Brazil's warm-up schedule



AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil will play seven friendly matches in their build-up to the 2002 World Cup finals in Korea and Japan later this year, coach Luis Felipe

Scolari said in a press conference at the Brazilian football confederation (CBF) headquarters on Thursday that their first game would be at home to Bolivia on Jan 31 in the Serra Douranda stadium in Goias,

The second friendly would be against Saudi Arabia in Riyadh on a date yet to be fixed between Februarv 6 and 21.

On March 7, Brazil will host Colombia in the Mato Grosso stadium in the city of Cuiaba and then they meet a European side yet to be named on March 27 and Portugal in Lisbon on April 17.

The final two matches are against a Catalonia team on May 18 in Spain and a run-out against an Asian side on May 25, less than a week before the World Cup finals start.

Scolari added an initial squad for

Football

This week the spotlight in Spain has

been Patrick Viera's possible trans-

fer from English Premiership side

Arsenal to Real Madrid but on Satur-

day the attention will switch to

Madrid's players from the past rather

than those who might arrive in the

Real Madrid go to Costa Del Sol

club Malaga looking to preserve

their four point lead at the top of the

Spanish First Division but knowing

that plenty of their opponents have

special reasons for wanting to defeat

Eight of the Malaga squad were at

one time on the books of Real

Madrid only to be discarded, often in

controversial circumstances, when

they were deemed surplus to

Spanish under-18 international

defender Fernando Sanz, the son of

the former president Lorenzo Sanz.

rowly 18 months ago, after a bitterly-

fought election, by Real Madrid's

current incumbent Florentino Perez.

announced that he was instigating

an investigation into missing mon-

ies, which he alleges disappeared

from the club coffers during Sanz's

210 million euros in debt when Perez

took over from Sanz but the con-

struction magnate is credited with

lifting them back from the brink of

bankruptcy after restructuring the

club's finances and selling their

"I spent 16 years of my life with

Earlier this week Perez

None more so than the former

Sanz senior was defeated nar-

requirements

presidency.

Real Madrid

training ground.

the 28-times Spanish champions.

Primera Liga preview

on January 23, but only for players at



LUIS FELIPE SCOLARI

BRAZIL'S SEVEN WARM-

Jan 31: Brazil v Bolivia Between Feb 6 and 21: S a u d i

March 7: Brazil v Colombia March 27: European side yet to

April 17: Portugal v Brazil May 18: Catalonia v Brazil May 25: Asian side yet to be

Malaga have an agenda

Real Madrid and have many memo-

ries of my time there, it's always

strange playing against former

colleagues. However, I'm not going

to forget some of the injustices that

have happened. Some of the treat-

ment of me and my family has been

very unfair," commented Fernando

Sanz showed that he is especially

FIXTURES

(kick offs 1600 GMT, unless

Saturday: Real Sociedad v

Alaves, Malaga v Real Madrid

Sunday: Espanyol v Real Betis,

Osasuna v Villarreal, Real Mallorca

v Athletic Bilbao, Rayo Vallecano v

Barcelona, Sevilla v Real

Zaragoza, Valencia v Valladolid.

Tenerife v Celta Vigo (1700),

Deportivo La Coruna v Las Palmas

Real by scoring his first league goal

in seven years of playing First Divi-

sion football when Malaga visited

Madrid in September and got a 1-1

20 games and Malaga are 12th with

25 points, but the hosts are fully

capable of ending Madrid's seven

game unbeaten streak thanks to

accomplished strikers Dario Silva

Malaga coach Joaquin Peiro is

expected to name the same side that

got a 1-1 draw at Real Betis last

Sunday, except for his banned

Uruguayan defender Clever

Vicente Del Bosque, Piero's

opposite number at the defending

champions, should name the same

ten starting outfield players for the

Real Madrid have 38 points from

motivated to raise his game against

Four-times world champions Brazil meet China, Costa Rica and Turkey in group C at the May 31 to June 30 football showcase event. Their first match is against Turkey on June 3 in Ulsan, South Korea.

Spanish giants Barcelona will host Brazil for their match against the Catalan regional selection.

The match will take place at the Nou Camp on May 18, a week after the end of the Spanish football season and three days after the Champions League final.

Through extensive negotiations. and thanks to the efforts of everyone involved, we are able to confirm the Barcelona," Catalan Football Federation chief Jaume Roura was quoted

Roura said the agreement would be signed in the next few days.

The game had originally been

scheduled for March 27 but Spain's Football Federation (RFEF) ruled it could not take place as the date had been set aside for a full international between the Netherlands and

The Catalan selection heat Chile's national team 1-0 in their last match on December 28.

long as defender Michel Salgado

Wednesday's 1-0 defeat in the

Spanish Cup quarterfinal at Rayo

Vallecano, although Real went

through to the semis 4-1 on aggre-

have just 14 points and lie in last

position five points adrift of penulti-

mate-placed Real Sociedad, opti-

mism that they can end a seven

game run without a league win,

although their last three games have

because on Sunday we receive

Barcelona and now the players have

the self-belief that they can win,"

said Rayo coach Gregorio

any points after climbing to fourth

place after two consecutive victo-

ries, including last Sunday's impres-

on Wednesday that their influential

Spanish international midfielder Luis

Enrique will be out of action for at

least another two weeks because

his of torn right hamstring, suffered

in November's Champions League

Second-placed Athletic Bilbao,

The Jupp Heynckes-coached

who have 34 points ahead of a pack

of five clubs on 33 points, visit strug-

Basques have the best away record

in the top flight, having only lost one

match on the road this season, while

the relegation-threatened Balearic

islanders have only won three

gling Real Mallorca on Sunday.

However, Barcelona announced

sive 3-1 win over Sevilla.

match against Liverpool.

games at home.

The Catalans will not want to drop

Manzano.

"This victory was important

The win has given Rayo, who

Salgado injured his right ankle in

passes a fitness test.

SPÖRT

Co-hosts go for glamour



2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

Japan and South Korea have picked glamorous film actresses as goodwill ambassadors to celebrate their co-hosting of the football World Cup finals in June.

South Korea is represented by Kim Yun-Jin, 28, who portrayed a shapely North Korean agent in the 1999 Hollywood-style espionage movie "Swiri (Shiri)," the Japanese Foreign Ministry said in a statement

Ironically, in the movie, which has drawn audiences of more than a million both in South Korea and Japan and wowed crowds elsewhere, she leads a rogue commando unit to blow up a stadium in Seoul, where the two Koreas are playing a friendly football game.

The fictional match is set under an agreement between Seoul and Pyongyang to form a unified team for the World Cup finals, an idea

which has proven hard to be realised in real life.

Her Japanese counterpart is Norika Fujiwara, 30, billed as Japan's sexiest actress, who gained an international following after starring in the 2000 US-Hong Kong movie "Lei ting zhan jing (China Strike Force).' In a 1996 deal brokered by the

world football body FIFA, the Asian neighbours agreed to jointly stage the 2002 World Cup finals despite their frosty relationship, which is a legacy of Japan's colonial rule of Korea from 1910 to 1945.

Kim and Fujiwara will serve as goodwill ambassadors for the whole of 2002 to help the two governments "promote the atmosphere of the Japan-Korea friendship in the new century" by seizing on the joint hosting of the premier football event, the statement said.

The two stars are due to appear in events, starting with ceremonies in Seoul next Monday and in Tokyo on January 28, to mark 2002 as a year of exchanges between the two peoples

Premiership preview

Serie A preview

Football

AC Milan and Lazio will this week-

end attempt to catch the train to the

Just over halfway through the

season the field appears to be down

to just four teams - reigning champi-

ons AS Roma, Inter Milan, perennial

challengers Juventus and Chievo.

the surprise packages from Verona

who have been travelling first class

all season despite their shoestring

A fat cats but if they fail to take

maximum points against Fiorentina

and Perugia respectively this week-

end they know that - to quote boxing

promoter Don King - that they will

have two chances of winning the

Italian First Division title - slim and

defending champions AS Roma

who have only lost once in 18

team that will for the first time be

under the charge of Ottavio Bianchi,

the man who led a Diego Maradona-

inspired Napoli to their first Scudetto

in 1986-7 and who is returning to

front-line coaching after a gap of

Milan are eight points adrift of

The Milanese visit a Fiorentina

AC Milan and Lazio may be Serie

Italian title before it's too late.

AFP, Milan

budget.

Onus on Leeds

Football

AFP, London

Third-placed Leeds United entertain title rivals Arsenal at Elland Road on Sunday looking to stay in contention for the Premiership after a tense and turbulent start to the new year.

said O'Leary. The referee was spot

for a few games, someone you would want playing in your team.'

To compound matters Lee Bowyer and Jonathan Woodgate face private legal action from a young Asian student after they were cleared of assaulting him in a crimi-

England international Woodgate, 21, was cleared of grievous bodily harm but convicted of affray and sentenced to 100 hours of commu-

But despite these difficulties, and a growing injury list which includes influential Australian wide man Harry Kewell, Leeds are only one point behind leaders Manchester

Now or never for big two

The addition of on-loan Inter

Milan striker Adriano seems to have

boosted Fiorentina, however, and

the Brazilian will be a thorn in the

side of Carlo Ancelotti's side who

can afford no further slip-ups if they

are to stay in contention for a 17th

worse. They are 14 points behind

their biggest foes Roma although

improved side of late and will not

make it easy at the Olympic Stadium

for Lazio whose coach Alberto

(1400 GMT unless stated)

they do have a game in hand.

But the plight of Lazio is far

Perugia have been a much-

FIXTURES

Saturday: Brescia v Torino

Sunday: Bologna v Chievo,

Inter Milan v Parma, Juventus v

Atalanta, Lazio v Perugia, Lecce v

Piacenza, Udinese v AS Roma,

Verona v Venezia, Fiorentina v AC

Zaccheroni has refused to write off

visited the team this week to give his

under-performing troops a pep talk

on how important this week's game

is - and that was before they were

Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti

Scudetto.

1930 GMT

Milan (1930 GMT)

his side's title prospects.

whose four-match ban means he will miss the visit of Arsenal, is calling on his team-mates to keep cool in the race for the Premiership

ready for the run-in," Mills said.

(all 1500GMT unless stated)

Leicester v Newcastle, Liverpool v Southampton, Manchester United v Blackburn, Middlesbrough v Bolton, Sunderland v Fulham, Tottenham v Everton

(1400GMT), Leeds v Arsenal (1600GMT)

Monday: Charlton v Aston Villa (2000GMT)

abouts when we come out of playing all the so-called top teams, it gives us a great chance to push on and take the title.

Leeds face a torrid time over the next few weeks. following the Arsenal match with a visit to League Cup semi-finalists Chelsea before hosting title contenders Liverpool.

Arsenal, a point behind Leeds in fourth place but with one game in hand, include France international

Patrick Vieira in their line-up. Once again this week Vieira was

linked with a move to eight-time European champions Real Madrid.

Up at the top Roma will be confident of continuing in winning vein against Udinese who have drifted towards the relegation zone since they sacked English coach Roy

eliminated from the Italian Cup this

Hodgson before Christmas. The club's majority shareholder Giampaolo Pozzo gave new coach Giampietro Ventura the vote of confidence this week - but he is not renowned for his patience and Roma coach Fabio Capello now has all of his strikers to choose from.

Inter Milan host Parma and will hope to profit from any Roma slip-up but the visitors have shown signs of recovery in recent weeks and Inter's only two defeats this season - by AC Milan and Chievo - have both been on home soil at the San Siro.

Juve are running into good form and a home match with Atalanta should be an opportunity to further state their case for what would be a 26th Scudetto for the Turin giants.

Chievo, who like Lazio have a game in hand, will be determined to remain in the vanguard when they host Bologna, another team that still has the slenderest of claims to the

Chievo's city rivals Verona host near neighbours Venezia while Brescia meet Torino and Piacenza visit Lecce in matches that only have a relegation interest.

Earlier this month, while leading the Premiership, David O'Leary's young guns crashed out of the FA Cup at the first hurdle to Second Division Cardiff and had petulant England striker Alan Smith sent off a sixth dismissal for a player aged

Last Saturday Smith's international colleague Danny Mills saw red for lashing out at Newcastle striker Craig Bellamy in Leeds' 3-1 Premiership defeat.

"I cannot condone what he did,"

"I am getting worried about the suspensions, and now we have got a right-back who is going to be out

O'Leary's side are to be fined 25,000 pounds (36,000 dollars) for their poor behaviour at St James's Park where six players received yellow cards.

nal trial last month.

Bowyer, 24, was cleared of both

Ironically, volatile defender Mills,

"We have got to hang in there and keep our heads above water

"It is a big month to six weeks for

us and if we are there or there

FIXTURES

Saturday: Derby v Ipswich,

chase us.' Sunday: Chelsea v West Ham

take revenge for their defeat at Southampton a week ago when they welcome the Saints to Anfield on Saturday.

Patrick Berger is gunning for revenge against a Southampton side looking to bounce back after their FA Cup third round exit at First Division Rotherham on Wednes-

"Southampton beat us 2-0 and they deserved to do it," said Berger. "But last Sunday's (1-1) draw at Arsenal was a great result for us

castle will look to maintain their title pursuit away to bottom club Leicester.

Cardiff City charged

and Dely Valdes



AFP, London

Cardiff City were charged by the Football Assocation of Wales (FAW) on Friday after an inquiry into major crowd problems at their FA Cup match against Leeds earlier this month.

After the final whistle of the January 6, third round encounter at Ninian Park, hundreds of Cardiff supporters invaded the pitch and there were worrying moments before police finally restored a semblance of order.

The Football Associations of England and Wales both launched investigations, with the FAW primarily in charge of events which took place in their country.

The FAW announced Cardiff had been charged with one count of alleged misconduct following a joint investigation by themselves and their English counterparts into events during and after the cup tie.

The statement added: "The FAW can also confirm that Sam Hammam, the chairman of Cardiff City, has been formally written to, addressing issues that have been raised in relation to his actions during games.

"These decisions are based on

the evidence, both written and video, that formed part of the inves-

"As per the rules of the FAW, Cardiff City have 10 days to formally reply to this charge. Following a reply, this association will proceed with appointing a commission to formally hear this matter."

Leeds, meanwhile, have not been charged by the Football Association in England, but the club have been warned as to the future

conduct of their supporters. During the game at Ninian Park, in which Second Division Cardiff triumphed 2-1 with a late winner, missiles were thrown by sections of the crowd at officials and players.

Juve squeeze

Italian Cup



AFP, Milan

Juventus were made to work hard as a depleted side clung on to their 5-4 aggregate qualification for the semi-finals of the Italian Cup against Atalanta on Thursday

Juventus had a 4-2 lead from the first leg but were without top performers Alessandro Del Piero. David Trezeguet and Pavel Nedved and goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon for the return.

Atalanta wasted an early chance to take the lead in Bergamo after Christiano Doni missed a penalty awarded when French international

Lilian Thuram's fouled Gianni

Uruguayan international Marcelo Zalayeta fired Juventus into a ninthminute lead, but Atalanta struck back in a second-half charge. Goals from 18-year-old Rolando

Bianchi in the 72nd minute and

Brazilian Inacio Pia three minutes later out Atalanta back in the tie. But the 2-1 defeat on the night was just enough for Juventus, who

face AC Milan in semi-final over two legs on January 23 and February 7. Milan lost 3-2 to Lazio on Wednesday but qualified 5-3 on

The other semi-final pitches Parma against Brescia after their

Rummenigge signals end of sky-high wages



Rummenigge, who is the vice-president of Bayern Munich, said the financial worries of Spanish and Italian clubs, because of astronomito the arrival of some "sanity" in the

As a result, the "mad salary" culture which has reigned in the game for the past decade, said Rummenigge, will soon be over. "The time for all these mad

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. "The Italians and Spanish, who have been the biggest players in this domain, now have major financial worries. In both countries a lot of the television rights contracts are coming to an end and, according to what I hear, they'll be renegotiated

"Let's hope it means there's some sanity coming back into the job, and that transfer fees are going

appeal Thursday against the fourmatch ban imposed on the England international after his sending off at Second Division Cardiff earlier this

for the sixth time in his short career in the 2-1 FA Cup third round defeat at Ninian Park after catching Cardiff's Andy Legg with a flailing arm, although the City player later exonerated the England striker.

Leeds chairman Peter Ridsdale said: "We had a very fair hearing but they (the Football Association video panel) have not changed their



AFP, Frankfurt

The end of sky-high footballer's wages is nigh and clubs should not be going public, according to former German international Karl-Heinz Rummenigge here Thursday.

cal wage bills and transfers, will lead

salaries in football is coming to an end," said Rummenigge in

at a much lower level.

Rummenigge, a former

Germany stiker, said he was also against clubs entering the stock

is not, after all, á club's objective. The aim is to achieve as much sporting success as possible. "Once you've gone public, you are condemned to be successful on

Smith loses

for each other. Paying out dividends

"I believe that the stock exchange and football are not good

ban appeal AFP, London

Leeds forward Alan Smith lost his

Smith was shown the red card

Santos Marquez, who was involved in Luis Figo's move to Real, dismissed talk that Vieira was in the Spanish capital on Monday to discuss a multi-million pound transfer to the Bernabeu. Table-toppers Manchester United can make it eight league

However, Vieira's representative

wins in a row with victory at home to Blackburn Rovers on Saturday. The reigning champions had to work hard for their last victory, a 3-1

triumph at improving Southampton the significance of which Welsh winger Ryan Giggs insisted should not be underestimated.

"When you consider they beat Liverpool at St Mary's in their previous game, it puts our result into context," he said.

"People were very quick to write us off a few weeks ago after we lost to West Ham at Old Trafford but we've got our necks in front and it is down to the other sides now to

Second-placed Liverpool can

and we must go on from that." Elsewhere second-placed New-