

Thailand in party mood



AFP, Bangkok

With just over ten days to go until World Cup 2002 kicks off and football fever sweeping the country, Thai authorities and businesses are leaving nothing to chance.

One local pizza company is bringing an extra 200 delivery motorcycles on stream to cope with an anticipated surge in demand from fans too busy watching the action to do any cooking.

And the Electricity Generation Authority of Thailand (EGAT) will boost local power capacity by 12 percent to ensure it can cope with the nation turning on their televisions en masse.

"We may buy power from Malaysia if we have a shortage," an official from EGAT said, adding this had been done during national emergencies in the past.

The agency is expecting an increase of one percent on the national average power used from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. each day, when the first matches will be broadcast, Praphan Faktes, president of EGAT's power generation division, told

Usage is then expected to surge by up to two percent during broadcast of the evening matches, he added.

"Power usage in the afternoon will be less than during the evenings because people will watch matches at their offices, where there are fewer televisions than homes," he said.

Mobile phone operators are also bracing for increased network usage during the tournament.

Total Access Communications

Orwell-inspired security!



AFP, Tokyo

The Japanese city of Sapporo has armed itself with an Orwellian arsenal of 202 surveillance cameras in preparation for a potential encounter with English hooligans during the World Cup finals.

"This kind of plan is unheard of in World Cup history," Yasushi Takase, security information chief at the Sapporo city fire department, said Monday.

"We can grasp the movement of people and vehicles in the city to a great extent."

The northern Japanese city of 1.8 million people will host a group match between bitter rivals England and Argentina on June 7, an expected flash point for trouble.

The cameras, most of them already installed at the match venue, Sapporo Dome, railway and subway stations, underground shopping malls and the roofs of department stores, will be linked up as part of a comprehensive anti-hooligan network on a temporary

Lucio dreams of Barca



INTERNET, Madrid

Bayer 04 Leverkusen Brazilian player Lucio became one of the highly quoted defenders of European football in one and a half season.

Moving to German football in the middle of the last season now he is one of its key players. Many leading clubs, including FC Barcelona that tried to acquire him at the end of 2000, want to see the young defender in their sides. As to the 24-year-old player, he dreams about putting on a Barca jersey. Lucio's contract with Bayer runs out in 2005, and his current club appraises him 30 million euros.

Lucio has shared his thoughts with the Spanish newspaper Diariosport correspondent. Asked what he thinks of the offers of some European clubs, including Barcelona, Real, Bayern and Roma, Lucio said that he doesn't know whether these clubs have had contacts with his club board and that now all his thoughts are concentrated on the forthcoming World Cup. The defender mentioned that only after the end of the World Cup he could think of the offers.

Lucio expressed a desire to move to a leading Spanish club because he wants to improve his performance. He emphasized that moving to Barcelona or Real would

(DTAC) is expecting at least six million calls per day to be made by their 3.5 million clients.

"We expect the same levels of usage as on Valentine's Day for every day of the Cup," said Thana Thienachariya, director of DTAC's product and service group.

While Thais are not legally permitted to gamble on the World Cup, they are allowed to enter competitions based on the tournament -- a fact many newspapers have taken advantage of.

The mass circulation paper Thai Rath is offering a cool 10 million baht (233,000 dollars) top prize to a lucky reader who selects the tournament winner, while other newspapers are giving away luxury cars and trips to the World Cup itself to entice readers.

Many newspapers require entrants to send in a standard postcard available at post offices.

The Communications Authority of Thailand (CAT), the government agency responsible for the printing of the postcards, expects to double its normal annual print run to 60 million cards, mainly due to the massive popularity of the competitions running during the lead up to the Cup.

"It will be at least double the usual 30 million," said a CAT official.

Meanwhile, home-delivery of fast food is likely to surge by up to 40 percent throughout the tournament, the Thai Farmers Research Centre said.

Pizza Hut in Thailand plans to increase staff at its call centre from 150 to 200 during the tournament, while it will boost its delivery fleet from 1,300 to 1,500 motorcycles.

The research centre also predicts overall sales of television sets this year could hit 1.9 million, a 13 percent expansion from last year, mainly due to the World Cup.



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World champs arrive

Lions keep everyone guessing



INTERNET

France's World Cup squad arrived in Japan on Monday for a final 10 days training, before kicking off the defence of their World Cup title in South Korea.

Croatia, Denmark and Nigeria also arrived Monday, while the failure of the Cameroon side to turn up as scheduled was the cause of consternation in their basecamp here.

The French team arrived at Kagoshima airport some 900 kilometers (miles) southwest of Tokyo after changing planes at Kansai airport near Japan's second city, Osaka.

The only face missing from the 23-man line-up was playmaker Zinedine Zidane, whose wife Veronique gave birth to their third son Theo in Marseille on Saturday night.

The Real Madrid star will join his team-mates on Wednesday, according to officials.

At Kansai airport, head coach Roger Lemerre and captain Marcel Desailly were presented with bouquets of blue, red and white flowers by women dressed in traditional red and green silk kimono.

The team, most of them appearing relaxed, boarded a chartered plane for Kagoshima from the transit lobby, where a banner reading "Welcome French Football Representatives," in Japanese

greeted them.

The squad were also welcomed by some 60 local fans at Kagoshima airport before moving to the thermal spa of Ibusuki, where the team's training camp is based, and where they will play a practise match against Urawa Diamond Reds, a Japanese J-League team on May 22.

Following the week-long camp designed to get the squad acclimatized to the heat and seven-hour time difference the team will leave Japan for South Korea.

France will play South Korea in a friendly next Sunday, their final run-out before the tournament's opening match against Senegal on May 31. Their group A also includes Uruguay and Denmark.

The Danish squad later flew into Kansai airport and travelled by coach to Wakayama south of Osaka. About 300 citizens, including prefectural officials and volunteers, greeted the team's arrival at their hotel.

The team, grouped with France, Senegal and Uruguay, include Jon-Dahl Tomasson, who plays alongside Japan's Shinji Ono at Dutch club Feyenoord.

Denmark coach Morten Olsen told a news conference: "France are strong but Denmark may end up doing pretty well if they manage to advance from the first round."

The Danes will have a friendly with Tunisia on Sunday and fly to South Korea next Monday.

Croatia's preliminary 25-man squad arrived in Japan on the eve of the scheduled announcement of the selection of the final 23, officials said.

South Africa blank Scotland



AFP, Hong Kong

South Africa sneaked past Scotland 2-0 in the four-nation Reunification Cup here Monday, providing a timely shot in the arm ahead of the World Cup finals.

But it was a far from convincing display for a side which has had a patchy warmup campaign for Japan and South Korea.

A 31st minute goal from Tobego Makoena and a 92nd-minute strike from substitute George Koumantarakis gave the South Africans the victory they were looking for against a young Scotland side still seeking its first victory under new coach Berti Vogts.

With the World Cup less than two weeks away, South African coach Jomo Sono desperately needed a morale-boosting win after recent losses to Saudi Arabia and Georgia and goalless draws against Botswana and Ecuador.

But the manner in which the Bafana Bafana (The Boys) achieved it will be a concern for Sono with his side squandering too many chances.

"We worked hard and I was happy with our passing and possession and particularly happy with the defence," he said afterwards.

"We needed this win for the morale of the team. It was important to win to get our confidence back.

"We have a few things to work on but there were good signs from this team today."

The sight of Leeds United's Lucas Radebe coming through 90 minutes unscathed and in commanding form after struggling with injuries for the last 15 months warned Sono's heart.

The big defender was given the captain's armband, settling the dispute over whether goalkeeper Hans Vonk would be the World Cup skipper.

Vogts will seek solace from his team creating several chances against World Cup-bound opposition, although the inexperience of his young side shone through. They gave away too much pos-

session and were outplayed in midfield as they were in last week's 4-1 defeat by South Korea.

"I thought South Africa were very lucky," said Vogts. "It was a much better performance from us today but they are still not doing enough."

"We were better organised but the midfield have to come forward more. We still have a lot to learn."

It was the Scots who had the first chance when Robert Stockdale won a free kick on the right deep in the South African half in the 6th minute. But Kevin Kyle could not control his head, skying over the crossbar.

As South Africa settled, Bradley Carnell started pushing forward from left back and the chances began to appear.



An ambitious 30-yard strike from Fibusiso Zuma failed to find the mark in the 14th minute and a shot from a similar distance four minutes later by Aaron Mokoena showed their intent.

South Africa finally made the breakthrough in the 31st minute when Allan Johnston was yellow carded for a reckless tackle from behind on Zumo.

Benni McCarthy hit the wall and Tobego Makoena went down a yard outside the penalty area, giving the South Africans another chance. McCarthy again fired a right-

footed shot. Robert Douglas saved only to see Tobego Makoena pounce on the rebound.

Scotland had a golden chance to level the game two minutes before the break when Kyle outjumped Vonk at the right post but his header hit the back netting.

Five minutes into the second half, Kyle had another chance. He latched on to a through ball from Scott Dobie but crashed his shot against the crossbar.

Scotland nearly sneaked an equaliser three minutes from time when a curling shot from 30 yards by Maurice Ross was tipped over.

But it was South Africa who found the net in the final stages when Koumantarakis sidefooted past Douglas from inside the penalty area after latching on to a through ball.

Mostovoi concern for Russia

AFP, Moscow

Russian playmaker Alexander Mostovoi will sit out the next ten days of his country's World Cup preparations after picking up a hip injury in the friendly game against Yugoslavia, press reports said Monday.

Team doctor Zurab Ordzhonikidze said Mostovoi suffered a minor muscle injury in the opening minute of Sunday's game.

However, the doctor added that Mostovoi would be available for Russia's opening Group H match at the World Cup against Tunisia on June 5.

The 33-year-old midfielder, who plays for Spanish side Celta Vigo, had been hurt originally in the match against world and European champions France on April 17.

"I'm sure I will overcome this injury quickly," Mostovoi told reporters.

"I hope it will not prevent me from playing at the World Cup."

England cool over Simeone



AFP, Seogwipo, South Korea

England players on Monday resisted renewed hostilities with Diego Simeone after the Argentina star admitted he deliberately tried to get England's David Beckham sent off at the last World Cup.

Michael Owen, who scored the goal of the tournament in the heated 1998 clash in St Etienne, insisted Simeone's comments and the looming new match against Argentina were of no concern.

"A lot has been written at this time leading up to the World Cup but we are more focussed on what we are going to do," Owen told a press conference Monday at England's World Cup training camp in South Korea.

"Argentina is going to be a big game but noone in the camp is talking about that. We are just preparing in the camp on all the games ahead starting with the first game

against Sweden."

Simeone gave his confession about his role in the sending off of Beckham four years ago in an interview with the monthly sports magazine of Britain's Observer newspaper.

Beckham was red-carded when he petulantly kicked out at Simeone following a foul by the Argentine midfielder during their second round World Cup clash.

"I had tackled him, and we both fell to the ground," Simeone was quoted as saying.

"As I was trying to stand up that was when he kicked me from behind. And I took advantage of that. And I think any person would have taken advantage of that in just the same way," the Argentine said.

Simeone will face England skipper Beckham again when the two nations clash in Sapporo in Japan on June 7 in their Group F clash.

"Sometimes you get sent off, sometimes you don't," he said. "Unfortunately for the English team they lost a player. Anyway, you take advantage of all the opportunities you find in your life," he told the magazine.

Other Argentine players have also previously admitted using every possible way to win the game, especially against England.

"Simeone did an act and got Beckham sent off," Roberto Perfumo, the former Argentine captain, was reported as saying.

"This is not the kind of thing that could have been done by one of your naive, honest English players."

Argentina are one of the favourites to win the World Cup this year and are confident of topping their group, which also includes England, Nigeria and Sweden.

But Simeone emphasised how important it is for his country to put on an impressive display against England. "Quite apart from all the political history, the desire of the whole country is to defeat England," he said.

"So we knew that in 1998, and we knew that the hearts of the Argentine people were with us. And every time we meet this desire to win is bigger and more heartfelt. This is a classic. And we play it as a classic because we are all conscious of how happy we can make our country by winning."

Round 3, Draw in Rajshahi

Competition Information, Prizes and Rules

Information

- A. 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.
- B. There will be SIX rounds of competition.
- C. Each round will have a separate draw with attractive prizes from the house of RANGS TOSHIBA as per announcement.
- D. Participants of all the SIX rounds will automatically qualify for the Bumper Draw, which will have even bigger prizes.
- E. For each round, a set of questions including a photographic Quiz will be published in The Daily Star.
- F. Names and addresses of all prize winners will be published in The Daily Star.
- G. Winners will have to collect their prizes from The Daily Star office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.
- H. Any taxes or levies, as per law, for all the above prizes will have to be borne by the prize winners

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 (Ö) the correct answers

- 1. Last team to qualify for 2002 World Cup finals Brazil ☐ Colombia ☐ Uruguay ☐
- 2. Who was the top scorer in the 1998 World Cup Owen ☐ Suker ☐ Zidane ☐
- 3. How many teams participated in the first World Cup 13 ☐ 16 ☐ 32 ☐
- 4. Germany won their first World Cup in 1954 ☐ 1960 ☐ 1970 ☐

- 5. Who is this?  Ronaldo ☐ Beckham ☐ Batistuta ☐

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

Father's nameOccupation

Address

Telephone (if any)SignatureDate.....

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."

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