

Mind your behaviour



British soccer fans travelling to Japan for the World Cup finals have been issued with guidance from the British Foreign Office on how not to offend their hosts.

to behave while in Japan. The Foreign Office said "loud or boisterous behavior in public" was less acceptable in Japan than it is in Britain.

or at unofficial camping sites." The website also told fans "not to smoke in prohibited areas such as public buildings, railway stations, buses and trains".

Ronaldo return delayed



REUTERS, Rome

Inter Milan's Brazilian striker Ronaldo is unlikely to play again until mid-February after straining his thigh during a practice game, according to a report in Gazzetta Dello Sport.

who has spent much of the last two years out injured. "Ronnie is like a Ferrari in Formula One, not a runaway car" said Moratti was quoted as saying in



RONALDO

Gazzetta. "As with all high performance things, to get the best from him he must be in perfect shape. "It's a shame that this happens just when he wants to start playing but it's important not to take unnecessary risks."

Cameroon, Algeria hang on

AFP, Bamako

Patrick Mboma fired Cameroon into the quarterfinals of the African Nations Cup on Friday with a crucial late goal while Algeria snatched a sensational injury-time equaliser to stay in the tournament.

African footballer of the year Mboma capped a happy week which saw him become a father for the fourth time when he leapt to meet a late corner with a firm downward header to give Cameroon a 1-0 win over Ivory Coast in Group C.

Parma star Mboma, who has been compared to the 'Indomitable Lions' legendary Roger Milla, was mobbed by team-mates after rescuing his team with his second goal of the tournament in Sikasso.

"We are getting stronger with every match," Cameroon skipper Rigobert Song warned afterwards. "We want to go through the whole tournament unbeaten," he said.

While Cameroon were planning their second phase campaign, with only Togo to come in their final group match next week, Algeria had been contemplating a plane ride home when they trailed Liberia 2-1 in their Group A tie in Bamako.

Having lost their opening match against Nigeria 1-0, the north Africans needed at least a point against George Weah's Liberia to have any chance of survival.

But they looked to be heading out of the tournament after goals from Prince Daye and Kelvin Sebwe had put Liberia 2-1 up midway through the second half.

Yet a scorching 30-yard injury-time equaliser from Nasreddine

Kraouche saved the day for the 'Desert Warriors', leaving Liberia desolate heading into Monday's final round of matches.

The precious point means Algeria retain a slender hope of advancing if they manage to defeat hosts Mali in their final match on Monday.



Liberia meanwhile face the prospect of needing a win against group leaders Nigeria in Mopti on Monday to be certain of advancing into the last eight. Both Mali and Liberia are on two points with Nigeria on four and Algeria bringing up the rear on one. "It's going to be do or die against Nigeria," said Weah. "We're going to give everything we've got to beat Nigeria."

In Friday's other game, Egypt hauled themselves back into contention for a place in the quarter-finals of with a 1-0 win over Group D rivals Tunisia.

A first-half goal from midfielder Hazem Emam handed the Egyptians a win which saw them

move off the bottom of the 'Group of Death' following their opening defeat to Senegal.

After being outplayed in the opening 45 minutes, World Cup qualifiers Tunisia came back into the game after the break and carved out a string of chances for a possible equaliser.

They had a Jamel Zabi goal disallowed for offside on 50 minutes and Zouber Baya saw a curling freekick punched clear by Egypt keeper Essam El-Hadary shortly afterwards.

But despite their pressure, Tunisia were unable to breach an Egyptian defence regarded as one of the strongest in the tournament, and it was the 'Pharaohs' who came closest to scoring a second when Khaled el-Amin crashed a shot against the woodwork late on.

Egypt will now reach the last eight next week if they defeat Zambia, who face Senegal on Saturday. Tunisia, with only one point from two matches, must beat the Senegalese in their final match to have any chance of going through.

Tunisia coach Henri Michel all but admitted his team's campaign was over, questioning the commitment shown by the 'Carthage Eagles'.

"They didn't look like they wanted to win," said the Frenchman. "The first half was a catastrophe for us, we created so many errors," he added.

Egypt skipper Hany Ramzy was relieved his side had registered their first win. "We knew we had to win today," Ramzy said. "It was vital to take three points," he added.

Ireland's stadium plan



AFP, Porto

Irish football officials will boast a brand new stadium as the centre of their joint bid with Scotland to host the 2008 European Championships, officials said here on Friday.

After failing to convince the country's gaelic football authorities to allow them to use the 80,000-capacity Croke Park for the tournament, the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) will now turn their attentions to the brand new Stadium Ireland, with a maximum 80,000 seats, which will be built on the

outskirts of Dublin. Lansdowne Road, which plays host to the country's football and rugby teams and which has been showing its age in recent years, will also be upgraded.

UEFA, the governing body of European football, has always insisted that the host nation must have eight stadia with a minimum capacity of 30,000.

So far Scotland has four - Murrayfield in Edinburgh and Hampden, Ibrox and Celtic Park in Glasgow - and now they will set

about upgrading two more with the favourites being the home grounds of Aberdeen and Hearts in Edinburgh.

"We have received quite a positive response from UEFA," said David Taylor, the chief executive of the Scottish Football Association who was here on Friday for the draw for the qualifying rounds of the 2004 European championships.

"It was important to come here and show our intentions because there has been a lot of uncertainty over the joint-bid with Ireland."

Zidane, Raul's escape act



REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid players Zinedine Zidane and Raul escaped unhurt when a van taking them to the airport in Bilbao collided with a car in the early hours of Thursday morning, Spanish papers have reported.

The reports said the driver of the car received medical attention but that neither he nor any of the occupants of the hired van were seriously hurt.

Zidane and Raul were able to continue their journey to the airport where they caught a flight to London in order to make an advertisement

for a sportswear firm. Both players are available for Real's league match against Real Betis at the Bernabeu on Sunday.

Raul's agent Gines Carvajal, who was travelling with the players in the hired van, told sports daily Marca that it had only been a minor incident.

"I was travelling with Raul in the back and Zidane was in front of us. We braked suddenly and we felt a slight bump, but it was nothing serious."

Zidane is likely to be the playmaker at the heart of the France side when they defend the World Cup in South Korea and Japan later this year, while forward Raul will be a key player in the Spain squad.



Professor Shamsul Huq (L), former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, receiving a bouquet from two students on the occasion of Mastermind School's annual sports competition which was held on Friday at the Sultana-Kamal Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi.

NATIONS CUP BRIEFS

AFP, Bamako

African Nations Cup briefs on Saturday:

NIGERIA SCOUT RIVALS Nigeria are looking ahead despite their lacklustre performance against Mali Thursday as former 'Super Eagles' coach Festus Onigbinde led officials to watch the Group B showdown between South Africa and Ghana here. Onigbinde was in charge of the team that was beaten in the 1984 final by Cameroon in Abidjan.

Nigeria lead Group A with four points from two matches. If they can hold on to this leadership after Monday's final round of matches,

they will face the second-placed team in Group B in the quarterfinals on February 3.

GHANA UPBEAT Ghana, the first team to arrive here for the Nations Cup, left their adopted home Saturday for Mopti about four hours by road ahead of their decisive Group B match-up against Burkina Faso on Wednesday.

"If we can go past Burkina Faso, it will take a really special team to stop us from getting to the final," team captain Emmanuel Duah told The confidence level of the youthful 'Black Stars' has shot up after their assured performance against World Cup-bound South Africa.

The promising Ghanaians appeared to have got over the dramatic ejection of Bayern Munich star Samuel Osei Kuffour from the squad even though the game ended 0-0.

MOROCCO BORED TO DEATH Morocco are finding life here a little boring as they hardly have anything to do to while away the time besides training and going to bed, officials have complained.

"It has been very boring for the team since they arrived here," said one official. "We have no place to go and hardly anything to do when we are not training or sleeping. It can be stressful."

TV GUIDE

Table with columns for time slots (3:00 p.m., 3:10, 3:15, 3:20, 3:45, 4:00, 4:05, 4:30, 4:45, 5:00, 5:05, 6:00, 6:10, 6:35, 7:00, 7:05, 7:25, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 10:00, 10:25, 11:30, 11:45) and program titles.

Table with columns for time slots (05:30, 07:00, 07:35, 08:00, 08:25, 09:00, 09:35, 10:10, 10:50, 12:00, 03:30, 06:07, 07:00, 07:35, 08:10, 08:45) and program titles.

Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:15, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30) and program titles.

Table with columns for TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS (ATN: 8:10 p.m. Satya Shaha Swaraney, EKUSHEY: 7:00 p.m. Deshjurey, ATN: 8:45 p.m. The World of Jonathan Sing) and PICK OF THE DAY (Carlito's Way).

Table with columns for STAR MOVIES (6:15, 8:00, 10:15, 12:00, 1:45, 3:45, 5:15, 7:00, 9:15, 11:15, 1:30, 3:15, 5:15) and DISCOVERY (6:30 am, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30) programs.

Table with columns for STAR NEWS (8:30, 9:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 3:00, 6:30, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30) and AXN TV (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30) programs.

Table with columns for VIDEOS II (7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 12:30, 2:30, 3:30) and PLANET (7:00, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 11:00, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) programs.

SPORTS

Table with columns for STAR SPORT (6:00, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 3:30, 4:00, 5:00, 5:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00) and ESPN (6:30, 7:30, 8:00, 9:27, 11:30, 1:00, 1:30, 3:00, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00) programs.