

Captain Cup golf Azam's

Sports Reporter
Azam J Chowdhury lifted the Captain Cup golf title on Friday at the Kurmitola Golf Club course.

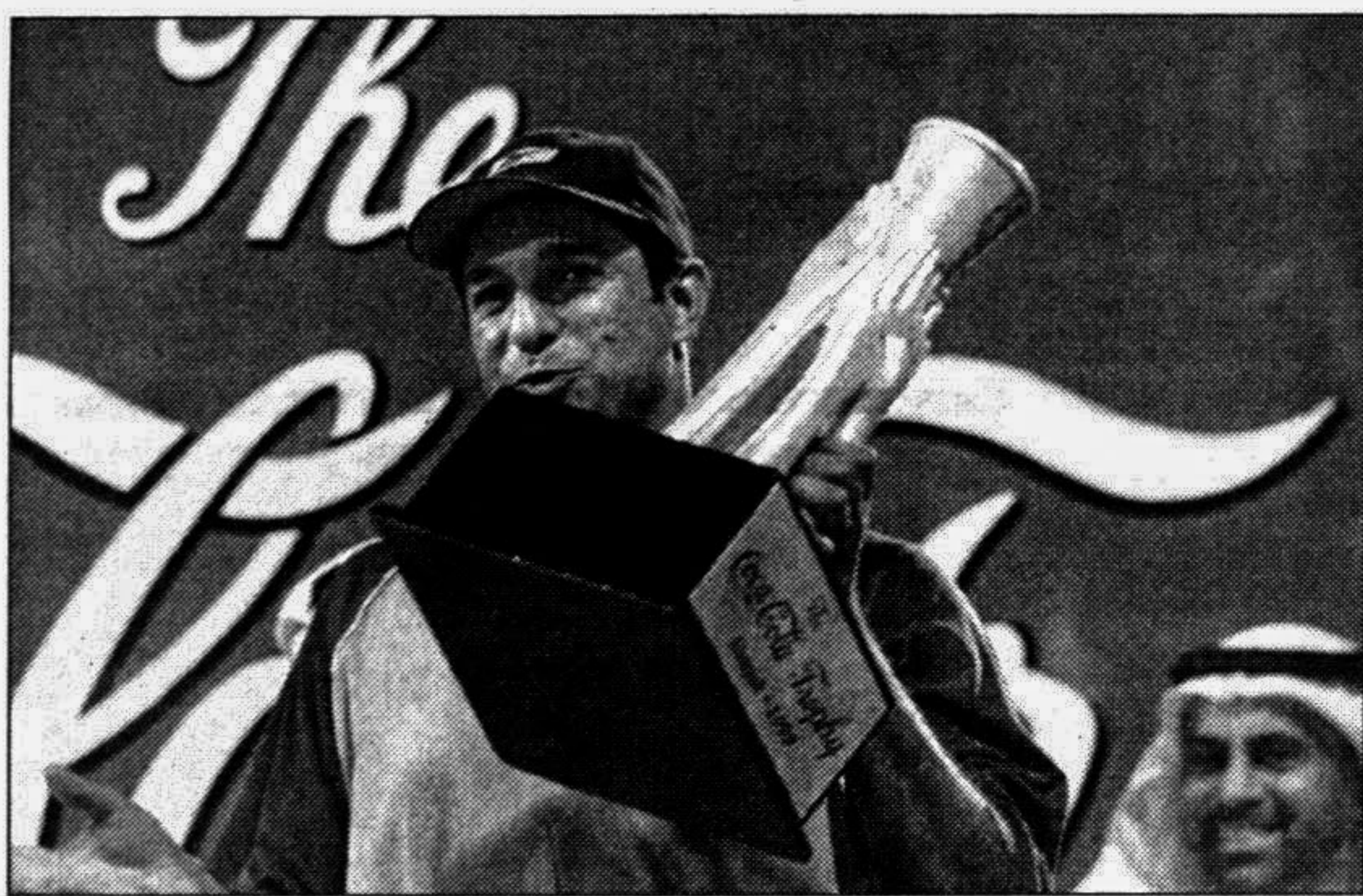
The prestigious tournament which opens the current season, was participated by a good number of ladies.

The event was teed-off by Chief of Army Staff and Kurmitola president Lt Gen M Mustafizur Rahman. And later he distributed the prizes.

Following are the winners of other categories:

WINNERS' LIST

- Ladies' winner: Mrs Jang Sook Jang
- Senior winner (ret'd): Mujibur Rahman
- Junior winner: Parash
- Runner-up: Brig Md Ahsan Habib
- Second runner-up: Faisal Khan
- Third runner-up: Maj Gen Syed Ahmed
- Ladies' runner-up: Mrs Hamaguchi
- Front nine winner: M H Samad
- Back nine winner: Shaiful Islam
- Most improvement: CE Lee
- Nearest to pin: Daryl Crooks
- Longest drive: Hissam Ahmed



Pakistan captain Wasim Akram holds the Coca-Cola trophy after the final against Sri Lanka on October 22. — AFP photo

Pat to miss Davis Cup final

MELBOURNE, Oct 23: Australian No. 1 Pat Rafter said he's today he is to have an operation on his injured shoulder and will miss the Davis Cup final against France in December.

The two-time US Open champion said he will undergo surgery on Sunday and hoped to be fit to play in the Australian Open in January.

Rafter said he hoped to be hitting a tennis ball within six weeks after the surgery to repair a tear to the rotator cuff in his right shoulder.

He said the injury was not as severe as the one which put Australian cricket Test spinner Shane Warne out for six months.

His trainer Mark Waters said a lot of athletes have similar injuries but Rafter's shoulder tendons are very strong which is a good sign for a complete recovery.

Davis Cup captain John Newcombe was expected to turn to teenager Lleyton Hewitt and Mark Philippoussis, coming back from knee and ankle problems, for the Cup final against France in Nice from December 3-5.

Rafter's only chance of playing against the Cedric Pioline-led France would have been a course of anti-inflammatory drugs that would have jeopardised his long-term career and it was decided an arthroscopy was the only logical option.

Lankans left in tatters

SHARJAH, Oct 23: Pakistan won their 11th title at Sharjah stadium on Friday night, beating Sri Lanka by 88 runs in the final of the 100,000 dollars Coca-Cola Trophy tournament, reports AP.

The Pakistanis overcame their off-field controversies to bowl out the young Lankan side for 123 in 36 overs. Earlier they scored 211 for nine, benefiting from two poor umpiring decisions.

Pakistan — whose skipper Wasim Akram, Saeed Anwar and Inzamam-ul-Haq were recently investigated over match-fixing charges — were forced to play without fast bowler Shahid Afridi.

control at 49 for one in 9.3 overs. Then lost opener Kaluwitharana (10). The umpire gave him leg before wicket to Akram although the ball hit his bat before his pad.

The twin bowlers in successive overs shattered the morale of the Lankans. They caved in. The Pakistanis snapped up the remaining seven wickets for only 73 runs, with Russel Arnold (27 not out) and Nuwan Zoysa (22) providing the only resistance.

Medium paceman Azhar Mahmood did the most damage taking 5 for 28, following his 6 for 16 against the West Indies in the previous match. He was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Pakistan succeeded in putting up a challenging total thanks to fluent half-centuries by Anwar and man-of-the-series Inzamam.

Anwar whacked five fours and a huge six off spinner Muttiah Muralitharan. He hit 53 from 48 deliveries before being caught by Romesh Kaluwitharana off Upul Chandana.

Inzamam topscored with 54, hitting four boundaries in his 78-ball innings. He was caught at the deep by Nuwan Zoysa off skipper Sanath Jayasuriya. Inzamam and Anwar put up 71 for the third wicket in 14 overs.

with two points.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard in the final of the Sharjah Cup between Pakistan and Sri Lanka on Friday:

PAKISTAN: 211 for 9 wickets in 50 overs.

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya c Afridi b Akram	0
Kaluwitharana lbw b Akram	10
De Silva c Inzamam b Razaq	25
Jayawardene c Moin b Mahmood	8
Atapattu c Moin b Mahmood	3
Arnold not out	27
Chandana c Moin b Mahmood	0
Vaas c Inzamam b Mahmood	9
Wickremasing b Mahmood	1
Zoysa c and b Malik	22
Muralitharan b Malik	18
Extras: (lb-5, nb-4, w-9)	18
Total: (All out in 36 overs)	123



A MAHMOOD ... m-o-m

Spinner Chandana brought Sri Lanka back into the game by bowling Yousuf Youhana off his bat and then having teenager Hassan Raza stumped by Kaluwitharana. Chandana, who also ran out Moin Khan with a direct throw to the stumps, finished with 3 for 40 from 10 overs.

Akram, who won the toss for the fifth straight time, rode his luck to hit 30 from 26 balls and rally his side from 148 in six. Akram hit two fours and a six before falling to left-arm pacer Nuwan Zoysa.

Opening bowler Chaminda Vaas had fine figures of one for 20 from eight overs, and also got rid of Shahid Afridi cheaply.

The Pakistanis finished the tournament unbeaten, having topped the double header league with seven points, including a tie with the Lankans in the first round. They have been playing in Sharjah Stadium since the early 1980s.

West Indies finished last



INZAMAM ... m-o-s

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-49; 3-50; 4-57; 5-66; 6-69; 7-85; 8-89; 9-117; 10-123.

Bowler: O M R W
Akram 8 2 21 2
M Akram 7 1 26 0
Razaq 5 0 13 1
Mahmood 10 2 28 5
S Malik 6 1 30 2

Result: Pakistan won by 88 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Azhar Mahmood.

Man-of-the-series: Inzamam-ul-Haq.

Fastest 50: Yousuf Youhana 50 in 38 balls.

Best fielder: Moin Khan.

Best bowler: Azhar Mahmood.

Umpires: David Shepherd (England), Doug Coiwe (New Zealand).

Third Umpire: Steve Dunne (New Zealand).

Match referee: Peter Van der Merwe (South Africa).

Sheffield rope in Ribeiro

SHEFFIELD, England, Oct 23: Sheffield United signed Portuguese midfielder Bruno Ribeiro from Premier League leaders Leeds United in a \$500,000 pounds (\$833,900 dollars) deal on Friday, reports Reuters.

The 24-year-old joined Leeds from Vittoria Setubal in July 1997 for 400,000 pounds but has not been in current manager David O'Leary's plans this season.

"This is a good move for me as I haven't played for Leeds yet this season and I am keen to be somewhere I can play football," he said.

Ribeiro joins fellow Portuguese star Marcelo at first division Sheffield United after the striker turned down a move to Birmingham and committed himself to United until his contract ends in the summer. (\$1,599,6 Pound).

Bromwich passes away

MELBOURNE, Oct 23: Former Australian Davis Cup player John Bromwich, a former Australian Open champion, died Thursday at the age of 80 after suffering a heart attack earlier this week, his family said Friday, reports AP.

Although his tennis career was interrupted by World War II, Bromwich managed to win the Australian Open in 1939 and 1946. He played 51 Davis Cup matches from 1927 to 1950, winning 19 of his 30 singles matches and 20 of 21 doubles in 23 ties.

Bromwich was an unorthodox player — he was ambidextrous and used both hands on the forehand.

The major disappointment of his career came at Wimbledon in 1948 when he reached the final against Bob Falkenburg and wasted three match points to lose the championship after leading 5-2 in the final set.

Bromwich's greatest successes came in doubles and that year he won the doubles title with Frank Sedgman. He won at Wimbledon again in 1950 with compatriot Adrian Quist.

Bromwich was a three-time US Open doubles champion and was also a Wimbledon mixed doubles winner with Louise Brough in 1947-48.

Greece drops lottery plan

ATHENS, Oct 23: Greece has cancelled plans for a national lottery to fund preparations for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens after opposition claims that the government wanted to turn the country into a giant casino, reports Reuters.

But a government spokesman said today the games would not suffer as the funds it expected the lottery to raise, more than 100 billion drachmas (\$27 million dollars), would now come from the state budget.

bir Ahmed after the International Cricket Conference ruled that he bowled illegal deliveries in a Canadian tournament last month.

Sri Lanka's challenge fell foul of controversial umpiring decisions in the dismissals of Aravinda de Silva and Romesh Kaluwitharana, who were batting well.

De Silva, who smashed four boundaries in his 25 from 30 balls, was judged caught in the slips despite the fact that the catcher, Inzamam, appeared to drop the ball on the ground before scooping it up.

The match was held up for several minutes before the third umpire, Steve Dunne of New Zealand, ruled De Silva out. The TV replays, however, showed the ball appeared to slip from the fielder's fingers and hit the ground before bouncing again.

Sri Lanka, who were in con-

Gold Cup 2000 draw

ROK up against Canada, Guatemala

NEW YORK, Oct 23: South Korea, the first team out of the Americas invited to compete in the Football Confederation (ex Concaaf) Gold Cup, will face Canada and Guatemala in the early round of next year's competition, reports AFP.

Chuck Blazer, the Football Confederation general secretary, announced the 12-team schedule and groupings at a press conference at its headquarters in midtown Manhattan this afternoon.

The teams were divided into four groups of three. Two groups will play in Miami. Florida, and the other two will be in Los Angeles and San Diego, California.

Blazer said that South Korea would bring a lot of excitement and interest to the 500,000-dollar tournament, which will begin at Miami's Orange Bowl on February 12 with a double-header: the United States v Haiti followed by Colombia v Jamaica.

He said the South Koreans will play their early rounds in Los Angeles because the city has a strong Korean community and organizers expected big crowds at their games.

"South Korea will host the 2002 World Cup and it needs games to prepare themselves for the tournament. The interest of the Orient will be a chance for us to get to see something different," said Blazer.

The Football Confederation had also hoped to successfully invite Japan, co-host of the 2002 World Cup, but it could not accept because of a conflict in schedules.

This is the fifth Gold Cup, the Football Confederation's showcase event, and it will have 12 teams, the most since the tournament began in 1991.

Mexico has won the past three while the United States won the first.

The top two teams in each group will play in the quarter-finals in Miami and San Diego on February 19 and February

20. The semi-finals will be held in San Diego and Los Angeles on February 23 and February 24.

All games, except the semi-finals and final, will be played as doubleheaders at the Orange Bowl in Miami, Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego and the Los Angeles Coliseum.

The popular and crowd-pulling Brazil was not invited for the 2000 Gold Cup because organizers decided to get a different mix of teams and brought in Peru, Colombia and South Korea. Argentina was also considered, but its schedule did not fit in.

On a lighter note, the three-foot high Gold Cup Trophy, which weighs more than 110 pounds and is valued at 12,000 dollars, may be made lighter because the victorious players have difficulty carrying it after the presentation.

Blazer said the winning team kept the trophy.

First round draw and schedule for the Football Confederation Gold Cup 2000:

First Round Groups

A: Jamaica, Colombia, Honduras, based in Miami.

B: USA, Peru, Haiti, based in Miami.

C: Mexico, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, based in San Diego.

D: Costa Rica, South Korea, Canada, based in Los Angeles.

Schedule:

Feb. 12: USA v Haiti, Colombia v Jamaica in Miami.

Feb. 13: Costa Rica v Canada, Mexico v Trinidad and Tobago in San Diego.

Feb. 14: Jamaica v Honduras, Haiti v Peru in Miami.

Feb. 15: South Korea v Canada, Trinidad and Tobago v Guatemala in Los Angeles.

Feb. 16: Honduras v Colombia, Peru v USA in Miami.

Feb. 17: Mexico v Guatemala, South Korea v Costa Rica in Los Angeles.

Quarter-finals:

Feb. 19 in Miami: Winner Group B v Runner up

Group A Winner Group A v Runner up Group B

Feb. 20 in San Diego: Winner Group D v Runner up Group C

Winner Group C v Runner up Group D

Semifinals:

Feb. 23: Winner quarter-final A v Winner quarter-final B in San Diego.

Feb. 24: Winner quarter-final C v Winner quarter-final D in Los Angeles.

Final:

Feb. 27 in Los Angeles.

Jubilo draw first blood

IWATA, Japan, Oct 23: A goal from Masashi Nakayama was enough for Asian club champions Jubilo Iwata of Japan to beat Asian Cup winners Al Ittihad of Saudi Arabia 1-0 in the first leg of the Asian Super Cup on Saturday, reports AFP.

The goal came in the 65th minute when Nakayama latched onto a rebound from a Daisuke Oku corner to slot the ball home to the delight of the home fans at the Iwata Stadium in central Japan.

"It's a home-and-away battle and it was very important to win at home, so I'm really happy to win the first game at home," said Nakayama, Japan's only World Cup goal scorer.

They had several chances, but they never had a clear scoring chance while we had so many clear chances. We just needed to score one of them.

"With this 1-0 win, we can put a little bit of pressure on them, but we are determined to win the next away game too," added Nakayama.

Jubilo controlled the game for most of the first half with Oku, Naohiro Takahara and Brazilian Adilson mis-firing shots on the Saudi goal.

Ali Algarni replaced Ahmed Eesa, who received a yellow card at the end of the first half, and the visitors retrieved some rhythm after the interval.

But Jubilo Iwata pilled on the pressure after taking the lead with Nakayama, Takahara and substitute Norihiro Nishi all going close.

The Asian Super Cup is played between Asian club champions and Asian Cup Winners. The winning team will be eligible for the eight-team world club championships which will be inaugurated next year.

The second game will be held on November 18, vying for a place in the second world club championships.



The members of the FIFA delegation pose at Wembley Stadium on October 22. They were accompanied by the English 2006 bid team. — AFP photo

English bid bruised

PARIS, Oct 23: England's 2006 World Cup hopes received a severe setback Friday night when the English Football Association's (FA) newly-appointed chief executive Adam Crozier admitted to falsifying sales figures when he worked for British national newspaper the Daily Telegraph, reports AFP.

It was revealed in today's Daily Telegraph that Crozier, who was an advertising representative at the paper, was caught putting in fake returns in the 1980s.

Crozier's admission came while FIFA's high-powered evaluation committee were studying the country's bid to hold the world's biggest sporting event.

Crozier, reportedly lured to the FA with a 400,000 pounds (\$667,000 dollars) a year salary, told British news agency the Press Association (PA): "In 1987 I stupidly falsified some notes regarding advertising sales in order to enhance my reputation."

"It was the mistake of a young man which resulted in

absolutely no personal gain whatsoever."

The FIFA committee, headed by USA '94 chief Alan Rothenberg, have already been entertained by British Prime Minister Tony Blair in a bid to convince the sport's governing body that England should stage the tournament.

Crozier's admission of guilt has added to a series of blunders by the FA.

Last year they failed in an attempt to oust FIFA's executive committee member David Will, of Scotland, in a bid to replace him with an English representative for the British Isles in an attempt to increase their profile within FIFA.

Then the FA's top two executives Keith Wiseman and Graham Kelly were forced to resign in disgrace over the bid to oust Will.

The FA have also been accused by UEFA president Lennart Johansson of breaking a gentleman's agreement that Germany would be Europe's sole candidate for 2006.

Even before the Crozier affair was published in England an FA spokesman contacted the national news agency (PA) to say that this was nothing more

than a youthful indiscretion.

The FA said chairman Geoff Thompson was satisfied that Crozier was still the man for the job.

"The FA's chairman Geoff Thompson has discussed all the circumstances of this matter with Adam Crozier," an FA statement said.

"He has talked tonight (Friday) with the majority of the selection panel who he has been able to contact. They regard what happened as a youthful indiscretion.

"They regard Adam Crozier's record of achievement over the past decade as testament to his outstanding ability and integrity."

Crozier said: "Seven months later in July 1988 I was offered a job by Saatchi and Saatchi (advertising agency) and they employed me knowing fully the situation and saw it fully for what it was."

"Having made this mistake, I have spent the last 12 years developing an impeccable record — and have dealt with the Daily Telegraph on many occasions."

Competing against England for the right to host the 2006 World Cup are Germany, South Africa, Brazil and Morocco.

Shrewd Ronaldo!

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct 23: Inter Milan football star, Brazil's Ronaldo, 22, has asked his fiancée Milene Domingues to sign a pre-marriage contract that would take effect if the marriage does not work out, reports AFP.

Ronaldo, who plays for the Italian team and has assets valued at 80 million dollars, agreed to the contract on the advice of his business advisors Reinaldo Pitta and Alexandre Martins — who currently get 10 per cent of the worth of all contracts signed by the footballer.

Ronaldo and his wife-to-be, who is two months pregnant with his child, are to establish a 16 million dollar "fund" which would go to pay Ronaldo's advisors in case the marriage fails.

Milene, aged 20, a buddhist, was initially opposed to the idea, and Ronaldo also appeared to be sceptical.

However, he seemed swayed once his business associates drafted in family rights lawyer Fernando Gevaerl to write up the contract.

Gevaerl won his fame as the lawyer who prevented British "great train robber" Ronnie Biggs from being extradited to London on the grounds that he has a Brazilian-born son.

Effenbergs help 'em

MUNICH, Oct 23: Former German international midfielder Stefan Effenberg has founded an aid project with his wife to help needy children in Thailand, reports AFP.

The project, to be known as Help Me, will build a boarding school 200 kilometres from Chiang Mai in the north to house and educate youngsters who might otherwise turn to crime on the streets.

"I have three children of my own and felt it was my duty to help other kids," Bayern Munich's Effenberg said. "We've been there and what we saw was terrible. I've often donated money in the past but this time I wanted to see from myself how the project grows."

"I'm already looking forward to our trip to Thailand next summer when the project will be up and running. That will give me a better feeling than holding the championship trophy or playing for my country."

The Effenbergs had the idea while on holiday in Thailand and made it public Friday on German television.

Friedel hopes against hope

LIVERPOOL, England, Oct 23 (Reuters): It is a measure of how expectations change in soccer that the United States are now worried about developments in the game that could keep them from qualifying for a fourth successive World Cup finals in 2002.

With the draw for the qualifying round of the 2002 finals just over six weeks away, American goalkeeper Brad Friedel says it is getting harder for the States to qualify because of the improving form of the Caribbean nations.

Although Mexico used to traditionally block the United States' path — they failed to qualify for any World Cup from 1954 to 1986 — the expansion of the finals first to 24 teams then 32 has opened the way for the United States to take part in the last three World Cups, including 1994 which they hosted.

But with numerous Caribbean players now learning from their experiences of playing in Europe, America's opponents are proving harder to beat and are becoming a major threat to the United States' involvement in the final stages in 2002.

"These teams have really good players and consequently the countries are getting stronger," Liverpool goalkeeper Friedel told this week.

"There are tough atmospheres in the away games. The fans don't let you sleep in the hotels, they don't give you an easy match any more."

"They are tough games but we have a lot of experienced players in America now and that helps when you go to places like Mexico, Costa Rica, Jamaica and perhaps Trinidad and Tobago."

"They are difficult matches but we are getting back on track now and we're there or thereabouts in the top 20 teams. If we have everyone fit we are not an easy side to beat. We've beaten Argentina and beaten Germany twice."

But the Americans will go into the qualifiers, which start next March without the experience of former Serie A defender Alexi Lalas, who has recently retired from the game after criticism by American fans and media.

His presence will be sadly missed by the national team according to Friedel.

"Alexi has got other avenues in life to be honest," Friedel added.

"He's a very, very bright man and despite only being 29 he wanted time to pursue them."

"He's never cheated the game once and I take my hat off to him. He got a lot of stick in the last couple of years of his career. Everything he's done has been deserved and has been tremendous for football in the States."



2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

that — although for younger players it can be a very daunting experience."

But despite the difficulties of playing away from home the American captain is still confident his side will be in Asia for the 2002 tournament.

"I'm confident we can qualify for the next World Cup. There are two groups and we play six games, three at home and three away."

The top two go into another group and that starts off after Christmas with five home and five away against the likes of

PSV coach lauds Rangers

GLASGOW, Oct 23: PSV Eindhoven coach Eric Gerets reckons Rangers will finish top of their Champions' League Group after his side suffered a 4-1 mauling at the hands of the Glasgow side on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Gerets insists his side will beat Group F favourites Bayern Munich and is convinced Rangers can see off Valencia next week at Ibrox.

"We will try to beat Bayern. Certainly we can keep my promise, I hope Rangers go on through. They play a nice game and have a great crowd behind them," Gerets said.

Rangers' inspirational Italian defender Lorenzo Amoruso is demanding more of the same against the Spaniards next Tuesday.

Rangers top apart the Dutch champions with a magnificent display that sent them a point ahead of both Valencia and Bayern.

They were spurred on by a fantastic crowd and Amoruso started the demolition before Michael Mols added a second and not even a 45th-minute penalty from Ruud Van Nistelrooy could spoil their celebrations.

Second-half goals from Neil McCann and Mols secured the valuable points and set up the clash with Valencia.

Amoruso, however, warned his team-mates that they are not through yet but emphasised the importance of victory over the Spanish outfit.

"We have to keep going like this and if we can capture this form we can go through because this team is good enough," the Italian defender said.

"I think if we play that well of course our League chances are good. They were before this game and are still very good, but we have more games and the first of them means an awful lot if we beat them, but otherwise it will go to the last game."

Blazevic won't quit?

ZAGREB, Oct 23: Miroslav Blazevic will remain Croatia's soccer coach despite announcing he was withdrawing because of public criticism of the team's failure to qualify for next year's European Championship finals, reports Reuters.

"After a long discussion ... he withdrew his resignation, which he never handed in to me in the first place," Vlatko Markovic, head of Croatia's Soccer Association, told state radio on Friday.

Blazevic, who guided Croatia to third place at last year's World Cup finals in France, told a television news programme late on Thursday he had been harassed by journalists after Croatia drew 2-2 with arch-rivals Yugoslavia in their last Euro 2000 qualifier two weeks ago.

"I can no longer stand the pressure ... I think the people around soccer will be the happiest with my decision, because it is evident everybody is fed up with me," Blazevic said.

Markovic said Blazevic would get together with the team as early as November 13 for a friendly against world champions France.

"Blazevic is given to impulsive reactions and very sensitive. I can understand his reaction ... but I am very happy with this outcome," Markovic said.

Croatia finished third in the qualifying group behind Yugoslavia and Ireland. Victory

over Yugoslavia would have put them top.

Blazevic was blamed for bad psychological preparation of the players, who cracked under the responsibility of having to win the "match of the century," as he himself dubbed it.

Blazevic, who had been coach since 1994, said after the game he would not step down and that there was "simply no one who could replace me."

He said last week he had been offered hefty contracts by several Arab countries to coach their teams but gave no indication if he would accept them.

Argentina to play in Hassan Cup

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 23: Argentina have been invited to compete in the third Hassan Cup in Morocco alongside the host nation, France, and Japan, the Argentinian Football Association (AFA) announced Friday, reports AFP.

The four-team competition, between June 4 and 6, will be played at a new stadium constructed in the city of Fez.

The first edition of the tournament in 1996 was won by Croatia while France prevailed in 1998 just a month before winning the World Cup.

Morocco is one of the five candidates to stage the 2006 World Cup.



Saudi player Al-Hasan of Al-Ittihad makes spectacular effort to score during the Asian Super Cup final first leg clash against J-League side Jubilo Iwata yesterday. — AFP photo