



PHOTO: AFP

SHINY SAMBA SMILES: Brazilians loving the show put on by their national team during the match against China at Seogwipo on June 8.

Samba on song

AFP, Seogwipo

Buoyed by two wins, six goals and the stumbling of pre-tournament favourites, Brazil are starting to believe they can go all the way and take home a fifth World Cup title.

Buck toothed star Ronaldo, who snatched his second goal as many games in Brazil's 4-0 Group C win over China on Saturday, led the charge.

The Inter Milan striker said he was back to his prolific best and would score a goal in every game.

"I believe I can now score a goal in every match," he said. "I feel great. I know I'm on the right path."

Dubbed "The Phenomenon" in Brazil, and twice FIFA's footballer of the year, he said his confidence was running high and Brazil have what it

takes to win the World Cup for a fifth time.

"I want to go to the final and I think the team is getting better," he said. "I believe we can go to the final match."

He has every reason to want to play in Japan on June 30 to put the ghosts of 1998 to rest.

His name was omitted from the starting line-up against France in the final four years ago after he suffered a fit. He eventually took the field but was a shadow of his former self, barely managing a shot on goal.

He has since been wracked by injury.

Wing back Roberto Carlos, who also got on the score sheet against

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PHOTO: AFP

SNIFFING GOAL! Scorer of Mexico's winning goal Gerardo Torrado (R) leaves Ecuador's Ivan Kaviedes behind at Miyagi yesterday.

SOUTH KOREA VS USA

Best friends at war

AP/ REUTERS, Seoul

Tens of thousands of screaming fans, nearly all in red shirts, will be ready to greet the US team.

An entire nation will be fixed on the game, with businesses around the nation coming nearly to a halt.

Just like in 1990, the United States will be playing the World Cup host. Only this time, when the Americans meet South Korea at Daegu on Monday, they have a chance to advance to the second round.

"The good thing is most of us have played in hostile environments," American captain Claudio Reyna said Saturday, "so that helps us out."

Both nations are coming off surprising wins in their openers. The United States, with 20-year-olds Landon Donovan and DaMarcus Beasley among six starters making World Cup debuts, shocked fifth-ranked Portugal 3-2 for its biggest victory since 1950. South Korea upset Poland 2-0 for its first World Cup win in 15 tries.

"The second game is the key if you want to go through," U.S. goalkeeper Kasey Keller said before the opener. "Even if you get smoked by Portugal, the next game is the key."

As many as 5,000 police are to patrol Seoul on Monday, when tens of thousands of people are expected to gather in the city centre to watch the game on jumbo TV screens. Arena anticipates a peaceful crowd at the stadium, even if the United States wins.

"I'm not expecting them to resort to violence," he said. "I don't think this is that sort of society."

Despite the hype in the South

Korean press, U.S. players have ignored the off-the-field stuff. They appear extremely focused on the South Korean players.

"As players for America, we expect a political twist," Reyna said. "All we're doing is laughing about it. It's a game. We're just players representing U.S. soccer."

Both teams have injuries, which could lead to lineup changes.

Reyna, a midfielder who plays a big part in the U.S. offence, missed the opener because of a strain in his right quadriceps.

"I think I'm there," he said Saturday. "I've been practising the last two days -- no steps backwards. I feel confident that I could play."

Arena said he's hopeful Reyna can play, but has not been counting on midfielder Earnie Stewart, who strained his left groin against Portugal and was replaced by Cobi Jones at halftime. Stewart considered himself 50-50 for Monday.

"It still hurts, but it's the World Cup. I'm a fast healer," he said.

Reyna is likely to replace Pablo Mastroeni in midfield, Jones could take over for Stewart, Keller could play goal instead of Brad Friedel as part of a predetermined rotation, and Gregg Berhalter could replace

Jeff Agoos at central defender.

Brian McBride and Donovan started at forward against Portugal, and it's hard to tell if Arena would make changes, with Josh Wolff and Joe-Max Moore options. It appears Arena doesn't think Clint Mathis is capable of playing 90 minutes.

South Korea are worried about forward Hwang Sun-hong and midfielder Yoo Sang-chul, who each scored a goal against the Poles. Hwang hurt his right hip during the game and Yoo injured his right knee, but both resumed training this weekend. Against the Poles, South Korea ran relentlessly.

"They will test us in every part of the field," Arena said. "Additionally, they have developed their attacking play over the past four weeks or so, and they are very dangerous on the break and excellent on restarts."

In another side issue, some South Koreans were taken aback that the match officials are staying in the same hotel the American team will be at Sunday night.

"It's a little bit strange," South Korea coach Guus Hiddink said.

Television networks are repea

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PHOTO: AFP

SPEED IS THE KEY: (L-R) Lee Young Pyo, Lee Eul Yong and Kim Nam Il run during a practice session at Daegu yesterday.

PROBABLE TEAMS

South Korea: (Formation 3-4-3; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Lee Woon-jae; 4-Choi Jin-cheul, 20-Hong Myung-bo, 7-Kim Tae-young; 22-Song Chong-gug, 5-Kim Nam-il, 14-Lee Chun-soo, 13-Lee Eul-yong; 21-Park Ji-sung; 11-Choi Yong-soo, 9-Seol Ki-hyeon

United States: (Formation 5-4-1; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Brad Friedel; 2-Frankie Hejduk, 4-Pablo Mastroeni, 12-Jeff Agoos, 22-Tony Sanneh, 23-Eddie Pope; 5-John O'Brien, 11-Clint Mathis, 17-DaMarcus Beasley, 21-Landon Donovan; 20-Brian McBride

Referee: Urs Meier (Switzerland)

Hotspot

AFP, Daegu

Monday's football clash between South Korea and the United States has been given the highest security risk ranking of the World Cup by the government and FIFA, officials said.

Fears of an attack on the US team have put the authorities on high alert. But with the host nation riding a wave of patriotic World Cup fever, the government is also fretting that South Korean fans might stage embarrassing anti-American protests.

FIFA has made the match Category A, the highest of its three level security ranking, according to organisers.

Because of the hooligan risk, last week's England-Argentina game in Japan had the same alert. "But the risks here are infinitely higher," a senior defence ministry official told AFP.

Taking no chances of copycat September 11 style suicide plane attacks, US warships and planes at sea off the Korean coast will monitor the southeastern city, defence officials said.

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PHOTO: INTERNET

FOLLOW MY LEAD: Clint Mathis (R) leads his USA teammate John O'Brien during practice at Taegu yesterday.

Caniggia comeback?

AP, Naraha

Forward Claudio Caniggia, sidelined for more than a month due to injury, could be among the substitutes for Argentina's must-win match against Sweden, the team's spokesman said Sunday.

Caniggia, 35, injured his knee playing for Glasgow Rangers in May's Scottish Cup final. He suffered a reaction during training a few days before Argentina's opening encounter with Nigeria on June 2.

But spokesman Andres Ventura said Caniggia is now back in full training with his teammates. Before the injury, he was playing on the right wing, a position now occupied by Ariel Ortega.

Argentina are in third place in

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TVangle

SHAYAN KHAN

Before the World Cup started, many people were saying how the gap between the elite of the football world and the rest was closing. They continue to be proved right.

Today it was Italy's turn to suffer, at the hands of Croatia. Even though Croatia finished third in France '98, it was shocking because the Croatians are really not as good as they were four years ago, and their first game against Mexico was testament to that. But on this day, they were an inspired lot. Trapattoni used the 4-4-2 again, and this time, he got caught out. Croatia completely dominated the midfield, and they always looked the better side. Tommassi and Zanetti were no match for Soldo and Kovac. This was the key battle that the Croats

won, because it allowed them to enjoy most of the possession in midfield and put pressure on the Italian defence. But Maldini and Co thwarted all their attempts, and then Vieri put the Italians ahead with his first chance of the match. Soon after Vieri's goal in the 55th minute, Croatia came back though and this time got the goal they deserved, when Jarni's low cross into the six-yard box was turned in by Olic. Despite the quality of the ball, it was stunning to see all the Italian defenders miss it. That gave Croatia renewed confidence, and they were determined to seize the day. The ultimate reward came in the 72nd minute, when another uncharacteristic mistake in the


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Round 5, Draw in Chittagong on June 21

(Competition information, prizes and rules on June 7 issue)

The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 5 Ends June 20, 2002

Tick (Ö) the correct answers

- Record of most World Cup finals appearances goes to Joff Matthaus Milla
- Only country to play in every World Cup Argentina Brazil Germany
- Middle name of Diego Maradona is Alberto Armando Admundo
- Which WC final was decided in penalty shoot-out 1998 1994 1990
- Who is this?  Figo Raul Batistuta

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 5."

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