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Brazilian Cafu's attempt to get his head to a ball earns him an unintended kick in the face from a Honduran defender. Brazil the hot favourites, pummelled Honduras 8-2 in a prep match in San Diego on Wednesday.

Brilliant Brazilians blaze

SAN DIEGO, Ca. June 9: Barcelona forward Romario hit a hat-trick while his striking partner Bebeto scored twice as Brazil stroled to a 8-2 victory over Honduras in a pre-World Cup friendly on Wednesday, reports Reuter. The Hondurans happily took on the role as Brazil's sparring partners in a game devoid of tackling and tough marking. The 21,000 fans at the Jack Murphy Stadium paid up to 40 dollars each to watch a game that turned out to be little more than a training session. Brazil's players were given all the time on the ball they wanted and would not have had more space if the game had been played on the prairies of the American mid west. They noisy Brazilian contingent in the crowd may have been delighted with the result, especially after Sunday's 1-1 draw against Canada, but trainer Carlos Alberto Parreira could have drawn few genuine conclusions from the game. VOGTS FRUSTRATED In Toronto, Germany's key midfielder Mario Basler was carried off as the world champions limped towards the World Cup finals with an unimpressive 2-0 victory over Canada in a friendly. WEBER AGAIN In Brussels, Croatian-born midfielder Matthias Sammer and a goal from striker Rudi

Ignorance or indifference?

DALLAS, June 9: Most Americans don't know, and probably don't care, and probably don't care, that the World Cup, soccer's biggest event, is being stage in their own country this month, reports Reuter. And some who do know are embarrassed and wish it wasn't. "This is the last country in the world that should stage it," said outspoken Dallas radio show host Skip Bayless on Wednesday. "It's embarrassing to have the World Cup here. No-one in Dallas is talking about it." With only nine days remaining to kick off in Chicago, an opinion poll published on Wednesday showed that 66 per cent of Americans did not even know the United States was hosting the tournament. Bayless, of sports radio KTCKM added: "We have talk-in shows all day, seven days a week and we've probably only had two or three calls about the World Cup. "This town is definitely not on fire. I've been in England when a World Cup is on and there is no-one on the streets. They're all inside watching the telly. "People will go to watch the games, but only to say they were there. It's a game that's more fun to play than watch, and I don't think soccer can take off here. "There's not enough scoring. Americans are used to being bombarded by electrical scoring in American football or basketball. Basketball is high-paced and spectacular, and people are addicted to it." added the sports books author and former newspaper columnist. The poll of 1,001 people taken last week by Gallup showed that 61 per cent said they did not plan to watch any of the 52 games on television. Dallas newspaper columnist



German midfielder Matthias Sammer completes a neat finish with the helpless Canadian custodian Paul Dolan watching the ball enter the net. The defending champions won the friendly match 2-0 in Toronto on Wednesday.

Bangladesh, HK draw 2-2

Bangladesh drew 2-2 with lowly Hong Kong in their third and last group match of the 29th Asian youth (under-19) football championship played in the Saudi Arabian city of Quassim on Wednesday, reports UNB. The match was locked 1-1 during the first half. Salahuddin and Alfaz scored once in each half for Bangladesh. Earlier in the group matches, Bangladesh lost to host Saudi Arabia 0-5 and Syria 0-2. The team is expected to return home on Sunday.

Ansars' gymnasts rule supreme

Bangladesh Ansars secured the top spot with seven gold, five silver and seven bronzes on the concluding day of the two-day Biman 20th national gymnastics championships yesterday at the NSC. Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) finished second collecting two gold, two silver and a bronze while Dhaka DSA was placed third bagging one gold only. Saiful Islam of Ansars and Sharmin Sultana Sumi of BTMC became individual champions respectively.

Lightning gets in Irish way

ORLANDO, June 9: Ireland's World Cup squad called off a morning training session of Wednesday to avoid the risk of being struck by lightning as an eight successive day of thunderstorms, left central Florida awash, reports Reuter. Over at the Citrus Bowl stadium, which will stage Orlando's opening World Cup match between Belgium and Morocco on June 19, the cascades of rain caused a large hole to open on the pitch. Ireland, who arrived on Monday, canceled their morning practice session on the pitch at the Seminole County Training Centre North of Orlando.

Kiwi plight continues

SWANSEA, Wales, June 9: Glamorgan's West Indian all-rounder Otis Gibson put New Zealand's attack to the sword with his career-best innings of 85 on Wednesday, reports Reuter. Gibson, a pace bowler and aggressive lower order batsman from Barbados who is playing his first season in county cricket, helped Glamorgan to 361 all out. New Zealand opener Bryan Young and Blair Pocock scored 18 without loss by the close of the opening day of the three-day match. Gibson, batting at number eight, beat his previous best of 83, facing 116 deliveries and hitting nine fours and four sixes before falling lbw to paceman Chris Pringle. Pringle, who missed the first Test that ended with England winning by an innings on Monday, returned from his back injury to take five for 58. Pringle's first two wickets helped to reduce the Welsh county to 73 for four but captain Hugh Morris led the recovery by making 84, including 14 boundaries. Glamorgan were 171 for six when Gibson arrived to give the innings a valuable late boost, putting on 77 for the seventh wicket with Robert Croft (31) and then 79 for the eighth with wicketkeeper Colin Metson (48). Adam Parore pulled off a splendid catch behind the wicket to end Metson's effort. his second victim after Young had claimed three while Parore was receiving treatment in the dressing room.

Warwickshire in a twist

LONDON, June 9: Warwickshire chief executive Dermis Amis said on Wednesday the county faced a "nice dilemma" over whether to try and persuade world record-breaker Brian Lara to re-sign in two years' time, reports Reuter. Lara, who made the world's highest score in first class cricket of 501 not out against Durham on Tuesday, has initially joined Warwickshire for one season, and will be touring England with West Indies next year. Warwickshire will have fast bowler Allan Donald, who is in South Africa's team to tour England shortly, returning as their overseas player for 1995 — the last year of his current contract. That will leave Warwickshire to decide whether to offer terms for 1996 to Donald or Lara, who also holds the world record Test score of 375.

Yet Dutch dwell on dream

NOORDWIJK, the Netherlands, June 9: The Dutch can count their losses: No goals from Marco van Basten. No coaching wisdom from Johan Cruyff. And now Ruud Gullit, reports AP. Still, such is the strength and depth of the Netherlands team that it remains a major World Cup challenger. "We have the potential to become world champion," forward Dennis Bergkamp said. Experienced players, young players, individuals who can make the difference. The latest loss concerns Gullit, the deadlocked midfielder and one of the games great players. He walked out of training camp May 30 and said he won't play with the Dutch team in this summer's World Cup. He didn't disclose his reason but his opinion of Di-k Advocaat's coaching strategy clearly figures in his thinking. "Everybody has to make decisions, but I think he has chosen a bad time to do it," teammate Ronald Koeman said. "He's a very important player, but we must now go on." Gullit was entering his final stint for the national team. He quit the national team in 1993 but this season scored 15 goals, his most in the Italian league, for Sampdoria of Genoa. This latest split comes just as it appeared the Dutch team was settling down. Cruyff, the greatest Dutch player ever, was supposed to coach the team in the World Cup but failed to come to terms with the Royal Dutch Football Federation in dispute over clothing endorsements and salary. The federation then asked Advocaat, who ran the team during qualifying, to stay on. At his disposal are the likes of Koeman, a central defender who may have the hardest shot in the sport, and Frank Rijkaard, who lends sturdiness and experience to the midfield. "We will always start out from the strength of Dutch soccer — the attack," Advocaat said. Van Basten has been sidelined since May 1993 with an ankle injury and — after a brief moment of hope — decided to abide by AC Milan's medical personnel and not try returning until the end of July at the earliest. With seemingly effortless ease, Van Basten scored five goals to lead the Dutch to the 1988 European Championships, the country's only major international trophy. Cruyff led perhaps the most talented Dutch team ever to the final in 1974, only to lose 2-1 on a hotly disputed penalty kick against the West Germany. Bad luck continued four years later in Argentina. With one minute left in regulation, Rob Renenbrink hit the post and the Dutch lost to the host nation, 3-1, in overtime. Four years ago in Italy, the Dutch were reigning European champions, but they often bickered off the field. The players revolted against their coach, and Leo Beenhakker was brought in. Still, the Dutch lost to West Germany 2-1 in the second round. "I've never been able to deal with the disaster of four years ago," Koeman said, adding it has given him extra incentive for this summer's tournament. Bergkamp is coming off a disappointing year in Italy. Internazionale of Milan was just 11-9-14 in the Italian league, but won the UEFA Cup. "Winning (the UEFA Cup) is not enough," he said. "The season has been sub-par for too long for that. I still have to prove something in the United States."

Maldini injured

NEW YORK, June 9: Italian defender Paulo Maldini will miss his country's final World Cup warm-up match against Costa Rica this weekend because of a leg injury, reports Reuter. The AC Milan player has strained a hamstring muscle and will be unable to train for the next two days at the Italian squad's base at Pingry school in New Jersey. Coach Arrigo Sacchi said on Wednesday there was little change of Maldini being ruled out of Italy's opening first round game against Ireland at Giants Stadium on June 18. Striker Daniele Massaro also has a minor strain and Sacchi said he had yet to decide whether to name him in his starting line-up for the Costa Rica game at the Yale Bowl in New Haven on Saturday.

Russia to play with dignity

SAN FRANCISCO, June 9: Russia's soccer team, hit by a player mutiny arrived in San Francisco for the World Cup Wednesday with the manager promising only that the team would "play with dignity" during the tournament, reports Reuter. Manager Pavel Sadyrtn gave little away during a short news conference at San Francisco Airport after the squad's arrival from Europe and declined to say how far he expected Russia to go in the tournament. "I don't want to make any forecasts, we will try to do our best, to play with dignity," Sadyrtn said through an interpreter. Fourteen mostly foreign-based, players announced last November they would not play for Russia until Sadyrtn had been sacked, accusing him of incompetence. Many rebels, later change their minds, but the World Cup squad is missing stars like Manchester United winger Andrei Kancheskis, Karlsruher striker Sergei Kiryakov and Foggia forward Igor Kolyvanov. Sadyrtn, who has slammed the rebels as traitors, has promise to resign if the team plays poorly in the World Cup. The squad, smartly dressed in red blazers and cream slacks, looked tired after a long flight from Munich via London. The team had been training in Australia. A few Russian residents of the San Francisco area were waiting at the airport to greet them, waving Russian flags and snapping photographs.

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COMPETITION RULES. 1. 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. 2. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted. 3. 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. 4. 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. 5. Participants must enclose 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. 6. 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. 7. 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. 8. 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. 9. 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.

Quiz 6. Read the instructions carefully. Then tick (✓) the answer which you think is correct. 1. Who is the oldest player to have scored in the WC finals? Pele, Vava, R. Milla. 2. Which African team first won a game in the WC finals? Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia. 3. Who was the last winning captain to lift the World Cup in his own club stadium? Meazza, Moore, Passarella. 4. How many players did Brazil use to win the 1962 World Cup? 12, 14, 16. 5. Who was the top scorer in the 1966 World Cup? Eusebio, Charlton, Hurst. 6. In 1990 which Czech player scored one penalty and missed another in his team's game against the USA? Bilek, Skuhravy, Luhovy. 7. Which ex-Brazilian star managed Peru in 1970? Mauro, Didi, Zozimo. 8. In the 1990 World Cup, which of these teams reached the quarter-final stage without winning a match? Argentina, Ireland, Yugoslavia. 9. Which one of these players has scored in 4 successive W Cups? G. Muller, Pele, Cubillas. 10. How many goals did Polish striker Lato score in the 1974 WC? 3, 5, 7. Includes fields for NAME, ADDRESS, FATHER'S NAME, OCCUPATION, AGE, TELEPHONE, and SIGNATURE.