



DAY TO GO



Did U Know?

Laszlo Kiss of Hungary is the only substitute to have scored a hat-trick in the World Cup. Hungary were 5-1 ahead when Kiss scored his first of three in this match against El Salvador which ended 10-1 in Spain 1982! That is by the way the biggest victory in World Cup history.

What to WATCH

ESPN
World Cup Soccer Mix
Taped Version at 8:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Gillette World Sports Special
Int'l Sports News
Repeat at 8:30 am
World Cup Soccer Mix
Repeat at 11:00 pm
Soccer World Cup Heroes
Gento
Repeat at 3:00 pm
England vs Sri Lanka
Second Test, Day One
Live at 6:28 pm



TALK TURKEY



Steve McManaman
(England midfielder)
"Sometimes I get the impression that people believe I don't care, because I play with a smile on my face. That's wrong."
After being left out of the World Cup squad.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 172

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes. Competition closes at 8 pm June 7, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards.

- Serena Williams lifted the Rome Masters tennis title defeating: Venus Hingis Henin
 - What was the result of the World Cup warm-up match between England and South Korea: 1-0 2-1 1-1
 - West Indies won the fifth and final Test against India by: 140 runs 150 runs 155 runs
 - Name the Irish football captain who was sent home from the World Cup: Hartle Jones Keane
 - BKSP won the CityCell national youth cricket title
- Name:
Class: Roll No.:
School Address:
Phone: (If any)



HAS THE WORLD CUP ALREADY BEGUN? A dress-rehearsal of the opening ceremony of the World Cup 2002 took place at the Seoul World Cup Stadium on May 28.

D for dribble, danger & Denilson



AP, Ulsan

He's the super sub, the 12th man, the team's go-to player. When Brazil needs a boost late in the game, the call goes out for Denilson.
In training camp, coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has been so impressed by Denilson that he's trying to find a spot for him on the starting squad, where the front line already sparkles with Ronaldo and Rivaldo.

"He's an exciting player. He's got a disconcerting dribble, you never know which way he will go," Scolari said. "He can change an adversary's entire strategy or totally destroy it."
But while many Brazilians share the enthusiasm for Denilson, barely a year ago no one could have imagined he would be on the national team, much less at the World Cup. Least of all, Denilson himself.

Sitting on the bench for Betis in the Spanish league, forgotten at home, Denilson's professional future looked bleak at best. Another World Cup seemed like a pipe dream.
"A year ago I was dead, and Felipe resurrected me," said Denilson, using Scolari's popular nickname -- "Big Phil" in Portuguese. It's been rollercoaster career for Denilson, a veteran on the team at the age of 24.
As a poor youngster in the gritty industrial city of Sao Bernardo do Campo, Denilson caught the eye of a professional scout as he weaved through the field against older kids in a sandlot game.
Invited for a tryout at powerful Sao Paulo, Denilson made the team and rose quickly. He was just 16 when he won his first major title,

helping Sao Paulo to the 1994 Conmebol Cup.
Two years later he was on the national team, where he won a starting berth with gala performances in the Tournoi de France and the 1997 Copa America. After leading Sao Paulo to the state crown, he was signed by Betis for a reported \$130 million.
The future seemed unlimited for Denilson, whose sinuous dribbles and ball-control magic earned comparisons with the legendary Garrinha. Among his admirers was former all-star player and coach Mario Zagallo, who said Denilson surely would have started in his place on Brazil's 1958 and 1962 World Cup champion teams.

Zagallo summoned Denilson for the 1998 World Cup, but after testing him on the starting team decided to use him as a late-game energy boost. The public adored him, and the chants of "Denilson, Denilson" were a sign of popularity that survived even Brazil's 3-0 loss to France in the final.
But on Betis, things started to go sour. Denilson's give-me-the-ball dribbling style was perceived as selfish. Critics said he was lazy on defense and not a team player. Soon he was on the bench.
"After 1998, I had a difficult time adapting to Spanish soccer. I suffered a lot," he said.
Then came the miracle call.
Scolari had just taken over the national team, mired in its worst Cup qualifying campaign ever, and was assembling a squad for the 2001 Copa America. The top stars from Europe couldn't come, and Scolari's first choice -- Vasco striker Euler -- was hurt. Enter Denilson.

Brazil bombed at the Copa America and was knocked out in humiliating fashion by modest Honduras. But Denilson was brilliant, carrying the team and electrifying the crowd with his speed, technique and scoring. It was as if he had never left.
Ronaldo's first outburst came last week in Malaysia when he was amazed to discover that bookmakers did not consider him among the favourites to finish topscorer at the World Cup.
"Not many people are betting on me but now I'm going to surprise everybody and the people who believed in me are going to win lots of money," he said.
He was again in cocky mood after scoring his first international goal for nearly three years in the 4-0 win over Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur last Saturday, claiming that Brazil's so-

His struggles on Betis have given Denilson a new perspective. He knows how much this chance means.
"Thanks to God I got through it and am back on the Brazilian team, and thanks to Felipe," he said. "I am on his side forever, because he helped me when I needed it."
Scolari, who likes to call his team a "family," talks of Denilson like a prodigal son.
"Denilson has evolved on and off the field. He made the most of his

chances," said Scolari, who personally chose the No. 17 jersey -- his lucky number -- for Denilson.
Now the future again seems boundless. Even a starting spot seems within reach.
"I still have to decide if I want to take the risk," said Scolari. "But if I start with 11 and not Denilson, he's the 12th. He's a player I admire and like. When I think I have to change something, I look to my side, and there's Denilson."

AFP, Seoul

Undaunted by the steamy weather at the height of South Korea's summer, Father Christmases from chilly Scandinavia plan to bring a festive cheer to the World Cup.
Greenland's Santa association will send 12 members including Carsten Mogensen, a Santa Claus for 17 years from Denmark, to promote the world's biggest sporting event, the Scandinavian Tourism Bureau (STB) said Wednesday.
The Santas will stay in Seoul for 12 days from June 6, it said, adding they would give hospitalised children Christmas presents and distribute the flags of Denmark, Sweden and Norway to football fans.
"This will be their first conference outside Copenhagen," STB's Seoul office head Nancy Choi told AFP.
"Their presence in South Korea, which has been thrown into the spotlight, will contribute to the festive mood during the soccer tournament," she said.

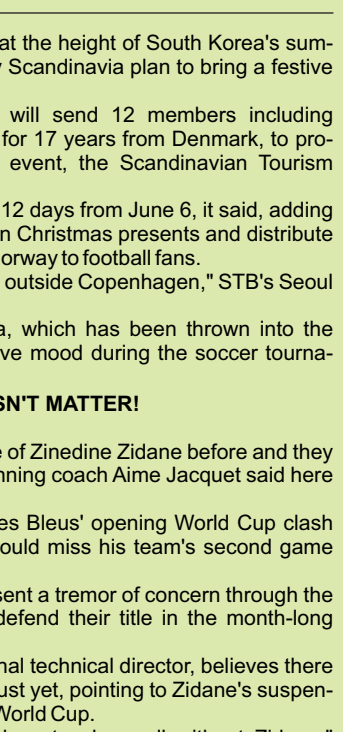
ZIDANE DOESN'T MATTER!

Seoul
France have overcome the absence of Zinedine Zidane before and they can do it again, 1998 World Cup-winning coach Aime Jacquet said here Wednesday.
Zidane has been ruled out of Les Bleus' opening World Cup clash against Senegal here Friday and could miss his team's second game after picking up a thigh strain.
The star playmaker's injury has sent a tremor of concern through the France camp as they prepare to defend their title in the month-long footballing extravaganza.
But Jacquet, now France's national technical director, believes there is no reason to hit the panic button just yet, pointing to Zidane's suspension for two matches during the last World Cup.
"In 1998, France had to learn how to play well without Zidane," Jacquet said. "The side progressed and learnt from the experience," he added.

France's World Cup curtain raiser against Senegal on Friday but he believes the Real Madrid star is irreplaceable.
Djorkaeff was part of France's World Cup-winning squad four years ago before falling from favour as he became locked in a feud with

AFP, Seoul

FEEL THE FEVER



ARGENTINA OR BRAZIL? Flags of the fan-favourites are a hot commodity in Dhaka city these days. These flags are being sold at prices between Taka 100-120.

Blatter blazes

AFP, Seoul

Sepp Blatter swept back to power as president of FIFA here on Wednesday with a crushing election victory after a bitter year-long struggle that left football's world governing body badly divided.
The 66-year-old Blatter won a second four-year term with a landslide win over African candidate Issa Hayatou in a vote of the FIFA congress, two days before the World Cup finals get underway.
Blatter polled 139 votes out of a total of 197 with Hayatou recording 56. The margin saw Blatter secure the two thirds majority necessary for victory in the first ballot.
"Many, many thanks. You cannot imagine what it means for me having been during months accused by a certain press of saying what a bad man I am," said a jubilant Blatter seconds after the vote was announced.
"Let's work together and let's forget what's happened in the past. We have to restore our unity and by that we will restore our credibility."
"Let's go to the World Cup!"
The vote represented a personal vindication for the former Swiss lawyer who took over as FIFA chief prior to the World Cup finals in France four years ago, but it did little to heal the wounds that his presidency has inflicted.
Blatter had been battling against wide-ranging charges of financial irregularities and vote-buying, launched by his opponents within the organisation who have also taken legal action against him in Switzerland where FIFA is based.
The FIFA president has insisted that the finances are sound and that he was the victim of a conspiracy by the international press.
Despite the furore, the only candidate to stand up against Blatter in the FIFA vote at the two-day congress had been the president of the African Football Confederation Hayatou of Cameroon.
Hayatou was backed by the



PROVING DISTRACTORS WRONG! Sepp Blatter waves to the audience after he was reelected as the FIFA president yesterday.

'There's no one like Zidane'



AFP, Seoul

Youri Djorkaeff is expected to stand in for the injured Zinedine Zidane in

SEE PAGE 15



BE DAZZLED! Brazil star Denilson in his elements during the morning part of their team training yesterday at Ulsan.

Phenomouth!



REUTERS, Ulsan

The world is still waiting to see whether Ronaldo can return to greatness but the man himself has no such doubts.
The twice former Player of the Year, apparently stung by the suggestion he might not return to being the player he once was, has left his modesty at home, heaping praise on himself and taking provocative swipes at his opponents.
At times, he has resembled former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali at his mouthiest.
Ronaldo's first outburst came last week in Malaysia when he was amazed to discover that bookmakers did not consider him among the favourites to finish topscorer at the World Cup.
"Not many people are betting on me but now I'm going to surprise everybody and the people who believed in me are going to win lots of money," he said.
He was again in cocky mood after scoring his first international goal for nearly three years in the 4-0 win over Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur last Saturday, claiming that Brazil's so-

called "Three R" attack -- himself, Ronaldinho and Rivaldo -- was one to be feared.
"It's a trio that is going to cause a lot of headaches to opponents. We have a lot of quality," he said. "I'm sure that if we at our best, we will always be worth a goal's worth of goals."
That was followed by a swipe at the defence of China, Brazil's second opponents in group C.
"I've always scored goals against the best defenders in the world so I'm not going to worry about facing the defence of China," he said dismissively.
The Phenomenon continued in the same vein when asked about his continued worldwide popularity.
"If this popularity exists, it's because I worked hard to earn it," he claimed.
From the moment he made his international return against Yugoslavia in March, Ronaldo has made it clear he intends to be the best again and regain the mantle he has lost to players such as Luis Figo and Zinedine Zidane.
"I want to start slowly but I remain very ambitious. In my career I have always conquered everything I wanted. My objective is to be the best again, I know it might take time

Inzaghi much better

AP, Sendai

Injured striker Filippo Inzaghi appeared to be on the mend Wednesday, jogging laps around Italy's practice field with a white bandage on his left knee but no hesitation in his rapid stride.
Fear struck when he was injured over the weekend. But Inzaghi said Wednesday that he felt better shortly after -- and he didn't even dismiss the idea of playing in Italy's first match against Ecuador on Monday.
"My knee is OK," he said. "That makes me happy, makes me hope. We still have to wait to hear what the coach has to say. It was a real scare."
Inzaghi is expected to be in shape for Italy's second match against Croatia on June 8. Italy faces Mexico in its last Group G match on June 13.
But the question is: If Inzaghi misses Italy's first match and the team plays well, could he lose his hard-earned starting position? The AC Milan striker played down that possibility.
"I don't think there'll be a problem," he said. "I think the team will do well, and I'll support the team if I can't play."
He was injured Sunday in a friendly match against Japanese

Month of relief?



AFP, Dhaka

Bangladeshis are hoping the football World Cup will help reduce the country's crime rate but much depends on the country's erratic power supply.
"Judging by past experience, I think the crime rate will go down during the month-long World Cup," a fan said.
He said that when the World Cup was held in France four years ago, police rested in peace as criminals took a break to watch the matches and official statistics showed the crime rate fell by 20 percent.
But the off-on power supply to the capital Dhaka and other towns remains a problem for fans hoping to watch the matches on television.
"We sincerely appeal to the Power Development Board and all concerned authorities ... please, please, please do not betray us during the football matches," one fan wrote in the local English magazine "Probe".
"We waited so long to watch these matches, and then if the power fails, we fall into despair ... Please make sure we can enjoy it."

There were protests and attacks on power stations during the last World Cup due to blackouts which were blamed on chronic shortages.
Officials said they always took extra efforts to ensure uninterrupted power supply during past World Cups and it will be no different for this year's upcoming tournament.
"We can't do much about technical faults and hope football fans will bear with us," one official said.
World Cup fever has caught on in this football-crazy nation.
Bangladesh's national sport is kabaddi, but football and cricket are the most popular spectator sports.
Newspapers have drawn readers to quiz competitions with attractive prizes, while television manufacturers were offering major prizes to woo the "seasonal" rush to buy new sets.
"Television sets are the hottest-selling item in the market now," said Masud Rana, an electronic shop owner in the downtown Baitul Mukarram market.
The other favourite item is a device which gives emergency power supply during blackouts.
If the display of flags in Dhaka is any indication, Argentina and Brazil are the Bangladeshis' favorites to win the World Cup.
Jamila Begum, a labourer who

SEE PAGE 15