



PHOTO: INTERNET
SECURITY EXTRA TIGHT: A South Korean soldier stands watch as the bus carrying the USA squad heads for the team hotel outside the Incheon Airport near Seoul yesterday.

USA arrive under security blanket

REUTERS, Incheon

The U.S. team has arrived for the World Cup finals in South Korea amid tight security and hopes of improving on their showing in France in 1998 where they failed to win a match.

Coach Bruce Arena's squad pose a key hurdle for South Korea in group D as the co-hosts aim to beat Poland and the United States for a place in the final round of 16. Portugal are clear group favourites.

Some 500 riot police escorted the team through Incheon International Airport in a show of security that Arena said was a little surprising.

"We've been here and we anticipated great security but perhaps not to this degree," Arena told reporters on Friday.

"But we are not complaining. The Koreans are doing a great job with regard to this security for the U.S. team."

South Korea and the United States are close allies, with 37,000 U.S. troops stationed at facilities dotted across the country.

World Cup organisers have trained special police squads to guard against acts of terror disrupting the biggest finals in world sport.

Voeller not too concerned



probably would have played," Voeller said. "I expect him to be back in full training by Monday at the latest."

The 25-year-old Ballack carries much of Germany's hopes after fellow creative midfielders Sebastian Deisler and Mehmet Scholl had to pull out.

REUTERS, Miyazaki

Inspirational midfielder Michael Ballack should be fit to play Germany's first World Cup game against Saudi Arabia on June 1, says coach Rudi Voeller.

"I'm totally optimistic and I have no doubt that he will be able to play," Voeller said of the Bayer Leverkusen player, who is nursing a bruised foot.

Ballack, who has been hampered by the injury for weeks but could not rest as Leverkusen faced a crowded schedule, missed Germany's opening training at their camp in southern Japan.

All he did on Friday was briefly jog around the pitch while his team mates trained with the ball.

Voeller said Ballack would be left out when Germany, who will also challenge Cameroon and Ireland in group E, play a regional under-21 side in their final warm-up game on Sunday in Miyazaki.

"Had it been a World Cup game he



PHOTO: INTERNET

Germany midfielder Michael Ballack (R) discusses something with coach Rudi Voeller during their practice session in Miyazaki yesterday.

Status suits Ronaldo fine



AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Fired-up Ronaldo is unashamedly happy wearing Brazil's underdog tag, confidently claiming it has boosted the South American side's chances of a fifth world crown.

Ready to lay to rest the demons that have haunted his past -- the nightmare thrashing by France in the 1998 final, and chronic leg injuries since then -- Ronaldo has proclaimed the samba boys will do the victory dance again 2002.

To prove his point, he has been running freely and with purpose during training in Malaysia this week while bookies slotted the team down the field behind Argentina, France and Italy.

"The fact that we are not going on to the pitch as favourites is an advantage, it is a big difference," the Inter Milan striker said on the club's website, www.inter.it, stressing the teamwork of the reunited side.

Practice sessions have centered around perfecting the potent "Triple R" attacking partnership of Ronaldo, Barcelona star Rivaldo and Paris Saint Germain striker Ronaldinho.

Their one outing together was in last month's 1-1 tie against Portugal after Ronaldo missed most of Brazil's near disastrous qualifying matches in which only a last-gasp win over Venezuela put them into the Cup.

The trio showed glimpses of their potential in the Portugal match, and technical director Antonio Lopez has described Saturday's friendly against Malaysia as an important gauge of they and the team can play as a unit.

"That will be the test in the game against Malaysia," Lopez said.

Dubbed "The Phenomenon" in Brazil, and twice FIFA's footballer of the year, Ronaldo said "the big lesson" he learned in France at the last World Cup was the need for unity and trust in the squad.

"As far as I'm concerned, I want to try and do better than in France, to play better and score more goals," said Ronaldo who found the

net four times in 1998.

"If one player doesn't help another, you don't get anywhere. Nobody can win on their own. In a team that wants to win, everyone has to react in the same way."

After stumbling through the qualifying matches in which players and coaches came and went with alarming regularity, Brazil have found themselves drawn in the relatively safe Group C.

Their matches against Turkey, Costa Rica and China will be an opportunity to build on combinations before the second round where they are likely to meet either Russia, Japan or Belgium.

A safe passage to the quarter-finals will provide Brazil with their first big test, a probable match up against France.

"The World Cup is a serious, very serious thing and we will have to make ourselves respected right from the start," said Ronaldo.

"It's been a difficult time for Brazilian football. But now we are closer to what we can really do and for me we are among the favourites along with Argentina, France and Italy."

Maradona's favourites



AFP, Buenos Aires

Argentinian football legend Diego Maradona said here Thursday Argentina and France were worthy favourites to reach the World Cup final.

However Maradona, who virtually single-handedly led Argentina to the 1986 trophy, added the other

France saying they were much more than just a one-man team in the shape of the world's most expensive footballer Zinedine Zidane.

"France is much more than about Zinedine Zidane and have completely bewitched me," he told daily Ole.

"The team is an outstanding unit who have been playing together for years and have Zidane there to deliver the final pass," he added.

However he said Argentina would run the French close given their record over the past year during the qualifiers and several friendlies in Europe.

"They have come together well as they demonstrated in the qualifiers and then winning friendlies in Europe over Italy, Germany and Spain."

"If Argentina stand up well in the Group of Death (Group F along with England, Nigeria and Sweden) and win it then they will go on to win the title because in many respects that will be tougher to win than the final itself," he said.

Maradona discounted the possibility of there being a shock winner.

"The team that makes it to the final are always those who can stand the pressure the most and the usual suspects are Brazil, Italy and Germany."

"When have Tunisia or Belgium contested a final? Neither of them will ever make it to a World Cup final," he said.



traditional strongmen of world football Germany, Brazil and Italy should not be discounted while England too could be the dark horses.

Maradona, though, heaped praise on the current champions

France under pressure ?



INTERNET, Ibusuki

World champions France, who are without a victory in their last two outings, are determined to avoid causing a "real mess" by failing to win their last warm-up friendly against co-hosts South Korea in Suwon on Sunday.

The world title holders were held to a goalless draw by Russia in April, before stumbling to a clumsy 2-1 defeat against Belgium last weekend, both on home soil at the Stade de France.

"Losing one match is always annoying. Losing two matches in a row is really upsetting. But losing just before the World Cup starts would be a real mess," said midfielder Emmanuel Petit a week before the World Cup's opening match against Senegal in Seoul.

The Chelsea player knows what he is talking about as he is one the last two players, along with captain Marcel Desailly, who played in the 2-1 shock defeat by Bulgaria in Paris in 1993 which prevented France from qualifying for the 1994 World Cup.

It was the last time Les Bleus -- who had lost previously to Israel -- have been defeated twice running.

"After drawing against Russia and losing to the Belgians we must beat the Koreans," Petit said. "It's the worst possible time for a defeat. We have not had two defeats and a draw consecutively over the last 10 years."

Desailly has tried to play down the situation, underlining that France's first goal is to win the opening match.

"Obviously, losing again would be bad for the squad's morale but you must keep in mind that we have never performed very well when preparing for great events," he said.

In 1998, the French had two draws to Norway and Sweden and a defeat in Russia in their warm-up campaign before crushing South Africa 3-0 in Marseille en route to their triumph.

"As world champions, we have

the duty to perform," said coach Roger Lemerre. "If a positive result stems from a good performance, it will be great."

"I'm expecting from Sunday's match something which can erase the memories of last week's defeat against Belgium."

But the French coach knows his side must be wary of the South Koreans despite crushing them 5-0 in the first match of the Confederations Cup in Taegu last year.

The World Cup co-hosts have dramatically improved over the last months and they are now on seven games without a loss after drawing 1-1 with injury-hit England on Tuesday.

"They have been warned. They must have given some thinking about their defeat to us," Lemerre said.

"This match is going to be absolutely different from the previous one. The Koreans will play in front of a home crowd just a few days before the competition begins. I'm certain they won't let anything go."

Lemerre will bank on his inspirational playmaker Zinedine Zidane who has been much missed in the matches against Russia and Belgium.

The midfielder, who led his club Real Madrid to glory in the Champions League thanks to a brilliant winner over Bayer Leverkusen, joined his team mates in the coastal city of Ibusuki on Wednesday after attending the birth of his third son last weekend.

"I'm going to play on Sunday," he said. "It's planned. I don't know if it's going to be for the whole match but I'll be on the pitch."

A question mark, meanwhile, is still hanging over the fitness of striker Thierry Henry who is nursing a right knee injury and was unable to take part in a training match on Wednesday.

"I'm considering having him on the pitch if he has recovered in time," Lemerre said. "But we won't take any risks. If Thierry needs two more days to be totally fit we'll spare him."

"My number one goal remains to have all my guys ready for the opening match."

Welcome late Lions!

AFP, Tokyo

Some 150 residents of Nakatsue, a remote Japanese village at the foot of a smouldering volcano, held a pre-dawn welcoming ceremony Friday for the long-delayed arrival of Cameroon's World Cup squad.

"When I saw their airplane, I thought this was the moment of the century," said 71-year-old village mayor Yasumu Sakamoto.

"Today, your arrival is no longer a dream," Sakamoto told the 37-strong delegation of the Olympic and African champions as he rushed to shake the hands of jet-lagged players after a bizarre five-day delay.

The ceremony was recorded and broadcast as the top national item on network television news bulletins.

Parents woke up their children to get a glimpse of the players as the ceremony took place after 3:00 am (1800 GMT).

"I am so relieved that they are finally here," said a official in Nakatsue, some 1,400 kilometers (868 miles) southwest of Tokyo. The village does not have an airport as

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Confident Italians



INTERNET, Sendai

Yesterday, the Italian national team held their first training in Sendai. Italian international and Inter striker Christian Vieri shared opinions on the upcoming World Cup and his side's chances in the tournament.

"I think this tournament will be similar to the previous ones. There are going to be 4 or 5 favorites as unusual, and the strongest ones will continue the challenging path. I

believe the major part of our difficulties will concern the frequent trips, as the airplanes, trains and buses will greatly exhaust the players."

"However, our team came to the tournament to prove our soccer is still good enough. I think we are stronger now than we were 4 years ago. We have brilliant players like Francesco Totti, and this proves we will not have any problems in the tournament."

"We are among the favorites this season, but it is not enough. I consider our national team to be a very strong rival, however this

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PHOTO: INTERNET

SUPPORT ITALY: Italy captain Paolo Maldini is obliging a Japanese female fan at Sendai in Japan after a training session yesterday.

Round 4, Draw in Sylhet

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

Rules

- 1. Residents of Bangladesh are eligible to participate in The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2002.
- 2. Employees of The Daily Star and Rangs Toshiba and their immediate family members shall not be eligible to participate.
- 3. All entries must be submitted in the original form printed in The Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.
- 4. Forms will have to be cut along the dotted lines.
- 5. Participants are to put a tick (Ö) mark in the box alongside their answer to each question.
- 6. A person may send numerous entries for each round. Entry forms should be completed with a ballpoint pen.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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.
- 9. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 4."
- 10. Entries may be hand delivered or posted to The Daily Star, 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
- 11. 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.
- 12. Winners will be decided on the basis of correct entries drawn out from the box.
- 13. 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.
- 14. Any decision of The Daily Star in the conduct of the Quiz competition/s 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.
- 15. The Daily Star management, in their absolute

The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 4 Ends June 6, 2002

Tick (Ö) the correct answers

1. Bangladesh first played in qualifiers for the World Cup of 1982	<input type="checkbox"/>	1986	<input type="checkbox"/>	1990	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Pele's debut World Cup was in 1954	<input type="checkbox"/>	1958	<input type="checkbox"/>	1970	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. France won 1998 World Cup under the captaincy of Deschamps	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zidane	<input type="checkbox"/>	Desailly	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Which player scored most goals in a World Cup	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pele	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fontaine	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Who is this?		Figo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beckham	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Batistuta	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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

Father's nameOccupation

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 4 "

JOIN The Daily Star BANDWAGON TO BOOST FOOTBALL IN BANGLADESH