Samba's R Relief

Scolari) I was really exhausted so I

was happy to come off. "I want to improve bit by bit every day but it's very difficult to improve

during a World Cup." Ronaldo scored a goal and showed that he was back to his old self before being substituted for

Luizao on 72 minutes Scolari said the substitution had nothing to do with a chronic knee injury that has dogged him since

France 98 "He got tired, that was it," he said. "For us to see him play for 70 minutes was more than enough. he played the game we expected of

Dubbed "The Phenomenon" in Brazil, and twice FIFA's footballer of the year Ronaldo said scoring again in a World Cup was a dream come

"For me to score again in a World Cup was a very special moment," he

"I don't know if my goal was the most important. Rivaldo's was also important. Mine gave some tranquillity to the team and Rivaldo's gave us the victory."

Ronaldo's last World Cup goal came in their semi-final victory over Holland four years ago in France.

Will Rising

Norway exposed Japan's frailties in defending set-pieces in Oslo, although the return of Asian Cup captain Morioka from a hamstring injury adds more stability to the defence.

Japan have struggled in attack, scoring just twice from open play in their last four outings, a shortcoming they will be eager to put right.

Japan and co-hosts South Korea carry the main hopes of Asia, with China appearing in their first World Cup finals and Saudi Arabia on the end of an 8-0 demolition by Germany on Saturday.

Defeat against Belgium will only intensify the pressure on Japan to beat Russia and Tunisia in their remaining matches in group H.

Hair-raising

FROM PAGE 16 his admirers.

Portugal's Abel Xavier, unmissable with his white hair and beard, is another contender if he recovers from injury.

In World Cups past, Colombia's frizzy-haired Carlos Valderrama cut a striking figure with his peroxide Afro while the whole Romanian squad turned into the bleach boys at France '98. The entire team dyed their hair blond for their final group game against Tunisia.

TVangle

FROM PAGE 16

and Ashley Cole. Sweden ran riot in the second half though, and on the strength of their second half performance, probably deserve to be called the better side on the day. Too bad for Mills to make the mistake that led to Alexandersson's equaliser. He had been playing very well up to that point. Anyway, Sweden could have won it, but David Seaman saved England. But this performance should make some of the hype surrounding this English team die down

3-1 probably was a flattering scoreline for the Spaniards against Slovenia. Certainly in the first half at least, the Balkans created quite a few chances and had Spain on the back foot for large parts. Raul's sweet goal settled Spanish nerves though, and they looked decidedly better in the second half. De Pedro in particular always looked threatening on the left flank. His ball for Valeron's goal was a peach Slovenia kept fighting, and could have completed a very famous comeback if the referee had awarded them what looked like a fair call for a penalty late in the game. As it is, when a penalty did come, it went Spain's way, and that was the end of the game as a contest.

37 Mideast-

ern gulf 38 Pleased

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1 Jerry's old

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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SOUTH KOREA VS POLAND

ROK for attack-start

REUTERS, Seoul

Co-hosts Republic of Korea finally open their campaign against Poland on Tuesday and coach Guus Hiddink has promised his team will be going straight on the offensive as they attempt to banish memories of past failures

Forced to wait while most of the other countries have kicked off, Hiddink says Korea will be fast out of the traps for their group D opener after a narrow defeat by France and a battling 1-1 draw with England in pre-tournament friendlies lifted

"We must not sit back and wait, we must try to take the control and the initiative," Hiddink said on Sunday of his approach to Poland.

The task remains getting South Korea, winless in five past World Cups, a victory in their sixth.

"We (will) try to get the first victory ever." Hiddink said. "We have to fight hard to get in the second round."

Named hosts with Japan in 1996. the Koreans stumbled miserably in France in 1998 including a 5-0 defeat engineered by Hiddink when he was coach of the Netherlands. That triggered panic that they

would perform just as poorly on home soil. Former Bundesliga legend Cha

Bum-keun was fired as coach and former Real Madrid and PSV Eindhoven boss Hiddink was brought in to replace him. The battle begins against Poland.

whose arsenal includes Nigeria-

born Emmanuel Olisadebe who had eight goals in qualifying who should be partnered by Pawel Kryszalowicz if he is fit.

Poland's experienced back four led by Schalke 04's central defensive duo Tomasz Hajto and Thomasz Waldoch will need to be on their guard against the swift Korean forwards but have promised the hosts a physical encounter.

"There's nothing to lose," Hiddink said, describing the Koreans as underdogs behind Portugal, the United States and Poland in group

That will make for a spirited "go for it" performance, he has prom-

Veteran Hwang Sun-hong will lead the attack in his third and last finals, keen to make up for missing the 1998 finals due to injury. Captain Hong Myung-bo, Korea's

most capped player with 125, will

anchor the defence in what South

Koreans see as their best ever

Hiddink's formula is quick combination football, something his training has allowed the Koreans, once prone to flagging in the late stages, to sustain for a full 90 minutes.

"(We're) a team that can play at a high tempo," Hiddink said. "We must have an extra gear and we have some players who can do that with substitutions," he said.

Look for stylish forward Ahn Junghwan from Italian side Perugia to play such a role. Others include talented young

players Hiddink has cultivated, including his predecessor's son, aggressive 21-year-old forward Cha

Defender Hyun Young-min, like Cha, is another university player hand-picked by Hiddink for this chance with the national side.

from Korea, who play like Japan.

and we learned a lot."

"That game was important to us

Asked what those lessons had

"We know not to be so sleepy at

been, Engel said: "We learned, and

we have seen since, that these

the start, like France," he added, in

reference to the world champions'

poor defending in their 3-2 friendly

Engel, who was an "information

gatherer" for Poland ahead of the

1982 World Cup when they finished

"The Koreans have been waiting

third, said there would be no sur-

for this moment and preparing for it

for four years," he said. "They will

have most of a very noisy crowd

behind them and want to show

everyone how good they are so it is

sure that they will start aggressively

"But we've seen a lot of their

"We might not have been in a

Chief among those old heads is

captain Tomasz Waldoch, fresh

from winning the German Cup with

fellow Polish international centre

games and we know how to stop

teams like to start very quickly.

win over Korea last week

prises for his team.

and quickly.

deal with them."

PROBABLE TEAMS

South Korea: (Formation 3-4-3; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 12-Kim Byung-ji; 4-Choi Jin-cheul, 20-Hong Myung-bo, 7-Kim Tae-young; 22-Song Chong-gug, 5-Kim Nam-il, 6-Yoo Sang-chul, 13-Lee Eul-yong; 21-Park Jisung; 18-Hwang Sun-hong, 9-Seol Ki-hyeon

Poland: (Formation 4-4-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Jerzy Dudek; 2-Tomasz Klos, 15-Tomasz Waldoch, 6-Tomasz Hajto, 4-Michal Zewlakow; 17-Arkadiusz Bak, 7-Piotr Swierczewski, 10-Radoślaw Kaluzny, 21-Marek Kozminski; 11-Emmanuel Olisadebe, 9-Pawel Kryszalowicz.

Polish Lego

REUTERS, Pusan

Poland's World Cup squad are backing their experience and team spirit to help them overcome a buoyant South Korea in their opening group D match on Tuesday with coach Jerzy Engel describing his players as "Lego." "We are one big football family."

Engel told reporters on Monday after arriving in Pusan for the match. "We are Lego -- you know the children's toy. Many bricks that fit together to make a smooth wall. We

Engel and the team have been under fire in the Polish press in recent months after a series of disappointing performances in friendlies but the coach was unconcerned.

"You can forget all that," he said. "All we have been concentrating on is preparing for the World Cup.

"We lost to Japan (2-0) but we played the game because I wanted to show the players what to expect

Zidane jittery

Friday's opening game in Seoul. But despite the poor start to the defence of their world crown, Zidane says France are still confident of progressing in the tournament.

'We are not even thinking of missing out on the quarter-finals," added the twice World Player of the

Zidane's injury has become an obsession in France with even the president and prime minister offerng their support to a team that looked distinctly off-colour without their talisman.

The whole country has been closely scrutinising the latest bulletins on the condition of the French playmaker. President Jacques Chirac and

Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin have expressed their support for the squad, stressing that once Zidane has recovered everything will be back to normal.

Zidane's possible absence for Thursday's Uruguay match was splashed on the front page of sports daily L'Equipe on Monday.

Without giving a source, the newspaper said Zidane is running short of time to be fit for the key group Agame in Pusan.

But daily Le Parisien ran a story hinting that the French playmaker is recovering faster than expected and should start.

"His healing is faster than we had imagined," a member of the French team was quoted as saving.

20 Erstwhile

22 Sur-

duckling

Any forecast is hard to make as the only certainty is that Zidane resumed jogging on Saturday after

in his left thiah. 'The injury is evolving favourably. The treatment and the work will step up in the next few days," team doctor Jean-Marcel Ferret said in a statement on Sunday.

a six-day layoff due to a torn muscle

"Zidane's situation is reviewed on a daily basis by the medical staff and by the coaching staff," Ferret said without providing a diagnosis.

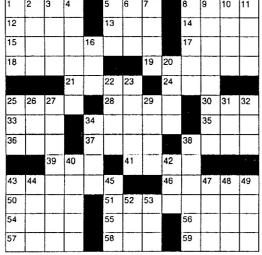
On Saturday, coach Roger emerre said he would be ver surprised to have Zidane back in

time for the Uruquay match. 'There are only four days to go. And this is a very annoying injury as nobody can say how much time it may take to heal," Lemerre told a press conference, hinting that he

may slot midfielder Johan Micoud into Zidane's position. Cautious Lemerre is unlikely to take any risks with Zidane since he knows he cannot afford to have the player injured again if France are to have a chance of retaining their

"You can't play with the health of the player. It's too important," said Lemerre, despite conceding his team badly missed their inspirational player in the opening game.

France opted to train behind closed doors on Monday ahead of the match against Uruguay, who lost 2-1 to Denmark in the second group A game on Saturday. France play Denmark on June 11.



VXK KCX

KCXP'F VJMI M OXH IPKXT

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals M The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the

puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error

Some solace for Paraguay

AP, Seoul

It may not make Paraguay feel any better about throwing away a two-goal lead, but FIFA ruled Monday that the South Americans did not score an own goal in their 2-2 draw against South Africa.

The soccer body decided that the first South African goal, scored in the 63rd minute, was scored by midfielder Teboho Mokoena, even though it was deflected off Paraguay's Estanislao Struway.

"In terms of the FIFA definition it was clearly a positive goal," FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper said.

"A deflected shot counts as a goal, regardless of whether the ball was on target or slightly off

Paraguay had been leading 2-0 and looked to be cruising to victory, but the goal encouraged the South African team. In injury time Paraguay conceded a penalty, that was knocked into the corner of the net by Quinton Fortune to the delight of South African fans.

FROM PAGE 16

"Now, I have to find the strength, I don't know from where, to help my team mates.' He will be replaced by

Corinthians midfielder Ricardinho. Brazil's general manager Americo Faria said: "Emerson's presence is tremendously important, he exercises significant leadership and we know we will miss him a

"He is very sad but I'm sure the

four years after Emerson himself called in as a last-minute replacement when striker Romario was left out because of a nagging

exposed to these things, we know it can happen at any moment, Emerson told reporters at the Brazil team hotel

"I want to give my support to Ricardinho because the situation for me in 1998 was very difficult, a lot of people were doubting me, so I want to wish him all the luck in the world."

and I will continue working hard. Emerson spoke confidently at the start but became increasingly emotional, eventually prompting media officer Rodrigo Paiva to end

the conference. "It's not easy to get into the Brazil team, there are many other players of quality and I worked hard to be here, not only that but I am captain of the team and I am in a privileged

Now, this has happened.

Emerson, criticised by some commentators for committing too many fouls and lacking technique, said he would remain with the team for at least their first three games to lend moral support. "I will stay here with my compan-

ions because I think it's right, because they gave me a lot of support, I won the leadership with their backing and I think they will need me here.

Emotional Emerson

success of the Brazil team will reduce Emerson's suffering." The incident happened exactly

"Football players are always

"In 1998. I came into the team in a similar situation, today I'm leaving and giving way to another compan-

performances in recent friendlies and injuries to their main strikers if they are to match their admirable nerformance at the 1990 World Cup "I have worked hard until today Czechoslovakia.

Ironically, it was China coach Bora Milutinovic who guided Costa Rica that year, when the Ticos beat

FROM PAGE 13 participate after 48 years." he said.

Turkish television pundits agreed he match had bee far at the finals -- but lamented their team's bad luck and the refereeing

There had been much talk before the finals of the warm ties between Turkey and South Korea, with a group of Turkish veterans who fought in the 1950-53 Korean war travelling to the Far East to watch

But those ties could strain after

"I have to say there was an injustice in the result," coach Gunes said. Millions of Turks -- who found some way or other to evade work and watch the match -- agreed with

area, so it wasn't a penalty _ the referee made a mistake," said Murat Unlu. 26. a shopkeeper in Ankara.

for failing to ensure Brazil's defenders kept the required distance from the ball as Turkey sought an equaliser from a free kick just outside the box in the dying seconds -and for red-carding defender Hakan Unsal in injury time.

Unsal struck the ball toward Brazil's Rivaldo, but Turks were left fuming by the Brazilian's play-acting -- he fell to the floor clutching his face when the ball had struck him around the knee.

The country came to a virtual standstill to watch Monday's matchup, and Turks had begun the day with high hopes.

"Beat the Brazilians, let's be the

ones doing the samba," headlined "The foul happened outside the Not everyone had to invent

excuses to find a way of watching. Some 2,000 students i waved flags, cheered, and danced in their high school auditorium after

school officials agreed to let them skip classes to watch the match. Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit watched the game at home, where he is recovering after being hospitalised twice last month, his aides

After the match, Ecevit's deputy premier Mesut Yilmaz deplored the

loss of two players to red cards. "Unfortunately, we're not as good at playing in a gentlemanly way as we are at playing soccer," he said. But Yilmaz predicted Turkey would overcome the loss to reach the

Try German formula

Fadiga said the store incident had been a prank which he soon came to regret. The necklace was returned to the store. REUTERS, Seoul

> tonque-twisting German word for common sense or tact in a bid to improve their performances at the World Cup finals --"Fingerspitzengefuehl."

> Literally translated as "feeling in the fingertip," it is the buzz-word that the world governing body FIFA, based in German-speaking over-reacting.

Monday. "We do not want referees to be policemen. We want them to show feeling for the game." FIFA communications director Keith Cooper said of Scotland's Cumming: "George didn't speak any

became the first man in the 2002 tournament to be shown a red card on Monday after his rash tackle gave away the decisive penalty in their 1-0 group G defeat by Mexico.

But in the first three days of firstyellow cards.

Cumming said the campaign to stop players faking fouls (diving) or simulating injury seemed to be working at the finals. Players who "dive" will be fined for the first time at

Blanco spot on FROM PAGE 13

Robert Jarni's long throw set up Stjepan Thomas with two minutes left but Mexican keeper Oscar Perez got his hands to a blistering effort to deflect the effort into the side netting.

Mexico, who have twice made the quarter-finals, struggled to make this year's event and only claimed their place at the last minute.

Coach Javier Aguirre, who said beforehand that the Croatians' weak spot was their defence, put his faith in the experienced Blanco with Jared Borgetti alongside him rather than Francisco Palencia, while the 'Aztecas' handed the captaincy to Monaco defender Rafael Marquez.

Borgetti missed a sitter from six yards after 33 minutes after Ramon Morales' mis-hit effort came to him.

And the home-based Santos Laguna striker soon paid for the howler as 1998 star Luis Hernandez came on in his place with 21 minutes left, his straggling long blond locks kept in check by a headband.

Blanco took his leave of the proceedings with 11 minutes left to take the plaudits of hundreds of sombrero-clad Mexican fans and give Penencia a run out.

Mexico, meeting Croatia for the first time in a competitive match, kept veteran midfielder Alberto Garcia Aspe, looking to make an impression at his third World Cup, on the bench despite a century of

Italy in Oita on June 13.

TEAMS Croatia: Pletikosa. Simunic. Tomas, Zivkovic, Robert Kovac, Jarni, Niko Kovac, Prosinecki (Rapaic 45), Soldo, Boksic (Stanic 67), Suker (Saric 64).

Sent off: Zivkovic (60). Mexico: Perez, Vidrio, Marquez, Carmona, Morales, Torrado, Caballero, Luna, Mercado, Borquetti (Hernandez 68), Blanco (Palencia 79).

Goals: Blanco 61 (pen). Referee: Jun Lu (China).

Ref Collina

think it has to be the same for the referee, too.' But first reports after the first eight games of the Korea-Japan

he was pleased with the overall standard so far. "It has been a reasonable start,"

said Cummings. But like Collina, he too warns

players and fans not to demand perfection. "We're going to make mistakes.

Mistakes happen - that's football. I think we've got to accept that," he



Chinese team members (L-R) Yu Genwei, Sun Jihai, Hao Haidong, Li Weifeng and Shao Jiayi warm up before practice at

the Gwangju World Cup Stadium yesterday. China make their World Cup debut today against Costa Rica.

CHINA VS COSTA RICA

China's historic match dangerous, if unpredictable, striker Scotland and Sweden. The much-

REUTERS, Kwangju

China make their long-awaited debut in the World Cup finals on Tuesday hoping for victory in a match against Costa Rica that could make or break the hopes of a nation of 1.3 billion people.

Costa Rica are China's weakest opponent in group C, which also includes Brazil and Turkey, and a defeat would severely dent Chinese hopes of reaching the second China have tried to play down

expectations among goal-hungry fans, up to 40,000 of whom are expected to travel to South Korea, but hopes are running high back home where tens of millions more will watch the game on television from Beijing to Tibet.

Only 1,000-odd Costa Rica fans are expected in Kwangju, but the stakes are also high for the Central Americans on their second appearance at the finals. They must improve on poor

in Italy when they reached the second round before losing to World Cup finals Milutinovic says China's best chance of qualifying from the group is to beat Costa Rica and hold

travelled coach has also led Mexico,

the United States and Nigeria to the

Turkey to a draw since he has little hope of getting anything out of the After five days training on the southern island of Cheju, Milutinovic pronounced his team fit and ready, playing down concerns about injuries to two key players --

midfielder Qi Hong and defender

Fan Zhiyi -- and pressure from the

Chinese fans "It is best that they enjoy it, be happy -- show who we are," he said. "If we are in the World Cup we are

always in with a chance. China will rely on linchpin Fan to marshall a rock-steady defence alongside Sun, and rising star Li Weifeng, to keep out Costa Rica's

Wanchope will spearhead the attack after recovering from a knee

Paulo Wanchope

warm-up games.

injury that had threatened to rule him out of the World Cup. But he has played down his importance in the "This team does not depend solely on me," he told reporters at

all my team mates are capable of performing well." China strikers Yang Chen and Hao Haidong will be hoping to end a goal drought that plagued them through the country's World Cup

the weekend, "We are a squad, and

Although China were heartened by Senegal's shock victory over France in the opening game of the finals, Germany's 8-0 trouncing of Saudi Arabia sent a chill through Chinese

PROBABLE TEAMS China (Formation 4-4-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 22-Jiang Jin;

7-Sun Jihai, 5-Fan Zhiyi, 14-Li Weifeng, 4-Wu Chengying; 18-Li Xiaopeng, 8-Li Tie, 19-Qi Hong, 9-Ma Mingyu; 10-Hao Haidong, 20-Yang Chen Costa Rica (Formation 5-3-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Erick Lonnis; 15-Harold Wallace, 3-Luis Marin, 4-Mauricio Wright, 5-Gilberto Martinez, 22-Carlos Castro; 6-Wilmer Lopez, 8-Mauricio Solis, 10-Walter Centeno; 9-Paulo Wanchope, 17-Hernan Medford

Tormented Turks

"I'm proud of them."

decision they claimed cost them the

the finals

the performance of the referee.

Referees have been learning a

Switzerland, is using to persuade referees to control games without "It is a frequent word at seminars," FIFA refereeing commission chief George Cumming said on

German before and it was the first word he learned. He uses it all the time now.' Croatian defender Boris Zivkovic

round matches, referees have generally not been showing many

He is clearly being kept as an ace in the pack for Mexico's match against

second round.

FROM PAGE 13 stop the game and go away'. And I

World Cup have given top marks for the referees' performances. George Cumming, head of FIFA's referee's commission, said

sm. and

DZASCEXT, E HNAFXJ EO

SNDRZKXJ

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A FIRECRACKER COULD BE PLANTED IN YOUR PANCAKES,

Government authorities on Monday arrested a Malaysian hoping to cash in on soccer mania by selling 25,000 pirated compact discs of World Cup

loaded the CDs into a van in Penang state, Fahmi Kasim, state director of the Domestic Trade Ministry, told national news agency Bernama. The 41-year-old man, who was not identified, was being investigated for copyright infringement in Penang, about 250 kilometers (155 miles)

northwest of Kuala Lumpur, Bernama reported. Ministry officials could not immediately be reached for details.

World Cup for 16 years but some of our players are big stars at major European clubs and are very experisituation," Emerson said. "They can help the youngsters and minimise the pressure

back Tomasz Hajto and a regular in the national team for more than 10 "Overall, we have a lot more experience and I feel this is our

major advantage," he said. "We know the Korean strikers are fast but we are confident we can

CUP CORNER

accused of stealing a 240 dollar necklace from the store the Sunday before the match. A gold pig is a traditional good-luck token among Koreans. Store manager Lee Seung-Youl told AFP: "It was a small gift but I hope Fadiga will like it and his team will do a great job to the end. I hope we meet

South Korean investigators say the case against the 27-year-old Auxerre star is likely to be closed soon without a punishment

REUTERS, Namhae Half the Denmark squad celebrated their 2-1 first round victory over Uruguay not with a wild party but with a sedate afternoon's fishing.

The World Cup squad arrived back at their Namhae training base in

the early hours of Sunday morning following Saturday's game at Ulsan and had a light lunchtime workout. Given the afternoon off by coach Morten Olsen, half the squad stayed in the hotel to watch Argentina play Nigeria while the other half, led by captain Jan Heintze, went off for a spot of fishing at a local beauty spot. Denmark face Senegal on Thursday and their chief injury doubt is

midfielder Stig Tofting.

He has not trained since injuring a foot in the Uruguay game. Although

CLEARER NIGERIAN SHIRT NAMES PLEASE

an x-ray revealed no break he is in some pain

Nigeria have been asked to highlight the numbers and names on the back of their shirts because they were difficult to see in Sunday's 1-0 defeat by Argentina at the World Cup. World governing body FIFA said on Monday that broadcasters had commented on the contrast problems between the white numbers and

There has been a request to put the names and numbers in black,"

Nigeria's light green shirts in the first-round group F game.

Malaysian nabbed with 25,000 pirated CDs of World Cup songs PIRATED WC CDS SEIZED

FIFA communications director Keith Cooper told a news conference.

Nigeria's next game is against Sweden on June 7 in Kobe in Japan.

Officials acting on a public tip-off detained the man shortly after he