

SPORT

The Daily Star

since last season, while defende

Pascal Cygan and on-loan goal-

keeper Fabian Carini have arrived

showing potential, while the return

to fitness of Gregory Vignal and

Markus Babbel is another wel-

The competition's original format

For several years, professionals

In 1959, the Charity Shield was

In 1974 the FA moved the match

During the 1980s and early

1990s, if the game finished in a draw

then both teams would share the

shield for six months each, but the

penalty shoot-out was reintroduced

revamped the event after a govern-

ment report in March said it had

breached fund-raising regulations in

the way it handled cash raised by

The Football Association has

alongside Silva.

Stay tuned for Diego

Football

AFP/REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Argentine football legend Diego Maradona revealed Friday that he is to host his own celebrity chat show - the Maradona Show - to be broadcast live here from next month

The 41-year-old hero of Argentina's 1986 World Cup triumph will interview key figures from the world of politics and showbusiness including Cuban leader Fidel Castro in a series likened to David Letterman's Late Show in the United States.

The 'Maradona Show' will be broadcast on local channel America, where the former Argentina captain will be given free reign to stamp his personality and pursue his interests

"I'm always being interviewed. Now I want to be the one who asks the questions and ask about everything and anything," said the retired star who has battled back from drug addiction.

The former Naples player will appear before the cameras seated behind a writing desk or sitting on a couch. He will produce the show along with his friend and representative Guillermo Coppola.

The programme will also be presented live animated by a rock band led by Argentine musician Fabian Quintiero, while Maradona will sing the opening and closing credits himself.

"The time slot has not been confirmed yet, but it will be an hour long, will be pre-recorded and will be broadcast at night on a weekday," said a source at channel America TV, one of Argentina's five free-access television chan-

"The order the guests will appear in has not yet been decided, but the program will consist of one main interview per episode," added the source, who did not want to be identified

Maradona, who led Argentina to victory in the 1986 World Cup, will give out signed football shirts on the show, emblazoned with the number 10 strip that he made famous during his playing career.

The soccer star has never been shy about giving his opinion on all subiects and has sparred verbally with international soccer bosses, while more recently he attacked the US for its 40-year-old trade embargo on Cuba which he likened to the September 11 terror blitz on US targets.

"I prefer the Cuba of Castro ten times more than the America of Bush." said Maradona, who is currently undergoing treatment in the country for his drug problem.

Maradona is also intending to produce and present a programme on golf while a musical programme is also in the pipeline.



DIEGO MARADONA ...talk show host

Premiership needs to rest

REUTERS, London

A winter break could benefit players in the English Premier League and improve the national side's chances at major championships, the Football Association's medical chief Alan Hodson has said.

England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson and striker Michael Owen have recently called for a midseason rest, but Hodson warned that there was a risk it could cause as many problems as it solved.

"Many of my colleagues in the medical fraternity would say 'yes', that it would offer a golden opportunity for rest and recuperation," Hodson said.

"If you get a three-week break you give the players a three-week rest and that cannot be bad. "But there are many other ques-

tions we need to ask -- would it lead to a congestion of games in the latter part of the season and lead to more injuries?

"Would the players lose their fitness and then have to regain it and would it give players more time to recuperate from chronic injuries? "It's a difficult question to answer and clearly I want to confine my

answer to medicine and science. "But as a small part of a very big picture I would say yes, but I couldn't give a direct answer until we audited

it -- there are many issues involved."

The Keegan effect

AP, Manchester

"People will be surprised by the After taking on a who's who of inter-Frenchmen," said Wenger. "They national stars from Peter have come back highly motivated to Schmeichel to Nicolas Anelka, FRENCH ASSASSIN: Liverpool's Sengelese star El Hadji Diouf gets focused Manchester City manager Kevin Keegan feels his promoted team is equipped to become a force in the Premier League If it concedes goals like it did in

the First Division, City could be in for a relegation struggle. Keegan, who quit as England coach in October 2000 and then

season, was in charge of arguably the most entertaining team in the land in terms of goals scored and conceded.

score two we'll score three. While other teams were grinding

were beating teams 5-2 and 4-1 occasionally losing 4-0. But then, Keegan has never been

inconspicuous. It's just not his style. playing career finished.

Newcastle United as its manager when the Magpies were struggling to avoid relegation to the Second Division.

Forget Community spirit

Football

AP, London

Arsenal and Liverpool meet in English soccer's traditional season curtain raiser Sunday with both club managers describing the match as anything but a friendly.

The newly named Community Shield, formerly the 94-year-old Charity Shield, traditionally features the Premier League winners against the FA Cup champions.

With Arsenal winning both trophies last season, Liverpool earn their place by way of finishing second to the Gunners in the Premiership.

unprecedented shield record. Last season's 2-1 victory over Manchester United saw them claim the prize for a joint-record 14th time - a record both teams share.

For Liverpool, the presence of El Arsenal hope to take revenge for Hadji Diouf will worry the Gunners' French connection, for it was the their defeat against Liverpool in the 2001 FA Cup final. Wenger also speedy Senegal striker who ripped France apart in the opening game of rates Liverpool, along with Manchester United, as his main the World Cup. threats in defending the Premier Liverpool's recent successes have been founded on well-timed League title.

"We're good friends," Wenger forward runs and a rigid defence, said of Houllier. "But when we play headed by Sami Hyypia and Stephane Henchoz, who between against each other we both want to win. It's a long time since Liverpool them cost only a fifth of the price required to take Rio Ferdinand from won the title but they finished sec-Leeds to Old Trafford. ond last season and were top for Czech youngster Milan Baros is several weeks.

"Gerard has been busy in the transfer market strengthening his



during training ahead of the Community Shield match against Arsenal on squad this summer and believes

that he now has the players to fellow Frenchman Arsene Wenger sustain a challenge. The match will feature a host of at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

stars from the 2002 World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea

"It is not a friendly. There are no whether to start with new Brazilian friendlies when you play Arsenal or signing Gilberto Silva until Sundav Manchester United." Houllier said. morning. The midfielder, who only "It's competitive, and there are medals at stake. It's a reward for just received a work permit, is also short of match fitness. what you achieved last season

because it shows you have done with an ankle problem, while longwell. I know my players really want term injury victims Francis Jeffers. "It will be a hard game. We have Robert Pires, Fredrik Liungberg and to take our hats off to Arsenal Giovanni van Bronckhorst are also because of what they won last term. They were better than us then, they

Tony Adams, Lee Dixon, Gilles Grimandi, Junichi Inamoto and Liverpool will be looking to set an Richard Wright have all left the club

"I want to be a part of the history

of Arsenal, to be connected with all

the aood memories surrounding this

that." Vieira said.



Perennial rivals United, who worried.

Vieira and Sylvain Wiltord -- will not be adversely affected by their failure at the World Cup finals

Arsene exudes confidence

players are already determined.

"The Premier League is always

our number one target, but we can do well in Europe as well now. "For 10 years Manchester United dominated English football, but we

conquering force in English football, manager Arsene Wenger says. Wenger believes his players can

League at the same time. players' eyes," Wenger told reporters on Friday, borrowing from rival

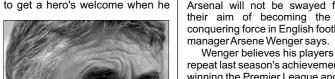
returns to Seoul next month for a friendly between the two rival sive titles.

It was not clear whether Hiddink would advise on strategy or just watch the game, Sam H. Ka, direcagain, and I believe we can.

tor general of the Korea Football Hiddink, a hero in South Korean for helping the team become the



REUTERS, London



"I can see the hunger in the

questioning his team's desire.

Arsenal's double triumph of 1998 was followed by three barren seasons, as United won three succes-

attitude is spot-on...we did well last season but we have to do it all over

the confidence from last season's achievements will help us. The

Arsenal will not be swayed from their aim of becoming the all-

repeat last season's achievement of winning the Premier League and FA Cup double, while enjoying longawaited success in the Champions

Alex Ferguson's mantra about

But he added: "The players'

"We have a stronger squad, and

desperately want to achieve, too.

Wenger is fully aware that

ARSENE WENGER

We can, because we are so strong as a club. Wenger insists his France inter-

nationals -- Thierry Henry, Patrick

have success with Arsenal, and with a very positive attitude." Robert Pires, another France international, missed the World Cup through injury, and he will also miss the start of the premier league

paign.

finished third in the league behind second-placed Liverpool last season, have spent 30 million pounds in the close-season on defender Rio Ferdinand, but Wenger is not unduly

"They may even spend more money before the start of the season, but that does not affect out

Wenger.

resurfaced as City manager last

It was as if his policy was: if you

out 1-0 victories, Keegan's men

The former Liverpool, Hamburg, Southampton and England striker tried to stay out of soccer after his But he was tempted back by determination or ability." said

Vieira begins talks

start the season with a win Sunday.

August 8. The traditional English curtain-raiser is today. Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier, who will come up against

said his team desperately wants to

Now the proceeds will be used in community-based projects around Wenger will delay a decision the country. **PROBABLE TEAMS**

Arsenal: David Seaman: Lauren. Martin Keown, Sol Campbell, Ashley Cole; Ray Parlour, Patrick Vieira, Edu, Sylvain Wiltord; Thierry Kanu is ruled out of the game

PHOTO: AFP

Henry, Dennis Bergkamp. Liverpool: Jerzy Dudek; Jamie Carragher, Stephane Henchoz, Sami Hyypia, Markus Babbel; Danny Murphy, Dietmar Hamann, Steven Gerrard, El Hadji Diouf; Emile Heskey, Michael Owen

in 1993

the game.

most successful Asian side ever in the World Cup, had agreed to continue as an adviser to the national team after returning to the Dutch first division side.

GUUS HIDDINK

Guus coming

back to Korea

PSV Eindhoven coach Guus

the World Cup semifinals, looks set

REUTERS, Seoul

Bundesliga Hertha hold Dortmund

REUTERS. Berlin

Koreas

Association said.

German Bundesliga champions Borussia Dortmund drew 2-2 against Hertha Berlin in the opening game of the new season on Friday after letting in a late equaliser and failing to take several chances.

Hertha, who beat Dortmund 2-1 on their way to victory in the preseason League Cup, went in front after just 52 seconds when Belgian midfielder Bart Goor found the net with a crisp left-footed shot on the

But Dortmund hit back in the fifth minute after Jan Koller found Torsten Frings and Brazilian striker Ewerthon put them 2-1 ahead in the 36th minute, striking from close range when his header had rebounded off both uprights.



HERE'S THE NEW PLAN, BOYS: Manchester United's Ryan Giggs (L), David Beckham (2nd from L) and captain Roy Keane (R) listen to instructions from new first team coach Portuguese Carlos Quieroz during a pre-season practice at Old Trafford on August 8.

Ailing Brazilian league

Football

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil's World Cup triumph has failed to help the country's beleaguered championship which gets under way this weekend amid the usual grind of financial difficulties and administrative chaos

If anything, Brazil's fifth world title has helped speed up the seemingly endless exodus of top players abroad

Belletti, Dida, Luizao, Gilberto Silva, Juninho and Edilson have all joined the foreign legion since the 2-0 win over Germany in the World Cup final on June 30.

Only seven members of Brazil's World Cup squad will be taking part in the tournament, where they will join an army of lesser-known players who are all dreaming of making an impact -- and then earning a move to Europe themselves

Brazilian football enjoyed a brief flirt with prosperity at the end of the last decade when foreign-based companies moved in to set up partnerships with some of the leading clubs -- including Flamengo,

Corinthians and Palmeiras. Most have now departed, scared off by the chaos which dominates Brazilian domestic football to leave the clubs in an even worse state than before.

Flamengo, the most popular team in the country, and Gremio, twice former winners of the South American Libertadores Cup, are among the worse hit.

Flamengo have been in a state of almost perpetual boardroom turmoil for years as various factions struggle for control of the club. which is now one of the most indebted in the country.

President Edmundo Santos Silva, recently the target of a Congressional inquiry into corruption and maladministration, has

been kicked out for alleged misuse of funds but is now trying to fight his way back.

The chaos has been felt on the field with five different coaches employed in the last year.

Lula Pereira, the latest incumbent, will have to do what he can with a squad of inexperienced, young players -- the best the club can afford at present.

Brazilian international Juninho became the latest big-name player to leave the club when he returned to England for a third stint at Middlesbrough.

The situation is also grim at Gremio, where club president Jose Alberto Guerreiro has told his players -- including World Cup defender Anderson Polga -- to brace for lower wages as he attempts to cut costs. Veteran captain Zinho left by

mutual consent after being told the club could not afford to honour his contract and the tense atmosphere also led to a training ground clash

involving Anderson Polga. Vasco da Gama, champions in

1997 and 2000, also look set to struggle, after being forced to offload veteran striker Romario, top scorer in last year's Brazilian championship and still one of the country's top forwards at the age of 36.

Their problems have been worsened by an 18-month long feud with Globo Television during which the network has cut off its cash supply -effectively Vasco's lifeline -- to the

Romario, meanwhile, has joined Rio de Janeiro rivals Fluminense but his arrival immediately sparked off a wage row after it was announced the he would be paid with money from a sponsorship deal

His future teammates, who said they had not been paid for four weeks, argued it was wrong for the new arrival to be paid immediately while they would be kept waiting.

With so many traditional teams in trouble, less fashionable sides from

Keegan completely turned the team's fortunes around and, not only got the Magpies promoted to the Premier League, but to runner-up behind Manchester United

At one stage his team led the Reds by nine points only for Sir Alex Ferguson's team to charge back to take the title. After one game, Keegan lost it during a live TV interview, ranting, jabbing his finger and accusing Ferguson of playing mind games.

It was typical of the way Keegan wears his heart on his sleeve where soccer is concerned. He's totally committed and feels the pain when things don't go right.

That's why he suddenly quit minutes after England's World Cup loss to Germany in October 2000. Not only was the 1-0 defeat England's final game at Wembley, if followed a tame performance at Furo 2000 where the team was ousted in the first round

Now he has the chance to take on neighbours United on more or less equal terms along with defending champions Arsenal, Liverpool and the rest of the Premier League powerhouse teams.

the last two seasons.

ment, held in July.

vear

problems

displeasure

Ricardinho, much to Parreira's

Football

were better than everybody."

REUTERS, London

to win this one.

Arsenal's Patrick Vieira says he is in talks with manager Arsene Wenger over signing a new contract with last season's double winners.

"I have a great relationship with the boss...we are talking about a new contract because that's important to me and I'd like to stay," the 26-year-old midfielder told reporters.

"I could stay here for the rest of my career. Why not? Of course, I could also leave next year, you never know with football, but I know I am happy here," he said.

Vieira, who takes over the club captaincy from the retired Tony Adams, has two years of his deal left to run but his future has been a constant source of speculation in recent seasons

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson claimed last week that the France international wanted to join United 12 months ago, and insisted that any player worthy of the name would love to play for the Old Trafford club

"I was disappointed that some-



Alexei Smertin (R) of Bordeaux tries to keep possession against Paris Saint Germain's Jose Da Silva Aloisio (C) during their French First Division match at Chaban Delmas Stadium at Bordeaux on August 9.

one like (Ferguson) should talk like most important thing

Vieira has returned from France's disastrous World Cup campaign with the sole intention of turning Arsenal into the dominant force in English, and European,

football "I don't believe we are behind (United) as a club...Liverpool were the team of the 1980s, United had their time in the 1990s and now Arsenal can be the team of this decade. It is very exciting for us."

Vieira was one of the driving forces behind Arsenal's triumph in the premier league and FA Cup last season

But he and his French teammates suffered a humiliating time in South Korea and Japan in June when, as defending world champions, they were knocked out at the first round stage.

French League One PSG, Bordeaux share points

REUTERS, Paris

Girondins Bordeaux and Paris St Germain were both reduced to 10 men as they battled each other to a goalless draw in a League One (French First Division) match on Friday

Bordeaux's French international Christophe Dugarry and PSG's Andre Luiz were sent off for fighting in the 45th minute

Bordeaux, who beat Lille 3-0 in last week's opening match of the season, failed to capitalise on their home advantage and were denied on a number of occasions by PSG's outstanding goalkeeper Lionel Letizi

The hosts had their best chance when last season's top scorer Pedro Pauleta volleyed wide in the 82nd minute.

PSG spent most of the match on the back foot in the absence of inspirational playmaker Ronaldinho, who was allowed some rest after helping Brazil to World Cup glory.

Despite the result, Bordeaux moved up to the top of the embryonic table with four points after two matches

PATRICK VIEIRA club

"There is such ambition here at Arsenal, I have never been unsettled by the stories in the papers about me and where I am supposed to be going. "I suppose the fans read the

papers but the stories have never bothered me and the people at the club know the truth, which is the