



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 sport 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

1. Serena Williams lifted the  
Rome Masters Series title  
defeating: \_\_\_\_\_

Venus Hingis Henin

2. What was the result of the World  
Cup warm-up match between  
England and South Korea:  
1-0 2-1 1-1

3. West Indies won the fifth and  
final Test against India by:  
150 runs 155 runs

4. Name the Irish football captain  
who was sent home from the  
World Cup:  
Harte Jones Keane

5. 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

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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.

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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."

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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 team for criticizing 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 Shahe 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 Imtiaz helped Abahani record an exciting 2-1 victory against Sonali Bank.

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

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## 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.

## 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

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 saw 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 outclassed 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 Suwon.

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 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.

## 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. FIFA worldcup.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

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