

### Silver screen lures 'lady' Ronaldo

ROME, June 13: Susana Werner, the fashion model fiancee of Brazilian soccer star Ronaldo, has landed a part in an Italian film comedy being made by Tonino Pulci, cinema sources said Thursday, reports

AFP. Susana, otherwise known as "ronaldinha", will play alongside Barbara Enrichi and Danny Quinn in the film called "women in white" about three young single women in search of a husband.

#### Fatal family feud

SANTIAGO, Jun 13: A Chilean soccer fan was stabbed to death by his uncle Friday after they had a violent argument over a penalty call in the World Cup soccer match between Chile and Italy, police said, reports

Leopoldo Oses Lagunas, 23, was allegedly stabbed with a kitchen knife by his uncle 28 year-old Mauricio Lagunas Navarrete after they got into a dispute over the decision by Nigerian referee Lucien Bouchardeau to award the kick to

Roberto Baggio, in the dying minutes of the game, tied the match 2-2 for Italy with the penalty kick, averting a major

Uncle and nephew, who had just been toasting Chile's 2-1 lead, burst into a war of words in the family home in the town of Glorias Navales de Vida Del Mar, 110 kilometres (70 miles) west of the capital.

In his anger Lagunas smashed a window in the house and ended by seizing a kitchen knife and stabbing his nephew to death, according to police.

### Guivarch injured

FRANCE, June 13 (AFP/ Internet): During the France-South Africa match (Group C), the France forward, Stéphane Guivarch (9), taken off in the 26th minute of play following a collision, is suffering from a sprain to the left knee.

This is according to the official press spokesman for the French delegation.

### Michael proves a point

LENS, France, June 13 (AFP): Michael Laudrup gave Denmark coach Bo Johansson another impressive performance in their victory over Saudi Arabia to prove he is still a player to be reckoned with even in the twilight of his ca-

Saudi Arabia's Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said Michael Laudrup, and brother Brian for that matter, were both good technically and were difficult to play against. Laudrup, who is 34 on Mon-

day, was presented with a bouquet of roses before the kick-off for winning his 100th camp. "That first game is always important and to win like this

has made me very happy," he said. "It was a very special mo-ment at the end of the match." Laudrup, one of Denmark's

greatest ever players, said just last month he would retire from football after the World Cup. Over the past 13 years, Laudrup has won a host of major honours with Juventus (one

league title and one Interconti-

nental Cup), Barcelona (four

league titles and one European

Cup). Real Madrid (one league title) and Ajax (one league title). And he was a major player during the match when Marc Rieper saved Denmark from

embarrassment to secure a workmanlike 1-0 win. Parreira was adamant his team were a good technical side but they made little impression

on the Danes throughout the Denmark however must be confident of going into their

second match against South Africa on Thursday. Said Johansson: "We were

very satisfied that we won the game and I think we played very well in the first half, but we had some problems in the last five minutes when the Saudis were very dangerous and that was a problem for us."

Parreira, who took Brazil to World Cup victory in 1994, knows he has his work cut out of he is to reach the second round. In their previous match in January 1995 in Rivadh. Denmark won 2-0.

# Eagles soar on Oliseh's wings

NANTES, June 13 (Reuters): Spain's veteran goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta ruined his side's hopes of a smooth start to their World Cup campaign today as Nigeria emerged with a sensational 3-2 victory in Group D.

The 36-year-old Zubizarreta, winning his 124th cap, was guilty of a gruesome mistake in the 73rd minute when he parried Garba Lawal's left-footed cross into the Spanish net and was beaten again five minutes later by Sunday Oliseh's fierce 30-metre drive from outside the

The goal completed a second rally from a one-goal deficit for the Olympic champion and gave credence to those who have predicted a surprise from one of the African nations.

Many see Nigeria as Africa's best chance for creating a stir in France '98, having reached the second round in the United States four years ago and being eliminated only in extra time by eventual finalists Italy.

The rally came after Raul Gonzalez had given Spain a 2-1 lead 72 seconds into the second

Fernando Hierro launched a ball from just outside the centre circle in the Nigerian half and Raul outraced Mobi Oparaku to latch onto to it in full stride. His outstretched left foot six metres from the left post richoceted the ball across the goal and gave Nigerian keeper Peter

TOULOUSE, Jun 13: Ar-

gentina, brimming with talent

and top European club experi-

ence can expect to brush debu-

tants Japan aside on Sunday as

they launch their campaign for

a third world cup trophy in 20

who captained Argentina to

their first title on home soil in

1978, has built a side that fin-

ished top in the tough South

American qualifiers and have

lost just once in their last 14

Batistuta, who scored only two

minutes into his first World

Cup in Argentina's 4-0 win over

Greece in Boston four years ago,

going on to hit a hattrick, and

aims to be the tournament's top

remarkable Argentine record of

43 goals in 61 internationals

including six in his last five

matches, fed by a midfield that

includes Ariel Ortega, heir to

Diego Maradona's number 10

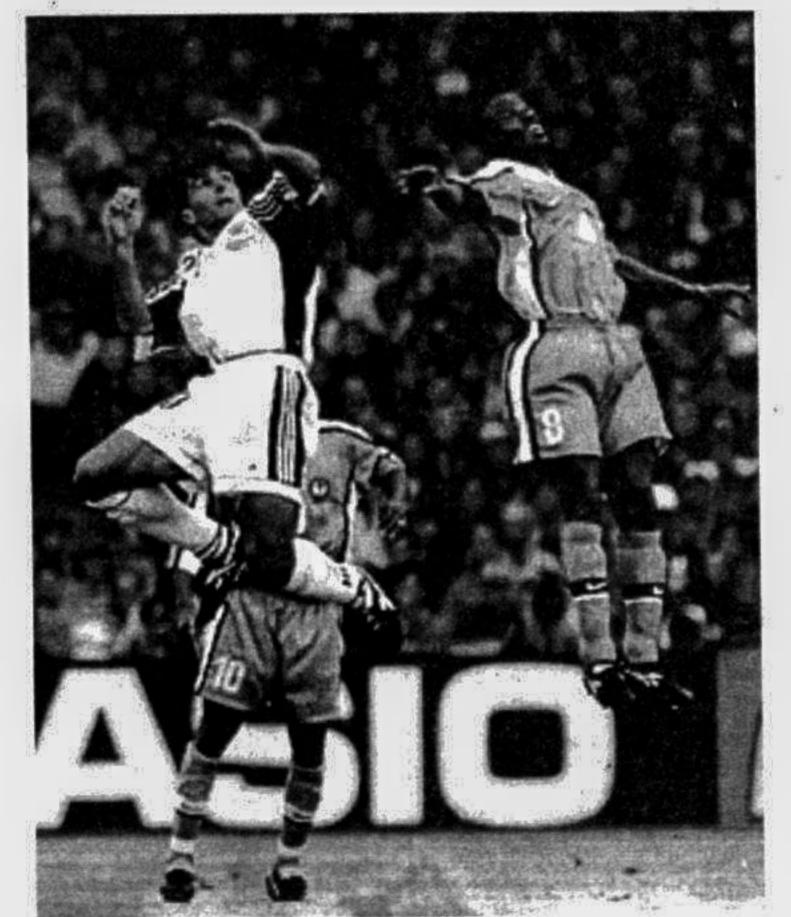
Batistuta has notched up a

marksman.

Their attack is led by Gabriel

Coach Daniel Passarella,

years, reports Reuters.



Nigerian defender Mutiu Adepoju (R) and Spanish midfielder Miguel Angel Nadal (L) jump to take the ball under possession during their match at La Beanjoire in Nantes yesterday. - AFP photo

Argentina to go on a goal spree

The Fiorentina striker has

Against this backdrop.

already scored three goals

against Japan in two meetings

since 1992, both Argentine vic-

Japan should find themselves

defending for most of the 90

minutes and looking to break

away at speed and surprise an

start with only three men at the

cup in 1986, say they are not

mate anyone," Napoli defender

Roberto Avala said. "You've got

the example of what happened

Aviv and an angry outburst

from Passarella joited Ar-

gentina and they went on two

win their next five warm-up

to attack and put pressure on

Passarella said: "We'll go out

with an 11-0 goal-count.

taking anything for granted.

Argentina, who also won the

"Today, you can't underesti-

A 2-1 defeat to Israel in Tel

Argentine defence expected to

back.

to us in Israel.

them .... but our tactics will de-

the scale from Passarella, going

into only his seventh competi-

tive match in charge after tak-

ing over from his former boss

rience Okada has surprised ev-

eryone on the international

Brazilian former Iran coach

Valdir Vieira as the fastest in

the world and Okaka will use

gifted playmaker Hidetoshi

Nakata to catch Argentina on

fend," Okada said, "we just hope

that while we're defending we'll

get the chance to counter-at-

goal in the early stages of the

match they will not play defen-

sively so we have to think about

enced captain Masami Ihara to

Japan expect to have experi-

how to score," he said.

"We'll have mostly to de-

"Even if Argentina score a

But despite his lack of expe-

His team was described by

Shu Kamo in October.

stage with his results.

the hop

Okada is at the other end of

pend party on how they play."

Rufai no chance to react.

It was only the latest in a series of chances for Raul, who opened the first half with two shots in the first 4 1/2 minutes and threatened to blow Nigeria out of the game.

Hierro curled a free kick around the right side of the wall from 25 metres in the 21st minute to give Spain the lead. Oparaku set up the free kick when he climbed over the back of Alfonso Perez to get to a high

Rufai seemed to misplace himself to the inside of the wall, enabling Hierro to bend his ball well inside the right

But Nigeria weathered the two chances by Raul in the first five minutes and the goal to tie the game four minutes after Hierro's free kick and make the first half more even.

After creating several chances that Zubizarreta handled easily, Mutiu Adepoju outleapt the Spanish defence at the near post to get his head to a Lawal corner and redirect it into the net.

The match started with a moment of silence at the start for Fernand Sastre, the French World Cup organising committee co-president who died earlier Saturday of lung cancer.

Former soccer star Michel Platini, the other president of the organising committee, was among thousands who observed

marshall the defence after

missing the final warm-up

games with damaged right knee

ligaments. Toshihide Saito is

standing by in case Ihara fails

bly opt for Shoji Jo. 23 next

Wednesday, and experienced 30-

year-old Masashi Nakayama of

Japanese champions Jubilo

PROBABLE TEAMS

14-Nelson Vivas, 6-Nestor

Sensini, 2-Roberto Ayala, 22-

Javier Zanetti, 5-Matias

Almeyda, 11-Juan Veron, 10-

Ariel Ortega, 8-Diego Simeone,

9-Gabriel Batistuta, 7-Claudio

Kawaguchi, 2-Akira Narahashi,

17-Yutaka Akita, 4-Masami,

Ihara, 19-Eisuke Nakanishi, 3-

Naoki Soma, 6-Motohiro Yam-

aguchi, 85 Hidetoshi Nakata, 10-

Hiroshi Nanmai, 18-Shoji Jo.

9-Masashi Nakayama.

JAPAN: 20-Yoshikatsu

ARGENTINA: 1-Carlos Roa,

Up front, Okada will proba-

to make it.

Lobpez.

the tribute.

A former head of the French tax service, the top post within the French civil service, Sastre's involvement in football began as a player with Algerian side AS Kouba. He became an Algerian league executive in

After moving to France, he became co-president of the French campaign to host this year's World Cup in 1989 and sent three years in that post.

host the event, he became co-



president of the organising committee alongside Platini in

· Sastre was a prime mover in planning the new Stade de France at Saint Denis north of Paris and attended the inaugural match in January between France and Spain.

He was already too ill to attend the World Cup curtainraiser between Brazil and Scotland on Wednesday.

PARIS, June 13: Fernand Sastre, co-president of the French World Cup Organising Committee (CFO) died here today after a long illness, reports

The 74-year-old Sastre, who was co-president of the CFO with former French football great Michel Platini, had been suffering from lung cancer since the start of the year.

Sastre, who has been unable to work on the World Cup for several months, was recently awarded FIFA's order of merit.

He was too ill to collect it at last week's FIFA congress and outgoing FIFA president Joao Havelange announced that he would go Sastre's home to present it to him personally.

The Algerian-born Sastre previously served as president of the French Football Federation (FFF), a post he held from January 1973 to December

After France was selected to



November 1992.



## They didn't trust me: Romario

CARING HUSBAND: Bebeto the Brazilian star, wipes

something off wife Denise's face during a visit to the

PARIS, June 13: An exclusive interview carried out by the French sports daily, L'Equipe, with the ill-fated Brazilian striker Romario, who was dropped from the World Cup team because of injury:

Eurodisney in Paris on June 11.

L: What did you think of the opening match?

R: Brazil played very badly. played for that team until they sent me away and I know it could have done much better against Scotland. Some players were very nervous. I could see the tension.

L: They suffered from the pressure?

R: It's all due to the things that happened to the team lately. These past few days, after I left, some very serious things happened in the team. The group's serenity suffered from these tensions.

L: You're pessimistic regarding your ex-teammates' chances?

R: No, but if we don't play better than we did against Scotland, we won't go very far in this World Cup. Brazil has got all it takes to win this thing, can't believe we'll be eliminated early on, but we have to be careful.

L: What happened during the meeting with Zico and Mario Zagallo in which it was decided you would leave?

R: It was very simple. They had all the medical test results and they asked me how I felt. I said I was all right and that I would be ready for the match against Morocco. They didn't believe me and decided to fire

L: Your departure and the confusion that ensued don't look very good for Brazil.

R: Why? They told me to leave because I was injured. They didn't trust me. I just hope they made that decision strictly for medical reasons. L: What do you think of the

French team?

R: It's a good team with good players but it won't win the World Cup. Not everybody can win, and it doesn't seem this team can win seven straight

L: You think they can't win R: Exactly. But they won't be the only favorites to go down. Spain, Holland and England are all in the same case. None of these teams will reach the fi-

nals. L: Who will?



-AFP photo

R: Brazil, Argentina, Italy and Germany. The winner is one of those four. L: Please bring us up to date

on your health. R: Yesterday I played with some friends. I practice with my team, Flamengo, every day. I'm in great shape.

L: Will you play for Brazil again? R: Yes, I will play in the

Olympics in Sydney. L: Is Italy going to have to change tactics?

R: There is something terribly reassuring in Italy's draw against Chile. Because if Italy's coach, Cesare Maldini, had won with these tactics, he would have continued to use them. But the fact is, the Chileans' liveliness and joyfulness shattered Maldini's 4-4-2 alignment with

four defensive midfielders.

L: Italy's defence is nothing like it used to be because, obviously, things are not working out between Alessandro Costacurta and Alessandro 'Nesta. And what can be said of this unimaginative midfield, wasting its efforts in the cen-

R: Despite these shortcomings, Italy scored first, six minutes into the game, and nobody could see then how Chile would come back in the match. But liveliness, imagination and a fantastic pair of strikers put Chile in a winning situation, until the unfortunate penalty

### Frenchmen bulldoze Bafana boys

MARSEILLE, June 13: France made a highly encourag-ing start to their bid to become the first host nation to win the World Cup in 20 years when they outclassed newcomers South Africa 3-0 in their opening Group C match on Friday, reports Reuters.

Christophe Dugarry broke the deadlock in the 34th minute, just eight minutes after he had come on as substitute.

Then an own goal by Pierre Issa in the 78th minute and a last-gasp strike by Thierry Henry two minutes into injury time sealed a victory which was joyfully hailed by the crowd in the volodgrome.

"I would say that the door is wide open," said France coach Aime Jacquet.

South Africa, making their debut in the World Cup finals, lacked the experience to maintain an equal challenge to the hosts but France could draw encouragement from a performance which grew in confidence as the match wore on.

Zinedine Zidane, the man France hope will emulate the great Michel Platini in the number 10 shirt, was at the heart of much that was good in the waves of attacks which beat on the South Africa defence on an evening when a chill mistral wind swirled around the sta-

South Africa's French coach Philippe Troussier said France were a very good team. "The French team was very organised. It was the difference between a young team like ours and them," he said.

"France deserved the victory but maybe not 3-0. But the World Cup hasn't finished for

"This game was always going to be a bonus and now we are in the position we always thought we'd be in - having to beat Saudi Arabia and Denmark. "Denmark beat Saudi Arabia 1-0 in Lens earlier in the day.

Dugarry proved the catalyst for France, coming on for Stephane Guivarc'h who had taken a knock on the knee. He forced an awkward save from goalkeeper Hans Vonk with a hard shot three minutes after his arrival, then unceremoniously blotted out danger at the other end with a foul on South Africa playmaker John Moshoeu before returning up-

field to score. Zidane, increasingly imposing his authority on the game, swept through the South African half to win a corner on the left, took it himself with a beautiful inswinging effort and Dugarry rose above his markers to head home.

Dugarry, playing on his home pitch, was mobbed by ecstatic teammates as he gleefully celebrated only his third goal in 25 international appearances.

He had the ball in the net again eight minutes after the interval but the effort was disallowed for offside, French captain Didier Deschamps receiv-ing a yellow card for dissent at the decision. Emmanuel Petit, for a foul, and Zidane, for dissent, were also booked during

the match. South African defender Issa, like Dugarry a player with local side Olympique Marseille, unhappily helped seal his side's fate with his own goal 12 min-

utes from time. Dugarry laid the ball off for Youri Djorkaeff in the box, Djorkaeff shot and Issa deflected the ball into the far cor-

ner of the net with his left foot. Issa might almost have been landed with a second own goal when he got a foot to the ball struck by Henry two minutes in to injury time after the Monaco striker had squeezed between two defenders and beaten diving goalkeeper Vonk with his shot.

Former African Nations Cup champions South Africa. with Moshoeu, Benedict Mc-Carthy and Phil Masinga having some lively moments early in the game, could not in the end pose sufficient threat



AIR HENRY: Thierry Henry (top) of France places the ball beyond reach of South Africa's custodian Hans Vonk during -AFP photo their Group C clash at Marseille on June 12.

