



# The Daily Star

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WORLD CUP '98 SPECIAL



CARING HUSBAND: Bebeto the Brazilian star, wipes something off wife Denise's face during a visit to the Eurodisney in Paris on June 11. —AFP photo

## Silver screen lures 'lady' Ronaldo

ROME, June 13: Susana Werner, the fashion model fiancée 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 AFP.

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 Bouchardreau to award the kick to Italy.

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

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.

## 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 career.

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 Monday, was presented with a bouquet of roses before the kick-off for winning his 100th cap.

"That first game is always important and to win like this has made me very happy," he said. "It was a very special moment 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 Intercontinental 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 match.

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 it he is to reach the second round. In their previous match in January 1995 in Riyadh, Denmark won 2-0.

## Eagles soar on Oliseh's wings



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

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 box.

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 half.

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

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 ball.

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

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 Adepouju 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 Ferdinand 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 the tribute.

## Sastre passes away

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

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 1984.

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 1955.

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.

After France was selected to host the event, he became co-

## Argentina to go on a goal spree

TOULOUSE, June 13: Argentina, brimming with talent and top European club experience can expect to brush debuts Japan aside on Sunday as they launch their campaign for a third world cup trophy in 20 years, reports Reuters.

Coach Daniel Passarella, who captained Argentina to their first title on home soil in 1978, has built a side that finished top in the tough South American qualifiers and have lost just once in their last 14 matches.

Their attack is led by Gabriel 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 hatrick, and aims to be the tournament's top marksman.

Batistuta has notched up a remarkable Argentine record of 43 goals in 61 internationals including six in his last five matches, led by a midfield that includes Ariel Ortega, heir to Diego Maradona's number 10

shirt. The Fiorentina striker has already scored three goals against Japan in two meetings since 1992, both Argentine victories.

Against this backdrop, Japan should find themselves defending for most of the 90 minutes and looking to break away at speed and surprise an Argentine defence expected to start with only three men at the back.

Argentina, who also won the cup in 1986, say they are not taking anything for granted.

"Today, you can't underestimate anyone," Napoli defender Roberto Ayala said. "You've got the example of what happened to us in Israel."

A 2-1 defeat to Israel in Tel Aviv and an angry outburst from Passarella jolted Argentina and they went on to win their next five warm-up with an 11-0 goal-count.

Passarella said: "We'll go out to attack and put pressure on

them .... but our tactics will depend on how they play."

Okada is at the other end of the scale from Passarella, going into only his seventh competitive match in charge after taking over from his former boss Shu Kamoi in October.

But despite his lack of experience Okada has surprised everyone on the international stage with his results.

His team was described by Brazilian former Iran coach Valdir Vieira as the fastest in the world and Okada will use gifted playmaker Hidetoshi Nakata to catch Argentina on the hop.

"We'll have mostly to defend," Okada said, "we just hope that while we're defending we'll get the chance to counter-attack."

"Even if Argentina score a goal in the early stages of the match they will not play defensively so we have to think about how to score," he said.

Japan expect to have experienced captain Masami Ihara to



president of the organising committee alongside Platini in November 1992.

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 curtain-raiser between Brazil and Scotland on Wednesday.

## Frenchmen bulldoze Bafana boys

MARSEILLE, June 13: France made a highly encouraging 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 volodrome.

"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-

dium. 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 us."

"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 Guivarch 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 upfield 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 receiving 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 minutes from time.

Dugarry laid the ball off for Youri Djorkaeff in the box, Djorkaeff shot and Issa deflected the ball into the far corner 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 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 McCarthy 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 their Group C clash at Marseille on June 12. —AFP photo

The Reggae Boyz will sing tonight! JOHN PLAYER GOLD LEAF LIGHTS