

Ghana ring the changes

REUTERS, ACCRA

Ghana coach Ratomir Dujkovic revealed several surprises when he named his final 23-man squad for the World Cup finals on Friday, the first of the five African representatives to do so.

The Serbian-born coach has made wholesale changes from the squad which performed so badly in the African Nations Cup in January, including a call-up for uncapped defender Habib Mohamed and recalls for Shilla Alhassan Illiasu and Razak Pimpong, who had played no part in Ghana's national side in recent years.

Illiasu is one of four locally-based players named in the squad and receives his first call-up since last appearing national team in September 1998. Pimpong, a striker from FC Copenhagen in Denmark, has won just one previous cap, in 2002.

Mohamed, who had been on trial at Maccabi Netanya in Israel earlier this year, has been an outstanding performer in Ghana's domestic league in recent years.

There were also recalls after a two-year absence for defender Daniel Quaye, Derek Boateng and goalkeeper Richard Kingston.

As expected, Dujkovic also handed a berth to the PSV Eindhoven defender Eric Addo, whose last full international was at the 1998 African Nations Cup finals.

The side is to be captained by Stephen Appiah, whose midfield combination with Chelsea's Michael Essien had been pivotal in the team's qualification.

Dujkovic made a major overhaul from Nations Cup, where the Black Stars failed to make it past the first round.

Of his 23-man squad for the tournament in Egypt, fewer than half are heading to Germany where Ghana face the Czech Republic, Italy and the United States in their group.

Essien, Asamoah Gyan and Sukley Ali Muntari return after they missed the Nations Cup through injury.

The notable absentee is the Bundesliga-based striker Isaac Boaky, whose injury woes have again cost him a chance to compete at a major tournament.

Dujkovic had tested a number of fringe players in recent friendlies against German and French clubs but few emerged to make the squad.

Goalkeepers: Sammy Adjiei (Moadan Sport Ashdod, Israel), Richard Kingston (Ankaraspor, Turkey), George Owu (AsantiGold).

Defenders: Eric Addo (PSV),

SEE PAGE 22 COL 5



AFP: FILE PHOTO

German players congratulate each other after winning the 1954 World Cup final against Hungary in Berne on 4 July 1954.

The Asian battle

REUTERS, Tokyo

When Japan coach Zico boldly declared recently that he was aiming to reach the semi-finals of the World Cup, it struck a raw nerve.

His employers shifted uncomfortably in their seats and stifled nervous coughs as the Brazilian publicly stated what the Japanese secretly dream of -- upstaging South Korea.

Zico appeared deadly serious, despite the fact that Japan are drawn with holders Brazil, Croatia and Guus Hiddink's Australia in a tough Group F in Germany.

"The first step will obviously be to get through the first round," Zico told reporters. "If we do that then I will look for us to go to the semi-finals."

That remark prompted a sharp intake of breath among Japan Football Association (JFA) officials four years after the country lost the battle of the 2002 World Cup co-hosts.

South Korea's astonishing run to the 2002 World Cup semi-finals was greeted with stony silence in Japan following their own second-round exit.

JFA officials put on a brave face and congratulated South Korea through forced grins but it was a chastening experience for Japan to be overshadowed by their fierce Asian rivals.

As Dutchman Hiddink became a national hero in South Korea after

guiding them to the best finish by an Asian team at a World Cup, there was much soul-searching in Japan.

Zico replaced Frenchman Philippe Troussier following another failed bid by the JFA to lure Arsene Wenger away from Arsenal but four years later, Japan remain an enigma.

South Korea have hardly set the world alight over the last four years either, although their fortunes have improved markedly since Hiddink's countryman Dick Advocaat took over.

Few people would bet on Japan eclipsing South Korea's performance on home soil in 2002. Simply surviving the group phase would be seen as a major success by most.

Zico's public statements have often been confusing, oscillating between the pragmatic and the wildly optimistic.

"We can win all three of our group games or we can lose all three," he said. "If you get through the first round then it's a lottery. But I want to get to the last four."

South Korea's task of reaching the second round looks slightly easier on paper. Advocaat's side are drawn alongside 1998 winners France, Switzerland and Togo in Group G.

Zico will point to Japan's 2004 Asian Cup triumph as proof that his side can play -- and, when in the mood, they can, as they proved at last year's Confederations Cup.

Japan have quality midfielders among their ranks, including

Bolton's Hidetoshi Nakata and Shunsuke Nakamura, a Scottish title winner with Celtic. It is in attack where Japan struggle.

South Korea perhaps have the edge in terms of speed and physical toughness. Zico is wary of the inevitable comparisons that will be made with coaches such as Hiddink and Advocaat.

Zico has been increasingly tetchy during a frequently bumpy tenure as Japan's coach but his gallows humour, at least, appears intact in the run-in to the World Cup.

"If we lose our first game, I might get the sack," smiled Zico, who angrily walked out of a news conference last year after a journalist coughed while he was talking.

The pressure to be Asia's top performer in Germany will be intense.

Iran and Saudi Arabia will also be hoping to reach the knockout stages after avoiding the tournament's biggest teams in Groups D and H respectively.

Hiddink's Australia could also cause a surprise in their first tournament since the "Socceroos" left Oceania to join the Asian Football Confederation.

Japan and South Korea, however, will have eyes only for each other in the tussle for Asian bragging rights.



DOWN THE WORLD CUP LANE



Ferenc Puskas: The Galloping Major

AGENCIES, undated



Indisputably one of the best left-footed players in the history of the game, Ferenc Puskas bestrode the Hungarian football scene throughout a golden period in the early 1950s like a colossus.

He stood out in a wonderful Hungarian side that acquired a very special synergy capable of causing devastation in opposing defences, even those with a reputation for parsimony.

Take poor England in 1953, for example, who were on the end of a 6-3 pasting at Wembley, a result that shook the football world.

Puskas was born in 1927 in Budapest and embarked on his football career at an early age, playing for his father's club, Kispest Budapest. By the time he was 16, the diminutive striker was a first team regular, his ambition and iron will already evident despite his tender years. Puskas made his international debut at the age of 18 against Austria. The fixture was Hungary's first since the Second World War and witnessed the birth of an unparalleled career in their national colours.

An unlikely footballer in many respects, Puskas was small and overweight, not particularly strong in the air and was exclusively left-footed. But, his gifts were undeniable, as the statistics show. In 84 international appearances, Puskas scored 83 goals -- a strike rate unmatched in international football.

Puskas' home club Kispest became an army team in 1948 and were renamed Honved. Thus the star striker earned the sobriquet of the 'Galloping Major', in recognition of his army rank. He would play for Honved until 1956.

Hungary were the dominant national team of the early 1950s. In 1952, Puskas captained his country to Olympic Gold in Helsinki and the "Magical Magyars" arrived at the 1954 FIFA World Cup, Switzerland undefeated in four years.

Victory beckoned at the 1954 World Cup after Puskas and his devastating teammates Boszik, Czibor, Kocsis and Hidegkuti scored 17 goals in their first two pool games.

They disposed of Brazil 4-2 in the quarter-finals, swept aside Uruguay

and after two years in the country was granted Spanish nationality.

His new nationality gave him a chance to prolong his international career and he played four times for

Spain.

In 1962 he had another chance to shine at world level when he was part of Spain's squad at the 1962 World Cup, but the Spaniards played poorly and were eliminated at the first hurdle.

On a domestic level he had more success, winning six Spanish championships in eleven years and one European Cup in 1960 alongside the equally revered Alfredo Di Stefano.

The Hungarian's record as a coach was less brilliant, although he did take Greek club Panathinaikos to the 1971 European Cup final, the Greeks becoming the first victims (2-0) of the wonderful Ajax side of

SEE PAGE 22 COL 1



FERENC PUSKAS



BITS AND BOBS

Totti returns

REUTERS, Milan

Italy's Francesco Totti returned to action on Thursday after almost three months out when he came on as a substitute for AS Roma in the second leg of the Italian Cup final.

Totti has not played since he broke his ankle in a Serie A game against Empoli on Feb. 19 and had to have an operation.

There had been fears Totti might not return to fitness in time for June's World Cup finals but he made better than expected progress in training.

The Roma forward, a key part of Marcello Lippi's World Cup squad, came on as a 53rd minute sub at the San Siro stadium and could now play a part in his club's final game of the Serie A season -- also at that San Siro against Milan on Sunday.

If Stevie was Spanish...

INTERNET, undated

Fernando Morientes says he wishes Steven Gerrard was Spanish because he'd love to see him representing Spain at the World Cup finals.

"It is a shame that we have not got Stevie in the Spanish squad," said Nando.

"He's one of the most complete players I have seen and can be one of the stars of the World Cup."

"He can play anywhere. On the left, right, in the middle or forward, and I think he can play that second striker role."

Low key start for USA

AP, North Carolina

Two players were in Germany, two just had landed at the Raleigh-Durham airport and another planned to head back to England in a week.

But U.S. men's soccer coach Bruce Arena said he wasn't too worried about being short a few players at times during the 11-day



PHOTO: AFP

Francisco Fonseca heads the ball during a training session for the Mexico national team in Mexico City on Thursday.

SEE PAGE 22 COL 6

The stadium name game

AP, Hamburg

Ask anyone in this northern German city how to get to the AOL Arena and they'll gladly point the way.

Just get on the subway, take it to the Stellingen stop and walk through the leafy Volkspark until you see the massive blue letters atop the modern stadium. It's hard to miss -- but not for long.

The stadium, which has carried the name of the online provider after it signed a deal with the soccer club Hamburger SV in 2004, will soon shed its moniker. From June 9 to July 9, it will officially be known as World Cup Stadium Hamburg.

The reason is simple. FIFA, which oversees the World Cup, holds a strict line on corporate sponsorships and advertising deals, letting only those who pay play.

Among the 12 German stadiums that are hosting games in the 32-team tournament this summer, several will lose their official names because they aren't official sponsors. In Frankfurt, Commerzbank Arena is out. In Munich, the futuristic, almost bubble-looking Allianz Arena will be known as the giant spaceship.

AOL, Commerzbank AG and insurer Allianz AG aren't sponsors of the World Cup. So, despite having paid millions to put their names up on stadiums, there's nothing they can do about it.

FIFA signed agreements worth more than 888 million dollars with 15 international partners and six national sponsors, giving those companies exclusive rights to pitch their products in the stadiums. The companies range from automotive supplier Continental AG and car maker Hyundai to Coca-Cola and McDonald's.

Sepp Blatter, FIFA's president, is unapologetic. "We are obligated towards our partners," he has said.

FIFA has even gone so far as to

SEE PAGE 22 COL 2

2006 Round 1, Draw in Rangpur

Competition Information, Prizes and Rules

Information				Rules			
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.	1.	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.				
B.	There will be FIVE rounds of competition.	2.	All entries must be submitted in the original form printed in The Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.				
C.	Each round will have a separate draw with attractive prizes from the house of RANGS TOSHIBA as per announcement.	3.	Forms will have to be cut along the dotted lines.				
D.	Participants of all the FIVE rounds will automatically qualify for the Bumper Draw, which will have even bigger prizes.	4.	Participants are to put a tick () mark in the box alongside their answer to each question.				
E.	For each round, a set of questions including a photographic quiz will be published in The Daily Star.	5.	A person may send numerous entries for each round. Entry forms should be completed with a ballpoint pen.				
F.	Names and addresses of all prize winners will be published in The Daily Star.	6.	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.				
G.	Winners will have to collect their prizes from The Daily Star office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.	7.	Incomplete forms will not be accepted.				
H.	Any taxes or levies, as per law, for all the above prizes will have to be borne by the prize winners.	8.	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.				
PRIZES UP FOR GRABS							
Prize	Item	Model	Winner				
1st	One 21" Toshiba Bomba Flat TV	21CZ8DE	YOU				
2nd	One 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				
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							
1.	How many teams will make their World Cup debut in Germany?	10	☐	6	☐	8	☐
2.	Which team finished third in the 2002 World Cup?	Turkey	☐	Senegal	☐	Spain	☐
3.	Who won the golden boot in the 1998 World Cup?	Vieri	☐	Batistuta	☐	Suker	☐
4.	How many goals did Maradona score in the 1986 World Cup final?	1	☐	2	☐	0	☐
5.	Who is this player:	Morientes	☐	Ballack	☐	Shevchenko	☐
Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms).....Age.....							
Father's name.....Occupation.....							
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							
READ The Daily Star CATCH THE WORLD CUP FEVER							