



DHAKA FRIDAY MAY 5, 2006

DOWN THE WORLD CUP LANE



Uruguay 1930: The journey begins



Uruguay of 1930, the first world champions of football.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

AGENCIES, undated

Already staged twelve times since 1910 (fifty years before the European Championship). Ideas on physical preparation and training camps were in advance of anything in most of Europe at the time.

The last was surely the clincher as far as FIFA were concerned but seems to have cut little ice with most of Europe. Regular jet travel was still in the future, so the financial guarantees persuaded only four countries to make the ocean voyage. With just thirteen now taking part, the knockout system had to be replaced by four groups. The real contenders stayed at home: Hungary and Austria, Italy and Germany, Spain -- while England and Scotland, as strong as anyone, were not even eligible having resigned from FIFA over the question of broken time payments in 1928.

All of which did not really matter very much. Even against Europe's finest, Uruguay would have been expected to win.

In 1924 they had played outside South America for the first time, winning the Olympic title in Paris. After thrashing Yugoslavia 7-0 and the hosts 5-1, they outplayed the Swiss 3-0 in the final, their stern defence buttressing some dazzling interpassing up front. Four years later they won it again.

It was not just that they happened to have a strong pool of players. What really separated the leading South American countries from European opposition was a familiarity with tournaments arranged along World Cup lines: several matches played in the space of a month or so. Both continents took part in the Olympics every four years -- but Uruguay and the rest were also involved in the Copa America, history.

France beat Mexico 4-1 and went down narrowly to Argentina 1-0 in an epic struggle. The referee, who had blown the final whistle six minutes early, finally - after fierce protests - recalled the players to the field, some of whom were already in the shower.

With no qualifying matches necessary, France-Mexico and USA-Belgium, kicked off at the same time, were the first ever World Cup matches and Lucien Laurent of France scored the first ever goal 19 minutes after the greatest show on earth had kicked off.

A few days later in the colossal Centenario stadium (100,000 capacity), the atmosphere was electric as spectators were awaiting the South American final between Uruguay and Argentina, both crossing the semifinal barriers with flying colours with identical 6-1 wins

over Yugoslavia and USA respectively. At half-time, Uruguay were down 2-1, but fought back bravely and put three second half goals passed the stunned Argentinians, ending the game with a 4-2 victory.

If FIFA needed any assurance about the decision to bring the tournament to Uruguay, they got it just before the final. Argentine player Luis Monti received a death threat.

It proved the match mattered. Had it been held in Europe, how many spectators would have been locked out as they were here? Would they have been searched for weapons on the way in? How many European stadia needed a surrounding moat? The ground capacity was reduced for safety reasons.

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Ballack waits for day out

AP, Frankfurt

Michael Ballack is preparing to leave Germany, and there would be no better way to depart than with a World Cup winner's medal around his neck.

For that to happen, Ballack needs to get a second chance to play in a World Cup final, the biggest game in any player's career.

If any player needs extra motivation for a World Cup, Ballack certainly has a special reason to get pumped up -- apart from being the captain of the home team.

The midfielder star's powerful play and scoring touch helped Germany reach the final against all odds in 2002. He scored the winning goal in the quarterfinals against the United States, then came through again by scoring the only goal in their semifinal win over South Korea.

The goal came only minutes after Ballack had eliminated himself from participating in the final. He sacrificed for the team, stopping a dangerous South Korean attack with a desperate tackle he knew would result in a yellow card. It was his second booking and Ballack was suspended for the final,

having to watch Brazil beat Germany 2-0.

Ballack finished the tournament with three goals and went home to change teams, going from Bayer Leverkusen to Bayern Munich.



MICHAEL BALLACK

This time, Ballack is again changing clubs after the World Cup, leaving Bayern and apparently going to Chelsea, a move neither he nor Chelsea have to yet officially confirm.

His imminent departure from the Bundesliga powerhouse has been on less than friendly terms, despite his contributions through the years. Bayern are on the verge of completing their third domestic double in four years since Ballack's arrival.

Ballack turned down a four-year extension of his contract reportedly worth 44.6 million dollars and the relationship began to sour. Bayern's general manager Uli Hoernes said Ballack was only interested in earning more money.

After Bayern's 1-0 win in the German Cup final, club president Franz Beckenbauer had several stinging comments on live television about the German captain.

"He's already resting for Chelsea. ... When someone trots around the field as he, that's got little to do with soccer. He's not even trying at all anymore. I was waiting for him to get substituted ... I was wondering often whether he was playing at all. But that's been his way in the past few weeks."

Was Beckenbauer using a psychological trick to spark another burst from Ballack for a much bigger prize?

Beckenbauer played on the 1974 German team that won the World Cup and coached the 1990 winning side and he should know something about motivation. He now is the president of the World Cup organising committee.

Ballack was measured in his response.

"That's not correct. I've always tried my best. No one can accuse me of not trying. If I can leave with a double again, that would be a dream," Ballack said.

Apart from the number of titles, goals also speak of Ballack's value for Bayern -- and Germany. In 105 Bundesliga games for Bayern, he has 43 goals.

Although he is nominally a defensive midfielder, he has 30 goals in 63 games for Germany.

Ballack has a nearly perfect shooting technique with both feet and is tremendously dangerous in the air. Under coach Juergen Klinsmann, he has been the key player and wears the captain's armband.

His only weakness is late, often fierce tackling, which can draw yellow cards -- as he so painfully learned in 2002.

BITS AND BOBS

Oxygen treatment for Rooney

AFP, Manchester

Sir Alex Ferguson has said injured England striker Wayne Rooney will use an oxygen chamber in a bid to boost his chances of playing in next month's World Cup finals in Germany.

Rooney is facing at least six weeks on the sidelines, after sustaining what turned out to be a double fracture of his foot in Manchester United's 3-0 defeat away to Chelsea last Saturday, which gave the London club back-to-back Premiership titles.

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson has vowed to take the 20-year-old Rooney with him to Germany

even if the former Everton striker has only the slimmest chance of playing in the tournament.

And although United boss Ferguson has been scathing of Eriksson's approach, saying it placed too much pressure upon Rooney, he promised the club would do everything possible to help the striker, with an oxygen chamber at their Carrington training complex being the latest development.

"An oxygen chamber will arrive here this afternoon," said Ferguson Thursday.

"There is no conclusive evidence that it does improve injuries but there is no evidence against it. It won't do any harm and everything is worth a try at this stage."

Italy's big bonus

INTERNET, undated

Italy's World Cup squad have been promised a win bonus of almost 200,000 pounds each if they triumph in Germany this summer.

The Italian Football Federation are understood to have made just over 4 million pounds available as prize money for the 23-man Azzurri party if they are crowned champions.

Having not lifted the trophy since 1982, the FIGC are keen to do all they can to motivate the players and are ready to hand out 178,000 pounds each if necessary.

This summer's figure is considerably larger than what was on offer four years ago when the individuals involved in the 2002 campaign were promised 120,000 pounds.

The Azzurri will net a bonus for finishing as runners-up too, but for the first time will also receive around 75,000 pounds if they end up third.

Nevertheless, other nations are also preparing to dig deep into their pockets in a bid to aid their respective assault on the Finals.

The Spaniards, eternal under-achievers at this level, will somewhat amazingly be handed 385,000-pounds-a-man according to some reports.

Hosts Germany, who came second in the last tournament, will be awarded 215,000 pounds for lifting the Cup for the fourth time in their history.

Oddly enough, tournaments

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A small town in Germany tunes in to samba

REUTERS, Frankfurt

Beach volleyball, cocktail bars and samba will turn a small town in Germany into a piece of Brazil for two weeks next month.

The World Cup holders will use Koenigstein, tucked in the hills 25 km from Germany's financial capital Frankfurt, as the base to kick off their 2006 campaign.

Up to 10,000 visitors a day are expected to flock to the cobbled streets of the spa resort in the hope of seeing the heroes of world soccer, although strict security means the chance of laying eyes on Ronaldo or Ronaldinho are very slim.

The expected tidal wave of soccer fans has unsettled some locals, who will have to cope with road closures and traffic snarls, not to mention loud music and partying.

Still, the town is determined to put on a good show. Local official Klaus Hallert, one of a team responsible for the preparations, says a square adjoining the main shopping street will be transformed into a beach party with a stage, lounge chairs, ball games and food and drink stalls for fans to try local German delicacies as well as traditional Brazilian "caipirinha" cocktails.

"I don't know about the biggest caipirinha bar in the world, but it will definitely be the biggest in Koenigstein," he said.

From June 5-16, the 60-strong Brazilian delegation has booked out the luxury Kempinski Hotel Falkenstein, a former sanatorium which boasts a 1,200-square-metre health and beauty centre and six hectares of parkland on the outskirts of Koenigstein.

The stay at the Kempinski, where double rooms cost 350 to 999 euros (\$435-\$1,242) a night, covers Brazil's first game against Croatia in Berlin on June 13, and the team have an option to return for the quarterfinals in Frankfurt on July 1.

Hotel director Cyrus Heydarian said staff were learning Portuguese

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PHOTO: AFP

A man stands behind the buses, sponsored by Hyundai, for the teams who will take part in the FIFA World Cup 2006 on a car park in Frankfurt, Germany on Thursday.

2006 Round 1, Draw in Rangpur Competition Information, Prizes and Rules

Information

A. The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2006 is a series of competitions on World Cup Soccer being held in Germany from June 9 to July 9.

B. There will be FIVE rounds of competition.

C. Each round will have a separate draw with attractive prizes from the house of RANGS TOSHIBA as per announcement.

D. Participants of all the FIVE rounds will automatically qualify for the Bumper Draw, which will have even bigger prizes.

E. For each round, a set of questions including a photographic quiz will be published in the Daily Star.

F. Names and addresses of all prize winners will be published in the Daily Star.

G. Winners will have to collect their prizes from the Daily Star office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.

H. Any taxes or levies, as per law, for all the above prizes will have to be borne by the prize winners.

Prizes

Prize	Item	Model	Winner
1st	One 21" Toshiba Bomba Flat TV	21CZ8DE	YOU
2nd	One 190 Lt. Toshiba Refrigerator	GRM-19BPT	YOU
3rd	One Toshiba Washing Machine	VH-7200	YOU
4th	Ten Canon Cameras	BF-800	YOU
5th	Twenty Toshin Irons		and YOU

Rules

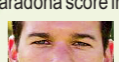
- Residents of Bangladesh are eligible to participate in Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2006. Employees of and Rangs Toshiba and their immediate family members shall not be eligible to participate.
- All entries must be submitted in the original form printed in the Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.
- Forms will have to be cut along the dotted lines.
- Participants are to put a tick (✓) mark in the box alongside their answer to each question.
- Entries may send numerous entries for each round.
- Entry forms should be completed with a ballpoint pen.
- Name, address, father's name and particulars of participants must be clearly written. Each entry form must also bear the signature of the participant and date.
- Incomplete forms will not be accepted.
- Entries must reach the office of the Daily Star on or before the closing date marked on the entry form. Late entries will not be accepted.
- Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 1".
- Entries may be hand delivered or posted to the Daily Star, 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
- Entries will be placed in a sealed box for the draw to be held on a notified date in public in presence of invited guests and Quiz participants, if any.
- Winners will be decided on the basis of correct entries drawn out from the box.
- Entering this Quiz competition shall be construed as the respective agreement by each participant to abide by all rules, instructions and guidelines as may be issued by the Daily Star.
- Any decision of the Daily Star in the conduct of the Quiz competition/including the answers selected as correct shall be deemed final and binding on all participants and shall not be called in question and/or challenged in any manner whatsoever.
- The Daily Star management, in their absolute discretion, reserves the right to amend, modify or substitute any of the above rules and/or change or reschedule any and all dates of the Quiz competitions under any circumstances.

QUIZ SCHEDULE

Round & Draw	Starts	Answers must reach by noon	Lucky Draw for prizes
1 Rangpur	May 05	May 18	May 19
2 Khulna	May 19	June 01	June 02
3 Sylhet	June 2	June 15	June 16
4 Chittagong	June 16	June 29	June 30
5 Dhaka (Bumper)	June 30	July 09	TBA

The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 1 Ends May 18, 2006

Tick (✓) the correct answers

- How many teams will make their World Cup debut in Germany? 10 6 8
- Which team finished third in the 2002 World Cup? Turkey Senegal Spain
- Who won the golden boot in the 1998 World Cup? Vieri Batistuta Suker
- How many goals did Maradona score in the 1986 World Cup final? 1 2 0
- Who is this player:  Morientes Ballack Shevchenko

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms).....Age.....

Father's nameOccupation

Address

Telephone (if any)Signature Date.....

Write with a ballpoint pen in clear BLOCK letters.
Cut along the dotted lines and mail to OR drop in the Quiz Box at The Daily Star
You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 1."

READ The Daily Star TO CATCH THE WORLD CUP FEVER