The Daily Star

Elizondo praises 'guardian angel'

AFP, Buenos Aires

World Cup final referee Horacio Elizondo on Friday described his fourth official at the centre of the Zinedine Zidane head-butt affair as his 'guardian angel'

Elizondo repeated that he did not see the butt which felled Marco Materazzi in extra-time of the final between Italy and France in Berlin on Sunday.

"The fourth official was my guardian angel." the Argentinian said of Spain's Luis Medina Cantalejo

"The incident took place a long way from where I was. When I saw Materazzi on the ground. I stopped play and I knew that something serious had happened," he told the Clarin newspaper.

Elizondo immediately consulted linesman Dario Garcia

"I asked Garcia if he saw something and he said 'no'.

It was then that the fourth official intervened.

Dempsey ban reduced

AFP, New York

Clint Dempsey, the New England Revolution midfielder who was the only US player to score a goal in this year's World Cup, had a Major League Soccer ban trimmed from two games to one here on Friday. League commissioner Don

Garber halved Dempsey's suspension for violent conduct after an appeal by Dempsey over the punishment for an altercation with Chicago defender Gonzalo Segares last Saturday in a 2-1 New England victory.

Dempsey, who missed New England's match against Real Salt Lake on Friday, had been suspended by the club earlier this season for two weeks for brawling with teammate Joe Franchino.

While the US World Cup team managed a 1-1 draw with Italy thanks to an own goal from the eventual champions, Dempsey was the lone US player to find the net, equalizing with Ghana before the Africans beat the US team 2-1 to advance.

Dempsey was named to the MLS All-Star lineup that will face English Premiership champion Chelsea in the MLS All-Star Game on August 5.

Juve await exodus

INTERNET, undated

Reports suggest that nine key Juventus players are set to leave Turin after Friday's Calciopoli verdict sentenced the Bianconeri

to Serie B. Azzuri heroes Gigi Buffon and Gianluca Zambrotta may be the first to the door. While Milan are said to be interested, the lack of Champions League football could force the pair to look overseas.



Juventus supporters react to the verdict of Serie A match-fixing allegations outside the club headquarters in Turin on Friday.

The verdicts were the culmina-

Lazio fans had begun to gather in

the street outside the hotel several

Klinsi for USA?

and AC Milan

the city centre.

season.

in Rome

hours earlier.

newness

possible successor.

process now.

America necessarily.

would be a good candidate."

mails with Gulati during the Cup.

Gulati said none touched upor

Angry fans protest

Football

REUTERS, Rome

Fans of the three top soccer clubs found guilty in Italy's match-fixing scandal took to the streets on Friday after hearing the news that their teams will be playing next season in the second-tier Serie B.

Bringing to a head the biggest scandal in European soccer for decades, a sports tribunal in Rome sent Juventus, AC Milan and Lazio down to Serie B with points penalties

The fourth club involved. AC Milan, will start their campaign in the top Serie A division next season but with minus 15 points. The biggest gathering of fans was in Rome, where about 400 Lazio supporters vented their feelings outside the hotel where the tribunal convened to

announce its verdict. In Turin, angry Juventus fans aathered in front of the club's head-

quarters to shout slogans against At first they limited their protests to anti-Juventus chants, but the tribunal president Cesare Ruperto mood turned uglier as the defence In Florence, Fiorentina coach

lawyers filed out of the hotel follow-Cesare Prandelli spoke of his "rage" ing the verdicts. against the verdicts, but the team's The lawyer representing former supporters made a largely peaceful Juventus chief executive Antonio demonstration, blocking roads in Giraudo, Luigi Chiappero, was

surrounded and insulted by fans as he walked to his car. Lazio lawyer Gian Michele

tion of a scandal which started at the Gentile was forced to remain inside beginning of May with the publication of intercepted phone conversathe hotel by threats from the crowd. tions between former Juventus "This is an unjust trial in the general manager Luciano Moggi sense that Juve are the only guilty ones but -- as usual -- the rest of us and Italian Football Federation officials discussing refereeing are being made to pay for it," 33appointments during the 2004-05 year-old Lazio fan Andrea Hotfield told Reuters.

"In this country football is Tribunal president Ruperto founded on the fans' attachment to delivered the verdicts in an ornate conference room, hung with chanthe shirt, and the clubs, the federadeliers, in the basement of the hotel tion and the officials all take advanage of that

"I don't know what we're going to do next, but I don't think these will be easy days in Rome."

Quotes on Calciopoli verdict

REUTERS, Rome

"If the clubs and some men running the clubs made mistakes and if they were found guilty they have to pay, even if we are world champions.

Prime Minister Romano Prodi on Friday.

"The trial has not respected indispensable characteristics of certainty that all trials must have ... there is no question of bribery in this scandal, so we can't talk about corruption in the strict sense of the word...I am against the relegation of any club, and I don't say that as president of AC Milan."

AC Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi on Thursday.

"These players have shown that Italian football has values and among those values there is the moral part." "The plavers in this team had nothing to apologise for...Italian football can rebuild itself from this victory.

Outgoing Italy coach Marcello Lippi after the World Cup final.

"There are millions and millions of people who are waiting for the sentences. It's only right that the truth comes out." Without the football scandal we would have not won the World Cup. It gave us extra will-power

Italy midfielder Gennaro Gattuso.

issue and decided we needed the experience, a record of success and "Look, I'm not a saint but I've not been in the

Milan's UEFA hope

Football

Milan may still play European football next season, despite Calciopoli verdict

The Rossoneri will see 44 points deducted from last term's total, denying them a place in the

However, even with this penalty, the Diavoli find themselves only one place short of UEFA Cup qualification, and may now find a way into the competition at the expense of Empoli

Revised 2005-06 Serie A table

tively.

Inter Roma Chievo Palermo Livorno Empoli Parma Milan Ascoli Udinese Sampdoria Reggina Cagliari Siena Messina Lecce Treviso Lazio Fiorentina	76 69 54 52 49 45 45 45 43 41 41 39 39 31 29 21	(Champions League group stage) (Champions League group stage) (Champions League preliminary) (Champions League preliminary) (UEFACup) (UEFACup)*Pending licence (UEFACup)
Fiorentina Juventus		(Relegated) (Relegated)

Cole ties the knot

Football

INTERNET, undated

England footballer Ashley Cole is to marry Girls Aloud star, Cheryl Tweedy on Saturday in what is being dubbed, "the celebrity magazine wedding of the year."

Cole and Tweedy are to tie the knot at Highclere Castle, Berkshire, the venue for singer Peter Andre and model Jordan's marriage last September.

In June, Cole has received an apology and damages following a series of newspaper articles that wrongly claimed him to have been involved in a gay orgy.

The News of the World and the Sun published a series of articles between the 12th and 19th of February 2006 accompanied with pixelated photographs of Mr Cole and the radio DJ Masterstepz (Ian Thompson) although neither party were named

can't wait to be a footballer's wife," she said afterwards. "We were on holiday in Dubai and Ashley got down on one knee. I was so

popped the question but now I shocked and he was crying. I'd never seen him cry before." Cole's friend, Masterstepz helped him arrange entertain-

ment for the party.



Armstrong renews **French bashing** Tuscan minnows Empoli don't yet

DHAKA SUNDAY JULY 16, 2006

have the necessary licence to enter

the UEFA Cup. Should the Azzurri

fail to receive permission to enter,

will go straight into the Champions

League group stages, while

Palermo and Chievo will enter the

B with a 30-point deduction.

Fiorentina and Lazio were also sent

to the Second Division with penal-

ties of 12 and seven points respec-

Milan were deemed to be the

Juventus were relegated to Serie

preliminary round.

As things stand, Inter and Roma

Milan would be the next club in line.

AFP, Los Angeles

Lance Armstrong renewed his verbal attack on the French, bashing their World Cup team during an American awards show and using a derogatory word to describe the players

"All their players (France) tested positive ... for being ass holes," the seven-time Tour de France winner Armstrong was quoted as saying in the Los Angeles Daily News on Friday.

The American cycling hero Armstrong made his comments in his opening monologue as the host of ESPY Awards, an annual televised event produced by ESPN.

The show was taped on Wednesday at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre and is scheduled to be aired on Sunday night.

Armstrong said afterwards that he didn't regard his comments about the French as being offensive.

"Well, if they'd live with me and heard me at home, they'd know that was a step down," Armstrong told the newspaper.

Armstrong, a cancer survivor, retired from competitive cycling in 2005 after capturing his seventh Tour title

Because of the Tour de France's timing, this is the first year he has been able to attend the show in person to pick up his awards, including four straight athlete-of-the-year trophies.

least guilty side, but still face the prospect of starting next season in While Livorno and Parma are set Serie A with minus 15 points. All to take advantage of the misfortune clubs are due to appeal. of Serie A's most illustrious clubs. PHOTO: INTERNE

SPORT



Real Madrid's ex-Roma transfer wizard Franco Baldini has made no secret of his intention to "fish in the Juve pond" should his old employers find themselves relegated, as is now the case.

The Bernabeu side have already revealed in interest in Emerson and Coach Fabio Capello has called for Fabio Cannavaro to follow him to Spain.

Inter are said to be discussing terms with Swedish marksman Zlatan Ibrahimovic, but David Trezeguet and Lilian Thuram face uncertain futures.

Milan have managed to keep Kaka, Gennaro Gattuso and Andrea Pirlo, but will now miss out on Fernando Torres as the Spanish ace has stressed that he needs to play Champions League football.

Iraq's Olympic committee head kidnapped

AFP, Baghdad

Gunmen in army uniforms on Saturday raided a social club in Baghdad and kidnapped the head and other members of Irag's Olympic committee, a security source and a witness said.

Some 50 gunmen swooped down on the oil ministry's cultural centre, a club in the middle-class neighbourhood of Karrada, where a meeting of the committee was taking place, said committee member Hussein al-Amidi who was present

They neutralised the guards and drove off with committee head Ahmed al-Hajea, committee secretary general Amr Abdel Jabbar and the head of Iraq's Tae Kwon Do federation, Jamal Abdel Karim, he added.

Also seized were Saeb al-Hakim October. the head of water sports in Iraq, and one of Hajea's bodyguards.

In May, 15 members of the national Tae Kwon Do team were kidnapped as they drove back from a tournament in Jordan through training facilities and the loss of Anbar province in the restive west of backroom staff was also said to the country. Their fate remains have infuriated the Villa players, unknown.

Football

AFP,New York

United States coach Bruce Arena was dismissed Friday after a disappointing World Cup performance and former Germany boss Jurgen Klinsmann is among the candidates to take over. US Soccer Federation president

Sunil Gulati announced that Arena will not be retained once his contract expires at the end of the year.

The US team was ousted at group stage in Germany this summer after losing to the Czech Republic and Ghana and drawing with eventually champions Italy.

Gulati said: "I've reached the decision that we will not be renewing Bruce's contract. We will start an immediate search for someone to guide the program going forward.

"Bruce Arena didn't become a bad coach in three games. It has much more to do with eight years and us looking for a fresh approach. "The difficult part is we have an

the club's chairman Doug Ellis.

They are angry with cost-cutting

measures introduced by Ellis,

which they believe are the result of

his failure to find a buyer for the

club after putting it up for sale in

because of a lack of transfer funds.

A failure to improve the club's

AFP. Londor

progressing.

extraordinary guy as our coach. We weighed that against the eight-year

coaching skills.

"Does Juergen Klinsmann fit all US officials will now seek a new those criteria? I think he probably coach for the guest to reach South Africa in 2010 and Klinsmann, who does." Gulati said. "He has a much led Germany to third place at the better handle on the American World Cup, has been touted as a soccer scene than someone who hasn't spent a lot of time here and "I'm sure I will talk to Jurgen." he's a guy who wants to learn." Gulati said. "He's a very interesting Told Klinsmann professed no intercoach who lives in America and has est in the US job, Gulati said, "If we expressed a desire to remain in decide to pursue him, his complete America. A lot of people believe he lack of interest would be an obstacle

Klinsmann, who resigned from Arena, a possible candidate for the Germany post on Wednesday Major League Soccer's New York and lives in Southern California with Red Bulls, insisted in a statement his American wife, exchanged ethat he leaves with football in the US in good shape.

"I would like to thank the players, him taking over the US squad and coaches and staff who have been added: "We've not talked to any with the program over the last eight potential coaches. We will start that vears. Their tireless effort has helped transform the national team 'The search will be worldwide program into something we can all but I think there is a big advantage to be proud of.

knowing something about the "I am extremely optimistic about American soccer setup. What works the future of the sport in our country. in Brazil is not going to work in As for me, I am planning to take some time off to weigh my future opportunities."

Klinsmann meets Gulati's other requirements such as leadership,

company of angels.

Luciano Moggi, former general manager

of Juventus. Scandal threatens Italy bids THE GUARDIAN

The Serie A match-fixing scandal is set to cost Italy the opportunity of hosting two of the world's biggest sports events. A bid from Rome for the 2016 Olympics is teetering on collapse and an offer to host football's 2012 European Championships is in danger of

being fatally undermined. The link between the two is Franco Carraro, who was president of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) until he resigned after being implicated in the scandal but remains as a senior member of the International Olympic Committee. Italy were clear favourites to host Euro 2012 but such is the turmoil inside the federation that they look unlikely to be able to reorganise before December's vote. That could be bad news for UEFA, who would be left with two unpopular joint bids from Poland/Ukraine and Hungary/Croatia, neither of whom could offer the facilities Italy can. Rome's proposed Olympic bid is also unlikely after the city's centreleft mayor Walter Veltroni said the

refusal of the former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi's right-hand man, Gianni Letta, to be the head of the Rome 2016 organising committee showed the centre-right is not behind the capital.

Berlusconi, who is Milanese, was thought to have preferred a Milan bid for the Games. The city was in the running until the Italian Olympic Committee gave the capital the nod last week. But Veltroni has said he would press ahead only if Rome had support from the public, politicians and Italian sport.

Mario Pescante, a senior IOC member and senator in Berlusconi's Forza Italia party, protested that was an excuse. Carraro would be an ideal figure to mediate but is preoccupied defending himself against allegations he was trying to influence referees for important games.

Broadway

The following week, PinkNews.co.uk published an unedited version of the photographs that confirmed that the newspapers were alleging that Mr Cole and Mr Thompson were the parties involved in the alleged orgy.

Following the publication of the photographs on PinkNews.co.uk, Mr Cole and Mr Thompson began legal action against the News of the World and the Sun but not against PinkNews.co.uk.

The newspapers published their allegations despite the fact that Cole has already proposed to Tweedy whilst on a romantic break in Dubai. The pair were riding on camels across sand dunes when her then boyfriend pulled out a diamond ring.

"I couldn't believe it when he

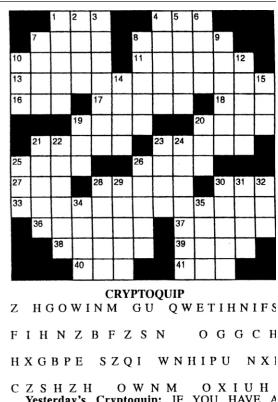
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 15 Profit 27 — Baba 2 Torture 1 -- -game 28 Knapsack device 19 Tease show part 3 Moral 20 Dress 4 Scot's 30 NAFTA 4 Story in signatory chapeau 21 Bicuspid book 33 One-time 7 Trounce bridge neighguardian 8 The little editor at bor mermaid Double-5 Staffers 22 Keys 10 Roost dav 6 Enoror 11 Stuck (in) 36 Theater Silver mous 13 "Gigot" district (Pref.) stone 37 Cogitate 7 Bill 23 Ugly star 38 Frighten 16 Firmaduckling, 8 Sea-39 Charged weed later on ment 17 What bits 9 Of lower 24 Re the New 40 "This status liver 10 Night-25 ---castle test" doesn't 41 Gear Mahal wear, need tooth for 26 Wedding 18 Seek short VIP restitution **DOWN** 12 Question 28 Eliot's 19 Welles 1 Shelley 14 Many Marner role or Faith millennia 29 Aquarium 20 Credit dweller Solution time: 21 mins. 30 Utilizing card 31 Sermon outcom 21 Puts subjects in the 32 Repost quest 23 Insuffi-Destruc cient tive 25 Snitched Hindu goddess 26 Verdon of

"Scraml"

35

PHOTO: INTERNET

A file photo shows Ashley Cole with his to-be wife, the Girls Aloud singer Cheryl Tweedy, shopping in Germany recently. The couple got married yesterday.



Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU HAVE A PENCHANT FOR STAYING OVERNIGHT AT HOTELS, I'D CALL YOU INN-DISPOSED. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals F

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 apostophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Villa players slam chairman whose stars include Colombia's Juan Pablo Angel, Czech Republic striker Milan Baros and Sweden defender Olof Mellberg.

Ellis has been Villa Park owner Aston Villa's players on Friday since 1982 and also had a spell as launched a remarkable attack on chairman from 1968 to 1975.

The players' statement said: The English Premiership team's "The chairman should be behind players issued a joint statement the club and not working against which claimed Ellis's lack of ambiwhat we're trying to achieve tion was stopping the club from "There've been a series of

cutbacks and we feel we have to mention this because they are now starting to affect us.

"People talk about Aston Villa being a big club and winning the European Cup in 1982. "We feel it should be a big club

but if the chairman has got ambi-Villa manager David O'Leary tion, he needs to start showing it. It has been unable to bring in new has to come from the top players so far this summer

"So many other clubs are doing so much to show their ambition apart from us. As players we're all ambitious and we want to improve on last season.

"At the end of last season, the chairman refused to pay 300 pounds for the pitches to be watered. The training ground development, which we were all looking forward to working in, has stopped.

"Now we have lost a masseur because the club refuse to pay for one and are clubbing together to pay for our own

"We have also heard that the physio, who was on his way to see Martin Laursen, could not claim back for a cup of coffee at the airport.

"We've had no explanation for the cutbacks and we feel if the manager can't get one then we have no chance.

"Maybe the chairman thought he would have left by now because of the takeover. Supporters are concerned with what happens on the pitch and rightly so.'

There was no immediate reaction from the club on Friday.

Football