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Pele tips Brazil to win World Cup

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Apr 2: Brazilian soccer star, Pele, billed Brazil Saturday as the front runner in this year's World Cup soccer tournament, followed by defending champion, Germany, reports AP.

Wounding up a three-day promotional-cum-coaching tour in the United Arab Emirates, Pele told a press conference that he expected some tough battle when the teams meet in summer in the United States.

"I think it's the best team of individuals and Germany will always be a threat. But you cannot rule out Sweden, Cameroon, Nigeria and Ireland," said Pele, 54.

Pele regretted that England, one of the foremost soccer nations, had failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup.

"It would have been nice to see England in the finals, mainly because of the increase in promotional material brought about by their arrival in the United States."

"But the team wasn't good enough and there is every reason to suspect that Ireland will take over as the top team in Britain. They are very hard to beat," said the Brazilian superstar.

He said he was stunned by the vast changes in the emirate of Dubai since his last visit 20 years ago with the Brazilian soccer team, Santos.

"When I was here with the Santos team, the game was played on a sand pitch. There were none of the impressive facilities I witnessed when I hosted the soccer clinic in Dubai on Friday," he said.

Asked whether he would coach his country's national team, he said: "I have been offered many positions in professional football, since I retired from the game as a player. But I wish to be involved in the amateur side of the game, coaching players at grassroots level, rather than being appointed as the coach of a top team in say Brazil."

Pele and his long-term mentor, Julio Mazzel, were scheduled to leave Sunday for Italy, then Tunisia to attend the African Nations' Cup finals.

Good news for McKinney

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 2: American boxer Kennedy McKinney has had his IBF title fight moved from South Africa because of political violence here, a promoter said Saturday, reports AP.

McKinney will fight South African Welton Ncita for the International Boxing Federation's junior featherweight crown in Texas on April 16.

Promoter Rodney Bernaman said he was contacted by the McKinney camp after violence broke out during a march by thousands of nationalists Zulus through downtown Johannesburg Monday. At least 50 people were killed, and images of the shootings were broadcast on American television.

"It was hopeless our trying to convince the McKinney people that they would be safe in coming here," Bernaman said.

Pickard no longer British Davis Cup coach

LONDON, Apr 2: Stefan Edberg's coach, Tony Pickard, was fired as Britain's Davis Cup captain Wednesday. Pickard said he was not fired, he had resigned, reports AP.

Pickard's departure comes three days after Britain lost 4-1 to Portugal in Davis Cup action and slumped to its lowest position ever in the tournament.

His critical remarks about the state of British men's tennis prompted a response from the Lawn Tennis Association Wednesday and Richard Lewis, the LTA's director of national training, said Pickard's contract as Davis Cup captain would not be renewed.

"We appreciate the commitment Tony Pickard has made to try to raise the standard of our Davis Cup performances," Lewis said in a statement. "But his post-match comments in Portugal made it impossible to consider his appointment."

"The national training department will shortly appoint a new captain for the Davis Cup team for the vital tie against Romania in July."

Pickard, who has helped Edberg win titles at Wimbledon and the United States and Australian Open, announced it differently.

"I was informed that Richard Lewis was the man in the LTA's eyes to do the job and unless I worked with him we would have to come to some decision," he said.



Princess of Wales Diana rides a ski-lift with her sons Prince William (c) and Prince Harry on the last day of their Easter holiday in Austria recently. — AFP photo

Pierce powers past Sanchez

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina, Apr 2: Seventh seed Mary Pierce of France demonstrated her great potential once again and unseeded Croatian Iva Majoli picked off her third consecutive seed in quarter-final upsets at the Family Circle Cup tennis tournament on Friday, reports Reuters.

Rising star Pierce used a consistent serve and a big finish to put away top seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, runner-up here last year, 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 to reach the semifinals.

The 40th ranked Majoli kept her surprising run going

by ousting 11th ranked American Lindsay Davenport, the fifth seed, 7-5, 1-6, 6-2 to earn her place in the final four.

The 16-year-old Majoli had already sent fourth seed Gabriela Sabatini packing in the second round and ousted 14th seed Lella Meskhi of Georgia in the third.

"I think it feels great, especially after I beat Gabriela," said Majoli after reaching her third semi-final of the year.

"That was my biggest win and I had a very tough match yesterday."

Majoli, who broke Davenport's serve in the fourth and eighth games of the third set to clinch the nearly two hour match, will get a chance to add

another premier scalp to her collection today when she takes on second seed Conchita Martinez.

The second seeded Spaniard crushed 15th seeded American Ginger Helgeson 6-1, 6-2 to cruise into the semifinals.

Pierce will next face sixth seed Natalia Zvereva of Belarus, who roared back from a tough first set loss to bat Italian Sandra Cecchini 5-7, 6-3, 6-0 in the last quarter final.

The 13th ranked Pierce put an impressive 88 per cent of her first serves in play and won 19 of the last 23 points to put away the Spanish world number two.

Gritty Brit Douglas is back

BIRMINGHAM, England, Apr 2: Veteran Desmond Douglas, 38, returned in style to international table tennis on Friday, reports Reuters.

Douglas, who played for England over 500 times before quitting the top level, reached the second round of the European Championships with an easy 21-16, 22-20, 21-8 win over Slovakia's Patrik Marek.

It was an emotional return for Douglas, who bowed out at these championships four years ago, tired with the sport's politics and ready to hand over to younger men.

But with the 1994 championships being staged near his home town, Douglas decided to give it another try.

"It was great," said Douglas after brushing aside Marek, a qualifier. "I wish I could always play here. All the crowd were for me."

A legend in English table tennis, Douglas made his international debut 21 years ago and these are his 10th European Championships.

At the 1978 European team championships he won an unprecedented 19 matches out of 19 to help his country to the final.

Eleven times national champion, he captured the England Open twice and in 1987 won the highly-prized Europe top 12 tournament.

The big test comes today with a tough match against Austria's Ding Yi, a 35-year-old ex-Chinese who is ranked 20th in the world.

All the big names received first round byes and are not in action until today. They include Olympic champion Jan Ove Waldner of Sweden, world titleholder Jean Philippe Gatien of France and world

number one Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium.

There was a first round scare for Christophe Legout, who clinched the team title for France on Wednesday.

Legout dropped the first game against Croatia's Damir Atkovic but eventually won 16-21, 21-12, 21-17, 21-14.

The Frenchman now faces big-hitting Greek Calin Creanga whose spectacular attacking style may upset some of the better-fancied challengers.

Day dismissed

Meanwhile, English coach Paul Day was dismissed from the courtside on the opening day.

Day was cautioned after heated protests over the legality of Frenchman Oliver Marmurek's serve in a first round match with England's Skylet Andrew.

Then with the score at 20-20 in the deciding fifth game

the umpire banished Day from his seat for shouting instructions during play.

Day had to withdraw a few metres away behind a roped area as Andrew slipped to a 12-21, 23-21, 12-21, 21-16, 21-23 defeat.

The English camp had expressed concern over the Frenchman's serve early in the match and the row clearly unsettled Andrew's play.

Day said: "The rules say you have to throw the ball vertically upwards when you're serving and in my opinion he was throwing the ball back at too great an angle to be classed as upwards."

"By pulling it back you get greater speed."

Day added: "I complained to the umpire. He felt the service was all right, but he told me first he couldn't see the service. But it's the duty of the umpire to make sure he can see the service. If he can't he has to consult the second umpire."

"So I asked for the referee and when he came he (Marmurek) did not use the serve again, so after that there was no more controversy — until the referee went."

Day complained again and another referee was called.

"After that he did not use that service," said Day.

"Without the service the game was 50-50. If he had carried on with it, Skylet would have lost 3-0," Day claimed.

On his dismissal, Day said: "Because I complained he gave me a yellow card earlier on but I don't think really he was justified. But it's not a major issue."

Andrew managed to reach match point at 21-20 but the Frenchman, who was penalised a point for a foul serve at 17-17 in the final games, clung on to claim his second-round place.

Top TT players to fight against glue ban

BIRMINGHAM, England, Apr 2: Top table tennis players said on Friday they will continue to campaign against the forthcoming ban on "glueing up" their bats, reports Reuters.

The ban is due to come into effect in August next year following concern over health hazards caused by fumes.

But Poland's Anzezej Grubba, spokesman for the players' 52-strong union CTT, said: "Our position is that the toxicity of the glue has been substantially reduced."

Grubba added: "I think it would be hard to have to change just one year before the Olympics in Atlanta."

Andreas Preuss, outgoing CTT managing director, said: "Our opinion is still that there should be no change. Everything should stay like it is. Glue should be allowed."

But Grubba and top CTT officers all stressed a wish to avoid confrontation with officials on glueing and a series of other issues facing the sport.

Incoming managing director Paul de Vrind said: "We want to be a partner."

Mandlikova, Collins honoured

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina, Apr 2: Grand Slam champion Hana Mandlikova and leading tennis journalist Arthur "Bud" Collins have been elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Hall officials announced on Thursday, reports Reuters.

The enshrinement ceremonies for the 1994 inductees will take place on July 9 at the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island.

Agassi's tame surrender

OSAKA, Japan, Apr 2: World number one Pete Sampras breezed past Andre Agassi in a surprisingly lopsided match here today to move to within a step of winning the \$50,000-dollar Salem Open tennis tournament, reports AFP.

The American top seed, the winner of three consecutive Grand Slam events, never faced a single break point against him on his way to a 6-3, 6-1 victory over his injury-plagued compatriot.

Agassi, who had to beat fellow American David Wheaton 7-6 (7/1), 6-7 (7/9), 6-3 earlier in the day in a rain-delayed quarter-final match, only once went into duces on his opponent's serve in the opening game, but that was all he could do.

Agassi could win only seven points in the remaining seven games on Sampras' serve —

two on a double fault — and fell easy prey to the stylish serve-and-volleyer in the 55-minute struggle.



ANDRE AGASSI
In the final Sunday, Sampras will take on French qualifier Lionel Roux, seeking his fifth title of the season and

25th overall.

Roux, who pulled off upset victories over former world number one Ivan Lendl and Aaron Krickstein from the United States in the previous rounds, caused yet another upset, beating Henrik Holm of Sweden 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.

Earlier, Agassi had to beat back a fiery challenge from fellow American David Wheaton to reach the round of last four.

Leading by a set and 3-1 when rain halted play on Friday, Agassi had looked set for a quick victory.

The powerful Wheaton had other ideas when the match resumed. He was helped by the fifth seed squandering four match points in the second set tiebreak.

That was as far as his comeback went.

Agassi regained control, breaking Wheaton in the opening game of the final set and cruised home 7-6, 6-7, 6-3.

The winner takes the credit, but the ref gets the blame

Pity the poor ref — he always gets the blame. For every soccer team that fails to win, there is always a player, manager or supporter who claims the referee was blind, biased or bad.

Two of the teams whose dreams of taking part in the World Cup soccer contest in the United States this year turned to nightmare allege that they were the victims of bad refereeing.

After a one-goal defeat by Morocco in the final qualifying match, Zambia appealed to the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) for a replay on the grounds that Gabonese referee Jean-Fidel Diramba had been biased against them.

FIFA dismissed the claim. In one sense, Diramba never stood a chance: in the spirit of irrationality which sport often seems to engender, many Zambian fans, who took to the streets of Lusaka to protest against the result, were predisposed to dislike the ref's nationality because a year before almost the entire national squad was wiped out in a plane crash off the Gabonese coast.

Zimbabwean fans and players displayed similar indignation when, on the same day as the Zambian defeat, their team lost 3-1 to Cameroon.

Claimed coach Reinhard Fahish: "We were not playing against Cameroon only, but against the referee as well."

As in the case of Zambia, some Zimbabweans were expecting the worst, because of complaints about refereeing in under-23 matches against Egypt and Tunisia in 1991.

Complaints against referees always carry a whiff of sour grapes, but the Zimbabwean grievances took a particularly nasty twist when they were channelled into accusations of Arab bias against African teams.

A typical response — if more measured than most — comes from the chairman of Zimbabwe's Ziscosteel Club, Gilbert Mawarire, who says: "The fact that the Confederation of African Football (CAF) headquarters is based in Egypt probably has a lot to do with national teams from the south getting unfavourable treatment when playing national teams from the north of Africa and the referees happen to be from the north."

"After all, they are only human and they sometimes succumb to the temptation to favour their own."

Zimbabwe also protested to FIFA against the performance of a Zairean referee in a match against Angola.

Said Zimbabwe soccer boss Trevor Carless-Juul: "It is obvious that the result won't be altered, but in order to rid Africa of this kind of thing we have to take it up with FIFA."

But accusations against referees are often in the eye of the beholder, and are certainly a two-way business. Last year the Zambians were on the receiving end when the South African Football Association formally protested to CAF that the Zairean ref had favoured Zambia in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier.

Whatever the merits of a particular charge, ruling sports bodies naturally tend to back referees because failure to accept a ref's decision can quickly lead to endless recriminations and indiscipline.

But some in southern Africa are looking for ways of improving the situation.

Gilbert Mawarire suggests that FIFA, not CAF, should appoint referees.

Zimbabwe's assistant national coach Roy Baretto argues that a major problem is that referees are treated like sacred cows instead of being made to suffer for misconduct.

"If a player or coach does anything wrong, he is instantly punished, which can mean the severest of punishments — being sent off. But somehow, no matter how unsatisfactorily referees handle a match, they never seem to get punished for it — let alone being stopped from refereeing half-way through."

"The combination of being a sacred cow with the old law that the referee's decision is final makes referees too powerful."

He also believes that referees' associations over-protect their members.

"But the ultimate solution lies in what FIFA is currently planning: turn them into professionals whereby their performance will be closely monitored for any ineptitude that may lose them their job."

Roger Muihwa, vice-chairman of the Zimbabwe Football Association, sees the solution as better pay.

"Some referees are very poor financially and so are easily tempted to take bribes," he claims. "What should stop them from doing that would be to pay them handsome allowances so that they do a fair job. Thereafter, heavy penalties must be imposed for inept handling of matches."

GEMINI NEWS

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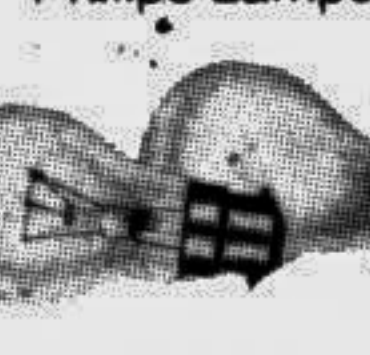
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Quiz 1.

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

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

COMPETITION RULES

- The Daily Star World Cup Quiz 94, is a series of 60 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 50 (fifty) 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 (Fixture of the Rounds) as fixed by the Daily Star authorities.
- For the first 50 (fifty) Quiz Competitions there will be 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th 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.
- Each entry form should be clearly filled-in complete with a ball-point pen. Participant's name, address, father's name must be clearly written. Each entry form must bear the correct date and signature of the participant.
- Participants must ensure the following: All entries must reach the office of the Daily Star on or before the closing date marked on the entry form. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "STAR QUIZ". Entries may be hand delivered or sent by post to The Daily Star House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi Residential Area, Dhaka: 1205.
- Entries will be opened by the Daily Star authorities. Entries with all correct answers will be placed in a sealed box for the lucky draw. To be held on the notified/appointed date in public in the presence of invited guests and quiz participants, if any.
- The Daily Star authorities, in their absolute discretion, reserve the right to amend, modify or substitute any of the above rules and/or change or reschedule any and all dates of the Daily Star World Cup Quiz 94 in any circumstances.
- All participants agree to abide by all rules, instructions and guide-lines as may be issued, from time to time, by the Daily Star authorities. Participants' entry in the quiz competition shall be construed as their respective agreement to all such rules, instructions and guidelines.
- Any decision of the Daily Star authorities in the conduct of the Quiz Competition (including the answers selected as correct) shall be deemed final and binding on all participants and shall not be called in question and/or challenged in any manner whatsoever.

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SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

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