The Daily Star

Sport

PREVIEW France, Spain playing for high stakes

AP. Londor



with a win

France, Switzerland and Ireland are all capable of winning Group Four, with unbeaten Israel still in the hunt for the second-place playoff spot.

The 1998 champions host Cyprus on Wednesday, while Switzerland go to Ireland. Israel, who have played all their games, will find out if they clinched a spot in the playoffs.

France can win the group with a victory if Switzerland don't win in Dublin. The Swiss can take the group with a win or draw, as long as France draworlose.

Ireland need to win and hope France lose or draw. France coach Raymond Domenech

remembers the last time the team failed to qualify for the World Cup. The French needed only a draw from two home games to qualify for the 1994 finals in the US -- but lost both.

After a 3-2 loss to Israel, France lost to Bulgaria 2-1, with Emil Kostadinov scoring with the last kick of the game at Parc des Princes.

"I went into the dressing room after the (Bulgaria) match -- it was atro-Spain don't. cious," said Domenech, who was in

time

patiently," said Spain striker Fernando charge of the under-21 team at the Torres, who scored both goals in "I saw people who were crushed. I Saturday's 2-0 win at Belgium. "It's not good to be in a rush."

still remember it. I don't want to relive Spain will play without suspended France defender Willy Sagnol is midfielder Xavi Hernandez and available for selection after serving a defender Michel Salgado, while winger

one-match suspension and could Vicente Rodriguez is doubtful with an replace Anthony Reveillere at right ankle injury fullback. Claude Makelele is suspended. behind Netherlands. The Czechs face

But even if France wins, Switzerland can top the group with a win in Dublin, depending on goal difference.

"The players are fully aware of this," Domenech said. "They know that if the Swiss win in

Dublin we will have to score four more goals than them to qualify. But we shouldn't be calculating. I will not be following events in Ireland, it changes nothing.

Group Seven is another in which nothing has been decided. Spain, who face San Marino, are trailing Serbia-Montenegro by two points

Serbia-Montenegro host Bosnia-Herzegovina in Belgrade in a match between two Balkan countries that were at war 10 years ago. The Serbs will win the group with a win, but Bosnia

can also win the group if they win and there. Unfortunately, we didn't manige to do it.'

"We have to play calmly and Portugal have won Group Three, and either Russia or Slovakia, who face each other in Bratislava, will get the playoff spot.

"They will be confident of winning, but this is the most important moment ever for Slovakian football and we will do our best to make our people proud,' Slovakia coach Dusan Galis said.

Norway have already clinched the In Group One, Czech Republic and playoff spot from Group Five, which Romania can still finish second was won by Italy.

"It's going to be nice to travel to Finland while Romania have finished Minsk without having any pressure," Norway coach Aage Hareide said.

Poland and England play in Group Six at Old Trafford. Both have already qualified, but the winners of the match will also win the group.

Croatia have already claimed a spot from Group Eight, but Sweden can still win it. The Swedes face Iceland at Rasunda Stadium, site of the 1958 World Cup final between Brazil and Sweden

Croatia lead Sweden by two points. Georgia and hope Turkey lose and but a Swedish win combined with a Croatian loss will give the Croats one of n't think the European champions will two best runners-up spots.

Swiss ready for big cheese **From bullets**

for Ireland

their qualifying campaign.

Denmark fail to win.

be able to make it.

Ukraine have won Group Two.

Turkey, who reached the semifinals

with Turkey, Denmark and Greece

at the 2002 World Cup, but failed to

qualify for the 2004 European

Championship, can advance with a

win at Albania. Denmark can advance

if they beat Kazakhstan and Turkey

draw, while Greece need to beat

Greece coach Otto Rehhagel does-

"In the stadiums in Germany we

"It would have been nice if we were

pitch that we are ready to perform

when we are really challenged and to

play without a complex when we come

up against great teams like France,"

will be there as fans," Rehhagel said.

still fighting for the playoff spot.

AP, Belgrade

to ball

Police will escort Bosnian fans from the border, then stand guard in riot gear to keep them separated from the Serbians. Banners and firecrackers will not be allowed.

The bloody civil war that tore apart the Balkans has been over for a decade, but when the soccer teams from the two nations meet Wednesday for a key World Cup qualifier, it will be all too clear that deep divisions abide.

Police fear riots and excessive displays of nationalism when Serbia-Montenegro hosts Bosnia-Herzegovina at Belgrade's Red Star stadium, locally known as little "Maracana," and have designated the area as high risk.

"We want to win and devote our World Cup berth to our nation, Serbia-Montenegro striker Mateja Kezman said. Understandably, emotions are running high among Serb and

Bosnian fans. Zoran Jovanovic, a member of he extreme Serbian "Ultras'' fan group, said: "I don't even want to think about what would happen if we lose against Bosnia." Senad Rindal, a 43-year-old

REUTERS, Feusisberg

Switzerland's national Qe football team has been talking a lot about cheese recently -- not in an effort to confirm

national stereotypes, but rather to challenge them. The cheese in question has been

the "petit Suisse" -- a sweet, creamy footballing fortunes is perhaps like concoction that actually originates asking any two Swiss to agree on the from the French region of Normandy exact ingredients needed for the but which has come to serve as a taunt perfect fondue -- but youth developfor the "little Swiss footballers" so ment and the active courting of playoften overshadowed by their more ers with joint nationalities have cer-

illustrious European neighbours. tainly played a major role. During the build-up to Saturday's impressive 1-1 draw at home to France, Switzerland's French-based accounts for up to one third of the players Alex Frei and Daniel Gygax association's 15-20 million Swiss franc spoke at length about their frustration annual budget with the nickname

By the time the final whistle went on a match that the Swiss should arguably even have won, the phrase was being bandied about with a good deal more levity

"We proved again tonight that we results are a strong side," Saturday's goal-In 2002 the Swiss won the orer Ludovic Magnin told reporters. European Under-17 Championship "The "petits Suisses" are going to with a side that included current be very hard to swallow on senior team members Philippe Wednesday. Senderos and Tranquillo Barnetta to On Wednesday Switzerland take earn Switzerland their first ever title at on Ireland in Dublin with victory any level of international football. almost certain to take Koebi Kuhn's men through to the World Cup finals Alex Frei, Ricardo Cabanas, Daniel as unlikely group winners. Gygax and Stephane Grichting reached Needing a win to keep their own the semi-finals in the European Underqualifying hopes alive, Ireland should 21 category. provide a strong test of Switzerland's Were it not for the association's newly-found confidence against the own efforts off the pitch, Barnetta, sport's "bigger" nations -- though Senderos, Cabanas, Colombian-born Kuhn believes the player's perforstriker Johan Vonlanthen and newlymances to date have already gone a capped Swiss-Albanian defender long way towards altering the "small Valon Behrami could all subsequently

have been poached by other national "We have definitely shown on the teams.

Next year the Swiss are planning an even more pro-active approach --sending a mailshot out to 628,000 Swiss nationals living abroad in an effort to find potential new players.

Kuhn said before the team's departure "The second-generation Swiss Finding the precise reasons for the players have brought a great strength turn-around in Switzerland's to the side and introduced a multicultural aspect that is also an important part of modern Switzerland," Kuhn said

"The fact that our young players have also experienced success at Under-17 or Under-21 level against all the big teams is one of the reasons that The Swiss FA is now 10 years into a the old Swiss complex has disapyouth development programme that peared.

Another factor, according to Kuhn, is the large number of Swiss players now plying their trade in Europe's

The programme, which has seen biggest football leagues. the creation of four national training academies and the awarding of bonus payments to clubs that introduced their own youth development schemes, has brought unusually fast ual players are already enjoying a

An lvory Coast football fan shouts for joy outside the presidential palace in Abidjan during a ceremony with the country's President Laurent Gbagbo to congratulate the national team for its qualification for the World Cup 2006. Painting reads 'Shut up jealous, Gbagbo and the Elephants to the World Cup 2006'.

Rooney seeks samba skills

TEAMTALK, London

Wayne Rooney believes England must aspire to match Brazil's skill levels if they want to take the World Cup trophy off the South Americans.

Rooney, who turns 20 later this month, was feted as one of the best young players on the planet with his

According to the new ICC rules, ment with the bat in his hometown, scoring just three, his teammates rose to the task with a 120-run partnership

for the second wicket. Opener Mohibul, who was unbeaten on 83 from 72 balls, cracked seven fours and two sixes including one against Atiqur Rahman that brought the winnings runs. Kamru

Result: Beximco won by 42 runs

EXPRESS

after 20 overs was 74-1 compared to Orion's 48-6 at the same stage. Right-arm pacer Ainul, who played for Wanderers Club in the Dhaka First Division League, took 5-24 from 10 Ispahani: 149-2 in 24.2 overs overs to destroy the Orion batting. (Mohibul 83 n.o., Kamrul 49, Rabbani Only Shahnewaz Kabir Shuyra showed 1-29, Atiqur 1-12). some resistance in the middle, top-

England-Argentina friendly Nov 12

AFP, London

England have confirmed they will play Argentina in a friendly international at Geneva on November 12 now both countries have qualified for the 2006 World Cup.

England had been waiting to see if they had to take part in the European qualifying play-offs before confirming the date.

Argentina picked Switzerland as a venue because most of their squad plays in Europe.

Kallis, Flintoff FROM PAGE 12

to beat Flintoff for the one-day award. The 25-year-old averaged 87.33 in 21 limited-overs internationals, including three hundreds, as well as making two half-centuries in his lone Test appearance

"I thought I had a pretty good go at the emerging player of the year but the one-day international player of the year really got (surprised) me," Pietersen said

ICC chief executive officer Malcolm Speed paid tribute to Pietersen's achievements

"This award is a demonstration of the impact Kevin Pietersen has had on international cricket in his first year at the highest level," he said.

Australia, ranked number one in the world in both forms of the game, were overlooked for all the major awards although Ricky Ponting was named captain of the world Test team for the second time and Simon Taufel was awarded best umpire.

England will FROM PAGE 12

"At the moment unless we hear something or unless we are advised otherwise the tour goes ahead as scheduled.

PCB director Abbas Zaidi has made it clear his organisation is determined that the tour -- which will stop off in Rawalpindi, Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad and Karachi -- should go ahead, with Rawalpindi the most northerly port of call.

The PCB and ECB are discussing wavs in which the tour can contribute to the relief effort which is already underway.

"We have sent our condolences via our chairman (David Morgan), who is with the PCB chairman in Australia for the Super Series," added Gibson.

"We have sent our condolences to the people of Pakistan and we are looking at ways of helping Pakistan's relief funds as well.

Smooth going on Day 2 FROM PAGE 12

> both sides have to complete at least 20 **ISPAHANI-SECURITY** overs in a limited-overs match and Jamuna snatched full points by virtue of a better run-rate. Jamuna's total Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium

Security Express: 143 all out in 45.2 overs (Uttam 28, Sakib 13, Zahidul 18, Rezaul 32, Moballik 24, Mozammel 2-29, Yasin 2-11, Fahim 2-28)

Only three of Saturday's starting 11 are currently based in Switzerland, with the other eight playing at top division sides in Italy, England, Germany, France and Holland -suggesting that the country's individ-

mechanical engineer in Sarajevo, added: "The Bosnian win would be greater than any other win of our team because of all the Muslims killed during the war. Payback, kind of, for all the misery we suffered during the war.'

A 1995 peace agreement divided Bosnia into a Serb portion and a Muslim-Croat portion, linked only by joint state institutions. Most Bosnian Serbs don't relate to Bosnia as their homeland and are likely to support Serbia-Montenegro on Wednesday.

In their first meeting in World Cup qualifying last year, Bosnia and Serbia played to a peaceful 0-0 draw in Sarajevo.

"We have 250,000 reasons to hate you," read a banner raised by Bosnian fans then, but there were no incidents.

However, two years ago, Bosnia and Yugoslavia -- since reshaped into Serbia-Montenegro - played a 1-1 exhibition in Sarajevo, which is mainly Muslim. The match was followed by clashes between Bosnia fans and the Bosnian Serb supporters, injuring several people and 19 police officers.

Tensions between the two Balkan neighbors have largely subsided since then, and thousands of Bosnian fans known as "Fanaticos'' plan to attend the Belgrade game.

On the field, the match will feature several players with mixed roots.

Serbia-Montenegro captain Savo Milosevic and defender Mladen Krstajic were born in Bosnia. Branimir Baiic, a Bosnian Serb who plays for Partizan Belgrade, will lead Bosnia-Herzegovina's defense.

Elvir Bolic, Bosnia's top scorer, used to play for Red Star Belgrade in 1992, but has never returned to the Serbian capital since after he was forced to flee following several threatening telephone calls mentioning his Muslim nationality.

"I would like to mark my return to Maracana with a goal and a victory,' Bolic said.

"No one would be happier than me."

No time to waste for Lampard AFP. London

in one-day cricket after losing two Frank Lampard is overjoyed at Lanka in August and to New Zealand in England's qualification for the 2006 Zimbabwe last month. World Cup in Germany because the Chelsea midfielder did not make the can look forward to a brighter future. He is English squad for the last showpiece one-day cricket's leading batsman with of international football.

"It means loads to qualify because I wasn't involved in the last one in Japan, I was on the fringes and didn't go," said Lampard, whose confidently struck penalty was enough to see England beat Austria 1-0 at Old Trafford on Saturday.

> "For me it's a massive thing, you want to test yourself at the highest level and now we will get that opportunity

"Thankfully the penalty went in. It's a step-up taking them for your country especially with the results we have had lately, and the importance of it in terms of qualifying for the World Cup.

"It's different from taking them for Chelsea and I had to take that extra responsibility and I'm pleased I did it.'

But the 27-year-old did not hide from the fact that Sven-Goran Eriksson's side can play better. "As a team we need to learn from

the last couple of games because we haven't been at our best. This was better than the last one, and hopefully on Wednesday against Poland it will be better again and come the World Cup we will be ready," said Lampard.

stronger footballing reputation than the nation as a whole.

Having guaranteed themselves a place at the 2008 European Championship as the tournament's co-hosts, Kuhn's young team have In the same year a team including already made sure of at least one shot at the big time and just at the point that they reach full maturity.

If they can secure a World Cup berth on Wednesday, though, the Swiss will of course relish the chance of ripening a little earlier -- as well as avoiding the "hard chesse" jokes that would no doubt greet a Dublin defeat.

lead the side, forcing the cricketing chiefs

did not want to be named fearing a back-

was disgusting. We must get over it quickly

and get back to playing good cricket again.

Sachin. He is a giant in every way."

"One person who can ensure that is

Tendulkar has scored 10,134 runs in

123 Tests and needs just one more century

to break compatriot Sunil Gavaskar's

"There is no doubt Sachin was missed

to broker a truce between the two.

India happy

successive finals this season to hosts Sri

With Tendulkar back in the fray, India

world record tallies of 13,642 runs and 38

India are scheduled to host a seven-

match series against Sri Lanka from

October 25, followed by five more limited-

overs games against South Africa in

"Sachin would have stepped in to

settle any difference," said former Indian

one would have listened to him.'

FROM PAGE 12

hundreds

November.

Tendulkar.

necessary

out of him."

round.

batting form.

displays at Euro 2004, sparking com parisons with Paul Gascoigne and even Pele.

The Manchester United star cites Ronaldinho as the world's best player, while he believes England must aspire to matching Brazil, whom he regards as the pre-tournament favourites, if they are to win the trophy in Germany.

"Sometimes you watch Brazil and think 'how are you going to stop them?' Their forward play is frightening. They're a great team and have been like that for a long time," he said. "We have to try to be as good as them as they're going to be the team to

beat at the World Cup. If we can beat them, we could hopefully go on to win it."

Not that England's awful displays against Denmark and Northern Ireland, or indeed their narrow wins against Wales and Austria, have given much cause for optimism ahead of the finals

in Zimbabwe and the earlier we have him However, when asked if the nation back the better," said a team-mate who should trust in the team. Rooney declared: "Yes, I think we've got some great players who can win the tourna-"What happened in recent months ment.

Flemo awaits FROM PAGE 12

be able to call on fast bowler Shane Bond, who showed that he had regained both fitness and form on New Zealand's recent tour to Zimbabwe. On South Africa's quick and bouncy pitches he will form a key component of the New Zealand team's attack.

"There are not many players of Bond's quality around and he gives us a point for the attack. Together with Daniel Vettori he forms a world class combination. You will find our other bowlers are better, it also makes me a better captain and it makes us, as a team, a world class side," Fleming added.

New Zealand coach John Bracewell said he had been looking forward to touring South Africa for a long time.

"The hardness of the competition is something we in New Zealand enjoy," he added.

New Zealand play their first match against a South African A side in Benoni, just east of Johannesburg on Friday. The first one-day international will be played in Bloemfontein on Sunday, October 23.

contributed 49 off 60 balls in their 149-2 in 24.2 overs

Earlier, only five batsmen reached the double-figures as Security Express, after being sent in, reached 143 before being bowled out in 45.2 overs.

JAMUNAVORION

In a rain-interrupted match at the Khulna Divisional Stadium, Jamuna Bank were declared winners by 50 runs according to the Duckworth/Lewis Method. In reply to Orion's meagre 105 all out, Jamuna were 81-1 after 21 overs when rain stopped play.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 34 Status DOWN 20 Continue 1 Spumante 35 Island 1 Sternwa talking quarters 2 -mo 21 Gravy 36 "----5 Clothing replay vesse protec-Sue 3 Playing 22 Destroy Got marble 23 Tempo 8 Retain Married 4 Set off rarily 12 Standard 37 Spud 5 Squeezbright holder 40 Turf ing stars 14 Rose's 41 Wicked reptiles 25 Don't beau 42 Impres-6 Under the take the 15 Governsivelv weather fifth? 7 Roared 26 "Tootsie ment hiah 47 Story building 8 Tool wardrobe 16 Arm-48 Airline 9 Reed 27 Spill the strona's at instru beans 29 Close destina Leonardo ment tion da Vinci 10 Androcles 31 Firma 17 Dog Airport allv ment tags 49 Right 11 Fender 33 Pod et al angles bender members 13 Profs' 18 Bemoan 50 "Amazing 34 Alter 20 Touches Race" degrees the 23 Alaskan episode 19"Walk sketch 51 Cried Like 36 Versifier 24 Finished 37 Sampras Solution time: 24 mins 25 In the or Seege direction 38 Ellipse 39 Cash 28 Pop drawer 29 Lucky 40 Hearty guaff 30 Grafton's 13 Bullring "- for bravo Ricochet' 44 — -de -France 32 Flaxenhaired 45 Pinch

Result: Ispahani won by eight wickets.

JAMUNA-ORION

BEXIMCO-ACME Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium

Beximco: 249-9 in 50 overs (Rashedul 23, Al Shahriar 43, Ashraful 42, Akram 19, Faisal 29, Shahin 15, Masudur 18, Shahzada 15 n.o., extras 37, Hasibul 2-49, Rafigue 3-33, Enamul Hague Moni 2-40).

scoring with 32.

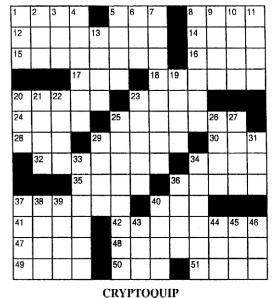
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SCORES IN BRIEF

Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium Orion: 105 all out in 40.2 overs Nahidul 12, Jewel 17, Shuvra 32, Ainul 5-24).

Jamuna: 81-1 in 21 overs (Masum 17, Shafiul 30 n.o., Jahurul 22 n.o., Saiful 1-10).

Result: Jamuna won by 50 runs (D/LMethod)



YA WPLHPSH RHQH T RPQCB-ATLPGW LYSHQTCPNYWU, Y

NGHWW APCEW LYNOU JTCC

OYL T QPJE WUTQ

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE TRYING TO PICK THE RIGHT SPELL TO CAST, WOULD YOU CALL IT WITCHFUL THINKING? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals S

The Cryptoquip 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



a passion for the game. It is now for us to manage him, on a day-to-day basis if "We have to make sure we get the best

The Indian cricket establishment welcomed Tendulkar's return. Some even Africa. suggested the Chappell-Ganguly row would not have taken place if he had been

management to conduct further work on the subject ahead of further discussions at the next Board meeting, in March 2006," the ICC said.

cricket chief Inderjit Bindra. "And every-Ganguly claimed on the recent tour of Zimbabwe that he had been asked to step down by the coach because of his poor ule.

The spat flared up further when ment to continue its work on the Chappell said in a leaked e-mail to the subject and the matter will be dis-Indian board that the captain was unfit to cussed again at the next Board meeting next March.

2011 WC host

FROM PAGE 12

"The good thing is that Sachin still has crickets participation in the Games The ICC said the potential role of 20/Twenty cricket in the international playing calendar was also discussed and the Board viewed research from the England and Wales Cricket Board and the United Cricket Board of South

"The Board decided to ask ICCs

The ICC said it was encouraged by a report on the practicality of replacing the current five-year international playing calendar with a six-year sched-

The Board asked the its manage-

There are Test series to follow against world record of 34 hundreds. Sri Lanka, Pakistan, England and the West Indies until July, and Chappell is aware of the toll it could take on a still-fragile

lash from officials.