



PHOTO:AFP
TOLD YOU I'D SCORE! Samuel Eto'o (L), the Cameroon forward lets out a war-cry in front of coach Winfried Schäfer after scoring against Saudi Arabia at Saitama yesterday.

Stat-struck

AFP, Yokohama

It's not just talent which makes the 736 players at the World Cup stand out. A glance at official FIFA statistics throws up all kinds of human extremes - proof positive of the global nature of the tournament - which demonstrate a range of even humdrum details such as their age, height and weight. So, for example, it is - unusually - China who boast the tallest player in the event with Jin Jiang standing tall at 1m98 - a centimetre more than Nigerian forward Nwanko Kanu. Brazil's Juninho Paulista, one of the men who will face Jin on Saturday, will be gazing up at him as

the smallest participant at 1.65m. Ireland's Niall Quinn may not be quite the tallest at 1m95 - but he does have the distinction of being the heaviest, tipping the scales at 100 kilos. Perhaps surprisingly it is two goalkeepers - England's David James and Mladen Dabanovic of Slovenia - who are the next heaviest at 94 kilos. The lightest is US star Damarcus Beasley, a real bantamweight at just 57 kilos. Saudi Arabia's goalkeeper Mohammed Al Deayea has the record number of caps at 163 to date - seven more than Cobi Jones of the United States. Al Deayea has an unhappier

record at these finals as having conceded more goals in one World Cup game than any other keeper in 20 years in his side's 8-0 loss to Germany. Gabriel Batistuta of Argentina has the most goals to his name with 56 - in 76 games - with South Korea's Hwang Sun Hong on 50 from 96. The old man of the tournament is Danish defender Jan Heintze at 38 and 10 months - a month older than England keeper David Seaman and Russian shot-stopper Stanislav Cherchesov. Nigeria provide the baby of the Cup in striker Femi Opanunmi at 17 years and three months.

SWEDEN VS NIGERIA Eagles' now or never

REUTERS, Kobe

It may be the poor relation of group F but Sweden are expecting a difficult game against Nigeria on Friday since the African side will be making plans to return home if they fail to pick up at least a point. While attention will be lavished on the mouthwatering contest between the other contenders, Argentina and England, in Sapporo later in the day, the clash between the Swedes and Nigerians could still be pivotal to the outcome of a fascinating group. Having lost 1-0 to Argentina in their opener on Sunday, Nigeria must prepare for the worst in Kobe since another defeat will end their interest in the tournament. But if they can put their inade-

quate display against Marcelo Bielsa's side behind them and surprise Sweden, it will be the Scandinavians who will be studying flight times out of Japan. The Swedes' 1-1 draw with England on Sunday has left them vulnerable, under pressure to pick up points against the Super Eagles. Moreover, their June 12 date with the impressive Argentina will not fill them with optimism. "We know how important this game is," said Sweden coach Lars Lagerback. "This group is very tight and could be decided by one result." Worryingly for England, victories for Sweden and Argentina on Friday could leave those teams needing just a draw when they meet in Miyagi.

Sweden hope Patrik Andersson will be back against Nigeria, but the defender is still battling to overcome the groin strain that forced him to miss the England match. Fredrik Ljungberg has recovered from the hip injury he aggravated against England and is set to take his place in Sweden's midfield. "We think it's going to be very difficult," Ljungberg said of the Nigeria challenge. "Against Argentina they played counter-attacking football...we don't know if they're going to play like that against us or whether they're going to keep the ball more. "But we have a lot of respect for them."

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PHOTO:AFP
THAT'S THE WAY TO COOL OFF: A couple of Japanese school girls dance in a fountain on a hot afternoon at Sapporo yesterday.

SPAIN VS PARAGUAY Free-kick wary Spaniards

AP, Ulsan

Spain are wary of Paraguay's free kicks near the area and long balls to the back of the defence as they prepare for Group B's second match in the World Cup. "They're best at long balls to your back and looking for free kicks near the area," said Spanish coach Jose Antonio Camacho. "They shoot free kicks well. That's what they're best at." Spain go into Friday's game in Jeonju looking to clinch a place in the second round. Paraguay want to avoid an early return home. The Paraguayans made just such an escape when the two teams met at the same point of the World Cup in 1998 - the only previous meeting between Spain, the former conquistador nation of 41 million

people, and its one-time colony of just 5 million. That game ended 0-0, after the Spaniards had lost their opener against Nigeria. They failed to get beyond the first round in what was possibly their worst World Cup performance ever. The jubilant Paraguayans, meanwhile, went on to defeat Nigeria and make it to the second round for the second time ever. This time, Spain have broken a 52-year jinx of not winning opening matches. With a well-earned under-achiever reputation going into their 11th World Cup, the Spaniards kicked off with a 3-1 win against Slovenia. Another three points would see them safely into the second round. "The tension going to the (1998)

match was totally different," said Luis Enrique Martinez. "This time we are much more confident and relaxed after the first-game victory." Paraguay, making their fourth World Cup appearance, wasted a 2-0 lead to tie 2-2 against supposed Group B weakling South Africa in their opener. Another draw would keep their hopes alive, but a defeat could be fatal. But Spain are not taking Paraguay for granted. "Spain will suffer if we let them get the rhythm," said Camacho. He sees Bayern Munich forward Roque Santa Cruz as one of the chief dangers. "Santa Cruz is a player who

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Historic own goals

REUTERS, Seoul

The second goal scored by the United States in their surprise 3-2 win over Portugal on Wednesday has been declared an own goal by Portuguese defender Jorge Costa, creating a piece of World Cup finals history. The match is now the only one in the tournament's 72-year history to witness two own goals. A speculative cross from the right from midfielder Landon Donovan took an unfortunate deflection off Costa on its way into the net in the 29th minute of the group D game. In the second half of the match U.S. defender Jeff Agoos deflected the ball into the back of his own net as he tried to clear a cross in the 71st minute. FIFA usually regards deflections

in a positive light and awards the goal to the player who took the shot. But FIFA communications director Keith Cooper told a news conference on Thursday: "Donovan's effort was clearly not a shot. The ball was going across the field. It was an attempted cross and not a goal attempt. You could see from his reaction that he was a bit embarrassed." Earlier in the tournament, FIFA decided to award South Africa's first goal in a 2-2 draw with Paraguay in group B to Tebeho Mokoena after it was originally given as an own goal. Mokoena's shot took a deflection off Estanislao Struway and was first given as an own goal by the Paraguay midfielder. Of the 1,803 goals scored in 17 World Cup tournaments, only 24 have been own goals, just over one percent.

TV angle

SHAYAN KHAN

The goals just keep on flowing in Korea and Japan. After Day 6, the goals tally for the tournament stood at an impressive 48 from 16 games. Russia started their campaign by scoring two of those goals against Tunisia. They looked solid and very professional against the Africans, who put up a good show themselves. Both sides created chances, and Tunisia certainly weren't intimidated by their opponents' pedigree. The Russians attacked with flair and dominated the first half, but a goal did not eventuate. Tunisia started the second half in positive mood and had the Russians on the back foot. But a tragic mistake by the Tunisian keeper, Boumijel, resulted in a goal for Yegor Titov, and that was the turning point. The Russians soon got a second through a Karpin

penalty, and after that it was always going to be a case of just playing out the time remaining, which they duly did. This Russian team, which many believe to be their best in a long time, will prove tough to beat for anyone. Next up, Portugal's 'Golden Generation' were in for a rude awakening against the United States. The unfancied Americans rocked the Portuguese early, as Luis Figo and Co looked decidedly jittery, none more so than their goalkeeper, Vitor Baia. He could have done better on the first and third goals. On the first, he made a great save from an initial shot but couldn't hold on to it, and on the third, he should clearly have come off his line to take the cross before it got to anyone else. At this

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PHOTO:AFP
ALL THOSE IN THIS LIST WILL PLAY! Spain coach Jose Antonio Camacho (C) reads out something from a piece of paper while Raul (R) and other players listen at Ulsan yesterday.

Round 4, Draw in Sylhet on June 7

(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 (Ö) the correct answers

1. Bangladesh first played in qualifiers for the World Cup of 1982	<input type="checkbox"/>	1986	<input type="checkbox"/>	1990	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Pele's debut World Cup was in	<input type="checkbox"/>	1954	<input type="checkbox"/>	1958	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. France won 1998 World Cup under the captaincy of Deschamps	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zidane	<input type="checkbox"/>	Desailly	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Which player scored most goals in a World Cup	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pele	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fontaine	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Who is this?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Figo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beckham	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms).....Age.....
 Father's nameOccupation.....
 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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