SPÖRT



Brazil's caretaker coach Mario Zagallo (L) and team captain Cafu (C) find something amusing while taking to a South Korean translator during a press conference in Seoul yesterday.

Brazil v South Korea

Old wolf's last dance



AFP, Seoul

Mario Zagallo will bring the curtain down on more than 40 years of glory with Brazil when he coaches the world champions one last time in a friendly against South Korea here Wednesday.

The 71-year-old silver-haired legend has been tempted out of retirement to act as caretaker for Brazil here following the decision of World Cup-winning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari to step down.

It promises to be an emotional farewell for Zagallo, who has figured in many of Brazil's most memorable exploits of the past half century.

As a player he was a member of the World Cup-winning teams of 1958 and 1962, before returning to coach the fabled 1970 team which many regard as the best Brazilian side ever.

He was also assistant coach in the 1994 World Cup triumph in the United States.

However Zagallo, nicknamed the 'old wolf' has not been involved with the Brazilian national team since the calamitous loss to France in the 1998 World Cup final, a match famous for the Ronaldo contro-

Ronaldo, who on Monday was short-listed for this year's FIFA World Player of the Year Award, was initially left out of the team for the 1998 final by Zagallo after suffering a convulsion in his hotel room.

He eventually played, but was a shadow of his usual self as Brazil collapsed to a 3-0 defeat which ultimately cost Zagallo his job.

ROK already

preparing for

Republic of Korea, still celebrating

its historic semi-final place in the

2002 World Cup, is already prepar-

ing its 2006 campaign -- in the

unlikely locale of northeastern

Five under-16 South Korean

internationals have been training

with French second-division club

FC Metz since October 7 "in the

framework of the 2006 World Cup,"

The two defenders, two strikers

and one attacking midfielder split

their time between schoolwork in

the morning and football with Metz's

headed by Kim Jeong Hah, an

executive with South Korean

carmaker Daewoo, which has three

factories in the northeastern region

"When I arrived in Lorraine, I

looked for a club where my children

could practice their sport," Kim said.

"Everything went very well with FC

Metz and I had the idea of allowing

young Koreans to profit from the

federation, which has been looking

to increase its European contacts,

signed a partnership agreement

with Metz, according to club official

players adapt more easily to the

European mentality and to over-

come the language barrier," de

Taddeo said. "By the time they are

18, they will be better prepared to

playing in friendly matches, as Metz

are still awaiting a FIFA green light to

play them in France's under-16

Metz have expressed a willing-

ness to continue the arrangement

into the future. The club also left the

door open to signing the five pio-

The players are for now limited to

sign with a European club.

neers once they reach 18.

"The arrangement will help the

The South Korean football

The arrangement was spear-

according to the club's Web site.

youth squad in the afternoon.

of Lorraine.

relationship."

Francis de Taddeo.

championship.

WC 2006!

AFP, Metz, France

Wednesday's game will see

Zagallo reunited with Real Madrid star Ronaldo for the first time since that traumatic defeat at the Stade de

Zagallo has promised that his farewell will be a victory celebration and has called upon Brazil's top World Cup stars to turn out in Seoul. Not all have answered, however.

Others missing through injury or otherwise unavailable include Serginho, Luizao, and Rivaldo.

Brazil won't be the only team going into the fixture without a permanent coach - South Korea also have a caretaker at the helm following the departure of Dutchman Guus Hiddink Hiddink inspired South Korea to a

semi-final place in the 2002 World Cup, the best performance in history by an Asian side.

Hiddink's contract expired at the end of the tournament and he was replaced by Park Hang-Seo, a controversial choice who was sacked when South Korea disappointed at the Asian Games in Busan in September.

Taking the helm as caretaker coach for the match is Kim Ho-Kon, who normally coaches Korea's Olympic team.

"I want to show our abilities surprising the world once again as in the 2002 World Cup," said Kim.

Eighteen of the 20-strong squad of players he named were on active duty during the World Cup. One of the additional two, Kim Do-Hoon, scored the only goal in South Korea's 1-0 victory in their last match against Brazil in 1999. Brazil won the only two other matches between the two nations

French FA in Anelka jumble

AFP, London

English Premiership side Manchester City seem set to continue to play striker Nicolas Anelka despite calls from the French Football Association to ban the player for two matches after he refused to make himself available for international duty.

Anelka withdrew from the France squad on Monday in protest at his late call-up for Wednesday's friendly against Yugoslavia.

That led French football chiefs to invoke FIFA rules which cover punishments for players who refuse to play in international matches.

But a report on City's official website Tuesday made it clear the club intend to play Anelka in Saturday's league match away to Middlesbrough and the following weekend's home match against Bolton - the fixtures which the French Federation wanted him to sit out as punishment for the forward's refusal to play against Yugoslavia.

However, the report then quoted another section of the FIFA regulations which suggested the French Federation themselves had broken the world governing body's rules that they were so keen to invoke.

"Article 38. Section Two of their (FIFA's) rulebook states, however: A national association wishing to summon one of its players who is playing abroad must notify in writing at least 15 days before the date of the match. The player's club should also be informed.'

"City were not informed until the last minute and the striker himself was not even on stand by for the game on Wednesday."

It also pointed out that any action against City would have to go through the English Football Association, who have yet to comment on the case.

The website report described the row between Anelka and the French Football Association as "nothing more than a little local difficulty from across the Channel".

Crazy fan arrested

A fan of Italian second division team Cagliari was arrested Monday following an assault on Messina goalkeeper Emanuele Manitta in the weekend meeting between the two

A supporter ran onto the pitch and punched Manitta unconcious during Sunday's match, forcing the referee to abandon the game 10 minutes before the end.

Manitta was stretchered off and rushed to hospital but was released Monday after undergoing several medical tests.

The incident at Cagliari was one of several which marred matches in Italy on Sunday.

Trouble flared between Lazio supporters and police after the Rome club's 3-1 win at Como where batons were drawn as visiting fans tried to smash down perimeter

And there were more than 50 arrests before Sunday's Turin derby between Torino and Juventus as rival fans clashed outside the Stadio Delle Alpi.

BRAZIL

Goalkeepers: Dida (AC Milan,

Italy), Julio Cesar (Flamengo,

Defenders: Cafu (AS Roma,

Italy), Bellitti (Villareal, Spain),

Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid,

Spain), Juan (Bayer Leverkusen,

Germany), Anderson Polga

Midfielders: Gilberto Silva (Arse-

nal, England), Emerson (AS

Roma, Italy), Flavio Conceicao

(Real Madrid, Spain), Kleberson

(Atletico Paranaense, Brazil),

Ronaldinho Gaucho (Paris Śt

Germain, France), Juninho

Pernambucano (Olympique Lyon,

France), Ze Roberto (Bayern

Forwards: Amoroso (Borussia

Dortmund, Germany), Franca

(Bayer Leverkusen, Germany),

Denilson (Real Betis, Spain),

SOUTH KOREA

Goalkeepers: Lee Woon-jae

(Suwon Samsung), Kim Byung-ji

Defenders: Lee Min-sung (Pusan

I.cons), Hong Myung-bo (Pohang Steelers), Choi Jin-cheol

(Chonbuk Hyundai), Kim Tae-

Midfielders: Kim Nam-il

(Chunnam Dragons), Lee Young-

pyo (Anyang LG), Yoo Sang-chul

(Ulsan Hyundai), Song Chong-

gug (Feyenoord), Hyun Young-

hoon (Chonbuk Hyundai), Lee

Forwards: Hwang Sun-hong

(Chunnam Dragons), Kim Dae-

Eui (Seongnam Ilhwa), Ahn Jung-

hwan (Shimizu S-Pulse), Seol Ki-

hyeon (Anderlecht), Choi Yong-

soo (JEF United Ichihara), Cha

Doo-ri (Bielefeld), Choi Tai-uk

(Anyang LG)

Chun-soo (Ulsan Hyundai).

(Ulsan Hyundai), Kim Do-

oung (Chunnam Dragons)

Ronaldo (Real Madrid, Spain)

(Gremio, Brazil)

Munich, Germany)

Pohang Steelers)

Superstar Ronaldo (C) obliging some autograph hunters on arrival at Seoul's World Cup Stadium yesterday for a training session of the Brazilian national team.

Ronaldo a Riquelme fan

the two Spanish titans.

said of the young Argentine playmaker who arrived at the Nou Camp this summer from Boca

"He is intelligent, he loses few balls and he plays with ease, like all the greats." the Brazilian World Cup-winner added in an interview with AS newspaper on Tuesday.

"We haven't seen the real Roman yet in Barcelona."

injury that kept him out of Barcelona's 2-0 loss to champions Valencia last week

Wednesday friendly.

Nou Camp will be little diminished by the two sides' domestic strug-

Real Madrid are in fifth place in the league, five points behind surprise leaders Real Sociedad, despite a lineup that includes superstars such as Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane, Luis Figo, Raul and Roberto

Carlos. Barcelona are in even worse shape, with Dutch coach Van Gaal under intense pressure as his side have fallen to 10th in the league

scathing attacks on the Nou Camp leadership, including Van Gaal and club president Joan Gaspart.

talks too much. I don't understand his personality 'He is not Barcelona," added

Catalan giants from 1996-1997. people who have doubts about his ability to do the job and that few

people care for him. Ronaldo also slammed Gaspart,

saying he "could learn a lot" from Real Madrid president Florentino

heavy criticism for scoring just three goals since his summer transfer from Italy's Inter Milan, admitted that he deserved the jeers following Real Madrid's scoreless tie against Real Sociedad last week. "I played one of the

matches of my life," he said.

Argentina v Japan

Bielsa's men back for solace

Football

AFP, Saitama

Argentina return to the scene of their disastrous World Cup campaign here Wednesday when they meet a Japan side seeking to regroup after the sudden absence of coach Zico.

Six months ago the South American powerhouses arrived in Japan as joint-favourites to win their third World Cup crown ahead of the

But Marcelo Bielsa's squad of Europe-based superstars made a tearful exit in the first round, finishing third in the 'Group of Death' behind Sweden and England.

Bielsa insisted here that the Argentinians had been able to draw some positives from the heartbreaking experience.

"Apart from the results, it was a good experience for us to compete in the World Cup. It was an experience that we will never forget,"

Bielsa's preparations for Wednesday's game at the Saitama Stadium north of Tokyo have been hampered by the withdrawal of two key attacking players.

Spanish based stars Pablo Aimar of Valencia and Juan Roman Riquelme from Barcelona are both injured AS Roma's Gabriel Batistuta meanwhile retired from international football after being excluded from the squad for Wednesday's game.

"I'd never expected to miss Aimar, he was in my starting lineup," Bielsa said. "I'm going to decide the line-up after watching all the players I called up.

"This international match against Japan is important for us. It is always important to compete for a victory. I called up players who can display their personalities. Everybody knows they are playing



JUST FORGET ABOUT THE WORLD CUP! Argentine superstar Juan Sebastian Veron (L) discusses something with teammate Ariel Ortega (R) during a practice session in Saitama, Japan yesterday.

match missing their head coach, the for home on Sunday following the Meanwhile Japan head in to the former Brazilian star Zico, who left death of his mother, Matilde Dasilva

Coimbra, on Saturday morning. "When my father and brother died, I was near them, but it is bitter that I couldn't be by her side. I want to share this heartbreak with my

brothers and asked the football association for permission to leave, a tearful Zico said before leaving. "It is very difficult to lead the team for the game right now after I lost my

mother. I trust my staff. I hope we will

have a good result." "It's natural he put priority on his family," said Masashi Nakayama, Japan's only goal scorer in the 1998

World Cup. "We must mature ourselves enough to play without the coach. We need to improve our flexibility

and mental toughness to cope with any situation.' Japan are also missing Europebased players, star midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata of Italian side Parma, Feyenoord's Shinji Ono and Fulham's Junichi Inamoto due to

club commitments. Instead, Zico had planned to stick with a 4-4-2 formation starting Mitsuo Ogasawara and his Kashima Antlers teammate Koji Nakata, Italian Reggina's Shunsuke Nakamura and Takashi Fukunishi of

Assistant coach Masakuni Yamamoto, who guided Japan to a runner-up finish at the Busan Asian Games, will replace Zico for the

"It will be a very tough match. Argentina were one of the top favourites to win the World Cup. Bielsa kept his job and it is their firat match since then. I expect his team to have improved a lot," said Yamamoto.

"It is important to keep their highquality attacks at bay in the first 20 minutes. If we can fend off their attacks, it will give us great confidence." added Yamamoto.

Zidane taking

Five months after missing most of

France's World Cup collapse with a

The French playmaker has

suffered from lower back pain, for

the last week, with the injury limiting

him to 30 minutes in Real Madrid's

scoreless tie against surprise

Spanish pace-setters Real

interview published Tuesday in

slightest risk on Wednesday. I

cannot allow myself to. It is unthink-

able to compromise the rest of the

French coach Jacques Santini

confirmed that Zidane was almost

certainly out of the Yugoslavia game

adding that Monaco's Ludovic Giuly

had been called in as a replace-

French sports daily L'Equipe.

"It still hurts." Zidane said in ar

"There's no reason to take the

Sociedad on Sunday.

season for a friendly."

no chances

AFP, Paris

Wednesday.

Europe's friendly night

Tasty tie at Gelsenkirchen

Football

AFP, Paris

Surprise World Cup runners-up Germany take on bitter rivals Holland, who are still smarting after missing out on the tournament altogether, in a clash highlighting a busy slate of European friendlies on

Wednesday. Also among the handful of matches overshadowing three qualifiers for the 2004 European Championships, struggling Italy will host World Cup semi-finalists Turkey, Yugoslavia visit rejuvenated France and coach-less Ireland play

The night's marquee match will pit two traditional football powers -and geographic neighbours -- who are both off to perfect starts in their European qualifying campaigns. Rudi Voller's Germans will be

near full strength for the match in Gelsenkirchen, although Liverpool midfielder Dietmar Hamann and Tottenham defender Christian Ziege are both out with injuries. World Cup goalscoring sensa-

tion Miroslav Klose is expected to play despite an ankle injury Voller said he wanted to end the

vear in style.

Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni has

called seven new faces into his

squad for Wednesday's friendly

his job after Italy lost their Euro 2004

qualifier 2-1 in Cardiff, a result that

leaves the 'Azzurri' facing an uphill

battle to qualify for the Portugal

However in early November the

63-year-old defied calls for his

departure in the media and was

given a vote of confidence by the

Italian football federation (FIGC)

who insisted he would remain in his

Although Trapattoni's future

appears to be secure for now, the

former Bayern Munich coach has

decided it's time to look at some new

players in an attempt eradicate

Chelsea goalkeeper Carlo

Cudicini receives his first call-up

after some stunning displays in the

English Premiership this season, as

does Empoli's rising star Antonio di

Natale, scorer of eight goals in Serie

complacency among his regulars.

post until the summer of 2004.

tournament.

Football

Argentina, Colombia v Honduras and in-form striker Roy Makaay.

despite recurring injury problems. rousing start in the qualifiers, will be

Nistelrooy has also been called up World Cup flops France, off to a

Anelka when they host Yugoslavia. Anelka, called to replace the injured Sidney Govou, snubbed coach Jacques Santini by failing to turn up at the training base on

The Manchester City goalscorer appreciated by Santini.

The rest of the side will be virtugoals in total in their last two matches, with Chelsea midfielder

coach after Mick McCarthy's recent resignation, take on Greece

World Cup's final 16, resigned following a disappointing start to European qualifiers. Caretaker boss Don Givens will

ing group. Spain, typically dominant in

qualifiers and friendlies before stumbling in real tournaments, will play Bulgaria without Real Madrid duo Raul and Fernando Hierro.

Raul is out with gastro-enteritis while Hierro was left behind because of a lack of match practice.

to share with all the team." he said.

"I have to thank my colleagues

"I dedicate my first Azzurri shirt to

Wednesday's match is being held

in Pescara, about 180 kilometres

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Gianluigi Buffon

(Juventus), Francesco Toldo

(Inter), Carlo Cudicini

(Chelsea/Eng). **Defenders:** Fabio Cannavaro

(Inter), Matteo Ferrari (Parma),

Mark Iuliano, Alessandro

Birindelli (Juventus), Nicola

Legrottaglie (Chievo), Paolo

Negro (Lazio), Christian Panucci

Midfielders: Carlo Nervo

(Bologna), Luciano Zauri,

Damiano Zenoni (both Atalanta)

Massimo Ambrosini, Andrea Pirlo

(both Milan), Eugenio Corini,

Simone Perrotta (both Chievo),

Forwards: Marco Di Vaio,

Alessandro Del Piero (both

Juventus), Christian Vieri (Inter),

Luigi Di Biagio (Inter).

Natale (Empoli).

from the Italian capital.

and coach (Silvio) Baldini for all their

thrilled to bits.

them.'

Roma).

But world's most expensive player denied being at less than full strength for the match. "If that had been the case, I

would not have played," Zidane said." But I did. I don't want to talk about it. All I remember is that we

Zidane, the reigning European club player of the year, acknowledged that France's World Cup debacle ended the national team's iconic status, adding that the squad

we are just football players," he said. "We've gone from being gods to being less than nothing. It can be

admitted to being at peace and at home with his wife and three sons.

"I'm more comfortable." he said.

France's defence of its European Championship in 2004, left the door open to playing beyond the end of his Real Madrid contract, which has

well, if I still have the desire and I'm still healthy. I'll keep playing.

the star has lost a step, Zidane added: "I can always get better."

against Turkey in a bid to ease the pressure piled upon him following last month's shock defeat to Wales. Trapattoni was in danger of losing

Football

AFP, Barcelona Real Madrid star Ronaldo pro-

fessed himself a fan of Barcelona' Juan Roman Riquelme but lashed out at the club's leadership ahead of Saturday's 'Superclasico' clash of "I'm a fan of Riquelme," Ronaldo

Club doctors said that Riquelme is expected to play against bitter rivals Real Madrid despite a leg

The injury also forced Riquelme who has taken over Rivaldo's No. 10 shirt with the Catalan side, to skip Argentina's trip to Japan for a

Saturday's tilt at Barcelona's

Ronaldo, a former Barcelona star himself, has done his part to stoke the pre-match flames with

"I don't care" about Van Gaal, Ronaldo said. "He is a man who

Ronaldo, who starred for the "I know there are many Barca

Ronaldo, who has come under

Trapattoni has also recognised the talents of Chievo trio Nicola Legrottaglie, Eugenio Corini and

"Our year speaks for itself," he said on Monday. "We want to end this great year with a good performance against a world-class team.

"We want to produce an organised peformance and mustn't play carelessly. We want to reinforce the confidence that our fans have in us." The Dutch, probably the most talented team to miss out on this

year's World Cup, will be led by Juventus workhorse Edgar Davids, Ajax revelation Rafael van der Vaart

FRIENDLIES ON WEDNESDAY

France v Yugoslavia, Spain v Bulgaria, Estonia v Iceland, Greece v Ireland, Germany v Holland, Austria v Norway, Denmark v Poland, Slovakia v Ukraine, Italy v Turkey, Portugal v Scotland, Romania v Croatia, Czech Republic v Sweden, South Korea v Brazil, Tunisia v Egypt, Nigeria v Jamaica, Japan

Manchester United's Ruud van

without controversial striker Nicolas

Trap goes for fresh power Simone Perrotta, while Juventus'

Alessandro Birindelli and Carlo

Nervo of Bologna also make the

Lazio defender Paolo Negro and Atalanta's Damiano Zenoni have been enlisted following injuries to Marco Materazzi (Inter Milan), Alessandro Nesta (AC Milan), Francesco Totti and Marco Delvecchio (AS Roma).

victims of the San Giuliano earthquake. Cudicini, son of the famous AC Milan, Roma and Italy goalkeeper Fabio Cudicini, has kept five clean sheets in a row in England, a major factor behind Chelsea's climb up to

Roma midfielder Damiano

Tommasi is unavailable as he is due

to play in a charity match for the

third in the table The former Castel di Sangro 'keeper, who pulled off a string of superb saves in Saturday's 1-0 home win against Middlesbrough, revealed the inspiration behind his success.

lucky to have a father that did the same job as me." he said. "He can give me advice and help me a lot, as both a father and a

"I'm training very hard and I'm

sportsman.' Di Natale meanwhile is rewarded

After the match, di Natale

for netting a hat-trick in a 4-2 win at home to Reggina with a place alongside Cudicini in the senior

dedicated his call-up to his Empoli

thigh problem, minor injuries continue to vex Zinedine Zidane, who admitted that recurring back pain will keep him out of his country's Monday. friendly against Yugoslavia on

told French press that he felt underally the same one that drubbed Slovenia and Malta by scoring nine

Emmanuel Petit, back from a calf injury, one of the few changes. Ireland, still searching for

McCarthy, who led Ireland to the

hope for an improved showing from the Irish, who trail Switzerland, Russia and Albania in their qualify-

> Zidane limped through France's title defence at this year's World Cup, with a thigh injury restricting him to a single match, a 2-0 defeat against Denmark

"It is a great joy which I would like "It was a tough 15 days, truly "It's a dream come true and I am difficult." he added

> should benefit from the fall. "It can only do us good. After all,

shocking, but it is not surprising." Despite the nightmare summer and Real Madrid's domestic struggles this season, which have left the Spanish giants in fifth place, Zidane

"I'm 30 and I'm settling down a bit. I'm definitely getting older.' Zidane, who has pledged to lead

two-and-a-half years remaining. "After that, we'll see how I feel," he said. "I want to get the most of these three years and if things go

Filippo Inzaghi (Milan), Antonio Di And a in warning to rivals hoping