

Sport

Acosta attacks Nebiolo

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Aug 7. In an extraordinary public war of words between two international sports leaders...

Acosta and Nebiolo have been political rivals for years within the Olympic movement...

In a press release Monday, Nebiolo condemned volleyball, cycling and tennis for allegedly refusing to sign an agreement on doping rules...

Acosta fired back at Nebiolo in own press release Wednesday. "Primo Nebiolo should spend his time wiping out the systematic doping in track and field..."

"The world meeting called by Nebiolo would lead to an impasse specially if he intends to manipulate it to his advantage..."

As president of ASOIF (Association of Summer Olympic International Federations), Nebiolo should follow certain ethical rules...

IAAF spokesman Giorgio Reineri said there was no immediate comment from Nebiolo.

STAR PLUS PRESENTS SHEIKH HASINA. A Program based on Life Sketch & Interview of Honourable PRIME MINISTER.

Ek Din Ek Jibon. ON AUGUST 8 1998 AT 8 P.M. RENOWNED JOURNALIST & POLITICAL ANALYST TARLEEN SINGH.

Zaccheroni's search for the old Milan

MILAN, Aug 7 (AFP): Coach Alberto Zaccheroni wants AC Milan to have the same never-say-die spirit showed by rivals Inter Milan at Anfield when they start the new Serie A season.

Milan have just been through two of the worst years in the club's history, twice finishing mid-table and missing out on a place in Europe.

But now Zaccheroni wants to get back the fighting spirit of the old AC Milan the same spirit which Derby rivals Inter Milan showed in Tuesday night's 2-1 friendly defeat to the 'reds'.

"I admired the way Inter played against Liverpool," Zaccheroni said. "They showed that they were already an aggressive, dynamic team and that they have the right spirit."

"They reminded me of the AC Milan teams of a few years ago: They would never accept defeat, they never gave up, and my

number one objective now is get that attitude here, because that's been the real problem.

The aim is to never let things slip, and for players to deliver the same level of performance over the course of the whole season.

Aside from their flawed psychology, Milan's other major problem in recent years has been a basic lack of goals.

That was no problem last season for Zaccheroni's Udinese, whose attacking 3-4-3

formation finished third in the Serie A with Oliver Bierhoff, now at AC Milan, as Italy's top scorer with 27 goals.

But the club's impatient fans want to know how Bierhoff will get on with Liberian George Weah and Patrick Kluivert, now that the Dutch centre-forward has snubbed Manchester United.

"I think it's clear to me that Bierhoff and Weah can play together, given that Weah has already said that he is willing to play on the flank," Zaccheroni said.

"But I don't know if Kluivert will be happy to do the same." Zaccheroni, who is nevertheless glad to have the Dutch striker, was preparing for Thursday night's friendly against nearby Monza, a feeder club for AC Milan, with many of their big names missing.

Weah needs a few days' rest after returning from international duty with a knee injury. Demetrio Albertini is not fit and four new World Cup signings - Bierhoff, his compatriot Jens Lehmann, Danish midfielder Thomas Helveg and Argentinian defender Roberto Fabian Ayala - have only just arrived.

Coventry races against the clock

LONDON, Aug 7: Coventry chairman Bryan Richardson said the Sky Blues may be unable to clinch a deal with Real Betis in time to sign 29-year-old Croatian World Cup star Robert Jarni for next week's Premiership kick-off, reports AFP.

If not, we and Robert can wait until the new year when he could sign for us for nothing under the Bosman ruling," he added.

Milan spokesman said, adding that Milan were not represented at the recent London talks.

No one was available to comment at Lazio, one of the other big-spending ambitious clubs likely to feature in any future elite European competition.

Tuttosport said the Super League would be accompanied by two cup competitions, the Procup and another competition which had not yet been named.

All European matches would be played between Tuesday and Thursday as at present, leaving national championship, albeit short of their best teams, to play at weekends.

"We have nothing to say about it. No comment," an AC

Super League, any moment now

ROME, Aug 7 (Reuters): A much-touted European soccer Super League is to kick-off in 2001 with 32 clubs and a jackpot prize of 100 billion lire (\$7.3 billion dollars) for the winner, Italian newspaper, Tuttosport reported on Thursday.

It said the teams would play in two groups of 16 with the top four sides from each group qualifying for quarterfinals. The competition would then progress on a knockout basis with home and away matches, like the present European Cup.

Italy's top sides declined to comment on the report. Tuttosport, in an unsecured article, said teams would reap a minimum of 40 billion lire (\$2.7 million dollars) for their participation in the rebel league more than Real Madrid earned for winning the UEFA-organised European Cup last season.

It said half of the 32 teams would be permanent members of the new league while the others would be invited in on a seasonal basis.

It named the 16 permanent clubs as: Inter Milan, Juventus, AC Milan (Italy); Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool, (England); Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund (Germany); Paris St Germain and Olympique Marseille (France); Real Madrid and Barcelona (Spain); Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands); Panathinaikos (Greece); Benfica (Portugal); Anderlecht (Belgium).

The Turin-based paper, owned by the Agnelli family which also controls Juventus,

COC decides to get tougher

HONG KONG, Aug 7: China will impose strict drug tests on athletes ahead of the Asian Games in Bangkok to avoid more doping scandals, a top Chinese Olympic Committee (COC) official said, reports AFP.

COC vice president Wei Jizhon said China did not want more "embarrassing" incidents like the drug failures at the World Swimming Championships in Australia in January, the South China Morning Post reported today.

Four Chinese swimmers were banned for two years for using steroid-masking agent at the World Championships in Perth. A fifth swimmer and her coach were banned after trying to smuggle human growth hormones into Australia.

Baggio's request

ROME, Aug 7 (AFP/Internet): Roberto Baggio sent Italy's new national coach Dino Zoff a message on Friday: "Keep me in the team!"

Baggio scored two goals and made two more as a reserve for Alessandro Del Piero in Italy's ill-fated campaign at France '98.

Now preparing for the new season with Inter Milan, in the wake of Cesare Maldini's dismissal as national coach, Baggio does not want to be left out of Zoff's plans for his debut against Wales on September 5.

"My desire is to be in the national team as strong as it is for all the other players," the 31-year-old insisted.

"And with my experience, I can't see any reason why I shouldn't be aiming for it," he added.

Zoff has so far kept silent over the team he will pick to face the Welsh in their qualifier at Anfield for the European Championships in 2000.

The only comment made in public is that the possibility of Baggio and Del Piero playing together would depend on the players' physical condition.

The one certainty is that Italy's first home game under Zoff, another qualifier for Euro 2000 against Switzerland, will be in the new coach's 'home town' of Udine.

The Group 1 tie on October 10 was originally pencilled in for Milan's San Siro stadium.

Instead, Zoff has persuaded Italian football officials here to honour the northeastern region where he was born and grew up, and where he started his footballing career for Udinese in 1961.

His predecessor Maldini was allowed the same privilege, with his Italy starting against Northern Ireland at Trieste in January 1997, winning 2-0.

S-League austerity

SINGAPORE, Aug 7: Singapore has announced a salary cut of 20 per cent across the board for its professional soccer league players, coaches and administrative staff because of Asia's debilitating financial crisis.

The payout decision was made at a meeting of chairman of the 11 Singapore League or S-League clubs called on Thursday to overcome pressing financial problems bugging the championship, which enjoys a good following here.

Trade-driven Singapore is on the verge of plunging into a recession amid slowing exports and poor business due to a rapid regional economic slowdown.

No one had been excluded from the wage-trimming exercise, including Chan himself. There are 55 foreign players participating in the league.

About 80 per cent of a club's annual budget of about one million Singapore dollars (\$58.20 dollars) goes on salaries.

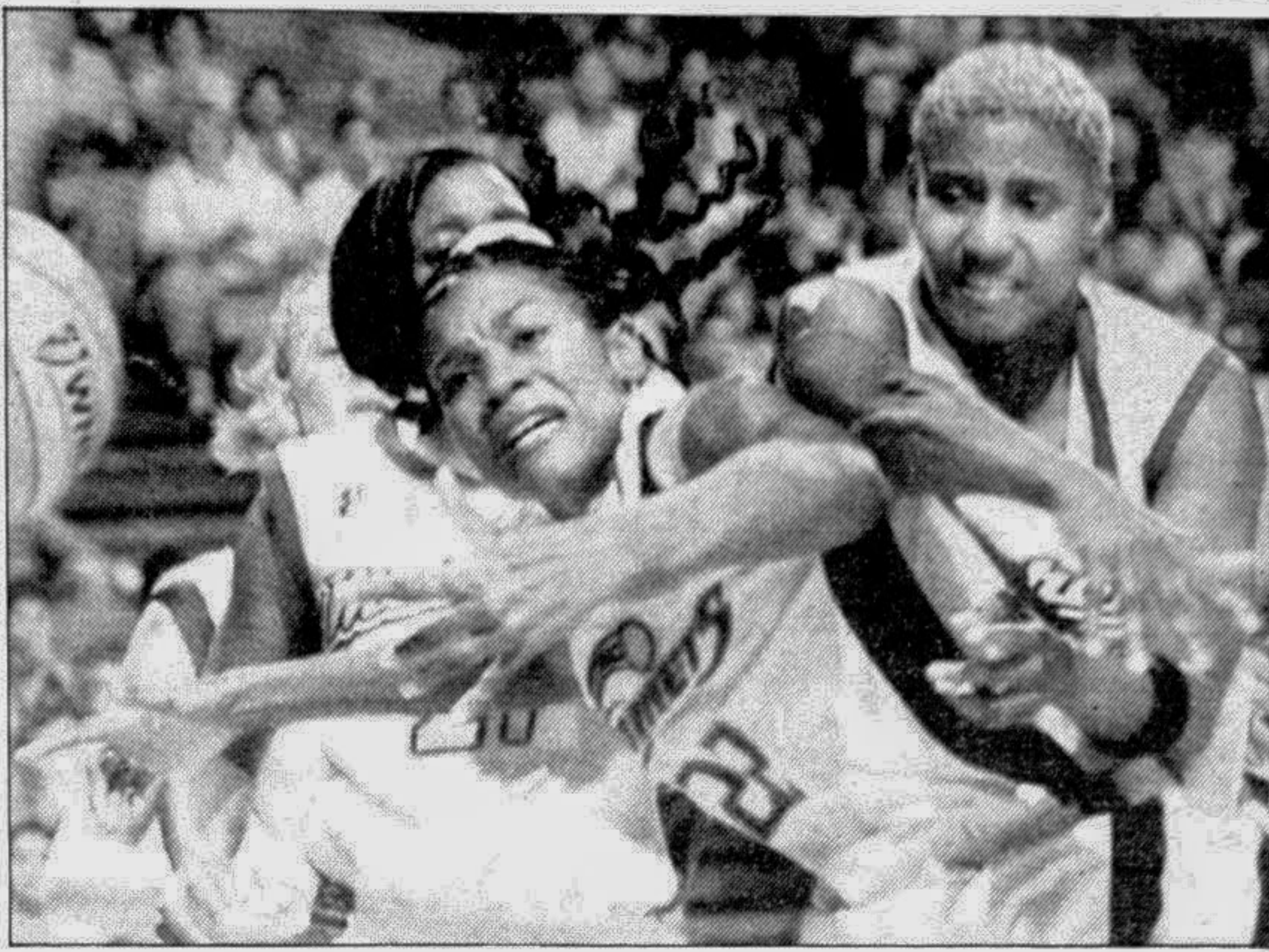
According to the S-League's compulsory guidelines on salary caps, local professionals should not be paid more than 5,000 dollars a month while the limit for foreign professionals is 6,000 dollars.

70 countries to take part in C'wealth Games

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 7: Solomon Islands has decided to take part in the 16th Commonwealth Games here next month, bringing the total number of countries to 70, a news report said Saturday, reports AP.

Solomon Islands, a country consisting of a number of islands in the South Pacific, had earlier said it would not take part in the Games. No reason was given for the change of heart.

The country's decision was conveyed to the Games' organiser Sukom Ninety Eight Bhd on Friday. The country will send six athletes, Sukom executive chairman Gen Hashim Mohamed Ali told reporters.



Houston Comets' Sheryl Swoopes (C) loses the ball after a challenge by Bridget Pettis (R) of Phoenix Mercury in their WNBA clash in Houston on August 6. — AP/UNB photo

Nothing beats the English Premier league

LONDON, Aug 7: The Premier league is the richest soccer league in the world but there is a growing gulf between England's top flight and the lower divisions, according to a financial report released Thursday, reports AP.

The Premier league generated total revenues of 464 million pounds (754 million dollars) in the 1996-97 season, the Deloitte and Touche annual review of soccer finance said.

The 20 clubs generated an average annual income of 23.2 million pounds (\$37.7 million dollars), the report found.

Total revenue of English soccer increased by 31 per cent last season to 675.7 million pounds (1.1 billion dollars), with the Premier league contributing 68 per cent.

By comparison, Italy's Serie A generated income of 377 million pounds (613 million dollars), with the clubs turning over an average 20.9 million pounds (\$34 million dollars).

The Spanish Primera Liga grossed 232 million pounds (\$377 million dollars), with Spanish clubs averaging 11.6 million pounds (\$18.85 million dollars).

The English Premier league is growing further ahead of its international rivals but the Football League clubs (Divisions One, Two and Three) are also starting to lose ground to it.

The five top clubs in the Premier League - Manchester United, Arsenal, Newcastle, Liverpool and Aston Villa - had a combined turnover greater than the combined turnover of all 72 Football League clubs.

The Premier league clubs had an average operating profit of 4.3 million pounds (7 million dollars), while the clubs in all three Football League competitions averaged operational losses.

Gerry Boon, head of the Deloitte and Touche football industry team, said revenue from broadcasting going into the top clubs made England's major domestic competition the richest in the world.

"It's little wonder so many top overseas players want to play in the Premier league," Boon said.

Some top-flight players are earning 30,000 pounds (\$48,750 dollar) a week, while the average wage for Premier league players increased by 35 per cent in 1996-97, compared with a 27 per cent increase for England's

other professional soccer players. Boon said the money going into English soccer was subsidising increased player salaries and transfer deals but was by-passing smaller clubs.

"Except for a handful of well-managed Football League clubs, the day-to-day business of football is profitable only in the Premier league," Boon said.

The review indicated that other English clubs with Premier league ambitions were continuing to spend heavily to buy players to achieve their goal, but the strategy would be impossible to maintain.

Salaries at 12 clubs exceeded their annual turnovers, while a further 35 clubs paid out more than two-thirds of their turnovers in wages.

As the Bosman ruling (free transfers for non-contracted European Union players) has more of an effect, clubs will pay more to lock in their top names and to attract the players free to move - particularly big-name stars from overseas," Boon said.

Canadian Open rained off

TORONTO, Aug 7: Only three games were played at the Canadian Open men's tennis tournament on Thursday and fourth seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov won them all, reports Reuters.

Kafelnikov and Maliva Washington played for all of 12 minutes with the Russian taking a 3-0 lead in their third-round match before rain chased them off Centre Court.

Persistent drizzle that occasionally turned to heavy showers eventually forced postponement of all eight scheduled third-round matches, including top seed Pete Sampras' night match with German Tommy Haas.

Tournament director Jane Wynne said the plan for today was to try to play the third round and quarterfinals.

"Cancelling is very disappointing for us because we had probably the strongest schedule we've ever had for one day," said Wynne. "The forecast for today is for showers ending by about 11 am and the weather is supposed to get better as the weekend goes on."

In addition to the Wimbledon champion's contest with Haas, the programme featured several intriguing matchups, including third seed Patrick Rafter, the reigning US Open champion, against fellow Australian Mark Philippoussis; and red hot eighth seed Andre Agassi against Wimbledon runner-up Goran Ivanisevic.

If not Wenger, then Troussier

TOKYO, Aug 7: French coach Philippe Troussier is favourite to become Japan's national coach since negotiations with Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger have become deadlocked, it was reported here today, says AFP.

The Football Association of Japan has almost reached an agreement with Troussier, 44, and is expected to decide at the next board of directors' meeting on September 10, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported.

Troussier, known as the 'white magician' has worked with national teams and clubs in South Africa, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Nigeria and Burkina Faso after leading a French Third Division Club till 1988.

The Frenchman took no-hoopers Burkina Faso to fourth place in the African Nations' Cup this year and became the coach of South Africa just three months before the finals in France.

South Africa drew with Denmark and Saudi Arabia to

earn two points in the preliminary round, but failed to reach the last 16, forcing Troussier to quit his job.

The Japanese association and originally tried to get Wenger, who led London club Arsenal to the Premier League and FA Cup double last season.

But Wenger, 48, has one more year to go in his contract with Arsenal and has set his sights on winning the European Champions' League. Wenger recommended Troussier to the association as a replacement. Yomiuri said.

The daily added that the term of any contract with Troussier had yet to be decided, and suggested he could be replaced by Wenger before the World Cup which Japan will co-host in 2002 depending on the results he achieves.

Japan, who lost all three of their matches at their first World Cup finals in France, desperately want to avoid being the first host nation to fail to reach the last 16 in 2002.

Their co-hosts South Korea were also beaten in the preliminary round in France.

The Daily Star TV Guide

Saturday 8th August (All programmes are in local time but subject to last minute change.) BBC 8:00am BBC News Followed by Weather 8:30 Asia Today 8:45 World Business Report 9:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 9:30 Hardtalk 10:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 10:30 World Focus: Reporters 11:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 11:30 World Focus: Disaster: October Fire 12:00noon BBC World News Followed by Weather 12:30 World Living: Earth Report - Desertification 1:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 1:30 Hardtalk 2:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 2:30 World Focus: Correspondent 3:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 3:30 Hardtalk 4:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 4:30 Simpsons' World 5:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 5:05 Weekend World: Rough Guide to the World Russia - A Curtain Raiser 6:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 6:30 World Living: How Buildings Learn 5:6 The Romance of Maintenance 7:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 7:30 World Focus: Correspondent 8:00am BBC News Followed by Weather 8:30 Asia Today 8:45 World Business Report 9:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 9:30 Hardtalk 10:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 10:30 World Focus: Reporters 11:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 11:30 World Focus: Disaster: October Fire 12:00noon BBC World News Followed by Weather 12:30 World Living: Earth Report - Desertification 1:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 1:30 Hardtalk 2:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 2:30 World Focus: Correspondent 3:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 3:30 Hardtalk 4:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 4:30 Simpsons' World 5:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 5:05 Weekend World: Rough Guide to the World Russia - A Curtain Raiser 6:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 6:30 World Living: How Buildings Learn 5:6 The Romance of Maintenance 7:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 7:30 World Focus: Correspondent

Buildings Learn - The Romance of Maintenance 8:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 8:05 Weekend World: Legendary Trails - In the Footsteps of Buddha 9:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 9:05 Weekend World: Rough Guide to the World Russia - A Curtain Raiser 10:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 10:30 Style 11:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 11:30 This Week 12:00noon BBC World News Followed by Weather 12:30 World Living: Earth Report - Desertification 1:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 1:30 Hardtalk 2:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 2:30 World Focus: Correspondent 3:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 3:30 Hardtalk 4:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 4:30 Simpsons' World 5:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 5:05 Weekend World: Rough Guide to the World Russia - A Curtain Raiser 6:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 6:30 World Living: How Buildings Learn 5:6 The Romance of Maintenance 7:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 7:30 World Focus: Correspondent

Sport 7:00 Turn On T [V] 7:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:30 Turn On T [V] 10:30 By Demand VJ Terry 11:30 Volume Double Special 12:30 Hot Seat 1:00 Turn On T [V] 1:30 Mainstage 2:30 Turn On T [V] 3:30 Billboard US Countdown 4:30 [V] Hour 5:30 The Drum 6:30 Turn On T [V] 7:00 The Udam Shing 7:30 Turn On T [V] 8:30 Liberty - First Day First Show 9:00 The Ticket 9:15 Turn On T [V] 9:30 Channel [V] Out There 10:00 Close-Up Close Encounters 10:30 Turn On T [V] 2:30 Turn On T [V] Block C 3:00 Turn On T [V] 3:30 Mainstage 4:30 Turn On T [V]

PTV 8:00am Tilawat Aur Tarjuma/Hamd/Naat/ 8:20 Cartoons 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Visitors Book 9:00 Phool Khushbood 9:25 Dastarkhawan 9:40 Mehman 10:05 Aap Ki anwar Maqsood 10:30 English Film: 10:55 MILLI NAGHMA 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Meri pasand 11:35 Janun 12:55 Quran:E: Ha-keen 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 Grind 2:05 Drama Serial: 2:55 Hushoo:E:Insaaf & Sports Coaching 3:20 TV Encyclopedia 3:40 Sports Time 4:05 Serial: 5:05 Medicine 5:25 Computers 6:20 AIOU Courses 7:00 English News 7:20 PTV Music Library 7:30 Virsa Pakistan 7:55 Ghazal Us Naye Saare 8:25 Denonic:World of Sports 8:45 Serial: 9:00 Break for Headlines News 10:00 Khabrain & Commercial News 10:35 TBA 11:55 The Flash Point 1:05 Urdu Feature Film: /Khas Khabrain: CLOSE DOWN.

STAR MOVIES 7:30 Film 98 9:00 Family: My Friend Joe 15 10:45 Comedy: Action Godzilla Vs The Sea Monster 1:30 Comedy: Rock and Roll High School Forever 15 2:45 Thriller: A Question of Guilt 15 4:30 Action: Once Upon a Time in China-2 15 7:00 Film Club: Waiting to Exhale 15 8:15 Action: Braveheart 15 11:00 Movie Television 11:30 Saturday Mega Movie: Air Heads 15 1:15 Fright Night: Ghost in the Machine 15 3:00 Comedy: First and Last 4:45 Action: Once Upon a Time in China-2 15

DD 7 10:30am Movie Club Film (Last Monday's Repeat): 1:30 Movie Club Film (Last Tuesday's Repeat): 4:35 Movie Club Film (Last Wednesday's Repeat): 7:00 Saptakhi 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Bahanna Parba 8:30 Durbin 9:00 Serial: Katha 9:25 Serial: Sukh Dukha/Surjan 10:00 Bibaho Abhijan (Drama) 10:30 News & Bengali Sambad & Closed 11:25 Tba

ZEE TV 6:00am Yeason Ki Pal 6:30 Zee News & Business 7:00 Bhakti Songs 7:30 Jagran 8:00 Jungle Book 8:30 News & Disney Hour (Cartoon) 10:00 Nazim 10:30 Colget Top Ten 11:30 Jhoota Sach #Ep: 45 12:00 Mujhe Chand Chahiye 12:30 Jhatpat Kazana 1:00 Eno

SONY ET 6:30am Perasute: Premier