

A Real Japanese welcome

Football

REAL MADRID WEBSITE

The events aimed to welcome Real Madrid to Japan were overflowing with local culture.

The members of the Real travelling party set down their footprints for posterity in moulds for a Real Madrid Museum to be created in the Bouken OU zone of Tokyo. Then straight away they recorded greetings for Fuji Television and finished off the evening with a dinner reception offered by the TV station featuring plentiful servings of sushi, sashimi, tempura and makisushi.

After the official press conferences following their arrival at the Hotel Nikko, the Real players went one by one into a room where they found moulds with each of their names. After sitting down and taking off their shoes, the players stamped their feet in the moulds to leave their footprints in typical Hollywood style. The blocks will be taken to an area of the city called Bouken OU, where they will become part of the Real Madrid Museum.

Following this first engagement, the Real players were taken to the Apollon room of the hotel to record two greetings for Fuji Television, the TV network sponsoring Japan Tour '04. Thus, Roberto Carlos, César, David Beckham, Raúl Bravo, Luis Figo, Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo, Ivan Helguera, Guti and Solari, after several test runs, shouted "Kickakewa" in Japanese, which means "On principle".

Another group composed of Pavón, Samuel, Celades, Núñez, Mejía, Casillas, Diego López, Morientes, Raúl and Salgado had an easier time, as they just had to shout FujiTelevi.

Immediately thereafter, the footballers were joined by the coaching, medical and assistant



THE KINGS ARE HERE! Real Madrid players, led by captain Raul Gonzalez (C), are welcomed by Japanese youngsters before a training session in Tokyo yesterday. The Spanish giants take on a local selection today in the first of their exhibition games.

staff, as well as the director Pedro López Jiménez, Emilio Butragueño and José Luis López Serrano. They were all invited to the official reception offered by the Fuji network.

A giant screen, with the words Welcome to Japan, and a commemorative poster for Japan Tour '04 presided the event. Coach Antonio Camacho reiterated in his brief speech what he'd said in the press conference. "We're delighted to be in Japan. We want to continue to promote football and we know

that Real is the biggest team in the world."

Team Captain Raúl insisted on the same idea: "We're happy because this is a country that supports us and treats us with respect. We'd like to return all of that through good football."

Words of thanks that found an echo in the Executive Director of Fuji Television: "We need the help of Real Madrid for people to see just how amazing football is. We ask that you leave a good memory in the heart of children that love

this sport."

Following the speeches came the official dinner. There was no shortage of sushi, sashimi, tempura or makisushi, in addition to meat and desserts. There was also a group of ten women in traditional Japanese dress for special occasions, and entertainment was provided by the smooth harmonies of the group Swing Girls, composed of 16 teenage girls now reaching a mass audience thanks to a movie named after them.

Edmilson joins Barca

AFP, Barcelona

Brazil's World Cup-winning midfielder Edmilson will play for Barcelona next season after an agreement was reached with French club Lyon, a source close to the Spanish club told AFP on Tuesday.

Barcelona president Joan Laporta, who offered eight million euros (9.6 million dollars) compared to Lyon's asking price of 12 million euros, has promised an additional two to three million euros to be based on the player's performance.

Edmilson and Barcelona had already agreed on his salary several days ago.

"The Spanish club, who have already recruited the Portuguese playmaker Deco and the French midfielder Ludovic Giuly, are looking for a defensive midfielder following the departure of Dutch international Philip Cocu to PSV Eindhoven and fellow Dutchman Edgar Davids who has joined Inter Milan.

Edmilson, a key member of Brazil's 2002 World Cup squad, will join fellow Brazilians including Ronaldinho, defenders Belletti, Sylvinho and the Spanish-Brazilian Thiago Motta.

Sven-Goran Eriksson may soon learn what Glenn Hoddle and Terry Venables found out before him—that embarrassing the Football Association can have more bearing on the longevity of an England manager than results on the pitch.

News that the unmarried Swede had a relationship with a secretary at the FA was unlikely, on its own, to cost him his job as he had already survived the revelation of an earlier affair with celebrity Ulrika Jonsson in 2002.

But the fact that the FA were forced to confirm the affair, and that of FA chief executive Mark Palios with the same woman, a few days after issuing a strongly-worded denial has infuriated many at the governing body of English football.

"It makes us look like idiots because there was a denial and then we were told it did happen," FA board member Dave Henson was quoted as saying by the Guardian on Tuesday.

"We are left looking like mugs and that can't be right. We have been left high and dry. There's so many questions to answer and we will be expect-

The best way is the way out

Football

REUTERS, London

Whether or not it transpires that Eriksson himself misled the FA about the affair, the incident provides ammunition for the FA members who were never happy at having a foreign manager.

There are also those who feel he should not have given a new multi-million pound contract in March this year after being photographed meeting Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon.

Furthermore, his guidance of England at Euro 2004 was indirectly criticised this week when FA director of football Trevor Brooking lamented the inability of the team to adjust to the loss of Wayne Rooney to injury during their quarter-final defeat by Portugal.

England's qualification campaign for the 2006 World Cup begins against Austria on September 4 so the FA will be anxious to have the matter sorted out as soon as possible.

No England manager has been sacked for poor results since World Cup winner Alf Ramsey was shown the door 30 years ago.

Most have walked away from the job and even the least popular of

England's managers, Graham Taylor, survived three miserable years before resigning in 1993.

It is the fate of his immediate successors in the job, Venables and Hoddle, that is most relevant to Eriksson.

Venables took England to within a bootlace of the final of Euro 96 but had already said he would stand down so that court cases over various business dealings did not interfere with England's qualifying campaign for the 1998 World Cup.

Hoddle succeeded him and got England to the finals in France. Soon after the tournament he fell foul of some at the FA for saying that his only mistake had been not taking faith healer Eileen Drewery to the tournament.

The publication of his candid "World Cup Diaries" in August 1998 caused a further furore and the final straw came in January 1999 when he was quoted as saying disabled people were paying for sins in a previous life. He was sacked on February 2.

Eriksson has always been fiercely protective of his personal life and may decide that this row is the perfect opportunity to bring an end to his 3-1/2 year reign in the most high profile job in English sport.

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Hot cake

AFP, Athens

A CD featuring live radio broadcasts from European champions' Greece games in the Euro 2004 tournament sold out four days after its publication.

"All 40,000 copies were sold yesterday," said publisher Yiorgos Dramountanis. A new issue of the CD called "The Pirate Ship" is due to appear on Greek kiosks on August 6.

"I had to fasten the CDs to the kiosk with a cord. Passers-by just snatched them and ran away," a kiosk owner in central Athens told AFP.

The CD's title refers to the Greek team's nickname "The Pirates," inspired by their defense-minded hit-and-run tactics. Its cover features a pirate flag in blue and white -- Greece's national colours -- where a football takes the place of a skull.

The Greek national anthem and "Zorbas' Dance" are also included.

Music records are declared "golden LPs" in Greece when they sell more than 25,000 copies.

Rank outsiders' Greece stunning conquest of the cup had unleashed an unprecedented wave of enthusiasm in Greece. Millions poured out on the streets for an all-night party after the July 4 final in which Greece beat hosts Portugal 1-0.



TREASURE CD! A CD called "The Pirate Ship" featuring live radio broadcasts from the European champions' Greece's games in the recent Euro 2004 tournament seen in a photo taken yesterday.

Rooney ring is squirrel property!

AFP, London

Treasure hunters are banned from an English squirrel reserve where the fiancée of football star Wayne Rooney is thought to have thrown her engagement ring in a pique of anger.

Coleen McLoughlin reportedly dumped the 25,000 pound (38,000 euro, 46,000 dollar) ring in the Formby Point nature reserve after a row with Rooney over claims that the Everton and England striker had sex with an escort girl.

The reserve -- home to about 300 endangered red squirrels -- belongs to the National Trust, which let it be known Tuesday that treasure hunters eager to find the ring would not be welcome.

"We really do not want people trampling through the woods and disturbing the squirrels," said National Trust spokeswoman Debbie Peers.

"Metal detectors are banned from the reserve anyway and we will enforce this," she added. "Anybody who is seen disturbing the squirrels will be asked to leave."

Formby Point is close to the luxury home in the north of England where Rooney and McLoughlin live.

News of their spat appeared in the Sun newspaper, which had exclusive access to Rooney during the Euro 2004 championships.

There are only 160,000 red squirrels left in Britain, compared to 2.5 million grey squirrels, a North American species whose talent for gathering food more quickly is blamed for their red cousins' plight.

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Chewing-gummers irk Putin

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia's gum-chewing soccer team have been told to quit their habit and sing their national anthem, by president Vladimir Putin, officials said on Wednesday.

Putin telephoned Russian Olympic chief Leonid Tyagachyov during Euro 2004 and asked him to tell the players to sing the words to the anthem when it was played.

Olympic Committee spokesman Gennady Shvets said on Wednesday.

Popular tabloid Zhizn said Tyagachyov passed on the message to soccer officials, saying Putin was incensed that players were chewing gum rather than singing as the anthem was played.

"I told the lads to take their national anthem more seriously," Russian soccer chief Vyacheslav Koloskov told the paper. "Other teams not only sing, they have expressions on their faces that straight away make it clear they are prepared to do everything to beat the opposition.

"And ours? They chew gum and smile."

Officials have repeatedly tried to persuade the team to sing the anthem, restored to its Soviet-era version in 2001 with new words. Players were handed song sheets for the 2002 World Cup.

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Blank firing Iran, Japan thru'



AFP, Beijing

Holders Japan held off a strong challenge from Iran to secure their passage into the Asian Cup quarter-finals as group winners here Wednesday as brave Oman bowed out of the competition.

Japan, who had already booked their place in the last eight, needed only a point to win Group D and duly claimed it with a 0-0 draw against the Iranians, who also went through to the knockout stages as runners-up.

The Japanese will now play Jordan in the quarter-finals on Saturday while Iran advance to a heavyweight showdown against

South Korea, who beat them at the same stage of the competition in 2000.

JAPAN 0; IRAN 0

Japan and Iran's stalemate sent Oman tumbling out of the competition. The Omanis defeated Thailand 2-0 but had needed Japan to beat Iran in Chongqing in order to have a chance of pipping the Persians on goal difference.

The exit was a bitter pill for the Omanis, who had led Iran last Saturday only to be denied by a controversial injury-time equaliser, a goal that ultimately cost them a place in the quarter-finals.

Iran, who saw three quarters of their defensive unit suspended in the wake of the stormy match with Oman, rallied impressively to test the Japanese, who once again faced a hostile reception from 45,000 local Chinese fans.

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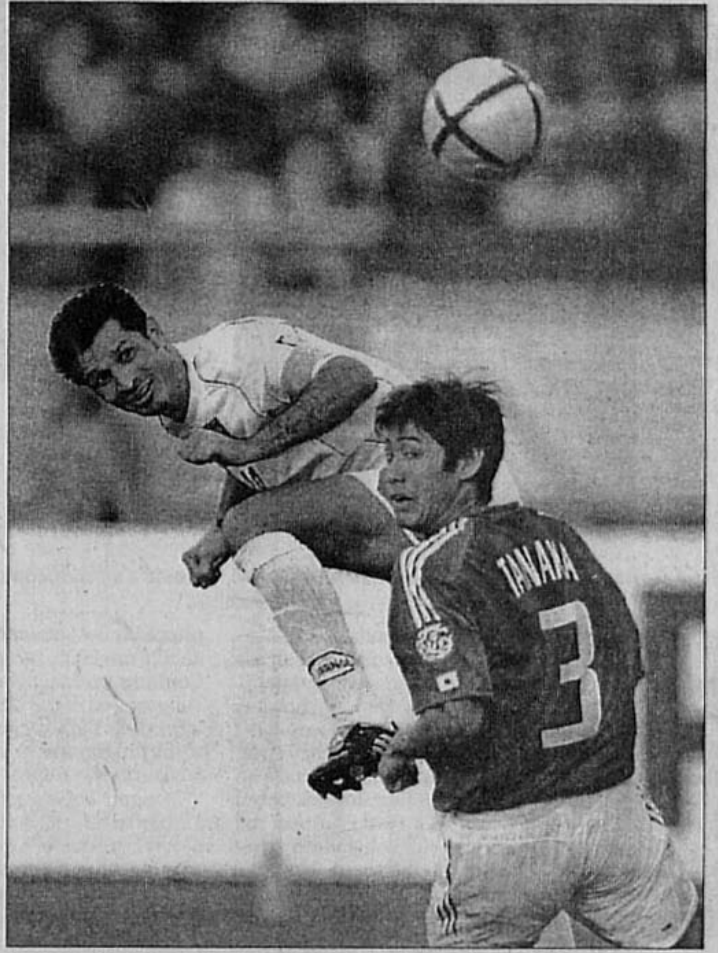
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The striker in uniform

AFP, Jinan

Army recruit Lee Dong-Gook, top marksman at the last Asian Cup, has come out of the wilderness to fire South Korea into the quarter-finals with a classy treble in two games.

Lee's nodded opener against UAE and a brace in the 4-0 demolition of Kuwait saw him roar back to the top of the scorers' standings and ignited South Korea's campaign after a slow start.

They also announced the international return of a striking prodigy overlooked by former coach Gus Hiddink for South Korea's astonishing run to the 2002 World Cup semi-finals.

The omission was to prove costly with Lee missing out on the exemption from South Korea's compulsory military service granted to the young World Cup stars.

The 25-year-old, who is seeing out his two-year service playing for the K-League's military side

Kwangju Sangmu Phoenix, is desperate to make the most of his recall under new coach Jo Bonfrere.

"There's always fierce competition for the striker position, and this is a rare chance which came after four years," Lee told Korean media.

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KNOCK OUT DRAW

Asian Cup draw after completion of first round here Wednesday:

Quarter-finals
Friday, July 30, At Chengdu
(1) Uzbekistan v Bahrain (1000 GMT) At Beijing
(2) China v Iraq (1300 GMT) At Jinan
Saturday, July 31, At Chongqing
(3) Japan v Jordan (1000 GMT) At Jinan
(4) South Korea v Iran (1300 GMT) At Jinan

Semi-finals
Tuesday, August 3, At Jinan
Winner (1) v Winner (3) (1000 GMT) At Beijing
Winner (2) v Winner (4) (1300 GMT) At Beijing

3rd place play-off
Friday, August 6, At Beijing

Final
Saturday, August 7, At Beijing

LEE DONG-GOOK

"It's time for South Korea to win the cup, and I want to give a hand in doing it."

Lee's six goals were instrumental in South Korea's third-place finish in Lebanon 2000, most notably his golden goal against Iran in the quarter-finals.

But he says he is keen to follow fellow strikers Ahn, Seol Ki-Hyeon and Cha Du-Ri abroad.

"Wherever it is, I do want to go abroad. That's my long-term goal and I will prepare for it," he said.

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Bend it like Kasimov!

AFP, Beijing

Those two goals and Kasimov's tireless displays saw him twice named man of the match as Uzbekistan powered to the top of Group C and into a quarter-final on Friday against Bahrain on Friday.

Kasimov, who plays in Russia for Alania Vladikavkaz, has been a driving force at the heart of Uzbekistan's national team since 1992 and was influential in leading the former Soviet republic to gold at the 1994 Asian Games.

But he plays down his importance to the side. "We are a team, and that is more important than any individual," he says.

When he's not training or playing with Uzbekistan, Kasimov can be found in his hotel room scanning Chinese television for highlights of the recently concluded Copa America. He speaks admirably of South American football.

"It is one thing to feel the ball, but it is another thing altogether when the ball feels you," he said. "It is like the ball recognises you and follows your orders. All orders."

Uzbekistan coach Ravshan Haydarov hails Kasimov as a

model professional who will inspire the next generation of his nation's footballers.

"He is a symbol of our football and even at 33 he is still strong enough to play at this level," purred Haydarov.

"He is an excellent example for other footballers, particularly the younger players in our squad who will benefit a great deal from his vast experience."

Uzbekistan's teenage CSKA Moscow striker Alexander Geynrikh echoed Haydarov's sentiments.

"Kasimov is a great man and a great footballer and it is a joy for strikers to play alongside him," said the 19-year-old. "As a striker you can relax when Kasimov plays."

It's all a far cry from the last Asian Cup in Lebanon, when Kasimov could do nothing as the Uzbeks were crushed 8-0 by Japan and 5-0 by Saudi Arabia to go out in the first round.

But win or lose against Bahrain, Kasimov and Uzbekistan's campaign in China has already been a triumph.

"We have the respect of other teams now," Kasimov said.

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Directorate General Defence Purchase
Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Re-Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/suppliers (for enlisted firm only) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh "Army."

Ser No	Nomenclature	Date of Selling		Date of Opening	Currency	Tender No
		From	To			
a.	Tower protection and grounding system and accessories for Microwave Link Quantity-07 Nos	30-7-2004	19-8-2004	21-8-2004	Local	214/1077 /AP-2

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (non-refundable) during office hours between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderers (if present).

Major
For Director General

C-1878

STANDINGS

AFP, Beijing

Final standings after completion of Asian Cup first round here Wednesday (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Group A	Group C
China 3 2 1 0 8 2 7	Uzbekistan 3 3 0 0 3 0 9
Bahrain 3 1 2 0 6 4 5	Iraq 3 2 0 1 5 4 6
Indonesia 3 1 0 2 3 9 3	Turkmenistan 3 0 1 2 4 6 1
Qatar 3 0 1 2 2 4 1	Saudi Arabia 3 0 1 2 3 5 1

Group B	Group D
South Korea 3 2 1 0 6 0 7	Japan 3 2 1 0 5 1 7
Jordan 3 1 2 0 2 0 5	Iran 3 1 2 0 5 2 5
Kuwait 3 1 0 2 3 7 3	Oman 3 1 1 1 4 3 4
UAE 3 0 1 2 1 5 1	Thailand 3 0 0 3 1 9 0