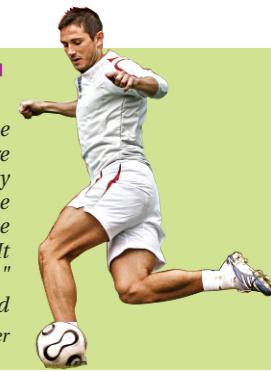


"I've added quite a lot to my all-round game in the last four years. I've probably added more goals and I'm probably more creative in my play. I've scored quite a lot of goals since the last World Cup and that makes a big difference from midfield. I hope my peak is to come. It would be a great time to peak in a World Cup."

-- England midfielder Frank Lampard

AFP, Manchester



# Klinsmann wants to secure lasting legacy



REUTERS, Geneva

Juergen Klinsmann wants to leave a legacy for the German game and he knows failure at his home World Cup would destroy that chance.

While other coaches at the June 9-July 9 tournament will be fighting to keep their jobs, the 41-year-old Klinsmann seems ambivalent about his future.

"If Klinsmann is not there, there must be someone else who really continues this philosophy," the former striker told a small group of reporters at Germany's training camp in Switzerland.

"The German Football Federation

## Rooney scan date bought forward



AFP, London

England announced on Monday they were keeping their options open on Wayne Rooney's injured foot bringing forward to June 7, the next assessment scan on the injury.

The 20-year-old Manchester United star had been due to fly out to Germany with Sven Goran Eriksson's squad next Monday before returning

to Manchester 10 days later to have the CT scan which would determine whether or not he will be able to take part in the competition.

But following a meeting between Eriksson, Sir Alex Ferguson and the medical teams of both England and Manchester United at the Premiership's Carrington training complex on Monday morning it has been decided to bring the scan forward by seven days.

That offers Eriksson the flexibility to bring in a replacement if it is decided Rooney is not fit enough to participate in his first World Cup.

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"Following a meeting today between England's medical team and Manchester United's medical team with both managers present it has been agreed to obtain a further precautionary CT scan on June 7 in order to help the England management to make a decision (on Rooney's fitness) before the deadline of June 9," Manchester United said a statement.

"Both parties agree that everything possible is being done to aid recovery of a fracture that involves the joint."

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The tournament favourites have enjoyed a relaxed build-up to next month's finals in Germany, scheduling only one friendly, against New Zealand, in the build-up and spending most time training in this idyllic Swiss retreat.



PHOTO: AFP

ONLY CARS CAN GET PAST HIM: A huge advertisement figure of German goalkeeper Oliver Kahn bridges a main route leading to the Munich airport on Monday.

### Parreira defends preparations

AFP, Weggis

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira has defended his team's World Cup preparations, dismissing concerns that the reigning champions could be found out when the tournament starts.

The tournament favourites have enjoyed a relaxed build-up to next month's finals in Germany, scheduling only one friendly, against New Zealand, in the build-up and spending most time training in this idyllic Swiss retreat.

But the South Americans' decision to play just one warm-up has alarmed critics in Brazil, who fear that the lack of match practice could count against Parreira's men when their campaign gets underway against Croatia on June 13.

But Parreira is unfazed by the concerns.

"It doesn't worry me that we may not start the tournament playing at 100 percent of our ability," said Parreira, whose team's last match was a March 1 friendly against Russia.

"If you start off at 100 percent then you've got no room for improvement."

"My objective is to improve game by game so that by the end of the tournament we are at our peak," said Parreira, who led Brazil to victory in the 1994 World Cup.

The experienced coach cited the example of the highly rated Colombia team which qualified for the finals in the United States 12 years ago with high hopes of going far only to be knocked out in the first round.

"Colombia had a great team and everyone was talking about them because they'd beaten Argentina 5-0 in Buenos Aires during the qualifiers," said Parreira.

"But by the time the World Cup came they were eliminated. A similar thing happened to

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## War no longer a taboo



AFP, Berlin

Germans are being encouraged to loosen up and even discuss World War II in a bid to change their image when a million foreign visitors pour into the country for the football World Cup finals which kick off next week.

The biggest country in the European Union is today an overwhelmingly peaceful land which agonizes even before committing troops to a peacekeeping mission abroad.

Yet the image of Germany in many countries seems barely to have changed more than 60 years since the fall of Adolf Hitler's regime.

Dutch fans are planning to wear replica Nazi helmets in their country's orange at World Cup matches, while England supporters have been urged by the British government not to resort to songs which make reference to the war, such as the "Dambusters" theme, from a film about the Allies' bouncing bomb.

Even Ecuador has got in on the act. Its football association issued a poster for the World Cup showing a mocked-up picture of its players running through a war-scarred Berlin, dodging

parachutes and tanks. In the background, the word "Invasion" is embossed across the horizon.

Confronted by such reminders of their country's most shameful chapter, how are Germans to react during the June 9-July 9 sporting spectacular?

The online version of the normally strait-laced Der Spiegel magazine this month dared to offer light-hearted tips on how to handle awkward questions.

"Don't fall silent about it, but we don't have to talk about it constantly either. As enlightened patriots, we are looking to the future," Der Spiegel advised.

If asked about Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels, "answer calmly, but firmly. 'He is dead... And so is Hitler.'"

With that out of the way, the host nation can get down to giving its visitors a traditional German welcome. But will it?

"We are unfortunately not perceived as a particularly friendly people. We have to improve on that," admitted Franz Beckenbauer, the head of the World Cup organising committee.

The official World Cup slogan, "A Time to Make Friends", urges a new start.

But a spate of apparently racist

### Comilla maul poor Tangail

#### SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Comilla outclassed Tangail with a massive 101-run victory in the final round of the Dhaka Bank Under-19 Cricket Championship at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Tangail experienced a stunning batting collapse to be bundled out for 41 runs in 11.1 overs in reply to Comilla's 142-6 in allotted 20 overs.

Manik was the wicket-in-chief picking up four wickets for 16 runs while Pintu took three for 13.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, BKSP thrived on Sumon Saha's 73 to beat Chittagong by 56 runs.

BKSP scored 188 for 7 in stipulated 50 overs and then dismissed the port city side for 132 in 43.4 overs.

Bagerhat managed an exciting two-wicket victory over Rajshahi in the other curtailed-over match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Taher made 46 and Gobinda 34 as Bagerhat scored 154-8 in 25.1 overs in reply to Rajshahi's 150-3 in 26 overs.

The day's other match between Sylhet and Chandpur didn't take place at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium due to rain.



Iran football fans voice support for their team during the World Cup warm-up match against Croatia in Osijek on Sunday.

### School soccer

#### SPORTS REPORTER

Salampur Dakhil Madrasa of Natore, Yunus Ali High School and Faridpur High School moved into the semifinal of the bangalink tiger trophy National School Football Championship beating their respective rivals at different venues across the country yesterday.

At the Pabna Stadium in Group A encounters, Salampur Dakhil Madrasa of Natore handed 4-2 defeat on Bhurungamari Pilot High School of Kurigram while Yunus Ali High School of Pabna edged past Kaberpara Senior Madrasa 2-1.

Faridpur High School blanked Ramu Khijari Ideal High School of Cox's Bazar 2-0 in a Group B match at the Comilla Stadium while the other match between Laxminarayan Cotton Mills High School of Narayanganj and Chhaganlaiya Pilot High School of Feni was postponed due to rain.

### Boost cricket

#### SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi region's Government Madrasa High School became champions in the Boost Doubles Cricket competition with a five-run victory over Sylhet region's Police Line High School in an exciting final at the Dhanmondi Club ground on last Friday.

Alamgir Faruque and Echarul Islam pair helped Rajshahi region to beat Sylhet's Abdur Rashid and Sohail Ahmed.

Health drink Boost sponsored the competition across the country.

Ad