

Streakers question security

AFP, Hannover

Two pitch invasions in two days at Confederations Cup matches in Germany have prompted security concerns for next year's World Cup finals.

A man ran on to the field during Brazil's match with Mexico in Hannover on Sunday and had time to embrace Brazilian midfielder Ze Roberto before stewards caught up with him.

The incident was further embarrassment for the organisers who had promised to tighten security around the pitch after a man jumped out of the crowd to congratulate German goalkeeper Jens Lehmann during Germany's 3-0 defeat of Tunisia in Cologne.

The spectator told German newspapers he had won a bet of 500 euros for his stunt, but he has now been banned from the Cologne stadium.

Army, Police BDR in last 8

SPORTS REPORTER

Favourites Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Rifles moved into the men's quarterfinals on the opening day of the Pepsi National Volleyball Championships winning their respective matches yesterday.

Army blanked Rangpur 25-7, 25-5, 25-7 while Rifles defeated Dhaka 25-15, 25-11 and 25-15 at the Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur.

Bangladesh Police also reached the last eight with a 25-13, 25-19, 25-19 defeat of Kushtia.

Aussie premier hails Tigers

UNB, Dhaka

Australian Prime Minister John Howard congratulated the Bangladesh cricket team on their historic victory over his country's world champion squad.

Howard and Leader of the Opposition Kim Beasley felicitated the Bangladesh High Commissioner to Australia Ashraf-ud-Doula on the Tigers' success at a reception hosted by the Aussie PM and his wife to honour those Australians who contributed to the Asian tsunami disaster relief on Monday.

Howard told the high commissioner to convey his "very sincere and heartfelt felicitations" to Bangladesh counterpart Khaleda Zia on the success.

Bright start for Rahmatganj

SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society got off to a bright start in the second leg of the First Division Football League yesterday with a 3-1 win over Dhanmondi Club at the Bishreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Mithu opened the account for Rahmatganj after 12 minutes in the return-leg opener while Zakir and Kachi sealed the their seventh victory in eight games with second half goals. Rahmatganj, the only unbeaten team in the 8-team fray, pushed their collection to 21 points while Dhanmondi, who reduced the margin through Biplab in the 77th minute, stuck to the bottom of the table with three points.

Shame, Shane

FROM PAGE 12 The UK press," said a statement issued by Warne's manager and brother Jason.

"We are not prepared to continually defend ourselves against publicity seeking individuals whose purpose is to gain notoriety for themselves at Shane Warne's expense.

"Shane Warne is in England with his family enjoying playing for Hampshire and is focused on defending the Ashes with Australia."

Laura said she hopes Warne's marriage survives.

"At the time I didn't know he was married. Had I known it never would have happened. I feel sorry for his wife and the effect this had had. Hopefully they will work it all out," she told the Mirror.

Laura met Warne in the West End of London when he was on a night out with Hampshire teammate and England rival Kevin Pietersen and his girlfriend.

The four went back to Pietersen's flat where the bowler made his move.

"He was persistent. He took off all his clothes and I asked him if he had a condom. I guessed he didn't, so I thought that would be the end of it." But he disappeared and returned with one. Laura confessed: "I gave in."

In 2000, Warne was stripped of the Aussie vice captaincy after pestering nurse Donna Wright with explicit calls. Three years later married stripper Angela Gallagher claimed she had a three-month affair with him.



PHOTO: AFP

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN! A streaker runs on the pitch during the Confederations Cup match between Mexico and Brazil at the Hannover stadium on Sunday.

A strong new Mexico

AFP, Hannover



Mexico's stock rose sharply in the heat of a Hannover night, Sunday's entirely justified victory over Brazil on the road to next year's World Cup finals.

"It's satisfying to see how we're growing and able to beat great teams. We're getting better all the time," said coach Ricardo Lavolpe after this 1-0 win earned them a Confederations Cup semi-final date against Germany or Argentina.

Oswaldo Sanchez' heroics in goal earned him the man of the match award and he said: "This proves that Mexican football is on the way up. It shows we're very strong."

Jared Borgetti's second half header stretched Mexico's unbeaten run to 20 games.

One of the architects of the five time world champions' downfall was Ramon Morales who said: "We had to

play without any complexes, to be able to enjoy it.

"We had to defend well, but with so many good players in the Brazil side we couldn't just sit back, we had

to dominate the ball and go on attack whenever we could.

"We have to get used to winning, make it a habit. To beat the champions of the world will give us great confidence in our own ability."

'Professor' Lavolpe is a renowned reader of the game and the Argentinian's tactics of closing down Brazil strikers Adriano and Robinho and making life hard for Ronaldinho in midfield worked a treat.

A member of Argentina's 1978 World Cup winning squad he is not averse to spending hours at dinner in a restaurant mapping out tactics on the back of a cigarette packet, the contents of which can often be seen dangling from his lips at a training session.

For Mexico's midfield master Zinha meanwhile the result had extra special significance given he was taking on his fellow countrymen.

The diminutive Sao Paulo-born playmaker, who switched nationalities at the urging of Lavolpe, had promised to defend the Mexico colours to the hilt, and he kept his word.

"I gave 110 percent," he said.

"It was special and a little difficult for me.

"But I am Mexican. And I feel like

one. The truth is that I never imagined I'd be taking on players wearing the yellow colours of Brazil that are my colours."

For Borgetti the game was a fairly nerve racking experience as he found himself at the centre of a farcical episode in the first half when he had to retake a penalty not once, but twice.

Awarded a spot kick after being felled by Roque Junior Borgetti duly scored, only to be told by Italian referee Roberto Rosetti to retake it after teammate Jose fonceetti entered the box illegally.

His second effort hit the cross bar but this time Emerson crossed the line.

Borgetti stepped up for a third attempt only for Dida to save.

Each time he crossed himself and looked skyward, explaining later the significance of his pre-penalty ritual.

Little did he know at the time that things were going to work out just fine when he outjumped Roque Junior to head home a corner in the 59th minute.

Mexico will be counting on stretching their unbeaten sequence to 21 against Greece in their final Group B fixture in Frankfurt on Wednesday.

Million dollar

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for two days, on which the little-known new ball pair of Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza and Tapash Baisya got the ball to zing around," she said.

"Ricky Ponting was a worried man and his world champion team gave a good impression of a camp in crisis.

"Already a player was in trouble for staying out late the night before a match, a transgression that seemed even more contemptuous in light of the result. And to make matters worse, away from the squad Shane Warne was embroiled in another scandal."

A British Sunday tabloid newspaper has alleged that Warne had a night of passion with a 25-year-old woman in London.

Ponting has dismissed any suggestions of complacency from a team that has won the past two World Cups, and handed Bangladesh their 10th victory in 108 one-day internationals.

"Credit must, of course, go to Bangladesh and in particular to Mohammad Ashraful, whose euphoria at raising his maiden limited-overs hundred was one of sport's more uplifting moments," Saltau wrote.

"Meanwhile, Australia must put their Ashes tour back on the rails. Could the little um slip into the ambitious grasp of Michael Vaughan and his England team?"

Ponting replied: "I wouldn't go that far just yet. We're a week and a half into a three-and-a-half month tour, so it's not that bad just yet."

Borgetti baffles

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incursions for after the penalty pandemonium the second half was only three minutes old when five security guards were needed to catch a supporter on the pitch.

Then on 59 minutes Borgetti was looking skyward again, this time in delight after heading in off a corner from the right to give Mexico the lead and ultimately the three points.

Adriano had the ball in the back of the tireless Oswaldo Sanchez' net in the 68th minute but his joy was shortlived after the Inter Milan attacker's effort was disallowed for a foul.

Youngmen's

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Youngmen's further ahead eight minutes into the second half but Dipali levelled the scores with two goals inside four minutes. A through pass by Rubel set up Farid to make it 3-2 on the hour before substitute Abdullah brought the equaliser from a controversial penalty, given after Idris was tripped inside the box by Youngmen's defender Monaem.

Youngmen's dominated the rest of the show but Robin spoiled a sitter before Ismail struck a spectacular match-winner seven minutes from time. Picking up the ball at the right side of the ground, Ismail curved a right-footer into the top right corner from 40 yards giving substitute goalie Atiq no chance to react.

Giles boost

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with Leicestershire.

Following talks with England's medical team, Giles has been given the all-clear to return and will rejoin the squad and be in contention for Tuesday's day-night encounter with Bangladesh at Trent Bridge.

Federer sails

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action against Karol Beck.

Women's top seed and 1999 champion Lindsay Davenport opens her campaign against Russia's Alina Jidkova and Ameile Mauresmo, seeded third, plays Hungary's Melinda Czink.

Japan stay in the hunt

AFP, Frankfurt



A second-half goal from substitute Masashi Oguro earned Japan a 1-0 victory over

injury - weakened European champions Greece in the Confederations Cup on Sunday.

Arguably the poorest match in this tournament so far was decided when Shunsuke Nakamura's deft pass found Oguro who held off his markers to prod the ball past Greek keeper Antonios Nikopolidis.

Japan were denied a second goal when substitute Koji Nakata's shot was headed off the goaline by Dmitris Papadopoulos in the dying seconds.

Greece had few scoring opportunities but the best came when Angelos Charisteas twisted and turned but shot straight at Japanese keeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi in the 83rd minute.

Greek appeals for a penalty after Hidetoshi Nakata appeared to trip Charisteas were refused.

Japan's first points of the competition leaves the Asian champions still in contention to qualify for the semi-finals of this eight-nation competition but they must win or draw against World Cup holders Brazil in their final Group B match in Cologne on Wednesday to have a chance.

Greece, who have looked a shadow of the disciplined unit which won Euro 2004, will hope to salvage some pride when they face Mexico in Frankfurt.

Greek coach Otto Rehhagel made no excuses for his side's poor performance.

"Japan were a class above us today. We were lucky we did not concede more goals," the German said.

"We were totally flat, perhaps even worse than in our defeat against Brazil. I really did think we would be better in this tournament."

There was another blow for the Greeks when key midfielder Georgios Karagounis received his second yellow card of the tournament, ruling him out of the Mexico match.

Until Oguro's strike, the game had

featured a catalogue of missed first-half chances from Japanese strikers Keiji Tamada and Atsushi Kanagisawa.

Japan coach Zico was delighted with the three points, but admitted his team suffered from a lack of attacking potency.

"Japanese football is technically strong, but the problem is always finishing off the move," the former Brazilian stars said.

You could see today that whenever they were in front of goal, they panicked. If they just calmed down, I think they could do it."

The worst offender was Tamada who was sent clear by Yanagisawa on the right but instead of crossing to the unmarked Yanagisawa he attempted a shot which curled wide, prompting Zico to beat the dugout in anger.

Yanagisawa himself failed to put enough pace on his lob over Nikopolidis and the ball was cleared.

In the second half, Brazilian-born left-back Alessandro Santos intercepted a poor defensive clearance on the edge of the box but floated his shot wide.

AUSTRALIA V TUNISIA LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 12:40AM

Playing for pride

AFP, Leipzig



Australia will give a handful of fringe players a chance to impress when they play purely for pride against

African champions Tunisia in their final match of the Confederations Cup here on Tuesday.

Defeats to host nation Germany and the impressive Argentina have left the Australians out of contention and full of regrets, especially at two rejected penalty claims in Argentina's 4-2 victory.

Australia coach Frank Farina said it was now "a great opportunity to try a couple of things in what is still a very important match."

"We have played two games in five days and I think every player wants to be in the first team - this is an opportunity for some of the players to show that."

It has not been all doom for the

Socceroos, who have gained a valuable taste of what to expect when they meet the fifth-placed South American team in a two-legged playoff in November which will decide whether Australia return to Germany for next year's World Cup finals.

"We are always learning things. South American football is arguably one of the best qualifying tournaments you can get. The way the Argentinians play is similar to other South American teams," Farina said.

"The World Cup is our focus now. In the last Confederations Cup we finished third and we didn't qualify for the World Cup."

In John Aloisi, Australia have the tournament's top scorer so far with four goals, and Mark Viduka, from English Premiership club Middlesbrough, has returned to action after an injury-blighted year.

Australian captain Craig Moore said there was work to be done, especially for a defence which has conceded eight goals in two games.

"We have shown we can compete at the highest level but there is still a lot left to do. We need to concentrate for a full 90 minutes because any little mistake will be punished."

Tunisia gave Argentina a fright before finishing the wrong side of a 2-1 scoreline but were swept away by Germany in a 3-0 defeat.

Coach Roger Lemerre's statement that he was "no miracle worker" has proved true in this elevated company.

Like Farina, the Frenchman must now turn his attention to ensuring Tunisia reach next year's finals.

They had a boost when their closest rivals Morocco only drew with Kenya at the weekend, leaving Tunisia in second place just two points behind their north African rivals but with a game in hand.

Defender Hatem Trabelsi, an Ajax player, said: "I reckon we're a pretty good team. I think we'll be back in 2006."

Radhi Jaidi, from English Premiership club Bolton, is suspended for the game.

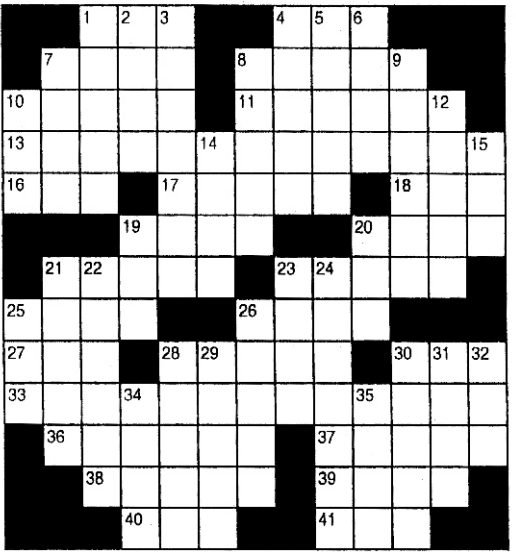


PHOTO: AFP

ALL THE BEST: AS Roma captain Francesco Totti (R) walks down the stairs with his wife Italian TV star Hilary Blasi after their wedding in Rome on Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

WAD RWEGN XTUAJ XTLX

L XMDD ZEMKDWA OWEGN

PD BWEAN RWMJUAKE WEX

WB TUZ PMLAOT WBBUOD.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF YOU NEVER PRESS YOUR CLOTHES, THEN I SUPPOSE YOU COULD HAVE AN IRON DEFICIENCY.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals F

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.