

PREVIEW

D-day arrives for hosts

AFP, Johannesburg

D-day has arrived for World Cup hosts South Africa, who hope months of intense preparation can be translated into victory over Mexico on Friday in the opening 2010 World Cup match.

Training camps in Brazil, Germany and South Africa under Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira have reaped reward as the serial losers of last year have gone 12 matches unbeaten.

We are ready, says the 67-year-old of a team built around Everton midfielder Steven Pienaar and contain-

ing more local-based footballers than originally expected with unfit West Ham striker Benni McCarthy

THE KNOWLEDGE

Eight of the last 11 opening matches at World Cups have produced one goal or less.

No host nation has ever lost their opening match at the World Cup or failed to make it past the opening round.

among the casualties.

Mexico look stronger and are more experienced than Bafana Bafana (The Boys) with a potentially potent cocktail of youth and experi-

ence captained by occasional Barcelona first-team utility player Rafael Marquez.

It adds up to an intriguing opening match at the first World Cup in Africa with international political icon Nelson Mandela expected to be among a sell-out 90,000 crowd at Soccer City stadium in Soweto.

Parreira, a World Cup-winning coach with Brazil 16 years ago, needs to get a monkey off his back by winning a match at the tournament with a country other than his own.

He took Middle East nations Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia to the tournament between 1982 and 1998 without man-

aging to celebrate even one victory.

No host nation has failed to reach the second round since the World Cup began 80 years ago and three points for Bafana would set them up for a top-two finish and a place among the 16 survivors.

After being told for eight months by South Africans to make them proud, Parreira believes he can deliver a second-round place although other group rivals France and Uruguay are also ranked among the leading 20 nations.

"I believe if you want to qualify for the second round you have to do something special and for us that would mean in the technical and skills aspects of the game," says Parreira.

"We cannot beat France, Mexico or Uruguay in a physical struggle. My boys have to play well against them with the ball on the ground. This is our big strength. That is what I want the South African team to believe in."

Bafana demonstrated in a draw with Bulgaria last month they can retain the ball while a victory over Colombia suggested the stars can handle the pressure of playing before a huge crowd.

Mandela, headache-inducing plastic vuvuzela trumpets that opponents detest, and a knowledge within the team that an often divided sporting nation has united behind Bafana may inspire Aaron Mokoena and his team to success.

Mexico had an impressive build-up to the tournament that culminated in a 2-1



South Africa midfielder Steven Pienaar (L) takes part in a ball-controlling drill during training in Johannesburg on Wednesday. The hosts take on Mexico in the opening match of the World Cup today.

Peri-peri to injury

INTERNET

No such thing as a free lunch? In South Africa there is -- if you are Mexican and your team loses against the World Cup host nation on Friday. South African chicken chain Nando's is offering the holders of a Mexican passport a free flame-grilled quarter chicken and chips on Saturday as a consolation prize if South Africa emerge victorious from the opening game of the World Cup. And if you don't have a passport, Nando's says in a quarter-page advertisement in the country's Business Day daily: "We are sure someone can arrange one for you -- a dig at the high level of identity theft in South Africa."

'SA needed World Cup'

AFP, Johannesburg

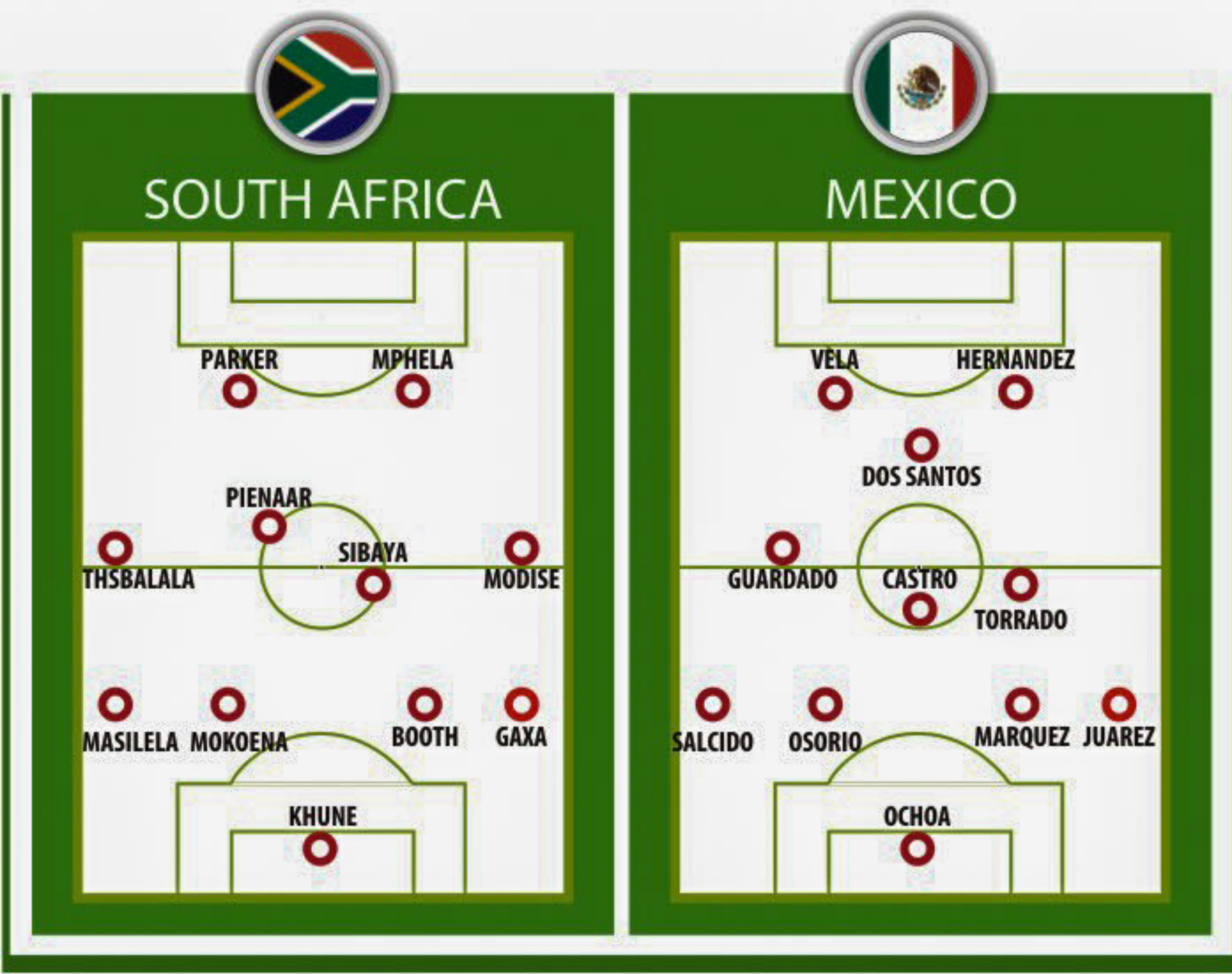
South Africa president Jacob Zuma said Wednesday that his country "needed the World Cup", which gets underway on Friday, adding "it was a vote of confidence from the international community".

Zuma was speaking at the opening ceremony of the 60th Congress of FIFA, world football's governing body.

"There are some moments which define the history of a country. Tonight we are on the verge of living one of these moments when the 2010 World Cup gets underway," said Zuma.

"What an honour, what a privilege for our democracy of 16 years."

Zuma concluded his address by reading a message of goodwill from former president Nelson Mandela, whom he described as "our icon who continues to inspire us with his love of humanity and of his country and its people."



Frei suffers ankle injury

AFP, Geneva

Switzerland skipper Alex Frei suffered a right ankle injury on Wednesday which left coach Ottmar Hitzfeld praying that the problem would not be World Cup-ending ligament damage.

"I hope the ligaments are not damaged, that there is no fracture," Hitzfeld told Swiss news agency ATS.

"I believe Alex will be on the flight with us tonight for South Africa even if it's a bad injury. I leave in the belief that he will take part in the World Cup."

"He perhaps will not be ready for the first match but I will be able to call upon him after that."

Frei suffered the injury when he tried to tackle teammate Steve Von Bergen in a training session. He remained on the ground for around five minutes before being taken to hospital.

Frei has endured a nightmare recent period with injuries having broken his arm in a Swiss league game in February, only returning for the Swiss Cup final on May 9.

He is not Hitzfeld's only injury concern ahead of Switzerland's opening World Cup match against European champions Spain in Durban on Wednesday.

Valon Behrami, who was injured playing against Italy, took part in training, but he was unable to run.

Refs' English course!

TELEGRAPH



The Brazilian match officials who will take charge of England's World Cup opener against the United States say they have taken a crash course in English so they can punish players who may verbally abuse them.

Referee Carlos Simon and his two assistants, Altemir Hausmann and Roberto Braatz, have learned 20 swear words ahead of Saturday's match between the two English-speaking nations at the Royal Bafokeng Stadium in Rustenburg, but FIFA insist it is not something they have had any role to play in.

A FIFA spokeswoman said Thursday morning: "No such list has been distributed to the referees."

Assistant referee Hausmann told Brazilian broadcaster Globo Sport: "We have to learn what kind of words the players say. All players swear and we know we will hear a few."

Braatz revealed English was the only language the referees were studying.

"We can't do this in 11 different languages but at least we have to know the swear words in English."

Wayne Rooney has already been warned about his lan-

guage after South African referee Jeff Seligilwe claimed the striker insulted him during England's final warm-up match against the Platinum Stars on Monday.

Rooney was shown a yellow

WC's most isolated fans!

AFP, Sydney

Die-hard Australian football fans will tune into the World Cup from one of the harshest locations on the planet -- the icy wastes of Antarctica.

About a dozen supporters, some in Socceros shirts, will gather at remote and wind-swept Casey Station to hear Internet-streamed radio commentary over the common room's speakers when the event starts on Friday.

The fans, mainly maintenance crew who keep the station running over the harsh Antarctic winter, are about 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) from the nearest humans, at other science bases.

They qualify as among the World Cup's most isolated followers, along with Aborigines who will watch by cable TV from Australia's Kakadu National Park, setting for the famous Crocodile Dundee film.

card for his dissent and after the match Seligilwe warned he could face a harsher sanction for a similar outburst during the finals.

Former referee Pierluigi Collina, who officiated the 2002 World Cup final, does not believe that learning swear words will be a priority for referees at the finals.

"I think I can speak because I have a wide enough experience in big tournaments like the World Cup, Euros and in club competition like Champions League -- No referee is interested in knowing these things," he said.

"When we speak about preparation, for referees preparation doesn't mean to know words in other languages."

"It's very important to speak, because you can clarify things and have a better relation on the pitch, but I'm not interested in knowing swearing words in other languages."

Collina believes clarifying the interpretation of rules before the tournament is a far more important subject.

The 50-year-old Italian highlighted the need for referees to clamp down on reckless tackling.

"We need to protect players, we need to protect integrity and the safety and also the health of the player."

"We cannot have the player injured because of a reckless tackle made by an opponent."

Zangalewa's new lease of life

AFP, Yaounde

The Cameroonian band Zangalewa has gained a new lease of life after years in obscurity now that one of its old hits has inspired "Waka Waka", the official song of the World Cup, performed by Shakira.

"The reprise of our song 'Zangalewa' by Shakira has enabled us to come out of the solitude of retirement," said group leader Jean Paul Ze Bella. "It has enabled us to get together again and to get down to work."

"I was in my plantation at the village when I got a telephone call to tell me the news. I couldn't get over it! Thanks to Shakira," Ze Bella enthused in both a warm and proud tribute to the Colombian star.

At the beginning of May, the world football governing body FIFA announced jointly with Sony records that it had chosen "Waka Waka (This Time For Africa)" as official song of the World Cup, co-produced and sung by the Shakira, accompanied by the South African pop group Freshlyground.

Party mood robbed

REUTERS, Johannesburg

South Africans danced and blew horns for their beloved national team on Wednesday but a robbery by gunmen at a media hotel dampened the World Cup party mood.

Tens of thousands of fans sang and shook their stuff in the streets of Johannesburg for a parade by the local "Bafana Bafana" (The Boys) team who are helping unite a nation still suffering divisions 16 years after the end of apartheid.

In scenic Cape Town, fans brought out their "vuvuzela" trumpets -- fast becoming the unofficial symbol of South Africa 2010 -- for a massive show of support at midday.

"This can be our 12th man," South Africa coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said of the horns. His side face Mexico on Friday in the first game of Africa's first World Cup.

Robbers soured the atmosphere, though, and sent a reminder of local crime levels rivalling anywhere outside a war-zone with a pre-dawn raid on journalists from Portugal and Spain.



PHOTO: AFP

Thousands of South Africans take to the streets of Sandton in Johannesburg on Wednesday to show their support for South Africa's football team who parade in an open bus.

The Daily Star
RANGS TOSHIBA
World cup QUIZ 2010
fresh life with HYBRID PLASMA
TOSHIBA REFRIGERATOR
...THIS CAN BE YOURS

ROUND 3, DRAW IN RAJSHAHI ON JUNE 16

PRIZES UP FOR GRABS (ROUNDS 1-5)		PRIZES FOR BUMPER ROUND			
Prize	Item	Winner	Prize	Item	Winner
1st	One 8 CFT 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
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 3 Ends June 14, 2010

Tick (✓) the correct answers

1. Who is the captain of France in this year's World Cup? Henry Evra Gallas

2. Pele scored his first World Cup goal against Wales Sweden Italy

3. How many World Cup matches did Gary Lineker play? 18 15 12

4. Which stadium will host this year's World Cup final? Ellis Park Soccer City Mandela Bay

5. Who is this player?  Lucio Marquez Branco

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.
Rajshahi readers can also drop entries at Rangs Toshiba Showroom, Alo Patti More, Rajshahi.
You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 3".

