

Argentina fix

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fiers when he took over, was delighted with his side's improvement at the Copa America. "We gave everything, just as a Uruguayan should when he's wearing his country's shirt, but without going over the top," he said.

Uruguay defender Joe Bizera was sent off in the 35th minute while team mate Carlos Diogo produced arguably the worst tackle of the tournament when he lunged two-footed at Cristian Gonzalez's shins. Remarkably, he escaped with a yellow card.

Fabian Estoyanoff fired Uruguay ahead with a right-footed volley after seven minutes before Argentina replied with two quick goals.

Cristian Gonzalez slotted home a 20th-minute penalty after a foul on Cesar Delgado, then Figueroa scored from close range less than one minute later.

That blow, followed by Bizera's sending-off, would have floored many teams.

But the tenacious Uruguayans equalised in the 38th minute when Vicente Sanchez connected with a loose ball and scored with a 25-metre left-foot shot.

Argentina dominated the rest of the game but appeared set to be frustrated until captain Roberto Ayala scored with a brilliant header from a corner in the 81st minute. Figueroa sealed the win with his second goal in the 90th.

MEXICO 2; ECUADOR 1

Claudio Suarez, the world's most capped international, made his first appearance of the Copa and the 172nd of his Mexico career in the game against Ecuador.

Striker Adolfo Bautista was Mexico's hero, winning the 27th minute penalty from which Hector Altamirano opened the scoring, and helping himself to the second on the break just before half-time.

Agustin Delgado headed one for Ecuador as they staged a late fight-back.

Denilson out with ankle injury

AFP, Seville

Brazilian international Denilson of Spanish first division outfit Real Betis is set to miss the club's pre-season warm-up with an ankle injury, the club said on Wednesday.

Denilson, 26, is to have the injury x-rayed Thursday but officials rated him as doubtful for the pre-season campaign, ahead of the big La Liga kick-off on August 31.

Napoli dying

REUTERS, Rome

Debt-laden Italian Serie B club Napoli missed a deadline on Tuesday to show its finances were in order, putting in jeopardy the former Italian champion's chances of qualifying for the new season.

Napoli, at risk of being thrown out of the second division, needed to assure the Italian Football League it had met a shortfall of millions of euros in its accounts by midnight on Monday.

The league's offices had remained open to receive the documentation, the first in a series of financial deadlines for Italian clubs to register for the 2004/05 season.

"We did not receive any documents by midnight last night and we have not received them today," a league spokeswoman said.

Many Italian clubs are battling record debts and heavy losses but they must prove their finances in order to register for the season. Napoli has around 70 million euros (\$97 million) of debt, Italian media reported.

Serie A club SS Lazio had been at risk of missing the first of three deadlines but according to local media Rome-based entrepreneur Piero Tulli paid between 25-30 million euros to ensure the club was not immediately disqualified.

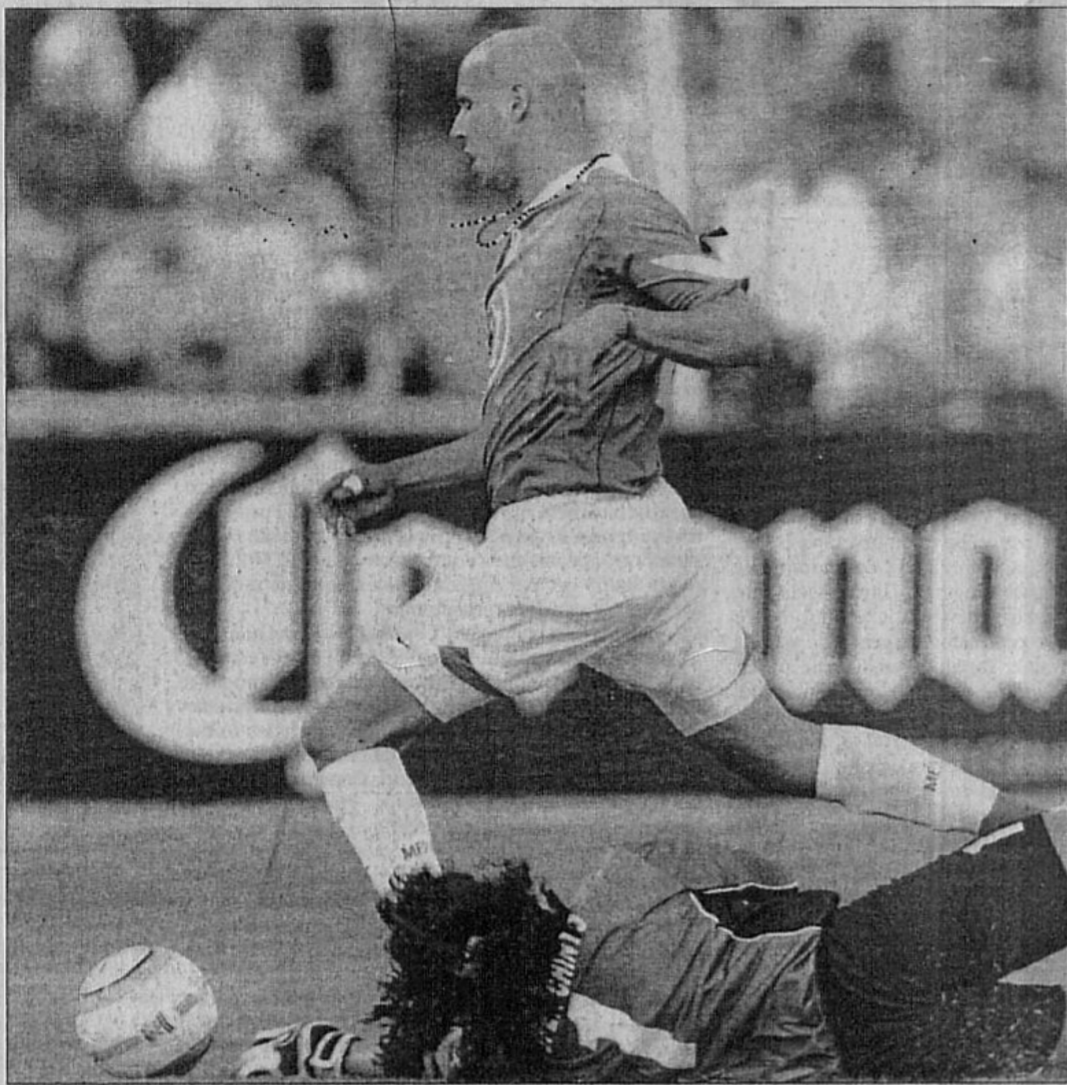
Several Naples-based entrepreneurs are also seeking to pay over six million euros in unpaid salaries of Napoli players but the businessmen needed three more days to work out the deal, Italian news agency ANSA reported.

Napoli has two further deadlines this month when it may be allowed to present the documents, said a spokesman for the Italian soccer federation, Federcalcio.

Federcalcio holds the final decision on barring Napoli from Serie B, possibly relegating the club to Serie C or sending it to the bottom of the league system.

Some of Napoli's rivals on Tuesday said Serie C would be too good for the club and wanted it to follow the fate of twice Italian champions Fiorentina who were relegated to the fourth division after being declared bankrupt.

"If Naples makes it into Serie C it will be a disgrace. It has been in a terrible financial state for years and the only way to resolve the situation is to raze the whole thing and start again with people who are capable of success," Genoa Chairman Enrico Preziosi told ANSA.



Mexican Adolfo Bautista is being brought down by Ecuadorean goalkeeper Jacinto Espinoza inside the box during their match at the Miguel Grau Stadium in Piura on July 17.

PHOTO: AFP

Velappan attacks Europe



AFP, Beijing

Asian football's top players have been urged to beware exploitation by European clubs as they prepare to show off their skills in the shop window of the continent's most prestigious tournament.

The trickle of Asian footballers heading to Europe has grown into a steady stream in recent years, with players like Japan's Hidetoshi Nakata, South Korea's Park Ji-Sung and Iranian Mehdi Mahdavi leading the way.

Yet the trend of European clubs snapping up players from the region in the hope of exploiting lucrative foreign markets is a growing concern to Asian Football Confederation (AFC) officials.

Speaking ahead of Saturday's kick-off in the 16-team Asian Cup continental championship, AFC general secretary Peter Velappan said his organisation was keen for players to try their luck overseas.

"The best leagues are in Europe," Velappan told AFP. "We encourage our young players to try and go to these clubs in Europe to understand what it means to be a professional footballer and to improve their mental strength."

But Velappan said European clubs often signed Asian stars primarily for commercial reasons, hampering players' development.

"Some of these mega-clubs have been coming to Japan and China in particular, only for commercial reasons," Velappan said.

"The players are signed by a club and then loaned out to clubs in other countries, they are just using these players for their own ends."

"We're not talking about a lot of clubs here but this is a trend that we need to be very vigilant against," Velappan added.

Although he did not name clubs and players involved, Velappan appeared to be taking a swipe at English Premiership giants Manchester United, who signed Chinese youngster Dong Fangzhou earlier this year.

Dong, who signed from Chinese side Dalian Shide, had barely set foot inside Old Trafford before he was whisked off on loan to Belgian side Royal Antwerp.

He has yet to play in a senior game for Manchester United but is likely to be called up whenever United tours around football-mad

Asia, where the club enjoys phenomenal support.

Velappan said young players being courted by European teams should only join if there was a solid development structure.

"We would like many of our Asian players to go to Europe, but ideally they should go there at junior level and become part of the club's academy where there is a clear structure leading to youth teams and then reserves," he said.

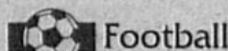
The Asian Cup gets underway in Beijing on Saturday, with hosts China meeting Gulf side Bahrain.



VIVA ASIA: Asian football chief Peter Velappan raises the Asian Cup trophy yesterday. The trophy is on display in Beijing.

PHOTO: AFP

'Ask him again'



AFP, Frankfurt

Former Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld should be asked to reconsider his refusal to take over Germany's national team, a top soccer official suggested Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a four-man panel charged with finding a new coach met for two hours in Frankfurt but did not reveal the names of any potential candidates.

Hitzfeld was the first candidate of the German soccer federation to succeed Rudi Voller, who stepped down the day after Germany's elimination at the end of the group stage at Euro 2004.

But the country's top coach, with 16 club titles, turned down the job, saying he was burned out after six years at Bayern. Bayern fired Hitzfeld at the end of the last season when it finished runner-up in the Bundesliga but without a trophy.

Otto Rehhagel, who sensationally led Greece to the Euro 2004 title, also refused to take the Germany coach job.

Borussia Dortmund's influential general manager Michael Meier suggested Hitzfeld should

be asked again.

"He was the first candidate and the perfect solution. There is no one better. He was cut out for this position. His successes speak for him," Meier said. Hitzfeld guided Dortmund to the Champions League title in 1997, before winning it with Bayern in 2001.

Meier suggested that Hitzfeld could be asked to take over the job as of Jan. 1, 2005, with an interim coach in charge until then. Hitzfeld's longtime assistant in Dortmund and Bayern, Michael Henke, could do the job, Meier said.

"There is no reason to present immediately a coach who would only be third or fourth choice," Meier said.

Germany, as host of the 2006 World Cup, doesn't have any qualification matches over the next two years.

Its series of exhibition matches leading up to the World Cup begins Aug. 18 in Austria.

On Sept. 18, Germany hosts Brazil in Berlin in a replay of the 2002 World Cup final, then travels to Iran on Oct. 9.

On Nov. 11, Germany plays Cameroon, before a December tour of Japan, South Korea and Thailand.

Turf is the future

AP, Singapore

FIFA President Sepp Blatter said Tuesday artificial pitches were the "future of football" and called on nations to build more of them to improve their standard of soccer.

"Playing on artificial surfaces, that is the future of football," said Blatter. "An artificial turf means less injuries," he said without elaborating.

On a two-day visit to the city-state, Blatter told Singapore soccer officials they had the infrastructure and the "footballing pedigree," but said they needed more artificial surfaces to train on.

He spoke briefly to the media after visiting Singapore's National Football Academy trainees here.

The tiny Southeast Asian city-state is ranked 114 in the world but Football Association of Singapore General-Secretary John Koh told Blatter his country hoped to be "below 60" in three to five years.

After a series of disappointing results, Singapore last month scrapped its "Goal 2010" program aimed at qualifying for the World Cup finals in 2010.

Singapore has yet to win an international match in 2004. Blatter leaves for Beijing Wednesday morning.

COPA SALSA



REUTERS, Arequipa

In-form Brazil striker Adriano and experienced Paraguay defender Carlos Gamarra will put their friendship aside in the Copa America on Wednesday.

The 21-year-old Adriano, who hit a hat trick in a 4-1 demolition of Costa Rica on Sunday, will find life tougher against Inter Milan team mate Gamarra in the Group C clash.

"It will not be easy because Gamarra is a difficult adversary and a great player, but I'll try to stay focused and help Brazil win the game," Adriano said.

Their friendship stretches back to 2000, when Gamarra was captain of Flamengo and the teenage Adriano burst out to the scene with a string of spectacular goals for the Rio de Janeiro club.

"We are great friends off the pitch, but enemies on it," Adriano joked.

Gamarra, who has made 92 appearances for Paraguay and was

voted best defender of the 1998 World Cup, played down the value of knowing any potential strengths or weaknesses in a player.

"No matter how well you know a player, everything depends on the circumstances of each game," he said.

In spells at Brazilian clubs Corinthians, Palmeiras and Flamengo, Gamarra has also played alongside Alex, Edu and Juan -- all probable starters on Wednesday.

"They are a good group, and nice people. I just ask that they don't make life too difficult for us in this game," he joked.

Both teams have already qualified for the second phase of the tournament. Brazil are top on six points, with Paraguay on four and hoping to grab the top spot.

PIZARRO GOING TO GERMANY

Peru captain Claudio Pizarro will travel to Germany, where he plays for Bayern Munich, to undergo surgery after suffering a head fracture in a Copa America match last week.

Pizarro's father said on Tuesday a neurosurgeon sent to Lima by Bayern made the decision after assessing him.

"The doctor who came from

Germany decided it was safe for him to travel and that the operation would be done there," he told RPP radio.

"The operation is necessary because the dent in his skull is fairly pronounced," he added. The striker's father will accompany him to Germany for the surgery, which he said would probably take place later this week.

The 25-year-old suffered a blow to the head in Peru's 3-1 win over Venezuela on Friday and was taken to hospital on Saturday after complaining of dizziness and nausea.

His injury is a bitter blow to the hosts, who have qualified for the quarter-finals, and a personal disappointment for Pizarro who has never fully managed to shine for his country, scoring an unremarkable 10 goals in 38 games.

He has been at Bayern for three seasons, scoring 15 league goals in each of his first two years and 11 last term. His ambition is to lead Peru to their first World Cup since 1982.

Pizarro would have missed Peru's 2-2 draw with Colombia on Monday even if it after being sent off late in last Friday's game. Fans in the stadium waved placards saying "Come on Pizarro" during Monday's match.

Substitution under the microscope

AP, London

FIFA plans to clarify a new rule on substitutions after a club game in England had to be abandoned last week.

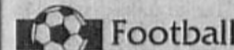
Fulham's pre-season match against Watford was scrapped at halftime after both teams made six changes, although the players stayed on the field and the match became more of a training session without an official referee.

That prompted the Football Association to hold discussions with FIFA about the rule change agreed in February by the International Football Association Board and imposed July 1, which states no more than six changes can be made per team in non-competitive matches.

Earlier on Tuesday, the FA said FIFA had agreed to limit restrictions on subs only in international friendlies, meaning unlimited changes in club friendlies. But FIFA spokesman Markus Sieglar said that's what the rules were intended to mean all along.

"It's about misinterpreting the rule," he said. "Now we will have a look to better specify and clarify the rule. It's a matter of understanding the interpretation going back to February."

Drogba is hot!



AFP, Marseille

Marseille president Christophe Bouchet revealed Tuesday that the French side snubbed a 28-million-euro (34.5-million-dollar) offer from English Premiership big spenders Chelsea for striker Didier Drogba.

Drogba now looks set to sign for last season's Premiership runners-up for between 35 million and 40 million euros (50 million dollars) from UEFA Cup finalists Marseille according to a source from the French club.

The 26-year-old Ivory Coast international is contracted to the French outfit till 2008 but his 19 league goals last season and several stunning performances in the UEFA Cup made him a particular favourite of new Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho. "and money is no object" for the English side's Russian owner Roman Abramovich.

And Bouchet admitted that despite turning down the original offer Marseille were now tempted by the increased sum.

"Negotiations have begun between Chelsea representatives and Pape Diouf (Marseille general



DIDIER DROGBA

manager). But we felt their offer of 28 million euros was insufficient and, in the current state of things, I refused," Bouchet told AFP.

"But the situation is extremely complex and it's a real balancing act not only on the human side but also because of our financial state that

has to be taken into account as well."

Bouchet had said earlier this year that the southern French side's losses were running at 15 million euros a year which he blamed on the management of Bernard Tapie when he returned to the club in April 2001.

And Mourinho has made no secret of his interest in signing Drogba who cost the French side just six million euros (7.4m dollars) when he moved from fellow French side Guingamp.

"I see the qualities of power and speed. Also his control on the first touch and the way he fights - he's a player who can achieve great success," Mourinho said this week.

Diouf believes that the sale of Drogba would allow them to buy "three players of international repute" with contact already made with Cameroon's 2003 African player of the year Samuel Eto'o about a move from Spanish side Real Mallorca.

"Whatever happens the decision we take will be in the interest of the club," added Diouf.

Drogba, currently on holiday in Florida, has not commented on the talks, but has said that "despite the offers and the requests" he wanted to put off a move abroad.

Golden boys asked to stay



AFP, Lisbon

Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) president Gilberto Madail urged national skipper Luis Figo and key midfielder Rui Costa not to quit international football.

"I'm hopeful," said Madail. "When Figo announced a year ago that Euro 2004 could be his last national appearance I always said that I was hopeful that he would go back on his decision. And now I

believe it even more.

"As for Rui Costa I'm still hopeful."

Costa, 32, made the surprise announcement just before the Euro 2004 final which the hosts lost 1-0 to Greece that he was ending his international career after the tournament.

Figo, 31, who still has two more years on his contract with Spanish giants Real Madrid, said after the final that he would take time to reflect on his future before deciding whether to add to his record 111

caps.

Madail said that the duo "would be missed by the squad. But we have to respect their arguments which are difficult to thwart."

Meanwhile, their 35-year-old former captain Fernando Couto, who holds a Portuguese record 100 caps, has not said whether he intends to continue or retire but the 110-times capped defender was a peripheral figure at the Euro tournament after being dropped following the opening 2-1 defeat by Greece.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Sirajganj

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

Corrigendum Tender Notice Number-33/2003-2004

Memo: LGED/XEN/Siraj/2350/2001(Part-2)/1197

Date: 29-06-2004

Sealed tenders are hereby invited as per Public Procurement Regulation-2003 from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the undermentioned list of works as per terms and conditions stated below:

Sl No	Name of contract	Tender security (Tk)	Time for completion (days)	Price of tender documents (Tk)
01.	Construction of Road from Gopalpur Hazi Noor Hossain House-Hazi Motalab House Road under Belkuchi Upazila (GR-17/03-04)	40,000/-	45	Tk 750/-
1.	Name of project : Greater Bogra, Rajshahi & Pabna Dist Infrastructure Development Project.			
2.	Date, time and place of pre-tender meeting : 18 July 2004, 11.00 AM, office of the undersigned.			
3.	Last date, time and places of selling tender documents : 24 August 2004, 4.00 PM at office of the a) The Project Director, Greater Bogra, Rajshahi & Pabna Dist. Infrastructure Development Project, LGED, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207, b) The Deputy Commissioner, Sirajganj, c) Undersigned & d) The Upazila Engineer, LGED, Sadar/Kazipur/Raiganj/Tarash/Ullapara/Sahazadpur/Belkuchi/Kamarkhand.			
4.	Last date, time and places of receiving : 25 August 2004, 1.00 PM at office of the a) The Deputy Commissioner, Sirajganj, b) Undersigned, c) The Upazila Engineer, LGED, Sadar/Kazipur/Raiganj/Tarash/Ullapara/Sahazadpur/Belkuchi/Kamarkhand.			
5.	Date, time and place of opening of tender : 25 August 2004, 3:30 PM at office of the undersigned.			
6.	Tender shall be valid for a period of 119 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by the tender security specified in section 2 (herein Column 3 of the above table). The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Interested tenderer may obtain further information from the undersigned and purchase the tender documents in Cash/Treasury Chalan/Bank Draft from the places mentioned above. The tenderer or their authorised representatives may remain present (if any body desires) during opening of tenders.			

DPF-17039-6/7/04
G-403

Md Najmul Alam
Executive Engineer
Ph: 0751-62207