All-star TV crew

INTERNET, *Kashima*

The summer tournament has attracted not only the world's best players and soccer experts but also the top TV crews. Considering the rich experience of Host Broadcast Services (HBS), their 600 staff will capture the most decisive fragments of the World Cup 64 matches for global broadcasts under the guidance of seven directors from Britain, Germany and France, The Asahi Shimbun reported. One French director expressed confidence in predicting a pass by Zinedine Zidane, that most unpredictable French midfielder.

Peter Angell, HBS director of production has selected seven candidates for coverage of the 2002 FIFA World Cup. Francois Lanaud, one of the seven directors, who is in charge of France vs. Senegal opening game in Seoul on Friday, has an experience of covering two World Cups and the French national team matches for five years. Lanaud has invited professionals from Spain, England and Ireland for his crew, and believes soccer coverage is demanding, like all fast-moving sports.

Jiro Komaki, deputy general manager of the Contents Business Group of SKY Perfect Communications, compared the HBS crews to the famed " (Akira) Kurosawa crew in the cinema world."

He said:

"Their pictures are orthodox, but they still have something different in them.

"Perhaps it is because soccer's history and culture are instilled in their blood. To my regret, the expertise in a country with only a 10-year history of J.League is no match for theirs."

Doni to replace Inzaghi

INTERNET, *Sendai*

Italian coach, Giovanni Trapattoni has confirmed that Cristiano Doni will be Filippo Inzaghi's replacement in Italy's opening match of the World Cup, should the AC Milan player still be injured. Italy face Ecuador on Monday and should Inzaghi still be unfit, Doni will be placed in a playmaking role behind Francesco Totti, who will be brought forward to partner Christian Vieri.

Doni said, "I'm really happy that the coach is considering me. I started my adventure in the Italian jersey here in Japan a few months ago, and I scored, so this is a lucky coincidence. I have the advantage of being a polyvalent player, so I'm ready for every type of tactical configuration against Ecuador. There are no certainties, but I'm hoping for a place. I have made a very important change considering that I came from a less important team like Atalanta. It's only my fault that I only got the chance at the age of 28, but I'm ready now".

Cafu wants recognition

REUTERS, *Ulsan*

Brazil defender Cafu thinks the four times world champions deserve more recognition for their performances at the last two World Cups.

Brazil won the trophy in 1994 and finished runners-up four years ago, yet were still criticised.

The 1994 team was labelled sterile and unimaginative, while the 1998 side is mostly remembered for the 3-0 defeat by France in the final and the controversy over Ronaldo.

"We are not in debt to anyone," said Cafu, who played in both finals. "Brazil got to the final last time and we deserve to be recognised for this, particularly the players who took part and got there.

"We won the title in 1994 and got to the final in 98 and that is not easy."

"The players who got to the final last time deserved to be congratulated. Unfortunately we didn't win in a final you have two great teams meeting and so one of them has to lose."

Bangladesh in WC!

FROM PAGE 13

players like chip shots. All my players have to know is the target and they will get it. They have done it many times.

SSR: And how do you communicate with the players?

Coach: On mobile phones. Before the referee does anything, we warn them.

SSR: What happens then?

Coach: Heh, hee. They have to get a new referee. Our record is very good. We have an average of three referees and four goals per match.

SSR: But red cards, don't you worry about that?

Coach: No, but they worry about getting death cards.

SSR: Death cards? Like what?

Coach: Like this.

SSR: Hey, why are you holding my throat. This is an interview... knife? What's that for..? What does fatafati mean? You want to play fatafati with my head.. Is that a game ... ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh

(Commentary box)

Pele: Sorry Zico, I was late. I was at the funeral of the Dutch team after their semi-final match with Bangladesh.

Zico: Yes. And they are very kind and nice people. It's really good to see them at the city slums distributing cough medicine.

Pele: I agree. What this medicine called?

Zico: "Dail".

Pele: Dail " Lentil?

Zico: Not exactly. Some people call it Phensy. Makes you feel great.

Pele: I saw a long line of people waiting for the medicine.

Zico: This is called sustainable football. Like sustainable development. The team is not only playing matches but making a lot of money and helping people at the same time. This is part of their economic policy. Its called "Balls for Development."

Pele: Is it something like All for Balls?

Zico: More like "Balls for All."

Pele: You mean those who don't have it will get it?

Zico: It means those who have it may lose it if the team needs it.

Pele: Hmmm.

(Pre- final Press conference on)

Press: Is it true that your team has listed terrorists in it?

Team Manager: Part of it is true, part false and part rumour.

Press: So what are you going to do about it?

TM: No, what are you going to do about it. We are bringing charges of treason against those who speak that way.

Press: But this is another country ?

TM: But wherever you go, balls are the same. Soccer balls, cricket balls, orange balls...we like to slice balls.

Press: Forget I asked that question. And what about your offensive strategy in the game?

TM: We have declared immunity and nobody will be charged for any act committed in the field?

Press: You mean tackling?

TM: I mean we are targeting balls, one large and others ...

Press: Is it true that you are being searched for guns...

TM: Yes. But our players are strong. They have brushed their teeth and are ready. If need be our players are going to bite their way through to victory.

Press: Do you have a final message?

TM: Yes. This is football. You can either have your foot or your balls. You can't have both. You keep one, you lose two.

(The song of victory)

There are joyous scenes on the ground as the Bangladesh jumps and screams after winning the Cup and the opponents are carried away in stretchers and body bags. The President of FIFA looks for the Cup, a trophy with the golden ball in the middle. But the cup has already been taken away. Meanwhile, Kutta Bacchu mugs the entire presentation party as the team applauds.

"What's your comment at the moment of great honour?"

"It's all about balls. We have many balls now."

The team goes on a victory lap singing their team song.

"Oh, my golden balls, we truly love you. ..."

CUP CORNER

FROM PAGE 13

matches along with 9 percent of male residents.

Gamblers were expected to bet an estimated 13,500 baht (318 dollars) each on the tournament, a 22.7 percent increase on the previous World Cup in 1998.

Professionals and entrepreneurs will lay down 20,400 baht on average, closely followed by government and state enterprise officials who will spend 20,300 baht each, it said.

A proliferation of bookies in Bangkok, now estimated to number 400, is said to be facilitating the gambling craze.

Over 54 percent said they bet for excitement, while 35 percent admitted that social pressure by friends and co-workers was a key factor in World Cup betting.

Most forms of gambling are illegal in Thailand but illicit betting on everything from Thai boxing to fish-fighting is rampant.

EUROPEAN RIVELINO!

Seoul

Football's World Cup should never be allowed out of Europe again, according to Brazilian legend Rivelino.

The veteran of Brazil's great Cup-winning side of 1970 has called for a more realistic approach from football's world governing body, FIFA, over the allocation of the sport's global showcase.

"The World Cup should only ever be played in Europe and nowhere else," he told AFP.

"It is the only continent which has the infrastructure and the atmosphere to stage it successfully. Not even Brazil can do that."

Rivelino dismissed suggestions that holding the present tournament in Japan and South Korea would open up a whole new market for the game.

He was equally scornful of African claims to stage a future tournament and even spoke out against South America again providing the setting for the world's greatest sporting spectacle.

On the subject of co-hosting the World Cup finals, Rivelino said the idea was badly conceived.

"There is no World Cup atmosphere in Korea," he said.

Rivelino, a key midfield component behind the 1970 triumph which gave Brazil their third World Cup and outright ownership of the Jules Rimet Trophy, is in South Korea as a commentator for a Brazilian cable TV station

The best haired team!

AFP, *London*

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson's hairdresser is flying out to Japan to give the Swede's squad a special cutting edge the Sun reported here Thursday.

Scott Warren, together with three colleagues from a London salon, will make sure that even if England's performances on the pitch are below par their haircuts are world class.

Tottenham fan Warren, 20, from London, was spotted after cutting the hair of Nancy Dell'Olio, Eriksson's girlfriend.

She then recommended him to the 54-year-old coach, the Sun said.

Clearly unfazed by reputations, Warren said he intended to give trend-setting England captain David Beckham a new look.

"For a start, I'd get rid of his Hoxton fin (the Mohican-style streak Beckham currently sports) and give him a proper cut - maybe have the St George flag shaved on the back of his head," he said.

But he added that he was unsure whether he would get the chance to cut off goalkeeper David Seaman's ponytail.

Scolari's samba!

FROM PAGE 16

one which looks capable of upholding Brazil's attacking traditions.

Scolari, pragmatic as ever, denies a drastic change in strategy and says that, after exhaustive study of Turkey, bringing in Juninho is the best way to win Monday's match.

"We decided that Juninho's characteristics make him the ideal player against Turkey's 3-3-3-1 formation," he said.

Brazil are now likely to start with Marcos in goal, Lucio, Roque Junior and Edmilson in defence and Cafu and Roberto Carlos on the flanks and captain Emerson doing the dirty work in midfield.

Scolari insists he has not changed his ideology and could go back to his original formation depending on future opponents or if Brazil perform badly on Monday.

Brazilians will hope that will not be necessary.

Kick off *sans* Zidane

FROM PAGE 13

team mates in the Japanese coastal city of Ibusuki last week.

In 1998 and again in the 2000 European championships, the French made perfect starts, winning their first matches 3-0 against South Africa and Denmark respectively.

But history shows that World Cup opening games are always a struggle rather than a platform for entertaining football.

Four years ago, champions Brazil had to battle against a solid Scotland team before snatching a 2-1 win in Paris.

In 1994, an ageing Germany escaped from a tough match against Bolivia as they began the defence of their world crown with a 1-0 victory at Soldier Field in Chicago.

Keen to learn from the past, holders France say they expect strong opposition from Senegal, even if the African side are playing their first ever match in the World Cup finals.

"All their players are involved in the French first division championship. They have the capability to implement a strategy on the pitch more than a lot of other African teams can," Djorkaeff said.

With Zidane absent, Djorkaeff should share the playmaking with Emmanuel Petit while striker Christophe Dugarry should be slotted in a defensive position on the wing.

"Youri has confirmed he is in a great shape physically and mentally," Lemerre has said. "Having him from the start is an option I can take."

Senegal coach Bruno Metsu can rely on all his players, even if doubts hang over midfielder Khalilou Fadiga, who has been placed under investigation on suspicion of stealing an 18-carat gold necklace in Taegu.

Metsu will probably select the same starting team that lost the African Nations Cup final against Cameroon in February.

Recoba ready

FROM PAGE 16

Danes under pressure.

"We will play an aggressive game. We'll try to play as far away from our side and as close to Denmark's goalposts as possible."

That philosophy is designed to ensure that the Danes are unable to repeat the 6-1 first-round drubbing they handed out to their rivals in Mexico in 1986.

As well as the Danes, Uruguay face holders France and the talented if unpredictable Senegal in Group A.

The Cup menu!

FROM PAGE 16

This Osaka specialty -- bits of octopus cooked in a ball of batter -- is, like yakisoba, often covered with a soy-based sauce, mayonnaise and bonito flakes. Beware of scalding your mouth after you bite in because of the piping hot semi-cooked batter inside.

"Edamame" soy beans - about 300 yen

These boiled and salted veggies -- still in their leathery green pods -- are best eaten cold washed down with beer.

"Ikayaki" roasted squid-on-a-stick - about 400 yen

Tastes good with soy sauce and ginger paste although can be a little gummy. Sometimes comes dripping with sauce.

"Kara-age" chicken - about 400 yen

Chicken bits fried in a slightly spicy batter.

"Oden" - about 500-1,000 yen

A variety of rooty veggies, fish cakes and other ingredients in a watery broth that is not to be slurped like a soup afterward.

"Okonomiyaki" literally fried "as-you-like-it" - about 500 yen

This is a pancake-shaped fried mixture of eggs, chopped cabbage, pork and maybe prawns is made into a kind of monstrous omelet topped by soy-based "Bulldog" sauce, mayonnaise and bonito flakes and shredded ginger

"Ramen" soup noodles - about 500-1,000 yen

Noodles in usually a soy-based or miso-paste soup. Can come with marinated cold roast pork slices, corn, fish cakes and bean sprouts. Slurping is acceptable.

"Taiyaki" - about 200 yen

These fish-shaped little pancakes sometimes have sweet red bean paste or tunafish-sandwich-type filling inside.