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## Right recipe for ROK

DALLAS, June 10: South Korean preparations for the World Cup finals starting next week were given a hot start when Korean community in Dallas presented the team with Kimchi and other spicy Asian delicacies on Thursday, reports Reuters.

The World Cup outsiders flew in on Wednesday to the Texas city where they play their first match in Group D against Spain on June 17.

In past finals, the Koreans made special arrangements so that the players could stick to their customary diet but this time they decided not to bring any food from home.

"They are eating rice and so on in the hotel restaurant," said Korean Television journalist Dong Kang, who is following the team. "They are very happy too because the local Korean community brought them Kimchi and other ethnic dishes."

Some 40,000 Koreans live in the Dallas area and many have bought tickets for their team's two matches in Texas.

Hotel staff said no particular security measures had been introduced to protect the delegation despite the rising tension between North Korea and the United States over inspection of nuclear facilities.

But access to the team has been restricted by delegation leaders.

The South Koreans, who have yet to win a match in three previous appearances at World Cup finals, are in a group with world champions Germany, Spain and Bolivia.

## Eusebio, an engaged enchanter

LISBON, June 10: Nearly 20 years after Eusebio retired as a player, he still works as an assistant coach for his old club Benfica and is still recognised wherever he goes, reports Reuters.

The "Black Panther" thrilled crowds with some 1,000 goals during his professional career from 1960 to 1975 as a striker with Benfica and the Portuguese national side.

Eusebio is now 52, but foreign teams still ask him to appear in friendly matches between veteran players.

The Mozambican-born player says football has changed since he retired as a professional.

"In my time, football was more of a spectacle - now it's more tactical. But I don't think the game has lost any of its glamour," he said.

Eusebio says Brazil and Germany look like the favourites for the World Cup finals in the United States.

"But this year Colombia could be the surprise of the championship," he said in an interview.

He disagrees with critics who complain there are not enough strikers in today's teams.

"I think there are a lot of strikers, but they need to train a lot to score more goals - just as I did, staying behind to practise in the stadium every day after the normal team training session ended," he said.

Eusebio's goal tally bears

witness to his pedigree. He scored 41 goals in 64 appearances with the national side during the 1960s and 1970s and twice won Europe's golden boot award as the top European scorer.



EUSEBIO

Judged the greatest name in Portuguese soccer, Eusebio helped put Portugal on the map at a time when the country was shunned by the rest of the world because of its right-wing dictatorship, overthrown by the 1974 revolution.

Dictator Antonio Oliveira Salazar once blocked a bid for the powerfully built striker by Italy's Inter Milan declaring: "Eusebio is part of the state's heritage."

The world soccer body FIFA finally rewarded the striker's long service to football this year by awarding him its Order of Merit. The honour will be formally bestowed on Eusebio in Chicago on June 15, just before the World Cup finals start.

"After so many years I wasn't expecting it. This could only happen once in a lifetime," Eusebio said. "This gesture by FIFA shows that all those years of football were worth it."

A statue of the soccer hero, erected to celebrate his 50th birthday, graces the entrance to Benfica's Luz Stadium.

After retiring as a player in 1975, Eusebio returned to Benfica in 1979 as a coach for young players selected by talent spotters. In 1983, he was promoted to assistant coach for the club's First Division side under Swede Sven Goran Eriksson.

Eusebio's enduring popularity, often compared with that of Brazil's Pele, allows him to play role of Benfica's Pele, allows him to play the role of Benfica's "roving ambassador."

"I feel proud when I go into the streets and see a kid, only five or six years old, who's never seen me play, tugging his parents' sleeves and saying 'Look at Eusebio, look at Eusebio,'" he said in an interview.

Perhaps Eusebio is best remembered for hauling Portugal to victory in a World Cup match against North Korea in 1966 against dire odds.

Portugal, 3-0 down after 20 minutes, managed to win 5-3, thanks to four spectacular goals by Eusebio.

"I never thought about losing," he recalls. "Every time I scored, I didn't celebrate so as not to lose time. I went to get the ball from the back of the net so we could kick off as quickly as possible."



Brazilian soccer legend Pele receives a California Youth Soccer Association cap from Nigerian-born Tony Igwe, head coach of the Menlo Atherton High School and college in New York on Thursday.

## Goals, problems galore for Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 10: Brazil scored eight times. Romario, the team's ace forward, notched three brilliant goals. Even struggling midfielder Rai snapped a long scoreless streak.

But Brazil's 8-2 rout of hapless Honduras in San Diego Wednesday did little to dispel doubts that the three-time world champions are in top form for the World Cup, which opens on June 17, reports AP.

"Brazil Blow Out Honduras, But Make Many Mistakes," read a front-page headline in the Rio daily O Globo, which also printed a cartoon of a faceless soccer player in a sweat suit wearing red high-heels.

The daily Jornal do Brasil reported that Brazil "didn't control the game. We have serious problems."

Soccer writers were merciless with the team's confused midfield and shaky defence. Once again, their guns were turned on midfielder Rai.

"Rai hasn't woken up," said O Globo. "He tried to run but his legs didn't obey. He missed simple passes, was afraid to create plays, was not daring."

Sergio Noronha, a Rio sports columnist, wrote: "We still have no creativity at midfield. Rai - despite his goal - was a complete zero."

He noted that the team, picked by odds makers as the favourites to win this summer's Cup, allowed an opponent that didn't even qualify to score twice on counterattacks that appeared effortless.

Aldair, filling in on defence for the injured Ricardo Rocha, blew his coverage on the second Honduran goal in the 62nd minute. Jornal do Brasil gave him a rating of 2 with 10 being the best.

"Brazil fans have got to be rooting for the return of Ricardo Rocha," said the paper.

Only at the start of the second half when Parreira replaced sluggish midfielder Zinho with attacker Muller did the speed, ball magic and creativity return.

Sports writers lauded Muller for assisting on two goals, headers by Bebeto and Romario, minutes after he took to the field. But 15 minutes later, Parreira yanked Romario and Bebeto and the attack lited again.

"The team went back to losing all of the offensive punch it gained with the entrance of Muller," said Jornal do Brasil.

But Parreira defended the move, saying "the team with three attackers weakened the defence and the midfield. We'll never begin a game with three attackers."

## US embassy ruins their plans

AUSTIN, Texas, June 10: Hundreds of Bulgarian fans planning to follow their team in the World Cup have been refused tourist visas by the United States, a senior Bulgarian official said on Thursday, reports Reuters.

As many as 80 per cent of visa applications at the US embassy in Sofia may have been turned down, disappointing not only the fans, but also Bulgarian players and officials.

Hristo Yossifov, general secretary of the Bulgarian Football Union, told a news conference travel agencies in Bulgaria have bought more than 2,000 tickets for World Cup matches involving the national side.

"Immigration authorities at the US embassy in Bulgaria have unfortunately been very strict to put it mildly and many people who were willing to buy tickets cannot get visas," he said.

"This will bring two negative results for us. There will not be enough Bulgarian fans to support the team and travel agencies will suffer financial losses because they have prepaid the tickets."

Yossifov told Reuters later: "I believe, but I'm not entirely certain, that as many as 80 per cent of applications may have been turned down."

Bulgaria are training in the Austin area to acclimatise to the debilitating Texan heat and humidity before the World Cup finals start on June 17.

## Rossi relives sensation

ROME, June 10: With an intensity that belies the passing of time, Paolo Rossi still recalls his greatest game as if he had played it yesterday, not on a balmy Barcelona evening 12 years ago, reports Reuters.

Three magic goals by "Pablito" on July 5, 1982 gave underdogs Italy a 3-2 victory over favourites Brazil and sent his country into the final four of the World Cup in Spain.

Rossi, who ended a two-year ban for his part in an illegal betting scandal just weeks before the finals, completed his transformation from villain in to national hero with three more goals as Italy captured their third world Cup crown.

"That match with Brazil was the greatest game of my career," says Rossi, now 38 and the owner of a construction company in the northern Italian city of Vicenza.

Then a 26-year-old striker for Italian league champions Juventus, Rossi had netted two early goals before Brazil equalised with 32 minutes to go.

"Everyone had picked Brazil to win it all-two goals just weren't enough," Rossi said in a telephone interview.

So why not a third? With 26 minutes left, Rossi latched on to a loose ball and fired it past helpless goalkeeper Vladimir Peres to give Italy the story-

book win. "I'll never forget it," said Rossi, who struck two goals in Italy's 2-0 semi-final win over Poland and one in their 3-1

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## Tale of a forlorn matador

LONDON, June 10: Mario Kempes would not look much out of place leading Argentina's attack in the World Cup finals this month - 16 years after his 1978 triumph, reports Reuters.

Kempes, slim and fit as he approaches his 40th birthday next month, had Valencia fans clamouring for a comeback by their former star only a year ago.

A three-goal virtuoso performance from the then retired "Matador" in a personally organised testimonial against PSV Eindhoven in April 1993, set their pulses racing.

He overshadowed PSV goal ace Romario, the target of Valencia and Barcelona, for whom the Brazilian subsequently signed.

"I felt great and I was thrilled. I scored three goals," said Kempes in a telephone interview from his Valencia home.

Kempes retired a year earlier and a decade and a half after his starring role in Argentina's first World Cup triumph on home soil.

He was then nearly 38 and had seen out his career in the Austrian league, long after his last game for Valencia.

Asked whether he has seriously considered a comeback said: "I had already decided to quit."

"I would only have thought about a return if I'd had a very good offer from somewhere very far away from here."

Kempes has one year to go to complete Spain's three-year

But for now the tall, elegant long-haired striker imparts his vast knowledge of the game after an 18-year first division career spanning two continents to Spanish boys in his soccer school in Valencia.

"I have a football school for kids from six to 17 years old. But if I get a worthwhile offer, I'd leave Valencia. The family wouldn't have any problem with that," Kempes said.

He was assistant to Hector Nunez at Valencia for a spell last season, but the Uruguayan did not last long and Kempes had no place in the set-up of returned dutchman Guus Hiddink, although the club said he could stay on.

"I left the club just over a month ago because I had nothing to do," he said.

The abiding memory of the 1978 World Cup is the snowstorms of paper with which Argentine fans received their team and celebrated their goals, six of them by Kempes.

Each time he scored he ran, arms out wide, into the confetti.

"Argentina 78 was the biggest moment in my career," said Kempes, dubbed El Matador for his scoring exploits in his early years in the Spanish league with Valencia, whom he joined from Rosario Central in 1976.

"I had my best years at club level with Valencia. We won the Spanish Cup, the European Cup Winners Cup and the Super Cup. Kempes played in three World Cups, the first in Germany in 1974 as a 19-year-old. He scored 20 goals for Argentina in some 40 international matches, the last six of them making him top scorer of the 1978 tournament.

"I was happy to welcome another healthy child to the family and give Alex a brother," Evert said in a prepared statement.

BOCA RATON, Fla. June 10: Retired tennis pro Chris Evert gave birth to an 8-pound 7-ounce (4.2 kg) baby boy the second son for her and her husband Andy Mill, her publicist said Thursday, reports Reuters.

Nicholas Joseph Mill was born Wednesday morning at Broward General Medical Centre in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Evert, 39, and Mill, 41, also have a two-year-old son Alexander James Mill.

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IN A FLYING START, COLAUSSI SHOOTS HOME TO PUT THE AZZURRI AHEAD.

BUT HUNGARY ALLOW THE INSPIRATIONAL MEAZZA TOO MUCH ROOM AND HE SETS UP FURTHER GOALS FOR PIOLA AND COLAUSSI ITALY LEAD 3-1 AT HALF-TIME.

ONLY FOR TIKOS TO EQUALISE SIXTY SECONDS LATER.

THE PARIS CROWD ANTICIPATES AN ENTICING CLASH OF STYLES - ITALY'S ENERGY AND SPEED AGAINST THE BALL-PLAYING PRECISION OF THE HUNGARIANS.

IN THE SECOND PERIOD, THE ITALIANS SHUT UP SHOP AND ALTHOUGH SAROSI PULLS ONE BACK, PIOLA'S SHOT CLINCHES IT AT 4-2.

MEAZZA BECOMES THE SECOND ITALIAN CAPTAIN TO COLLECT THE TROPHY BUT SADLY FOOTBALL IS SOON TO TAKE A BACK SEAT AS FE'S FAMILY OF NATIONS IS TORN APART BY WAR.

IN ANOTHER QUARTER-FINAL TIE, THE HOLDERS KNOCK OUT THE HOSTS. PIOLA NETS TWICE TO TAKE THE BLACK-SHIRTED ITALIANS THROUGH TO MEET BRAZIL.

FOR THE MARSEILLE SEMI-FINAL, BRAZIL MISCALCULATES AND LEAVE OUT LEONIDAS THEIR ATTACK IS SURELY UNDERPOWERED AND A MEAZZA PENALTY GIVES ITALY A 2-1 TRIUMPH.

BUT THE MAGYARS HIT BACK WITH FIVE GOALS TO REACH THE FINAL.

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