

Makelele on his own

Football

AFP, Madrid

English Premiership side Chelsea have apologised to Real Madrid for their attempt to lure French international Claude Makelele and told the Spanish giants that the bid for the midfielder was off, Real sporting director Jorge Valdano claimed Friday.

Makelele is currently refusing to train with Real Madrid due to a salary dispute and the Spanish champions have insisted he is not for sale.

His agent Marc Roger had claimed that the issue will be resolved as soon as Real president Florentino Perez returns from holiday on Monday.

But Valdano told Cadena Ser private radio Friday that Real had contacted the London club who apologised for the debacle and renounced any bid for the 30-year-old.

He said that Chelsea bosses said that they had been misled into believing that the Spanish club were interested in selling the Frenchman.

"Nothing could be further from the truth and Chelsea firstly said they were sorry and secondly withdrew their intention of holding a meeting with us, neither Monday nor later I hope," said Valdano.

He added that Makelele would have to respect his contract and they were confident of their position having consulted world soccer's governing body FIFA over the affair.

"The situation is awkward because we don't like to see players in this type of situation but we are very calm because our position is solid from a legal point of view," said Valdano.

"We know that clubs cannot



CLAUDE MAKELELE

contact players who have running contracts. Makelele is under contract until 2006, and so his professional situation is very clear."

The Congo-born player has been absent from the training ground for the past three days, with his agent claiming he is now on sick leave because of the stress brought on by

the situation.

Valdano said that if Makelele continued to defy the club "he will put his sporting career in jeopardy and that doesn't seem like a good idea".

"The only thing Real Madrid has to say is that (Makelele) is a very important player for the club and I don't think that the player can be annoyed by such praise."

Real doctors on Friday recommended that Makelele not play in Real's friendly Sunday against Valencia or France's friendly against Switzerland next Wednesday.

A statement issued by the Madrid club said that after an examination by team doctors the player was found to be suffering from a "slight change in his emotional state provoked by his personal and professional situation".

Makelele is said to be unhappy with his comparatively low wages, which are reportedly only a fifth of what the club's high-profile stars like Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane and Raúl earn.

He was hoping to double the reported monthly salary of 125,000 euros (141,000 dollars) he currently earns at Real by joining Chelsea.

The player joined Real in 2000 after two seasons with Celta Vigo, having earlier made his name with French league side Nantes.

Anderson the one and only

Cricket

AFP, London

Free-spending English Premiership side Chelsea are set to make a bid to land Inter Milan's Argentine ace Hernan Crespo, according to reports here Friday.

Chelsea have signed a number of big names since Russian oil tycoon Roman Abramovich took over the club and have now earmarked Crespo as their next target ahead of the August 31 transfer deadline.

According to the Sun newspaper, Chelsea had originally been interested in Crespo's Italian team-mate Christian Vieri until it was revealed during preliminary talks that Crespo could be a more attractive option.

While Vieri is aged 30, Crespo - who Inter signed from league rivals Lazio last year - is only 28 and it is believed that the Serie Club could more easily find a replacement from within the club if the Argentinian was to leave.

A source close to the Italian club is reported to have said: "We rate Crespo the best pound for pound striker in the world at the moment.

"He has all the attributes you could wish for in a centre forward, but has only just turned 28. Vieri's 30."

Crespo, who shares the same agent as recent Chelsea signing Juan Sebastian Veron - who is also Argentinian - has scored over 100 goals in Serie A, won the UEFA Cup (with Parma in 1999) and scored 19 goals in 36 matches for his country.

Key to some of the world's top players joining clubs is the option of playing in the group stages of the Champions League, considered the biggest club stage in world football.

Chelsea got their European campaign off to a winning start in midweek with a 2-0 victory over MSK Zilina in the third qualifying round of the competition and are aiming to get involved in some lucrative group phase action.



JAMES ANDERSON

Michael Atherton and Nasser Hussain.

The Lancashire paceman, and BBC Sport Interactive columnist, broke onto the scene in Australia last winter when injuries left England bereft of fast bowlers during the VB Series.

Two man-of-the-match awards during the World Cup, including a four-wicket haul in the win over Pakistan, enhanced his reputation.

He also claimed England's first-ever one-day international hattrick against the same opposition during the recent NatWest Challenge.

And Anderson began his Test career with a five-wicket debut bag of Zimbabwean wickets at Lord's.

"Jimmy's emergence as an England star should inspire every young player in the country -- it shows that if you have the talent the opportunities are there," said Cricket Writers' Club chairman Colin Evans.

"He has run away with our award this year and is still eligible for it for the next two seasons."

Players have to be Under-23 to be considered and Anderson will be presented with the trophy, an antique silver inkstand, at the CWC annual dinner in London on 29 August.

England make

FROM PAGE 13

Boucher off Jacques Kallis's fifth ball of the day in what was the all-rounder's first match of the series following the death of his father.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of England's first innings at tea on the second day of the third Test against South Africa at Trent Bridge on Friday:

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 296-3)

Treschottic	c Boucher b Hall	24
Vaughan c Gibbs b Pollock	1	
Butcher c Boucher b Ntini	106	
Hussain lbw b Pollock	116	
Smith c Boucher b Kallis	64	
Stewart c Smith b Adams	72	

Total: (All out in 146.3 overs) 445

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-29, 3-218, 4-322, 5-334, 6-347, 7-388, 8-408, 9-440

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	36	18	65	2
Ntini	33	3	137	2
Hall	24	6	88	3
Kallis	27	7	92	1
Adams	26.3	7	46	2

Toss: England

Flintoff c Pollock b Hall 0
Giles b Hall 22
Kirley c Smith b Ntini 1
Harrison c Pollock b Adams 1 4
Anderson not out 0
Extras: (b-9, lb-8, w-4, nb-4) 25

Total: (All out in 146.3 overs) 445

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-29, 3-218, 4-322, 5-334, 6-347, 7-388, 8-408, 9-440

Bowler O M R W

Pollock 36 18 65 2

Ntini 33 3 137 2

Hall 24 6 88 3

Kallis 27 7 92 1

Adams 26.3 7 46 2

Toss: England

FROM PAGE 13

Anwar said protesting Wasim's captaincy in 1994, a fine imposed on him in a match-fixing case and losing the World Cup quarterfinal against India in 1996 were the main regrets in his career.

Anwar was one of six players fined 100,000 rupees (around 1,700 dollars) in a match-fixing inquiry in May 2000.

Anwar said he would love to go coaching assignments to help Pakistan cricket and plans to do commentary in future.

"Saeed Anwar was a great player and deserves highest accolades for a marvellous career and Pakistan Cricket Board pays him the greatest of tributes," said PCB chief executive Ramiz Raja, former captain and fellow opener.

"Anwar was a terrific player and gave a lot to Pakistan cricket. He was perhaps the most naturally gifted player that Pakistan ever had."

"It was nice to come out and show people that we can actually play this game," Butcher added.

"It's great too for Nasser. He really wears his heart on his sleeve and everyone saw today how much that century meant to him. He was a fantastic captain and he also took a battering personally."

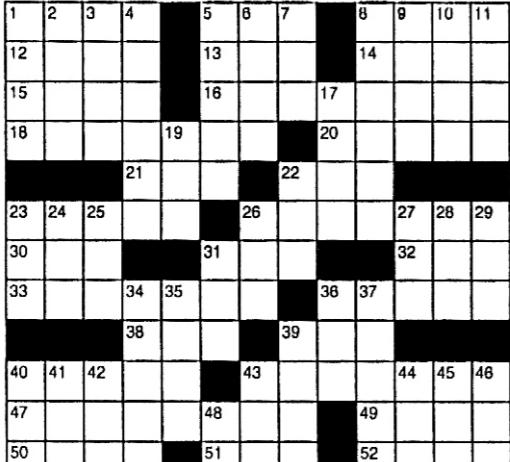
"You know when the vultures start circling he's going to do something good."

South Africa captain Graeme Smith remained upbeat after England enjoyed their first day of dominance in the series.

"To keep them under 300 when two of their batsmen got hundreds, was a good effort. We had three lbws which could had them gone our way would have changed the face of the day."

"The guys stuck at it well. I'm not too unhappy. There's a long way to go."

The Cryptquip 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 apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



CRYPTOQUIP

Q V V S C Z Q B X B N Y E Z V O N M

D Q Z V N B U , V S C W S Q B X -

C U C Y G N W W D O B C Y Q F E U

D N B V Q P O M F Q G B Q P C

Yesterdays Cryptquip: THE COPYRIGHT DIDN'T COST THE COMPOSER A TON OF MONEY. HE GOT IT FOR A SONG.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals R

The Cryptquip 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 apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

DOWN

1 Cause for 19 One end of the 17 Radar- 17

2 Up on the deck 1 Chapter 1 screen 17

3 Vast 10 of the fairway 17

41 Accept- 17

42 "Lisa" 17

43 Untalk- 17

44 Sans 17

45 Race-track 17

46 "Fatal 17

47 Khan 17

48 Khan 17

49 " 17

50 " 17

51 " 17

52 " 17

53 " 17

54 " 17

55 " 17

56 " 17

57 " 17

58 " 17

59 " 17

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