

## Parreira is serious

REUTERS, Lisbon

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira is looking forward to a "well-seasoned" friendly against Euro 2004 hosts Portugal on Saturday.

"All the condiments are on the table to make this a good game. Of course it is a friendly, but a well-seasoned one," Parreira told A Bola on Wednesday.

"Brazil have just been crowned world champions for the fifth time and Portugal will soon stage Euro 2004. So it's a big game between two teams with a lot at stake. Brazil wants to maintain prestige and Portugal wants to get in form for the European championship."

As hosts of Euro 2004, Portugal automatically qualify and will have no competitive fixtures in which to prepare for the tournament.

"There is nothing better for that than starting off with a good result against the five-time champions. We are aware of that. But let's be clear that Brazil always play to win. They have no alternative," added the coach.

Parreira also said Brazilian-born Deco, Portugal's most-talked-about player, "did the right thing" in taking out Portuguese nationality last month amid public protests from Luis Figo and Rui Costa against calling up naturalised players.

"You must take into account that there are four or five exceptional players for each position in Brazil, while a smaller country like Portugal ends up with less," he said.

"Was Deco an option for Brazil? Of course he was - he and millions of Brazilian players."

Following Figo and Costa's complaints, Portugal's Brazilian World Cup-winning trainer Luiz Felipe Scolari bluntly said that any squad member who did not want to play with Deco need not turn up.

Portuguese sports papers on Wednesday all carried front-page pictures of Figo and Deco training shoulder-to-shoulder.

## Captain Zidane

AFP, Clairefontaine

Real Madrid midfielder Zinedine Zidane will captain France in the Euro 2004 qualifiers against Malta and Israel, coach Jacques Santini announced on Thursday.

Zidane will replace Chelsea defender Marcel Desailly who has been left out of the team because of injuries and poor form.

The hero of the 1998 World Cup final will be in charge for Saturday's home match against the Maltese in Lens, northern France, and the away tie against Israel which has been rescheduled for Palermo, Sicily next Wednesday.

The softly-spoken Zidane exuded a natural authority. Santini said which commanded the respect of his teammates and dictated they way they played.



ESPN

English Premier Football League

Liverpool vs Leeds United

Repeat at 10:30 am

Western Union World Football

Taped Version at 4:00 pm

Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News

Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Sportsline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm



Tick the correct answers, post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

March 28, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

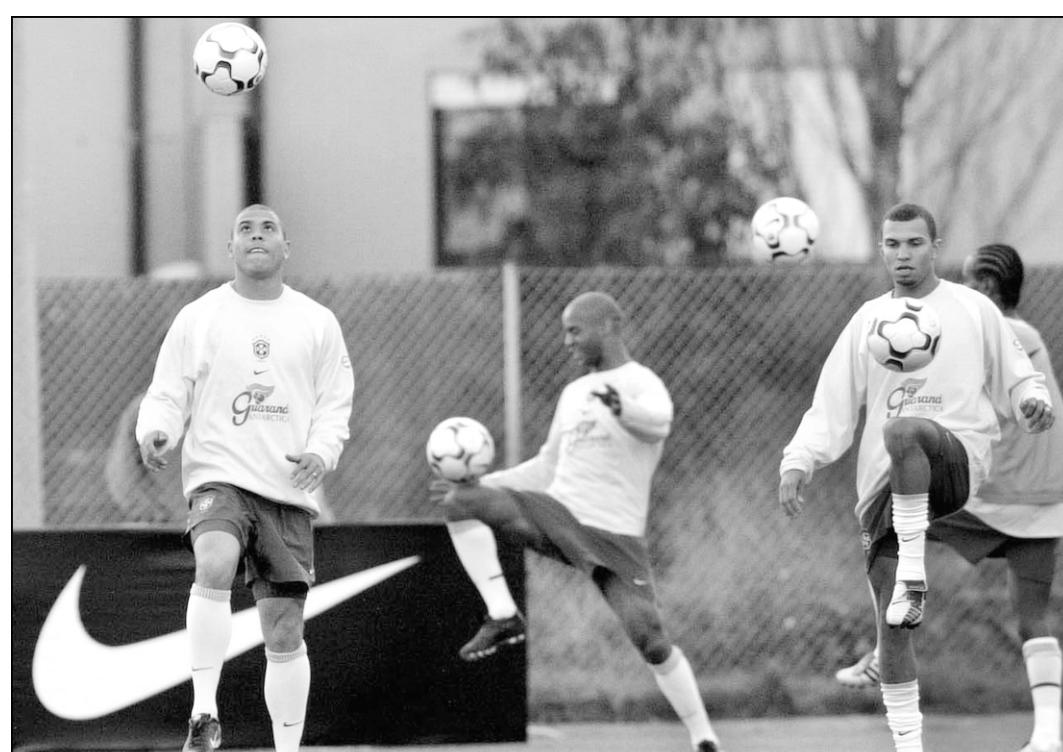
1. Who clinched the Shahjalal Bank International Rating Chess title?  
Lovru Rajib Zia

2. New Zealand beat South Africa in a World Cup Group B match by:  
102 runs 9 wkts 5 wkts

3. How many runs did Bangladesh score against South Africa in the World Cup Group B match?  
120 108 110

4. Bangladesh lost to Canada in the World Cup Group B match?  
Name .....  
.....

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



Brazilian superstar Ronaldo practises with his teammates in Porto on March 25. The world champions play Portugal in friendly international tomorrow.

## FA Cup

## Chelsea gunned down

## Football

AFP, London

Arsenal took another step towards an historic back-to-back domestic double as they beat Chelsea 3-1 at Stamford Bridge in the FA Cup quarterfinal replay on Tuesday.

Quick counter-attacks saw a John Terry own-goal and a Sylvain Wiltord strike give the Gunners a 2-0 lead at the interval.

After Pascal Cygan saw a second yellow card, Terry lifted Chelsea hopes with a header 12 minutes from time before Lauren killed the Blues off with a self-made shot.

The defeat dashes Chelsea's dreams of lifting a trophy and the Gunners go through to face First Division Sheffield United in the semi-final at Manchester United's Old Trafford on April 13.

This was the third time in as many seasons that Arsenal had knocked Chelsea out of the FA Cup and the win put Arsenal level with Everton's record of 23 appearances

in the last four.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger hailed his team's effort.

"When I think what they've given in the last week, beating Everton and then tonight, it's just fantastic. I've said it before, how great they are. A team that fights for each other."

His Chelsea counterpart Claudio Ranieri paid tribute to Arsenal's clinical counter-attacking game.

"We had a lot of chances without scoring. They had three shots, three goals," said the Italian.

"Arsenal are the best at compressing their counter-attacking. We spoke about this before the game, but it's another thing to stop it on the pitch."

In the 2-2 draw at Highbury that forced the replay, Arsenal found a productive route to goal straight down the centre.

Chelsea had failed to learn the lesson and were opened up twice in ten minutes when Arsenal burst right through the middle of the Chelsea midfield and clinically finished their only two chances of

the half.

The first came on 23 minutes when Wiltord picked up on a Sol Campbell clearance inside his own half and bypassed the Blues midfield in a flash.

With four against three defenders, Patrick Vieira broke away to the right and received the ball on the edge of the box.

His dangerous return pass to Wiltord was converted by the unlucky Terry who turned the ball beyond Carlo Cudicini's reach to take the shine off his first England call-up 48 hours earlier.

The 25-year-old had to go off after only half an hour of Sunday's league match with Malaga and the most optimistic prognosis was he would be out for about six weeks.

"There is no other solution but to operate," said the surgeon Santiago Perez Hidalgo.

And an all-too-familiar Arsenal move doubled the difference ten minutes later.

This time it was Vieira who

stormed through from his own

half, outpacing Jimmy Floyd

Hasselbaink and playing Wiltord in

on the right of the box with

defender William Gallas nowhere

to be seen.

After missing out on the first, the

French striker was in no mood to

square it and coolly drove the ball

past Cudicini.



PHOTO: AFP

Arsenal players celebrate their FA Cup quarterfinal replay victory over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in London on March 25.

## Zico's walking wounded

## Football

AFP, Tokyo

Brazilian legend Zico is hoping his Japanese team of walking wounded can deliver his first victory as coach when they take on Uruguay in a friendly international here Friday.

Zico has yet to taste success after two matches in charge since taking over in the wake of Japan's World Cup campaign last year where they reached the last 16.

Nakayama, Japan's only goal scorer in the 1998 World Cup, is suffering from a cold, while Nakamura has a calf injury picked up during a match against AC Milan earlier this month.

Kawaguchi is nursing a wound over his left eyebrow during practice here Tuesday requiring three stitches.

"I was slightly hit by a knee, but I got used to having the injury. I had some six times before. I'm just very happy that Zico called me up. I want to answer to him with my play in the game," said Kawaguchi.

Nakamura said: "I'm all right except the calf. I have to wait and see if I can play the game."

Suzuki has broken a right little toe in Belgium, but he insists he can play without any problems, saying: "I have no ill-effect from the injury at all."

"I have chosen the best possible team," said Zico. "Uruguay are a traditional South American team, they have won the World Cup

before. It is a very good chance to know our own level against such a strong team."

Japan's hopes will rest with Parma's Hideyoshi Nakata, SV Hamburg's Naohiro Takahara, and Reggina's Shunsuke Nakamura as well as Fulham's Junichi Inamoto and Portsmouth goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi.

Japan's preparations received a setback however with the withdrawal through injury of Masashi Nakayama, Japan's only goal scorer in the 1998 World Cup.

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