES, Apr 1: Diego Maradona, downcast at his failure to resurrect his soccer career, said on Thursday he was consulting his psychologist over whether to give up the game for good, reports Reuter.

"I'm shattered," Maradona was quoted as saying by the Argentine DYN news agency.

"This has led me again to think about definitive retirement, which I will decide tomorrow or the next day, after consulting with my agent, Marcos Franchi, and my psychologist," he said.

He blamed continual "bad-mouthing" by journalists for his condition and said he was looking at an offer from an unidentified television channel of a job as commentator at the World Cup finals in the United States.

Friction between the former captain and the press has already brought in psychological condition into question this year after he fired an argun at journalists besieging his home, allegedly wounding several of them.

Despite being sacked by his club, Newell's Old Boys, Maradona's hopes of playing in the World Cup were raised when he was named in the national squad to face Brazil this month, although he missed several training sessions and did not play.

## Greek booters want rewards

ATHENS, Apr 1: Members of the Greek national soccer team are demanding bonuses from their federation for reaching the World Cup finals and want additional money for any additional success this summer, reports AP.

The players want bonuses for every victory in the 52-game quadrennial championship, the first World Cup Greece has ever qualified for, and 25 per cent of the total revenues the federation will receive from various sources, the Athens daily Ta Nea reported Thursday.

Their demands were outlined in a letter which has strained relations between the national team and the federation. Coach Alkis Panagoulas is being called on by both sides to negotiate a settlement, the paper said.

Ta Nea said the players demanded: — 3 million drachmas (dls 12,000) for every victory in the opening round and 1.5 million drachmas (dls 6,000) for each draw; — 15 million drachmas (dls 60,000) for qualifying for the second round and an extra bonus for every victory;

— 25 per cent of the total revenue the Greek federation receives from the FIFA, subsidies and television rights, expected to total over dls 4 million.

The paper said the federation was standing firm and would decide on what bonuses the players would receive without opening a dialogue with them.

Most federations pay their players bonuses for the reaching the World Cup and even more for additional achievements, although the figures are rarely officially announced.

Italian players, whose federation is one of the richest in the world, reportedly were to receive between 260,000 dollars and 270,000 dollars during the last World Cup.

Greece will play Argentina, Bulgaria and Nigeria in Group D of the World Cup. The dispute could culminate with the national team boycotting an exhibition game against World Cup qualifier Saudi Arabia on April 27.

Meanwhile, Greek state television said it would broadcast every World Cup match totalling about 102 hours. Most of the games will be carried live while others will be taped, delayed.

## Cuban goalie seeks asylum

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands, Apr 1: Noel Arguelles, the goalkeeper of Cuba's national soccer team, on Thursday requested political asylum in the Cayman Islands, reports AP.

Cal Gallegos, a local resident acting as translator for Arguelles said the athlete delivered the written request to Cayman immigration officials.

"My motives are political, not economic," Arguelles said Wednesday claiming he would have been jailed had he remained in Cuba.

Arguelles is considered one of the best players on the Cuban soccer team and some say he's been offered a contract to play in Europe. Cuba is a lightly regarded soccer nation, and withdrew from World Cup qualifying before it began in March 1993.

## Big bucks await Americans



OAKLAND, California, Apr 1: Home-based US soccer players are cashing in on the World Cup after lean years of paltry bonuses and low wages, reports Reuter.

While still far short of the Michael Jordans of the big-time professional American sports or the lucrative European club contracts, many of the US team players have found the cash has started to flow.

"There were no personal appearances in 1990. Unless you had one for your own company," said defender Desmond Armstrong, a veteran of the 1990 World Cup and 1988 Olympics.

"Except for Adidas and Budweiser, who've been with us for years, the American sponsors didn't know about the team and didn't care. Now it's a lot different."

A comparison: A few years ago US team players picked up international match bonuses of less than 100 dollars.

Today, according to agents and advertisers, players command fees of 1,250 dollars for a one-hour appearance on behalf of sponsors while annual salaries range up to 90,000 dollars.

The biggest payoff will come at the World Cup where the players' contracts call for the following:

— 10,000 (dollars) per player to make the final squad of 22.

— 5,000 dollars per player to start.

— 2,500 dollars per player for each point earned in the first round (three points for a win and one for a tie).

Getting past the first round will result in additional and far larger payments into a team pool.

— Reaching the second round nets 750,000 dollars getting to the quarter-finals takes on another 800,000 dollars.

— A semifinal is worth 850,000 dollars and the even more unlikely event of reaching the final is valued at 900,000 dollars.

Winning the World Cup would be worth 1 million dollars.

It may not be a gold rush but it's a welcome windfall for players ignored in the past.

Former goalkeeper David Vanole, now out of the national team, ruefully contemplated the way it once was.

"During the month for the World Cup, preparation and the games in Italy, I made about 2,000 dollars because I didn't play in any games," said Vanole, who now coaches.

"Now, these guys can make more than that with a couple of personal appearances, not to mention their salaries are about 10 times what we got paid," he added.

Businesses and companies are contacting US players to speak at conventions and soccer clinics, and using their pictures increasingly in media advertisements.

Goalkeeper Tony Meola has a video game on the market, defender Alexi Lalas has his own rock band and has released a CD, while Armstrong is penning a comic strip based on the exploits of his international teammates.

To be marketed soon are "photoballs" featuring photographs of the players, autographed balls and posters.

The most successful is Meola, who has deals with the foot locker footwear chain and official supplier Adidas. His video game has been on the market for some months.

The players are currently

paid bonuses of 500 dollars to start against a 1994 World Cup qualifier, like the Bolivian team they drew with 2-2 in Dallas last week, or a team that played in the 1990 World Cup. Substitutes get 250 dollars.

Players also earn 500 dollars per point against such opposition. Fees for lesser opposition are reduced but still more than double the bonuses for most matches last year.

Sponsorship can prove so lucrative that some players no longer suffer if they miss out on bonuses.

A bizarre situation last month, when coach Bora Milutinovic took 18 men to Hong Kong, illustrated the point.

Of those left behind, five received 1,200 dollars to attend a sporting goods convention — at least as much and in some cases more than those who played in Hong Kong.

And with the new-found publicity, advertisers are finding new soccer personalities beginning to emerge.

Take the wild-haired, red-coated Lalas, scorer of the second US goal in the upset 2-0 win over England last summer at US Cup 1993.

Lalas is also lead guitarist in a rock and roll band called "The Gypsies."

"Alexi has a great demeanour, a rock and roll, MTV image," said US soccer secretary general Hank Steinbrecher.

Some of the players are doing very well... but compare that to (dollars) Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman and Michael Jordan. We're not there yet, and won't be for a long time."

Aikman recently signed an eight-year 50 million dollars contract with the Cowboys, a sum soccer can't match.

But, at 1,250 dollars an hour, things are looking up.

## Graduation first, soccer later

SAN FRANCISCO, Apr 1: While other World Cup soccer venues plan to keep people off their pitches before the World Cup, Stanford University has other ideas, reports AP.

The university, saying students come before soccer, intends to erect a 500-seat stage in the middle of the pitch for a degree ceremony eight days before Brazil are due to play their opening match against Russia there.

Faculty members will take their places on the platform while some 3,000 students will sit on chairs around the field during the June 12 degree awards ceremony.

"The stage will be for 500 people and commencement (graduation) comes first, not World Cup soccer," Lois Wagner, director of Events and Services, said on Thursday.

"If the field is damaged then it will be repaired. The athletic department is prepared to resort."

"I don't think there is going to be any damage at all," said Wagner, adding that last year's ceremony lasted considerably longer than this year's would. The stage also left barely an outline on the pitch after removals.

Margarita Ibarra, an administrative assistant at the university, said the main ceremony of the 103rd graduation would start at 9.15 am and last at least two hours. Around 30,000 people are expected to attend.

The graduation has posed an additional organisational problem for World Cup organisers, with hotels throughout the area being booked out by the proud parents.

Graduation could also prove an irritation for the Brazilian team who arrive in the San Francisco area in late May and train at the University of Santa Clara.



The Daily Star

## WorldCupUSA94 Quiz Competition



Powervision CTV 21"

Philips B/W TV 17"



Turbo Stereo Recorder

Philips Lamps

All prizes courtesy:

Transcom Electronics Ltd.

## Quiz 1.

Entries close on 14-04-94

Read the instructions carefully. Then tick (✓) the answer which you think is correct.

- |  |        |                          |        |                          |         |                          |
|--|--------|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| 1. When was the inaugural World Cup held?  | 1930   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1932   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1934    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Who were the first World Cup champions?                                       | Brazil | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chile  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Uruguay | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. How many teams took part in the first World Cup?                              | 12     | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13     | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Which country hosted the second World Cup?                                    | Spain  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Italy  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Brazil  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Which country has played in all the World Cup finals?                         | Italy  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Brazil | <input type="checkbox"/> | France  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. How many goals were scored in the 1938 final?                                 | 4      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. When did England make its World Cup debut?                                    | 1938   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1934   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1950    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. How many goals did French striker Just Fontaine score in the 1958 tournament? | 11     | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12     | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. When did Pele make his World Cup debut?                                       | 1954   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1958   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1962    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. How many hattricks were scored in Italia-90?                                 | 1      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3       | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## COMPETITION RULES

- The Daily Star World Cup Quiz 94 is a series of 6 (six) Quiz Competitions on World Cup Football. Sets of questions will be published for 10 (ten) consecutive days in the Sports Page of The Daily Star for the first 5 (five) Quiz Competitions. For the last and final Bumper Quiz Competition, a set of questions will be published for one month in the Sports Page of The Daily Star according to the schedule (Picture of the Rounds) as fixed by The Daily Star authorities.
- For the first 5 (five) Quiz Competitions there will be 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5 (five) consolation prizes. The prizes will be Colour TV, Black & White TV, Super Turbo 2-in-1 Stereo Recorder and light bulbs respectively.
- Any taxes or levies, as per rule, for all the above prizes, will have to be borne by the winners.
- Names and addresses of all prizewinners will be published in The Daily Star. Winners will be responsible for collecting their prizes from The Daily Star office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.
- For the Bumper Quiz Competition, there will be the BUMPER PRIZE consisting of a ticket to the World Cup Final match, along with an Economy Class return air ticket (Dhaka-Los Angeles-Dhaka) and an amount for incidental expenses. The Daily Star does NOT take any responsibility for any visa or other travel documents that may be required. The BUMPER PRIZE Winner will have to make his/her own arrangements in this regard. In case of the Bumper Prize winner's inability to travel to the USA he/she may choose to receive a sum of Tk. 100,000/- in cash in lieu of the air fare and living expenses.

## RULES

- Residents of Bangladesh, subject to these rules, will be eligible to participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz 94. All personnel of The Daily Star, Unifred (advertising agency) and Transcom Electronics Ltd. and all its affiliate companies shall be deemed disqualified to participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz 94.
- Participants are to cut the original form along the indicated dotted lines. All entries must be submitted on the original form printed in The Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.
- Participants are to put a tick (✓) mark in the box which they think is the correct answer to the question. A person may send as many entries in his/her own name and address.

Write with a ball-point pen in clear, CAPITAL LETTERS. Cut along the dotted lines and mail it to us FAST!