



PHOTO: AFP

Paraguay striker Roque Santa Cruz (R) glides past Greece midfielder Sokratis Papadopoulos (C) during their international friendly in Winterthur on Wednesday.

## Maicon shows Real interest

INTERNET

Internazionale defender Maicon has ruled out joining Manchester City after declaring his intention to move to Real Madrid.

The 28-year-old full-back is keen to follow former Inter coach Jose Mourinho to Spain despite interest in the £20million-rated Brazilian from the big-spending Premier League club.

Mourinho has been confirmed as the new coach of Madrid this week after leaving Inter following their Champions League final success over Bayern Munich.

Maicon is rumoured to be one of the players on his summer wish-list and the Brazil international has now admitted that a move to Madrid would be an appealing prospect.

"What I want is to play for Madrid and it would be an honour for me to be there because I have said it would be a great opportunity in my career," he told AS.

"With Manchester City I have nothing, I can assure that. I will make it very clear to prevent misunderstandings: I want to play for Madrid, I do not want to go to Manchester City."

"Moreover, I repeat that I have nothing with the English club."

## Villa ready for any role

INTERNET

Selfless David Villa is prepared to play second fiddle up front if it means a place in Spain's starting XI.

And he might have to make way for his compatriot if manager Vicente Del Bosque opts for just one up front.

"If I play alone up front, then I tend to play central," said Villa. "But if there is another striker, I don't mind shifting to one wing."

Barcelona's latest multi-million pound signing might get his chance to impress out wide when Spain play South Korea in a friendly on Friday, while Cesc Fabregas, who has been recuperating from a broken leg, may also feature.

## Dunga slates Valcke

AP, Johannesburg

Brazil coach Dunga has defended his players after their complaints about the World Cup ball were criticised by FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke.

Valcke hinted the Brazilians are using the ball as an excuse, saying they "are afraid that they will not make it and it will be due to the ball."

Dunga says Valcke "would have a different opinion" if he ever played with the ball. The Brazilian coach said he would like to see Valcke come to Brazil's practice to "see if he can control it."

Dunga also said Thursday that it's not only the Brazilians who are complaining about the ball.

## La Albirroja stroll

AFP, Paris



Paraguay continued their World Cup preparations with a 2-0 friendly win over fellow qualifiers Greece, the 2004 European champions, in the Swiss town of Winterthur on Wednesday.

Enrique Vera scored the opener after eight minutes and in-form Lucas Barrios added a second goal on 25 minutes to cheer the South Americans, coached by Gerardo Martino.

Paraguay begin their World Cup campaign against Italy in Cape Town on June 14 and will also face New Zealand and Slovakia in Group F. Greece were drawn alongside Nigeria, South Korea and two-time champions Argentina in Group B.

Barrios shone in the German Bundesliga this season with Borussia Dortmund and was drafted into the Paraguay squad to cover for the absence of fellow striker Salvador Cabanas, who will miss the tournament after being shot

in the head last year in a bar in Mexico.

Barrios was born in Argentina but obtained his Paraguayan nationality through his mother and he has scored in his last three outings in the national colours.

Paraguay gave Brazil a run for their money for top spot in the South American qualifying programme and will hope to reach the second phase in South Africa, despite facing the toughest imaginable start against the Italians.

Paraguay have shown mixed warm-up form, as they saw off North Korea as well as Greece but drew with Ivory Coast and lost 2-1 to the Republic of Ireland.

Otto Rehhagel, meanwhile, has work to do as he tries to conjure more surprises after his stellar achievement of leading the Greeks to the European crown six years ago.

Central American qualifiers Honduras, who face Spain, Switzerland and Chile in Group H, recorded a goalless draw with Azerbaijan in a friendly game in Austria on Wednesday.

## Cesar scare for Brazil

REUTERS, Harare

Brazil goalkeeper Julio Cesar was taken off injured in the first half of their comfortable 3-0 victory over Zimbabwe on Wednesday in a World Cup warm-up match.

He went off after 26 minutes pointing to his chest allowing Heurleho Gomes to make his fifth international appearance.

Julio Cesar had been called into action to deny a double chance for Zimbabwe captain and striker Benjamin Mwaruware and Ovidy Karuru. Soon after that he indicated his discomfort to the bench and asked to come off.

Brazil doctor Jose Luis Runco said the Inter Milan player, rated one of the world's top goalkeepers, had been taken off as a precaution after hurting his back but would have to be examined.

Goals from Michel Bastos, his first for Brazil, Robinho and Elano gave Brazil coach Dunga something to smile about during a match played in a festive atmosphere.

"In friendlies, the result is the least important," Elano told reporters. "The important thing today was that we played well and I think the fans were satisfied with the spectacle."

## Hammers' wish Grant-ed

AFP, London

West Ham have appointed Avram Grant as their new manager on a four-year contract, subject to a work permit, the Premier League club confirmed on Thursday.

The Hammers have been searching for a boss since Gianfranco Zola was sacked at the end of an unsuccessful season for the east London outfit.

The 55-year-old Israeli led Portsmouth to last month's FA Cup final before leaving Fratton Park two weeks ago and also coached Chelsea into the 2008 Champions League final.

"I'm proud and honoured to be the manager of West Ham. It's an exciting challenge and I'm ready to do my best," Grant told the club's official website, www.whufc.com.

West Ham narrowly avoided the drop last season as they finished fourth from bottom of the Premier League.

## James set to start

AFP, London

David James looks set to be England's goalkeeper for the start of the World Cup after he was assigned the number one shirt for the tournament in South Africa.

England coach Fabio Capello has refused to name his preferred goalkeeper ahead of the finals and has given playing time to James, Robert Green and Joe Hart during the team's World Cup warm-up matches.

Portsmouth keeper James, who made his first start in 13 months in Sunday's 2-1 win over Japan in Graz, looks to have got the nod if the shirt numbers are an indication of Capello's thinking.

## Arsenal reject Cesc bid

Football

THE GUARDIAN

Arsenal have rejected a formal bid from Barcelona for Cesc Fabregas and told the Catalan club that they will not enter into negotiation for the midfielder. A strongly worded statement released by the club amounted to a warning to back off. "We have no intention of selling our captain," it said. Barcelona were tonight considering their next move and a follow-up offer, despite Arsenal insisting both publicly and privately that they do not intend to sell. The Guardian understands their opening bid to have been fractionally short of £40m (£33m), rather than the £35m fee that was widely reported.

Barcelona officials have twice made contact with the Arsenal's chief executive, Ivan Gazidis. On each occasion, they were told that Arsenal did not want to sell the first time politely, the second rather more firmly. Barcelona then sought to move things along with a formal bid, which was faxed to the Emirates late on Tuesday night. But Arsenal today insisted that they had immediately and unequivocally rejected the offer.

"We had made [a number of] approaches to Arsenal but yesterday, 1 June, the date of the official opening of the transfer window, a formal, written, concrete offer was made, which was sent very late [last night]," Barcelona's director general, Joan Oliver said this morning. "We have opened a formal process of negotiation with them."

Arsenal, though, remain determined not to discuss a sale and refuse to open a process of

negotiations with Barcelona. A statement on the club's website confirmed that emissaries from Barcelona had spoken to Arsenal and that they had received a bid for an undisclosed fee, but reaffirmed their intention to hold on to Fabregas.

"Yesterday evening we received an offer from Barcelona for Cesc and in response we immediately and resolutely told them once again that we have no intention of selling our captain," the statement said.

"Arsenal captain Cesc Fabregas is under contract with the club until the summer of 2015. He is a highly valued member of the team and part of our future plans. We have followed recent speculation linking Cesc with a move away from the club but as there has never been any official approach for him, only two informal exchanges, in which we made it abundantly clear that we have no interest in transferring Cesc, we have [previously] refrained from publicly passing comment.

"To be clear, we will not make any kind of counterproposal or enter into any discussion. Barcelona have publicly stated that they will respect our position and we expect that they will keep their word."

Barcelona, who previously believed that they had a strong hand in potential negotiations following Fabregas's visit to London to tell Arsene Wenger of his intention to leave the Emirates, anticipated their bid being rejected. They have, though, been surprised by the steadfastness of Arsenal's position. Last week, Fabregas said Wenger had told him that he would resolve the issue. "He told me to concentrate on my football, he told me to concentrate on the World Cup," the midfielder said. "He told me to leave it in his hands he will deal with whatever happens in my future."

## Capello signs new deal

Football

AFP, London

Fabio Capello has ended speculation over his future as England coach by signing an amended contract which will keep him in the job until after Euro 2012.

Capello had been linked with Inter Milan after the Serie A club hinted they would be keen on hiring him following Jose Mourinho's move to Real Madrid.

The Italian was believed to be unsettled by the recent resignation of English Football Association chairman Lord Triesman.

But, on the day he flew out to South Africa with his England squad, Capello agreed to sign

a new contract which will see him through until the end of the European Championships in Poland and Ukraine.

Crucially, a clause allowing both he and the FA to review his position and potentially end his employment after the World Cup has been removed from the contract.

Triesman and Capello were reported to have shaken hands on an agreement to remove that break clause in Capello's five million pounds-a-year contract and the former AC Milan coach was keen to ensure that was still the case despite his boss's abrupt exit.

The FA confirmed the agreement on Wednesday ahead of England's flight to Johannesburg, from where they will travel to their World Cup base, the Royal Bafokeng Sports Campus in Rustenburg.

## L'pool part with Rafa

AFP, Liverpool



Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez has left Anfield by mutual consent, the Premier League club confirmed on Thursday.

The 50-year-old's position had been in doubt since it emerged on Wednesday that talks over his future with Reds chairman Martin Broughton and managing director Christian Purslow had broken down.

His departure had looked inevitable after reports emerged that he had fallen out with the Anfield hierarchy over the lack of funds available to him to rebuild a squad which finished seventh in the Premier League last season and failed to get past the group stage of the

Champions League.

"It is very sad for me to announce that I will no longer be manager of Liverpool FC. I would like to thank all of the staff and players for their efforts," he told the club's website.

"I'll always keep in my heart the good times I've had here, the strong and loyal support of the fans in the tough times and the love from Liverpool.

"I have no words to thank you enough for all these years and I am very proud to say that I was your manager.

"Thank you so much once more and always remember: You'll never walk alone."

Club Ambassador Kenny Dalglish, a former Liverpool player and manager, will assist Broughton in the search for a successor to Benitez.



PHOTO: AFP

THE LUCKY CHARM: Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa, shakes hands with midfielder Itumelen Khune (R) as the Father of the Nation meets the South African football team to wish them luck ahead of the World Cup at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg yesterday.

## Hooligan list handed

AFP, Buenos Aires



The Argentine government said on Wednesday it has handed its list of 800 football hooligans ahead of the World Cup finals.

"We have no interest in seeing these people travel to the finals," cabinet head Anibal Fernandez told Argentine television, amid reports that some 30 known troublemakers, dubbed 'barrabravas', had travelled to South Africa along with the team last Saturday.

Coach Diego Maradona said at a news conference on Tuesday in Pretoria that he was not aware of any 'barrabravas' having travelled to South Africa on the plane carrying the team.

Argentine media reports had earlier suggested some fans with links to violence had been given financial aid via official channels to help them make the long journey from South Africa.

Ole sports daily reported a 235-strong group of hooligans was on its way to Pretoria.

Argentine domestic football has a history of violence with 241 football-related deaths officially registered since 1924, according to the non-governmental organisation Salvemos al Fútbol (Let's Save Football).

Maradona's men will face South Korea, Greece and Nigeria in the tournament's group phase, which begins on June 11.

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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 Toshin 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)

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

- How many times did Holland make it to the final of the World Cup? 3  4  2
- Who scored the first goal of the 2006 World Cup in Germany? Wanchope  Lahm  Frings
- Who is the youngest player to have scored in the World Cup? Pele  Owen  Milla
- Which player scored most goals in a World Cup match? Eusebio  Salenko  Batistuta
- 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".

