



PHOTO: INTERNET

USE YOUR BRAIN FOR A CHANGE! Germany coach Rudi Voeller (L) tries to make Thorsten Frings understand something at Sogwipo yesterday.

# Bring on anybody

AFP, Seoul

A super-confident Korean team was on Sunday already plotting the downfall of another footballing giant.

This time Germany risk being the fall guys of the record-busting Koreans as they prepare for their semi-final clash in the cauldron of the Seoul World Cup Sangam stadium.

Striker Hwang Sun-Hong has no doubt that the scalps of Germany can be added to those of Portugal, Italy and Spain.

"Now we can beat any team if we maintain this kind of spirit and momentum," enthused Hwang, in eager anticipation of Tuesday's showdown. "The German defence has got to be attacked from the wings."

The players who were ranked as no-hopers before the tournament are now dreaming of a World Cup final in Yokohama next Sunday against either Brazil or Turkey.

Midfielder Park Ji-Sung insists

that despite the size difference, the Germans, who came to Asia with little expectation of making it to the semi-finals, can be taken.

"They are tall but they are not as fast as we are. We will get a good result if we attack their weak points," said Park.

Goalkeeper Lee Woon-Jae, the hero of the penalty shoot-out victory against Spain when he saved from Joaquin, remains totally unconcerned about German striker Miroslav Klose who has already collected five goals, all from headers, in the tournament.

"Their shots and headers are really powerful but it will be easy for me to defend against this kind of attack," he said.

Captain Hong Myung-Bo, who scored the winning penalty to send Spain crashing out on Saturday, is convinced Korea will gain by playing their first World Cup match in the capital.

"We regard the Seoul stadium as our home ground and everybody is

looking forward to playing there. We are not scared of any team. We feel we can beat anyone if we play like we did against Italy and Spain," said the experienced Hong.

Coach Guus Hiddink, who has become a national hero for the way he has transformed a team that began as rank outsiders into giantkillers, is slightly more cautious.

"The players are looking forward to playing in the capital. Germany will have a little bit of an advantage because they have had one day extra. My players are not fresh and I hope they will recover," said the Dutchman.

"They have made huge sacrifices to keep themselves fit but the schedule has been really tough. I hope we can match the German team for fitness. They are a smart team and a team that needs only one or two chances to bring them victory," he added.

# Golden Boot not on mind

AFP, Yokohama

Brazilian star Rivaldo will be in good company if he can score and conjure a win in next Wednesday's World Cup semifinal against Turkey and then net again in the final.

The 30-year-old Barcelona star has scored in all five of his side's matches so far and should be able to score in every game in the tournament he would join Alcides Ghiggia of Uruguay and fellow Brazilian Jairzinho in achieving the feat.

Rivaldo for now insists the thought isn't preying particularly on his mind - but such has been his form over the past three weeks that few would bet against him coming up with the goods and lifting the Golden Boot award for the tournament's top-scorer.

If Jairzinho helped to land Brazil's third triumph in the best team of all time in 1970, scoring in a rampaging 4-1 win over Italy, Ghiggia was one of the men who broke Brazilian hearts in the 1950 final in Rio's Maracana Stadium, where Uruguay shocked their hosts 2-1.

Jairzinho set off on his goalscoring run with a double against Czechoslovakia and carried on with further efforts against England, Romania, Peru, Uruguay and Italy.

Rivaldo's victims to date read Turkey, China, Costa Rica, Belgium and England.

But he claims to be indifferent to his own exploits. "I don't think about being a goalscorer. Basically, it doesn't interest me. It's nice to score, of course, but I don't go round thinking about this," said Rivaldo.

Rivaldo's overall World Cup tally is eight goals, having notched three in Brazil's run to the final in France

98. His form here is all the more surprising in that Rivaldo came to the event on the back of several weeks out on the sidelines following an injury to his right ankle.

An added complication came when Barcelona medical staff travelled to Brazil to monitor his convalescence and opined that

Rivaldo was not fit enough to play in the finals.

Brazilian coach Luiz Felipe Scolari maintained he was confident that Rivaldo was fit enough to take to the World Cup and his optimism has been justified.

Strike partner Ronaldo was in a

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# Galaxy of harmony

AP, Saitama

Brazil sometimes gives the impression that it's a galaxy of superstars, all trying to outshine each other. There's Ronaldo, Rivaldo, Ronaldinho, Roberto Carlos -- and that's just the R's.

But for coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, nothing could be further from the truth. There are no egos on his squad, he says, and that's the secret of Brazil's success at the World Cup.

"We're a team," he said. "We have friendship, affection, a common goal. There's no other way to win."

Scolari cited as an example the team's response to the expulsion of Ronaldinho in Brazil's 2-1, come-from-behind victory over England in the quarterfinals.

Ronaldinho was the hero, scoring a goal and setting up another by Rivaldo, but in the 57th minute was sent off for a foul on Danny Mills.

Team captain Cafu stepped up. "Cafu came over and said: 'Don't worry, we'll all give 10 percent more and we won't even miss you'," Scolari said. "That just fills me with pride, working with a group like this."

It wasn't always this way. In the 1990 World Cup, Brazilian players split into cliques, argued with each other and haggled over prize money -- the team bombed out in the second round. During the 1996 summer Olympics, Bebeto and

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# Classy custodians

REUTERS, Seoul

It is impossible to quantify the relative value of players in various positions but one thing is for sure -- no team will win the World Cup with a bad goalkeeper.

Forwards have always commanded the highest transfer fees and attract the most attention as their goals appear in the record books as the currency of victory.

What does not go down on paper, but remains of equal importance, are the intercepted passes made by midfielders, defenders' last-ditch

tackles and saves by goalkeepers. As the tournament has progressed into the knockout stage, with some games now being decided on penalties, goalkeepers have assumed an even greater importance, with progress or elimination sometimes depending on which of the two involved can get his fingertip to a spot-kick.

South Korea's Lee Woon-jae for once knocked the pin-up strikers off the front pages after his shootout

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# Underachievers

REUTERS, Kwangju

Spain will fly back from the World Cup convinced their latest quarterfinal failure, this time to co-hosts South Korea, was not their fault at all.

Spain are certain they had two legitimate goals disallowed, one of them in golden goal extra-time, before South Korea became the first Asian team to reach the semifinals of the World Cup by winning a penalty shootout 5-3.

Jose Antonio Camacho's side were definitely unlucky, particularly with the decision on the phantom goal from Fernando Morientes that would have taken them through to the semis.

As a result, the country tasted quarterfinal defeat for the fourth time and they have still to match their best performance in the competition back in 1950, when they finished fourth.

With favourites such as Argentina, France and Italy all

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PHOTO: INTERNET

SORRY, CAN'T SIGN AUTOGRAPHS HERE! Some Japanese ladies meet Brazil superstar Rivaldo in the swimming pool of the squad's hotel in Saitama yesterday.

# TV angle

SHAYAN KHAN

Controversy will forever be married to the 2002 World Cup. With the campaign of South Korea in particular. It is unfortunate really, since it will detract from one of the great fairy tales in sporting history. Let us all hope that in between the clouds, the European nations in particular do not fail to see the light finally shining through for Asian football.

Spain will contend that the run should have ended on Saturday. And they will have a good case for it. The Spaniards, minus talisman Raul, were the better side throughout the game. Ruben Baraja had his best game of the tournament, and Joaquin was on fire down the right flank. Morientes constantly got himself into good positions, but failed to finish. Yoo Sang-chul, the inspirational midfield general for

Korea, was disappointing in trying to deal with all the trickery Spain possess in midfield. And although the Korean strikers worked hard, they had to wait till well into the second half before troubling Casillas for the first time. Spain had the ball in the net twice, but both were disallowed. The first occasion was when Baraja's header nestled in the net, but the referee blew the whistle for a foul in the box. This decision was understandable, because it was 50-50. The next one, in the first period of extra-time, was bewildering. Joaquin got to the edge of the touchline and crossed for Morientes to head home. It would have been a golden goal, but the Spaniards' celebrations were cut short by the referee's whistle responding to the linesman's flag, which had been raised indicating the ball had gone

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PHOTO: INTERNET


RIDE OF THEIR LIVES: South Korean youngsters celebrate on the streets of Seoul on June 22 after their team's entry in the semifinals.

# Bumper Round, Draw in Dhaka on June 28

(Competition information, prizes and rules on June 21 issue)

The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Bumper Round Ends June 27, 2002

## Tick (Ö) the correct answers

- |   |                                      |                                   |                                 |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. The first player to be sent off in 2002 World Cup  | Totti <input type="checkbox"/>       | Zivkovic <input type="checkbox"/> | Eto <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| 2. Coach of Senegal team in 2002 World Cup  | Milutinovic <input type="checkbox"/> | Metsu <input type="checkbox"/>    | Claude <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. First hat-trick in 2002 World Cup scored by  | Pauleta <input type="checkbox"/>     | Klose <input type="checkbox"/>    | Crespo <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. 2006 World Cup will be held in   | Brazil <input type="checkbox"/>      | Germany <input type="checkbox"/>  | Spain <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| 5. Who is this?  | Inamoto <input type="checkbox"/>     | Totti <input type="checkbox"/>    | Vieri <input type="checkbox"/>  |

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 6."

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PHOTO: AFP

THE GRIEF WON'T GO SO FAST: A dejected Spain striker Fernando Morientes sits on a windowpane at the team's hotel in Ulsan yesterday.