DHAKA SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 2002

SPORT

The Daily Star

It is hard to imagine how

Ronaldo would manage to regain the confidence of Inter fans should

he be left with no alternative but to

they are ready to welcome 25-year-

old back into the fold but coach

Hector Cuper has been notably

ship with Argentine Cuper that

many believe lies behind the

Brazilian's attempt to quit Inter.

would play only when fully fit.

to play from the start.

return to Italy on time.

by the Brazilian.

The players diplomatically say

It is Ronaldo's strained relation-

Cuper made it clear from the

start of his reign at Inter last season

that Ronaldo would be treated

ordinarily as one of the squad and

Brazilian was close to a comeback.

he put pressure on Cuper by mak-

ing declarations that he was ready

angered by Ronaldo's late return

from a spell recuperating in Brazil

last season, afetr the coach had

spent days insisting the player

According to Italian media, the

breaking point came during Inter's

disastrous defeat to Lazio on the

last day of the season when, with

the title slipping out of their hands,

had ensured Ronaldo always felt

like a superstar at the club but

Cuper's more down-to-earth and

egalitarian approach does not

appear to have been appreciated

coach at the stadium on Thursday

may have been another way of

insulting Ronaldo but they also

show that the fans know in whose

hands the club's future now lies.

The chants in praise of the

. Inter president Massimo Moratti

Cuper substituted the Brazilian.

Cuper was also reported to be

Yet, on each occasion when the

return to the Italian club.

silent on the issue.

World champs being exploited? FA to show respect to

Football

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Brazilians have vented their anger over what they interpreted as an attempt by politicians to use the country's World Cup victory for their own ends.

Commentators lashed out at Brazil's Football Confederation (CBF) after Wednesday's shock 1-0 defeat at home to Paraguay in their first match since beating Germany 2-0 in the World Cup final, saying it had turned the team into a political footbal

The Paraguay match was played in Fortaleza, political stronghold of Ciro Gomes who is an opposition candidate for Brazil's presidential election in October.

Several newspapers carried front-page photographs of Gomes with the players in the dressing room before the game.

A picture on the front of the Rio de Janeiro daily O Globo carried the headline: "Paraguay spoil Ciro's party"

After the match, Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, who was in charge for the last time, said he and his players were acting under orders when they posed for the photographs with Gomes.

You, as employees yourselves, should be aware that I am an employee of the CBF and if the boss gives me an order, I have to obey it," he told reporters.

"But I have also participated in other political acts in Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre," he added, referring to post-World Cup celebrations all of which were attended by politicians.

"We don't choose who is going to visit us. The players took part because they are part of a group which was visited." he said.

But commentators were not impressed.

"The team which won the fifth world title is no longer unbeaten," wrote Juca Kfouri, a columnist in the sports daily Lance. "The CBF has an amazing capacity to kill a dream. to turn a great achievement into something banal.

The same newspaper carried an editorial entitled: "Sad and indecent political exploitation".

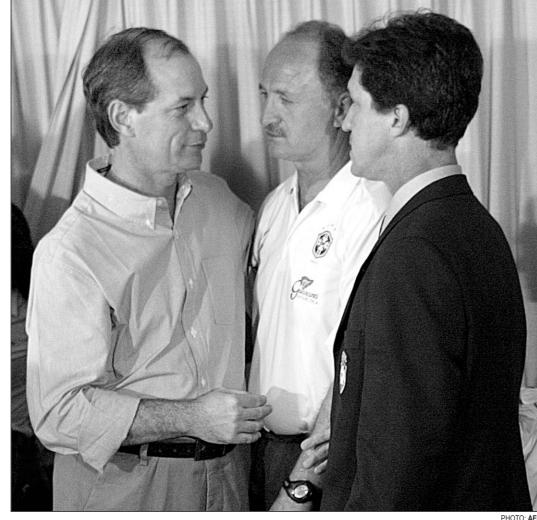
"What should have been a cele-

Hasselbaink's

Barca dream

REUTERS, Barcelona

by the Catalan club.



Ciro Gomes (L), a candidate for the Progressive Socialist Party (PPS) in the Brazilian presidential election welcoming Brazil coach Luis Felipe Scolari (C) and an assistant, Weber Magalhaes at Fortaleza on August 21.

bration was a disgrace for everyone who loves the national team and the sport," it said.

"The use of the Brazil team by (CBF president) Mr Ricardo Teixeira to attend to his political interests was another sad demonstration of the CBF president's lack of stature." O Globo said in a headline: "Celebration organised by CBF directors for Ciro ends in defeat for

the five-times champions." An editorial compared the event to 1970 when Brazil won the World Cup for the third time and the then military government also jumped on the bandwagon

"From the times of general-Premiership preview had made no effort to prepare seriously, even though it was classed as a full international.

Teixeira is at loggerheads with the government of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso after two Congressional commissions of inquiry were set up to investigate alleged mismanagement and corruption in the sport.

One of the inquiries, in its final report, accused Teixeira of a "negligent administration", of living in luxury at the CBF's expense and of leading the confederation down the path to financial ruin.

Holly, Jessica AFP, London

The English Football Association (FA) said Thursday there will be a minute's silence before all of this weekend's fixtures as a mark of

respect to murdered schoolgirls Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman. British police confirmed Wednesday that two bodies found in a forest were those of the two 10year-olds who went missing 13 days earlier wearing matching red Manchester United jerseys with David Beckhem's number seven on

the back. In a statement on the FA's website, director of marketing and communications Paul Barber said: "The whole nation has been shocked and saddened by the deaths of Holly and Jessica.

"The girls' love of football is well known and everyone connected to the game is keen to pay their respects to Holly and Jessica and offer their condolences to the girls' families and friends at this very sad

Chief Inspector Andy Hebb added: "We are extremely grateful to the football authorities and football community for the sympathy and support which they are showing to the two families.

from their hometown of Soham near Cambridge, southern England

Ian Huntley, a high school caretaker charged with their murder, is being held at a high-security psychiatric hospital. His girlfriend teaching assistant Maxine Carr, has been remanded in custody for lying to police.

Eriksson to set rookies free

AFP, London

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said on Thursday he was ready to throw some of the country's brightest young stars into international action when his side take on Portugal in a friendly next month. Preparations are starting for the Euro 2004 qualifying campaign's

double-header against Slovakia and Macedonia in October and Eriksson is planning to freshen up the squad. "We will have some new faces

coming in," said the Swede as he looked ahead to the match with Portugal, the first the national team has played since the World Cup.

"It will not be a big revolution though because the squad that we had in Japan will continue to be our base and a lot of them are still very

Most hated man in Milan

An internet poll of 4,000 fans --

carried out by the daily Gazzetta

dello Sport -- found 70 percent of

Inter supporters believe it is now

After three seasons in which the

Brazilian spent most of his time

receiving medical treatment while

picking up his reported 4.5 million-

euro salary, Ronaldo finally looked

back to his best for Brazil during the

He finished top scorer with eight

RONALDO

goals -- two of them coming in the

Following the bitter disappoint-

ment of missing out on the Italian

title on the final day of last season.

Inter fans were confident that, with

Ronaldo finally at full force, they

would have a real chance of claim-

Milan's Malpensa airport when

Ronaldo returned for pre-season

training with Inter earlier this

month, and it is a feeling that is

widespread amongst the support-

"Ungrateful" read one banner at

ing their first title since 1989.

2-0 final win over Germany.

World Cup earlier this year.

right to sell the Brazilian.

That is hardly surprising.

the Inter ultras.

Football

REUTERS, Milan

They idolised him and they supported him in his toughest moments but now Inter Milan fans feel betrayed by Ronaldo. The Brazilian World Cup winner

is hoping that his Italian club can agree on a deal to sell him to Spanish side Real Madrid although the two clubs remain locked in talks for the moment.

Should no deal emerge, the twice World Player of the Year could find himself in the tricky position of having to return on Saturday to train with the club he has spurned after three injuryplagued years.

But, for Inter fans, Ronaldo is already history.

The stalls dotted around Milan's San Siro stadium, selling cheap copies of Inter merchandise, have made a good living out of unofficial Ronaldo products in the five years since he joined the club from Barcelona.

But before Thursday's friendly match with AS Roma it was hard to find any sign of Ronaldo among the piles of shirts, flags and scarves.

"No one wants to buy anything to do with Ronaldo," said one stall holder. "It is finished with him here." Ronaldo was not present at Thursday's game as he is still in Brazil where he played for his country in game in their 1-0 loss at home in a friendly with Paraguay.

Inside the ground which once echoed to an emotional cry of "Never Give Up" after Ronaldo's most serious knee injury two seasons ago, there was a raucous chorus of "Ronaldo Bastardo" from

Bundesliga preview **Bochum's unenviable task**

ers

Football

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich are just one of the Bundesliga's big teams looking to boost their image, and league chances, after two weeks of action have left many of the title contenders down in mid-table.

As a result, league leaders VfL Bochum, along with Schalke 04 and Hansa Rostock, the only teams to take six points so far, could find their fantastic start to the campaign

halted by a quick jolt of reality. Bochum, whose Danish-born Spaniard Thomas Christiansen is banging in the goals for fun - with five from two games so far - face a tricky away match against Bayer

lower reaches of the table.

Football

AFP, Paris

Madrid

Further motivation for

Leverkusen is the fact that last

season they scaled the heights of

the Champions League, reaching

the final before going down to Real

German Cup champions

League One preview

Schalke would normally be given

more hope of winning the league But despite what the rest do, than Bochum, however they are Bayern owe it to themselves to go under just as much threat as the out and put words into action.

league leaders In the possible absence of injured German international Jorg Bohme, Schalke host an impressive Hertha Berlin side on Sunday and could give new signing, Uruguayan international midfielder Gustavo

Varela his first run out. The 24-year-old Varela, signed until 2006 for an undisclosed sum, joins international team-mate,

FIXTURES

Saturday: Bayer Leverkusen v Vfl Bochum, Arminia Bielefeld v Vfl Wolfsburg, Borussia Monchengladbach v Kaiserslautern. SV Hamburg v Bayern Munich, 1860 Munich v Werder Bremen, Energie Cottbus v

Prior to the season the team captain, goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, promised the season would be one of success after last season the

former European champions were left wanting on both European and domestic fronts. Although Bayern will be up for the task, coach Ottmar Hitzfeld will undoubtedly be worried about the

absence of his injured ball-stopper. Kahn failed to make Germany's squad for their draw in a friendly against Bulgaria in midweek and is still doubtful for Saturday's trip to the northern coast city of Hamburg. who sit in sixth spot.

Hamburg will also welcome the fact that defender Willy Sagnol picked up a hamstrong injury during France's 1-1 draw midweek in their friendly against Tunisia and will be unavailable However his international teammate Bixente Lizarazu, who has been out through injury since the start of the season, could make the trip.

Chelsea's striker Jimmy Floyd Football Hasselbaink said that he would jump at the chance of joining Barcelona, amidst reports that the

"I would love to come - it is the Fit-again Gary Speed believes chance of a lifetime." Hasselbaink Newcastle's youngsters are playing was quoted as saying by Barcelonaso well that he is by no means

AFP, London

Spotlight on young Magpies "But he's come on leaps and

bounds and he's now scoring goals. He's got all the talent there to be a top player and he's got a pretty special goal celebration too.

> Speed was also impressed with Newcastle's two 19-year-old midfielders Hugo Viana and Jermaine Jenas.

"Although having said that, you can't help but notice the age gap

sometimes in the dressing room. "But when it comes to football despite being in my thirties, I'm as fit as I've ever been and now my injury worries are over."

Arsenal, who were outstanding in their 2-0 win over Premiership

president Garrastazu Medici... it has been proved that football and politics don't mix," it said "Not even the third world title saved the military regime from

eventually becoming caught up in an economic crisis. The supporters are not naive. Brazil fielded the same players

who took part in June's World Cup in South Korea and Japan, even though many, including striker Ronaldo, were clearly out of shape and not ready for a full international. Captain Cafu contributed to the

festive atmosphere by lifting the World Cup before the game but once play began it was clear Brazil

time. Cambridgeshire police detective

"The strength of feeling throughout the country has been a great

source of strength to Holly and Jessica's parents at this extremely difficult time.

The girls' remains were found Saturday on a forest track not far

based sports daily Mundo Deportivo.

Dutch international is being targeted

"At the moment there are only rumours, but I feel honoured that a club like Barcelona are showing an interest in me. If the signing does come off I can provide plenty of guts, goals, hard work and motivation.'

The 30-year-old Dutchman, who moved to Chelsea for a then British record equalling fee of dollars 22 million from Atletico Madrid in June 2000, would team up with international strike partner Partick Kluivert and former national team coach Louis van Gaal if the move did materialise.

Van Gaal has admitted that Barcelona are interested in acquiring an additional striker, but stressed that a new signing was not vital.

"We do need a centre-forward, but if we don't end up signing one it will be no problem," he told reporters on Thursday.

"Everything depends on the market," he said. "If a player is good value for money we could go for it." Spanish international strikers Albert Lugue and Diego Tristan have also been linked with a possible move to the Catalan club in recent weeks

Trezeguet may lose half a year

AFP, Rome

Juventus forward David Trezeguet AFP, London could be sidelined for five months due Chelsea and England under-21 to complications with a right knee injury, according to local media defender John Terry was cleared reports

Trezeguet, who was the top scorer in Serie A won by Juventus last year, was injured on July 31 during a friendly tournament which included teams from AC Milan and Inter Milan. The 25-year-old France interna-

tional has consulted two foreign specialists in a bid to get fit. Turku-based (Finland) professor Sakari Owara, who put former French international Didier Deschamps under the knife, is reported to have said Trezeguet needs an operation that would keep him out for five

of 10-2 of possessing a bottle as an months. offensive weapon but was cleared of On hearing the news Trezeguet affray. consulted another specialist, who said he could avoid the operation but (3,000 dollars) and faces 45 days in would have to have treatment for two prison if he defaults on the fine. He months.

assured of a place in the first team for Saturday's Premiership clash at Manchester City.

The 32-year-old Welsh international has recovered from an ankle injury but faces a battle to win back his place after Bobby Robson's men, including four players of 21 or vounger, thumped West Ham 4-0

on Monday night. In Speed's diary notes at www.icons.com, the former Leeds player said:

"I'll definitely be fit for Saturday but after our fantastic performance against West Ham I'll be lucky to get in the squad!

"We've got a very young side but the kids certainly did us proud on Monday night.

"There are some fantastic talents here and as it's been proved many times now that you can win trophies with kids Speed singled out Congolese

striker Lomana Tresor Lua Lua who celebrated his two goals against the Hammers with his trademark somersault

Football

"Lomana is doing really great," he said.

"When he first came to the club he was a bit raw and he had a lot to learn.

Thursday of glassing a doorman in

the face following a fracas at a west

wounding with intent to cause griev-

ous bodily harm. unlawful wounding.

possessing a bottle as an offensive

Chelsea teammate Jody Morris

was also cleared of affray at

Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court,

Wimbledon defender Des Byrne

Byrne was fined 2,000 pounds

was ordered to pay costs of 1,000

was found guilty by a majority verdict

Terry was cleared on charges of

London nightclub in January.

weapon and affray.

west London.

Terry cleared

"Hugo got stuck in on Monday and the fans took an instant liking to him," he said

"He's still playing a bit out of position but he certainly had a good start for us.

FIXTURES (1400GMT unless stated)

Saturday: Birmingham v Blackburn, Bolton v Charlton, Liverpool v Southampton, Manchester City v Newcastle, Middlesbrough v Fulham. Sunderland v Everton, Tottenham Aston Villa. West Brom v Leeds (1630GMT), West Ham v Arsenal

"Then there's Jermaine Jenas. JJ's only 19 but he played really well and he certainly looks one for the future."

Speed admitted he has started to feel old playing alongside so many youngsters but believes he still has a lot to offer the team. "With all these kids about there's

There were shouts of "Yes!" from

Members of Terry's family, who

Sentencing Byrne, Judge

were in the gallery, burst into tears

Fabyan Evans told Terry: "You are a

young man who has yet to learn that

JOHN TERRY

the public gallery as Terry was

only me and Alan Shearer who are getting on a bit," he said.

"To be fair we're only 32 and that's hardly geriatric. We're both still young but we just happen to be the oldest players in the squad.

pounds (1500 dollars)

cleared of all charges.

on hearing the jury's verdict.

newcomers Birmingham on Sunday, face a tough test at London rivals West Ham who despite being thrashed earlier in the week are

very strong at home. The Hammers only lost three league matches at Upton Park last season and along with Liverpool had the best home defensive record in the top flight.

One player who won't be playing this weekend is Dutch international Giovanni van Bronckhorst, but the injury-plagued Arsenal midfielder is close to making a comeback.

The former Rangers player damaged cruciate ligaments in his knee last year but has resumed training after a length lay-off and is eager to return to first team-action.

"Watching the lads' performance against Birmingham has made me more determined than ever to get back to full fitness," he said.

"I'm working really hard to achieve that, and at the moment I'm training at about 80 per cent of my full ability. which is where I'd hope to be in my recovery at this stage.

"Most of the time I don't feel the knee at all, but occasionally I just cross that line of what I can do, and you feel it a bit. I'm really happy with the way it's going.

character and references that have

Terry refused to comment as he

His solicitor, Steven Barker, said:

"He is extremely relieved and

"He wants to thank his legal

"He has been under enormous

"Now he wants to get on with

team, Chelsea Football Club and

last but not least his family and

strain, that is clearly visible on this

what I believe is a glorious career in

pleased at this verdict, his words

were that justice has been done.

been heard."

bottle to a bouncer.

young man's face.

court.

friends.

the game."

young. But, yes, we will probably see some new faces."

The Portugal game is being held on September 7 at Villa Park in Birmingham - the scene of the Swedish coach's debut 3-0 victory against Spain.

Eriksson is confident that the team can improve on their performances at the World Cup during the summer and he has high hopes for Euro 2004.

"It is a young team and it will certainly get better," he told the Football Association's website, www.thefa.com.

"We must qualify for the European Championships and that's not going to be easy but, if we can go to the tournament with players who are fit and fresh, then think we have a very big chance."

The fledgling French League One The only way France can put their (First Division) finds itself bathed in humbling experience at this year's a reddish hue as it enters its fourth World Cup behind them is by getting results on the pitch, new French coach Jacques Santini declared here on Thursday.

charge of the 1998 World Cup winners - a hard-fought 1-1 draw away to Tunisia.

his international career Santini told AFP: "Time doesn't heal everything. "Only their performances and their collective results will draw a line

Santini believes the next three weeks before France's first Euro 2004 qualifier against Cyprus will be crucial

Christophe Dugarry, who called time on his international career after France's World Cup flop, said his former teammates were still recovering from their disaster in Asia when they failed to score a single goal

and the French team are still convalescing a bit. Now it's up to the manager to take stock and make alterations," the Bordeaux player said.

Leverkusen. Hansa Rostock, Borussia Despite winning their first two games in style, Bochum will come up against a Leverkusen side possibly devoid of injured pair Torsten Frings and Oliver Neuville

Dortmund v Vfb Stuttgart Sunday: Schalke 04 v Hertha Berlin, FC Nuremberg v Hanover 96

but determined to overhaul two defender Dario Rodriguez, in the defeats which have left them in the side

Third-placed Hansa Rostock perhaps have a better chance than either of the latter to stay in the top three as they travel to Energie Cottbus.

The little former east German side have a win and a draw so far, and sit third from bottom.

able as they were only saved from Rennes emboldened by their spirdemotion to the backwaters of the ited 1-1 draw against Lyon, leaving the pitch to cheers from their fans. Third Division due to financial difficulties after an eleventh hour reprieve suggests they can see we've got

They host Montpellier

spirit," said Fabio Celestini. Titleholders Lyon, whose two youngsters Eric Carriere and hopes that the new season would bring about a much needed change Sidney Goyou turned out for their old boss Jacques Santini in of fortune have been dashed with France's 1-1 midweek draw against the Principality side boasting just Tunisia, put their impressive home three points from a maximum nine. record on the line against Bastia. another tricky evening ahead, a visit

But the side that last suffered defeat at their Stade de Gerland

Friday: Lille v Troyes Saturday: Nantes v Lens, ordeaux v Strasbourg, Lyon v Bastia, Auxerre v Guingamp, Nice Montpellier, Monaco v Sochaux, Rennes v Marseille, Ajaccio v Sedan

Sunday: Le Havre v Paris Saint Germain

base on November 18 2000 will have to do so without their two Brazilian stars.

An injury picked up at Marseille last week has ruled out Juninho while Edmilson needs time to recover after turning out for his country in a friendly against Paraguay

Lyon had a confidence-boosting 4-1 win over Dubai outfit Al Nasr behind closed doors on Tuesday.

to have Chilean striker Hector Tapia Marseille, who this week signed back in the team after recovering up French midfielder Pascal from a thigh problem. Johansen, travel to strugglers

"I'm hoping he will play," Hitzfeld said when asked about Lizarazu's progress.

In order to go top, Hitzfeld's dream team will have to beat their hosts and hope that Bochum, Hansa Rostock and Schalke all lose their respective matches.

"For the public to react like that

Down the coast at Monaco any

Manager Didier Deschamps has

Paris Saint Germain, in eighth,

from seventh-placed Sochaux.

Santini's simple formula

AFP,Paris

The former Lyon boss was speak-ing the day after his first game in fame and wealth bring responsibility.

"I take into account your good Reflecting on the modest start to posed for photographers outside

doubt of the enormous stress and "The players themselves told me there was a huge gap in their fitness levels. They found it hard to carry through their efforts. When player aren't at their top level in terms of

despite boasting the top scorers in the Italian, English and French leagues in their lineup. "The match in Tunisia was difficult

under the World Cup.

"Anyone who saw him give evidence in that witness box will have no

strain he has been under for the last eight months because of some monstrous allegations that he took a

fitness then they play with caution."

starter.

round of matches this weekend. Firstly as that's the team colour sported by Guingamp, the lowbudget Brittany club who escaped relegation on the closing day of last season but who are now unexpect-

Red is in the air

edly topping the table. And secondly because of the spate of red cards that were flying around as freely as surburban gossip last week - in all eight were dished out by referees under new instructions from on high to come down hard on foul play.

Guingamp owe their high-flying status to a gutsy come-from-behind 3-3 draw to champions Lyon and two decisive wins against Ajaccio

and Rennes. Coach Bertrand Marchand will be looking to keep up the good work on Saturday away to veteran Guy Roux's Auxerre for whom captain Claude Michel is an uncertain

Former champions Bordeaux, at home to Strasbourg, share the same points with Guingamp but have an inferior goal difference, and they in turn are being tracked by another surprise package - Nice.

The Cote d'Azur side's prominent showing is all the more remark-

have a Sunday date in the FIXTURES Normandy port of Le Havre but coach Luis Fernandez will be approaching the game without his pivotal player Ronaldinho. The World Cup winner, out of sorts since the start of the campaign

although he did appear briefly last week, is rated doubtful after his fleeting trip back home for retiring Brazil coach Luis Felipe Scolari's

midweek swansong. Friday's one game is a bottomof-the-table clash between Lille and

Troyes - ironically Lille's desperate league form is in total contrast to their encouraging European showing, this match being held early to fit in with their Intertoto Cup tie against Stuttgart.

The northern French side's

coach Claude Puel will be relieved