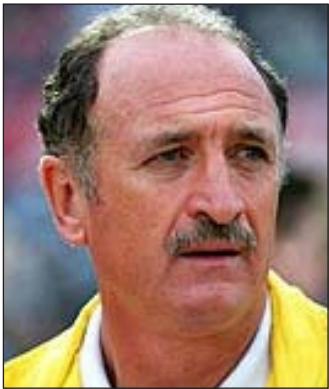




5 DAYS TO GO!



Luiz Felipe Scolari
(Brazil football coach)
"The first match against Turkey is the most crucial one and I am gearing up the team for that match."



Did U Know?

The sport of soccer is loved throughout the world, and the World Cup has developed into a huge global sports event to rival the Olympics. The last tournament, in France in 1998, was televised in 196 countries and was watched by a total audience of 33.4 billion people. And over 190 nations took part in the qualifying competition for the 2002 FIFA World Cup to be held in Korea and Japan.



ESPN
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 7:00 pm
West Indies vs India
First ODI
Live at 8:35 pm
STAR Sports
Gillette World Cup Soccer Preview
Repeat at 11:30 am
World Cup Soccer Mix
Repeat at 12:00 pm
Asia Sport Show
Int'l Sports News
Taped Version at 2:30 pm
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Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
June 7, 2002 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Serena Williams lifted the Rome Masters Series title defeating: Venus Hingis Henin
- What was the result of the World Cup warm-up match between England and South Korea: 1-0 2-1 1-1
- West Indies won the fifth and final Test against India by: 150 runs 155 runs 140 runs
- Name the Irish football captain who was sent home from the World Cup: Harte Jones Keane
- BKSP won the CityCell national youth cricket title

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)



Uruguay star Alvaro Recoba (R) tries to go round Hayuma Tanaka of J-League side Yokohama Marinos during a practice game at Susono in Japan yesterday. The match ended 1-1

Diego persona non grata!



AP, Yokohama

Diego Maradona likes Argentina's chance of winning its third World Cup. But he won't be in Japan to see the team play.

As they have before, Japanese authorities turned down his request for an entry visa, citing a history of drug use.

"It was useless," Maradona said, speaking on Chilean television. "We submitted all kind of papers but to no avail. They didn't pay any attention to me."

Regarded by many as the game's greatest player, the 40-year-old Argentine has been undergoing treatment for cocaine addiction in Cuba. He urged Argentina's gifted players to approach the matches in Japan in a "humble, realistic manner."

"It is hard to say the word, 'favorite,' because anything can happen in soccer," Maradona said. "But Argentina is very strong these days as it showed during the South American qualifying series."

"This is the right moment for Argentina. Most of our players are

at the right age and the coach we have is the coach Argentines wanted."

Argentina is widely seen as co-favorite alongside defending champion France, with Italy and Brazil just behind.

Maradona won't be the only missing Argentine.

Stung by Argentina's devastating economic crisis and currency devaluation, only about 30 reporters -- 400 made the '98 World Cup in France -- are expected to show up when Argentina opens play June 2 against Nigeria in Ibaraki, Japan.

England and Sweden are also in Group F, which is regarded widely as the most attractive -- and most difficult.

"It's beyond their (media's) control," said team spokesman Andres Ventura. "As much as they'd all like to send teams of reporters, the economy made the decision for them."

At a press conference at training camp in Naraha, Japan, coach Marcelo Bielsa had only 30 reporters to speak to -- mostly Japanese.

Argentina has its final warmup Tuesday against Japanese club opposition. Two of the other favorites readied themselves Saturday for weekend tuneups.



SHY OR ASHAMED? Roy Keane hides his face from inquisitive photographers as he steps out of his car in front of his house in Hale, Manchester yesterday.

Keane home



AFP, London

Disgraced Ireland captain Roy Keane arrived back in Britain Saturday to a media assault after being kicked out of the national squad for criticising their World Cup preparations.

The Manchester United midfielder touched down at London's Heathrow airport early Saturday while his national teammates won their final warm-up match before Saturday's opener against Cameroon in Niigata, Japan.

Wearing a white sports T-shirt, blue jeans and white trainers and clutching a black holdall, the 30-year-old Keane looked refreshed despite the long flight from the Far East.

He smiled at waiting camera crews and photographers but

stepped immediately into a waiting car to transfer him to a flight to Manchester.

Keane was later seen leaving his Cheshire house to walk his dog, but he refused to answer questions from journalists who were following his every move.

Ireland manager Mick McCarthy sent his captain home after the player launched an attack on the team's preparations for the tournament, which starts next week.

McCarthy claimed Keane's public criticisms of training facilities on the island of Saipan and other aspects of the trip had made him a disruptive influence in the squad.

The Republic squad travelled to Izumo in Japan on Friday while Keane travelled home alone.

Before boarding the flight to Tokyo, Keane appeared to be in upbeat mood.

"I feel great and have a clear conscience," said Keane.

"I am happy to be going home to

Div I cricket Fixing goes unabated

SPORTS REPORTER

Fixed matches seem to be going unabated at the leg of the First Division Cricket League. It was quite evident in a crucial match between Jatrabari Krira Chakra and Gopibagh Friends Association at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium yesterday.

Jatrabari Krira Chakra scored 188 runs in just 17.5 overs at a rate of 10.74 per over to beat Gopibagh Friends Association by eight wickets in their penultimate match of the 16-team league.

With that win, Jatrabari not only joined Indira Road at the second position of the table but also increased their net run-rate to a much higher level. Both teams -- Jatrabari and Indira Road -- have equal 18 points from 14 matches.

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Mariner, Abahani post victories

SPORTS REPORTER

Mariner Youngs Club and Abahani Krira Chakra won their respective return leg matches of the Green Delta Premier Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Two early first half goals guided second-placed Mariner to a 2-0 win over bottom side Farashganj Sporting Club while a 69th minute goal from defender Intiaz helped Abahani record an exciting 2-1 victory against Sonali Bank.

Mariner were off to a flying start when Razzak put them ahead with a

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CUP CORNER



INTERNET, Tokyo

Germany's World Cup squad endured a sleepless 12-hour flight to Japan after coach Rudi Voeller banned snoring, the Daily Record reported. Voeller ordered his players not to sleep for getting them quickly adjusted to jet lag.

He said: "We have to get used to the rhythm as quickly as possible." Most German internationals tried to obey the rules but Dortmund stars Sebastian Kehl and Christoph Metzelder were caught sleeping by teammate Christian Ziege.

Ziege said: "I could only close my eyes for a few minutes after swallowing a couple of tablets."

"But at least I was daydreaming about the World Cup Final." Germany's goalkeeper Oliver Kahn said: "We have to get used to the time difference and only after that can we start training."

DIOUF REVEALS SECRET POWER

AFP, Daegu

Senegal striker El-Hadji Diouf admitted Saturday that their greatest weapon was that the World Cup novices have nothing to lose in their campaign which opens against defending champions France in Seoul on May 31.

African footballer of the year Diouf is a key member of his country's squad and he believes that they have a chance to make a name for themselves in their group A which also includes Uruguay and Denmark.

"We have nothing to lose," said Diouf, who plays for French league runners-up Lens.

"We're the smallest team. We're here to learn. We're perfectly confident and I hope for a good result because I have faith in my team," he added.

Senegal's French coach Bruno Metsu added that he believes it's all still to play for.

The Senegal squad arrived Friday at Daegu, their training camp 250km southeast of the capital Seoul, as they prepare for their first ever World Cup appearance.

THE LAST TICKETS

REUTERS, Tokyo

The last batch of 100,000 delayed World Cup tickets have arrived in Japan, less than a week before the tournament kicks off, after a last-minute panic over whether they would be ready in time.

"It appears they have all arrived, but we have not been able to check them all yet," said a spokesman for Japanese organisers, JAWOC. The tickets will be delivered to fans' houses by express courier service by May 27, the organisers said.

JAWOC had been inundated with telephone calls from worried supporters as all the tickets were initially expected to have been delivered by

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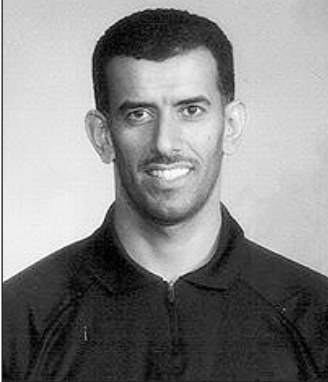
Bujsaim to ref first match



INTERNET, Seoul

Like the countries they will be officiating over, the referees for the first 36 matches of the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan come from all four corners of the globe. They may be less well known than the superstars with whom they will share the spotlight in Korea and Japan's 20 state-of-the-art stadiums, but their presence at the finals is no less important. FIFAworldcup.com profiles the men in black and others colours.

The man who will preside over the mouthwatering opening fixture of the first Asian FIFA World Cup is Ali Mohamed Bujsaim from the United Arab Emirates. And anyone



ALI MOHAMED BUJSAIM

who has tracked his history in the tournament will expect the France Senegal game to live up to its billing. The referees for the remaining first round matches will be published at a later date

FEEL THE FEVER



COLOURS OF THE RISING SUN: Fans, with their faces painted in Japanese colours, cheer their side on during the friendly match against Sweden in Tokyo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Brazil maul Malaysia



REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Ronaldo scored his first international goal for three years as Brazil beat Malaysia 4-0 in their final match before the World Cup.

Ronaldo also set up the second goal for Juninho, who scored one minute after coming on as a substitute, before Denilson, with an individual goal, and Edilson completed the rout.

Although billed as a full international and watched by a crowd of around 40,000, the match effectively turned into a glorified training session as Brazil substituted their

entire starting line-up in the second half.

Brazil, who open their World Cup campaign against Turkey on June 3, will take heart from Ronaldo's goal and the fact that Rivaldo played his first game for a month after being plagued by a troublesome right knee.

The Barcelona forward played 63 fairly undistinguished minutes before being replaced by Edilson.

Ronaldo, whose last goal for Brazil was in the Copa America final against Uruguay in July 1999, finished off a move down the right when he slid the ball home in the 52nd minute.

It was his third game for Brazil since his two-and-a-half lay-off caused by two knee operations.

Ronaldo also set up the second

goal for Juninho eleven minutes later when he played a one-two which allowed the former Atletico Madrid and Middlesbrough player to run through the defence and place the ball beyond keeper Azmin Azram Abdul Aziz.

In the 73rd minute, Denilson burst away from the halfway line to score the third and Edilson made it 4-0 from close range five minutes later.

Ronaldo had threatened to break his duck in the first half but was thwarted three times by brilliant goalkeeping from Abdul Aziz.

Ronaldo's first effort came in the 20th minute when he shot on the turn from the edge of the area and since his effort blocked by Abdul Aziz.

Six minutes later, the Inter Milan striker was denied again. Cafu pulled the ball back from the right and Ronaldo, near the penalty spot, hit the ball well but his effort was parried away by the goalkeeper.

He had his best chance in the 31st minute when he picked up a loose ball in the penalty area and dribbled past a defender only to see his shot blocked from close range.

Abdul Aziz also made two good saves to turn away headers by defender Lucio.

Brazil nearly went ahead in the second minute when a Ronaldinho corner was turned onto his own crossbar by Subri Sulong.

But after that ominous start, Malaysia, who have never come close to qualifying for the World Cup, put up a spirited first half display, even forcing a corner in the 35th minute, before being out-classed after the break.

World champs land in Seoul



AFP, Seoul

World champions France touched down here at 13:45 (04:45 GMT) Saturday after travelling from southern Japan where they had spent a five-day training camp in the thermal spa of Ibusuki.

French team officials including coach Roger Lemerre were presented with wreaths of flowers, while the players, under heavy

security protection, headed straight for their hotel.

The high-level security was particularly noticeable with Real Madrid star player Zinedine Zidane surrounded by six body guards.

The team will get in some last-minute training Saturday evening before Sunday's friendly against South Korea in the southern city of Suwon.

The match will be their final warm-up before the defending champions kick-off their World Cup campaign here against Senegal on May 31.



France captain Marcel Desailly (C), who is surrounded by his colleagues, records the reception accorded to them upon their arrival at the Incheon Airport yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET