



3
DAYS TO GO



Diego Maradona

(Argentine soccer legend)
"It is hard to say the word, 'favourite,' because anything can happen in soccer. But Argentina is very strong these days as it showed during the South American qualifying series."



Did U Know?

Japan's Shizuoka Stadium Ecopa is able to have green grass all year round. Even in the winter, the field does not become yellow, as it is made from a blend of five different types of grass. Experiments have been conducted on the field to see how it reacts to different amounts of sunlight and different temperatures, and it has passed every test. No matter what the time of year, players and spectators will be able to enjoy a green field.



ESPN
Western Union World Football
Repeat at 1:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Repeat at 11:00 am
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 12:00 pm

SEE PAGE 14



Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
June 7, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Serena Williams lifted the
Rome Masters Series title
defeating: Venus, Hingis, Henin

2. What was the result of the World Cup warm-up match between England and South Korea:
1-0 2-1 1-1

3. West Indies won the fifth and final Test against India by:
150 runs 155 runs

4. Name the Irish football captain who was sent home from the World Cup:
Harte, Jones, Keane

5. BKSP won the CityCell national youth cricket title

Name: _____

.....

Class: _____ Roll No. _____

School Address: _____

.....

Phone: (If any) _____



JUST CHECKING! Danny Mills (R), the England defender pulls the shorts of Cameroon's Pierre Njanka during their World Cup warm-up match at Kobe, Japan on May 26.

Lebouf saves the blushes



REUTERS, Suwon

Zinedine Zidane sustained a thigh injury as France completed preparations for their World Cup defence by beating South Korea 3-2 in a friendly on Sunday.

Zidane was substituted in the 38th minute after complaining of a problem in his left thigh, just five days before France play Senegal in the opening match of the World Cup.

"He has a small tear, a little pain in his thigh muscle," France coach Roger Lemerre said. "When it's muscular, you are always worried because you never know how long it is going to take to heal."

France defender Frank Lebouf slotted home the winning goal with just one minute remaining in a tight game against South Korea, who suffered their first defeat in eight matches in front of 43,000 fans.

"When a side like Korea is backed by their public, they become very dangerous," Lemerre said. "We have suffered a lot."

"We have had to fight hard to cope with the skills, with physical challenge proposed by the Koreans and with their strong will. We have been very often outpaced. But we never gave it up and we managed to win in the end."

France, who lost 2-1 at home to Belgium last week, knew they could not afford another setback and they made a fast start.

Striker Thierry Henry, back from a knee injury, passed the fitness test, setting up the first goal for David Trezeguet who volleyed home from close range in the 15th minute.

Far from being stunned by the goal, though, South Korea fought back swiftly.

Striker Park Ji Sung side-stepped captain Marcel Desailly in the 25th minute before unleashing a powerful cross shot which gave goalkeeper Fabien Barthez no chance.

France, who crushed the World Cup co-hosts 5-0 in the Confederations Cup last year, then saw first hand how much progress the Koreans have made.

Five minutes before the interval, Choi Tae Uk headed home a free-kick by Lee Young Pyo to put the home side in the driving seat.

Christophe Dugarry replaced Henry, who was still struggling for his best form.

The Girondins Bordeaux striker headed home a free-kick by Youri Djorkaeff to equalise in the 53rd minute but it was not enough to discourage the Koreans.

The hosts created several opportunities as the French central defence, blamed for the defeat by the Belgians, looked shaky.

But South Korea proved too naive for the world and European champions and one minute from time Lebouf blasted a shot off the crossbar from inside the penalty area.

Wives' woes!

REUTERS, Seoul

The wives of France squad players arrive in Seoul on Thursday but they will not be allowed to see their husbands or companions before Friday's opening match against Senegal, team manager Henri Emile has said.

"They will be here on Thursday and they will be able to spend one or two days with the players after the first match," Emile said.

"It's really important to have them here. During the 1996 European championship, they were not allowed to come and the atmosphere in the squad was tense," he said.

"Maybe I should not come out at this time and say that but I believe in Heskey and what he can do for England."

The current form of Darius Vassell, who has scored three times in four international starts, suggests Heskey is more likely to be played down the left. Vassell looked sharp in Sunday's 2-2 draw with Cameroon.

SEE PAGE 15



PHOTO: INTERNET

WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE THIS? Zinedine Zidane is devastated after suffering a thigh strain at Suwon on May 26.

Heskey in, Becks doubtful



AFP, Tsuna

rest of the squad enjoyed a day off at the five-star Westin resort which is to be England's base camp for as long as they last in the tournament.

"He is working according to a recovery programme that has been laid down for him and it is going well," Football Association spokesman Paul Newman told

"As part of that programme, today he had another session with the physio, running and kicking the ball in a controlled fashion. He came through that very well and he is making good progress."

Newman dismissed reports that the broken bone in Beckham's left foot was not healing as fast as had been hoped for.

"The bone has healed," he said. "David has been kicking the ball for the last few days and running hard. He would not be doing what he is doing if the bone had not healed."

The England spokesman said coach Sven-Goran Eriksson had not set any deadline for Beckham to be ready to play.

"It could be left right to the last minute," he said, adding that England were still working to a target of having Beckham complete a full training session by the middle of the week.

If Beckham loses his race against the clock, Eriksson is leaning towards using Bayern Munich youngster Owen Hargreaves as his replacement on the right side of midfield.

The England coach has also announced that he intends to name Liverpool striker Emile Heskey in his starting line-up against Sweden.

The powerful forward has not scored for his country since the 5-1 hammering of Germany in Munich in September. But Eriksson dismissed concerns over his form. "I'm not concerned about Heskey at all, he will play against Sweden," he told reporters.

"Maybe I should not come out at this time and say that but I believe in Heskey and what he can do for England."

The current form of Darius Vassell, who has scored three times in four international starts, suggests Heskey is more likely to be played down the left. Vassell looked sharp in Sunday's 2-2 draw with Cameroon.

SEE PAGE 15

Italy open minus Inzaghi

REUTERS, Sendai

Italy striker Filippo Inzaghi is set to miss his side's opening group match against Ecuador on June 3 with a knee injury, a team official said.

"Our objective is for him to be ready for the second game. It will be difficult for him to be ready for the first game," Italian team doctor Andrea Ferretti told reporters.

Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni also said he was only expecting the AC Milan forward to be in contention for their second group G match against Croatia on June 8.

"Even though it is probable that he won't be ready for the first game, it is very likely that he will be ready five days later for the second match," said Trapattoni.

Inzaghi had tests on his injured left knee at the local hospital after the team returned to base in Sendai on Sunday and the scan showed no torn ligaments.

But while the tests ruled out serious damage and there is no swelling around the knee, the player remains in pain and needs seven to

SEE PAGE 15

CUP CORNER

INTERNET

Mick McCarthy has reported a worrying amount of weight loss among his players after the weekend tussle with Hiroshima and will tell his players to take on more fluids at every opportunity.

"The only thing you can do is drink and eat to replenish the body."

"With all the players, I'm afraid less is sometimes better than more."

"There's a good number of them lost more than 2% of their body weight their function is reduced by 20%, their physical function. Some of them have not put that back on yet."

"The warm-ups they do and the amount of time they spent sweating means they are losing more and more weight."

"We might just have to err on the side of doing less and produce it in the games rather than out there on the training field."

British actor Roger Moore arrives in South Korea to promote World

OO'S WC MISSION!

British actor Roger Moore, best known for his movie roles as the international secret agent James Bond, has arrived in South Korea to promote the World Cup finals.

He will attend the World Cup's opening ceremony as Seoul's goodwill ambassador.

Moore, also a goodwill ambassador for the U.N. Children's Fund, will go on a boat ride on the Han River with children from 50 countries on Thursday to celebrate the soccer tournament which kicks off Friday, said the Seoul Metropolitan Government. Moore arrived in South Korea on Sunday.

SEE PAGE 15

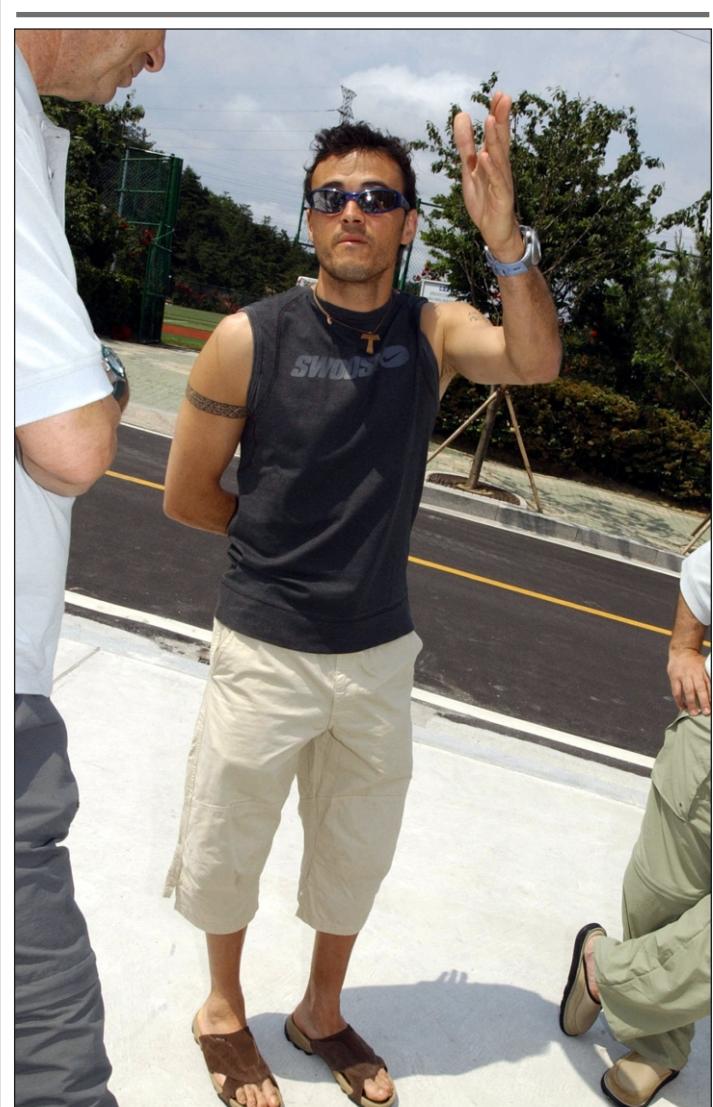


PHOTO: AFP

ON A VACATION! Spanish star Luis Enrique Martinez waits for a taxi in Ulsan as the squad enjoys a day off yesterday.

Pleasure and pain



REUTERS, Ulsan

morning work-out.

"We've got a lot of good, in-form forwards well capable of finishing as long as we keep them supplied."

Valencia midfielder David Albelda, still suffering the effects of a groin strain, sat out the practice match in the second session.

His place was taken by a 16-year-old from a local school side.

The Spanish team have their own chef in their hotel but the players had their first taste of the local cuisine when they stretched their legs outside the camp on Sunday.

"It was good to get out and see the city," Valencia fullback Curro Torres told reporters on Monday.

"I can't say I understood what anyone was saying but it was interesting."

Apart from Albelda, Spain have another minor injury concern ahead of their first World Cup Group B match against Slovenia on June 2.

Fellow midfielder Luis Enrique

SEE PAGE 15

Mr X wants to fix WC!



AFP, New Delhi

sport," he said.

"But knowing how this business works, anyone who wants to fix a World Cup match can do it easily."

"You can only fix a team to lose, not to win. In cricket, you need to arrange at least six or seven players to ensure the team loses."

"But in football, I suppose having the star striker or the goalkeeper on your side can work."

"If the striker does not score and the goalkeeper keeps letting in goals, what else will a fixer need," Mr X said.

Three former cricket captains -- Mohammad Azharuddin of India, Hansie Cronje of South Africa and Salim Malik of Pakistan -- were thrown out of the game on the testimony of Indian bookmakers.

Mr X confessed the business of illegal betting on sport had "suffered" after the cricket scandal came to light, but huge amounts were still bet.

"One has to be very careful these days," he said. "The police raids homes and offices regularly to catch the culprits."

SEE PAGE 15

FEEL THE FEVER



KOLKATA SPEAKS WORLD CUP: A house in Indian city of Kolkata painted with the mural of Brazil superstar Ronaldo and other Cup features. Football is extremely popular in this part of India but the national team has never even gone close to qualifying for the World Cup finals.