

'Pressure on Barca'

INTERNET, undated

Bodo Zenden claims Barcelona could suffer from the pressure of playing in front of their demanding fans when Liverpool play in the Nou Camp on Wednesday.

The Dutch midfielder, who spent three seasons at Barcelona, believes if things do not go well for the European champions then their supporters could turn against them.

Ahead of the Champions League last-16 clash, Zenden told club website liverpoolfc.tv: "The Nou Camp is a massive stadium with a lot of fans, but they are a lot of fans who can be very critical. If things aren't going the way they want it, they could get on the back of the Barcelona players, so we can use that.

"The pressure is maybe a bit more on Barcelona because they won it last year and they'll be expected to get a result.

"Maybe the Barcelona fans will look at it as a game their team should be winning, but I don't care about that. Liverpool are a very big club as well, and I'm sure they won't be too happy at playing Liverpool at this early stage of the competition."

Pumpido resigns

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Argentina's 1986 World Cup-winning goalkeeper Nery Pumpido resigned as coach of struggling Newell's Old Boys on Monday after they lost their first two games in the Clausura championship.

"Pumpido resigned today," said Newell's spokesman Jose Garcia.

Pumpido, who had been in charge of the Rosario-based club since October 2005, became the first coaching victim of the tournament.

The final straw was Saturday's 2-1 home defeat against River Plate. Although the match was abandoned with four minutes to play because of missile-throwing fans, the result is expected to stand.

Newell's have failed to win in their last 13 games, a run stretching back to last September.

Pumpido enjoyed his finest coaching moment in 2002 when he won the South American Libertadores Cup with Paraguayan club Olimpia.



PHOTO: AFP

Real Madrid's Italian coach Fabio Capello (R) walks past English midfielder David Beckham during a training session in Madrid on Monday on the eve of their Champions League match against Bayern Munich.

Capello's last stand!

Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid may have denied that coach Fabio Capello offered to resign, despite radio reports to the contrary Monday, but the Madrid media on Tuesday prophesied that the Champions League match with Germany's Bayern Munich would be his swansong.

Miguel Angel Arroyo, spokesman for the club's board of directors, insisted that "we have had nothing presented to us in writing nor has anything been said to us verbally on this matter from Fabio Capello," after Cope radio reported Capello had threatened to resign after barely half a season in charge.

Capello was widely reported Tuesday to have retracted the threat after the club allegedly warned him that he would not receive a cent if he goes of his own free will.

His four million euros (5.2 million

dollars) a year contract runs to June 2009.

But many in the Spanish capital believe there is no smoke without fire and several media outlets said the final outcome would hinge on the Bayern game with a place in the quarter-finals at stake.

Some assessments were brutal, with El Mundo noting what it called a looming "divorce between Real Madrid and Capello."

"Capello is finished," blared Marca sports daily and even normally pro-Real AS sports daily was damning in its assessment with the axe apparently poised to fall.

"Capello has not resigned. A shame!" AS wrote in a front page headline.

The same paper added, in allusion to the Bayern encounter, that "the visit of the old German enemy is the last chance to unite Madridismo."

Possible replacements should Capello walk are Miguel Gonzalez of Castilla, Real's second division nursery incarnation and believed to be a favour-

ite of Real sporting director Pedja Mijatovic.

But what Marca calls Plan A involves making a bid to bring on board former Real, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid midfielder Bernd Schuster.

The German has turned modest side Getafe into an established top flight outfit and is well-respected at Real. However, Bayern Munich are also looking for a long-term appointment with Ottmar Hitzfeld a stop-gap after replacing Felix Magath for a second spell in charge of the Bavarians.

Capello promised on Monday that "we will play a great game as our season hinges on it."

But AS spelt out what was at stake for a side set seemingly to complete a fourth season without silverware.

What awaits, opined AS, is "a night for resuscitation -- or to visit hell."

Abramovich to stay with Blues

Football

AFP, London

English Premiership champions Chelsea have insisted Roman Abramovich, their Russian billionaire owner, will be staying at Stamford Bridge after the London club revealed Monday annual losses for the year ending June 30, 2006 of 80.2 million pounds (119 million euros).

This was an improvement on the previous season when Chelsea lost 140 million pounds (208 million euros) during which they also won the Premiership title under Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho.

The Blues, whose adult general sale prices for Premiership matches start at 40 pounds, subse-

quently announced they were freezing prices on all non-corporate tickets for league matches next season and planning cuts for other games.

"We understand that our ticket prices are at the higher end and we are sensitive to the economic demands on our supporters," Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon told the club's website.

Earlier, Chelsea said costs have been cut by 42.9 percent, which keeps the big-spenders on target to break even by 2009-10 with the club stressing they want to be run along proper commercial lines and not be solely dependent on ever bigger handouts from Abramovich.

The Chelsea owner has reportedly fallen out with Mourinho this season over the question of transfer policy, prompting speculation that one or other might walk away

from the club.

Asked if Chelsea's figures constituted financial success, club spokesman Simon Greenberg told BBC Radio Four: "No, I do not think it is success.

"It is moving in the right direction, reducing losses and increasing major income streams."

Greenberg stressed the long-term financial viability of Chelsea was important to Abramovich, who has put some 500 million pounds into the club.

"It matters to him and it matters to us as we have an ambitious and challenging target of breaking even by June 2010," he said.

"We are on track or at least hope to get very near to it. We are not spending as much as we used to do on players' wages and they are more manageable."

Abramovich has missed several

recent Chelsea home games but Greenberg insisted there was no way the Blues' owner was quitting the club. "No chance."

He added that Abramovich was also keen to develop more home-grown talent along the lines of current Blues and England skipper John Terry.

"Mr Abramovich made his views clear about transfer policy and investing in the academy. The auditors have to be satisfied it (Chelsea) has to be a going concern if Mr Abramovich were to leave."

"You can never say never (that Chelsea would not buy a 20 million pounds player) but that would be an exception."

Chelsea reduced losses by 60 million pounds to the year ended June 30, 2006. Losses were reduced by 42.9 from 140.4 million

United set for Macau friendly

AFP, Hong Kong

English Premiership leaders Manchester United are being eyed to play a friendly in southern China's Macau boomtown, a media report said Tuesday.

The club are in talks to visit the tiny gambling haven as part of celebrations to mark the opening of the Venetian Macau, a hotel-casino resort that will be the largest in the world when it launches in the summer.

According to the South China Morning Post, the English side will stop off in the former Portuguese enclave during an off-season Asia tour that will also take in South Korea and Japan.

The paper said the tour would be discussed in detail at a press conference later in the week.

The report follows news last week that Liverpool as well as west Londoners Fulham and seaside club Portsmouth will visit Hong Kong as part of an off-season Asian tour.

Why Hassler?

AFP, Lagos

Nigeria Football Association (NFA) officials have asked new coach Berti Vogts to explain his appointment of former Germany international Thomas Hassler as his assistant.

NFA Secretary General, Bolaji Ojo-Oba, told reporters: "The only thing we know is that we have employed Vogts. But we don't know anything about the appointment of his assistant, Hassler. We only read about that in the newspapers.

"So as soon as Vogts comes and if we are formally informed we will know how to address the issue."

Ojo-Oba added, "We had an agreement that whenever we are preparing for a competition, he could get some other coaches to assist him. So there is a great difference between employing an assistant for himself and getting some assistance whenever he is preparing for competitions."

Vogts, who signed a four-year deal to handle Nigeria in February, is due in the country next week. His salaries will be paid by telephone company Globacom, one of the major sponsors of the NFA.

Former international defender Austin Eguavoen has been in charge of the country's team since July 2005. Officials disclosed he is now expected to assist Vogts.

Spurs-Chelsea face off

AFP, London



Premiership champions Chelsea will face London top-flight rivals Tottenham in the sixth round of the English FA Cup after the draw for the quarter-finals was made here Monday.

Plymouth, from the second-tier Championship, are at home to Watford in a repeat of the 1984 semi-final which the Premiership side won before losing in a Wembley final to Everton.

The remaining ties are less clear-cut, with the line-up dependent upon the outcome of three fifth round replays.

If Championship West Brom complete the job of seeing off Middlesbrough they will be at home to Manchester United should the Premiership leaders win away to Reading, who drew 1-1 at Old Trafford last weekend.

The final last eight clash is an all top-flight affair with the winners of the Arsenal-Blackburn Rovers replay at home to Manchester City. Plymouth manager Ian Holloway, whose side are the lowest ranked team left in the Cup, said: "To get a home draw for the people of this town is great.

"It's all about a home tie for our fans to get excited about.

"They made this place a fortress for us on Saturday (in the fifth-round win over Championship leaders Derby) and they need to do it again.

"Aidy (Boothroyd, Watford manager) will be looking at this thinking they can beat us. They never stop working their socks off and there's all sorts of desire and belief.

"But they've got a long journey and let's see if we can make it uncomfortable for them."

Watford forward Tommy Smith said a continuation of the club's Cup run would help their bid for Premiership survival.

"It gives you a bit of momentum that you can carry from the cup into the league."

Reading chairman John Madejski refused to look beyond the United replay.

"We've just got the small business of dispensing with Manchester United before getting excited about Middlesbrough or West Brom," he said.

"I'm delighted they (United) are coming back to Reading. That is what the FA Cup is all about. It's a second bite of the cherry and it's great."

Blackburn manager Mark Hughes won the FA Cup four times as a player and Rovers chairman John Williams said the club would love to give the Welshman similar success as a boss.

"Mark's not got a bad record (in the FA Cup) so let's hope we can give him a win as a manager."

Sixth round ties will take place on the weekend of March 10-11. Before then Reading welcome United to the Madejski Stadium on February 27 while, on the same day, Middlesbrough travel to The Hawthorns to face West Brom.

Blackburn and Arsenal replay at Ewood Park on February 28.

League more important

Football

AFP, London

Watford manager Adrian Boothroyd has insisted beating Wigan in the Premiership at Vicarage Road on Wednesday is the priority for the bottom-table Hornets and not dreams of FA Cup glory.

Boothroyd's men were drawn away to Plymouth -- the side Watford beat in the 1984 FA Cup semifinal -- in the last eight of this season's competition on Monday.

But Premiership survival remains Boothroyd's overwhelming ambition this season and has told his team to forget about thoughts of a possible Watford appearance at the rebuilt Wembley Stadium where 23 years ago the Hornets lost to Everton in the FA Cup Final.

"What I am thinking about is the last 12 -- the last 12 Premiership games -- not the last eight. When we have an FA Cup game we will think about the quarter final, if we get through that then the semi and so on.

"The focus is very much on Wigan and they (the players) know that. They know where they are at, what is expected and what they have to do.

"There are 12 games left in the Premiership and the big one is on Wednesday. If we can win that one then that will put the cat right among the pigeons."

Watford are on 18 points, seven shy of Wigan the first club above the bottom three sides, including London duo Charlton and West Ham, who if they stay where they are come the end of the season will be relegated.

But Watford's recent Cup run has also been interspersed with league wins over Blackburn and West Ham to spark the feeling at Vicarage Road that all is far from lost regarding their top-flight survival.

Wigan still have an improper conduct charge hanging over manager Paul Jewell following his outburst at referee Phil Dowd following the Latics' 2-1 defeat at Arsenal earlier this month.

Of more immediate concern is that first-choice goalkeeper Chris Kirkland has been sidelined with a finger injury sustained in training.

With reserve keeper Mike Pollitt also injured, Jewell was given permission on Monday to bring in Preston's Carlo Nash on a month long emergency loan to compete with Australian John Flippin for a place in the starting line-up.

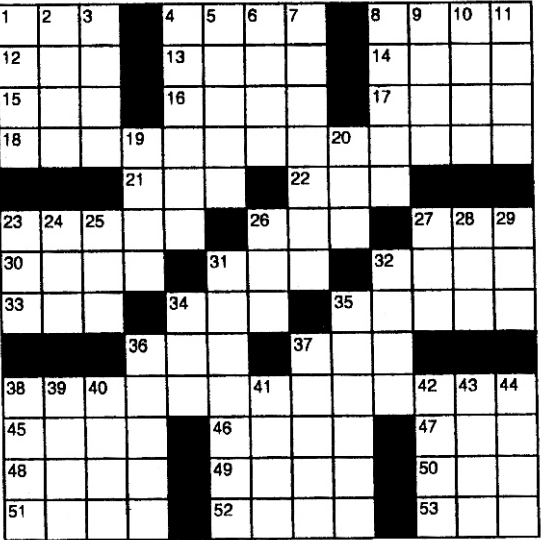
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 Fore-runner to bk. 4 Shake, spear, for one 6 Touch 12 Wilt Smith biopic 13 Sheltered 14 Ironside 15 Ows 16 Blue hue 17 Therefore 18 Simple 21 "Hum-bug!" 22 Tramp 23 Verdant 26 Erastville warrior 27 Seesaw quorum 30 Ethereal 31 "Of course" 32 Bra's stocking stuffer? 33 Anderson's "High" 34 Peace, to Plautus

DOWN 1 Diamond 2 Verve 3 Frisbee 4 Val 5 Hebrew letter 6 Authentic 7 "Lakme" 8 Off to the side of a ship 9 Reynolds or Bacharach 10 Desire 11 Stomped (on) 12 Stomped (on) 13 Zlich 14 d'ivoire 15 Caspian feeder 16 Dumb-founded 17 Active one 18 Unrivaled

Solution time: 27 mins.

SHE PIT LABOR COS ECO ALIST OUR NEWSRADIO ORE STEAK PITA BULI PADS PEA ELEGIT BLUING OAT APEE BAME MUA RADIO DAYS BRA AVASTI TEL EGO FEMME TIO ROIE



12-30 CRYPTOQUIP

OP ECZ'QD VJQDVVOGF CZJ

C XDQ MIOAI FOPJ JC

FOX D Y KDQVCG, O MCZWT

AYWW ECZ KQDV D G J-JD G V D.

Yesterday's Cryptogram: THE UNLUCKY HOCKEY PLAYER TOOK A HIT DIRECTLY TO THE MOUTH, MAKING HIM PUCK-TOOTHED.

Today's Cryptogram Clue: Q equals R

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am. 12:10 pm. 2:00 pm. 3:00 pm. 4:00 pm. 7:00 pm.

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am. 1:00 pm. 5:00 pm. 8:00 pm.

News (English) at 3:00 pm. 10:00 pm.

Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am. 9:00 am. 2:00 pm. 7:00 pm. 9:00 pm. 10:30 pm. 12:15 am.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am. 10:00 am. 2:00 pm. 7:00 pm. 10:00 pm. 11 pm.

News (English) 8:20 am. 7:00 pm.

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am. 10:00 am. 11:00 am. 1:00 pm. 3:00 pm. 4:00 pm. 6:00 pm. 8:00 pm.

ntv

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am. 12:00 am. 6:15 pm. 9:30 pm.

News (Bangla) 7:30 am. 2:00 pm. 5:00 pm. 7:30 pm. 10:30 pm.

CHANNEL 1

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am. 12:00 pm. 2:30 pm. 6:30 pm. 7:30 pm. 10:00 pm. 12:30 am.

BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am. 2:00 pm. 6:00 pm. 7:15 pm. 10:30 pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00 pm.

News Headlines (English) at 9:05 pm.

RTV

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am. 3:00 pm. 7:15 pm. 10:00 pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30 am.

BTV

11:15 Shubhechha Nin

11:40 Drama

12:30 Drama Serial: Swapno Shonar Gaon

12:30 Shukhi Poribar

01:00 Maas O Shishur Kotha

02:15 Simpur

02:40 Bangla Feature Film

05:30 Special Children's Programme on Ekushey February

07:00 Special Programme

08:35 Drama: Okhor

09:25 Shuchoeni

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Anyodrishti

11:05 Talk Show: Meet the Press

12:15 Special Programme: Chetona Ekush

12:45 Special Programme: Bhasha Beer

01:30 Special Musical Programme: Polish

02:30 Phooler Mala

02:30 Bangla Feature Film: Bangla

05:40 Bormomalar Rupkotha

06:20 Bhulbona Tomader

07:55 Bhalobasi Bangla

08:45 Special Drama: Ekti Olowkik Rokom Kahini

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Tritiyomatra

11:10 Boimela Protidin

12:10 Gourabher Kobita

12:30 Shourabher Kobita

01:05 Citycell Tarakathan

01:30 Ebong Cinema Gaan

02:30 Special Children's Programme

02:30 Special Drama: Abar Ashibo Phirey

04:30 Dashed Bideshey Ranna

04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma

05:30 Boi Mela Protidin

06:00 Children's Programme

07:50 Special Drama: Amar Ato-e Phalgun

09:35 Farmer's File-2

12:00 Grameephone Aker Shingbadpotro

ntv

09:30 Probhat Pheri

11:00 Hridoye Ekush

01:00 Bhashar Lorai

02:35 Drama Serial: Mone Mone

03:15 Mega Serial: Shaola

03:50 Drama Serial: Neer

04:25 Bhashar Gaaney Abdul Latif

06:20 Shubho Shondhya

06:50 Je Shobey Bongelte Jonni

08:25 Siddiqua Kabirs Recipe

09:10 Special Drama: Ekusher Chithi

11:25 Din Dorpon

Rtv

09:10 Ei Mon

10:00 Children's Programme

10:40 Special Programme: Ghotona O Doll

12:00 Swadesh Swadhinota

01:00 Kobita O Ekush

01:00 Aj Potrikey

01:10 Hridoye Ekush

02:45 Ekusher Gaan

04:20 Okhoror Golpo

05:10 Borney Borney Rochito

06:00 Aker Bangladesh

06:35 Documentary

08:00 Drama: Shohoj Path

10:45 Rtv Exclusive

CHANNEL 1

08:40 Shuprobhat

09:30 Bangladesh

10:00 Ekusher Bhabna

10:00 Hridoye Ekush

10:30 Drama: Konthoshor

12:05 Drama

01:30 Ekusher Gaan

02:00 Nongor

03:30 Dance Programme

04:00 Hridoye Bormomala

04:30 Dukhini Bormomala

05:15 Ekush Amar Ohonkar

06:00 Saaj Bela

06:30 Top News

06:45 Itihasar Path Dhorey

07:00 Amader Majhey Ekush

08:15 Drama: Torulotar Jobanbondi

PICK OF THE DAY

Bangla

On Banglavisian at 9:15pm

Special Drama on Ekushey February

Cast: Litu Anam, Aupe Karim

08:35 Shubho Shokal

09:30 Cholo Chitrey Bhashar Gaan

10:10 Protidiner Boi Mela

11:00 Bangla Feature Film

03:05 Shei Theke Amader Bhasha

05:00 Protidiner Boimela

05:30 Diner Sheshey

06:30 Hridoye Lekha Borno Mala

08:05 Kothakabyo

11:00 Bhashar Gaan

09:15 Drama: Bangla

STAR PLUS

11:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii

11:55 Bolly V - Star Plus

12:00 V Trailers - Star Plus

12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus

12:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa

01:00 Kumsam - Pyara Sa Bandhan

02:00 Bhabhi

02:30 Kesar Saarthi

03:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi

04:00 Bahu Thi

04:30 Kayamath

05:00 Karam Apnaa Apnaa

05:55 Saibaba

06:00 Bolly V - Star Plus

06:25 V Trailers - Star Plus

06:30 Bolly V - Star Plus

07:00 Mickey Mouse And Friends

07:00 The Suite Life Of Zack And Cod

07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus

07:30 Prithviraj Chauhan

07:55 Bolly V - Star Plus

08:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby

08:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa

09:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay

09:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati-Srk

10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii

11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi

11:30 Bahu Thi

11:30 Kayamath

STAR WORLD

11:30 Falcon Beach

12:30 The O.C.

01:30 Koffee With Karan

02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show

03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

04:00 General Hospital

05:00 Fashion House

06:00 Arrested Development

06:30 The Simpsons

07:00 Cheers

07:30 Friends

08:00 Seinfeld

08:30 American Idol

10:30 Heroes

11:30 Fashion House

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

10:30 Bringing Home Baby

11:00 Amazing Baby Videos

11:30 Life On The Edge

12:30 Body Basics

01:30 Wild Europe Special

02:30 Detective Stories

03:30 Everything You Need To Know

04:00 Massive Engines With Chris Barrie

04:30 Snake Week

05:30 Man Made Marvels Asia

06:30 Dargerman Adventures With Geoff Mackley

07:30 Wild Europe Special

08:30 Life On The Edge

09:30 African Adventures

10:00 Stunt Dawgs

10:30 Building The Biggest

11:30 Dead Tenants

NATIONAL

11:00 Telemat: Sauna Belt

11:30 Atlantis

12:30 Bigfoot

01:30 The Serpent

02:30 Butterfly Caterpillar

03:00 South American Centipede

03:30 Kung Fu Dragons Of Wudang

04:30 Croc Fest

06:00 Swimming With Cobras

06:30 Kung Fu Dragons Of Wudang

07:30 Stampede Of The Megaherd

08:30 Protecting The President

09:30 Tsunami

10:30 Samurai: Behind the Blade

11:30 Mangrove Maneaters

STAR SPORTS

11:00 2007 Euromilhoes

11:30 Dakar (Auto Rac)

11:30 Hyundai Hopman Cup

02:30 Xix (Tennis)

02:30 Fa Cup 2006/07

04:30 (Soccer) Futbol

05:30 Tna Impact (Wrestling)

05:30 International Motorsport

06:30 News 20

06:30 Tna Impact (Wrestling)

07:30 Gillette World Sport

08:00 (Inter)

08:00 Sports Yatra (Cricket)

08:30 Commonwealth Bank

08:30 Series 2006-07

10:00 Full Toss? Haste Rehna Boss (The)

10:30 Tna Impact (Wrestling)

11:30 The Ubs Golf Club (Golf)

ESPN

02:30 Indian Premier Hockey

03:30 League (Fi)

04:30 Fa Cup Highlights

05:30 (Soccer) Futbol

06:00 Toyota Football Up

06:00 Close (Soccer)

06:00 2006/07 Spanish

07:00 League Highlight

07:00 Indian Premier Hockey

07:00 League (Fi)

09:30 Sportscenter India

10:00 (Sport News)

10:00 Champions Of The World (Quiz Show)

10:30 Sportscenter India

11:00 (Sport News)

11:00 Sportscenter Asia

11:00 (Sport News)

11:30 Hitz (Cricket)

12:00 Chappell-Hadlee

Trophy (Cricket)