

Edgbaston Test begins today

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 3: Allan Donald is aiming to make the most of his local knowledge as the bids to fire South Africa to victory in the first Test against England which starts at Edgbaston here on Thursday, reports AFP.

Unlike many overseas professional in England, Donald has put down genuine roots in Birmingham by marrying an English girl, buying a house in nearby Harborne and bringing his two young children up in the area to make his first Test in his adopted city all the more poignant.

NZ crawl to 96 for four

GALLE, Sri Lanka, June 3: On a wicket that produced some vicious turn for spinners, New Zealand were 96 for four at the end of a rain-reduced first day's play of the second cricket Test against Sri Lanka on Wednesday, reports AP.

New Zealand won the toss and elected to bat, but wet ground conditions prevented any play during the first session.

Mathew Horne was the first to be dismissed in the third over of the innings when he fell caught behind to left-arm spinner Niroshan Bandaratilleke for 1, with the total at 5.

New Zealand went in for tea at 16 for one.

When bad light stopped play eight minutes before the scheduled close, Astle was unbeaten on 30 made off 116 deliveries. Astle also saw the exit of Daniel Vettori who replaced Young as night watchman, and was out in the same over to Bandaratilleke caught at forward short leg by Hashan Tillekeratne.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Balls, 4s, 6s. Includes Young c Jayasuriya, b Bandaratilleke 14, Horne c Kaluwitharana, b Bandaratilleke 1, Fleming lbw b Dharmasena 1, Astle not out 30, Vettori c Tillakaratne, b Bandaratilleke 0, McMillan not out 2, Extras (lb-1, nb-2) 3.

Total (for 4 wickets in 55.2 overs) 96

To bat: Cairns, Harris, Parore, Wiseman, O'Connor.

Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-21; 3-90; 4-90.

Bowling table with columns: O, M, R, W. Includes Wickramasinghe 7 1 20 0, Dharmasena 9 2 27 1, Bandaratilleke 15 8 10 3, Muralitharan 15.2 6 23 0, Jayasuriya 4 1 8 0, De Silva 2 2 6 0.

SRI LANKA: Jayasuriya, Atapattu, Jayawardene, Silva, Ranatunga, Tillekeratne, Kaluwitharana, Dharmasena, Bandaratilleke, Wickramasinghe, Muralitharan.

Yugoslavs warm up well

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, June 3: Defender Sinisa Mihajlovic's second-half goal gave Yugoslavia a 1-0 victory over fellow World Cup qualifiers Japan in an evenly balanced friendly match Wednesday, reports AP.

Hidetoshi Nakata of Bellmare Hiratsuka missed two good chances for Japan before Sinisa, who plays for Italian club Sampdoria, scored in the 71st minute.

Japan's final warm-up match against another national side, Yugoslavia play non-qualifiers Switzerland in Basel Saturday.

Indian U-16 booters win

CHITTAGONG, June 3: Indian under-16 national football team beat Chittagong under-16 2-0 at the local stadium here this evening, reports BSS.

The Indian team will face Bangladesh under-16 team tomorrow.

Rajshahi soccer From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 3: Mohammedan Sporting Club beat Seriol Sporting Club 4-1 in the fifth match of the First Division football league today at Rajshahi Stadium.

Champs' endless reserves

PARIS, June 3 (AFP): Brazil clearly have the most feared strikers in the world, even without the genius of Romario — who starred for them as they won their fourth title in the USA four years ago. Romario and Ronaldo had been expected to form the most formidable attacking duo at the World Cup until coach Mario Zagallo announced on Tuesday that Romario had not recovered from a calf injury. Emerson, a 22-year-old midfielder, who plays for German side Bayer Leverkusen has been called up into the squad to replace him. The traditional mighty nations of Italy, Germany and Argentina also have great strikers, but Brazil still have a surplus of talent even without Romario.

Bebeto, who partnered Romario in 1994, is not quite the player he was then, but nevertheless the dependable front man could form a reliable partnership with two-time world Player of the Year Ronaldo. Edmundo is another possibility if Zagallo can forgive him for their past disagreements. The Vasco da Gama striker shattered the Brazilian championship goalscoring record with 29 goals in 1997 but was abruptly dropped by Zagallo after striking an opponent last June. His wily silver-haired boss suggested he should seek psychiatric treatment. One of the most feared forwards on his day, Edmundo's appearance on the pitch is evidently dependent on his form off it.

The 30-million-dollar Ronaldo is the undisputed best player in the world with remarkable skill, pace, vision, and an uncanny knack of winning freekicks in dangerous positions. He combines pace with strength to enable him to run straight at top-class defenders and bustle past them. His time at Barcelona and Inter Milan,

with whom he won European trophies, has toughened him up yet further and made him a more mature player. FIFA's directive that a red card be shown for tackling from behind can only help Ronaldo, whose twisting and turning often invite the badly-timed challenge. Ronaldo will be shouldering a great deal of responsibility but the legendary Zico, now an assistant to coach Zagallo, pinpointed what he expected of him. "Ronaldo has to know how to handle that pressure," Zico said.



EDMUNDO

Three-times world champions have Oliver Bierhoff and Uli Kirsten plus 33-year-old Jurgen Klinsmann in their striking squad. Bierhoff, a revelation for both Udinese in Italy and for Germany in the World Cup qualifiers, has proven his ability at top international level. Although a late developer — the 30-year old only made his debut against Portugal two years ago — his golden goal winner against Czech Republic in the Euro '96 final proved his star quality. Bierhoff scored six goals in the qualifiers and was top scorer in the Italian league with 27 goals.

Bayer Leverkusen's Kirsten, of the former East Germany, scored five in the qualifiers and is likely to strongly feature in the summer.

Veteran Klinsmann cannot be ignored, and despite his recent injury problems and controversial season with Tottenham because of disagreements with manager Christian Gross, he's a valuable member of the squad. The veteran striker had to sit out the game against Finland on May 27 suffering from a badly bruised calf muscle but coach Bert Vogts is hoping his key player would be fit for World Cup duty. Fiorentina striker Argentina Batistuta, who like Ronaldo has excelled in Italy, is another of the goal-getters likely to be in the limelight in France. His hat-trick in Argentina's 5-0 thrashing of Bosnia and a further goal in their 1-0 win over Chile, both in May, prove he's the man in form.

He also hit 21 goals in the Italian league. Rora striker Abel Balbo was the last player called into the Argentinian squad by coach Daniel Passarella, in preference to Velez Sarsfield midfielder Christian Bessedas and Boca Juniors' striker Claudio Caniggia. Babel only played in three World Cup qualifiers but his 14 goals in Italy this season prove he can score against the best defenders in the world. Fabrizio Ravanelli reckons that Italy's strike force will be every bit as good as Brazil's at the World Cup finals. Ravanelli rates the likes of Alessandro Del Piero on a par with Ronaldo and Romario. "There's no country in the world with as many people to choose from up front as we have," Ravanelli said. But Del Piero pulled an adductor muscle high up in his left thigh in the closing stages of Juventus' 1998 European Cup final loss against Real Madrid and his fitness is still in question.

FRANCE '98 SIDELINES

UNDATED, June 3 (Reuters/AP): Dimitar Penev, sacked two years ago as Bulgarian coach, caused a surprise on Wednesday when he was named as the team's trainer for the 1998 World Cup.

An official squad list issued by FIFA with information provided by the Bulgarians had the name of Penev, and not his successor Hristo Bonev, as trainer of the team.

Penev, who took Bulgaria to the semifinals of the 1994 World Cup, was sacked after a disappointing performance at the 1996 European Championship.

ROMANIA DIVE INTO WC

Romania's Central Bank on Wednesday issued a silver coin with an engraved soccer net to commemorate the upcoming World Cup.

The symbolic sum of lei 100 (0.011 dollar) with the zeros as soccer balls, is written inside the net on one side. The Eiffel Tower and the words "World Cup France — 1998" adorn the flip side. Central Bank official Nicolae Mitea said by telephone.

Mitea said each coin weighs 27 grams (0.8 ounces) and has a retail value of 132,000 lei (16 dollars).

The bank distributed 5,000 coins to bank branches nationwide Wednesday.

"Their numismatic value will increase in time," Mitea said.

BRAZIL ON TOP EVERYWHERE

Whether Austrian, German or English, bookmakers are offering similar odds that Brazil will win their fifth World Cup in France with a probable final against Germany.

Almost everything can be bet on at soccer's premier event.

Austria's intertops is offering 30-1 odds against Germany's first score coming through an own goal or a modest 1.5-1 payout if all World Cup goals total between 161 and 170.

The English and Austrian bookmakers, as well as Germany's "Sportwetten Gera," all list Brazil as the clear favourites at between 3.5 or 3.75-1 followed by Germany, 5.6-6 to 1, and hosts France, 5.5-7 to 1.

The least likely final? Inter-tops is offering 750-1 that Denmark will line up against Romania.

IRAN NAME TEAM

Iran dropped two veteran strikers but added two rookies to their 22-man World Cup squad announced Tuesday.

Coach Jalal Talebi sacked veteran strikers Alireza Emami and Alireza Akbarpour to make way for newcomers: 22-year-old striker Ali Latifi and 24-year-old midfielder Sattar Hamedani. Both rookies play for local club Bahman.

Iran's three Bundesliga players, Ali Daei, Karim Bagheri and Khodadad Azizi, were included in the roster as was top goalkeeper Ahmadreza Abedzadeh.

OWAIRAN A RONALDO FOLLOWER?

Saudi Arabia's Saïd Al Owairan, who scored the most spectacular goal of the last World Cup, now has the shaven-head look of Brazilian star Ronaldo.

Al Owairan drew attention with his weaving run through the Belgian defence in the Saudis recent 1-0 victory in Washington.

"I shaved all my hair off myself a couple of days ago because it kept getting in my eyes," said the forward.

Mates moaning the loss

UNDATED, June 3 (AP/Reuters): Tears rolling down his face and his voice barely more than a whisper, Romario said he had been dropped from the Brazilian World Cup squad Tuesday, forced out by an injury he apparently suffered playing for fun on a beach.

Coach Mario Zagallo was defiant however after axing the star forward and controversially replacing him in the squad with inexperienced defensive midfielder Emerson Ferreira.

"We are short of players who can play in front of the defence," said the veteran coach after training. "We have made the right decision."

"I was not going to pick another big-name player just to make people happy. I don't like making other people happy. I like to make myself happy."

The Brazilian media had been touting the names of celebrated players such as Atletico Madrid midfielder Juninho or Barcelona striker Sonny Anderson as potential replacements when rumours began about Romario's possible exclusion.

Zagallo said that Romario's absence did not mean that Brazil would stop being favourites to win a fifth world title.

"Romario has gone but in 1962 we lost Pele and we still won," he said, referring to the team in which Zagallo himself played as a left winger.

Zagallo had announced at the team hotel earlier on Tuesday that Romario had been pulled out because of a nagging calf muscle injury, just 48 hours after the player himself had said he would be fit in time for the opening match against Scotland on June 10.

Romario, who wept as he faced the media, was returning to Brazil on Tuesday night, the Brazilian Football Confederation said.

Fellow stars Ronaldo and Bebeto were dismayed by the loss of the striker. If Brazil triumphed again, said Ronaldo, the team would dedicate the victory to him. Bebeto, Romario's strike partner in Brazil's record fourth triumph four years ago, said the two players hugged and cried and hearing the news.

"We had plans for this World Cup but now they won't happen," said Ronaldo, who Romario would have partnered in attack.

"He's a great player, the sort whom makes the difference and can decide a game," said midfielder Rivaldo.

Ronaldo lamented the loss of his partner and close friend with whom he shared an irreverent sense of humor, a taste for rap music and the same humble origins on Rio's gritty north side.

"He was a great guy for the group," Ronaldo said. "We'll just have to unite even more to overcome this loss. Now we'll do everything we can to win this Cup and dedicate it to him."

Denilson, who was left out of the team already named to face Scotland but who could now get back in after Romario's departure, said: "Romario is an important player but we have others who can turn a game."

"We are sad but this does not mean that we are no longer favourites. We have to get our heads down and keep working."

The most likely replacements for Romario in the team are believed to be either Bebeto or Edmundo. Zagallo gave one clue on Tuesday when he picked Bebeto in the first team for the afternoon training match and dispatched the volatile Ed-

mundo to the reserves.

Emerson is due to arrive in France today.

Brazil captain Dunga feels the pain of stretching during the team's practice at Ozoir La Ferrierre in France on June 2.

Bebeto, who surprised many by making the team and now inherits a starting berth, said he understood the pain of missing the last chance to play in a World Cup.

"It's the last Cup for him, for me, for Dunga, for Aldair, for many in this group," said Bebeto. "He came into my room and hugged me, and we cried. It touched me deeply, and touched the whole group."

Team captain Dunga was Romario's roommate and antithesis — sober, hard-working, disciplined. Yet they developed a close bond of friendship and respect.

"He was a friend, an expert, a player, and it will be hard to find a player with his weight and charisma," Dunga said. "Any team would love to have Romario. The fans will miss him even more than the players."

Goalkeepers: Zdravko Zdravkov (Istanbul Spor), Borislav Mihailov (Salavija Sofia).

Defenders: Trifon Ivanov (CSKA Sofia), Adalbert Zafirov (Arminia Bielefeld), Gocho Guinchew (Antalya), Invalo Petkov (Litex Lovech), Radostin Kichichev (Bursaspor), Rossen Kirilov (Litex).

Midfielders: Zlatko Yankov (Besiktas), Antoli Nankov Locomotiv Sofia), Milen Petkov (CSKA Sofia), Ivalio Jordanov (Sporting Lisbon), Ilian Iliev (Bursaspor), Stoicho Stoilov (Litex), Daniel Borimorov (1860 Munich), Georgi Bachev (Slavia), Krassimir Balakov (VfB Stuttgart), Marian Hristov (Kaiserslautern).

Forwards: Hristo Stoichkov (Al-Hilal), Emil Kostadinov (CSKA), Georgi Ivanov (Levski Sofia), Luboslav Penev (Compostela).

Romanian coach Angel Iordanescu relied almost exclusively on foreign-based players when he named his 22-man squad for the upcoming World Cup finals.

Goalkeepers: Bogdan Stelea (Salamanca), Dan Stinguacu (Kocaelispor), Florin Prunea (Dinamo Bucharest).

Defenders: Anton Dobos (AEK Athens), Tibor Selmesy (Anderlecht), Cristian Dulca (Rapid Bucharest), Liviu Ciobotariu (Dinamo Bucharest), Dan Petrescu (Chelsea), Iulian Filipescu (Galatasaray), Georgehe Popescu (Galatasaray).

Midfielders: Doriel Munteanu (Cologne), Costel Galca (Espanyol), Georgehe Hagl (Galatasaray), Gabriel Popescu (Salamanca), Ovidiu Stanga (PSV Eindhoven), Ilie Dumitrescu (Atalante, Mexico), Cucu-

World Cup squads

UNDATED, June 3 (AFP/AP): Bulgarian coach Hristo Bonev on Tuesday unveiled his final squad of 22 for the World Cup finals.

Goalkeepers: Zdravko Zdravkov (Istanbul Spor), Borislav Mihailov (Salavija Sofia).

Defenders: Trifon Ivanov (CSKA Sofia), Adalbert Zafirov (Arminia Bielefeld), Gocho Guinchew (Antalya), Invalo Petkov (Litex Lovech), Radostin Kichichev (Bursaspor), Rossen Kirilov (Litex).

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The football fete

Julien Cappe

The 32 teams from the 172 which had entered the preliminary competition, will meet in France from 10th June to 12th July to take part in the final phase of the World Cup. It will take sixty-four matches and thirty-three days of competition to find the successor to Brazil, holder of the World Cup since its victory in 1994.

For the first time in the history of the World Cup, the final competition will have thirty-two teams, instead of the twenty-four in the last few editions of the Cup. Africa now has five representatives, Asia and Oceania four, and Central and North America three. Four teams will take part in a final phase of the World Cup for the first time. They are South Africa, Croatia, Jamaica and Japan. Others will make their comeback to this stage of the competition including France since 1986.

The first two teams of each of the eight groups, made up by drawing lots last December in Marseilles, will qualify for the round before the quarter finals from which qualification will be by direct elimination.

CONCERN FOR FAIRNESS France '98 stands out for its

concern with fairness. Nothing is left to chance. All the football grounds have the same dimensions (105 metres long by 68 metres wide). The matches have been shared out so as to guarantee the quality of the pitches. A gap of two or three days will be respected between two matches to let the grass rest.

Each team will have a similar rest period between two matches. The teams playing in the semi-final in Marseilles will have one extra day compared with those playing in Saint-Denis in order to compensate for the tiredness caused by the journey. The competition really should distinguish the best national team in the world.

There is also fairness between the ten towns in France which will host all the matches. Each one will have six matches and each team will play the qualifying phase in three different towns. This system en-

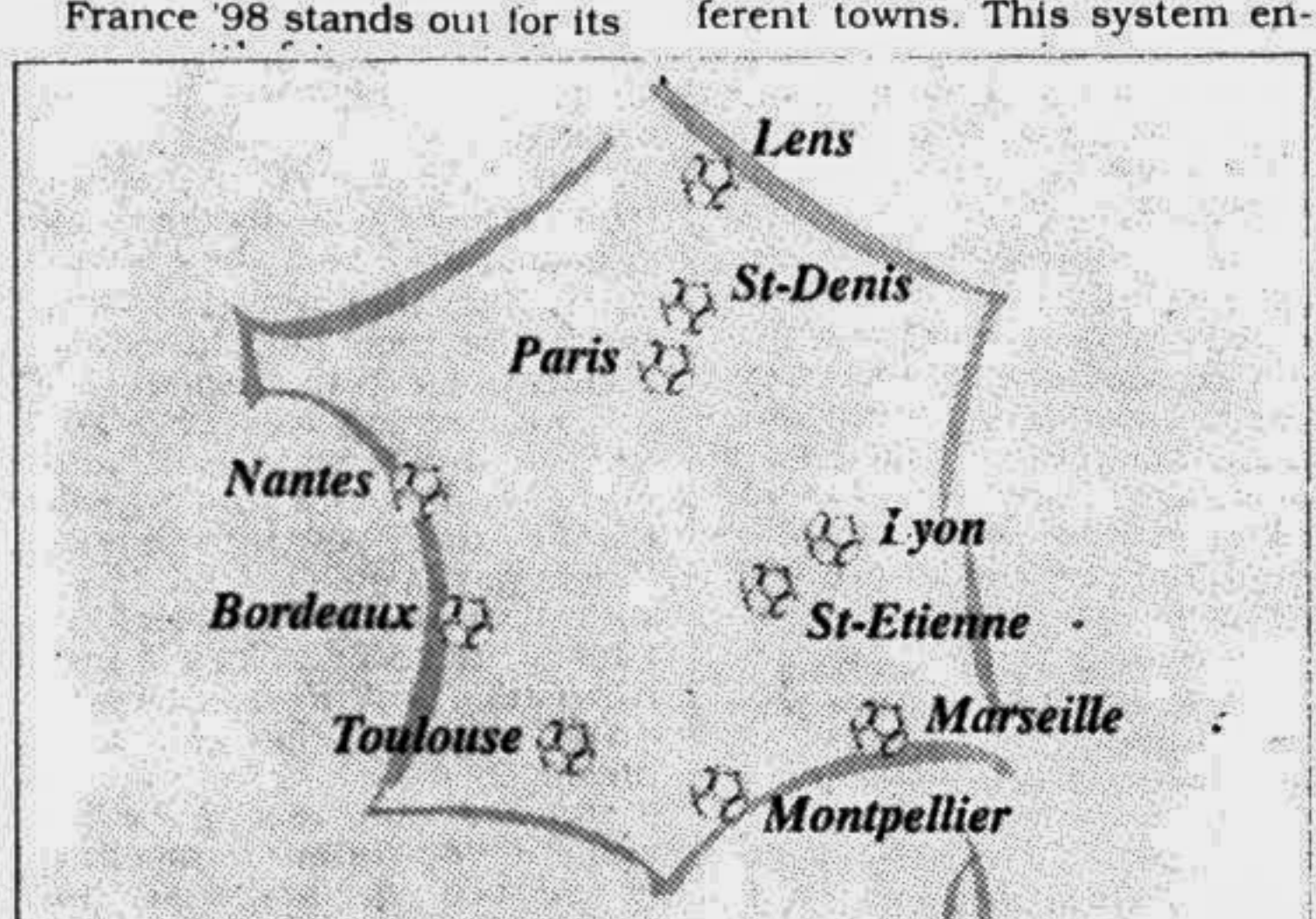
sures that there will be quality entertainment everywhere, with the guaranteed presence of two top teams during the first phase. Each town will also be guaranteed to host a match of the quarter final or the round before the quarter final. There will be two exceptions: Marseilles which will host seven and Saint-Denis nine including the finals and semi-finals.

THE FOOTBALL FETE

In all the regions and towns in France which are organising it, the World Cup will provide the opportunity for all kinds of events beginning the day before the opening match with a huge "football fete" which will be held outside the stadiums in the streets of Paris. This parade, which will be orchestrated by Jean-Pascal Levy-Turmet, will be the first television show of the World Cup.

France '98 will be the biggest media event of the 20th century. Nearly 12,000 journalists will cover the event, including nearly 6,000 television journalists and technicians who will provide over 6,000 hours of programmes. The overall audience of the television broadcasts is estimated at 37 billion television-viewers throughout the world, twice as many as for the Olympic Games. The final alone, on 12th July 1998 will be followed by 1.7 billion television-viewers.

This month of festivities will be rich in sporting, cultural and touristic events. Matches, shows and "third halves" will fill the thirty-three days of competition. France '98 will indeed be that football fete that everyone is waiting for!



France '98 venues.

Photo-CFO

The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98 Round 5. HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO SCORE AGAIN! Prizes include Sanyo Microwave Oven, Philips CD RCR AZ 8051, Philips Rice Cooker, 4 dozen Philips Bulbs, and 5th Prize: Caps & T-Shirts (25 prizes). All Prizes Courtesy: Transcom Electronics Ltd. Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. ACROSS: 1 Indy entry, 30 Ewe said it, 3 Causes irritation, 4 Miller, 33 Repetitive speakers, 4 Task, 7 Cat food, 36 Ignitable substance, 6 Idle, 8 Greg, 37 Think-tank output, 7 Pol base, 10 Norman's nickname, 38 Clamorous, 8 Ladder's antithesis, 11 Tor's dad, 39 Mongkut's realm, 13 Eams a spot in "Guinness", 41 Lineman, 16 Food fish, 17 California cager, 2 Sulawesi, 14 "Name", 18 Skater, 26 Pilose, 19 Lapdog, for short, 20 Charon's river, 21 Betray, 23 Fixes, in a sense, 25 Attention getter, 26 Send to the minors, 27 Army rank, 28 Purplish. DOWN: 1 All better, 2 Name, 9 Intrinsic, 10 TV network, 12 Anatomy, 24 Exact, 25 U.N. VIP, 26 Pilose, 28 Radio, TV, etc., 29 of robins, 30 Sandwich essential, 31 Ladder's antithesis, 32 Pompous sort, 34 Drawer, 35 Valhalla, 36 Bigwig.

Cryptoquip puzzle. Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals F. The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

World Cup Quiz '98, Round Five. Ends June 10, 1998. Tick (✓) the correct answers. 1. Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) was formed in 1902, 1904, 1910. 2. How many nations have won the WC in their own countries? Four, Five, Six. 3. Besides Argentina, which country did Luisito Monti play for in the WC Finals? Italy, Brazil, Chile. 4. Bangladesh played against which finalist in the qualifiers? S. Arabia, S. Korea, Iran. 5. Of which World Cup finals was this the emblem? 1962, 1970, 1978.

Registration form for the quiz. Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms), Age, Father's name, Occupation, Address, Telephone (if any), Signature, Date. Write with a ballpoint pen in clear BLOCK letters. Cut along the dotted lines and mail to OR drop in the Quiz Box at The Daily Star. You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star Quiz 5."