





other Portuguese national team players in the recording of a song on April 15 at a recording studio in Lisbon. The song is intended to be the Portuguese

BRAZIL v PORTUGAL

One half for Ronaldo



national team theme during World Cup.

REUTERS, Lisbon

Superstar Ronaldo will play one half for Brazil against Portugal in their international friendly on Wednesday, manager Luiz Felipe Scolari

Scolari told a news conference on Tuesday that Ronaldo had not inined the Brazilian squad for training on Monday as he had chosen to exercise in a swimming pool to recover from two recent games for his club Inter Milan

Ronaldo scored both goals for Inter Milan on Sunday when they beat Brescia 2-1 and kept their lead at the top of Serie A in what was the Brazilian's first league start since December 23.

The striker has returned this season after two years out of action due to persistent injury problems.

Saleçao's technical staff has given Ronaldo a well deserved day of rest. The Brazilian relaxed at the

Germany and Argentina limp into a

pre-World Cup friendly here on

Wednesday with both countries

counting the cost of the wear and

Germany have lost nine players

from their original squad to injury,

while many of Argentina's star

names such as Gabriela Batistuta,

Juan Sebastian Veron and Hernan

the weekend of key striker Oliver

Neuville of Bayer Leverkusen,

Werder Bremen forward Marco

Bode and Borussia Dortmund

defender Christian Worns.

Germany coach Rudi Voller was

"At this time of the year, when all

the teams are in the home straight

it's quite common to have so many

After all, Voller saw no fewer

than 15 players pull out before

withdrawals," said Voller.

trying to look on the positive side.

Faced with the withdrawal over

Three-time World Cup winners

AFP, Stuttgart

tear of club football.

Crespo are sidelined.

after the amazing Sunday that saw him protagonist with Inter

"I had cramps already after ten minutes of the second half and my body is still aching; it was all worth it

STARTING LINE-UPS (PROBABLE)

Portugal: Ricardo Pereira, Abel Kavier, Fernando Couto, Jorge Costa, Rui Jorge, Armando Petit, Paulo Sousa, Luis Figo, Sergio Conceicao, Joao Pinto, Pedro Brazil: Marcos, Anderson

Polga, Lucio, Roque Junior, Cafu, Gilberto Silva, Emerson, Roberto Carlos, Ronaldinho, Edilson, Referee: Victor Esquinas Torres

because I have shown to those people that were doubtful about me that I have fully recovered and also proves that I didn't go to Rio to have fun" declared the 'Fenomeno'.

The break won't last long. Tuesday he will practice and tomorrow Scolari counts on him for the

GERMANY v ARGENTINA

over the United States last month.

Voller has called up 33-year-old

Martin Max of Munich 1860 for his

first international inclusion as a

reward for hitting 16 goals this

And the German coach held out

season to make him the top scorer

the promise of a trip to the finals in

South Korea and Japan for any late

call-ups who impress, particularly

players who we weren't counting

on end up making the trip," said

Voller, who won the World Cup as a

He can however count on inspi-

rational midfielder Michael Ballack.

who has spearheaded Bayer

Leverkusen's charge to the

Champions League semi-finals

and to within sight of their first ever

has called up exciting 20-year-old

striker Javier Saviola, who remains

a borderline figure in the national

squad despite excelling for

Barcelona in the Champions

Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa

attack which remains this

"It's possible that one or two

Germany's last match, a 4-2 win League and the Primera Liga this

Injury-pegged giants

in the Bundesliga.

squad's weak point.

player in 1990.

German title.

"We are satisfied with his participation. He is making every effort to get a place in the squad and he will be used in just one half, as planned," said Scolari, known to Portuguese speakers as "Felipao" (Big Phil).

Midfielder Rivaldo also missed Monday's training session to recover from pains in his right knee and left ankle, but Scolari said the Barcelona player should be fit by "I don't have many doubts about

the team. I am not concerned about the defence nor the attack either. I am only a little concerned about the coordination, seeing how they adapt and move around," the Brazilian trainer said. "I have already picked 90 percent of the World Cup squad," he added,

not picked prolific Portuguesebased striker Mario Jardel. Jardel will have to watch Wednesday's game from the stands at Lisbon's Alvalade stadium, where he has scored many of his tally of 37

With a fully fit squad. Argentina

And even in the absence of

are one of the favourites for this

year's World Cup finals in South

Batistuta, who spent a night in

hospital after sustaining a head

injury in AS Roma's league match

on Sunday, Bielsa still has attack-

Kily Gonzalez of Valencia will

probably lead the attack alongside

Lazio's Claudio Lopez and 35-

year-old Claudio Caniggia gets

deserves a World Cup place 12

years after helping Argentina to the

The Argentinians have more

than enough firepower to worry the

Germans and many members of

this South American squad have

gained hard-headed experience at

European clubs, as Bayer

Leverkusen defender Diego

European and we have progres-

sively learned how to get the right

"We are more and more

Placente pointed out.

result." he said.

ing quality in depth to call on.

Korea and Japan.

1990 final.

declining to comment on why he had

Bomb threat at Denmark-Israel tie

REUTERS, Copenhagen

Threats ahead of Wednesday's friendly international between Denmark and Israel were being taken seriously after a bomb scare, Danish police said.

The World Cup warm-up match is taking place against the backdrop of Israel's military campaign in the West Bank and on Monday the Danish Football Association (DBU) received a threatening letter signed "Free

"We are taking the letter seriously and the stadium and the area around will be scrutinised for explosives by special trained dogs," police spokesman Flemming Munch told Reuters.

Danish police also said that three anti-Israel demonstrations would take place on Wednesday, one of which will be held next to

On top of security measures at the Israeli team hotel and training facilities, the police have ordered the DBU to put a fence around the Parken national stadium, where the match is to be played.

The Danish team have made it clear they do not want to get involved in any political issues.

"As players we do not want to take a position towards the prolonged conflict, which nobody in the world has so far been able to solve," they said in a statement, which captain Jan Heintzen read out after training on Monday.

Israel's Danish coach, Richard Moller Nielsen, said his team would be unaffected by the security measures and that his biggest concern was that they had not being playing too well lately.

"I hope we can buck this trend against Denmark," Danish tabloid BT quoted Moller as saying.

Because of the increased security, the DBU has offered to refund the money paid for the 17,300 tickets sold. Around 100 people have made use of the

opposite number Antonio Oliveira Denmark have been drawn in group A at the World Cup finals with world champions France, Senegal and Uruguay.

RUSSIA v FRANCE

Anelka's exam day



AFP, Paris

Youri Djorkaeff has one foot in the door of France's World Cup squad but Nicolas Anelka is still trying to barge his way in as the world champions prepare to face Russia here Wednesday.

Bolton midfielder Djorkaeff and Liverpool striker Anelka both moved to England this season specifically to force their way into French coach Roger Lemerre's plans for Japan and South Korea.

So far everything has gone according to plan, particularly for Djorkaeff, who was contemplating a summer on the beach earlier this season during a miserable spell with Kaiserslautern

Though the 34-year-old veteran's recall to national duty is due in no small part to Robert Pires' knee injury, Djorkaeff's efforts in helping Bolton pull clear of the Premiership relegation trapdoor have also been

"Even when I was really in a hole. I never thought that the door was closed. It was just a little way off," a newly upbeat Djorkaeff said in the French press this week.

"I had to hang in there. What's good is that people in France didn't accept what was being said about me in Germany," added Djorkaeff, who returned for the 5-0 thrashing of Scotland last month. But while Djorkaeff now appears

likely to make Lemerre's final 23 for the World Cup, the jury is still out on Anelka, who has only been given limited opportunities to show alimpses of his old self at Anfield. Out of favour since France's

friendly with Australia in Melbourne last November, the temperamental former Arsenal and Real Madrid forward has however managed to put himself back in contention. A thigh injury to David Trezeguet

could see Anelka given a place in the starting line-up at the Stade de France on Wednesday. Trezeguet was absent from the

training session at Clairefontaine on Tuesday and is highly doubtful after complaining of soreness in his thigh.



Nicolas Anelka, doing some ball juggling during a practice session of the French national team in Clairefontaine southwest of Paris on April 15.

"Nicolas has the qualities of a top-level player, but maybe now he has to show them," said Lemerre.

"I've picked him because I want to see him play. If he comes on the pitch five minutes from the end I won't get much information from that. I hope to give him as much playing time as possible.

"I've seen how he is, and how he fits in with the squad. More than the match, more than the player, it's the squad that I'm most concerned

Lemerre admitted he was an admirer of Anelka but was unhappy with his strike rate. "Anelka gives us something different, but he sometimes hasn't scored when he had the opportunities," he said.

Meanwhile France goalkeeper Fabien Barthez left training early on Monday after suffering knee pain following a fall.

The shaven-headed Manchester United keeper had an ice pack strapped to his right knee as he left the training pitch at the world champions' headquarters 15 minutes before the end of the session.

Barthez had fallen over the ball during a practice match between teams of eight. There was no immediate word about the extent of the

Despite injuries to key players like Robert Pires, Trazeguet and some others, Lemerre has an embarrassment of riches at his disposal. His counterpart Oleg Romantsev on the other hand, has been juggling his resources as World Cup qualifiers Russia seek to pull off a repeat of their 1999 victory at the Stade de France. Russia's 3-2 win in the European

Championship qualifier remains the only defeat France have suffered at the stadium since its opening in January 1998, and has given Romantsev cause for optimism. "That match was a great memory

for me and my country because we beat the world champions on their own ground," said Russia's Francebased midfielder Alexei Smertin. "We showed then how you beat

France: keep the ball, move it around quickly and accelerate in attack," said Bordeaux player Russia are drawn against

Belgium, Tunisia and Japan at this summer's World Cup.

PARAGUAY v ENGLAND

Crippled hosts

On Saturday, the former Ipswich

AFP, London

Sven-Goran Eriksson will dig deep into his reserves for England's World Cup warm-up match against fellow qualifiers Paraguay on

Wednesday after injuries robbed

him of several key players. The England coach watched in horror last week as David Beckham the Swede's talismanic captain. was scythed down by Deportivo hatchet-man Pedro Duscher in a Champions League quarter-final clash at Old Trafford.

Beckham was left writhing in agony after the Spaniard's clumsy tackle and was later told by doctors he had broken a bone in his left foot.

The Manchester United midfielder now faces a race against the clock to be fit in time for England's opening match in Japan against Sweden on June 2.

he's in good spirits," said Eriksson, who will name his replacement captain on Tuesday. "No one knows if he's going to

Sol Campbell, Ashley Cole (both Arsenal) and Ugo Ehiogu (Middlesbrough) on the injured list.

The gap left by Beckham could be filled by versatile midfielder Kieron Dyer who has been in sparkling form for Newcastle since returning from a shin injury.

"I talked to him on Saturday and

make it, not me, not David and not the medical staff at Manchester Beckham is the most notable

absentee from the Anfield friendly and joins Rio Ferdinand (Leeds)

player scored before setting up the winning goal, as the Magpies a come-from-behind 3-2 win at Premiership strugglers Derby. Dyer's long awaited return will be

greatly welcomed by Eriksson who s still coming to terms with the loss of his chosen captain Beckham. But the free-kick specialist's

absence did not lead, as some had expected to a call-up for Real Madrid's Steve McManaman, whose international career may now be coming to a close.

Elsewhere Arsenal veteran Martin Keown, omitted from the original 25-man party named by Eriksson, is likely to partner Middlesbrough's Gareth Southgate at the heart of England's defence.

Keown, 35, was summoned as a late call-up for club colleague Campbell and while he is still an outside candidate for a place in the final 23-man squad, the centreback now has a chance to press his claims in Wednesday's warm-up.

"If the England situation happens, that will be very nice, although getting into the Arsenal team is also my priority," Keown said.

England means a lot to me. I love to play for my country. I am as passionate as anyone else to play for their country.

Keown, who has won 40 international caps, did not feature at the start of Eriksson's reign due to injury but fought his way back into the squad to face Mexico and Greece

last summer. He also played against Holland at White Hart Lane and Greece at Old Trafford in October, when World Cup qualification was secured.

Surprise call-up Matt Jansen is likely to feature at some stage as Eriksson experiments with his attacking options.

The Blackburn Rovers striker has earned a late chance to earn a place in the World Cup squad following a string of impressive performances at club level.

Jansen's inclusion effectively closed the door on Blackburn teammate Andy Cole, who is currently

Eriksson told the Football Association's website: "Matt Jansen is doing very well at the moment and deserves his chance at international level.

"His form last season was good and this season he is playing better than ever." Paraguay's veteran goalkeeper

Jose Luis Chilavert, who is a doubtful starter for the visitors because of a shoulder injury, is confident his team can give a good account of themselves in Liverpool.

"We're a small country, but we've got a good squad who are like brothers," he said last week.

"The youngsters have a positive mentality and for the older players it will be our last World Cup, so we're giving it everything."

Paraguay's new coach Cesare Maldini has his work cut out to satisfy the domestic media who have been clamouring for the former Italy boss to include midfielders Julio Cesar Enciso and Cesar Ramirez.

"I'm used to it," Maldini said. "In Italy you have to face 40-odd reporters who are all would-be technical

WARM-UPS THIS WEEK

Austria v Cameroon, Belgium v Slovakia, Croatia v Bosnia-Herzegovina Denmark v Israel, England v Paraguay, France v Russia, Germany v Argentina, Ireland v United States, Italy v Uruguay, Japan v Costa Rica, lexico y Bulgaria, Northern Ireland y S Romania, Portugal v Brazil, Scotland v Nigeria, Slovenia v Tunisia, South

URUGUAY v ITALY

Nostalgia in the air



Africa v Ecuador, Turkey v Chile

Many pundits thought Jardel

would get the callup he had longed

for when Scolari took over the

Brazilian team, as "Felipao" helped

launch his career while manager at

guese? I'll only talk about players

their strongest World Cup side since

the 1966 tournament, when they

finished in third place, and had a

chance to reach the final. However,

he said his favourites were France

He added that apart from Brazil

and Portugal, the World Cup finals

this summer could see good perfor-

mances from Germany, Italy and

Both Scolari and his Portuguese

can use every player in their respec-

who are here," Scolari said.

and Argentina.

tive squads.

"Don't you understand Portu-

Scolari said Portugal now had

Football's original superpowers meet at Milan's San Siro Stadium Wednesday in a friendly international as Italy and Uruguay continue their preparations for the World

Italy - drawn with Ecuador, Mexico and Croatia in the World Cup - play their last home friendly before their final warm-up in Prague next month against the Czech Republic while Uruguay - who face Denmark, world champions France and Senegal - have four more friendlies slated.

This is a match-up steeped in football history.

England may consider itself the game's mother country but it was Uruguay and Italy who vied for the the title of world's best for the first 20 years of the World Cup, sharing the first four titles with two apiece.

After Uruguay, already reigning Olympic champions, won the inaugural tournament in 1930 on home soil it was Italy who won the next two editions under legendary coach Vittorio Pozzo. Pozzo's achievements have

been tarnished for some by the

Mussolini-inspired selection policy

that allowed him to pick Latin Americans of Italian descent. In 1950 Uruguay reclaimed the prize in arguably the most memorable climax of any World Cup when they beat Brazil 2-1 in the decider in front of what is still a world record attendance for a stadium-based sports event of 199,584 at Rio de

Janeiro's legendary Maracana

Stadium

In that match - the final round was based on a group system -Brazil only needed a draw to be crowned world champions after trouncing every team they had met but Uruguay came from a goal down to pull off a victory that is still feted in Uruguay and lamented in Brazil.

Since then Uruguay's football fortunes have declined - their semifinal appearance in 1970 is the last time they came close to a final while Italy remain one of the giants of the world game and have since added another World Cup in 1982. But coach Victor Pua, who

steered Uruguay's under-21 side to

runners-up spot in the 1999 World

Cup for that age group, has already

made a name for himself by steering the 'Celeste' (Sky Blues) to the finals for the first time since 1990 via a two-legged play-off win over Pua, who saw Uruguay to the finals after his Argentinian predecessor Daniel Passarella quit midway through the campaign, has added Inter Milan defender Gonzalo

ity of his players based in Europe. His Italian counterpart Giovanni Trapattoni has added Parma striker Marco Di Vaio, midfielders Massimo Ambrosini (AC Milan) and Stefano Fiore (Lazio) and defender Daniele Bonera (Brescia) to the squad following the withdrawal of four

Sorondo to his squad for

Wednesday's match with the major-

Inter Milan pair Christian Vieri and Marco Materazzi and Juventus defender Mark Iuliano are three casualties but are almost certain to feature in Japan but the Achilles tendon injury that accounted for Demetrio Albertini will keep the AC Milan midfielder out of the World

injured players.

Trapattoni, whose only defeat in his two years in charge came at Latin American hands when Italy were beaten 2-1 by Argentina in Rome last year, knows anything other than victory will not go down well in the Italian press. Pua, in contrast, is still in a state

of grace after ending Uruguay's 12 years spell in the wilderness and while the San Siro is not the Maracana Italy would be an impressive scalp as Uruguay prepare to return to the biggest stage of all.

By Eugene Sheffer CROSSWORD ACROSS 38 Drive 57 Becomes 17 Despot away 41 Balloon fill 21 Ostrich's 6 Truckers' some 43 Clinton's instrument DOWN 22 — 9 Take 44 English blades to Tin Tin 24 Linguist blades river 2 Pay with 45 "Or else!" 12 Cognizant statement 3 Spend-13 "What 26 Injurious 47 Hole in Kind of Fool --? the head? 4 Art Deco refusal 30 One of 14 IRS 49 Bend pioneer employee 15 Tivoli's 52 White 5 Considers

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nickname 16 Riviera 53 Euro-7 Eastern wind 18 Disposition money 54 Neighbor 8 "Encore!" 20 Harvard 9 Singe 55 "Waking Carmen 21 Blunder 10 Milky 23 Formal Devine 56 Reggae address

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37 Actress

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24 Fourth like the British 38 Arrested estate music Empire 39 Summon 25 Deport-Solution time: 25 mins. 40 Sat ment 27 Crete's capital 29 Open 45 Clock with a 46 Charisma 31 Made 48 porcine sounds 50 Actor 35 Small

32 Small 33 Historic 34 New 36 Coffee flavored CRYPTOOUIP

EWOL E W M ASLGOGJ JLWT

WGZOGQSLOWAOGJ. Q O A A V Y R Z T R Z ! Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE THINKING OF BUILDING A KITE, IT MIGHT BE A SMART IDEA TO USE FLYPAPER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals G

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.

Juan Pablo Sorin, the Argentina midfielder, controlls the ball on his head during a team training session in Ostfildern-Ruit near Stuttgart on April 16 ahead of Wednesday's friendly international against Germany