

coal soccer day, two days after his team's historic 9-0 loss to Brazil in the South American Olympic qualifying tournament, reports Reuters.

"I didn't resign," Javier Alvarez told reporters after a closed-door meeting at the Colombian Football Federation, making it clear he was ousted from the job he took just 13 months ago.

"Life is full of blunders," Alvarez said. He added, however, their blunders like the rout that Colombia's under-23 team suffered on Sunday in Londrina, Brazil, were the sort of thing that happen only "once every 100 years."

Alvarez's dismissal had been widely expected after Sunday's humiliating defeat, even though he had become something of a national hero just last week, when Colombia trounced Chile 5-1 in the same Olympic qualifying tournament.

That match revived memories of the national team's 5-0 win over Argentina in September 1993. But as in 1993 — when a string of losses followed Colombia's moment of glory — the Chile match apparently infected Colombian players with a dangerously high dose of overconfidence.

Alvarez himself has conceded there was a strong "mental factor" at play in Sunday's mauling, which marked Colombia's worst defeat in at least four decades.

But in his remarks to reporters announcing his departure, he failed to spell out reasons for the loss, saying only, "Let's not go in for any sporting-life butchery here."

It was not immediately clear who would succeed Alvarez and try to win Colombia a ticket to the 2002 World Cup. But Colombia will have the home advantage when it squares off against Brazil again in March. That game, in Bogota, will be Colombia's first cup qualifier.

WC 2006

SA trying to woo Morocco out

LONDON, Feb 2: South Africa said on Tuesday it was trying to persuade Morocco to quit the race to host the 2006 World Cup finals and allow it to be Africa's sole candidate, reports Reuters.

Danny Jordaan, the chief executive officer of the South African bid, told Reuters in a telephone interview from London that his government would be approaching the Moroccan government with the suggestion.

"They will talk to the Moroccan government and this will be the message," Jordaan said from Cape Town.

Jordaan added: "The FIFA inspectors have already been to Germany, England and Brazil and will be holding their technical inspection of Morocco later this month and visiting South Africa next month."

"I am not saying that Morocco should pull out of the bid, I am saying that FIFA must make their minds up on an objective basis."

The African governing body and then FIFA must then back the best bid. But my government will talk to Morocco about pulling out."

Earlier on Tuesday, the South African sports minister Ngconde Balfour told a parliamentary briefing: "Morocco are putting up an argument that this is their third World Cup bid and it should be South Africa that falls out of the bidding."

"But we are ahead of Morocco in terms of our preparedness to host the World Cup."

South Africa visited Morocco at the start of the 2006 World Cup campaign in 1998 and after making a presentation of their bid in Rabat urged the Moroccans to pull out of the race then.

Brazil, England and Germany are the other nations bidding to host the 2006 finals.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter had repeatedly said an African country should host the 2006 tournament as long as it can meet FIFA's standards for hosting the tournament. These involve infrastructure, hotels, telecommunications and security.



Bayern Munich's Thorsten Fink (R) is about to score a goal against Celtic during a friendly soccer match at Celtic Park in Glasgow on February 1. — Internet photo

up for the re Bundesliga with Tuesday of Celtic celebrating the 1967 victorious team.

The players trophy 33 years Inter Milan 2-1 Celtic Park in honour before t

But first-h Brazilian Elber Fink left Celtic with an uphill t

Celtic, who substantially w the German lea duced the def minute when produced a cool metre run.

It took a handed save fr to deny the te striker an equ Hasan Salihar penalty for Ba utes after Me been brought t

Italian govt. gets tough

Crackdown on banners or



MILAN, Feb 2 (Reuters/ Internet): Italian football matches could be halted whenever offensive banners are displayed in the crowd following a government decree that has received a mixed reaction.

On Tuesday Interior Minister Enzo Bianco and Sports Minister Giovanna Melandri held a meeting with leading soccer and police chiefs before issuing a decree that games will be stopped for as long as is necessary to remove racist or threatening banners from the crowd.

The decision came after spectators held aloft a banner paying tribute to assassinated Serb warlord Arkan and a portrait of Benito Mussolini at Sunday's Lazio-Barcelona match, prompting a wave of revulsion at the behaviour of far right elements among Lazio's supporters.

Fascist symbols have been increasingly common sights at Lazio and Roma matches and have appeared at some other Serie A grounds this season.

"We have to stop football grounds becoming a breeding ground for extremist political groups," said Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti. The decision of the ministers is a step forward in the search for an answer to this problem.

"Our club will offer maximum collaboration with the forces of order," he said. Cragnotti and his family boycotted some matches at Rome's Stadio Olimpico this season in protest at the behaviour of the hard-line "ultras" fans.

AS Roma president Franco Sensi also backed the government move. "We spoke to the ministers and we are glad that they listened to our advice."

"This is the only concrete way that we can arrive at a solution to this serious problem," he said.

But Roma coach Fabio Capello said that more effort

should be put banners enter and said there difficulties in t moment to hal

"I wouldn't ideal solution banners have dium but I belie be more work them outside difficult to del moment to st don't want eit from it," said t

Italian said simo D Alema sive banners s by police but s lieve that susj was practical.

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In Febru Pierluigi Co Sampdoria v ter a tasteles played attack cial.

In April of Collina delaya match betwe Vicenza after insulting AC Franco Bares only begun v had been reme

Half of Italy thinks refs are corrupt!

ROME, Feb 2: One in two Italians believe soccer referees are "partially or totally" corrupt, according to a poll conducted by sports magazine Guerin Sportivo, reports Reuters.

The weekly also found that 41 per cent of people polled believe referees give preferential treatment to certain clubs.

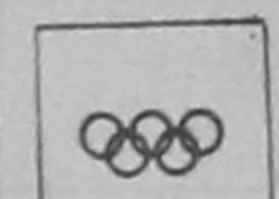
Only four per cent do not believe recent suggestions that referees were being bribed.

The credibility of Italy's referees was badly damaged last month after disclosures that some clubs had handed out expensive Christmas gifts to match officials.

AS Roma admitted they had given gold Rolex watches reportedly worth 25 million lire (12,600 dollars).

Commenting on Guerin Sportivo's findings, match official Paolo Bergamo said: "These findings show something is wrong in our communications with the outside world and we will therefore have to work to create a different image."

10-way race for 2008 Ga



LONDON, Feb 2: The race for the 2008 Summer Olympics is on.

Ten cities, led by early favourite Beijing, submitted preliminary applications with the International Olympic Committee before Tuesday's midnight deadline, reports AP.

The other applicants are: Bangkok, Thailand; Cairo, Egypt; Havana, Istanbul, Turkey; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Osaka, Japan; Paris, Seville, Spain; and Toronto.

Under new rules prompted by the IOC's biggest corruption scandal, the cities will now face a rigorous "bid acceptance procedure" to determine whether they meet the minimum technical requirements for staging the Olympics.

Cities passing that test will become official bidders in a contest that will culminate with the winner being selected by a secret IOC ballot in Moscow in July 2001.

In another rule change, visits to candidate cities by IOC members have been banned in a move to prevent the payoffs.

lavish gift giving and other improprieties which tarnished Salt Lake City's winning campaign for the 2002 Winter Games and other recent Olympic bids.

At one stage, as many as 14 cities had expressed interest in bidding for the 2008 Games. But Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cape Town, South Africa; Lisbon, Portugal, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, all dropped out of the running.

There were a record 11 bids for the 2004 Olympics, which were awarded to Athens. The field was eventually reduced to a shortlist of five finalists.

The current field of 10 includes cities from Europe, North America, Asia and Africa. But the absence of Buenos Aires and Rio means there will be no bid from South America — one of the two major regions, along with Africa, where the Olympics have never been held. Buenos Aires and Rio both mounted unsuccessful bids for the 2004 Games.

Also notable for its absence is any bid from South Africa. Cape Town made a strong bid for the 2004 Games, but decided

not to enter the Dan Moyo, of South A Olympic con country woul for a bid in 20 officials' bell was needed to nesses of the ing inadequa rounds and C problems. In

Africa is a favourite to secure the 2006 World Cup of soccer.

"It was felt that this gives soccer a chance," Moyo said.

Of the current candidates, Bangkok, Cairo, Havana, Kuala Lumpur and Osaka are first time applicants. Paris is the only one of the 10 which has previously hosted the Olympics, in 1900 and 1924.

On paper, the strongest contenders are Beijing, Paris and Toronto.

With the 2004 Games in Athens, Greece the IOC will not be inclined to take the Games back to Europe four years later. That will be Paris' biggest obstacle.

Beijing, on the other hand, has geography and other factors in its favour.

The Chinese capital lost by just two votes to Sydney in the hotly contested campaign for the 2000 Olympics. Deeply stung by the defeat, Beijing sat out the 2004 race but now seems perfectly placed for the 2008 run.

Military Engineer Services Tender Notice

1. Applications are invited by DW & CE (Air) Kurmitola, Dhaka Cantt to issue tender documents for the following works. Applications must reach this Directorate within 07 (seven) days from the publishing date in the newspaper.

a. Supply & Installation of 2x24.48 Ton capacity air conditioner for ACOC Building at BAF Tejgaon, Dhaka.

2. Contractors enlisted in MES as 'A', 'B' & 'C' class may apply for tender documents. They should spellout their class of enlistment, Index No. & formation including VAT registration certificate (true copy) in the applications.

Faruk Ahmed Akhtar
Sqn Ldr
SO-II (C&D)
For DW & CE (Air) Kurmitola

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 One's blood types
4 Impetuous
6 The way we were?
12 Fruit bowl item
13 Fruit bowl item
14 Peevish
15 Cowcatcher
16 DNA component
17 Desire
19 Personals, e.g.
20 Erato's symbol
22 Journal
24 Hit the + key
27 Leading man
29 Forearm bone
32 Group sleep-overs
35 Weld a blue pencil
36 Bigfoot's cousin?
37 Parquetry wood
38 Foundation
40 St. Louis team

DOWN
3 Boutonniere locale
4 Inseparable
5 Matinee time
6 Tennis great or "Star Trek" foe
7 The Little Mermaid grant grp.
8 Sheepish comment
9 Cameo's opposite
10 "Zounds!"
11 Mtg.
12 Humongous
18 Farm machinery
21 Thanks-giving veggie
22 Brother of Er
23 Uncloseted
24 Big brute
25 Mid-June honoree
26 Neighbor of Eritrea
28 VIP in spydom
30 Exhibitors' grant
31 Inquire
33 Put away
34 Basketball hoop
39 Donald Duck, e.g.
41 Impertinence
42 Related singer
43 U2 Lumberyard equipment
47 Pocket bread
48 Eve's grandson
49 Le Coq
51 O' Blue Eyes' monogram
53 Proof finisher

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CRYPTOQUIP
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QB QCU DBASNQJSLQ
BYQUI BI NEEBMIQ
BYQCUSJ ENDJS-EBIL
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A CERTAIN POLITICIAN PREFERRED TALL BUILDINGS BECAUSE HE SOUGHT A HIGH OFFICE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals O

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, it will equal Q throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Directorate General Defence Purchase
Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Tender/Re-Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide Manufacturers/Dealers/Suppliers/Indentors (Enlisted firms and firms applied for Enlistment) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Army.

Ser No	Nomenclature	Date of selling		Date of opening	Currency	Tender No	Cost of I/T
		From	To				
1	Steel Mild Round Black 1 1/2" Dia Qty-2000 KG Steel Mild Round Black 2" Dia Qty-700 KG Steel Mild Round Brite 1/4" Dia Qty-350 KG Steel Mild Round Brite 16/5" Dia Qty-300 KG Steel Mild Round Brite 1/2" Dia Qty-500 KG	15-2-2000	12-3-2000	13-3-2000	Local	214/2268/P-5 (B)	Tk 50/-
2	Steel Mild Tubing Seamless Cold Drawn OD 1" 123 SWG Qty-200 Mtr. Wire Steel Mild Drawn 16 SWG Qty-50 KG Wire Steel Soft No 16 SWG Qty-30 KG Steel Carbon Substitute General Purpose Qty-200 KG	27-2-2000	28-2-2000		Local	214/2099/P-5 (B)	Tk 25/-

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (Not refundable) during office hours between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderers (if present).

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G-193

Major
for Director General