



PHOTO: AFP

IT TELL YOU THIS WILL BE THE STYLE OF THE YEAR! Superstar Ronaldo, sporting a new hairstyle, talks to a teammate at Saitama yesterday.

Ronaldo trains

AFP, Saitama

Brazil star Ronaldo shrugged off concerns about his fitness here Monday, insisting he would be fit to start against Turkey in Wednesday's World Cup semi-final.

The injury-plagued 25-year-old was substituted in last week's quarter-final win over England after picking up a thigh strain, raising doubts about whether his tired body could last the course.

But after coming through a light training session unscathed here Monday, the Inter Milan star said although he was still not 100 percent fit he would definitely start against the Turks.

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"If he doesn't complain tomorrow, he can train with more intensity."

Ronaldo was more keen to talk about his bizarre new haircut -- he has shaved most of his hair off except for a small lump at the front of his head -- than his aching muscles.

"I've got another day to relax but I believe I can be ready in time," he said of his thigh. "(The haircut) is something new, something personal, there's nothing special about it."

"I cut it myself. It's that bad, is it?"

Ronaldo has been dogged by a series of muscular problems in his legs since making a comeback last year from two horrendous knee injuries.

He has showed tantalising glimpses of his old self at the World Cup, and is currently the SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

ease him back gently. But we are optimistic he will be okay to play."

But asked if Ronaldo, who has scored five goals in five games at the finals, could be confirmed for the semi-final, Runcio said: "Not yet.

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"I should be able to play and I really want to as this is our first match on what we see as our home ground."

Skipper Hong Myung-Bo said he did not want to highlight particular individuals but admitted: "Ahn gives us great pleasure by scoring goals at important moments."

"We are not sure whether he will be in the starting line-up tomorrow but if he is we expect him to play well."

Ahn, the pin-up boy of Korean football, was dumped by Italian club Perugia after scoring the sudden-death winner against Italy in the second round.

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WE ARE READY: South Koreans wait behind the police barrier for their national team to arrive for training in Seoul yesterday.

REUTERS, Seoul

Pride of Asia

in politics, the economy and the life," said Lim Seong-ho, a political science professor at Kyunghee University.

"One of the greatest benefits Koreans earned from the runaway success in the World Cup is that they erased the subliminal sense of inferiority from their minds -- a feeling they particularly have held vis-a-vis the Japanese."

Many aged Koreans still harbour bitter memories of Japanese colonial rule between 1910 and 1945 when they were prohibited from using their language and forced to adopt Japanese names.

During World War Two, thousands of Korean women were forced to become sex slaves for the Japanese military.

Bad blood between the two

countries seemed to have been forgotten in the shared delight over an Asian triumph.

The "Pride of Asia" slogan was a common headline in local newspapers and was even used in Japan. The papers noted enthusiastic support for the Koreans among Japanese.

Japan was eliminated after being beaten by Turkey in a last 16 match on June 18, although it too progressed further than it had done ever before.

In 1988, South Korea hosted the summer Olympic Games, when the country pitched to the world "the

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Enrique bids bye

REUTERS, Barcelona

Spain midfielder Luis Enrique has retired from international football, a radio station reported here on Sunday.

The 32-year-old Barcelona star has followed in the footsteps of Spain captain Fernando Hierro by ending his 62-cap, international career following Saturday's loss to South Korea in the World Cup

quarter-finals.

Luis Enrique told Catalonia radio: "I have played my last match for Spain," adding he had made his decision well before the finals and that national coach Antonio Camacho and president of the country's football federation Angel Maria Villar had known for several days.

Luis Enrique, who has played in three World Cup finals, continued: "I

want to make way for younger players and to give full commitment to my club.

"In the future I will rest instead of playing for Spain so I can give my best to Barcelona. It's about time we won another title." Barcelona have not won a trophy during the last two seasons.

Luis Enrique has the distinction

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Ahn so high

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korean midfielder Ahn Jung-Hwan said he was on a high after scoring the Golden Goal which knocked Italy out of the World Cup and set them on their way to a semi-final meeting with Germany.

Having also helped the Koreans to edge past Spain in the quarterfinals on penalties the 26-year-old Ahn said the challenge of facing Germany in the Seoul World Cup stadium before a 65,000 crowd was mouth-watering.

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PHOTO: AFP

AH AHN! South Korea's pin-up Ahn Jung-Hwan boy runs in practice at Seoul yesterday.

Ready to roar

REUTERS, Seoul

More than 6.5 million South Korean soccer fans are expected to take to the streets to watch their team's World Cup semifinal against Germany on giant screens.

Police said they would deploy more than 40,000 officers and other personnel to control the crowds for the game on Tuesday.

Last Saturday, some five million red-clad South Korean fans flooded the country to watch their team beat Spain and become the first Asian team to reach the semi-finals in World Cup history. The match against Germany is being played in Seoul's soccer-only stadium.

"We guess more than 6.5 million people will gather to support our soccer team on Tuesday nationwide," a senior police officer said, adding that 5,000 more policemen would be on duty than for Saturday's quarter-final.

"At the stadium alone, we will station 2,000 or 3,000 police officers," he said.

One of the striking features of this year's tournament has been the absence of violence linked to soccer hooliganism which has marred previous World Cups.

Pictures of orderly fans swiftly clearing the streets and gathering up litter after brief, albeit passionate, post-match celebrations in South Korea have predominated.

But police in co-hosts South Korea and Japan remain on high alert, particularly against September 11-style attacks.

South Korean authorities still have police in reserve and the military even has anti-aircraft missiles guarding the country's 10 World Cup stadiums.

Police estimate that 13 million people -- almost 30 percent of South Korea's population of 48 million -- took to the streets for the five World Cup matches the team has played.

The Defence Ministry said it planned to stick to its usual security

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Air Klose!

AFP, Seoul

South Korea have their fighting spirit and their fabulous fans. Germany have the experience of six World Cup finals - and Miroslav Klose.

Centre forward Klose has turned into one of the stars of this year's event with his five headed goals and trademark forward somersault celebrations.

Klose was born 24 years ago in the Polish town of Opole, whose main claim to fame until now was its hosting of an international dog show.

The day after he was born on June 9, 1978, the Germans laboured to a goalless World Cup draw against Tunisia prior to suffering one of their most humiliating defeats ever against neighbours Austria in the Argentina 78 World Cup.

Little did the Germans know that their hopes for the first World Cup to be held in Asia would rest firmly on the shoulders of the son of a Polish footballer.

The tournament has propelled the modest striker firmly into the limelight.

"He does wonderful somersaults," said Irish manager Mick McCarthy wryly after his side fell victim to another trademark header in the opening phase.

The celebration routine is mere decoration on the cake for a striker who at 1m82 (6ft 1) tall manages to

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PRACTICING 'HAND OF GOD'? Germany's ace striker Miroslav Klose trains at Seoul yesterday.

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	Zivkovic	Eto
2. Coach of Senegal team in 2002 World Cup	Milutonovic	Metsu	Claude
3. First hattrick in 2002 World Cup scored by	Pauleta	Klose	Crespo
4. 2006 World Cup will be held in	Brazil	Germany	Spain
5. Who is this?	Inamoto	Totti	Vieri

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

Father's name

Address

Telephone (if any)

Signature

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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