

Brazil's new shirt



REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil will wear their new ultra light World Cup shirt for the first time when they meet Saudi Arabia in a warm-up friendly in Riyadh on Wednesday.

The shirt, which comes in Brazil's famous first-choice yellow and also the alternative blue, is 13 grams lighter than the team's current one.

"When Nike decided to create new uniforms for the World Cup, we had to bear in mind three elements: weight, comfort and heat-temperature," said Craig Buglass of sportswear makers Nike's design department at Friday's official presentation.

"Each one of these elements distracts a player during a match and ends up affecting the athlete's performance," he said, adding that the shirt was produced with technology known as "cool motion".

Brazil striker Luizao, defender Juan and midfielder Juninho Paulista and coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, whose side crushed Bolivia 6-0 in a friendly in Goiania on



PHOTO: INTERNET

Brazilian midfielder Juninho Paulista models the new national soccer team jersey in Rio de Janeiro on Friday.

Thursday wore the new kit at the presentation.

Also attending the presentation were representatives of Brazil's four World Cup victories: Mario Zagallo (1958), Nilton Santos (1962), Jairzinho (1970) and Gilmar

Rinaldi (1994).

"I loved the shirt, but it doesn't play on its own. The player is the one who wins the match," said Luizao. "But, if the shirt is comfortable, that helps."

Houllier back in March?

Football

AFP, London

Frenchman Gerard Houllier, who underwent open heart surgery in October, is aiming to return as Liverpool manager next month, the Premiership club confirmed Friday.

Liverpool go to Leeds on Sunday and it was during the earlier meeting between the two sides - on October 13 - that Houllier was taken ill with chest pains.

Although Houllier and the club have always insisted on a return date of the end of January or beginning of February, there has been constant speculation the Frenchman could be out for longer.

He returned to England last weekend from recuperation in Corsica to be reassessed by the specialist at a Liverpool cardiac unit where the original operation was carried out.

Assistant boss Phil Thompson said: "Gerard is fine and he is going to be back in a few weeks time."



GERARD HOULLIER

Scolari to step down after WC finals

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian national coach Luiz Felipe Scolari announced on Friday that he will be quitting his job after this year's World Cup finals.

Scolari, whose side crushed Bolivia 6-0 on Thursday as they began their preparations for the finals, said he would leave the post regardless of the outcome in South Korea and Japan.

"My contract with the Brazilian football federation finishes at the end of the World Cup no matter how the results go," said Scolari at the launch of Brazil's new shirt.

Asked if he was in negotiations to prolong his contract, Scolari said he expected he would go on to work in club football.

"I have no club in mind and I am only thinking about the finals in June," he said. "But any club will surely want the benefit of my work."

Pires staying at Arsenal

Football

REUTERS, London

France midfielder Robert Pires, tipped to make a big impact at the World Cup by Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, is ready to sign a new contract that will keep him at the Premier League club for the rest of his career.

Pires, 28, still has two-and-a-half seasons left on his current contract but, according to a report in Saturday's Mirror newspaper, he is in talks about a two-year extension.

The former Marseille and Metz player believes he will end his career at Arsenal but he told the Mirror: "To be frank, when I first arrived I didn't think so."

"I have to be able to express myself in the league I play in, for me that's the most important thing. What I mean is when I go to training

in the morning, and turn up for the matches, you must get pleasure from it."

Pires added: "I do a very beautiful job and I think if you're a professional footballer, but not happy, you must stop playing. I am very happy to do what I do."

"You get up in the morning, you're happy and in good health, and when you love being out on the pitch, it's great."

"I'm happy at Arsenal. I think I get that pleasure from it," said Pires, who moved to Highbury from Marseille in July 2000.

Wenger, Pires' fellow Frenchman, told reporters on Friday: "I would say he is one of the first choices for France now. I think he will make a big impact at the World Cup".

France will be in Group A at the World Cup finals in South Korea and Japan in May and June, alongside Senegal, Uruguay and Denmark.



ROBERT PIRES

Nigeria v Ghana: Sparks will fly

AFP, Bamako

The latest instalment in one of international football's most bitter rivalries will be played out at the African Nations Cup on Sunday when Nigeria face Ghana in a potentially explosive quarterfinal.

Nigeria, regarded as one of the tournament favourites, face a youthful Ghanaian side who only scraped into the last eight thanks to a miraculous 2-1 win over Burkina Faso last week.

Fixtures between the two teams have a history of producing fireworks, but Nigeria coach Shaibu Amudu is determined not to let the "Ghana factor" distract his team in a match he is confident the Super Eagles will win.

"Ghana v Nigeria is always a rivalry and each time we play it's always like two giants fighting. And you will see that in the game come Sunday," said Amudu.

"But we are looking at a situation where we're trying to reduce the tension in our camp, so we are not

over-emphasising the fact that we are playing Ghana.

"They are just another team that we have to play. I don't want to start talking about jinxes or scores to settle," said Amudu, referring to Nigeria's defeat to Ghana in a

squad to choose from for the game at Bamako's March 26 Stadium.

Nigeria advanced to the last eight after topping Group A with a 1-0 victory over Liberia in Mopti last Monday.

Though the Nigerians have failed to fully hit their stride so far, Amudu believes the knockout phase will bring out the best in his team.

"If we play well like I expect us to do we should have an advantage and we should win," he said. "Ghana being one of the most formidable opponents in this competition is good for us - the bigger the better."

Nigeria are expected to field the same team that started against Liberia with Julius Aghahowa, scorer of both Nigeria's goals so far in the tournament, again beginning at centre-forward instead of right midfield.

"Julius can play anywhere. But we are having a bit of success with him playing as a forward, so I don't see us changing that anytime soon," said Amudu.



semi-finals of the 1992 tournament.

"Ghana are capable of giving us problems but we're equal to the task. We will give them respect but not be afraid," added Amudu, who has a full

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Jewel 4 Home- stead Act 8 Swampy area 12 Gold, in Guadala- jara 13 Steer clear of 14 Pakistani's tongue 15 Half of a wearable pair 22 Half of a wearable pair 26 Tine 29 Crucial 30 Story of a lifetime 31 Felons' flights 32 Frenzied 33 Pop 34 Single (Pref.) 35 Martini

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42 Prizm or Tracker 43 Morning drink 44 Suitable 45 Get all the gravy 46 Washington worker 47 Sub- machine gun 48 Popular card game

49 Popular card game

Solution time: 25 mins.

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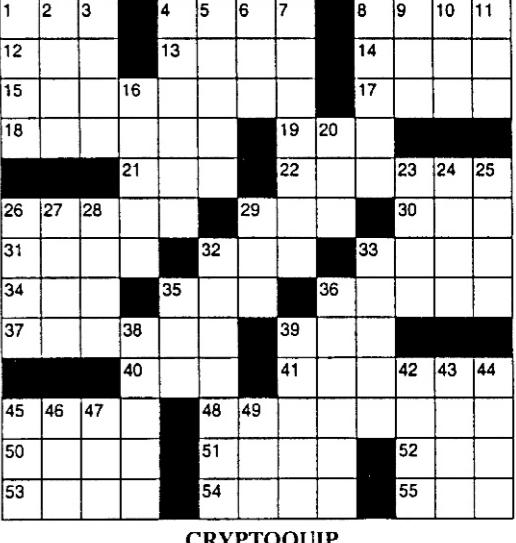
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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I OVERHEARD SOMEONE SAYING THAT GOLFERS NEVER GET MAD, THEY ONLY GET TEED OFF.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals R

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

TV GUIDE

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



EKUSHAY: 8:00p.m. *Bishope*. Nitai is a shoemaker. A son, a daughter and wife is his family. Everyday he sits in a small corner at the village bazaar. But nowadays no one wants to buy his shoes, because machine made good finishing shoes are available in the market. So poverty is his regular partner these days.



STAR MOVIES: 7:00p.m. *Big Momma's House*. There's nothing FBI agent Malcolm Turner (Martin Lawrence) can handle, and a stakeout of Big Momma's house is no exception. Turner is after a ruthless bank robber and prison escapee who will rendezvous with his former flame, Sheri (Nia Long) at generously proportioned homeowner's abode. But when Big Momma unexpectedly leaves town, master of disguise Malcolm must take on his most challenging "role" ever: to impersonate the enormous, cantankerous Southern granny.



STAR WORLD: 7:00 & 10:30p.m. *The X Files*. Hieroglyphics on the pyramids of Egypt refer to what we today call Unidentified Flying Objects. UFO sightings, since then, have been too many to register. Alien abductions and experimentation are reported at the same frequency and The X Files are into finding the truth. In tonight's exciting episode, tobacco beetles apparently kill an employee of Morley Tobacco Co.



6:00 BBC News 6:30 Leprosy 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Dateline London 8:00 BBC News 8:30 The Car's The Star ex



9:00 BBC News 9:30 The Firing Line 10:00 BBC News 10:30 India Business Report 11:00 BBC News 11:30 Hip Hop Hurry (Series II) 12:00pm Zee & You



12:30 Khana Khazana 1:00 Jai Santoshi Ma 1:30 Dollar Bahu 2:00 India's Most Wanted 2:30 Top Gear 3:00 BBC News 3:30 The Car's The Star ex



4:00 Naye Nazrane 4:30 Baazi Kiski 5:30 Top of The Tops 6:00 Gaane Anjane 6:30 Nickelodeon (Real Monsters) 7:00 Nick On Zee (Kenan & Kel) 7:30 Nilaam Ghar - Bid Bid Boom 8:30 Agnisakshi-Saturday Night Special 9:30 Hit Pe Hit 10:30 Shri 420 11:30 Shri 420 23:30 Guldasta



7:00 Sangram (Ashok Kumar, Kumar, Nalini Jaywant) 10:30 Geet Bahar 11:00 Geet Bahar



7:00 Geet Bahar 7:30 Geet Bahar 8:00 Geet Bahar

PICK OF THE DAY



One True Thing
On HBO at 9:30p.m.
Based on Anna Quindlen's 1995 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *One True Thing* chronicles the life of Ellen Gulden (Renee Zellweger, *Me, Myself and Irene*; *Bridget Jones's Diary*), a young investigative journalist who finds herself unwillingly dragged into her parent's private lives after returning home for a family emergency. Starring: Meryl Streep, Renee Zellweger, William Hurt.

7:30 Sunday Blockbuster
Tum Haseen Main
Jawan (Dharmendra, Hema Malini)

7:30 Kuch Yaadein Kuch
Sunday Blockbuster
Tum Haseen Main
Jawan (Dharmendra, Hema Malini)

7:30 Sunday Blockbuster
Tum Haseen Main
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