

what they're saying

"This is a national embarrassment for Scotland."

— Female caller on a BBC Radio talk show after Irish Premier Bertie Ahern canceled a trip to Glasgow amid fears his visit to a Catholic shrine could spark sectarian violence between fans of archrivals Rangers and Celtic, who were playing the same day.

"There has been a profound personal transformation on my behalf. It all began one weekend when I traveled to a farm with my family. Surrounded by nature, and in a family atmosphere, I reviewed my entire life."

— Beleaguered Brazilian soccer confederation president Ricardo Teixeira, explaining why he ended his long-running feud with Pele that wrecked the country's chances of hosting the 2006 World Cup.

"It was very encouraging to feel that the people, the media and the directors had so much interest in carrying on our work."

— Paraguayan national team coach Sergio Markarian, who returned to his post after his resignation prompted a public outcry.