

Messi stunner sinks Brazil

A BRILLIANT solo goal in injury time by Lionel Messi earned Argentina a 1-0 victory over AC Milan forward Ronaldinho was making his first Brazil appearance since April 2009 and although he illuminated the game with some classy touches, he could not

to usher the game towards an anti-climactic conclusion.

A pitch invader who completed a hasty circuit of the pitch raised the crowd from their slumber with 10

Messi's early touches had drawn roars of encouragement from the crowd, but the reigning World and European Footballer of the Year initially found his route to goal blocked by the

and 18-year-old Santos starlet Neymar quickly demonstrated their understanding and the early chances of note all fell to the five-time world champions. AFP



The team of Cambodian girls bound for Singapore pose at the Field of Light in Phnom Penh on Wednesday during a training session with ISF Country Manager Kate Griffin (left) and coach Sam Scingrubler (right). SRENG MENG SRUN

Women's team tour Singapore

H S Manjunath

IN a major fillip for women's football, local charity organisation Indochina Starfish Foundation and Battambang-based Sports and Leadership Training (SALT) Academy will send a select women's team on a week-long tour of Singapore starting this Sunday.

The excursion, supported by the Football Federation of Cambodia, has been designed to raise the profile of female participation and encourage young girls to get into the mainstream of football.

Two Singapore entities – UWCSEA East Campus and Barclays Capital – are providing

logistical support for the tour which involves a friendly against the Singapore national U16 girls team on Monday and several matches against international schools, including one against the hosts East Campus. As well as sightseeing sessions, the visitors will figure in a seven-a-side tournament on November 27.

ISF Country manager Kate Griffin said in a press release: "Until 2009, Cambodia never had a national women's team. The goal of this tour is to give women who enjoy the sport equal opportunity as men and also to bring down social barriers that tends to teach children that a woman has no place on the football field."

For many players on the tour, this will be their first opportunity to travel beyond Cambodian borders. No one will feel this more than baby of the party, 11-year-old Srey Mom, who lives on the fringe of city's Stung Meanchey rubbish dump. Srey Mom is part of ISF's education programme that gives street children the chance to obtain a formal education.

Over its years of operation, the ISF has sponsored as many as 2,500 disadvantaged or orphaned children to get football training twice a week from qualified coaches, besides helping them participate in regular ISF leagues held annually from October to April.

FIFA suspends two execs after its World Cup probe

FIFA yesterday suspended two members of its executive committee for one to three years, after its probe into alleged misdealings in the bidding for football's 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

Claudio Sulser, president of FIFA's ethics committee, said Nigeria's Amos Adamu was banned for three years and Oceanian football chief Reynald Temarii for one year.

Both men were fined and four other footballing officials were also sanctioned.

"For Reynald Temarii, FIFA vice president, he was prohibited from exercising any activity relative football for one year," and fined 5,000 Swiss francs, Sulser told journalists.

"Amos Adamu ... was prohibited from footballing activities for three years," he added.

FIFA has been trying to salvage the credibility of the selection process for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups after a controversial sting by undercover reporters for a British newspaper raised claims of vote-buying.

Adamou and Temarii had been suspended temporarily last month pending the full in-

vestigation by the ethics committee this week, which also covered allegations of collusion between bidders, notably Qatar and Spain-Portugal.

Yesterday, Sulser said there was no evidence to back allegations that Qatar and Spain-Portugal colluded.

England, Russia and joint bids by Spain-Portugal and Netherlands-Belgium are in the running to host the 2018 World Cup while Australia, the United States, Japan, Qatar and South Korea are bidding for 2022.

The events of the past month have revived uncomfortable memories of old influence-peddling scandals over the past decade and late 1990s that shook world football's decision-making body.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter has maintained a ballot by the remaining members of the executive committee, including some from bidding nations, to choose the hosts on December 2, after a high powered final pitch by the bidders in Zurich.

However, the normally 24 strong decision-making body is also due to meet today. AFP

Portugal inflict friendly misery on neighbours

PORTUGAL had a measure of revenge for their World Cup second round defeat by world champions Spain on Wednesday as the hosts ran out 4-0

hopes of the world's media when they ruled out a last minute addition to the lobbying team in the shape of Prince William's future wife, Kate Middleton. THE GUARDIAN

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS

- Finland 8 San Marino 0
- Croatia 3 Malta 0

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

- China 1 Latvia 0
- Hong Kong 0 Paraguay 7
- Oman 0 Belarus 4
- Portugal 4 Spain 0
- Argentina 1 Brazil 0
- South Africa 0 USA 1
- Egypt 3 Australia 0
- Israel 3 Iceland 2
- Northern Ireland 1 Morocco 1
- Rep. of Ireland 1 Norway 2
- Hungary 2 Lithuania 0
- England 1 France 2
- Slovenia 1 Georgia 2
- Austria 1 Greece 2
- Netherlands 1 Turkey 0
- Sweden 0 Germany 0
- Italy 1 Romania 1
- Switzerland 2 Ukraine 2
- Poland 3 Ivory Coast 1
- Denmark 0 Czech Republic 0
- Luxembourg 0 Algeria 0
- Albania 0 Macedonia 0
- Montenegro 2 Azerbaijan 0
- Russia 0 Belgium 2
- Slovakia 2 Bosnia-Herz 3
- Bulgaria 0 Serbia 1
- Estonia 1 Liechtenstein 1
- Chile 2 Uruguay 0
- Colombia 1 Peru 1
- Ecuador 4 Venezuela 1
- Jamaica 0 Costa Rica 0
- Panama 2 Honduras 0