

to beat their opponents on Sunday and in their subsequent matches.

He disclosed that the Essien Fan club of which he is the president, is poised to set high standards in Ghana, Africa and the world at large.

Mr Nyamekye, a successful businessman who deals in heavy duty trucks, was full of praise for Michael Essien for giving the club his blessing and baptizing it for a great take-off.

Speaking to *Graphic Sports* on phone from his base in Benin, the man whose dream is to organize big support for the Stars and other Africa teams that will play in the World Cup, said he had keenly observed that the power of football is able to bring happiness to all people and also give peace to any feuding faction, so every effort to support it is worth while.

He continued that since Ghana, and for that matter Black Stars were leading the continent in the up-coming World Cup to be staged in Africa, there was the need to support the players especially those whose presence sends shivers down the spine of opponents, players like Michael Essien.

He charged every Ghanaian and African to

Martial arts founder, chief donate to Al-Husna

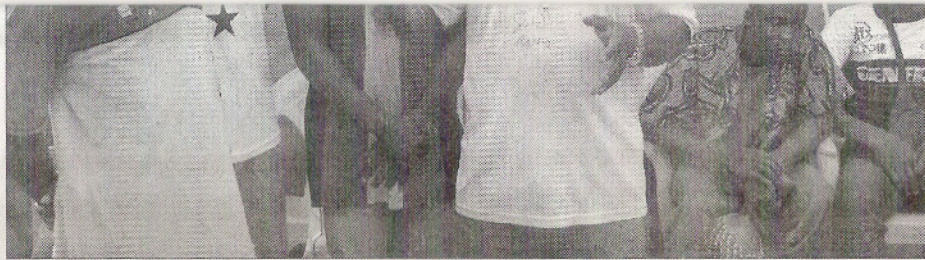
THE founder of Al-Husna Martial art, Mr Mohammed Mahadi, has presented equipment worth \$500 to the Al-Husna Club in Tema. The chief of Tema Nii Adjetej Kraku III, also donated two plots of land for the construction of the Al-husna centre.

The founder, who promised to donate \$3000 worth of equipment to all ten regions of Ghana to enhance the growth of the organisation, was on a familiarisation tour of the martial arts club.

The presentation also coincided with the launch of the 100-100 His Majesty Cup, a martial art event which is a novelty in the whole of Africa. The three-month period event is to enlighten the general public about the true history of blacks, Africans and the human race in general. It will be beamed on TV screens every week.

The event will have 10 representatives from each region of Ghana and will also create job opportunities for 2600 youth each year.

The Tema Chief thanked the president of Al-Husna and promised to support such a laudable venture.



• Mr Emmanuel Nyamekye (2nd right) and his group shortly before they left Cotonou

do their best to support the World Cup, saying all eyes will be on Africa to see if we can make it. "We are compelled, and humbled to be part of the success of Michael in all his endeavours. In fact, it is our hope to support him and his colleague Black Stars players to beat their opponents on Sunday and in all other games, it is our wish to showcase Michael to the world by this club that he blessed and endorsed when they Black Stars played Benin here."

As true son of Africa, he said, monies that go into the project come mainly from his own pocket and asked other corporate bodies to support it. "We are storming Ghana latest by

Friday to offer our unflinching support to our man Michael Essien as he launches his charity project, and the Black Stars to play above themselves.

"Football need to be supported because it heals the wounds of many and brings happiness, peace and love to feuding parties. By the word of God, we should live in happiness and in peace, so if there is a game that can bring the people together, then it needs to be given the massive support that it deserves. Besides, Ghana, and for that matter Africa needs our support for the world cup in south Africa," he said.

Ghana hockey strikes deal with Holland

Story: Daniel Kenu

THE Ghana Hockey Association (GHA) has struck an exchange programme deal with their Dutch counterparts to have a once-a-year friendly match in Holland and to get access to some used equipment from the Europeans to develop the game.

The deal was firming up two weeks ago when the Chairman of GHA, Oko Nikoi Dzani, in the company of Ghana's new ambassador to the Netherlands, Ms Aanaa Enin, had conclusive talks with the Dutch ambassador to Ghana for the programme to begin next year.

The Netherlands has played host to the Ghanaian national hockey teams ahead of two competitions — the Nations Cup in Kenya and Ghana — within the last four years, but the GHA wants to make it a permanent feature.

Mr Dzani said this at the official launch of the "Chairman's Challenge Hockey Cup" which begins tomorrow.

The programme expected to run till Christmas, will feature some of the country's best clubs from Accra and Kumasi, including Exchequers of the Bank of Ghana and NDK

Financiers.

With the exception of the CEPS male team, the tournament will be played without the security services who are engaged in various national security assignments.

According to the fixtures for Saturday, Multistix clash with NDK, Citizens versus Kumasi Seniors, Golden Sticks play CEPS, Team Youth lock horns with Real Ambassadors and Trustees meet Exchequers.



• The Chairman of GHA, Oko Nikoi Dzani (left) presenting one of the trophies to Mr Akrofi, a representative of the clubs at the launch last Wednesday. Looking on are Mr Frank Awuku, Chairman of the Greater Accra Hockey Association and other reps of clubs.

pressure

STRIKER Dominic Adiyiah admits there is pressure on him to replicate his goal scoring form for the Black Stars in Sunday's World Cup qualifier against Mali at the Baba Yara Stadium in Kumasi on Sunday and the friendly against Angola in Luanda next week.

Adiyiah is one of the five players who have been invited by Coach Rajejac for the two matches and is widely tipped to make his first appearance for the team in a competitive match.

It will be the 19-year-old's first game after a brilliant show at the FIFA Under-20 World Cup where he emerged top scorer and Most Valuable Player.

Coach Rajejac has openly declared his admiration for the AC Milan-bound player but is unsure if he will be handed a starting role.

"Because of what happened in Egypt, I think many people are going to expect much from me, but it depends on me. I need not rush, I have to remain calm," Adiyiah told the media.

"We have good players in the team now and we also need to pick something from them and assure ourselves in the team, he added.

"As I always say I need to respect the coach's decision because he knows what he's going to do and I must also show what I can do," Adiyiah stated.