

## Markets suffer a jolt

JOHANNESBURG, July 7: South Africa's financial markets weakened on Thursday following FIFA's announcement in Zurich that the country had lost the bid to host the World Cup 2006 to Germany, reports AFP.

The bonds, rand and equity markets softened markedly after the news, the rand losing more than five cents against the dollar.

The currency was trading at 6.7850 to the dollar shortly before the announcement, but closed at 6.8345 compared on Thursday afternoon to Wednesday's close of 6.7815.

A currency trader said the plunge was the result of market players scrambling to buy back dollars after they heard the news.

"Players sold dollars when they thought South Africa was going to win the bid, and now they are buying them back again," he said.

The Johannesburg Stock Exchange immediately lost ground after the announcement and ended the day 0.71 percent lower.

Construction and tourism, the two sectors billed to benefit the most from the country staging the World Cup, were the hardest hit, the SAPA news agency reported.

South African Chamber of Business chief executive Kevin Wakeford said South Africa would have benefited from some 16 billion rand (2.3 billion dollars) in foreign investment associated with the event, if it had won the bid.

He said a further 14 billion rand would have been generated through domestic investments, and hosting the cup would have boosted the country's gross domestic product by about two percent.

It could also have created some 130,000 jobs in a country where unemployment stands at about 30 percent.

"There is no doubt that it would have provided the South African economy with a much-needed shot in the arm," he said.

However, Wakeford added that all was not gloom for the country, as being the runner-up to host the 2006 soccer World Cup would lift South Africa's profile in the international business community.

"Not all is lost, we are now equipped for future sporting events... We must not see this as a final curtain call for the business of sport in South Africa."

But the Louis Group's chief executive and property economist Alan Louis said South Africa had desperately needed to win the 2006 bid to give the stuttering economy the impetus it needed.

"There were investors standing in the wings waiting to make positive decisions had we won the bid," he said.

"Now we are going to have to bite the bullet and wait another four years. Germany didn't need the bid economically speaking. Africa did -- desperately."

## Boskov still under fire

BELGRADE, July 7: Journalists and players alike continue to severely criticize national coach Vujadin Boskov for Yugoslavia's results at Euro 2000, where the team reached the quarterfinals, before being thrashed by Holland (1-6), reports AFP.

Boskov, who has remained in his post despite the loss, is suffering heavy pressure to resign due to a series of tactical decisions and attitudes that left the mighty Yugoslav players look like a broken army during a large part of the competition. The weekly Blic News reported Thursday that "there is no more place for Boskov in the national team", listing his mistakes before and during Euro 2000.

Among the wrong moves were his failure to bring a replacement left-back player, his wrong 4-4-2 tactics in the match against Holland, as well as his easy-going, even arrogant, attitude towards opponents such as Slovenia and Norway, Blic News said in an analysis.

In a Wednesday interview to the Blic daily, Yugoslav team captain, Dragan Stokjovic said the non-respect Boskov showed for him during the preparation period and the competition itself "exceeded all barriers". "Maybe I made a mistake, maybe I should have been packed my bags and returned home during the preparation period," Stokjovic said.

He said Boskov was often giving inappropriate statements about him to the press, only to discard them as "lies" in private one-to-one conversations. Belgrade press has speculated that Stokjovic might be a good replacement for Boskov, due to his long experience and respect among the players and experts.

Stokjovic, 36, a legendary Yugoslav midfielder, was left on the bench in the opening game against Slovenia, only to be brought in 35 minutes into the match.

Yugoslavia drew 3-3 and won the next one against Norway (1-0), with Stokjovic being a starter and being named man-of-the-match by UEFA.

The Yugoslav press considers the results of the national team a "failure" because of the catastrophic loss to Holland, although the team had reached its primary objective of getting into quarterfinals.

## New Zealand embarrassed

AUCKLAND, July 7: Oceania football chief Charlie Dempsey, the man who handed the 2006 World Cup to Germany, is to be hauled over the coals after it emerged that he had ignored orders to vote for South Africa.

In rugby-mad New Zealand, where football is derisively known as "kiss n' kick", Dempsey's decision to abstain in Thursday's crucial final vote at FIFA headquarters in Zurich did not go down well.

Sports Minister Trevor Mallard described Dempsey, who is due back here on Saturday, as an "international embarrassment."

Even Prime Minister Helen Clark stuck the boot in, saying she was upset by the result as she had promised New Zealand's support for the South African bid.

Dempsey told New Zealand's TV3 while in transit in Singapore he had been under "unsustainable pressure" when he decided not to vote but would not reveal who he was being pressured by.

"I had very strong reasons but I'm not going into them. I didn't do it lightly, I don't make decisions lightly," he said.

Mark Burgess, New Zealand's representative on the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC), said the Scots-born Dempsey, 78, had not followed instructions given to him at the Confederation's meeting in Samoa in May.

Dempsey told New Zealand's executive Bill MacGowan was also adamant Dempsey was told to vote for England first then South Africa.

Dempsey said he knew the enormity of his actions but had no regrets. Had he voted, the final count would have been 12-12, and FIFA president Sepp Blatter's casting vote was headed South Africa's way.

"I'm fully aware of it," he said. "I have no regrets for what I did, none whatsoever. There are a lot of people jumping to conclusions. They can jump to them."

"You don't make decisions that I made lightly. It wasn't easy."

Dempsey faces a meeting of the OFC in Auckland on Sunday when he will be asked to explain why he did not switch his vote to South Africa after England was eliminated in the second round of voting.

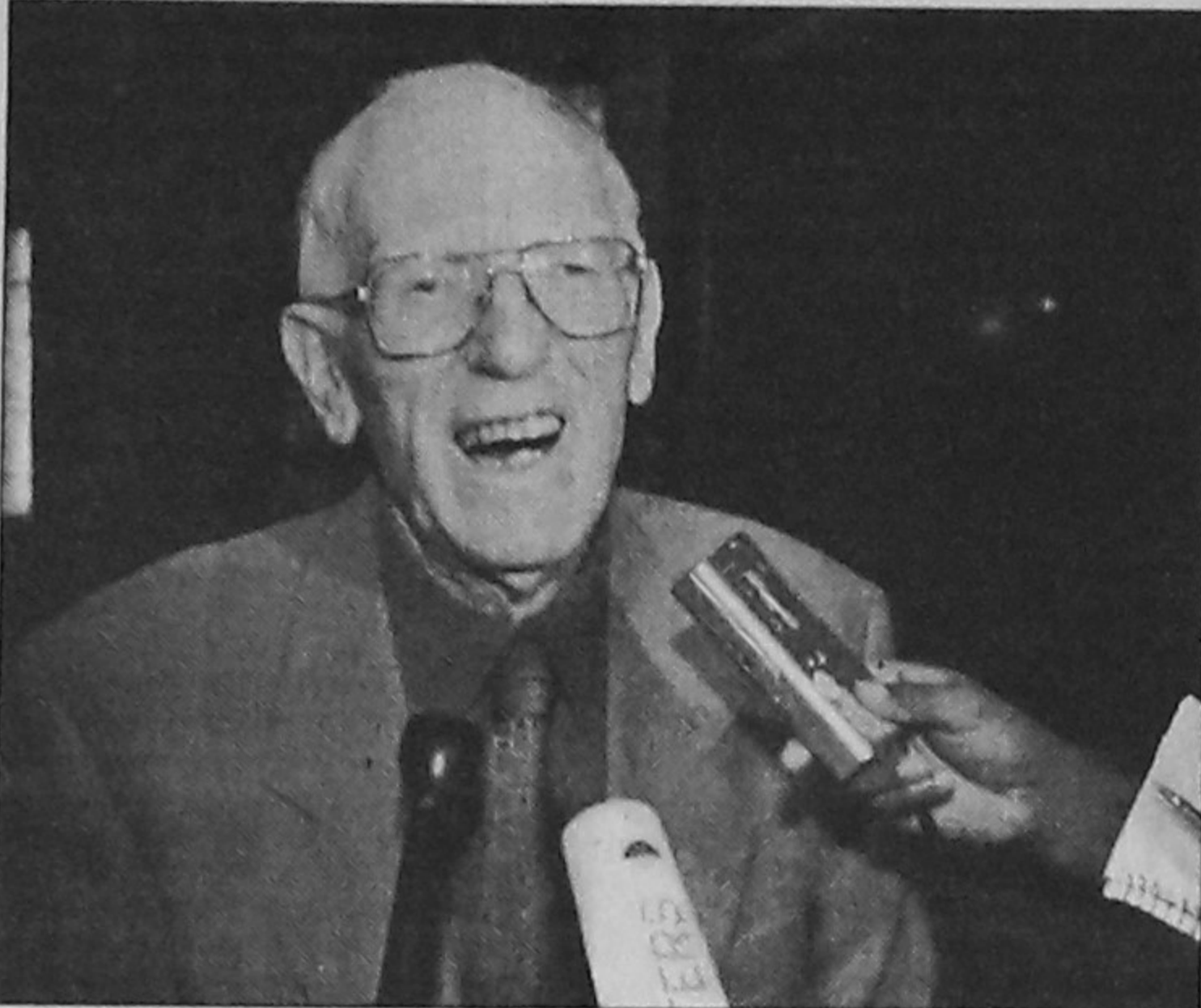
"I can't believe he has done

this intentionally to shoot himself in the foot back here," Burgess said Friday.

The vote was a democratic one in Samoa, they still preferred England in the first vote, but on the second the vote was to go to South Africa.

"There certainly was no discussion on his abstention, that never entered the thinking at all."

"He's going to have to explain himself and based on that, I'm pretty certain there will be some unhappy island people."



IN HOT WATERS: FIFA's Oceania delegate Charles Dempsey talking to journalists in Singapore yesterday. The New Zealander sparked off a storm on Thursday when he abstained from voting in the critical ballot for who would host the 2006 World Cup -- an action that led to Germany being awarded the tournament.

Internet photo

FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper confirmed Dempsey had warned the voting committee what he planned to do before voting started.

He said he would abstain in the final round for personal reasons, Cooper said.

South Africa made an attempt to remove Dempsey from the presidency of the OFC at a meeting in May. He has headed the federation since it was established in 1964.

"(Dempsey) said he had been accused of bribery and corruption and would not vote again after England were out," Botswana executive committee member Ismail Bhamjee said.

Dempsey was believed to have been one of two executive committee members contacted by former South Africa president Nelson Mandela in the final days of the campaign to ask for support.

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## Dempsey was threatened?

LONDON, July 7: A FIFA spokesman said Friday that Charles Dempsey, the delegate who effectively handed the 2006 World Cup tournament to Germany by abstaining in a crucial vote, had earlier received a death threat, reports AFP.

Keith Cooper told BBC radio that Dempsey had informed other delegates and FIFA head Sepp Blatter at an executive committee meeting Thursday in Zurich that he and his family had been threatened.

Charlie referred to the legal advice which he had taken because of the difficult personal situation he found himself in, Cooper said.

"I would absolutely subscribe to the description of intolerable unbearable personal pressure."

Asked to detail the manner of the pressure Dempsey was under, Cooper said: "If you think of your own personal safety and that of the people who are close and dear to you."

When asked if he meant death threats, he replied: "If you want to interpret it that way I would not disagree with it."

Asked where such threats came from, Cooper added: "I don't know. That's not my business but he (Dempsey) made that clear to the meeting."

Earlier, Dempsey told BBC radio that he had "no regrets" for abstaining in the third and final vote, after plumping for England in the first two rounds.

It meant that Germany won the vote 12-11, ending favourite South Africa's hopes of staging the tournament.

"I have very strong reasons for making the decision but I'm not going into them. I didn't do it lightly, I don't make decisions lightly," he said.

The Glasgow-born delegate, 79, added: "I don't regret what I did."

"I believe people jumped to conclusions which they can jump to. It wasn't easy."

## Effenberg lashes at recall

BERLIN, July 7: Stefan Effenberg, the Bayern Munich captain and playmaker, has Friday ruled out any return to the German national team despite overtures from the new interim coach Rudi Voller, reports AFP.

"The subject is closed," said 31-year-old Effenberg who has won 35 caps, at a Bayern training session. "When we are talking about rebuilding the national team we must realise that dream with younger players not by reactivating a 32-year-old."

"You can say I am a chicken and do not dare (to play for Germany) if you like," said Effenberg. "But I am keeping the promise I made two years ago and the pundits can say what they like."

Effenberg was sent home from the 1994 World Cup by then coach Bert Vogts after making a gesture at German fans and was cast into the international wilderness.

Erich Ribbeck reinstated the Bayern player in 1998 when he replaced Vogts at the helm of the "Mannschaft" only for Effenberg to decide to return to exile - this time at his own bidding.

Voller earlier this week said he wanted to reintegrate Effenberg but now it would appear the Bayern player's international career is definitively closed.

## Beckenbauer laughs off allegations

ROME, July 7: Germany's Franz Beckenbauer who spearheaded Germany's victorious campaign to host the 2006 World Cup Friday denounced claims that Germany had engaged in dubious tactics to obtain the tournament as "primitive and ridiculous," reports AFP.

"It is just imagination that we would have toyed with the idea of paying money to obtain something like this," said Beckenbauer as he arrived in Rome to participate in a charity match between Germany's victorious 1990 World Cup winning team and a team made up of Formula One drivers.



"I am convinced that the German people are genuinely sorry for South Africa (the vote was 12-11 in favour of Germany) and I believe that for future tournaments we will support an African bid," he added.

World governing body FIFA announced Friday they would open an inquiry into the voting process that was tainted by the abstention of New Zealand representative Charlie Dempsey during the last vote that essentially handed the World Cup to Germany.

Dempsey had reportedly received a death threat but was under orders to vote for South Africa which would