

Visa confirms  
FIFA deal

REUTERS, Zurich

Visa said on Thursday it had signed an eight-year deal as the new financial services partner of football's world governing body FIFA.

A statement from Visa's corporate relations vice-president Mike Sherman said the contract would run from January 2007 to 2014, and Visa was taking the place of MasterCard.

Visa, which also has marketing programmes with the Olympic Games and the Rugby World Cup, gave no financial details in the statement. Sources told Reuters on Wednesday it was worth up to 200 million pounds (350.4 million dollars).

The agreement will cover the next two World Cups, in 2010 in South Africa and in 2014.

Coca-Cola, Hyundai, Adidas and Sony have already signed up as official partners with FIFA.

MasterCard has been allied with the World Cup since 1990.

Juve enforce  
media shut-out

AFP, Rome

Juventus' general director Luciano Moggi said Thursday the club would not be speaking to the media until further notice following their Champions League quarterfinal defeat to Arsenal.

The Italian champions and current Serie A leaders were jeered by their own fans and slammed by the Italian press after Wednesday's goalless draw at the Delle Alpi stadium, which gave the Gunners a 2-0 aggregate victory and a place in the last four.

"We're sorry about our elimination, but also about the strong criticism after last night," he said.

"Everything that could have been said about the team was said. This pause for reflection serves to bring some calm, hoping it will bring the league title to our fans and our shareholders, because they deserve it."

## Kyrgyzstan stay

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racing into the box by Krasnov. But his scorching miss the mark for inches. Goalkeeper Khabibulovoev saved the Tajik fort when he dived full-stretch to deny a long range effort by defender Talant Samsaliev in the 77th minute.

## PAKISTAN-MACAU

A brace by Kin Seng Chan helped Macau come twice from behind to snatch a valuable point from Pakistan.

Adeel put Pakistan ahead after 12 minutes when the diminutive striker stabbed a loose ball home from ten yards after the Macau backline failed to clear a long ball from the middle.

But the Pakistan celebration did not last long as Macau brought the score level four minutes later when Chan, completely unmarked by the rival defenders, tapped the ball in from close after meeting a low left-flank cross by Weng Ning Kui.

Muhammad Essi regained the lead for Pakistan three minutes from the break with a coolly taken penalty after midfielder Aziz was felled by Tak Ian Un inside the box.

The seasoned Pakistani striker, however, wasted golden opportunities either side of the breather as his attempts from point-blank range were denied by Macau custodian Hon Ming Chu.

Pakistan paid for the misses as Chan leaped high in the air to spectacularly head home a left-wing freekick by Gefredo Cheung in the 52nd minute.

## CAMBODIA-GUAM

In Group C, Cambodia blanked Guam 3-0 in a rematch of the bottom-table sides at the Army Stadium. Palestine and Bangladesh had already reached the quarterfinals from this group.

Sok Bunthea opened the scoring for Cambodia after 37 minutes while his fellow midfielder Keo Kosal doubled the lead three minutes later. Kouch Sokumpeak sealed the victory for Cambodia in the 63rd minute. Cambodia ended with three points while Guam will return from their first major tournament in Asia conceding 17 goals in three defeats.

## NEPAL-SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka had the first crack at goal in the 17th minute at the MA Aziz Stadium when Chathura Weerasinha's shot from 25 yards rattled the crossbar. In the very next minute Izzadeen Mohamed Naufur's curler on a corner stormed into the net to give Sri Lanka a 1-0 lead.

Nepal got two good opportunities before the breather but Vishad Gouchan hit wide in the 29th minute and Tashi Tsering's header was cleared from the goalline by rival defender Kamaldeen.

The boys from the Himalayas were awarded a penalty in the 74th minute when Sanjaya brought down Bijay Gurung inside the area. Pradeep Maharjan made no mistake to restore the parity for Nepal.



Arsenal forward Thierry Henry (R) celebrates with teammates Robert Pires (L) and Fredrik Ljungberg at the end of their Champions League quarterfinal second leg match at Delle Alpi stadium in Turin on Wednesday.

Henry lays  
down the  
gauntlet

INTERNET, undated

Thierry Henry has laid down the gauntlet to his Arsenal teammates after helping his side into the semifinals of the UEFA Champions League for the first time in the club's history.

"I'm really proud but I'm a winner and this (reaching the semifinals) is not the kind of history I'm looking to make," said Henry.

"We're trying to go all the way and that means winning it. It's a good day for the club but let's extend it."

"I'm a winner and when you wear the Arsenal jersey you have that in your blood. You have to enjoy the moment and then we will see about Villarreal."

The French international hailed his side's unwavering concentration as they successfully thwarted Juve's best attempts to pull themselves back into contention of a tie the Italians trailed 2-0 from the first leg.

"We were good on the day and that is the most important thing," added Henry.

"We are defending well, even when 11 against 10. That is the main thing in football, to defend as a team and with a bit of luck today we could have scored some goals."

"I think it was down to concentration. With a lack of concentration you can pay and we gave them only one chance when we gave the ball to (Pavel) Nedved, but Jens (Lehmann) was there."

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