



Brazil playmaker Kaka (L) shoots past a couple of Ireland defenders during their international friendly at the Emirates Stadium in London on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY Brazil kill off Ireland

**Football**

AFP, London

Brazil warmed up for the World Cup in impressive fashion as the South Americans defeated the Republic of Ireland 2-0 in Tuesday's friendly in London. Dunga's side were playing their last serious match before kicking off their World Cup campaign against North Korea in Johannesburg on June 15 and, after a slow start, they gradually turned on the style at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium. An own goal from Ireland midfielder Keith Andrews put the five-time World Cup winners ahead just before half-time and Robinho added the second after the break to cap a magical move.

For Ireland, facing Brazil was a painful reminder of what might have been as they returned to action for the first time since Thierry Henry's infamous handball set up the goal that sent France to South Africa at the expense of Giovanni Trapattoni's men. It was also an historic occasion as goalkeeper Shay Given and defender Kevin Kilbane made their 103rd appearances for Ireland - taking them ahead of Steve Staunton as their country's most capped players.

While Ireland were hoping to exorcise some demons,

Brazil were looking to conclude their World Cup preparations by sending a warning to their rivals for the title.

Brazil had given England a lesson in smooth passing during their friendly win over Fabio Capello's side in Qatar last November.

But Dunga's policy of using tough-tackling midfielders like Gilberto Silva and Felipe Melo ahead of the more flamboyant Ronaldo showed he is still happy to rely on a pragmatic approach than worry about providing entertainment for Brazil's legion of fans.

Players like Kaka ensure there is still a sprinkling of

**Brazil 2 (Andrews 44-og, Robinho 78) Republic of Ireland 0**

inspiration to go with all the perspiration and he had the first sight of goal with a long-range effort that flashed over Given's crossbar.

Ireland had gone close to taking the lead when Damien Duff's cross picked out Kevin Doyle and the Wolves forward cleverly angled a header that Julio Cesar pushed away.

But North London has become a home from home for Brazil in recent years - this was the Selecao's fifth visit to the Emirates - and the 'hosts' threatened when Adriano's free-kick forced Given into action for the first time.

Dunga's team took the lead in the 44th minute with their only truly incisive moment of the half.

Breaking from their own penalty area, the ball was worked wide to Maicon and the right-back slipped a pass that found Robinho just barely inside in the Ireland box.

The Manchester City winger, currently on loan at Santos, took a touch before whipping over a low cross that Andrews turned into his own net as he tried to clear at the near post.

Trapattoni sent on a host of substitutes in the second half including Scots-born debutant midfielder James McCarthy, but it was Brazil who turned the screw.

Left-back Michel Bastos almost got the second goal with a fierce strike from Robinho's pass, then Daniel Alves should have scored moments after coming off the bench, only for the Barcelona defender to shoot wide after rounding Given.

Robinho had the ball in the net in the 68th minute but his effort was ruled out for offside.

It wasn't long before Robinho was celebrating as he finished a sublime move in the 76th minute.

He took Kaka's back-heel and passed to Grafite before bursting into the area to receive the striker's cute back-flick and dispatch a fine finish past Given.

## Johnson arrested over headbutt

AFP, Manchester

Manchester City's Michael Johnson has been arrested on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm after allegedly headbutting a fan of local rivals Manchester United, police said Wednesday.

The incident took place after the alleged victim was singing United songs with friends in the club, 42nd Street, in Manchester city centre.

Johnson, 22, was arrested later and interviewed by police. He is currently on bail.

The alleged victim, also 22, is understood to have flagged down a passing police patrol in the early hours of December 6, last year.

Johnson was arrested on suspicion of assault causing actual bodily harm and has been bailed until April 14.

## Mozambique name interim coach

AFP, Maputo

Mozambique's national football team has named an interim head coach to lead the side while contract renewal talks continue with veteran coach Mart Nooij, a team official said Wednesday.

Miguel Chau, an assistant under Nooij, will lead Mozambique's Mambas until a permanent coach has been signed, said Antonio Chambal, vice-president for national teams.

Chau's first assignment will be a Wednesday friendly against Botswana in the Mozambican capital Maputo.

Nooij, who has coached Mozambique since 2007, has been in limbo since January 31, when his contract with the Mozambican Football Federation (FMF) expired.

"Right now we are exchanging correspondence with (Nooij), and with other coaches, to determine the future," Chambal told AFP.

"I think within a matter of days we could close a deal."

Chambal said the football federation has exchanged contract proposals with Nooij but needs final clearance from the Mozambican government, which helps pay the head coach's salary.

Dutchman Nooij coached Mozambique to its first Nations Cup appearance in 12 years this year.

But the Mambas failed to win any games in their group C matches in Angola, prompting the federation President Feizal Sidat to tell reporters that Nooij's contract would not be renewed.

## Capello warns stars

AFP, London



Fabio Capello has warned his pampered England players that they cannot afford to let their private lives get in the way of his World Cup preparations.

Capello has grown weary at fending off a barrage of questions about the late-night liaisons of England defenders John Terry and Ashley Cole and he delivered a brief but emphatic statement of intent to his squad when they met up for this week's friendly against Egypt.

With the World Cup in South Africa less than 100 days away, the England coach is concerned that the vast amount of money and power enjoyed by the country's top players has led some of them to lose focus and he expects nothing less than total concentration on football over the next three months.

He will not tolerate any repeat of Terry's alleged affair with the former girlfriend of international colleague Wayne Bridge - that forced Capello to strip the Chelsea defender of the England captaincy - or Cole's string of extra-marital flings that led to his separation from pop star wife Cheryl.

Speaking before the Egypt match, Capello made it clear that sort of behaviour could cost a player his place at the World Cup.

"You have to be careful in every moment in your life. I think the next three months will be ok for all the players. If there is a problem and it is the private life we have to decide about what will happen," Capello said.

"They are important players. They have to make an example for the children and all the fans. They have to stay careful in every moment and sacrifice something in their life."

"They are young players and young rich boys. This is the problem. It is not only here, in Italy, in Germany, in Spain, in every country

## LEAGUE ONE

# PSG won't sell away games tickets

AFP, Paris



Paris Saint-Germain announced on Tuesday that they will no longer sell tickets for away games to the club's fans and will not appear if they are forced to play home matches behind closed doors.

"We will no longer sell tickets to our supporters for away matches until further notice," said PSG president Robin Leproux.

"We will not appeal to the league in the case that we are forced to play behind closed doors. We have to take responsibility for the image we are presenting today."

PSG's 3-0 league defeat at home to fierce rivals Marseille on Sunday was marred by violent scenes both inside and outside their Parc des Princes ground.

Marseille fans boycotted the game in protest at stringent security measures but the PSG supporters fought amongst themselves after the match, leaving one man in an artificial coma following an attack by a rival fan group.

Regularly punished over the behaviour of their fans, who launched flares onto the pitch in the second half of the Marseille defeat, PSG are already facing the prospect of playing two games behind closed doors due to events earlier in the season.

"It's a very grave decision in the history of

where football is important like here.

"I remember in Spain sometimes one player went to a disco to drink something but not big problems between players about different women."

Since being axed as captain, Terry has suffered an alarming slump in form and has been at fault for a host of goals conceded by Chelsea in recent weeks.

The centre-back still has Capello's support however and the Italian, who admitted he had yet to speak to Terry about his form and morale, insists he sees no problems with his club displays.

"I saw two games that he played against Inter Milan and Man City. He played a normal game. The form of John Terry is good. He played without problems," Capello said.

"I followed him during training and he was good. He is absolutely not affected. I haven't spoken to him. I have another 24 hours to speak to him."

"Usually I speak with a lot of players individually. I have to decide whether to speak or not to speak. It depends on the moment."

"Always the teams wins together and loses together. It is possible to do some mistakes during the game."

While Capello will hope Terry can revive his clearly dented confidence over the next few months, far more important is the form and fitness of Wayne Rooney.

The Manchester United forward is enjoying the best season of his life and took his goal tally to 28 with the winner against Aston Villa in Sunday's League Cup final.

Capello believes his tactic of using a big striker alongside Rooney will help the smaller man continue to shine in South Africa but he refused to promise a place to out of form Villa striker Emile Heskey.

"My style is always two forwards. In my style it is important to have two forwards with the other one really close to the other," he said.

"Is Heskey safe? No. We play Rooney with another one."

## Henry wants delay in naming new coach

AFP, Paris

Thierry Henry on Tuesday said he would prefer the successor to national boss Raymond Domenech to be named after the World Cup, and not before the tournament as planned.

"Personally, I'd prefer us to talk about it after, and definitely not now. It's not a debate," said France skipper Henry.

Henry joins international colleagues William Gallas and Florent Malouda in expressing reservations about the decision to reveal the identity of France's next coach before the World Cup.

Under the timescale announced by French Football Federation (FFF) president Jean-Pierre Escalettes, Domenech's successor will be named in late April or May.

Speaking at the weekend, Domenech himself said the timing of the announcement could undermine his preparations for the tournament.

"Everything that comes from outside can disrupt, undermine and create weaknesses that could prove harmful during a long competition," said Domenech, whose side face Spain in a friendly here on Wednesday.

"For one match, no, but for one month, with substitutes who won't play or who will only play a bit, it could be complicated and it could create tension. But I've got nothing to say about it, I'll deal with it when it happens."

The World Cup begins on June 11, with the final to take place on July 11.

## England set Mexico, Japan dates

AFP, London

England will play friendly internationals against Mexico and Japan as they round off their World Cup preparations ahead of this year's finals in South Africa, the Football Association said Wednesday.

The precise date for the Mexico match at Wembley has still to be confirmed, although FA chiefs hope it will be on Sunday, May 23, rather than a day later as currently specified by world football governing body FIFA.

Fellow World Cup qualifiers Japan will be England's final opponents before they head to South Africa in a friendly in Graz, Austria, on Sunday May 30.

In between the two matches, England will spend most of their time at a training camp in Austria.

England face African Nations Cup champions Egypt in a friendly at Wembley on Wednesday.

## ASIAN CUP QUALIFIER Aussies edge Indonesia

**Football**

AFP, Brisbane

Australia qualified for the 2011 Asian Cup finals with 1-0 win over plucky Indonesia Wednesday.

The World Cup-bound Socceroos controlled possession for long periods of the lopsided match but had only defender Mark Milligan's 42nd minute goal to show for all their dominance.

Asia's top-ranked nation fielded a largely A-League lineup against the 136th-ranked Indonesians and only needed a draw to go through to next January's showpiece in Qatar.

"I can only be happy with the result, but of course we would have been happier if we had scored more goals," coach Pim Verbeek said.

"I think we tried everything to score more goals, defensively we played concentrated and didn't give anything away, but attacking-wise we know it's difficult to play against a team that's defending with

nine players in their own half." Australia has now lost only once to Indonesia in 15 encounters and have won all their five home games. Indonesia's only win (1-0) over Australia came in a World Cup qualifier in Surabaya in 1981.

The Australians, under Dutch coach Verbeek, have now qualified for both June's World Cup in South Africa and the Asian Cup, where they will be looking to do better than

**Australia 1 (Milligan 42) Indonesia 0**

their disappointing quarter-final exit to Japan on penalties at the last tournament in 2007.

"With all respect to Indonesia, this is not the standard of the World Cup, we have to play better but we also have better players," Verbeek said.

With midfielder Jason Culina, leading his country for the first time and always on the ball, the Socceroos had virtually all the play but lacked the cutting edge against the out-of-contention Indonesia. Australia dominated the

opening half, controlling possession and probing for openings, but engineered few definite scoring chances until Milligan's opener three minutes before halftime.

Luke Wilkshire's free kick hit Milligan's shoulder and on to the bar before the Japanese-based defender swivelled and rifled the rebound past goalkeeper Markus Harison for his first international goal.

The Australians almost doubled their advantage in added-on time when defender Simon Colosimo's bullet-header off a corner was tipped over the bar by Markus.

The Indonesians' best chances in the opening half came through Budi Sudarsono, but Eugene Galekovic had a quiet time in the Australian goal.

Japanese-based target man Josh Kennedy had several heading opportunities off crosses from promising 18-year-old debutant Tommy Oar and Dinamo Moscow utility Wilkshire, but was unable to convert any of the chances.

## ASIAN CUP QUALIFIER Japan beat Bahrain

**Football**

AFP, Toyota

Forward Shinji Okazaki scored the opener to lead Japan to a 2-0 win over Bahrain Wednesday and to finish top in the final qualifying group for the next year's Asian Cup.

Okazaki scored with a diving header in the 36th minute, from a cross sent into the penalty area by Grenoble midfielder Daisuke Matsui. Two minutes into injury time, CSKA Moscow midfielder Keisuke Honda headed Japan's second goal, from an Atsushi Uchida cross.

"I missed a shot on Shunsuke Nakamura's pass a shortly before, so I was determined to score this time," said Okazaki.

Honda said: "I missed so many shots, so I feel relieved that I scored finally."

Japan ended the qualifying round on 15 points, ahead of five wins against one defeat, ahead of Bahrain with a 4-2 record for 12 points. Both teams had already qualified for the Asian Cup in Qatar in January next year.

Earlier, the visitors, who missed five regular players due to their previous commitments, had a big chance in the 14th minute when defender Sayed Mohamed Adnan's free kick was narrowly saved by goalkeeper Seigo Narazaki.

In first-half injury time, Matsui was set free and unleashed a sizzling shot, which struck Bahrain goalkeeper Sayed Jaafar.

Japan kept the initiative after the break with Honda and Wolfsburg midfielder Makoto Hasebe narrowly

missing the net in the beginning, forcing Bahrain to rely on counter-attacks.

**Japan 2 (Okazaki 36, Honda 92+) Bahrain 0**

Okazaki missed a couple of more shots, while Matsui's shot was saved by Jaafar.

Catania striker Takayuki Morimoto replaced Matsui in the 67th minute and showed inspirational play.

Bahrain failed to create

clear scoring chances despite shooting at goal from several free kicks, most of which went wide of the goal mouth.

"My players did exactly what I had asked them to do," said Japan coach Takashi Okada.

"But we had so many decisive chances. We should have scored more goals."

"Honda played in quite a different style from old days. He also defended very well. His existence improves our performance," added Okada.



Japan midfielder Keisuke Honda celebrates his goal against Bahrain during their Asian Cup qualifier in Toyota City on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP