



PHOTO: AFP

PREMATURE: Christian Vieri, the Italy striker tells the South Korean fans to shut up after scoring at Daejeon yesterday.

Best of Lions yet to come

REUTERS, Paris

Senegal coach Bruno Metsu said his side had still not hit top form after beating Sweden 2-1 on Sunday to reach the World Cup quarter-finals.

"We still haven't reached our peak" Metsu said in an interview with French sports daily L'Equipe on Monday.

"We will meet either Japan or Turkey (in the last eight) and we'll have a chance to go through."

Metsu added that he had no preference for which side he faced, even if co-hosts Japan would be playing in front of their home crowd.

He said he was still sure his side would beat Sweden even when

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Diego's money on Germany

INTERNET, Zurich

Argentine legend Diego Maradona bestowed praise on the German national team.

"Germany look invincible," wrote the flamboyant footballer on the pages of the Swiss daily Blick.

"Even though they display rather predictable performances, Germany appear to be too strong for their rivals."

Maradona believes Germany goalie Oliver Kahn is the key figure to the German team's success.

"He inspires confidence in his teammates and they believe that a single goal will secure their team to the victory. I still remember that playing against Germany I had to deal with a tank named Briegel. I believe he is a role model for German defenders."

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Wilmots calls it quits

INTERNET, Brussels

Belgium skipper Marc Wilmots confirmed his retirement from international football after the Red Devils finished their World Cup campaign losing to Brazil 2-0 on Monday at Kobe.

The Red Devils' skipper has won 70 caps during his 12-year long spell at the national team.

"One should know when to close the chapter. It's true that I experienced mixed feeling following the match. The Belgian national team constituted a very nice part of my life. I have taken this decision before the World Cup and I am keen to keep

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Turks on cloud nine

REUTERS, Ankara

Cheering crowds rallied in thousands waving red Turkish flags and politicians declared the nation "engulfed in joy" on Tuesday after Turkey cruised into the quarter finals of the World Cup for the first time ever.

Jubilant Turks predicted their soccer team, recovering from the jitters it suffered in the early stages of the competition, would now bring home the treasured trophy.

Crowds in the political capital Ankara carried a huge Turkish flag, a white star and crescent moon on a red background, through the streets as cars honked their horns.

Thousands danced to the beat of drums in sealed-off central Kizilay square. Office workers leaned from windows and scattered confetti. Streets around the square were lined in the red of flags hanging from windows.

"This comes as no surprise," Pinar Akkus, a 24-year-old civil servant said as she clutched a large flag.

"Now I expect our national team to bring home the cup. Turks are at their best when struggling," she said.

For Metin, a 25-year-old taxi driver, the victory offered a break from the stress of economic hardship.

"I stopped working and picked up a few friends and drove around honking," he said. "I am depressed,

but today I must be happy whether I like it or not."

More than a million Turks have lost their jobs during a deep recession that has sent inflation soaring. Markets have sagged since Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit entered hospital last month. The 77-year-old premier is recuperating at home.

Investors fear bickering among coalition partners in Ecevit's absence could lead to early elections and ruin a multibillion dollar International Monetary Fund loan package.

"If they could, the government would tax this victory," said Huarrem Yagmur, 39, an engineer who stopped work to dance in Kizilay square wrapped in a red flag. "The people needed this, and it will last only if we beat Senegal, which we will."

The scenes were repeated in the commercial centre Istanbul and other cities around the country.

Turkey, attending their first world cup finals since 1954, beat Japan 1-0 in pouring rain in Miyagi, Japan, with a 12th-minute goal from Umit Davala. Work in factories and offices and trading on financial markets came to a virtual halt.

Politicians rushed to join the celebrations.

"A thousand thanks to our national team," rightist deputy prime minister Devlet Bahceli said

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PHOTO: AFP

THOUSAND MILES AWAY THE DELIGHT'S THE SAME! Fans watching the game against Belgium on TV at the Brazilian city of Brasilia celebrate Rivaldo's goal on June 17.

England not worried

REUTERS, Higashiura

England are not frightened of facing Brazil in Friday's World Cup quarterfinal - in fact they are confident of dumping the four times champions out of the finals, says captain David Beckham.

Beckham and his team mates watched Brazil's patchy 2-0 win over Belgium in the second round on Monday and came away convinced they could punish a hesitant South American defence.

"Of course they're beatable," Beckham told reporters at England's Awaji Island training ground on Tuesday.

"We went down there to watch because they are Brazil, but also to see what sort of team they are and, to be fair, Belgium caused them a few problems -- which was good."

"We're not too worried about playing against them."

"I think that's the confidence we've got to have because if we are worried about playing Brazil, we're 1-0 down before the game's even started."

"We've got to go out there believing that we can beat them."

Adding the potential of England strikers Michael Owen and Emile

Heskey to the scoring chances that came Belgium's way, Beckham said: "If we can carry on defending well and break off them and play balls through, we've got two quick lads up front."

Fellow midfielder Nicky Butt said Brazil's attack would hold few surprises despite the skills of Ronaldo and Rivaldo, who have both scored in every game so far.

"We've seen them in the European Cup and we've seen them again against Belgium, so the ability they've got going forward is not going to be a shock to us," he said.

"But equally, we're as good going forward and we can score goals."

"Belgium had plenty of chances to score -- they could have had three or four goals in my opinion but they failed to put them away."

Butt, like Beckham, is convinced that self-belief, along with an England defence that has conceded only one goal so far in four matches, will be the key to victory at Shizuoka.

"It's a case of getting back and supporting the defence -- and not being afraid of the big name players in the Brazil side," he said.

"It's about going out there, having belief in yourself and stopping

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PHOTO: INTERNET

FEELS GREAT TO BE A TURK: Two Turkish fans kiss in Istanbul after their national team made it to the quarterfinals.

TVangle

SHAYAN KHAN

Four years ago, Ronaldo came into the 1998 World Cup set to take the world by storm, riding on the crest of a wave that had seen him win the World Player of the Year award for two years in a row. He was Brazil's hope, the man who would lead them to their fifth World Cup victory. We all know what happened then. Four years on, Ronaldo came into this edition of football's gala event unsure of his future, having seen injuries affect his career like a tornado through a hut. A sure bet to walk away with the Golden Boot in 1998, most people were betting on lesser mortals like Trezeguet, Vieri and Henry. But at the end of the second round, look at the top of the scoring charts and who do you see? Yes, it is 'Il Finomino' himself, albeit tied with Klose. With his fifth goal in four games Tuesday, Ronaldo killed off Belgium's stubborn challenge, and looks almost like the player he was supposed to be in France. Almost? Yes, almost. Because the best is yet to come. Ronaldo is now only nearly at full throttle. Nearly at full throttle is enough to make him the best striker in the world now. When he is firing on all cylinders, he is arguably (for the sake of being diplomatic) the best striker ever.

Belgium took the game to Brazil right from the start though. They

defended in numbers, and did not allow the Brazilians any time and space on the ball. They were quick on the counter as well, and created some real opportunities. Marc Wilmots will still be wondering, as the rest of us are, why his perfectly good goal in the first half was disallowed. The linesman didn't flag for offside. There was certainly no foul by Wilmots on Roque Junior. One could only imagine the Jamaican referee had his mind in some Caribbean beach when he made that call. If Belgium had taken the lead, it could all have been so different. All the self-doubt Brazil displayed in their qualifying campaign could have come flooding back. As it was, the teams went into halftime level, and when they came back out again, Brazil were stronger. Denilson was soon introduced, and although his dribbles did not directly result in anything of substance, he took a host of Belgian defenders with him anywhere he went, freeing up space for Rivaldo and Ronaldo. And it was an outrageous piece of skill that resulted in the first goal from Rivaldo. To bring the ball down like that, and then turn and shoot in one motion, takes something special. And Rivaldo is special. The ball took a deflection on

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PHOTO: AFP

ENGLAND'S SUPERMAN: David Beckham trains while England manager Sven Goran Eriksson (L) and his deputy Steve McLaren look on at Awaji Island yesterday.

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

- | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1. Record of most World Cup finals appearances goes to | Joff | <input type="checkbox"/> | Matthaus | <input type="checkbox"/> | Milla | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Only country to play in every World Cup | Argentina | <input type="checkbox"/> | Brazil | <input type="checkbox"/> | Germany | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Middle name of Diego Maradona is | Alberto | <input type="checkbox"/> | Armando | <input type="checkbox"/> | Admundo | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Which WC final was decided in penalty shoot-out | 1998 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1994 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1990 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Who is this?  | Figo | <input type="checkbox"/> | Raul | <input type="checkbox"/> | Batistuta | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

Father's nameOccupation

Address

Telephone (if any)SignatureDate.....

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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