ONE THAT ELUDED HIS REACH: Norwegian custodian

Erik Thorstvedt watches in utter despair as a powerful

header from Dino Baggio sails over his outstretched hands

during a crucial World Cup Group E match at the Giants

- AFP photo

TV commercials

WC's inseparable

evils

Advertisers were forced Friday

to withdraw television com-

mercials aired during the

World Cup games after angry

protests by Cypriot soccer

The state-run Cyprus Tele-

vision said it had received

hundreds of telephone calls

from viewers complaining that

ads aired while the games

were on were too distracting.

in local newspapers demanded

government intervention to

Carlsberg and Keo, the three

leading sponsors of live TV

coverage of the tournament,

said in separate statements

Friday that the commercials

now only will be run during

halftime, at the start and end

Zia almost there

Sports Reporter

Rahman of Biman has almost

confirmed the 20th national

chess championship title when

he beat Sheikh Nasir Ahmed of

Dhaka University in the penul-

timate round at the chess

room of National Sports Coun-

International Master Ziaur

of the games.

cil yesterday.

stop the commercial breaks.

Letters from fans published

Coca-Cola and beer brewers

fans, reports AP.

NICOSIA, Cyprus, June 24:

Stadium on Thursday. Italy squeezed past Norway 1-0.

Higher ratings

opening World Cup game for

the United States drew the

second-highest rating ever for

soccer on US television and

Wednesday night's upset of

Colombia drew more than

twice the regular audience on

the ESPN cable channel, re-

Saturday's 1-1 tie against

Switzerland had a 5.0 national

one of three major commercial

networks, according to figures

announced Thursday by

Nielsen Media Research. The

only soccer game with a higher

rating was Italy's victory over

West Germany in the 1982

World Cup final, which got a

6.6 rating and 22 per cent

share of the audience watching

a higher rating than ABC's cov-

erage of the US Open gol.

tournament later in the dry.

which received 4.5 rating and

age of television households in

the United States, and the

share is the percentage tuned

in among those televisions that

are on at the time. Each point

represents 942,000 house

tory over Colombia got a 4.5

rating on ESPN, which repre-

sents 2.17 million homes

among the 63.1 million that

receive the cable network. It is

the highest rating thus far in

the tournament for ESPN.

which averaged a 1.9 rating in

that time period for seven

previous major league baseball

Wednesday night's 2-1 vic

The rating is the percent-

Saturday's 1-1 game gained

television at that time.

a 15 share.

holds.

rating and a 17 share on ABC.

ports AP.

UNDATED, June 24: The



Share The Passion



Arabs in existential battle



EAST RUTHERF ORD, New Jersey, June 24: Morocco, unlucky losers against Belgium in their opening

World Cup Group F match, need to beat Saudi Arabia convincingly on Saturday to boost their chances of reaching the last 16, reports Reuter.

Appearing in their third World Cup finals, Morocco were encouraged by that performance against Belgium in which only the heroics of opposition goalkeeper Michel Preud' Homme deprived them of a deserved point. Their plan is now to take

three points from the Saudis and hope that a point against the Dutch in their last match on June 29 will be enough to put them into the second round.

"We must play an attacking game on Saturday. We must be aggressive," said Rachid Daoudi, the fitted midfielder who had an impressive game against Belgium.

*The Saudis, in their first finais, can also take a great deal of comfort from their opening game, which ended in a 2-1

Soccer's govern-

ing body is un-

happy with some

of the World Cup

officiating and

will release those referees it

feels are not doing the job.

Joseph Blatter on Wednesday

characterised the overall offi-

"good to very good."

ciating through 13 games as

But he said FIFA was dis-

mayed that not enough tackles

from behind have been called

and that stars such as Diego

Maradona of Argentina and

Roberto Baggio of Italy are be-

ing manhandled. He declined

to identify the offending refer-

FIFA's officiating council will

be completed this week. Any

referee deemed below par will

more games in the tourna-

ment, which runs through

up to the standards of FIFA.

"If referees don't measure

be barred from calling any

Blatter said a review by

FIFA general secretary

reports A

defeat by the Netherlands.

The 500-1 outsiders rocked the former European champions, taking the lead through a goal by Fuad Anwar Amin, and only a goalkeeping blunder by the previously excellent Mohammad Al-Deayea five minutes from time cost them a

Moroccan goalkeeper Khalil Azmi was carried off on a stitcher in the closing minutes of the match with Belgium but is expected to be fit.

He and Saudi opposite number Al-Deayea should have a busy afternoon on Saturday with a draw of no use to either team.

The main Moroccan strike threat is provided by the experienced Mohamed Chaouch, who plays his club soccer with nice in the French Second Division. Chaouch twice rattled the Belgian crossbar in Orlando last Sunday. Saudi Arabia look to Majed

Abdullah to find the back of the net — the man called the "Desert Pele" is credited with no less than 118 goals in 167 appearances for his country, including friendly matches.

Morocco met Saudi Arabia in the opening phases of the 1984 Olympic soccer tourna-

FIFA wants refs to be tougher

said. "They will receive our

He singled out three refer-

ees - Peter Mikkelsen of

Denmark, Arturo Brizio of

Mexico and Jamal Al-Sharif of

Syria - for exemplary work

during the first round.

Mikkelsen and Brizio handed

out the only two red-card ex-

pulsions so far, in last Friday's

have seen less-good." Blatter

down on violent play from soc-

cer has already produced live-

in this World Cup found the

ball was in play an average of

61 minutes, compared with

about 50 minutes in the 1990

Belgium-Morocco in Orlando,

Fla. last Sunday. The ball was in

play for more than 66 of the

in the hottest game

The greatest activity came

Blatter said FIFA's crack

He said surveys of 11 games

"We have seen good and we

*DALLAS, June 24: they will not be used again," he

heartfelt thanks."

ment in Los Angeles, the Moroccans winning that encounter 1-0 but failing to reach the next round.

They fared better in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, holding Poland and England to draws before beating Portugal 3-1 to reach the second round where they went down 1-0 to eventual runners-up West Germany.

That run remains the bestever showing by an Arab nation at the World Cup. TEAMS

MOROCCO: 1-Khalil Azmi, 2-Abdellah Nacer, 5-Ismail Triki, 6-Nourredine Naybet, 3-Abdelkrim El Hadrioui, 4-Tahar El Khalej, 15-Larbi Hababi, 7-Mustapha Hadji, 10-Mustapha El Hadaoui, 9-Mohamed Chaouch, 11- Rachid Daoudi.

SAUDI ARABIA: 1 Mohammad Al-Deayea, 2-Abdullah Al-Dossari, Mohammad Al-Khlawi, 5-Ahmed Jamil Madani, 13-Mohammad Abdul-Jawad, 6-Fuad Anwar Amin, 8-Fahad Al-Bishi, 14-Khalid Al-Muallid, 16-Talal Jabrin, 9-Majed Abdullah, 10- Saeed Owairan. Referee: Philip Don

(England).

"It was played in the heat,

The lowest rating was 56:20

Blatter added that FIFA

"Football will remain a sport

does not want to remove hard

in a combat situation," he said.

"But it must be a fair combat

situation. We have to maintain

physical contact but in the

warning had been assessed in

the first 12 games, compared

with 25 at the same point in

Etcheverry of Bolivia and

Miguel Nadal of Spain, result-

ing in their suspensions for

the rest of the first round.

There were three red cards by

player expelled. We want to

have the best 11 players on the

field," Blatter said. "But we

must get rid of violent acts."

"We do not like to have a

this time in 1990.

Red cards were to Marco

FIFA said 43 yellow-card

defensive play from soccer.

but it was played in a good

rhythm," Blatter said.

for Cameroon-Sweden.

boundaries of fair play."

Havelange: FIFA's godfather



DALLAS, June 24: Pele is and always will be the king of soccer but the real ruler of the world's greatest

sport is a Brazilian of a totally different hue, FIFA president Joao Havelange, reports Reuter.

Pele may not have played in a World Cup since 1970 but his very presence at the US finals brings a warm glow to fans recalling his zest for the sport, the genius of his talent and the sheer pleasure he radiated.

Havelange could pass almost unnoticed in a soccer crowd but in the world of sponsors. television companies and big business, his is the voice to reckon with.

At 53, Pele represents nostalgia and the past, Havelange stands for profit margins and the future, despite his 78

Yet curiously, it was Pele who almost brought down the FIFA president when Havelange failed to grasp that a boss, however powerful, takes a big risk in taking on a living legend.

Despite the wishes of US organisers and everyone else, Havelange refused to let Pele take part in last December's Las Vegas draw for the finals because the sport's superstar had accused the Brazilian Soccer federation of corrup-

The president of the federation is Ricardo Teixeira, Havelange's son-in-law.

That Havelange survived widespread anger at his refusal to back down says much for his political and manipulative Using the old divide-and-

rule technique. Havelange came up with a plan to increase the finals from 24 to 32 teams, setting the continents arguing among themselves about allocations and leaving them unable to agree on anything - especially a common presidential candi

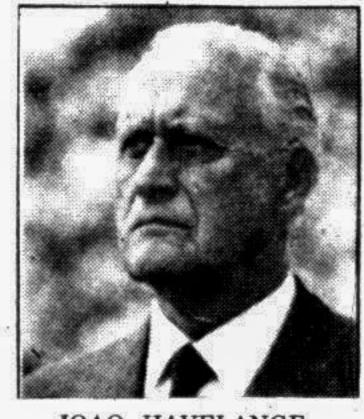
FIFA's congress in Chicago

last week, in a public show of enthusiasm which masked some private distaste for his autocratic style of leadership. re-elected him unopposed for a sixth four-year term.

It will be his last. Havelange, who ousted Britain's Stanley Rous in 1974 on a wave of third world frustration at Europe's control of FIFA has said he will stand down in 1998.

Havelange told Reuters last week he would stay out of the inevitable battle over his succession. A few days later, Teixeira was presented to the congress as a new executive committee member.

With his steely blue eyes, deep gravely voice and frosty



JOAO HAVELANGE

expression, Havelange presides over FIFA as if he had closely studied Marlon Brando's role in "the godfather."

One moment at the congress best illustrates his style. The leaders of the confederations were called on in turn to ask if they agreed with the president's plan to solve a deadlock over an intercontinental power struggle. They all said they did.

Each was then thanked personally by his first name in a grave, almost ceremonious, way which left no one in any doubt as to who was the leader of this clan. Havelange, after all, refers to FIFA as his family.

Havelange has undoubtedly

years to modernise soccer, embracing commercialism and turning FIFA into a highly profitable organisation which spends a lot of its resources on developing the sport in the third world.

A bus company magnate in Brazil, Havelange is proud to say he runs soccer as if it were a business like any other. He brought the World Cup to the United States to tap new markets and income and will take it to South East Asia for the same reason in 2002.

For a man approaching 80, he is remarkably energetic. He neither smokes nor drinks alcohol, sleeps just five or six hours a night and goes through a strenuous physical workout ever day, including a four-km

At the World Cup, he will fly more than 30,000 km in a private jet and attend more than 30 matches, sometimes two in a day despite the large distances involved.

walk and a 1,000-metre swim.

But he confesses to a certain vanity and spent almost two hours arguing over which jet he would take after being offered aircraft he considered too old. "I'm not going to place myself in jeopardy," he

Nor did he stay in the same

accommodation as other FIFA members, a country club with golf course on the outskirts of Dallas, preferring a suite at the mansion on Turtle Creek, reputed to be one of the finest hotels in the United States. Havelange, like some other

well-known international sports federation leaders, relishes personal honours and made a big show of leaving the FIFA congress when his reelection came up - even though he had no opponentreturning to make a grand entrance as he received the acclaim of the gathering.

But, whatever benefits he brings to soccer in his last term, when he retires in four year's time the elected leader will still not be able to enjoy a fraction of the popularity of

done much in the past 20 uncrowned king Pele. Life & times of Alexi Lalas



DANA POINT, California, June 24: Four summers ago the United States and Alexi Lalas were both at the World Cup finals in Italy.

reports Reuter. But on the day his compa-

triots were losing their third successive first round match, against Austria in Florence. Lalas was not in the team. He was in the stands with

some high school friends, his face painted red, white and blue, "having a ball, bumming around Europe, chasing women, drinking beer and waking up with headaches.

Lalas, now 24, awoke with a headache again on Thursday but the reason was nothing to do with his former lifestyle. This time it was the result of a celebratory drink following the

28 Pac.

counter-

30 Who: Fr

31 "Rocks"

32 Dorothy

non

path

36 Shak.'s

37 Do some

editing

better.

poster

42 Wanted-

film

33 Lob's

Parker's

sine qua

5 Fan, and

6 Stork or

7 Chest

8 Ms.

then some

flamingo

muscles.

Gardner

9 Joplin's

choose

to run'

Yat-

servings

style

10 "-- not

11 Sun

17 Corn

briefly

United States win over Colombia which virtually guaranteed the host nation a place beyond the first phase for the first



ALEXI LALAS

time since 1930. And instead of watching from the stands. Lalas was a key member of the side whose he lashed home in the second half had counted instead of being dubiously ruled offside. Lalas's red hair and red goatee beard make him the

winning 2-1 margin could have

been even greater if the shot

most recognisable member of the American squad and he exudes a certain start quality, a highly marketable product in this image conscious country. What does the future hold?

"Well, I'm not too sure right now. I haven't really though about it too much, but I need a job, otherwise I'll probably just hang out, drink some beer. play some music and wait till someone gives me one."

The job Lalas would like would be that of a professional footballer. "But so far no-one has approached me. I don't have a club, so I'm just waiting for something to turn up."

Cup referee Jose of 47 had been maintained. Roberto Wright dismissed the standard of refcriticised FIFA on ereeing so far as "not very



July 17.

SAN JOSE, California, June 24: Former World

Thursday, saying the world governing body confused match officials, reports Reuter He also said he was disap-

pointed with refereeing stan dards at the tournament so far The Brazilian, in charge of several games at the last World Cup, including the England Germany semifinal, said the best advice he could give to

referees was to forget what

"In 1990, I just ignored the refereeing committee and did everything my way. I ended up with one of the semifinals," he

FIFA told them.

The worst pressure on referees is from the FIFA referee ing committee because they keep changing the instructions they give to referees in Italy. they changed them three days before the competition began he said.

"At the end of the first round they changed them again. Too many referees had already programmed them selves to the original instructions and weren't capable of adapting.

The trouble with the refer eeing committee is that too many of them have never been on a field. None of the men who have the power have been on a field. Many of its members prefer to worry about political issues than technical ones.

Wright also warned against a giant television screen that shows replays of incidents in the stadium at Palo Alto where Group A and B matches are being played.

"This isn't a good idea at all. The referee could be tempted into waiting for a replay on the screen," he said

Another problem according to Wright was the lowering of the maximum age limit for ref erees to 45.

"You can get a referee into good physical shape in a few weeks but you can't buy experience and we have lost expe rience," said Wright, who is working at the finals as a commentator for a Brazilian

Former WC ref blasts FIFA radio station.

World Cup.

90 minutes.

Wright, who would have been eligible for the current competition if the old age limit

"There have been a lot of technical mistakes and the disciplinary side has left much to be desired," he said.

"The Germany v Spain game was very physical, there were a lot of fouls from behind and the referee did nothing."

"In the Nigeria-Bulgaria game, there were a lot of fouls

which deserved yellow cards but which didn't get them."

Wright said World Cup referees needed to impose re-

tough referee," he said.

pretending.

Chang, McNeil cruise No. 2 seed Arantxa Sanchez



WIMBLEDON. June 24: Lori Mc Neil, the surprise conqueror of Steffi Graf, reached Wimbledon's fo-

urth round with a solid victory Friday. But another giantkiller. Kenneth Carlsen, fell ill and withdrew a day after upsetting Stefan Edberg, reports AP McNeil, in her best Wim-

bledon since 1989, defeated Kristie Boogert of the Netherlands, 6-2, 6-4

Carlsen a Dane ranked 113th in the world, began vomiting during his thirdround match with Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden and withdrew while trailing 6-4.6-4. 1-0 Carlsen stunned Ed berg, a two-time champion in five sets on Thursday

in other matches Friday No. 10 seed Michael Chang defeated Grant Connell of Canada 7-6 (7-4), 6-4, 6-2, and South African Wayne Ferreira beat Chris Wilkinson, one of two Britons still left in the tournament. 6-2, 6-2, 6-3

McNeil was joined the fourth roundby fellow American Lindsay Davenport, the No 9 seed who turned 18 this month Playing in only her second Wanbledon, Davenport beat Barbara Rittner of Germany, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

An American playing her 14th Wimbledon, 32-year-old Pam Shriver, ran out steam in her match, losing to Argentina's Florencia Labat, 6-4. 4-6, 6-2. Labat will play McNeil in the fourth round

spect and said that South American teams were the most

difficult to deal with. "The players are known when they are dealing with a

"European players tend to be fairer than South Americans. Diego Maradona? "I've never had any problems with him but with Maradona, you have to know when he has been fouled and when he's

Vicario was installed as the

oddsmakers favourite, but

prospects also brightened for

Martina Navratilova. She ar-

rived here a jumble of emo

tions hoping to avoid embar-

rassment at her last Wimble-

ARANTXA SANCHEZ

don, and suddenly seems an is-

around her

knee problems.

.six tries.

land of serenity as chaos swirls

In statistical terms, Cou-

rier's defeat was the biggest

upset in the history of men's

tennis. He is ranked seventh in

the world and lost a five-set

battle to Frenchman Guy For-

get, ranked only 1 130th after

being idled for a year with

victory before this week was in

May 1993, but he surprised

even himself by outlasting the

6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 — his first

victory against the American in

heavily favoured Courier 3-6.

Forget's last regular tour

games this season. DU complete Ragib Ali Cup semis quota

Sports Reporter

Dhaka University completed the semifinal quota of the Ragib Ali Gold Cup hockey tournament when the students eliminated Dhaka Education Board 4-1 in the tie-breaker at the Hockey Stadium yesterday

The winners dominating most part of the play earned eight short corners against the three of Dhaka Education Board but failed to reach the mark forcing the match to crawl into tie breaker.

Rakibuddin, Tutul, Kamal and Imran converted the spot shots for Dhaka University while Shyamol was the lone scorer for the vanquished. Dhaka University will take on Bangladesh Army in the second semi-final on Sunday.

Cricket clinic on

Sports Reporter

A 15-day cricket coaching clinic under the auspices of the Acme Laboratories Limited began at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday

Seventy five under-16 players are taking part in the clinic under the supervision of three veteran cricketers of yesteryears - Jahangir Shah Badsha, Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu and G S Hassan Tamim.

41 Unclear

rectangle abductor 12 '- Lazy 52 Annoy

53 Great River 13 Harem room 14 Duck 15 Roulette bet 16 12-sided

56 Fixes 18 Coach Parsemanuscripts ghian

heavily

23 Set down

34 Hypnotized word

23 Humpback RYEWEBSTER

bracketed good

ALBANYRAH

45 Army meal 46 Un-Improv-"Time"?

48 Article in 49 Angler's need 50 Parisian

31 32 33

CRYPTOQUIP

PENFYQ FEVUWKWV, UWQWPQTSW VWEUTKF

RNQWU: KRSWDC

JDRQC."

CRAFTY ARSONIST IS LIKELY TO BE BLACKMAIL

The Cryptoquip 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

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer buffoon 2 Phantom's ACROSS 45 1,000: Fr. puppet domain 1 Small 24 Boy 3 "-, I'm 47 Old card store co-25 Raw Adam" owner? mineral 4 Carbon-4 Spotted 48 Somewhat ated quaff 26 Apiece 7 Helen's squashed

taker. usually 55 Actor Vigoda figure

57 Swamp 19 Neighbor-58 Frivolous hoods 20 Easter one of song entree DOWN 22 Foul up

27 Eg. and Syr., once 29 Honest 31 "- to be alone"

35 Coterie 37 Oft-38 Leave a

around

1 Fra 21 Cluster Angelico creation Solution time: 25 mins. DOORKNOBILAMA

GLANCEDINN impression 39 Once

PIESSALERADON EELSWEBSMONO DULLS GUSFOUT AIRSPARSE

Yesterday's answer 10-22 51 Favorite

able place

40 "Half - is

datum 43 Anthony Quinn role 44 Hayseed

QYW Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A LETTER FROM A

Today's Cryptoquip clue: U equals D

locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.