

Eto'o threatens pullout

AFP, Paris

Cameroon captain Samuel Eto'o on Friday questioned his participation at the World Cup finals after criticism from former compatriot Roger Milla that he had brought nothing to his country.

Milla this week told AFP that Eto'o had "brought lots to Barcelona and Inter Milan but never anything to the Cameroon team".

"It's also a question of discipline. Cameroon is waiting for him to react," Milla said.

Eto'o, who this month won the Champions League with Inter to add to his two European Cup winning medals with Barca in 2006 and 2009, dubbed Milla "bitter".

"Is it worth me going to the World Cup?" he asked on the sidelines of an exhibition match in Paris.

"I've still got some days to think about it but I'll see if my taking part is important because I don't need this in my career."

Speaking to Canal Plus television channel, he added: "It is always before tournaments that bitter people wake up."

"What has he (Milla) done? He hasn't won the World Cup. They played in a quarterfinal (in 1990) and with what a team. They had one of the best teams with some great players throughout. It's not

because they knew glory at the age of 40 that they can talk." And then you wonder, 'are they my people?'. Are they really my people? Is it really worth going to the World Cup?"

Milla, aged 38 at the start of the 1990 World Cup in Italy, was not expected to be anything more than a bit-part player in Cameroon's second appearance at the finals.

But five games, four goals, and several samba shuffles later and the veteran striker had catapulted himself into the World Cup's hall of fame as perhaps the most famous African footballer ever.



Cameroon captain Samuel Eto'o addresses a press conference at the Michel Hidalgo Stadium in Saint-Gratien near Paris on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Lahm is the right choice: Matthaus

INTERNET, undated

Former Germany captain Lothar Matthaus believes Bayern Munich's Philipp Lahm will prove a strong skipper at the FIFA World Cup.

National team coach Joachim Loew has confirmed defender Lahm as the man to lead Germany out in South Africa, replacing the injured Michael Ballack, and Matthaus is confident the 26-year-old will do well.

"He is respected in the squad and has deputised for Ballack in the recent international matches when he was injured," Matthaus said.

"Lahm has always performed well and has a great deal of experience."

"He has already taken part in several big tournaments and represents the whole team's opinion."

"In addition, he has a strong contingent of six Bayern players behind him."

With that in mind, Matthaus believes Loew did right in choosing Lahm ahead of his clubmates Miroslav Klose and Bastian Schweinsteiger.

Lahm becomes the youngest captain of a Germany national team at a World Cup, but is nevertheless still a role model to those around him.

"As captain, you are there for the younger and more inexperienced players to lean on you," said Matthaus in the Abendzeitung newspaper.

"Lahm is the right captain."

Real appoint Jose

Football

AFP, Madrid

Multi-trophy winning Jose Mourinho landed in the Real Madrid hotseat on Friday after he was unveiled as the Spanish giants' new coach.

His unveiling came after Real reached a deal with Inter Milan, whom the Portuguese coach this month guided to the Champions League trophy, on his transfer from the Italian club.

Real and Inter "reached an agreement today that Jose Mourinho is the new coach of Real Madrid", the club said on its website.

"The agreement between the two clubs came after a meeting held this afternoon in Milan with Inter chairman Massimo Moratti and Real Madrid president Florentino Perez."

Mourinho will be presented to fans at Real's Santiago Bernabeu stadium on Monday at 1pm (1100 GMT), the club said.

The brief statement gave no further details. But Perez was in Milan to try to unblock a 16-million-euro stumbling block -- the severance fee in Mourinho's contract allowing him to quit his post at Inter two years early.

Moratti, who said Real had agreed to honour the buy-out clause in full, blamed Italy for driving Mourinho away and stressed that the door would always be open for a return.

"For me this changes nothing with regards him because he worked hard, seriously, with great animation and he won a lot," Moratti said in reference to Inter also bagging the Serie A

title twice and the Italian Cup during Mourinho's time.

"This does not even ruin a minuscule amount of the esteem with which I hold him nor the affection I have for the person."

"It's his problem but I think that he's leaving Italy more than leaving Inter."

"Maybe he has wounds that didn't heal and then there is his character which

They finished runners-up to arch rivals Barcelona in the league, exited the Champions League at the last-16 stage and spectacularly crashed out of the King's Cup to third division Alcorcon.

Mourinho becomes Real's 10th coach in as many seasons, during a period when their great rivals Barcelona have had just two with better results and titles.



JOSE MOURINHO

pushes him in search of new adventures.

"For those who are great the door, if not wide open, remains always slightly ajar and ready to be opened fully."

Real opened the way for Mourinho after they sacked coach Manuel Pellegrini on Wednesday.

The Chilean left after just one season in charge in which Real failed to pick up any silverware despite splashing out more than 250 million euros on new talent last year, including Cristiano Ronaldo and Kaka.

Over the last eight years Mourinho has won six league titles in three different countries - two each in Portugal, England and Italy - with Porto, Chelsea and Inter.

He won two Champions League crowns, the UEFA Cup and five domestic cups.

This season he guided Inter to an historic treble of league, Cup and Champions League -- the first by an Italian team.

He is incredibly popular in Madrid after Inter eliminated Barcelona in the Champions League semifinals.

Decision time for Capello

AFP, Graz

Some of England's biggest stars may feel on trial this weekend as Fabio Capello's team play their final World Cup warm-up match against Japan just 48 hours before the squad is cut to the final 23 who will go to South Africa.

The announcement of an England squad for a major tournament is always a nervous and emotional affair and the reaction of Paul Gascoigne, who famously let his anger get the better of him in then coach Glenn Hoddle's hotel room when told he would not travel to the 1998 World Cup, shows how much it means to the players.

Gascoigne's omission only goes to show that even the most high profile player cannot rest easy in these situations.

So it is not only fringe performers such as West Ham's Scott Parker and Aston Villa's Stephen Warnock who are feeling anxious ahead of their last chance to make a case for inclusion here in Graz.

Chelsea's Joe Cole for instance, an established international with 53 caps and one of England's better performers in Germany in 2006, knows his World Cup future is hanging by a thread.

Cole hasn't played for his country since September 2008 due to a combination of

injury and poor form.

It means the 28-year-old winger must catch Capello's eye in Graz if he wants to see off competition from the likes of Aaron Lennon, Theo Walcott, Shaun Wright-Phillips and new boy Adam Johnson, who has won praise from Capello since joining the squad for the first time at the age of just 22.

Whether to include Cole is probably Capello's toughest decision but it is by no means the Italian's only dilemma.

In the past he has indicated he may only take four strikers and that would mean leaving out the prolific Darren Bent, scorer of 25 goals for Sunderland this season.

There are also decisions to be made in midfield where Gareth Barry is said to be winning his battle against an ankle injury, but could still struggle to be fit for England's opening game of the World Cup against the USA on June 12.

To add to the conundrum Capello is possibly the only World Cup coach who does not yet know his number one goalkeeper - he gave Robert Green and Joe Hart 45 minutes each in the previous match against Mexico but is expected to go with David James on Sunday. Whatever happens, captain Rio Ferdinand admits it will be a nervous weekend for the England players and he is preparing himself for the role of agony aunt to his younger teammates.

"It is a nervous situation," he said. "It is pressure; you want to do well, you want to be on that plane."

"It's going to be tough and I know because I've been there, I've had that talk, that conversation, saying you're not experienced enough, not good enough, however they want to dress it up."

"I was left out for Euro 2000 and it took me that summer to get over it but I went back to training, was a better professional, trained harder and became a better player and I say that for the younger players left out this time to probably do that as well."

"When the time comes I'm sure we will deal with it in the right way but the manager is top drawer and I'm sure he will sort it out."

The match is perhaps even more important for Japan who are anxious to recover form and confidence following some disappointing results in the build-up to the World Cup.

Takeshi Okada's team have lost three out of their last four home games, including 2-0 to South Korea on Monday, and have faced strong criticism back home and from former coach Philippe Troussier.

They may well rely on the form of Espanyol midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura who will look to test James from free-kicks and there could also be an appearance from Junichi Inamoto after he recovered from a hamstring injury.

Pellegrini linked with Inter

AFP, Madrid

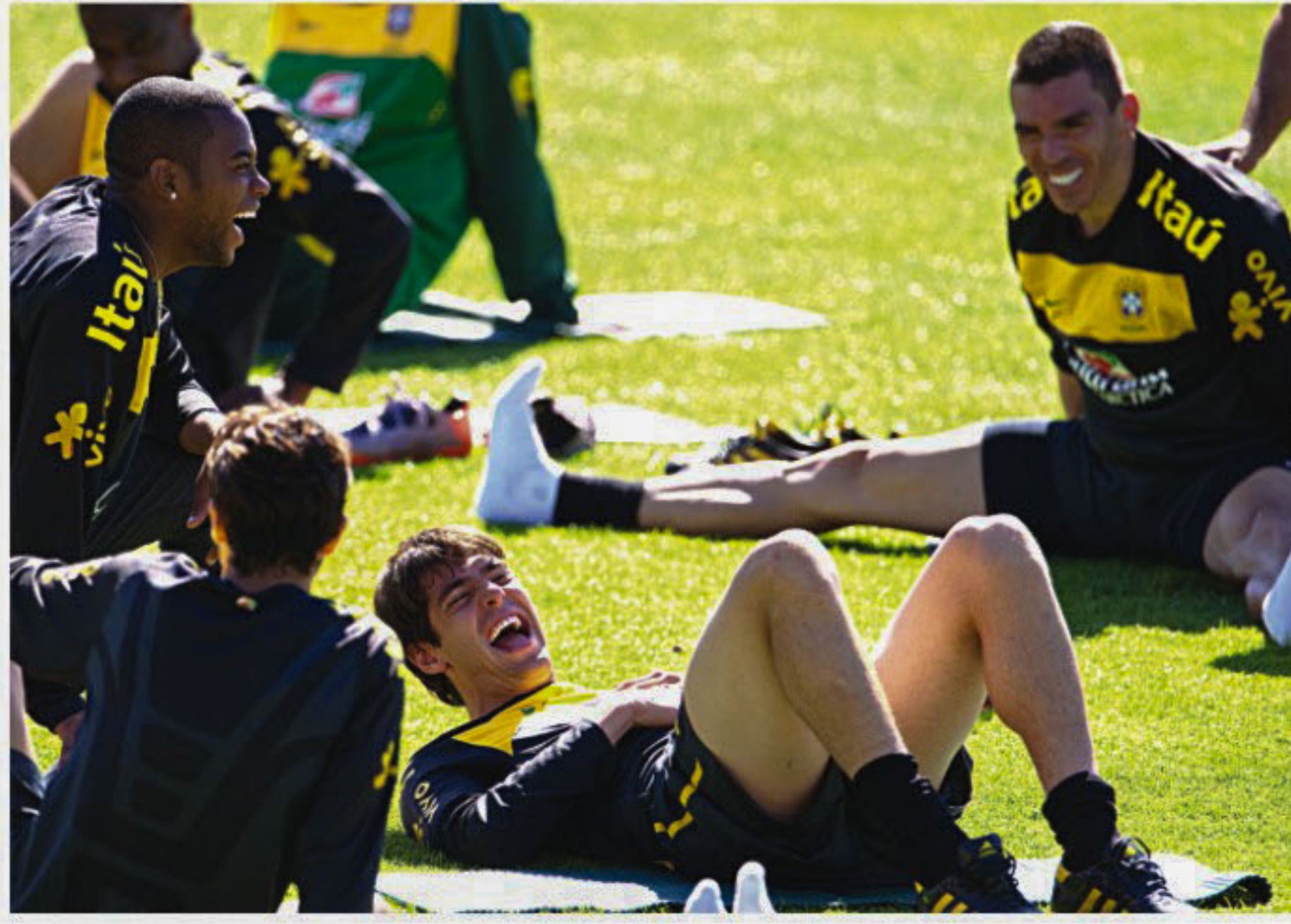
Former Real Madrid coach Manuel Pellegrini could succeed the man who replaced him at Real Jose Mourinho as coach of Champions League winners Inter Milan, sports daily AS claimed on Saturday.

The 56-year-old Chilean was sacked by Real last Wednesday, with a reputed 5million euros pay-off, after failing to land a trophy in his first season with 'The meringues' despite record amounts of money being invested in new players such as Cristiano Ronaldo and Brazilian Kaka.

AS alleges that Pellegrini's agent has been sounded out by Inter - who under 47-year-old Mourinho won an unprecedented treble for an Italian club with Champions League, Serie A and Italian Cup trophies last term.

However, Pellegrini, who made his name in Spain coaching Villarreal, is also said to be interested in succeeding Marcelo Bielsa as coach of the Chilean national team after June's World Cup finals.

Also on Inter's shortlist are former AC Milan, AS Roma, Real Madrid and present England coach Fabio Capello and former Holland, South Korea, Australia and Russia coach Guus Hiddink.



Brazil players (R to L) Lucio, Kaka and Robinho share a joke after a practice session at Randburg High School in Johannesburg on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Ireland outclass Algeria

Football

AFP, Dublin

World Cup-bound Algeria looked toothless in attack and shaky in defence as they suffered a tame 3-0 defeat to Ireland in a World Cup friendly here on Friday.

Veteran Robbie Keane scored a brace and Paul Green one goal against the Algerians, who are drawn in Group A of the June 11-July 11 finals in South Africa alongside England, Slovenia and the United States.

Ireland, controversially denied a spot in the World Cup finals after their fate was sealed thanks to an unseen Thierry Henry handball in a play-off against France, dominated proceedings and fully deserved the win.

After an uneventful first half-hour, Green got the scoreboard ticking with his first goal for Ireland in just his second appearance.

The Derby County player bravely went for a Liam Lawrence free-kick that bounced between the striker and goalkeeper Faouzi Chaouchi, a diving header seeing the ball into the back of the goal.

Algeria could afford to be upset that the assistant referee failed to spot a blatant offside from three Irish players.

But the north Africans could not complain about not getting on the scoresheet, having failed to get even a single shot on target in the opening period.

They came closest when Abdelkader Ghezal made a threatening run into the Irish box, but Sean St Ledger produced a perfect sliding tackle to deny the Sienna striker.

Domenech will equal Hidalgo

AFP, Sousse

Much-criticised France coach Raymond Domenech will equal Euro 1984 winning handler Michel Hidalgo's record of being in charge of the national side when they play Tunisia in a friendly here on Sunday.

The 58-year-old - who guided France to a penalty shootout defeat in the 2006 World Cup finals by Italy but was ridiculed after France crashed out of the first stage of Euro 2008 - will be in the dugout for the 75th time since he replaced Jacques Santini after Euro 2004.

Unlike Domenech 77-year-old Hidalgo is a revered figure in French football, having brought together the great midfield - or the 'magic square' as it was known - orchestrated by Michel Platini, with Jean Tigana, Alain Giresse and Luis Fernandez which culminated in the Euro '84 title hosted in France.

Overall Hidalgo - who came within a penalty shootout of the 1982 World Cup final when the then West Germany came from 3-1 down in extra-time to win on penalties - had a record of 41 victories, 16 draws, 18 defeats with 139 goals scored and 72 conceded.

Hidalgo's reign lasted from March 27, 1976, to June 27, 1984.

Domenech, who is the first French coach to take the team to three successive major championships, has an overall record of 41 victories, 22 draws and 11 defeats with 108 goals scored and 49 conceded according to French Football Federation (FFF) statistics.

Domenech, who is standing down after France's interest in the upcoming World Cup finals ends, has been in charge since July 12, 2004.

NOTICE

Dear quiz masters, Due to unavoidable circumstances we are rescheduling the dates once again for the Fourth Round of The Daily Star-Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2010.

As per this revised schedule, the round now closes on June 23 instead of 22. Your entries must reach The Daily Star office or the designated place in Khulna by 12pm on June 25.

And the Lucky Draw for this round will be held on the 29th of June instead of 25.

Dear readers, a revised "Quiz Schedule" is published today above the questions.

The Daily Star
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ROUND 2, DRAW IN CHITTAGONG ON JUNE 11

PRIZES UP FOR GRABS (ROUNDS 1-5)			PRIZES FOR BUMPER ROUND		
Prize	Item	Winner	Prize	Item	Winner
1st	One 8CFT Toshiba Refrigerator	YOU	1st	One Toshiba 32" LCD TV	YOU
2nd	One Toshiba 24" LCD TV	YOU	2nd	One 15CFT Toshiba Refrigerator	YOU
3rd	One Toshiba 21" Colour TV	YOU	3rd	One Toshin Heat & Cool AC (1Ton)	YOU
4th	One Toshin 21" Colour TV	YOU	4th	One Toshin 24" LCD TV	YOU
5th	One Toshin Microwave Oven (23L)	and YOU	5th	One 21" Toshin Colour TV	and YOU

(See May 23 issue of the Star Sport for competition information and rules)

Prizes for the audience (For First Five Rounds)		Prizes for the audience (For Bumper Round)	
1st.	20L Toshin Microwave Oven	1st.	Toshiba Washing Machine
2nd.	14" Toshin Colour TV	2nd.	21" Toshin Colour TV
3rd.	3 Toshin DVD Players	3rd.	20L Toshin Microwave Woven
		4th.	Two Toshin DVD Players

QUIZ SCHEDULE

Round & Draw	Starts	Ends	Answers must reach by 12pm	Lucky Draw for prizes
1. Barisal	May 19	May 27	May 29	June 2
2. Chittagong	May 28	June 05	June 07	June 11
3. Rajshahi	June 06	June 14	June 15	June 16
4. Khulna	June 15	June 23	June 25	June 29
5. Sylhet	June 24	July 02	July 04	July 06
Bumper Round, Dhaka	July 03	July 11	July 13	July 16

The Daily Star - RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 2 Ends June 05, 2010

Tick (✓) the correct answers

1. How many times did Holland make it to the final of the World Cup? 3 4 2

2. Who scored the first goal of the 2006 World Cup in Germany? Wanchope Lahm Frings

3. Who is the youngest player to have scored in the World Cup? Pele Owen Milla

4. Which player scored most goals in a World Cup match? Eusebio Salenko Batistuta

5. Who is this player?  Baggio Maldini Rossi

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, 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. Chittagong readers can also drop entries at 67 Jamal Khan Road, Chittagong Bureau Office. You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 2".

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