



WORLD CUP USA '94



Today's World Cup Fixtures

Group D
Argentina vs Greece
Group A
Germany vs Spain
Group D
Nigeria vs Bulgaria

Fatal fiesta

BRUSSELS, June 20: A Moroccan youth was shot and wounded on Sunday in the southern Belgian town of Verviers when celebrations of Belgium's 1-0 World Cup win over Morocco turned violent, police said, reports Reuter.

Police said fighting broke out between several hundred Moroccans and Belgians in the centre of Verviers following the shooting.

Belgian television said police arrested members of a right-wing extremist party accused by local Moroccan residents of being responsible for the shooting.

A police spokesman said the youth was not in a serious condition and the police had the situation under control.

In Brussels, where hundreds of soccer fans celebrated Belgium's victory, police said fighting also broke out between rival supporters on the city's historic Grand Place.

They said some cars were damaged and some shop windows smashed in central Brussels. There was no news of any arrests.

Belgian radio quoted Brussels mayor Freddy Thielemans as saying the incidents had been caused by a few troublemakers.

Some 500 policeman were called up to monitor the World Cup festivities in Brussels.

Police said there were other minor incidents involving soccer fans in a few northern towns, including Antwerp, Belgium's second biggest city.

There are 200,000 Moroccans living in Belgium, 10 per cent of whom live in Brussels.

Extreme-right wing parties made substantial gains in Belgium in the European elections a week ago, but racist incidents have been rare.

Baggio will have to soldier on

NEW YORK, June 20: Roberto Baggio, who is struggling with an inflamed Achilles tendon, has been told he will have to soldier on through the World Cup, reports AFP.

The European footballer-of-the-year was forced to miss training on Sunday, 24 hours after Italy's opening defeat by Ireland in Group E increased the pressure on their attempt to qualify for the second round.

Italian officials said the injury would not put Baggio out of the finals but the team doctor, Andrea Ferri, added: "It's a problem which cannot be solved with a few days' rest. He will have to live with it. He will train on Monday and can play the next game on Thursday."

Ferri said the hard pitch at Giants Stadium had added to Baggio's discomfort against Ireland.

Norwegian PM, switched on

OSLO, June 20: Norway's woman Prime Minister, Gro Harlem Brundtland, showed television viewers on Sunday her knowledge of the country's World Cup soccer team, reports Reuter.

"He's got nice blond curly hair," she said of key attacker Jostein Flo.

Brundtland appeared on a television panel commenting on Norway's 1-0 win against Mexico in a World Cup Group E clash at the RFK Memorial Stadium in Washington.

Apart from remarking on Flo's hair, Brundtland displayed a wide knowledge of the Norwegian team and said she found the game very exciting.

Other panelists were Norwegian ski jumper Espen Bredesen, a gold medal winner at the Lillehammer Winter Olympics, and Arne Eggels, manager of Norwegian soccer club Rosenborg.



Mexico's flamboyant custodian Jorge Campos (sporting number 1 jersey) has a busy moment during his side's Group E opener against Norway at the RFK Memorial Stadium on Sunday. Norway recorded their first ever World Cup win, 1-0.

— AFP photo

Norway's maiden victory



WASHINGTON, June 20: Norway beat the sweltering conditions and their tough Mexican opposition with an 85th minute goal from substitute Kjetil Rekdal in Sunday's World Cup Group E clash at the RFK Memorial Stadium, reports Reuter.

Rekdal struck when striker Jan Aage Fjørtoft burst between two defenders as Norway raised their challenge late in the game and the ball was scrambled off the line.

He collected the ball and fired in from 10 metres to secure a 1-0 win as Norway then survived a scramble in the final minute when Mexico's Luis Alves "Zague" headed the ball against a post and the rebound was scrambled off the line.

Norway dominated much of the game, but finally owed their survival to goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt who made two fine saves late in the second half after his opposite number Jorge Campos had earlier kept Mexico alive.

The two contrasting goalkeepers, one tall and fair, the other dark and kitted out in a garish fluorescent yellow, were the dominating players in a festive atmosphere reminiscent of the 1986 Mexico finals.

Most of the crowd, in green shirts, showed their obvious support for the Latin American team and celebrated their side's attacking play with the "hola" or Mexican wave, but in the neither team had anything tangible to enjoy.

Norway had the best chances for most of the game, but their best efforts ended with one goal being disallowed when Jan Aage Fjørtoft bundled the ball in but was ruled to have fouled the goalkeeper.

Mexico, playing with a

rhythmic short-passing midfield game which contrasted with the Norwegians' more direct approach, also had one player cautioned against Norway's two in a game littered with stoppages.

Thorstvedt's save from the busy and skilful Mexican midfielder Luis Garcia was critical, particularly as when they broke away again, Norway swept into the lead.

The final flurry of action from Mexico hinted at what they might have achieved earlier with more commitment to attack as they joined Italy at the bottom of the "Group of Death" after their opening round.

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Mexico, playing with a

my career.

"We took a while to settle at the start of the game, but we got better and for me to score was perfect as I was not in the starting team. The heat made it difficult to play, but it was not too serious a problem."

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STANDINGS

World Cup, Group E Standings after Sunday's Norway v Mexico match (tableau under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

IRELAND 1 1 0 0 1 0 3
NORWAY 1 1 0 0 1 0 3
ITALY 1 0 3 1 0 1 0
MEXICO 1 0 0 1 0 1 0

Referee: Sandor Ruhel (Hungary)

MATCH-STAT

Match statistics for Sunday's Norway v Mexico World Cup, Group E game:

	Norway	Mexico
Goals	1	0
Shots on goal	10	14
Fouls	16	11
Corners	11	6
Offsides	3	6
Yellow Card	2	1
Red Cards	0	0

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