

The Daily Star

Drogba-Messi swap deal?

INTERNET, undated

Chelsea have opened up the possibility of Didier Drogba joining Barcelona, but only if they get Lionel Messi in return.

The Chelsea hierarchy are becoming impatient with the Ivory Coast international for continuously talking to the media about his future plans.

Back in October last year, Drogba publicly declared his intentions to leave Stamford Bridge following Jose Mourinho's sudden departure but, after talks with the board, appeared to have a change of heart.

However, in an interview this week with a French newspaper, Drogba expressed his desire to link up with Samuel Eto'o at Barcelona, saying: "Any striker in my situation would be really happy to get the chance to play alongside Samuel Eto'o."

"I don't see why it should not happen. It would be something exceptional but Barcelona need to get their chequebook out."

This has infuriated Chelsea who, according to the Mail, are now willing to open discussions with Barca or AC Milan if they give them a player of equal stature in return, in this case either Messi or Kaka.

A violent gesture

AFP, Zagreb

The Serbian Orthodox Church in the southern Croatian town of Split said Wednesday it received a letter purporting to be from fans of Croatian First Division side Hajduk Split threatening ethnic Serbs and Jews with extermination.

The letter signed with "Hajduk Jugend," a direct allusion to the "Hitler Jugend" (Hitler Youth) glorified Croatia's World War II Nazi-allied regime and listed threats such as "Serbs should be hanged high," and "Juden Raus," the statement from the church said.

The church, which posted the letter on its website, added that Croatian police were investigating threats.

Media were already reporting last year that fans of Hajduk Split sold and wore T-shirts bearing Nazi symbols and reading "Hajduk Jugend."

Under its Nazi-allied Ustasha regime, hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Jews, anti-fascist Croatians, Gypsies and others were killed in Croatian concentration camps during World War II.



Inter Milan executives Gabriele Orioli (L) and Marco Branca unveil new signing Maniche (C) at the Appiano Gentile on Wednesday.

Owen problem for Keegan

Football

AFP, Newcastle

at a major tournament he felt under enormous pressure and he needed something or someone to blame.

"I was an easy target. I wasn't on top of my game."

As Keegan resigned as England manager at the start of the following season, the two men did not have time to repair the damage down to their relationship at Euro 2000.

But Alan Shearer, the former Newcastle striker who was also part of the England squad in 2000, believes they can make a fresh start at club level.

"I have gone on record as saying I think any centre forward playing under Kevin Keegan will, dare I say the words, 'love it,'" Shearer said on Thursday.

"I used to go into games believing that the opposition was scared of me and feeling nothing could get in my way," Owen wrote. "That feeling, that belief, evaporated at times when I played under Keegan.

"They are grown adults and will get over that. I think that is in the past and the two men will look to the future."

"I don't think Keegan had any sort of personal agenda against me, I just think that as England manager

I really started to resent" Keegan during the tournament and felt that he was made a scapegoat for England's first-round exit.

"I used to go into games believing that the opposition was scared of me and feeling nothing could get in my way," Owen wrote. "That feeling, that belief, evaporated at times when I played under Keegan.

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