



## No sex bar on Bafana Bafana

AFP, Johannesburg

While some World Cup coaches have barred players from sex during the one-month tournament in Japan and South Korea, Jomo Sono of South Africa is not about to douse the passions of his squad.

Reports here quoted Sono saying he had no intention of controlling the sexual urges of "grown men" ahead of Group B matches against Paraguay, Slovenia and Spain.

"Even if I were to ban the players from having sex while in camp, I'm sure they would sneak out and go looking for it," former national star Sono told The Star.

"But these are professional players and I believe they will do what is in the best interests of the team. They know how much the World Cup means to our people back home."

Sono said the players were welcome to take wives, children and girlfriends to the quadrennial 32-nation showcase of international football provided they did not stay at the squad hotel.

Johannesburg sex therapist Elna McIntosh told The Star it was a myth that abstinence improved the performance of footballers at major events like the World Cup.

"Although reports suggest that boxing legend Muhammad Ali abstained from sex for six weeks before a big fight, I believe sex

before a match could be extremely beneficial.

"Players would sleep better after sex and probably feel better too for the match — provided they got to sleep on time," McIntosh said.

She said coaches often feel that keeping players away from partners helps team building and encourages aggression, but sex with a loved one would be wonderful.

Poland coach Jerzy Engel backs Sono: "There will be a time for everything and nobody said that sex, at the right time of course, could do anyone any harm."

## Diouf going to Liverpool

AFP, London

Liverpool have signed Senegal World Cup star and African footballer of the year El-Hadji Diouf, the English Premiership club said Saturday.

"We can confirm that African Footballer of the Year El-Hadji Diouf has now signed a five-year deal with Liverpool, which is wonderful news for everyone at the club," club spokesman Ian Cotton said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



A FAMILY CELEBRATION: Grainne Hill (C), an Irish fan, passing a boisterous time with her husband and brother in the stands of Niigata's Big Swan Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO:AFP

THE GOAL IS THAT WAY! Spain coach Jose Antonio Camacho draws superstar Raul's attention to something at Gwangju yesterday.

## ENGLAND VS SWEDEN

# Faced with Swedish jinx

AFP, Saitama

Sweden's chances of maintaining their 34-year unbeaten run against England received a boost here on Saturday when inspirational midfielder Freddie Ljungberg joined in an eve-of-match training session.

The Arsenal star had not trained since Wednesday for fear of aggravating a groin strain and there had been fears he could miss the Group F clash.

But after last minute medical checks on Saturday, he ran out with his teammates at the Saitama stadium, indicating that he will start the match.

Ljungberg's recovery means both sides will be at full strength with England looking to their own midfield colossus, David Beckham, who resumed training only on Tuesday after recovering from his broken foot, to finally slay the Swedish jinx. England last beat the Swedes in 1968 and their last victory before that dates back to 1947.

Both sides know they can ill afford to lose their opening match in a group that also includes tournament favourites Argentina and a

powerful Nigeria.

Swedish goalkeeper Magnus Hedman admitted Beckham's dead ball ability could have a crucial bearing on the match, particularly because of the introduction of new lighter, faster-flying ball for this tournament.

"If there is a really good shot it swerves quite a lot in the air," Hedman said. "You might think the ball is going over the bar and it just dips in the last second."

"I think we are definitely going to see a few goals where everyone says 'wow, the keeper should have saved that.'"

Despite the risk, Hedman said he was relishing the challenge of facing

up to Beckham and company.

"I would not say that I'm concerned about it but it is a massive challenge for any goalkeeper. If you save a good free kick from Beckham it means you have done a really good job."

Beckham has been practicing intensely with the new ball in a bid to ensure he can reproduce the kind of spectacular freekick he scored with against Greece in England's final qualifier, and England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson is confident his captain can unlock one of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

### PROBABLE TEAMS

England: 1-David Seaman, 2-Danny Mills, 5-Rio Ferdinand, 6-Sol Campbell, 3-Ashley Cole, 7-David Beckham, 18-Owen Hargreaves, 8-Paul Scholes, 11-Emile Heskey, 20-Darius Vassell, 10-Michael Owen

Sweden: 1-Magnus Hedman, 2-Olof Mellberg, 3-Patrik Andersson, 4-Johan Mjallby, 16-Teddy Lucic, 7-Niclas Alexandersson, 6-Tobias Linderoth, 8-Anders Svensson, 9-Freddie Ljungberg, 11-Henrik Larsson, 10-Marcus Allback

Referee: Simon Carlos (Brazil)



HEY PUT ME DOWN! An elated Senegal national picks his baby up in one hand while celebrating the victory over France at Marseille on May 31.

PHOTO:AFP

## TV angle

SHAYAN KHAN

Sometimes, the excitement of the World Cup starting overshadows the importance of the first game. However, in the last 12 years, 2 African teams have made sure we don't forget the football amidst all the hype of opening day. Cameroon did it sensationally in 1990. And this year in Seoul, Senegal did it, arguably even more sensationally. Surely, this one was right up there with the greatest upsets of them all. Here were the world champions and hot favorites for this year's event, against a team who had not even played in a single match at the World Cup before.

You'd hardly know it. On the day, Senegal looked composed, focused and fearless, justifying their nickname, 'Les Lionses.' Unfortunately, France too lived up to their nickname, 'Les Bleus,' definitely had the blues on Friday, clearly missing

Zinedine Zidane. A Zizou-less France looked like an orchestra without a conductor. While Senegal, led by El Hadji Diouf, looked a well-oiled machine. Their football was smart, energetic and fast. Captain Aliou Cisse ran the show in midfield, winning every loose ball and every tackle, while Ferdinand Coly was a revelation at right back. It's not like Senegal just sat back and defended. Even though France created more chances, Senegal had their own share of chances. The excellent Khalidou Fadiga rattled the crossbar after a lovely run from midfield, while Diouf was a constant threat throughout the game, down the middle and down both flanks as well. Pape Diop's goal had a bit of luck attached to it, but it was a case of the Africans making their own luck. This team is no just here to make up the numbers, and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



FIT IN TIME: David Beckham (C), warm-ups with his England teammates during a practice session at Saitama Stadium yesterday.


PHOTO:AFP

## Round 4, Draw in Sylhet

(See May 28 issue of The Daily Star for competition information, prizes and rules)

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

### Tick ( ) the correct answers

- Bangladesh first played in qualifiers for the World Cup of 1982  1986  1990
- Pele's debut World Cup was in 1954  1958  1970
- France won 1998 World Cup under the captaincy of Deschamps  Zidane  Desailly
- Which player scored most goals in a World Cup  Pele  Fontaine  Maradona
- Who is this?   Figo  Beckham  Batistuta

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

Father's name.....Occupation.....

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."

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