

Refs' rebuttal

REUTERS, Yokohama

World Cup referees denied allegations of a conspiracy involving South Korea on Tuesday after a number of controversial decisions helped the co-hosts reach the World Cup semi-finals.

"We cannot ignore the fact that some other sports have suffered the ignominy of corruption in recent years," said Senes Erzik, the chairman of the Referees Committee of world governing body FIFA.

"But football is a sport that does not lend itself to such dishonesty. Anybody who really knows the game, the people involved in it and the control mechanisms that are in place, knows in their hearts that this is true."

In a statement FIFA president Sepp Blatter added: "Any allegations of a conspiracy in favour of Korea Republic are dismissed in their entirety."

The Koreans meet Germany in the first semi-final in Seoul later on Tuesday.

Criticism of the refereeing at the World Cup gathered pace after Spain's quarterfinal defeat to South Korea last week.

One Korean flag not yet

AFP, Seoul

Supporters of the South Korean football team said on Tuesday they had dropped a plan to use a giant flag symbolising a unified Korea during the World Cup semifinal against Germany.

The supporters' Red Devils club had planned to unfurl the giant white and blue flag, printed with the Korean peninsula, at the Seoul stadium for Tuesday's semi-final.

"Although the plan was well meant, we have scrapped the plan because it might run against FIFA regulations and prompt politically sensitive reactions," Red Devils chairman Shin In-Chul said.

Red Devils and pro-unification activists said they wanted to display the 40 metre by 60 metre (132 feet by 198 feet) flag in full view of the global television audience to convey Koreans' wish for national unification.

Euphoric Berlin

FROM PAGE 16

rooms will be available for watching the match.

The German branch of the Swedish furniture company IKEA had said it would be putting televisions in its stores so employees could watch the game.

But the Volkswagen car firm was made no concessions in its production schedule.

And rival car company DaimlerChrysler found another, more draconian solution.

There, bosses had pledged not to watch the match, in solidarity with assembly line workers who must stay on the job Tuesday, spokesman Silke Walters said.

Champion

FROM PAGE 16

If luck favoured them against the Irish, it was certainly in short supply in their quarter-final against joint hosts South Korea.

Injured striker Raul was sorely missed by his team mates, Fernando Morientes hit the post in extra time and Egyptian referee Gamal Ghandour ruled out two apparently legitimate goals.

After 120 minutes of football the game remained deadlocked at 0-0 and for the second time in a row Spain had to endure the torment of a nerve-racking penalty shoot-out.

Ironically it was Spain's man-of-the-match Joaquin who missed the only penalty in the shoot-out and handed victory to the hosts.

For Spain, their exit completes another chapter in their catalogue of World Cup disappointments.

Frequently among the pre-tournament favourites, they have not made the semifinal stage since 1950 and have yet to throw off their tag as perennial under-achievers on the international stage.



GRATEFUL KOREANS: Korean fans hold a giant banner thanking the Netherlands for their national side's coach Guss Hiddink before the start of the World Cup semifinal between Germany and South Korea at Seoul yesterday.

Beauty and the beast

AFP, Saitama

Brazil believe they will have overcome the most difficult obstacle standing between them and a record fifth World Cup if they beat underdogs Turkey in their semifinal here on Wednesday.

Only a dubious penalty prevented the Turks from snatching a draw against the Brazilians when the two sides met in the first round's Group C, an ill-tempered tussle eventually won 2-1 by the South Americans.

While Brazil have since gone on to confirm their status as favourites for the title, maintaining a 100 per cent record through to the last four, the escape against Turkey remains fresh in the memory.

Turkey's compact, well-organised side asked awkward questions of the South Americans' defence on the counter-attack and are perfectly equipped to find the sort of holes on the flanks that often pop up against teams like Brazil who employ a three-man defensive unit.

"I think the semifinal will be more difficult to get through than the final," Brazilian wing back Roberto Carlos said.

"The first game against Turkey was the toughest battle we have had here and we know we will have to be very, very careful if we are to get past them again. The room for error will be minimal, if not non-existent."

"The important thing for us is to

stay calm and ensure that we are at the top of our game against Turkey. Both teams are playing a lot better collectively than in the group games and if we are not at our very best we will not win anything."

Juninho, who is expected to replace suspended midfielder Ronaldinho for Wednesday's game, believes that while Turkey could cause problems Brazil must not be suckered into changing their style.

"It's a difficult game - I think more difficult than the first one," the former Middlesbrough man said. "They are playing well, they have good players and are confident."

"We have to attack, we have to play the same way and look for the goals, it is what we do best," he said. "But Brazil must defend well. Our defenders have been brilliant in the last two games, so I hope they can keep it up because Turkey have some very good footballers."

Rivaldo, currently the tournament's joint top-scorer with Ronaldo and Germany's Miroslav Klose on five goals, believes the semifinal is a chance to settle a score.

"We won the first match because we were better, not because of the referee or an invented penalty," said Rivaldo, who sparked uproar in the earlier game after helping get Hakan Unsal sent off by pretending he had been hit in the face when the Turkish player kicked the ball at his legs.

"This is a chance for us to prove we are better than them."

The incoming Juninho aside, Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari is expected to name an unchanged starting line-up against Turkey, with Inter Milan star Ronaldo confident of starting.

Ronaldo suffered a thigh strain during the quarter-final win over England and was replaced after an hour but has recovered well and should play.

Of stars and crescents

REUTERS, Saitama

Turkish midfielder Emre Belozoglu thinks the biggest impact of his country's World Cup success will be on the world of fashion where he expects Turkey's star and crescent flag to be all the rage.

"You know, I think the fashion designers will come out of this best. We will have started a star-and-crescent trend across the world. Products in red and white with the star and crescent will break all sales records after our success," Emre wrote in a rare posting on his website.

Turkey's flag is a white star and crescent on a red background. Left-footed Emre, 21, is a crucial figure in a smooth and efficient Turkish midfield that has won them a rematch against Brazil in the semi-finals of the World Cup.

Long the subject of interest from English side Arsenal, the Inter Milan player is one of a number of younger players expected to help carry on Turkish soccer success as the generation led by Hakan Sukur moves on.

"I struggle to find the words to describe my feelings now. We have probably recorded the greatest sporting success in (Turkish) republican history," he said, promising more frequent updates to his website.

"Sometimes I think the internet site is not for me. My press advisor... gets pretty worried by the situation," Emre said.

SCORING CHART

AFP, Seoul

World Cup scorers after Tuesday's semifinal match:

5 - Miroslav Klose (GER), Rivaldo (BRA), Ronaldo (BRA).

4 - Jon Dahl Tomasson (DEN), Christian Vieri (ITA).

3 - Michael Ballack (GER), Pape Bouba Diop (SEN), Robbie Keane (IRL), Henrik Larsson (SWE), Fernando Morientes (SPA), Pauleta (POR), Raul (SPA), Marc Wilmots (BEL).

2 - Ahn Jung-Hwan Ahn (KOR), Jared Borgetti (MEX), Henri Camara (SEN), Nelson Cuevas (PAR), Landon Donovan (USA), Fernando Hierro (SPA), Ronald Gomez (CRC), Hasan Sas (TUR), Junichi Inamoto (JPN), Brian McBride (USA), Michael Owen (ENG), Ronaldinho (BRA), Umit Davala (TUR).

1 - Milenko Acimovic (SLO), Julius Aghahowa (NGR), Niclas Alexandersson (SWE), Francisco Arce (PAR), Gabriel Batistuta (ARG), David Beckham (ENG), Vladimir Beschastnykh (RUS), Beto (POR), Oliver Bierhoff (GER), Cuauhtemoc Blanco (MEX), Marco Bode (GER), Raouf Bouzaine (TUN), Gary Breen (IRL), Bulent (TUR), Sol Campbell (ENG), Jorge Campos (PAR), Sebastian Cimirotic (SLO), Hernan Crespo (ARG), Alessandro Del Piero (ITA), Agustin Delgado (ECU), Salif Diao (SEN), Damien Duff (IRL), Edmilson (BRA), Emre Belozoglu (TUR), Samuel Eto'o (CMR), Khalilou Fadiga (SEN), Rio Ferdinand (ENG), Diego Forlan (URU), Quinton Fortune (RSA), Emile Heskey (ENG), Matt Holland (IRL), Hwang Sun-Hong (KOR), Ilhan (TUR), Carsten Jancker (GER), Junior (BRA), Valery Karpin (RUS), Pawel Kryszalowicz (POL), Thomas Linke (GER), Clint Mathis (USA), Benedict McCarthy (RSA), Edison Mendez (ECU), Gaizka Mendietta (SPA), Teboho Mokoena (RSA), Richard Morales (URU), Hiroaki Morishima (JPN), Hidetoshi Nakata (JPN), Oliver Neuville (GER), Siyabonga Nomvethe (RSA), John O'Brien (USA), Ivica Olic (CRO), Emmanuel Olisadebe (POL), Park Ji-Sung Park (KOR), Winston Parks (CRC), Patrick Mboma (CMR), Lucas Radebe (RSA), Milan Rapacic (ARG), Alvaro Recoba (URU), Roberto Carlos (BRA), Dario Rodriguez (URU), Dennis Rommedahl (DEN), Rui Costa (POR), Roque Santa Cruz (PAR), Bernd Schneider (GER), Seol Ki-Hyeon (KOR), Wesley Sonck (BEL), Takayuki Suzuki (JPN), Anders Svensson (SWE), Dmitri Sychev (RUS), Egor Titov (RUS), Gerardo Torrado (MEX), Valeron (SPA), Peter Van der Heyden (BEL), Johan Walem (BEL), Paulo Cesar Wanchope (CRC), Mauricio Wright (CRC), Yoo Sang-Chul Yoo (KOR), Marcin Zewiakow (POL).

Mount Samba to scale

FROM PAGE 13

"Otherwise, we've no injuries, Okan is good."

"We have watched Brazil with admiration in the past World Cups," Gunes said. "Now we are now competing with it. We've proved that we're not behind any world team."

"There is no intimidation. We know Brazil are a good team. We've already played them and we know that that have talented players. We are talented too and whoever plays best on the day will win," Hasan Sas, who scored against Brazil in the group C defeat, said.

Turkey's players, most of them accustomed to European success with Galatasaray, say they see their semifinal as a step on the way to a World Cup win, not as an achievement in itself.

"It's great to be here in the semifinal after the problems we've had but everyone should understand that this was not a coincidence," said Hasan.

"We have proved by reaching the semi-finals how talented the Turkish player is and what a good team we are."

Defender Alpay Ozal said he had been impressed by Brazil's attack force of Ronaldo and Rivaldo in their opening match but was confident he could keep them under control.

"We know, I know, how good they are. I knew from a distance how good Ronaldo was before the Brazil game but I saw for myself during the game that he was even better. I'm working now on closing him down."

After the game is over we'll see who was successful," Alpay told reporters.

Turkey were livid that a last minute dubious penalty decision cost them a draw against Brazil. Their fury coloured their next match, a 1-1 draw with Costa Rica that was the low point of their campaign.

Now the Turks have a second shot at Brazil.

"We were unlucky against Brazil and we see this as a rematch. We will meet them in the semi-finals and we all know how close the cup is," said Hasan.

"We can do it, we all believe that with all our hearts. It will be a great match," he said.

Meanwhile, Brazil received a boost with the news that superstar Ronaldo has recovered from a leg muscle ailment and is fit to face Turkey, Brazil's team doctor said.

"The way he sprinted and moved we feel he is in condition to play," Dr. Jose Luis Runco said after practice Tuesday.

Ronaldo complained of pain in his left thigh during Brazil's 2-1 win over England on Friday and was replaced in the 70th minute. An ultrasound scan on Saturday showed there was no serious injury, and Runco said the cause probably was strain from overwork.

"There was no lesion," Runco said. "He had muscular fatigue, which can happen to any athlete."

Ronaldo trained lightly Monday and felt no pain in the muscle. The workout Tuesday was heavier, and

afterward the Inter striker was cleared as was cleared to play for the entire 90 minutes -- and even overtime.

"He can play the full time if necessary," Runco said.

Ronaldo's legs have been a constant source of worry after two knee operations that kept him sidelined for nearly two years. When he returned to action last year, a series of muscle injuries further delayed his recovery.

At the World Cup, his recovery has been surprising. In five games, Ronaldo has scored five goals and is tied with teammate Rivaldo and Germany's Miroslav Klose in the race for the Golden Boot.

Runco said he didn't expect the problem to recur if Brazil reaches the final Sunday.

"He had five days to rest, and I don't think we'll have this problem of tired muscles after the Turkey game," he said.

Custodian Marcos was also being passed fit for the game after hurting himself in training on Monday.

"He trained as usual with no problem whatsoever," said Runco.

Brazil's players, once again appearing as if they were reading a script prepared by coach Luis Felipe Scolari, all repeated the same lines about respecting Turkey.

"I remember them being one of the most difficult teams we have played in this World Cup," said Marcos.

"They have players who deserve respect and we know we are going to have to play really well to win."

He added that Brazil's tradition -- they have four world titles while Turkey are at the World Cup for the first time in 48 years -- meant nothing.

"We have already seen in this World Cup that tradition and name don't win anything. But we know that Brazil, with our tradition and having won four World Cups, have an obligation to beat Turkey."

The only player to veer from the diplomatic line was Edilson when he was asked about Turkish complaints that they would have drawn the opening game if it had not been for the referee.

"...We can say what you want and sometimes you hear what you don't want," he said. "We'll send them a message after the game."

PROBABLE TEAMS

Brazil: (Formation 3-5-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Marcos; 3-Lucio, 5-Edmilson, 4-Roque Junior; 2-Cafu, 8-Gilberto Silva, 15-Kleber, 9-Ronaldo, 10-Rivaldo

Turkey: (Formation 4-5-1; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Rustu Recber; 4-Fatih Akyel, 3-Bulent Korkmaz, 5-Alpay Ozal; 22-Umit Davala, 8-Tugay Kerimoglu, 10-Yildirim Basturk, 18-Ergun Penbe, 11-Hasan Sas, 21-Emre Belozoglu; 17-Ilhan Mansiz

Referee: Kim Milton Neilsen (Denmark)

FACT BOX

FROM PAGE 13  
Brazil - 5 (Ronaldo 10, 13, Edmilson 38, Rivaldo 62, Junior 64)  
Costa Rica 2 (Paulo Wanchope 39, Ronald Gomez 56)

FINAL GROUP STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Brazil	3	3	0	0	11	3	9
2. Turkey	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
3. Costa Rica	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
4. China	3	0	0	3	0	9	0

SECOND ROUND

June 17, in Kobe, Japan  
Brazil 2 (Rivaldo 67, Ronaldo 87)  
Belgium - 0

QUARTERFINAL

June 21, in Shizuoka, Japan  
Brazil 2 (Rivaldo 45, Ronaldinho 50)  
England 1 (Michael Owen 23)

GROUP STAGE TURKEY

June 3, in Ulsan, South Korea  
Turkey 1 (Hasan Sas 44)  
Brazil 2 (Ronaldo 50, Rivaldo 87pen)

June 9, in Incheon, South Korea  
Turkey 1 (Emre Belozoglu 56)  
Costa Rica 1 (Winston Parks 86)

June 13, in Seoul  
Turkey -3 (Hasan Sas 6, Bulent Korkmaz 9, Umit Davala 85)  
China - 0

FINAL GROUP STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Brazil	3	3	0	0	11	3	9
2. Turkey	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
3. Costa Rica	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
4. China	3	0	0	3	0	9	0

PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

1956: Brazil-1, Turkey-0, Friendly, Turkey  
2002: Brazil 2, Turkey-1, World Cup, Ulsan, South Korea.

PREVIOUS WORLD CUP APPEARANCES:

Brazil: 1930, 1934, 1938, 1950, 1954, 1958 (champions), 1962 (champions), 1966, 1970, (champions), 1974, 1978, 1982, 1986, 1990, 1994, (champions), 1998.

Turkey: 1954

Turkey has scored in all eight of their previous World Cup final matches. Wednesday's game will be the 62<sup>nd</sup> of 64 matches at this year's tournament.

Davala defends haircut

REUTERS, Saitama

Turkey's right-winger Umit Davala has defended his home-made Mohican haircut, one of the most shocking in a World Cup of outlandish hair-dos.

"I think it's good," he told laughing reporters. "My team mates cut my hair and I think it's very successful."

Umit Davala said the style had been inspired by, and loosely modelled on, the largely shaved head of Germany's Christian Ziege, but acknowledged that the result was not a perfect imitation.

CUP CORNER

FROM PAGE 13

made minimum five dollar investments on both South Korea and Japan.

"You could almost picture him driving to the next TAB," he said. "It wasn't every day but it was at least twice a week and it was always 10.30 in the morning - he was like clockwork. It became a bit of humour here, but now he's up for some serious money and I suppose good luck to him."

They believe the person spent 1,250 dollars in 125 bets.

LUCKY THIEF

REUTERS, Seoul

A South Korean judge denied an arrest warrant on Monday for a teenager who had been detained for theft and urged him to cheer the national soccer team which has reached the World Cup semi-finals.

The 16-year-old middle school student stole a notebook computer and 3,400 won (\$2.82) last Friday from a car parked in Chonju, one of the 10 South Korean cities hosting the World Cup finals, a court official said.

"He is just a teenager. I thought arresting him is bad for his education," said Judge Lee Jeong-ryeol at Chonju District Court.

"Rather, I decided to give him an opportunity to cheer the national team to boost his loyalty for the nation," he said.

BLATTER NOT SURPRISED

AP, Tokyo

Semifinalists South Korea and Turkey are not one-hit wonders, and their success at the World Cup is proof that now "everybody can beat everybody," FIFA President Sepp Blatter said Tuesday.

"I announced surprises before the beginning of the World Cup," Blatter said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"The Europeans, when they won the World Cup, they've won in Europe," Blatter said. "The South Americans, they've won when the World Cup was in the Americas."

Blatter said South Korea and Turkey have proved there are no longer any 'small' teams.

"That's finished. Everybody can beat everybody," he said, adding that success of unheralded teams is likely to produce a "strong reaction" among soccer superpowers which will try to bounce back in the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

Responding to suggestions that smaller soccer nations only got this far because top European and South American stars have effectively burnt out following a long and tiring season, Blatter said it was up to national federations to shorten their league seasons and give players more time to recuperate.

"The date of this World Cup was known more than two years ago," he said. "If you want to prepare properly for the World Cup, you cut the season, you have less matches in the league or cups."

"A decision must be made by the whole football family to cut down the number of matches to a certain number."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 Taxi  
4 Poker format  
8 Disarray  
12 Wish  
13 Musical instrument  
14 Cinema  
15 Noshed  
16 Tramcars' contents  
17 Vituperate  
18 Flick  
21 AWOL's pursuers  
22 Clark or Campanella  
23 Tackles  
26 Charlotte's handiwork  
27 Visibly hindrance  
30 Egyptian goddess  
31 Craze  
32 Region  
33 Roscoe  
34 Monkey suit  
35 Graphic measure  
36 Card table game  
37 Euro, to Elie

38 Baseball backup  
45 "Awaiting reply"  
46 Emanation  
47 Overseas  
48 Repast  
49 "— a canine  
50 Scrap  
51 European range  
52 Ashcroft's predecessor  
53 Adversary

2 Car  
3 Red as a  
4 Single-masters  
5 Rotates  
6 Miners' sch.  
7 Wanted  
8 1955  
9 Borghine  
9 Birthright barter  
10 Com-motion  
11 Auctioneer's goal  
19 Mischievous group  
20 Stocky horse  
23 Type of dance

24 Dos  
25 Cal Tech rival  
26 Handiebar coating  
27 "Simpsons" network  
28 Indivisible  
29 Toothpaste type  
31 Carnival  
32 Galvanizing material  
34 Father's Day gift  
35 Tuber  
36 The  
Dionne quint, e.g.  
37 Ambulance indicator  
38 Actress  
39 Big name in stunt driving  
40 Bound  
41 Whipper  
42 Piece of stock  
43 Footage?  
43 New money  
44 Ceremony

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14  
15 16 17  
18 19 20  
21 22  
23 24 25 26 27 28 29  
30 31 32  
33 34 35  
36 37  
38 39 40 41 42 43 44  
45 46 47  
48 49 50  
51 52 53

BL G E X J J B O E D B X O E Q .  
Q I C ' N E D B Z A E D G B E L O  
N X B Z A I L Y D I B Y J O D I C T N  
F J X I E F J J X

Yesterday's Cryptquip: THE OLD FARMER LOST TRACK OF WHICH COWS HE HAD MILKED. IT WAS UDDER CONFUSION.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: X equals R

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

watch the World Cup final because England have been knocked out.

"Sure, the disappointment of losing in the quarter-finals will still be there."

"That hurt will not go away because I still feel we had a team that was good enough to go all the way and take the trophy."

"But I'll tune in and watch the game and I am convinced it's Brazil who will be the winners."

He added: "People might say they are not as good as Brazilian teams of the past."

"But for me they still have some of the best players in the world in their side."

"You look at Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Roberto Carlos."

"And, in terms of technique and ability, there aren't three better players than them anywhere in the world." Reflecting on his amazing World Cup experience, Becks is still bewildered by one thing.

There were reports that he flew his