



DHAKA MONDAY MAY 29, 2006

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DOWN THE WORLD CUP LANE

ITALIA 1990: German efficiency prevails

AGENCIES, undated



No-one was unduly surprised when Italy became the first European country to host the World Cup more than once. They'd been the first to host the European Championship twice (before most countries had held it once) and generally knew their way through the corridors of power. That and a strong national team gave them a serious head start. Aeglio Vicini, Bearzot's successor as coach, had been in charge of the Under-21 team which won the European title in 1986, and brought several of those players into the senior squad. The defence, in which Bergomi was now the captain, had been reinforced by the young Paolo Maldini and another great sweeper in Franco Baresi, conceding only one goal in the last nine game. But there were problems and controversies up front (only two goals in the last seven), where Vicini seemed reluctant to use the talents of Roberto Baggio. Much would depend on Vialli, who'd just scored the goals that had won Sampdoria the Cup-Winners Cup.

Argentina still had several of their 1986 players, again led by Maradona, but had won only one of their last ten matches, 2-1 in Israel. They had to take what comfort they could from their second match being staged on Maradona's home club ground.

West Germany had failed to win the European Championship at home two years earlier but could call on many more talented players than in 1986. Brehme, Matthaus and Voller were reinforced by world-class new-comers like Buchwald, Kohler and the dashing blond Klinsmann, and three of the squad played with Inter Milan. But Beckenbauer, still the coach, was having to use the veteran Augenthaler as sweeper.

Brazil had a new coach and another strong defence, but no replacements for their old midfield starts. Careca was still there but his obvious partner, the immensely gifted Romario, hadn't played since breaking a leg in March. Winners of the Copa America the previous year and the only team to have beaten Italy this season, they were established as joint second favourites or thereabouts.

Ahead of them in the ratings were the Dutch, back in the finals with a team that lost little in comparison with Cruyff & Co, European champions arriving with a battery of all-time greats. Rijkaard and

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



West German defender Andreas Brehme (L) jumps for joy in front of forward Juergen Klinsmann after scoring the winning goal from the spot in the World Cup final against Argentina on July 8, 1990 in Rome. West Germany clinched their third World Cup title, after 1954 and 1974, beating the defending champions 1-0.

PHOTO: AFP



BITS AND BOBS

Zambrotta injured

AFP, Florence

because I really want to take part in the World Cup."

For the moment there is no reason to believe Zambrotta will miss Italy's first match in the June 9 to July 9 finals in Germany against Ghana on June 12.

Italy's other Group E matches are against USA and the Czech Republic.

Hush! The Saudis arrive

REUTERS, Frankfurt

Saudi Arabia arrived in Germany on Saturday becoming the fifth World Cup team to settle into their training base with just under two weeks to go until the tournament begins with

opening match on June 9. The three-times Asian champions went from Frankfurt airport to the Hotel Dolce, north of Germany's financial capital in Bad Nauheim, which has been especially prepared for their arrival.

The hotel has removed alcohol from the minibars, blocked adult entertainment and other free-TV channels showing naked women and taken down tasteful nude photos in the fitness area.

Consumption of alcohol is forbidden in Islam and is a grave offence in Saudi Arabia, a country that enforces strict Islamic laws that also prohibit what it regards as pornography.

Togo were the first of the 32 teams

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

"I will stay here for treatment

Ronaldinho has a vision for double

AFP, Weggis

Brazil star Ronaldinho wants to complete a dream season by adding a World Cup winners' medal to his Champions League crown with Barcelona.

The two-time world footballer of the year said that helping Brazil win a record sixth World Cup would make it a 'perfect year' following Barcelona's triumph in Europe.

"I think that all players dream of winning the biggest tournaments in the world," Ronaldinho said at Brazil's pre-World Cup training camp here. "If we win the World Cup it will be a perfect year for me. "I've had a great season whatever happens but I have a great opportunity to do something special and I don't want to let it pass me by."

If Ronaldinho manages to help Brazil win in Germany, he will join an elite band of footballers who have won both titles in the same season.

While a total of 49 players have graced the finals of international and European club football's greatest tournaments in the same year, only a fraction of that figure, eight, have managed to win both.

Ronaldinho's Brazil teammate Roberto Carlos managed it in 2002, and another Real Madrid

player, France's Christian Karembeu achieved it four years earlier.

Six members of the Bayern Munich side led by Franz Beckenbauer achieved the feat in 1974. Ronaldinho meanwhile has slotted into life at Brazil's idyllic Swiss retreat seamlessly, and said the mood within the camp was buoyant.

"We've been working hard on regaining possession when we lose, and keeping the ball when we have it," Ronaldinho said. "We're trying to recreate the same sort of atmosphere that we had when we won the Confederations Cup last year, and it shouldn't be a problem."

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira has so far showed no sign that he intends to break up his team's 'Magic Quartet' of Ronaldinho, Kaka, Ronaldo and Adriano by introducing a more defensive-minded midfielder.

All four players lined up in training alongside each other, with Ronaldinho in particular looking sharp and trim, allaying fears that his weight had ballooned out of control at Real Madrid.

Ronaldo contributed two fantastic goals in a practice match on Saturday and was constantly involved during a gruelling day of training.

Spain's boy-wonder

AFP, Madrid

If there's one player the fans of Spain and England will be keeping an eye on at this summer's World Cup, it has got to be Arsenal's talented midfielder Francesc Fabregas.

Depending on the fitness of Spain and Barcelona regular Xavi, the precocious midfielder from Catalonia may find his chances of featuring in Luis Aragones' starting line-up limited.

But after a sterling season with the Gunners and a first Champions League final appearance against his former club Barcelona, the 19-year-old's admirers will expect him to seize an imminent World Cup chance with both hands.

For Spain fans watching Fabregas's progress in England from afar, it will not come as a surprise - he has been a pivotal player in the various national squads for years.

But it was after the 2003 Under-17 World Championships, where he was voted player of the tournament and won the Golden Boot after his six goals helped Spain reach the final that his career took on a new

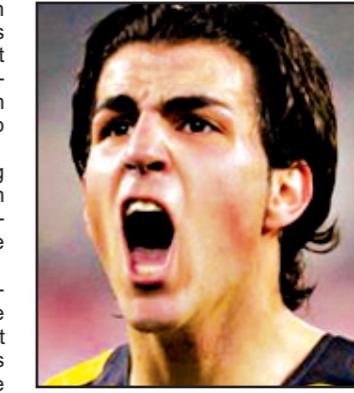
dimension.

Arsenal came in with an offer, and suddenly the 16-year-old Fabregas was on his way to London where there awaited a quicker chance of playing first team football under Arsene Wenger.

Since then Fabregas has rewritten the club's record books.

And it has made Aragones sit up and take notice.

Aragones first called Fabregas



FRANCESC FABREGAS

up to an informal squad meeting with a view to replacing Xavi after the Barcelona midfielder had picked up a serious knee injury last winter.

It was in December 2005, six months before the World Cup and Fabregas was excited about his new opportunity.

"I'll approach it with the same determination as I did when I came into the Arsenal team," he promised.

Three months later in a friendly against the Ivory Coast Fabregas began his international debut on the left of a three-man midfield with Alba and Xabi Alonso.

As both his fellow midfielders were substituted in the second half, Fabregas got to play the full 90 minutes and Spain went on to win 3-2.

Fabregas described it as one of the happiest days of his life.

"It's been a very intense but also very special week. Now I just want to keep my feet on the ground and be sensible about things."

It's not just the Spanish public, who would love to see the teenager

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Del Piero a likely starter

AFP, Rome

Juventus star Alessandro Del Piero appears to have won his battle with fit-again Francesco Totti for the playmaking duties in Italy's World Cup campaign.

Italy coach Marcello Lippi has indicated that he will start Del Piero in an attacking midfield role previously occupied by Totti until the midfielder broke a bone in his left leg in February.

Totti has not played a game since suffering the injury and after seeing Del Piero during a week-long training camp Lippi clearly feels the diminutive attacker will be the better bet.

Del Piero's inclusion would see Italy adjust their formation to field a three-pronged attack, with Del Piero operating in the hole behind strikers Luca Toni and Alberto Gilardino.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Economy on hold

AFP, Sao Paulo

Football-mad Brazilians will put business on the backburner next month when Brazil defends its World Cup crown and competes for a record sixth championship title in Germany.

The Sao Paulo stock market Bovespa and the Brazil Federation of Banks plan to close two hours early on the days when Brazil play.

The main stock market in South America announced Saturday that on June 13 and 22, it would close transactions early "to allow employees, operators and investors to watch Brazil's matches."

And at the close of market operations on those days, there will be no "after-market" trading, Bovespa said in a statement.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

2006 Round 2, Draw in Khulna

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 UP FOR GRABS

Prize	Item	Model	Winner
1st	One 21" Toshiba Bomba Flat TV	21C28DE	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		andYOU

QUIZ SCHEDULE

Round	Starts	Answers must reach by 8pm	Lucky Draw for prizes
1 Rangpur	May 05	May 18	May 23
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 2 Ends June 01, 2006

Tick () the correct answers

1. The only player to have appeared in three World Cup final matches is: Matthaus Maradona Cafu
2. The 2006 World Cup final will be held in: Munich Frankfurt Berlin
3. How many goals did France score in the 2002 World Cup? 5 3 0
4. Which Asian nation made highest number of appearances in World Cup finals? Iran South Korea Saudi Arabia
5. Who is this player?

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms)..... Father's name..... 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 2."

READ The Daily Star TO CATCH THE WORLD CUP FEVER