



TRINTA'S CREATIONS: Designer Joasinho Trinta (C) shows the victory sign while being flanked by two samba dancers who are sporting his creations at Brazil's training base in Ozoir la Ferriere on June 21. - AFP photo

# A clash of contrast

MARSEILLE, Jun 22 (AP): For Norway, the choice is simple: beat Brazil or risk elimination from the World Cup. The defending champions are out for some fun, practice — and maybe a little revenge.

Although first and second in Group A, the two teams seem headed in opposite directions as the prepare to meet Tuesday night in the group's final qualifying game.

The Brazilians are on an ascendant curve. After a shaky 2-I victory over Scotland, they steamrolled Morocco 3-0 to clinch first place with an in-

surmountable six points. The mood at training camp is contagiously upbeat. Players talk about "building momentum" and being "on a roll" as they look ahead to Italy of Chile as a possible adversary in the

next round. For the Norwegians, nothing is going right. Although unbeaten in their last 16 matches, they managed only a disap-

and a 1-1 draw with Scotland. That means they probably have to defeat Brazil to reach the second round for the first

pointing 2-2 tie with Morocco

they could squeak by with a tie if Scotland and Morocco also

Not that a victory is unthinkable. The Norwegians beat Brazil 4-2 in a friendly match last year, and before the Cup they trounced Denmark, Mexico and Saudi Arabia by a combined 13-2. FIFA ranks them No. 4 in the world.

But first they have to find the cause of their mysterious slump. And no one seems to have a clue.

"It's not easy to explain," said Chelsea striker Andre Tore Flo, dubbed "Flonaldo" after scoring two goals in the victory over Brazil. "We're not satisfied so far either."

"I can't really find any reason," shrugged defender Dan Eggen. "There's always a danger you become bigger than you actually are because of training game results."

Norway will likely keep doing what it does best - play long balls and an aerial game keyed to the 1.93 metre (6-foot-4) Flo. It may be predictable and boring, but it works - or has worked so far.

ing some surprises.

With the suspension of midfielder Cesar Sampaio, who picked up his second yellow card against Morocco, coach Mario Zagallo got a rare opportunity to experiment during the

"It's an atypical game," he admitted. "I can take any risk without a risk, understand?" The formation he came up

with last week was the answer to fans' prayers. Leonardo moved back to cover Sampaio's slot and Denilson, the 20-yearold dribbling dervish who is headed for Spain's Betis, moved in as a virtual third striker alongside Ronaldo and Bebeto.

Zagallo refused to confirm the change, saying he might simply use Emerson, Sampaio's immediate backup. "I won't give weapons to the adversary," he

But Zagallo makes no secret that Denilson will get playing time, even if it's coming off the bench. And Denilson promises he's up to the task.

"I want to make those dribbles that drive the 'gringos' crazy," he said. "Violence doesn't intimidate me. The big-

Vante hones US pushed everyone forward.
The technically superior Iranians, who lost their reopen-LYON, France, June 22 (Reuters/AP): Iran and the

United States have barely spoke to each other politically 19 years, so how about this for a message loud and clear:

Iran 2, United States 1. Using a pair of goals against the run of play, Iran vanquished their 19-year adversary in the most politically charged match of the World Cup Sunday night to keep their slim hopes alive while ending the Americans' changes.

With both teams having lost their opening matches, the US-Iran game was almost exclusively for pride.

Iran took the lead after 40 minutes through midfielder Hamid Estili and doubled their tally six minutes from time when Mehdi Mahdavikia sent a stinging right-foot shot past startled goalkeeper Kasey Keller.

A fumbled goal by Brian McBridge just before the whistle allowed the US to claw one back but came too late to salvage a draw for the Americans who had earlier been unlucky when they hit the woodwork three

"I thank God for having helped US," said Iranian coach Jalal Talebi.

Technically they were over us and dominated most of the game. They deserved to win too. but at the end of the game only one team can win and it was our chance to be the winning team," Talebi added.

It was the Iranian's first ever win in a World Cup finals. For the United States, who also lost their opener against Germany, it meant an early exit

from the tournament. The Iranians' first strike came when the unmarked Estili sent in a looping header off a perfect Javad Zarrinchen cross.

The second came after Mahdavikia picked up the ball just inside the American half and ran it unchallenged to the edge of the box before crashing it home. Keller just got his fingers to the ball but could not keep it

The final goal was scored in a tumble of bodies with second half substitute Naim Saadavi unable keep the ball out as the

ing game against Yugoslavia 1-0, are now ranked one point behind joint group leaders Germany and Yugoslavia. Iran had failed to win any of

their three games in 1978, their only other appearance in the On Sunday they were lucky

to escape an early US strike when McBridge rose above the defence after just three minutes to send a powerful header off a Claudio Reyna free kick against the crossbar.

Reyna again hit the woodwork with a ferocious 25-metre drive against the near post in the 34th as goalkeeper Ahmad Abedzadeh dived at full stretch. The US were unlucky again

when Martinique-born David Regis side-footed against the near post in the 74th. But Iran could have justified a penalty in the 21st minute when Khodadad Azizi outpaced

US captain Tom Dooley to a long ball but fell under the challenge of goalkeeper Kasey Keller as he burst into the area. Swiss referee Urs Meier. however, ignored Iranian penalty claims and waved play

"It was a big victory for the Iranian nation," said Talebi. who lives in the United States. "Not because it was the Untied States, but because it was the first in the World Cup."

Iran can still reach the second round, but will need a victory over three-time champions Germany to achieve it.

The US who had been hoping to emulate their 1994 World Cup performance when they reached the second round struggled to regain their composure after the break.

"We said from the start we would attack and we did attack," US coach Steve Sampson

"We created chances but it just did not work out," adding he was proud of the way the team had-played but felt sorry for the fans who had supported

"I must give Iran complete credit for the victory and I congratulate them," he added.

I enran over the moon

celebrate their glorious win over USA at Lyon.

THEIR GREATEST MOMENT : Ecstatic Iranian players

TEHRAN, June 22 (AP): Iran's spiritual leader gloated about defeating an "arrogant opponent" and millions of Iranians kicked off a night long party Monday after their World Cup soccer victory over the

United States. Across the country, men women and children yelling "Iran," rushed into the streets after the final whistle sealed Iran's 2-1 victory before midnight Sunday in Lyon, France. It was 1.30 am Monday in Iran.

For 90 minutes, fans had watched on live television Iran's fortunes dip and rise during the tournament's most politicized match, which pitted the Persian country against its most bitter diplomatic enemy. The result kept Iran's World Cup hopes alive.

"Nobody is sitting at home. It is impossible for anybody to be inside their home" Human Razavi, a teen-ager, shouted above the din of honking cars and dancing fans draped in the national green-red-and-white

Others shouted "We love you Ali Daie," referring to Iran's star player. Others sang: "Estili we love you." Hamidi Estili had scored Iran's first goal in the

40th minute of the game. Sweet shops reopened in the middle of the night and distributed ice cream and candy free to revelers who packed Tehran's streets and created unprecedented traffic jams.

In a message to the Iranian team, Iran's hard-line spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said: "Tonight again, the strong and arrogant opponent felt the bitter taste of defeat at your hands.

Be happy that you have made the Iranian nation happy." The message was read on state television.

The moderate President Mohammad Khatami, however, simply congratulated the Iranian players, saying the victory is a "symbol of national unity."

Khatami's recent overtures of friendship have softened Iran's enmity with the United States. But awareness that Washington has done its best to isolate Iran internationally ensured that many Iranians saw the game as the ultimate grudge

Still, there were no "Death to America" slogans, once so common after the 1979 Islamie revolution that overthrew the pro-US Shah and installed a clerical regime that has presided over a 19-year-long hostility between the two coun-

Instead, people greeted each other with "mubarak, mubarak," the Farsi word for congratulations.

Thousands of police deployed across the city did not interfere with the celebrations but accepted flowers from fans with smiles. Celebrations also erupted in

Lebanon where Iran enjoys a large following among its Shiite Muslims, Many people there fired guns in the air. The skyline of Ramallah, West Bank, lit up with fire-

works. Palestinians came out to cheer and honk horns. Israelis,

who are technically at a state of war with Iran, rooted for the United States. Honking cars also ruled the

roads in Cairo, Egypt. A caller to late night radio

show said Iran was backed by all Muslim nations in the Middle East. "As far as I am concerned, it was my national team playing," said the Egyptian caller who gave his name only as Tarek. Unexpected support for the

Iranian team came from onetime war enemy and neighbouring Iraq, where the match was broadcast live. Dozens of Iragis interviewed

said they support Iran, not surprising since Iraqis accuse the United States of working to prolong UN economic sanctions on their country.

#### Two SA players suspended

VICHY, France, June 22: South African players Brendan Augustine and Naughty Mokoena were suspended for the rest of the World Cup after staying out until dawn Sunday, South African soccer officials said, reports AP.

"They've been suspended, South African Football Association president Molefi Oliphant told a news confer-

### Meanwhile, Brazil is prepartime in their history, although ger the back, the harder he Italy: Beat Austria or face Brazil

PARIS, June 22: Italy need to show their killer instinct here tomorrow, when they take on Autria in a crucial match for their World Cup campaign, reports AFP.

Victory will ensure they finish top of Group B and avoid Brazil in the second round, anything less, and Cesare Maldini's men risk either a tangle with the holders, or even an early flight home on Wednesday morning. The deciding factor will be

whether Italy's all-star attack led by World Cup hit-man Christian Vieri gets the right support from the rest of the Italy have taken early leads

in both their matches so far. But have failed to follow up with the killer blow of a second goal, instead of moving forwards, their much criticised midfield has gone into reverse

As a result, they narrowly avoided defeat in a 2-2 draw with Chile and could easily have finished up drawing with Cameroon before a late double from Vieri finally sank the Africans 3-0.

The father and son team of coach Cesare and skipper Paolo Maldini have spent the past week telling the side that they just need to believe in themselves to go far in this tourna-

"We have to keep getting better. If we don't, we'll then have no goal to achieve. "But to do great things, a team have to feel that they are a

Maldini snr warned them:

great team. If Italy can find that killer instinct at the Stade de France, they clearly have the players up front who can bury the unimpressive Austrians.

Vieri said: "I'm a striker and scoring goals is my job. And one thing is for sure, I'm not stopping at three goals, I've got to make the most of being on

To lend support to Vieri up front, Maldini has the luxury of choosing between Alessandro Del Piero and his 31-year-old understudy Roberto Baggio. Still returning from a thigh injury, and facing a match

which could well be played in sapping afternoon heat, Del Piero is unlikely to last 90 minutes. The choice is therefore between a repeat of the Cameroon plan — an hour for Baggio and

half an hour for Del Piero - or vice versa. Del Piero wants to start tomorrow and the coach, who has long tipped the Juventus striker

as a star of the tournament,

will probably agree.

With AS Roma's Luigi di Biagio having wrested Demetrio Albertini's slot in central midfield Maldini must decide whether to switch the AC Milan lynchpin to an unfamiliar position on the left, or give the role to a natural left midfielder like Chelsea's Roberto di Mat-

Whatever he decides, the 66year-old knows that Austria will not simply roll over and play dead. Having twice earned a 1-1 draw in the closing seconds, Herbert Pohaska's side will not give up without a fight.

Austria haven't beaten Italy since 1960, well before any of the current teams were even born - including veteran ace Toni Polster, who is due to collect a record-breaking 95th cap. "I don't think that counts for

very much," said Prohaska. "But if Austria were to win, it would go down in our history, like the time we beat West Germany in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina. He went on: "We made a lot of

mistakes against Chile and Cameroon. But we worked hard and kept running, and were able to sort things out in the end."

The challenge facing Italy is to make sure Austria don't get a chance to sort things out a third

#### Negative or positive!

Another change is likely in

the back line. Starting full-

backs Aldair and Junior Baiano

have one yellow card, which

will be erased in the next round.

But if either picks up a second

yellow against Norway he will

miss the next game - when the

confirmed, is to sit out one

starter against Norway. In the

team's final scrimmage on

Sunday, Goncalves replaced Al-

against the Norwegian air game

doesn't worry him, Goncalves

vantage, but we have the edge in

ball touch, speed, mobility," he

said. "We have to use our

exist for Brazil, the desire for a

Norwegians' crowing after last

year's win still sticks in Brazil's

us," said Leonardo. "Maybe it's

time to revert that history with

a win."

"They have a history with

little payback does. The

And if the need to win doesn't

weapons and see who's better."

Making his Cup debut

"They have the height ad-

dair alongside Junior Baiano.

Zagallo's solution, also not

loser goes home.

JERUSALEM, Jun 22: Over a quarter of Israelis reckon the World Cup has put clams on their sex lives, reports AFP.

A survey said 26 per cent of Israelis complained that time spent watching up to three matches a day had reduced the number of times they had sex, Israeli military radio reported Sunday.

But nine per cent said all the football was actually making them feel more turned on. Another negative World Cup side effect that emerged was an increased in tension between couples claimed by 16 per cent

of those asked. The poll surveyed the opinions of a representative selection of 500 people from the Israeli Jewish community with a 4.5 per cent margin of error.

#### Blatter's rebuttal

PARIS, June 22 (AFP/ Internet): FIFA president Sepp Blatter dismissed claims on Monday that Germany had offered to withdraw from the World Cup lollowing the brutal attack on a French policeman by German

"There was talk of possible sanctions and I immediately dismissed such an idea. But no one offered to withdraw. It was never even discussed," said Blatter after an emergency FIFA meeting about Sunday's violence.

## Diego going to France

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, June 22 (AP/AFP/Reuters): Diego Maradona said Tuesday he has decided to travel to France to fulfill his commitment as a television commenta-

But the former Argentine national team captain did not, specify when he will arrive in France. -

"At any moment I'll be in France to commentate on the World Cup," Maradona told Cablevision Noticias on Sunday, explaining that if he had not left earlier it was because he wanted to spend fathers day with his family.

"I'm going to be there as the people are, with the people. I don't want them to have a reception for me," Maradona said on a local television programme. Last Wednesday, Maradona

said on Radio Libertad that he would be going to France to Watch a few matches but only in a spectator capacity. He said then that he no longer wanted the job as a commentator.

Meanwhile, the Argentine fans were missing their hero. Maradona, in Paris.

Banners at the Parc des Princes for Argentina's Group H game against Jamaica on Sun-day read.

"Maradona the greatest" Diego, thanks for every-"El Bajo with Maradona -

no problem" "Diego, even if you aren't here, the felling goes on" "A World Cup without Maradona is like a dance without girls". Maradona, who was in every Argentine squad from 1978 to 1994 although he did not play



A VICTORY FOR EVERYONE: An Iranian lady joins in the post-win celebrations at - AFP photo Tehran on June 21.

