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Clemente calls it discrimination

LISLE, Illinois, June 20: Spanish coach Javier Clemente accused FIFA of discrimination Sunday for suspending ejected defender Miguel Angel Nadal for two games instead of the usual one match, reports AP.

"I think it's totally unfair and out of proportion," Clemente said. "I don't understand it."

"I can't say anything else until I get official confirmation of the decision," he said.

Nadal, Spain's team captain, was shown the red card by Danish referee Peter Mikkelsen early in Friday's game against South Korea after flooring a Korean forward on the edge of the penalty area.

A red card normally entails a one-game suspension, FIFA, soccer's governing body, extended that to two Sundays for Nadal and Bolivia's Marco Etcheverry in a new crackdown on rough play.

Clemente, 44, said the tackle didn't even deserve an expulsion.

Nadal "got the ball and it's not as if he left the Korean injured," he said.

"But a lot of these referees from central Europe or northern countries like Denmark are sometimes difficult when it comes to things like this," he said.

Clemente apparently plans to fill Nadal's sweeper position with Real Madrid midfielder Fernando Hierro for Tuesday's game against defending world champions Germany at Soldier Field in Chicago.

All about Foxboro Stadium

FOXBORO, Massachusetts, June 20: The Foxboro Stadium, smallest of the World Cup venues with a capacity of 53,144 for soccer, hosts its first match on Tuesday — the Group D clash between Argentina and Greece, reports Reuter.

The stadium home of the New England Patriots football team, was built in 1970, 50 kms south of Boston.

The record attendance of 61,000 was set in 1990 at a Grateful Dead rock concert. It held Pink Floyd concerts only last month.

The capacity of the stands at each end of field was reduced to make room for a standard soccer pitch.

All the stands — three tiers along the sides, two at one end and one below the giant scoreboard are uncovered.

Boston — and its Foxboro Stadium — was named last week among seven cities which will compete in the major league soccer professional series starting next year.

Claggy Koreans worry Azkargorta

BOSTON, June 20: The South Koreans, fresh from their dramatic 2-2 draw with Spain, arrived in Boston to meet Bolivia in the second match of Group C. But the Bolivian coach, affectionately called "El Bigoton" for his huge mustache, is worrying the Koreans most, reports AP.

After a 3 1/2-hour flight from Dallas, the Koreans went for a quick practice session on Saturday. On Sunday, they were told to rest and watch their Bolivian rivals on video.

"The Bolivians have proved that they cannot be taken lightly," said Korean coach Kim Ho, referring to the June 17 match when the men from La Paz conceded only one goal to world champion Germany in the World Cup opener.

Much of the Bolivian soccer success credit goes to Xavier Azkargorta, the Bolivian coach, who was written off by many after his appointment in 1992.

But the 41-year-old Spaniard steered the team to the World Cup finals for the first time since 1950 and was voted Bolivia's Man of the Year. On game days he is a human dynamo, giving instructions to his team from the officials' box.

The Koreans said they'll put up their usual play.

"We'll play our normal style," Kim said. "And the emphasis will always be speedy counterattacks into the rival's territory."



SUPER SUB: Norwegian Kjetil Rekdal celebrates after coming on to score the only goal in the World Cup Group E match between Norway and Mexico at the RFK Memorial Stadium in Washington on Sunday.

For Spain, pressure is on

CHICAGO, June 20: The pendulum of pressure has swung from defending champions Germany to Spain ahead of Tuesday's World Cup Group C clash, reports Reuter.

While the Germans had to survive the ordeal of opening the tournament with a 1-0 victory over Bolivia, a 2-2 draw with South Korea has left the Spaniards needing a good result against the world champions to stay in contention in the group.

"They have problems they could do without. Captain Miguel Angel Nadal is suspended for two games after being sent off against the Koreans and key defender Fernando Hierro has a calf injury."

History is also against the Spaniards. They have lost their two previous clashes with the Germans in the World Cup finals.

But Spanish morale is



JULIO SALINAS surprisingly upbeat.

"One win from two games, that's all we need," coach Javier Clemente said. "Our luck will have to change but we have no worries at all about the future."

Nadal's strength in the air would have been a major help to the Spaniards in the sweeper's role behind the back four, especially against German striker Juergen Klinsmann.

The tall, powerful Hierro is expected to win his fitness battle and take over Nadal's role in defence.

Veteran Andoni Zubizarreta will return in goal in place of Jose Santiago Canizares. "Zubi" was banned from the South Korean match after receiving a red card in Spain's final qualifying match.

A great deal will be demanded of veteran striker Julio Salinas who scored Spain's opening goal against the Koreans. Salinas has been out of favour at his club Barcelona this season but has kept his place in the national side.

Germany coach Berti Vogts listed Salinas as one of the players the Germans needed to watch.

"I think Spain might play for a point and try and get three points against Bolivia," Vogts said.

But there was no question of the world champions playing for a point, he said. "We can't play defensively with our game. We created a lot of

chances against Bolivia and did not use them. If we win 1-0 I will be very happy."

Vogts is sticking to his policy of keeping his team secret until just before kickoff.

Thomas Strunz is expected to return on the right side of midfield after missing the Bolivia game because of a thigh injury.

Borussia Dortmund striker Karl Heinz Riedle, disappointing in the opening game, will probably lose his place, leaving midfielder Andy Moeller to take on an attacking role with Klinsmann up front.

PROBABLE TEAMS

GERMANY: 1-Bodo Illgner,

10-Lothar Matthaeus, 3-Andreas Brehme, 14-Thomas Berthold, 4-Jergen Kohler, 20-Stefan Effenberg, 16-Matthias Sammer, 2-Thomas Strunz, 8-Thomas Haessler, 7-Andy Moeller, 18-Juergen Klinsmann.

SPAIN: 1-Andoni Zubizarreta, 2-Albert Ferrera, 5-Abelardo Fernandez, 18-Rafael Alkorta, 4-Francisco Camrasa, 6-Fernando Hierro, 7-Juan Goikoetxea, 10-Jose Maria Bakero, 15-Jose Luis Caminero, 21-Luis Enrique Martinez, 19-Julio Salinas.

Referee: Ernesto Filippi Cavan (Uruguay).

Kick-off: 2000 GMT.

World Cup notebook

UNDATED, June 20: The first World Cup game at Giants Stadium in New Jersey had several interesting results besides Ireland's 1-0 victory over Italy Saturday, reports AP.

The 91-degree F (33 C) temperatures with 74 per cent humidity caused 77 people to be treated of heat-related medical problems, said Michael Rowe, game manager of Giants Stadium and the Meadowlands Arena.

Of the almost 75,000 people attending the game, four were arrested two for ticket scalping, and two Irish fans who ran on the field after Ireland won. Forty-eight other people were expelled for violating stadium policy, Rowe said.

After successfully beginning the defence of the World Cup title Friday with a 1-0 victory over Bolivia in Chicago, German players were reunited Saturday with their wives and girlfriends and enjoyed a rare day off.

Coach Berti Vogts let his players meet with their families or girlfriends and gave them free time until 11 pm.

Bianca Illgner, wife of goalkeeper Bodo Illgner, caused a controversy last week when she told a German magazine the soccer federation was childish by not allowing players to stay with their wives or girlfriends during the tournament.

Traditionally, German soccer officials allow family visits only after game days during World Cup tournaments.

Many veteran European and South American players have gone to Japan to play out the final years of their careers.

Sweden's Thomas Ravelli, the most experienced goalie in the World Cup, would love to end his career in the United States.

"I'd prefer America because the lifestyle is more similar to what I'm used to in Sweden," Ravelli says. "I can also speak English."

Living in America would also make it easier for Ravelli to follow his favourite American sports.

"I love basketball," he says. "It's been exciting to watch the

NBA finals over here. I also like watching (American) football. I've seen many Super Bowl games, although they're usually on at the middle of the night in Sweden."

Despite several excellent games for Sweden and at the club level, Ravelli never received any serious offers from abroad.

The Republic of Ireland has shortened to a 16-1 bet to win the World Cup after its 1-0 victory over Italy Saturday.

British bookmakers Ladbrokes has moved the Irish from 25-1, while Italy have eased from 5-1 to 8-1.

Following their 3-1 shocker over Colombia, Romania have moved from 40-1 to 33-1, while the south Americans eased from 7-1 to 12-1.

Germany and Brazil remain equal favourites at 3-1.

Spain are the best backed team in the Cup, having moved from 22-1 early last week to 16-1, while Saudi Arabia remain on 500-1 with a lone 10-pound (dls 15) wager placed on it.

A plane carrying Mexican soccer fans to the World Cup crashed while approaching Dulles International Airport near Washington in heavy fog Saturday, killing all 12 people aboard.

Carl Vogt, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said the Lear jet had missed one approach to the airport and was attempting a second when it went down in a heavily wooded area on Dulles property.

Jose Henonin, a spokesman for the private, commercial chartering company TAESA in Mexico City, said the plane was an Executive Learjet with two crewmen and 10 passengers. He said the passengers were headed to Washington for World Cup soccer.

The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Whitney Houston, one of the world's most popular female vocalists, will headline the dazzling World Cup USA '94 pre-game final ceremony July 17 at the Rose Bowl in Los Angeles. The 25-minute ceremony will include a cast of thousands.

After all, brothers

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 20: Brazilian midfielder Rai said his brother Socrates, a former team star, has been his main counselor to get out of a slump which almost took him off the starting roster, the Jornal do Brasil reported Sunday, reports AP.

"We've talked a lot and he's the first person I call whenever there's a problem. He's really helped me a lot," Rai said.

Socrates starred as a midfielder on the 1982 and 1986 Brazilian squads. He now works as a doctor in his hometown Riberao Preto, and has been instrumental in guiding brother Rai back to his best form.

Rai was a two-time world club (Toyota Cup) champion as captain of Sao Paulo in 1992 and 1993 before being sold to Paris Saint Germain.

Sluggish play in the French league and Brazilian squad exhibition matches cost Rai prestige, and public opinion polls showed countrymen wanted him out of the roster.

But manager Carlos Alberto Parreira insisted that Rai would regain his form and help make Brazil world champion again.

Good play in Brazil's recent tuneups has guaranteed Rai a position on the starting lineup in its Monday opener against Russia.

Bolivia to miss Etcheverry

DARTMOUTH, Massachusetts, June 20: Bolivia's attack will miss Marco Etcheverry, banned for two World Cup games after being sent off against Germany, as they seek victory in their clash with South Korea on Thursday, reports Reuter.

"I'll miss the devil, he is a quality playmaker, he takes men out, creates space, that one can get into scoring positions," striker William Ramallo said on Sunday.

"I think the team ought to be more offensive," he told reporters after a Bolivian practice at their University of Massachusetts training camp.

We've always been lacking in our finishing. We have very little attacking strength with very few people (up front)."

Ramallo was Bolivia's sole out-and-out attacker in the World Cup's opening game against the holders in Chicago on Friday which they lost 1-0.

Star midfielder Etcheverry, who has only recently recovered from a serious knee injury, came on as a late substitute and got himself sent off within three minutes for kicking out at Germany's Lothar Matthaeus.

His two-match suspension will limit his World Cup to just three minutes' action if Bolivia do not progress beyond the first round.

Midfielder Milton Melgar said: "Having a fit Macco is very favourable for our attack, but 'we have worked for so long without him,' Etcheverry was injured in November."

Reynolds slates attack

BOSTON, June 20: Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds said Sunday the Unionist cause in Northern Ireland gained no support from the "brainless savagery" of two Protestant gunmen slaying six Catholic World Cup fans, reports Reuter.

"That type of brainless savagery won't do their cause any good," Reynolds said during a visit to the John F Kennedy Presidential Library here. "How does the rest of the world like a think an 88-year-old man has to die just because he was a Catholic."

Six Catholics watching Ireland's World Cup soccer victory over Italy in a pub Saturday night were shot to death and five others were wounded.

The outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), which opposes the Irish Republican Army's goal of ending British rule over the provinces, claimed responsibility for the worst sectarian killing in Northern Ireland in eight months.

It'll be ruse contra ruse



DALLAS, June 20: Nigeria and Bulgaria are both promising a feast of attacking soccer when they

meet in a match neither side dare lose on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The two Group D combatants both favour attack as the best means of overcoming their weakness in defence. And Nigeria say they are unconcerned about conceding goals as long as they are scoring at the other end.

They vow to remain true to the style of play that won them the African Championship in April and brought them to the World Cup for the first time, and are adamant they will not shake themselves with a more defensive attitude.

"Attacking football is the natural way for our players. It's very difficult to keep them in defence. They want to go forward all the time," said Jo Bonfrere, assistant to Nigerian coach Clemens Westerhof.

"We don't know much about Bulgaria, but that is not a problem, because we will play to our own strong points," he added. "And that why we will beat them."

Bulgarian coach Dimitar Penev, who has selected 13 players based with foreign clubs, says his side know no other way than to attack. "Attacking football is what got us to the World Cup," he said.

With Argentina viewed the favourites in Group D and Greece the weakest side, Nigeria and Bulgaria accept that whoever loses on Tuesday will struggle to reach the second round.

Both sides are seeking their first victory at World Cup finals. While Nigeria are making

their debut, Bulgaria are desperate to end a run of 16 games without a victory in five



HRISTO STOICHKOV previous finals.

The Bulgarians, who only qualified with a last-minute goal for a 2-1 victory over France in Paris, hope their experience of playing in a World Cup is an advantage, but admit Nigeria are an unknown quantity.

The Africans lost only one qualifying match, but were beaten by Sweden and Romania last month, although they were not at full strength, with top striker Rashidi Yekini among those missing.

Bulgaria, also lacking information about their opponents, took their whole squad to watch the Nigerians in Romania and identified Yekini, the top scorer in the Portuguese league this season and in the African Nations Cup, as the danger man.

The Nigerians, coached by two Dutchmen who have combined European mentality with African flair, will attempt to keep star Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov quiet in the manner AC Milan closed him down in the European Cup final against Barcelona.

Stoichkov, a millionaire and the richest footballer in Bulgaria since his transfer to Spain, trained alone with a personal coach during Bulgaria's session on Sunday at the Cotton Bowl, testing different boots and his shooting skills.

But for all the striking power in both sides, Bonfrere believes midfield supremacy is the key to winning the game.

"We have an attacking team and the strongest point for Bulgaria is in attack and midfield. So whoever wins the midfield battle wins the game," he said.

Penev is considering fielding a five-man midfield and only two strikers to try to cut out the Nigerians' supply to their forwards. He is likely to include Daniel Borimirov at the expense of striker Nasko Sirakov.

PROBABLE TEAMS

BULGARIA: 1-Borislav Mihailov, 2-Emil Krastanov, 3-Trifon Ivanov, 4-Trzanko Tzvetanov, 5-Petar Hubchev, 20-Krasimir Blakov, 6-Zlatko Yankov, 9-Yordan Lechkov, 11-Daniel Borimirov, 8-Hristo Stoichkov, 7-Emil Kostadinov.

NIGERIA: 1-Peter Rufai, 2-Augustine Eguavoen, 8-Ben Ircha, 4-Stephen Keshi, 5-Uche Okechukwu, 15-Sunday Oliseh, 7-Finidi George, 11-Emanuel Amunike, 9-Rashidi Yekini, 14-Daniel Amokachi.

Referee: Rodrik Badilla. Kickoff: 2335 GMT

Yekini: The 'bull' on the loose



DALLAS, June 20: Ever since he began kicking oranges around the streets of Kaduna as a boy, Nigeria's Rashidi Yekini 'has had a gift for scoring goals,' reports Reuter.

On Tuesday, the African player-of-the-year brings that gift to the World Cup for the first time, and he is more than just hopeful that he will leave as the best striker in the world.

The bustling forward known as the "Kaduna Bull" has just finished the Portuguese league season as top scorer with Vitoria Setubal, and his coach predict that when they unleash him on the world stage he will have no problem, transferring his instinct for goal to the big time.

"He is a very dangerous striker," said Nigeria's assistant coach Jo Bonfrere. "I know his qualities, I see him training and he is a very good player. He can score goals at any level, and every team will be watching him for sure."

Yekini, who was the tournament's top scorer with five goals when Nigeria won the African Nations Cup in April and also leading scorer in African World Cup qualifying with eight, does not believe that at 30 he has anything to prove.

But Dutchman Bonfrere thinks that some European and South American teams may be dismissing Yekini as a

second-class forward because he comes from Africa.

"People in Europe think oh, he has scored in African football, but African football is poor football. But let's see what he brings this week and may be he can surprise them the same way he did in African football."



RASHIDI YEKINI

"We have seen him score in Portugal as well as in the African Nations Cup, so it's not a matter of luck, or a matter of him scoring against a poor African team. He knows instinctively how to make goals."

Dutchman Clemens Westerhof, the senior coach, says: "He's one of a kind, has amazing goal instincts and is a big man in every way."

The 1.82 metres tall Yekini, who has 29 goals in 46 internationals and was instrumental

in carrying Nigeria to their first World Cup finals, accepts that his scoring may be the difference between success and failure for the Africans.

"I will try my best to carry my side. But the transition from the African Nations Cup to the World Cup is not easy because the World Cup is very different," he said.

"I think everything will work out alright for me though, and I love the new rules stopping tackling from behind."

"That will give me more confidence to play. When the referee gives you a lot of protection you have more confidence to play good football," he added.

Nigeria open their World Cup campaign against Bulgaria in a Group D encounter in Dallas on Tuesday. Both sides are seeking their first win at a World Cup finals, the only difference being this is the sixth visit for Bulgaria, whose record is a dismal six draws and 10 defeats from 16 games.

Yekini has the advantage of knowing something about his opponents as he plays against three of the Bulgarians, Emil Kostadinov, Ivailo Yordanov and Krasimir Balakov in the Portuguese league.

He expects Bulgaria to be tougher than the other Group D opponents, Argentina and Greece, but Westerhof knows that much relies on the intimidating presence of one man.

Zagalo wistful, unconcerned



PALO ALTO, California, June 20: Mario Zagalo, the man who coached Brazil to World Cup victory in 1970, said on Sunday the current team had the same great spirit as his side of 24 years ago, reports Reuter.

"It's a well balanced side in attack and defence. It has the same spirit as the 1970 team," he said after Brazil trained at Stanford Stadium outside San Francisco where they begin their World Cup campaign against Russia on Monday.

Zagalo, now 62, is working as assistant to coach Carlos Alberto Parreira. His words and the air of confidence in the Brazilian camp hammer out a warning to the rest of the world.

Zagalo refused to compare the current squad with the great 1970 side, which included Pele, Tostao, Rivelino and Jairzinho and is considered by many to be the greatest ever team.

Zagalo also declined to say if he thought Brazil would finally win the World Cup for the first time in 24 years.

But he made clear the thinking behind the current team revolved around his friendship with Parreira and a meeting of two minds.

Zagalo and Parreira have resumed an old partnership, but the roles have been reversed — Parreira worked as physiotherapist under Zagalo with the 1970 squad and again with the 1974 team, which finished fourth.

The two also worked to-

gether in the mid-1970s coaching Kuwait's national team, which Parreira led to the World Cup finals in 1982 after Zagalo returned to Brazil to coach club side Botafogo.

After a spell with Saudi Arabia, Zagalo guided the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to qualification for the World Cup finals in 1990.

It was not surprising, then, when the Brazilian Soccer Federation called on Zagalo to be technical coordinator to the Brazilian team under Parreira. "The federation turned to us again and here we are," Zagalo said.

More than anyone else, they should know that nothing less than winning the tournament will satisfy Brazil's fans and soccer federation — as they learned to their cost in 1974.



NEESKENS BLASTS HOME FAVOURITES HOLLAND ARE IN FRONT.



BUT GRADUALLY WEST GERMANY CLAW THEMSELVES BACK INTO THE MATCH. IN 25 MINUTES THEIR FAST-RAIDING WINGER HOLZENBERG TUMBLES AMID A FOREST OF ORANGE-CLAD LEGS — ANOTHER PENALTY



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TIME RUNS OUT FOR THE D