

PREVIEW

Mystery men in Brazil's way

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Dunga's Brazil have often looked at a loss when trying to break down packed defences and facing the mystery men from North Korea in their opening Group G game at Ellis Park on Tuesday could be their worst nightmare.

THE KNOWLEDGE

The Brazilians have kept seven clean sheets in their last 11 World Cup games.

Brazil have never been defeated at a World Cup finals by a side outside Europe or South America.

Brazil were held 0-0 at home by Bolivia, Colombia and Venezuela in the World Cup qualifiers, each time struggling against ultra-defensive teams, and are set to face more of the same against North Korea, the lowest ranked of the 32 finalists.

Few teams can have prepared so long for a game as the side from the hermit

state, who have spent more than four months together in a training marathon which has taken them to Sri Lanka, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Mexico and Venezuela.

The latter included a bizarre friendly with the Venezuelans which lasted only 80 minutes after kicking off two hours late, the Koreans saying it was too hot at the original start time.

Their luggage was mislaid so they had to borrow Venezuela's all-white second strip.

With all but three of their players based at home, Korean coach Kim Jong-Hun has been free to organise his team's preparations without the hindrance of club commitments.

The North Koreans, playing their first World Cup match since losing 5-3 to Portugal in the 1966 quarterfinal, are tenacious, fit and defensive-oriented, say coaches who have studied them.

"They defend very well, create a lot of complications



PHOTO: AFP

MASTER TACTICIAN WITH HIS MASTER DRIBBLER: Key playmaker Kaka (R) will be in thick of coach Dunga's things when Brazil open their World Cup campaign against North Korea at Ellis Park in Johannesburg tonight.

Big boots to fill

AFP, Johannesburg

He has something to live up, replacing Ronaldo, the "Phenomenon" who fired Brazil to glory in 2002 and broke Gerd Mueller's all-time World Cup scoring haul of 14 goals in Germany last time out.

But Luis Fabiano isn't letting the burden of shooting the Selecao to their sixth title weigh too heavily on his shoulders as he seeks his own place in the pantheon of all-time greats to have worn the canary yellow shirt.

Five-times world champions Brazil have enjoyed some stunning results under coach Dunga, including three wins over Argentina and a 4-0 demolition of Uruguay in Montevideo, but have always looked more comfortable playing on the counter-attack.

"We expect to play against defensive opponents, which always causes difficulty, and because it's the first game, the anxiety is very great," said midfielder Gilberto Silva.

Anxious to atone for their

poor showing four years ago when they lost 1-0 to France in the quarterfinals, Brazil will depend heavily on the form of Kaka, who had a chequered first season with Real Madrid.

There has been some criticism of their warm-up programme which took them to Zimbabwe and Tanzania where conditions were very different to the cool and dry atmosphere of Johannesburg.

"We're preparing for the cold and played Tanzania in unbearable heat," complained fullback Dani Alves.



Japan ride on Honda



PHOTO: AFP

Japan striker Keisuke Honda (L) scores the all-important goal past Cameroon goalkeeper Souleymanou Hamidou (R) during their Group E first round match at the Free State Stadium in Bloemfontein yesterday.

SCORE BOARD	
JAPAN 1 - 0 CAMEROON	
HONDA 39	
Japan (4-5-1): Eiji Kawashima - Yuto Nagatomo, Yuji Nakazawa, Tullio Tanaka, Yuichi Komano - Yuki Abe - Daisuke Matsui (Shinji Okazaki 69), Keisuke Honda, Makoto Hasebe (cap) (Junichi Inamoto 88), Yasuhiro Endo - Yoshito Okubo (Kisho Yano 82)	
Cameroon (4-3-3): Hamidou Souleymanou - Stephane Mbia, Nicolas Nkoulou, Sebastien Bassong, Benoit Assou Ekoto - Joel Matip (Achille Emana 63), Jean Il Makoun (Geremi 75), Eyang Enoh - Samuel Eto'o (cap), Pierre Webo, Eric Choupo-Moting (Mohamadou Idrissou 75)	
Venue: Free State Stadium, Bloemfontein Attendance: 31,600	

KEY STATS	
Japan	Cameroon
Shots (on target)	
3(2)	9(2)
Corners	
0	3
Possession	
43%	57%
Yellow Cards	
1	1

AFP, Bloemfontein

Japan beat a lacklustre Cameroon 1-0 in Bloemfontein on Monday through a Keisuke Honda goal to notch their first ever World Cup victory on foreign soil.

It was also a belated birthday present for Honda, who had turned 24 on Sunday.

The Blue Samurai, struggling for goals in the run-up to the tournament, took the lead in the 39th minute and held on for the remainder of the match despite increasing pressure from the African side in the second half.

Cameroon hardly lived up to their nickname of 'The Indomitable Lions' and star striker Samuel Eto'o was virtually anonymous although they almost grabbed a draw when Stephane M'Bia hit the bar with a long range effort five minutes from time.

In front of banks of empty seats at the Free State stadium, the crowd whipped up a lively atmosphere but the players from both sides struggled for rhythm.

Neither side looked capable of breaking the deadlock in a scrappy first half in which clear chances were in short supply until Daisuke Matsui manoeuvred the ball onto his left foot and delivered an inswinging cross from the right.

The ball somehow eluded several Cameroon defenders and the unmarked Honda stabbed it past the despairing dive of Hamidou Souleymanou to give Japan the lead.

Four minutes after the re-start Cameroon went close to an equaliser when Eric Choupo Moting fired wide following good work on the right by Inter Milan star Samuel Eto'o.

It was the first significant contribution from three times African player of the year Eto'o, who struggled to make an impact on the game after being deployed in a deep-lying role.

Despite a more open game in the second half, the goalkeepers remained relatively untroubled in the early stages.

As Cameroon continued to press for an equaliser they threw on Achille Emana, Mohamadou Idrissou and veteran Geremi but could still not find a way past the dogged Japanese defence.

Japan came close to doubling their lead as time ran out, with substitute Shinji Okazaki, on for Matsui, hitting the post after a fierce shot by captain Makoto Hasebe was parried by Souleymanou.

With just five minutes remaining Stephane Mbia let fly with a thunderbolt from 25 yards that rattled the Japan crossbar but they could not find a way past Japan goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima.

Pierre Webo got his foot on a cross as the clocked ticked down but Kawashima made a fine scrambling save.

Earlier, in cool conditions at the high-altitude Free State stadium the crowd whipped up a lively atmosphere despite banks of empty white seats but neither side could settle into a rhythm.

Japan's goal came moments after Cameroon hit the first shot of the game on target, with Eyang Enoh hitting the ball straight at Kawashima.

Japan next face group favourites the Netherlands on Saturday after the Dutch earlier beat Denmark 2-0 in Johannesburg to take an early lead in Group E.

The Daily Star

RANGS TOSHIBA

World cup **QUIZ** 2010

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ROUND 4, DRAW IN KHULNA ON JUNE 29

PRIZES UP FOR GRABS (ROUNDS 1-5)

Prize	Item	Winner
1st	One 8 CFT Toshiba Refrigerator	YOU
2nd	One Toshin 24" LCD TV	YOU
3rd	One Toshiba 21" Colour TV	YOU
4th	One Toshin 21" Colour TV	YOU
5th	One Toshin Microwave Oven (23L)	and YOU

PRIZES FOR BUMPER ROUND

Prize	Item	Winner
1st	One Toshiba 32" LCD TV	YOU
2nd	One 15CFT Toshiba Refrigerator	YOU
3rd	One Toshin Heat & Cool AC (1Ton)	YOU
4th	One Toshin 24" LCD TV	YOU
5th	One 21" Toshin Colour TV	and YOU

**Prizes for the audience
(For First Five Rounds)**

1st. 20L Toshin Microwave Oven
2nd. 14" Toshin Colour TV
3rd. 3 Toshiba DVD Players

**Prizes for the audience
(For Bumper Round)**

1st. Toshiba Washing Machine
2nd. 21" Toshin Colour TV
3rd. 20L Toshin Microwave Woven
4th. Two Toshiba DVD Players

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

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Prizes for the audience (For First Five Rounds)

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Prizes for the audience (For Bumper Round)

1st. Toshiba Washing Machine
2nd. 21" Toshin Colour TV
3rd. 20L Toshin Microwave Oven
4th. Two Toshiba DVD Players

QUIZ SCHEDULE

Round & Draw	Starts	Ends	Answers must reach by 12pm	Lucky Draw for prizes
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 4 Ends June 23, 2010

Tick (✓) the correct answers

1. Who scored the first goal of World Cup 2010?	Marquez <input type="checkbox"/>	Tshabalala <input type="checkbox"/>	Mphela <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Which team recorded the first win in World Cup 2010?	South Africa <input type="checkbox"/>	South Korea <input type="checkbox"/>	Argentina <input type="checkbox"/>
3. What is the name of the World Cup 2010 mascot?	Jabulani <input type="checkbox"/>	Zakumi <input type="checkbox"/>	Zangalewa <input type="checkbox"/>
4. How many African teams have qualified for World Cup 2010?	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Who is this player?	Gerrard <input type="checkbox"/>	Cahill <input type="checkbox"/>	Kaka <input type="checkbox"/>

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.
Khulna readers can also drop entries at Khulna Press Club, Sadar Thana, Khulna.
You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 4".

READ The Daily Star TO CATCH THE WORLD CUP FEVER

Enjoy the World Cup fever!

Watch tonight's matches live on

8:00 pm	Ivory Coast	vs	Portugal
12:30 am	Brazil	vs	North Korea

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