

Tunisia midfielder Sellami out



Tunisia midfielder Oussama Sellami is out of the World Cup finals after the 22-year-old was diagnosed with a broken toe, team officials said on Sunday.

Sellami broke the little toe on his right foot during the 2-1 defeat against Japanese Second Division side Oita Trinita on Saturday.

Doctors told the player he will need six weeks to recover from his injury.

Tunisia play co-hosts Japan, Belgium and Russia in group H at the World Cup, which kicks off in Seoul on May 31.

PSV blow for China



China's hopes of success during the country's first ever World Cup appearance received a further dent on Sunday with a 0-1 warm-up loss to Dutch club side PSV Eindhoven.

And the most worrying aspect for China's coach Bora Milutinovic, little more than two weeks before the nation's World Cup debut against Costa Rica, is his team's seeming inability to score goals.

Following a goalless draw against South Korea and Thursday's 0-2 loss to Uruguay, China ran and ran but were unable to convert chances even against PSV players who at times ambled round the Shanghai pitch as if still jet-lagged.

The expectations of the football-mad Chinese fans - formerly sky-high and peppered with talk of certain progress to the second round - look set to be readjusted to a more realistic level.

The game started positively for the home side, as 20-year-old prodigy Qu Bo sped onto a pitch-length pass in the first minute and gently chipped the ball over PSV goalkeeper Patrick Lodewijks but onto the bar.

But China were behind after less than quarter of an hour.

PSV midfielder John De Jong caused havoc in the Chinese penalty area with a mazy dribble, and when his shot was blocked by 'keeper Jiang Jin Moroccan international Adil Ramzi got ahead of a somnambulant defence to prod home.

And with Dutch star Mark Van Bommel - linked with multi-million dollar moves to a series of top clubs including English champions Arsenal - running the midfield, China swiftly lost control of the game.

De Jong almost doubled the lead on the half-hour as he latched onto a weak defensive header and rattled the bar from the edge of the area with a fierce half-volley.

Even the knowledge that two players would be cut from Milutinovic's 25-strong World Cup squad after the game did little to rouse China in the second half.

In little more than five minutes, Zhang Enhua, Zhao Junzhe and Shao Jiayi, the latter two tipped as perhaps facing the chop from the squad, managed to shoot or head clear opportunities wide.

PSV, lacking a number of first-choice players, spent the final 15 minutes knocking the ball around at will as China chased in vain.

Veteran coach Milutinovic has talked long about instilling confidence into his team, but being unable to score against a side that finished second in the Dutch league bodes ill for their fate in a group also comprising Turkey and Brazil.



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Roppongi ready!



REUTERS, Tokyo

What do you get when you mix a thousand bars with several hundred strip clubs and lap-dancing joints, add a smattering of shady drug dealers and then throw in thousands of exuberant football fans?

It's someone's guess. But it's a question that the denizens of Tokyo's wildest nightlife area are having to ask as they prepare for the arrival of the World Cup and its attendant hoards.

The Roppongi area's neon-bathed jungle of hostess clubs, brothels, sports bars and other watering holes is expected to act as a magnet for the hundreds of thousands of fans heading for Japan for the May 31 to June 30 tournament.

Bar managers are frantically making more space in their often poky premises and installing the latest plasma TV screens for what should be a huge boost for business.

Other last-minute preparations reflect their worries about what could go wrong - anything glass being swapped for plastic and a hiring spree on muscle-bound security men.

"It's going to be crazy," said Rob O'Rourke, sipping a pint of lager and drawing on a cigarette outside Paddy Foley's, the Irish bar he manages.

Right next to Paddy Foley's stands an English bar, part of the United Nations of drinking establishments in Roppongi. On match days, both pubs will be brimming over with

fans, many the worse for wear from alcohol.

"It could just start off with some friendly slugging, but then someone throws a glass and all hell breaks loose," said O'Rourke, explaining why he will be hiring bouncers at his bar for the first time.

Paddy Foley's is just one of some 1,150 establishments within a 400-yard (365-metre) radius that caters to every nocturnal desire from rub downs by Korean "masseurs" to high-class striptease acts and after-hours clubbing.

On weekend nights, Roppongi crossing is a teeming mass of pleasure seekers and providers.

Drunken salarimen heading for hostess bars and karaoke joints rub shoulders with the beautiful Western and Japanese women who staff them, while drugs are never further away than a knowing look and a hurried exchange down a side street.

It is a volatile mix that regularly spills over into violence and crime, a rarity in relatively law-abiding Japan.

Roppongi made headlines when young British hostess Lucie Blackman disappeared two years ago and was later found dead, allegedly murdered by a wealthy Japanese businessman.

"It's the only part of Japan where you have to watch your back and be careful what you say," said O'Rourke.

Over the years Roppongi has nearly seen it all, but next month's invasion of soccer fans will be a new experience.

"We'll be taking special measures, but of course we don't know quite what because we've never had anything like this before," said an officer staffing the Roppongi cross-

ing police box last Friday night.

Bar owners in the area say police, clearly worried, have visited them to ask about their precautions, but have offered little advice of their own.

Just next door to Paddy Foley's, bar manager Carl James from London's East End is expecting a 50 percent profit boost from the World Cup, but fully expects that things will "go off" at some point.

"It's a pretty volatile place anyway," he said.

"I think it will be okay if the fans are handled properly on the streets and if the Japanese can get their heads around the idea that the World Cup is just a big party."

James is taking on three or four extra security men and introducing a membership system, and says the bar will emphasise the international flavour of the event rather than attracting just England fans, who have earned a reputation for violence.

Although Tokyo is not hosting any games, accommodation shortages and the lack of a decent nightlife at venues means fans are likely to flood back into the capital, and Roppongi, after matches like England-Sweden on June 2 in nearby Saitama.

Illuminated by the glow of his five newly installed plasma screens, Paul Wagstaff of the cavernous Tokyo Sports Bar said he expected little if any trouble.

"There'll be nobody to fight," he said. "Usually at World Cups you get fighting against the locals, but the Japanese don't want to fight."

"You might get handbags at ten paces but that's about it," he added, using the British slang for a half-hearted punch-up.

US injuries not so severe

AFP, Foxboro, Massachusetts

Injuries to United States goalkeeper Kasey Keller and top forward Clint Mathis suffered in a friendly romp over Jamaica are not serious enough to keep them off the World Cup roster.

The starters and Cup alternate Greg Vanney were injured in a 5-0 victory Thursday in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Mathis lost part of his right big toenail when he was stepped upon while scoring but will be available here Sunday when the US team faces Netherlands in a final pre-Cup tuneup.

Keller suffered a bruise below his left knee when struck by a Jamaican player and will not play Sunday but be healthy for the trip to Asia and the 32-team global football showdown that begins May 31.

Vanney sprained a knee and will not be available against the Dutch.

Friendlies have been unfriendly to US hopes of improving upon a last-place showing at the 1998 World Cup in France. US midfielder Chris Armas suffered a torn right knee ligament in a 2-1 friendly triumph last weekend over Uruguay.

More Russian woes



AFP, Moscow

Russia's build-up to the World Cup suffered another setback on Sunday after defeat at the hands of Yugoslavia here meant that they have failed to win any of their last five friendly matches.

The Yugoslavs won a penalty shoot-out 6-5 after the two sides were locked at 1-1 at the end of normal time.

Russia has now failed to win any of their five friendlies this season as they lost 2-0 to Ireland and 2-1 to minnows Estonia before recording a goalless draw against world and European champions France earlier this year.

On Friday, they lost to Belarus in the first game of the friendly tournament here also on penalties after a 1-1 draw in normal time.

Russia, who recorded a win and a draw against Yugoslavia in their World Cup qualifying campaign, went into the match at full strength.

But their early attacks were hampered, first by the loss of playmaker Alexander Mostovoi because of a minor injury, and then by a heavy shower in the opening minutes of the match.

They still managed to dominate

the first half but made too many mistakes at the rain-soaked pitch of Moscow's Dynamo stadium, missing several clear scoring chances, while Yugoslavia relied on counter-attacks.

However, it was Yugoslavia who took the lead after 55 minutes when Darko Kovacevic slotted the ball home past 'keeper Ruslan Nigmatullin after fellow midfielder Predrag Mijatovic fed him at the edge of the box.

Russia had already put in two fresh forwards - Dmitry Sychov and Alexander Kerzhakov in attack - to search for a goal before coach Oleg Romantsev made more changes.

However, Yugoslavia defended stoutly, with goalkeeper Dragoslav Jevric was in complete command.

Russia grabbed an equaliser when Moscow Spartak's 18-year-old striker Sychov scored with just three minutes left converting Dmitry Khohlov's pass.

Yugoslavia held their nerve in the shoot-out while Ukraine and Belarus prepared to meet in the four-nation final later Sunday.

Romantsev will name his final selection on May 21 before the squad flies to their base in Shimizu, Japan on May 25 to prepare for their World Cup opening match against Tunisia on June 5.

Russia's other Group H opponents are Belgium and the co-hosts Japan.

Simeone did it on purpose!



REUTERS, London

Argentina midfielder Diego Simeone has admitted he deliberately tried to get the current England captain David Beckham sent off at the 1998 World Cup.

Beckham was shown a red card in the group game shortly after halftime for kicking Simeone after he had been fouled by the Argentine. Argentina went on to win the game on penalties and Beckham was vilified back in England.

"I had tackled him and we both fell to the ground," Simeone said in an interview with The Observer Sport Monthly.

"As I was trying to stand up that was when he went on to kick me from behind. And I took advantage of that. And I think anyone would have taken advantage of that in just the

same way. "Sometimes you get sent off, sometimes you don't. Unfortunately for the English team that time they lost a player."

Beckham, who has resumed training after breaking a bone in his left foot, told The Observer 1998 had been a hard time for him.

"But I always felt I could get over situations like that," he said. "It was difficult at the time but now it's in the past and this World Cup is a new opportunity. I'm looking forward to putting all those old demons to sleep."

The pair could meet again at this year's World Cup at Japan and South Korea when England play Argentina on June 7 in group F. Sweden and Nigeria are the other two teams in the group.

Simeone said Argentina were always highly motivated when they played England.

"Quite apart from all the political history, the desire of the whole country is to defeat England," he said. "Every time we meet, this desire to win is bigger and more heartfelt."

Blatter defends himself



AFP, Zurich

FIFA President Sepp Blatter hit back at accusations of corruption levelled by the world governing body's secretary-general Michel Zen-Ruffinen with a 21-page report released Saturday.

In the report, which was sent to FIFA's 204 member federations, Blatter refutes all of Zen-Ruffinen's allegations of deception, mismanagement, illegal payments and cronyism with detailed point-by-point answers.

Blatter has claimed the allegations are part of a campaign to prevent his re-election to the FIFA presidency for which he will be challenged by African Football Confederation (CAF) president Issa Hayatou in Seoul on

May 29. In a letter accompanying the report, Blatter wrote: "The extent and unsubstantiated content of these allegations must be set right."



SEPP BLATTER

"Both in my capacity as FIFA President and as a private individual I am compelled to formally reject these attacks."

"The aim of this paper is to present the correct facts and figures to the world of football, the FIFA affiliated members and media so that you may draw your own conclusions."

Blatter also made his own accusations, concluding: "You will come to realise just how baseless the accusations and misrepresentations are."

"At the moment the FIFA house is burning. Once you have read these documents you will see who struck the match."

Meanwhile, Hayatou said he was sure he would beat Blatter in the election.

The Cameroonian said in Dubai that his proposal to award five World Cup finals places to Asia was "more than a piece of electoral propaganda".

"It is based on the right of this continent to have a fifth place at the expense of South America."

Round 3, Draw in Rajshahi

Competition Information, Prizes and Rules

- Information**
- The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2002 is a series of competitions on World Cup Soccer being held in Japan & South Korea from May 31 to June 30.
 - There will be **SIX** rounds of competition.
 - Each round will have a separate draw with attractive prizes from the house of **RANGS TOSHIBA** as per announcement.
 - Participants of all the **SIX** rounds will automatically qualify for the Bumper Draw, which will have even bigger prizes.
 - For each round, a set of questions including a photographic Quiz will be published in The Daily Star.
 - Names and addresses of all prize winners will be published in The Daily Star.
 - Winners will have to collect their prizes from The Daily Star office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.
 - Any taxes or levies, as per law, for all the above prizes will have to be borne by the prize winners.
- Rules**
- Residents of Bangladesh are eligible to participate in The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2002.
 - Employees of The Daily Star and Rangs Toshiba and their immediate family members shall not be eligible to participate.
 - All entries must be submitted in the original form printed in The Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.
 - Forms will have to be cut along the dotted lines.
 - Participants are to put a tick (✓) mark in the box alongside their answer to each question.
 - A person may send numerous entries for each round.
 - Entry forms should be completed with a ballpoint pen.
 - Name, address, father's name and particulars of participants must be clearly written. Each entry form must also bear the signature of the participant and date.
 - Incomplete forms will not be accepted.
 - Entries must reach the office of The Daily Star on or before the closing date marked on the entry form. Late entries will not be accepted.
 - Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 3."
 - Entries may be hand delivered or posted to The Daily Star, 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
 - Entries will be placed in a sealed box for the draw to be held on a notified date in public in presence of invited guests and Quiz participants, if any.
 - Winners will be decided on the basis of correct entries drawn out from the box.
 - Entering this Quiz competition shall be construed as the respective agreement by each participant to abide by all rules, instructions and guidelines as may be issued by The Daily Star.
 - Any decision of The Daily Star in the conduct of the Quiz competition including the answers selected as correct shall be deemed final and binding on all participants and shall not be called in question and/or challenged in any manner whatsoever.
 - The Daily Star management, in their absolute

PRIZES UP FOR GRABS


Prize	Item	Model	Winner
1st	One 21" Toshiba Flat TV	CT 21D3XE	YOU
2nd	One 8.5 CFT Toshiba Refrigerator	GR R18BPT	YOU
3rd	One Toshiba Semi Auto Washing Machine	VH 7000B1	YOU
4th	One Toshiba Rice Cooker 1.8Ltr.	RC 186KE	YOU
5th	One Toshiba Dry Iron	TA-A20C	and YOU
6th	A SPECIAL PRIZE WILL BE UP FOR GRABS FOR THE LOCALS WHO ATTEND A QUIZ DRAW. SPECIAL PRIZE WILL BE GIVEN IN EVERY ROUND. SO, WATCH OUT FOR THE DRAW IN YOUR AREA.		

QUIZ SCHEDULE

Round & Draw	Starts	Answers must reach by noon	Lucky Draw for prizes
1 Barisal	12 April	25 April	26 April
2 Khulna	26 April	9 May	10 May
3 Rajshahi	10 May	23 May	24 May
4 Sylhet	24 May	6 June	7 June
5 Chittagong	7 June	20 June	21 June
6 Dhaka	21 June	28 June	29 June

The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 3 Ends May 23, 2002

Tick (✓) the correct answers

- Last team to qualify for 2002 World Cup finals Brazil Colombia Uruguay
- Who was the top scorer in the 1998 World Cup Owen Suker Zidane
- How many teams participated in the first World Cup 13 16 32
- Germany won their first World Cup in 1954 1960 1970
- Who is this?  Ronaldo Beckham Batistuta

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms).....Age.....

Father's name.....Occupation.....

Address.....

Telephone (if any).....Signature.....Date.....

Write with a ballpoint pen in clear BLOCK letters.

Cut along the dotted lines and mail to OR drop in the Quiz Box at The Daily Star

You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 3."