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Dutch player Peter van Vossen (C) tries to weave his way through two Fort Lauderdale Strikers' players during a World Cup prep match in Orlando on Wednesday. Holland won 6-1. — AFP photo

More goals, more red cards

DALLAS, June 16: More goals, exciting attacking soccer, but more red cards. That's the World Cup promise from the new rules designed to reward the artists and penalise the artisans, reports Reuter.

Almost everyone in the game is convinced USA '94 will be remembered for attacking football because of FIFA's decision to clamp down hard on violence tackles from behind.

Bolivian midfielder Milton Meigar, a lightweight touch player, summed up the positive reaction among World Cup players and coaches to the move.

"It's a correct decision because it favours attacking football. The tackle from behind is destroying it at every turn," he said.

This way they protect the skill of the player."

The World Cup finals, which kick off on Friday, could be about to produce some of the most attacking soccer in decades as talented ball players find greater protection from the crushing tackle.

"Football will remain as physical as it has always been but this rule gives good attacking players the chance to relax slightly longer on the ball and that can only improve the game," said Jozef Venglos, who coached Czechoslovakia at the 1982 and 1990 World Cup finals.

"It will lead to more creativity from the creative players, and the fans will definitely enjoy that."

"I also think defenders at World Cup level are intelligent enough to know not to risk it because they know they will get sent off if they come in from behind," added Venglos, now coach of Slovakia and a FIFA technical observer.

FIFA, the sport's governing body, is determined to stamp out the tactic, which they view as inhibiting forwards and causing career-threatening injuries.

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter, who blasted the standards of refereeing in Italy four years ago, said: "Players who do this are destroying the game. From now on they will be automatically sent off. Referees have no alternative — they have to show the red card."

"We are going to see more free-kicks in delicate situations, more goals, and to begin with possibly more sendings off while the players adjust," said FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren.

"Players will probably try to see how much they can get away with, like kids testing their parents. But once they

see we are serious the message will sink in."

"Defenders are being asked to tactically outmaneuver the attacker instead of taking the easier option to get the ball by hitting him."

FIFA describe the tackle from behind, which brings instant dismissal, as one that is "violent with little or no attempt to play the ball."

Argentine star Diego Maradona, always a target for the tough-tackling defender, pleaded this week with FIFA president Joao Havelange and Blatter to ensure ball players are protected during the tournament.

"In Italy they talked of fair play and all that, but fair play nothing because Cameroon killed us in the opening game and no-one said anything."

Zico ends it on a high

TOKYO, June 16: Brazil's soccer legend Zico ended his long professional career in triumph on Wednesday night, scoring his 817th goal and making another to give his Japanese club Kashima Antlers a 2-1 victory, reports Reuter.

The 41-year-old veteran set up the first goal after only 12 minutes when he hit a post with a wickedly curling free kick from outside the penalty area. Teammate Yutaka Akita lashed the rebound home.

Nine minutes later a vintage Zico volley from close range put his side 2-0 up against Jubilo Iwata and provided a fitting climax to his glittering 27-year career.

Eleven minutes after the interval and in obvious pain with a groin injury, Zico signalled to the bench that he wanted to come off. He was substituted by a player 21 years his junior.

Zico is planning to return to Brazil to set up a soccer school, according to media reports.

The last round of the J-League's 1994 first stage also saw another former World Cup star Gary Lineker taking the field for the first time in eight months after injury.

The ex-England captain played the last 15 minutes of Nagoya Grampus's match against Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

Lineker won 1-0 but Grampus's only shot at goal went over the bar.



Brazilian soccer star Zico waves to his supporters after playing his last game for Kashima Antlers in the J-League first stage at Iwata City in Tokyo on Wednesday. — AFP photo

Holland swamp strikers

ORLANDO, June 16: Netherlands beat Fort Lauderdale Strikers 7-1 (halftime 4-0) in a World Cup warm-up on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Scorers:
Netherlands — Ronald de Boer (68), Marc Overmars (21 and 79); Jan Wouters (24), Wim Jonk (26), John Bosman (71 and 80).

Fort Lauderdale Strikers — Dan Lode (28).

NZ 316 for four

LONDON, June 16: New Zealand were 316-4 at the close of play on the opening day of the second cricket Test against England at Lord's today, reports Reuter.

USA, Swiss have one thing in common

PONTIAC, Mich., June 16: The United States and Switzerland, first-round rivals in the World Cup, also have something in common: successful foreign coaches, reports AP.

Roy Hodgson has managed to unite the Swiss team in a way few thought possible and brought it to the first World Cup finals since 1966. American fans are looking to Bora Milutinovic to work World Cup wonders like he did for Mexico and Costa Rica in the past.

Hodgson and Milutinovic lead their teams into the steamy heat of the Pontiac Silverdome on Saturday when the United States play Switzerland in each team's World Cup opener.

If there is a common thread among the two men it is: both are imports. Milutinovic was born in the former Yugoslavia during World War II and raised in Serbia. Hodgson is the son of a London bus driver.

Hodgson, 46, took over the Swiss team in January 1992 after a successful career coaching club teams in Sweden. He inherited a complacent hodge-podge of multilingual players.

Part of the team's problem was Switzerland itself. There are players of Swiss-French, Swiss-German and Swiss-Italian descent.

Before Hodgson arrived, the factions tended to go their separate ways.

That changed partly because Hodgson speaks four languages.

"Language isn't a problem, because we all speak French," midfielder Alain Sutter said. "The big difference is our mentalities. Each region has different mentalities, and this is the first time the whole team has a good spirit together."

Even defenders are applauding the move.

Bolivian defender Marco Sandy, who has a hardman reputation although he claims he never goes into a tackle intent on hurting a rival, said: "I think it's positive. Most of the injuries in football come from the tackle from behind."

He said that in the recent friendly against Switzerland in Montreal he was pulled up every time he moved into an opponent from behind, but felt referees were overdoing it in the warm-up games as they got used to the directive.

"I hope that in the World Cup they are more fair."

Sanchez keeps his promises

FAIRFAX, Virginia, June 16: Veteran Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez has fulfilled a long held promise to himself, the king of Spain, the president of Mexico and God, reports Reuter.

Sanchez, 36 next month, scored the same number of goals for Real Madrid in 1989 to win a Golden Boot as European's top scorer.

At the time, he promised to have solid gold replicas made for King Juan-Carlos, the president of Mexico Carlos Salinas and the Virgin of Guadalupe, the patron saint of Mexico.

Last week, he kept the final part of that promise when, on the way from Madrid where he now plays for the more modest Rayo Vallecano to join up with Mexico in Florida, he stopped in Mexico City.

"I went to the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe with one of the replicas and I gave the others to the president, and the King of Spain," said Sanchez on Wednesday.

"I did it to keep a promise I made and to give myself and the team good fortune. I always said I would keep that promise and I hope it will be good for us all. I am a religious person and we all want to have some help from God."

Sanchez one of the best known players in Mexican soccer history, is now in the twilight of his career after starring for the team in the 1986 finals on home soil.

"We have a great team feeling and I feel this group is the best we have had," he said.

Maradona is Sacchi's man

MARTINSVILLE, New Jersey, June 16: Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi said the steam-bath conditions of the World Cup could help Diego Maradona to stardom again, reports Reuter.

"You have to look at players like Maradona and Maradona," Sacchi said on Wednesday when asked to name the likely stars of this World Cup.

"The heat will slow the game down and give Maradona a chance to show his phenomenal stars."

Sacchi said that Maradona, the hero of Argentina's 1986 World Cup triumph, was the best player of the modern era.

"Roberto Baggio and Ruud Gullit are very great players but Maradona has something else... he's the only player I've ever seen who had me on my feet to applaud one of his goals," the Italian coach said.

The volatile Argentine's career has been on the skids since he tested positive for cocaine after an Italian league match for Napoli in March 1991.

FIFA subsequently banned him from the game for 15 months and he has never since recovered full form and fitness, first with Sevilla in Spain and then after returning to Argentina last year.

His inclusion in the Argentine squad is clearly a gamble based on the hope he can rekindle the flame on what at 33 is sure to be his last appearance at the World Cup.

Sacchi had vivid memories of the late 1980s when

Maradona and Napoli represented the main Italian rivals to the AC Milan team he coached.

"It didn't matter how much you dominated a game, he could always conjure a goal out of nothing," Sacchi said.

The Italian coach said that Argentine and A.S Roma striker Claudio Caniggia, who has just completed a 13-month ban for drugs, could also emerge as a star.

"He could be one of the protagonists as he has had a year to rest and just prepare for this World Cup," Sacchi said of the blond forward who, with Maradona, was part of the Argentine squad which finished as runners-up in 1990.

The Italian coach appeared in a more relaxed mood as he prepared his team for their opening Group E match with Ireland in New York on Saturday.

He was reassured by the fact that defender Paolo Maldini, had, as expected, shaken off a thigh strain and would be fit to play against the Irish.

Striker Pierluigi Casiraghi, likely to start on the bench, has recovered from a sore throat, leaving Sacchi with a fully fit 22-man squad.

Even the 90-degree Farenheit temperature and high humidity did not seem to bother Sacchi.

"We knew we weren't coming to Alaska to play," he joked.

"If anything the heat should bother Ireland and Norway more than us but I don't think it will be very important in the first game. Its effects may be felt later."

Sacchi said he would announce his starting line-up on Friday.

The Daily Star

WorldCupUSA94™ Quiz Competition



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COMPETITION RULES

INTRODUCTION:
A. The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '94 is a series of 6 (six) Quiz Competitions on World Cup Finalists. The questions will be published for 10 (ten) consecutive days in the Sports Page of The Daily Star. The last and final Bumper Quiz Competition is a part of the Sports Page of The Daily Star.

B. For the first 5 (five) Quiz Competitions there will be 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th consolation prizes. The prizes will be Colour TV Black & White, TV, Super Turbo 2 in 1 Stereo Recorder and light bulbs respectively.

C. Any taxes or levies, as per rule, for all the above prizes will have to be borne by the winners.

D. Name and addresses of all prize-winners will be responsible for collecting their prizes from The Daily Star after satisfactory authentication of their identity.

For the Bumper Quiz Competition, there will be a 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 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
1. Residents of Bangladesh, subject to these rules will be eligible to participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '94. All personnel and family members of The Daily Star, Transcom Electronics Ltd and Unirent (advertising agency) and all its affiliate companies shall be deemed disqualified to participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '94.

2. 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.

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.

5. Each entry form must bear the correct date and signature of the participant.

6. Participants must send the following: All entries must reach the office of The Daily Star on or before the closing date marked on the entry form.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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 re-schedule any and all dates of The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '94 in any circumstances.

10. All participants agree to abide by all rules, instructions and guidelines 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.

11. 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.

12. Residents of Bangladesh, subject to these rules will be eligible to participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '94. All personnel and family members of The Daily Star, Transcom Electronics Ltd and Unirent (advertising agency) and all its affiliate companies shall be deemed disqualified to participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '94.

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