

Vogts against complacency

DUESSELDORF, Germany, Apr 25: Germany coach Bert Vogts has told his team not to underestimate Wales in Wednesday's European Championship qualifier despite their dismal start to the competition, reports Reuters.

The Welsh have collected just three points from five games in Group Seven in contrast to the Germans 100 per cent record of success after four games.

But Vogts, whose plans have been hit by injuries to several key-players is aware that Wales, like many British sides in the past, have caused the 1990 World Cup winners problems.

"There are some new faces in our team. The Welsh can't qualify but they will want to annoy us. They have done that in the past," Vogts said.

Germany's England-based captain Juergen Klinsmann said: "I know many of the players and how they play. We have a lot of respect for them even though they have been strugg-

gling.

It is going to be a real battle. It won't be easy."

Missing for Germany is captain Lothar Mathaeus, who is out for the season with an Achilles tendon rupture, and injured man-to-man markers Thomas Helmer and Juergen Kohler.

Borussia Dortmund libero Matthias Sammer also pulled out of the squad on Sunday because of a sinus problem and midfielder Andy Moeller was omitted after his two-match league ban for taking a dive in the penalty area during a game.

Vogts will not name his line-up until just before the kickoff. Sammer is expected to be replaced by Werder Bremen's Dieter Elts. Borussia Moenchengladbach's young striker Helko Herrlich is set to earn his second cap.

Wales are likely to show two changes to the team which lost 3-1 to Bulgaria in Sofia last month. Experienced strikers Ian Rush and Mark Hughes are back from injury and suspension respectively and will replace John Hartson and the injured B Ryan Giggs.

"It's got to be good news for us if they've got a few out but I'm sure they will have some more quality players to come in, so that doesn't really matter," Welsh striker Dean Saunders said.

POSSIBLE TEAMS.

GERMANY: Andreas Koepcke, Dieter Elts, Stefan Reuter, Marcus Babel, Ralf Weber, Thomas Haessler, Steffen Freund, Marcus, B Mario Basler, Jens Todt, Heiko Herrlich, Juergen Klinsmann.

WALES: Neville Southall, David Phillips, Mark Bowen, Chris Goleman, Ki Szymons, Vinnie Jones, Barry Horne, Gary Speedh, Dean Saunders, Ian Rush, Mark Hughes.

Getting Gazza

LONDON, Apr 25: If Paul Gascoigne does decide to return to England, it seems he'll have no shortage of big money offers.

British newspapers reported Tuesday that Leeds and Everton are now in the running to sign the Lazio midfielder who played only 13 minutes as a substitute in the Rome team's 2-0 victory over Roma on Sunday, reports AP.

Gascoigne's omission from the starting lineup won praise from Italian papers for Lazio coach Zdenek Zeman, whose tactical style seems to clash with the 28-year old midfielder's instinctive creativity.

With speculation rife that Gascoigne is ready to end his injury plagued, three year stint in Italy, the Guardian and the Daily Express reported that Everton chairman Peter Johnson is prepared to bid up to 3.5 million pounds (5.6 million dollars) for the player.

The reports say Johnson would pay Gascoigne a salary ranging from 15,000-18,000 pounds (24,000-28,000 dollars) per week, roughly twice the amount reportedly earned by Duncan Ferguson, currently Everton's highest paid player.

The Daily Mirror reported that Leeds were also interested, with the price tag set at three million pounds (4.8 million dollars).

"We have met the people concerned at Lazio and looked into every aspect of bringing Gazza home," managing director Bill Fotherby said. "We definitely mean business and have asked Lazio to keep us informed. We want to take another step towards being in the hunt for all the top honours and signing Paul Gascoigne can only help."

The Mirror also quoted Gascoigne talking about his frustrations since moving to Italy.

"I've let Lazio say a lot about me. I've sat back and taken a lot," Gascoigne told the paper. "Lazio have got to understand, I'm going to stick up for myself now. I always seem to do things for people and never look after Paul Gascoigne. That's changed."

Other papers speculated that Newcastle, Manchester United, Liverpool and Tottenham - who sold Gascoigne to Lazio for 5.5 million (8.8 million dollars) were all set to enter the Gascoigne sweepstakes.

Italy may miss Baggio

VILNIUS, Apr 25: Italy striker Roberto Baggio has a slight fever and may not play in Wednesday's European Championship qualifier in Lithuania, reports Reuters.

"Baggio did not train today," Sacchi, said on Tuesday, adding that the Juventus player did not feel fully fit.

The news puts in doubt Sacchi's planned gamble on a twin strikeforce of Baggio and Parma's Gianfranco Zola.

Sacchi's decision to play both men had raised a few eyebrows in Italy, not least because the coach said in the past they were too similar and therefore incompatible on the pitch.

Baggio is back to his best with Juventus, helping them reach the UEFA Cup final after a lengthy absence with a knee injury, while Zola inspired Italy to their win over Ukraine and the 4-1 drubbing of Estonia earlier this year.

Italy are second in Group Four, three points behind Croatia and ahead of Lithuania by the same margin.

Sacchi is expecting a difficult game for his World Cup runners-up, who are hoping for a good win to take them nearer the finals in England next year.

"Lithuania are a strong team and we respect them," he said.

Lithuania coach Benjaminas Zelkevicius said he was planning to stifle Italy as his side did successfully against the promising Croats in their 0-0 draw in Vilnius last month.

"But with the Italians we must play more aggressively," he said.

Zelkevicius has injury problems. Defenders Virginijus Blatusnikas and Ramunas Stonkus are doubtful, the former because of a knee injury.

Talented Austria Vienna forward Aminas Narkobovas is also out, while goalkeeper Gintaras Stauce of Turkish champions Galatasaray will play despite not having fully recovered from a hand injury.

Soccer on ice!

KHATYNGA, Russia, Apr 25: Nice shot, but watch out for that ice floe! reports AP.

Slogging through deep snow and shivering in frosty conditions, a group of Russian soccer fanatics staged a tournament at the North Pole on Sunday.

The ITAR-Tass news agency said Monday that businessman Sergei Zyryanov flew eight amateur teams to the pole from a nearby Russian polar station. His lofty stated goal: "to demonstrate to the world the willpower of Russians and promote the rebirth of national pride and self-respect."

The soccer-crazed Russians played on snow a half-metre (about 20 inches) deep a top thick ice and endured a temperature of minus 27 degrees Celsius (minus 17 Fahrenheit). ITAR-Tass said the weather "forced the players to move fast and the games were very exciting."

Fittingly, a team representing the Biryusa refrigerator plant won the tournament's crystal cup. Also competing were teams of journalists, Olympic champions, cosmonauts, a mining institute, polar pilots, a Siberian orphanage and Zyryanov's friends.

Zyryanov said he hopes the tournament will be listed in the Guinness Book of World Records.

IABF to skip it

NEW DELHI, Apr 25: The Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF) has decided to skip the World Championship in order to concentrate fully on the next SAF Games and the Asian Boxing Championship, reports PTI.

The South Asian Federation (SAF) Games are scheduled to be held in Madras later this year while the Asian Championship is scheduled for October to November in Tashkent.

IABF secretary Ashok Gangopadhyay told PTI here Monday that the federation wanted to focus mainly on the SAF Games and the Asian Championship and hence has decided not to send Indian team to Berlin where the championship would be held from May 5 to 15.

"There is no point in sending a small team for the World Championship. Instead, we thought it is better to concentrate on the SAF Games and the Asian championship," Gangopadhyay said.

Rain plays foul at Monte Carlo Open

MONACO, Apr 25: Riviera rain wiped out the first day of play at the 1.8 million dollars Monte Carlo Open men's tennis tournament on Monday and forecasts suggested the disruption could continue today, reports Reuters.

Organisers abandoned all hope of play for the day just after 1430 GMT, more than six hours after the opening matches had been scheduled to start.



Ervin 'Magic' Johnson announced his plans at a press conference in Long Beach, California on Apr 24, on playing in a summer basketball league with his own team against other NBA players, college and national teams. — AFP/UNB photo

Wilkens' wishful thinking

ATLANTA, Apr 25: Lenny Wilkens remembers the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, when the US basketball practices were better than some of the games.

"I would suspect we'll have the same thing again," Wilkens said Monday after being named coach of the 1996 team, reports AP.

Although Dream Team I, the first US Olympic team that included NBA players, rolled through the 1992 Games unbeaten, Wilkens expects the competition to be better in the Atlanta Games next year.

"No question that basketball in the world is improving steadily," said Wilkens, who will lead his Atlanta Hawks into the NBA playoffs this week against Indiana.

"Every year they're going to get better and better and better," he said of teams from other nations. "The game of basketball is worldwide now. I don't have any illusions that

the competition's going to be the same as it was five years ago. That's why we will scout it and prepare."

Wilkens and his staff of assistants, including one NBA coach and two college coaches, will begin scouting the opposition at various international tournaments this summer.

CM Newton, president of USA Basketball, said the organization's senior men's basketball team committee will choose the assistant coaches in June and the first set of players in July or August, finishing that chore by next April. Newton said Wilkens will have input, but won't vote.

Wilkens, who surpassed Red Auerbach as the winningest coach in NBA history this season, says he knows there will be pressure to capture the gold medal.

"When you put together an Olympic team like that, everyone says you're supposed to win," he said. "You have to be

prepared. We'll be playing at home. There's be a lot of pressure."

Newton said that unlike the 1994 World Championships games, when 1992 Olympians weren't allowed to participate, the Atlanta Games will be open to everyone.

Magic Johnson, the former Los Angeles Lakers star, played on the '92 team after revealing he had HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Johnson recently said he wants to play in Atlanta, too.

Another possible returning star is Michael Jordan, who came out of retirement to play for the Chicago Bulls when he gave up his baseball career last month.

"I don't have any indication that Michael will play, or wants to play," Wilkens said. "That's a little premature right now. Certainly we would not overlook any players who have played in the past."

Ali to visit Pyongyang

TOKYO, Apr 25: Former world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali said here Tuesday he was raring to visit North Korea "without any hesitation," brushing aside queries over the stalemated Washington-Pyongyang dialogue on the nuclear issue, reports AFP.

"I can't answer that," the 53-year-old American said with effort because of a speech impediment, when asked what he thought about the stalemate over the provision of safe nuclear reactors to North Korea.

They were, in fact, the only words he spoke at a news conference on the eve of his departure for an unusual sports and cultural festival this weekend in Pyongyang, after a one-night stopover in Tokyo.

But he said in a prepared statement, "I myself have long devoted myself to activities in the interest of world peace, and take some pride in my achievements over the years."

Ali, who was the heavyweight champion from 1964 to 1967 and from 1974 to 1978, has been to several trouble spots, including Baghdad where he campaigned for the release of hostages held by Iraq following the 1990 Gulf crisis.

In 1978, he became the

first US sportsman to meet the then Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow.

He is to be a guest of honour at the "Pyongyang international sports and cultural festival for peace" — featuring matches between US and Japanese professional wrestlers and a song and dance show by Japanese entertainers.

The scheme is the brain child of Japanese professional wrestler and politician Kanji "Antonio" Inoki, 52, who battled to a Farical draw with Ali in a zany wrestler-versus-boxer match in Tokyo in 1976 when the American was champion.

North Korea hoped to attract up to 30,000 foreign visitors for the festival but as of now, the turnout is expected to reach only 3,800, mainly from Japan, Taiwan, the United States and a few other nations.

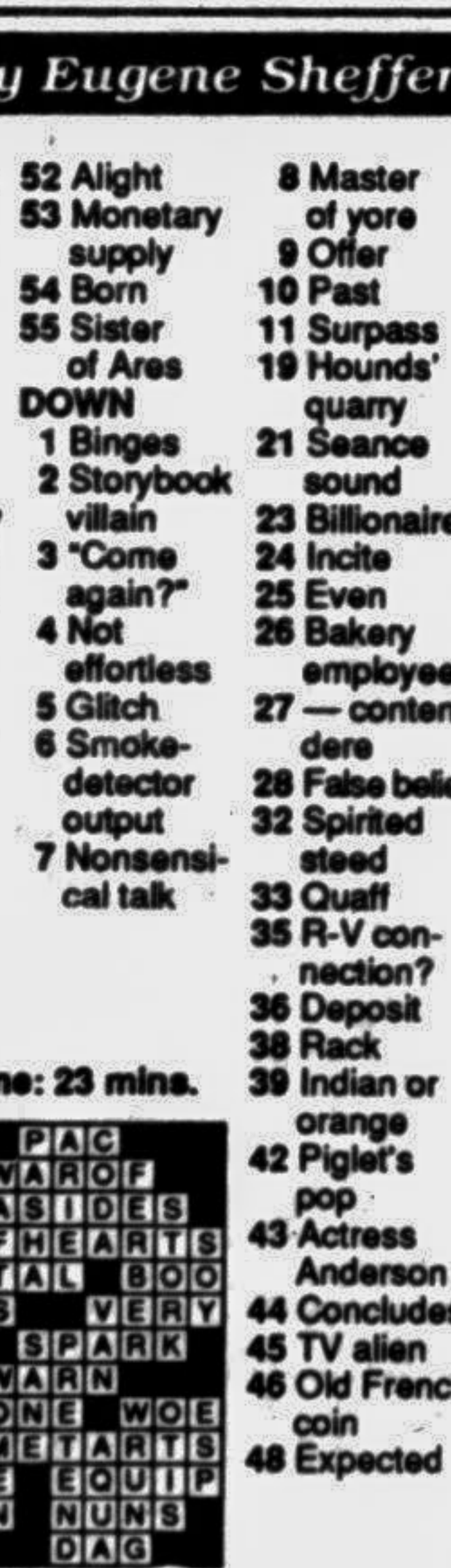
The festival is seen as a gambit for the last bastion of Stalinism, to earn hard currency and advertise its brighter side after the death of its longtime dictator Kim Il-Sung last year.

For Ali, who has been suffering from Parkinson's Disease for some 10 years, it will be another occasion to hog the limelight after his trip to Vietnam in May 1994 with families of US soldiers who had gone missing in the Vietnam war.

Ali sat quietly, his eyelids batting faintly, along side Inoki during most of the news conference but perked up when his confidant and photographer Howard Bingham announced, "He might have some surprise for you."

"All might wrestle with the senator," he said, sending Ali and Inoki to square off in a classical fighting pose with mean looks.

Then, at the end of the show, Ali played magician, concealing and pulling out a red handkerchief in a mock sleight-of-hand with trembling fingers and a big smile.



MUHAMMAD ALI

Government of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD,
Road Division, Natore.

Notice Inviting (RHD) Tender

- Tender Notice No. : 13-EE-NRD/1994-95.
- Name of work : Supply of 1st class Bricks at 2nd KM (RHD) stackyard of Natore-Bogra Road during 1994-95.
- Chargeable Head : 168-R B F
- Estimated cost : Tk. 3,00,000/-
- Earnest money : Tk 6,000/- to be deposited in TC/BD/CD from any scheduled Bank in favour of the undersigned with maximum collection charge. 20 (Twenty) days.
- Time allowed for completion of work
- Eligibility of contractors to submit tender : (RHD) enlisted "A" to "E" general category as per rule.
- Name of office where tender will be received : (a) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Pabna. (b) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Natore/Pabna/Serajgonj.
- Name of office where tender documents will be sold : (a) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Natore/Pabna/Serajgonj. (b) Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division-1/II, Natore.
- Last date for selling tender documents : Up to 06-05-95 Eng/23-01-1402 Beng. during office hours.
- Last date and time for receiving tender : 07-05-95 Eng/ 24-01-1402 Beng. Up to 12:30 PM.
- Date and time for opening tender : 07-05-95 Eng/ 24-01-1402 Beng. at 12:45 PM.

N.B: (1) All participants will have to submit the attested copy of VAT registration certificate along with the tender, otherwise the tender will be treated as informal.

(2) All tenderer will have to submit the attested copy of page No. 7 of the new registration book of contractors (information about the indentifications of contractors) otherwise the tender will be treated as informal.

(3) The intending tenderers will submit Earnest Money/special security money with the tender in the shape of BD/TC/CD from any scheduled Bank with maximum collection fee instead of payable in Natore Town as specified in clause at 1 & 3 in page-1 of Annexur-C.

Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Natore.

DFP-9955-20/4
G-644

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Facilities Department, Ministry of Education
Moulvibazar Zone, Moulvibazar

Tender Notice

NOTICE NO. 13/NGC/FUR (ADB)/FDM.B.Z DATE: 9-4-95

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No. 2908 from the Enlisted Contractors/Firms of Facilities Department of category A-1 and also from the bonafide furniture manufacturers for supply of furniture to selected Non-Govt. College under Higher Secondary Education project (ADB LOAN NO. 1123-BAN (SF)).

1. Particulars of works:

NAME OF ZONE	GROUP NO.	NAME OF DISTRICT	NAME OF THANA	NAME OF INSTITUTION	ESTI. AMOUNT (TK)	EARNEST MONEY (TK)	COMPLETION TIME
MOULVI BAZAR	01	HOBIGONJ	MADHABPUR	SHAJJALAL COLLEGE		2%	3 MONTH

i. Last date and time for purchase of tender documents : Upto 5.00 pm 29-4-95.

ii. Last date and time for submission of tender documents : Upto 12.00 Noon of 30-4-95.

iii. Date and time for opening of the tender documents in presence of the tenderers if there be any : Upto 12:30 am of 30-4-95.

iv. SALES OF TENDER DOCUMENTS : Tender document may be purchased from the office of the Director, Facilities Department, Shikha Bhaban, Dhaka, Moulvibazar zone office and Hobigonj dist. office of Facilities Department on all working days during office hours on cash payment (Non-refundable) of Tk. 400/- (four hundred) only for each set of tender documents.

v. DRAWING AND RELEVANT PAPERS: Drawing and other relevant papers may be seen from the concerned office on all working days during office hours.

vi. Earnest Money : Each tender must accompany a Bank Draft/Pay Order in any schedule Bank of Bangladesh for the amount as mentioned against respective work as Earnest Money in favour of the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Moulvibazar Zone, Moulvibazar.

Instructions to Contractors

- On inclusion of any additional condition by the contractor, the tender document will be treated as cancelled outright.
- Rate should be quoted by the contractor itemwise in figures & words.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.
- The selected contractor, after manufacturing the furnitures, should supply to the stated institute at own cost.
- The contractor/contractors should submit performance guarantee for 6% (eight per cent) of the estimated cost in Taka equivalent from any scheduled bank in favour of Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Moulvibazar Zone, Moulvibazar at the time of agreement. This performance guarantee shall be refunded after satisfactory completion of work.
- After issuing letter of Intent for execution of agreement with Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Moulvibazar Zone, the selected contractor shall have to collect 3 (three) sets of tender document on cash payment of Tk 400/- (non-refundable) per set.
- Contractors of other than those enlisted with the Facilities Department shall have to purchase tender document by producing the following documents: (1) Current Trade Licence of the firm, (2) Current Income Tax Clearance Certificate, (3) VAT Registration Certificate, (4) Work Order & satisfactory completion Certificate from an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer of manufacturing & supplying furnitures worth Taka two lakh under a single work order.

Executive Engineer
Facilities Department
Moulvibazar Zone, Moulvibazar

DFP-9580-17/4
G-646

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Wattle
- Lovers' quarrel
- Muslim official
- Jason's craft
- Snatch
- Literary collection
- Cager's target
- Ignite
- Nerd
- Hardly direct
- Where success precedes work?
- Heidi's height
- Lanka lead-in
- Vassaris, since 1969
- Honest politician
- Leaf
- 90 degree angle

DOWN

- Binges
- Storybook villain
- "Come again?"
- Not effortless
- Glitch
- Smoke-detector output
- Nonsensical talk
- Master of yore
- Offer
- Past
- Surpass
- Hounds' quarry
- Seance sound
- Billionaire
- Incite
- Even
- Bakery employee
- contender
- False belief
- Spirited steed
- Quaff
- R-V connection?
- Deposit
- Rack
- Indian or orange
- Piglet's pop
- Actress Anderson
- Concludes
- TV alien
- Old French coin
- Expected

Solution time: 23 mins.

BIS PAG
GILY WAROF
INDIE ASIDES
QUEENOFHEARTS
SSY TOTAL BOO
POPS VERY
SPARS SPARK
JOEL WARN
ADE PHONE WOE
MADEBOMETARTS
SERAPE EQUIP
ELLEN NUNS
EMS DAG

CRYPTOQUIP

TRZCOKICMK MGITICMUZ
ACM MRP NCKA O
TGTJ KAUI ZGVVUZ
KRU - KRU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LITTLE WITCH'S MOM WANTS TO ENROLL HER IN CHARM SCHOOL.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals P

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