

# Levski fined for Hitler banner

AFP, Sofia

Top Bulgarian football club Levski Sofia has been fined almost 20,000 euros after fans displayed banners with swastikas and praise of Adolf Hitler during a recent game, the country's football federation said on Wednesday.

"The Bulgarian football union's disciplinary committee has imposed a fine of 37,500 leva (19,200 euros, \$24,900) on Levski for swastikas held up by its fans," the union said in a statement on its website.

It also called on the club to slap a two-year stadium ban on the authors of the incidents.

During a league game against Litex Lovech on April 20, fans had held up a banner wishing happy birthday to Hitler -- born on that day in 1889 -- and another with a swastika adopted by his Nazi party.

Levski, which eventually won the game 2-1, was also fined 5,000 leva after fans threw missiles and firecrackers.

This is not the first time the club, currently second in the league table, have been sanctioned for racism and violence.

In September, European football's governing body UEFA fined them 30,000 euros after their fans shouted racist abuse at their Bosnian opponents Sarajevo during a Europa League qualifying match in July.



REUTERS, Munich



Barcelona, who have changed the face of the game in recent years, were handed a footballing lesson when they were crushed 4-0 by Bayern Munich in an extraordinary Champions League semifinal first leg on Tuesday.

The Catalans, winners of the trophy in 2009 and 2011, had no answer to Bayern's power, speed, pressing and resolute defence as they slumped to their heaviest defeat for almost six years and matched their worst result in European competition.

The victory was so comprehensive the 68,000 crowd at the Allianz Arena may have wondered whether they were witnessing the end of an era as the all-conquering visitors were ripped apart in the second half.

Thomas Mueller was the architect,

scoring the first and last goals and setting up the second for Mario Gomez as the Bavarians, already crowned Bundesliga champions, continued an astonishing season that could yet yield a treble.

World Player of the Year Messi, returning from a hamstring injury, made little impact up front for Barca while midfield duo Xavi and Andres Iniesta lacked their usual cutting edge.

Some of the gloss was taken off Bayern's win however by doubts over the second and third goals.

Gomez looked marginally offside when he turned in the second after 49 minutes and Barcelona protested that midfielder Mueller blocked Jordi Alba as the defender tried to tackle Arjen Robben before the Dutchman clipped the ball into the corner 24 minutes later.

Two of the goals followed corners, exposing weaknesses in the Barca defence in the absence of the injured

Carles Puyol.

On a heavily-watered pitch, Bayern did not touch the ball for the first minute as the Catalans got the match under way with one of their characteristic passing moves.

Robben had an early shot saved by Victor Valdes following a clever Javi Martinez backheel before Barca enjoyed another long period of possession.

German Cup finalists Bayern then began to look more dangerous and it was no surprise when they went ahead in the 25th minute with the help of an overhit corner by Franck Ribery.

His delivery found Robben on the other side of the penalty area and a rare right-footed cross from the Dutchman fell to defender Dante who headed the ball on for Mueller to stoop and score.

Barca were also caught out at another corner four minutes after the break. This time Mueller rose at the far post to head

into the middle for Gomez to turn the ball in amid suspicions of offside.

The Catalans were then run ragged after that as shots from Mueller and Ribery flashed wide and Robben went close with a header from a free kick.

Barca were even reduced to long balls forward in their attempt to break free of the home team's shackles.

Bayern were cruising at 2-0 when defensive midfielder Luiz Gustavo replaced Gomez in the 71st minute but there was no end to the agony for Barca.

Robben exploited some gaps two minutes later when he dribbled down the right for the third goal although Mueller appeared to unfairly block Alba as the Dutchman tucked inside before shooting home with his left foot.

With the visitors still reeling, Mueller then blasted a David Alaba pass into the net for the fourth goal with eight minutes left.

## MATCH STATS

	BAYERN	BARCA
9	Shots on target	2
11	Corners	4
5	Dribbles	14
26	Tackles	21
81%	Pass Success	91%
73%	Aerial Success	27%

## SOUND Bites



"They gave us a thrashing. They were better and faster than us."

There is no point talking about the referee, there is no excuse."

Gerard Pique, Barcelona defender

"We have to lift ourselves, try to secure the league title and try to turn this round. If we can't, we need to start thinking about next season."

Lionel Messi, Barcelona forward

"Miracles are always hard to make real, 4-0 is a huge deficit to make up."

Jordi Roura, Barcelona assistant coach

"It feels great. We put in an outstanding performance. The way in which we beat them was superb -- we gave everything."

Thomas Muller, Bayern Munich forward

# Raumdeuter strikes again

REUTERS, Munich



Two things usually happen when Louis van Gaal coaches a side. The fiery Dutchman invariably gets involved in personality clashes with the directors and he also discovers young talent that other coaches might have missed.

His two-year stint at Bayern Munich has no exception. Van Gaal slunk out the back door when he was fired in 2011 after a series of disagreements with the club's high profile directors, so much so that club president Uli Hoeness recently said that the Dutchman considered himself to be "the father of God."

Yet, Van Gaal, now in charge of the Dutch national team, also left an impressive legacy, harnessing the talents of wingers Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben and turning Bayern into an aggressive, attacking outfit.

Possibly his most important contribution, though, was to recognise the potential of forward Thomas

Mueller, the architect of Tuesday's astonishing 4-0 win over Barcelona in the Champions League.

Mueller, who scored two goals and was involved in the other two against the stunned Catalans, was expecting to be loaned or transferred from Bayern until Van Gaal turned him into a first-team regular in the 2009-10 season.

Mueller, who later described Van Gaal as his mentor, responded with 13 goals in his first full season, including a hat-trick against VfL Bochum which effectively clinched the Bundesliga.

Since then, he hasn't looked back. He scored four goals at the 2010 World Cup, including two in the 4-1 last 16 tie against England, and has become one of Bayern's influential players. Yet he is something of an unlikely hero.

Mueller has emphasised that his gift is his understanding of space.

He demonstrated his uncanny knack to find it against Barcelona, popping up on the left wing, the right wing and in the penalty area, invariably

unmarked, to create havoc in the Catalans' improvised back four.

He scored the first goal as he stooped to head Dante's header in the net. For the second, he rose at the far post to head the ball into the path of Gomez who turned it in from close range.

His involvement in the third was more dubious as he blocked Jordi Alaba, leaving Robben with a clear run on goal. For the fourth goal, he was in the right place at the right time again as he turned David Alaba's cross into the goal from close range.

German media have labelled him the "Raumdeuter", which means "interpreter of space" and is a term usually associated with interior design.

Bayern lost 4-0 on their last visit to the Nou Camp four years ago, when Mueller was still in Bayern's youth division, but the 23-year-old was convinced it would not happen again.

"We've all witnessed the magic of Camp Nou often enough. But we want to show the world it won't work on us."

# Chelsea face Basel test

AFP, Paris



If Chelsea are to salvage a trophy from their difficult campaign, they will have to succeed where their London rivals Tottenham Hotspur have already failed and beat Switzerland's FC Basel in their Europa League semifinal tie.

The two sides meet at the St. Jakob-Park in Thursday's first leg, with Chelsea wary of the threat posed by a side that eliminated Spurs on penalties in the quarterfinals.

After starting the season as European champions, Chelsea never even wanted to be in this competition, but now the focus is on going all the way and lifting a trophy they have never won before.

The desire to do so is made even more acute by their recent FA Cup semifinal loss to Manchester City.

No English club has won this competition - which was re-branded from its tradi-

tional title of the UEFA Cup in 2009 - since Liverpool in 2001, although Middlesbrough and Fulham have both been runners-up since.

But if Chelsea are to make it to the final in Amsterdam on May 15, they must get the better of opponents who, as well as sending Zenit St Petersburg and Tottenham packing from Europe this season, also won at home to Manchester United and Bayern Munich in last season's Champions League.

Basel have lost just once in 21 competitive games since the beginning of December - and that was an ultimately inconsequential 1-0 loss away to Zenit.

Murat Yakin's side are three points clear of Grasshopper at the top of the Swiss table with eight games left to play, and the coach is relishing the tie.

The draw prevented Yakin, the former Swiss international of Turkish descent, from coming up against one of his former clubs in Fenerbahce, with the Turks drawn to face Benfica instead.

## FIXTURES

(kick-offs 1905 GMT)  
At Basel, Switzerland  
FC Basel (SUI) v Chelsea (ENG)  
At Istanbul, Turkey

That's crazy, hard to believe. They've dominated Europe in the last few years and then we go and win 4-0. The key was we fought and defended together."



What to WATCH

**Maasranga TV & TEN Cricket**  
Bangladesh v Zimbabwe  
Second Test, Day 1  
Live from 2:00pm

**SET Max**  
Indian Premier League  
Chennai v Hyderabad  
Live from 8:30pm

**TEN Sports**  
UEFA Europa League  
SEMIFINAL, First Leg  
FC Basel v Chelsea  
Live from 1:00am (Friday)

**TEN Sports & TEN Action**  
UEFA Europa League  
SEMIFINAL, First Leg  
Fenerbahce v Benfica

1 Barcelona only had one shot on target against Bayern, the joint lowest they have managed in the Champions League this

4 The last time Barcelona's Lionel Messi featured in a team that lost 4-0 was in Argentina's 2010 World Cup quarterfinal against



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi gestures during their Champions League semifinal first leg against Bayern Munich at the Allianz Arena on Tuesday. The world player of the year was a shadow of his usual self as he is struggling with a hamstring injury.

PHOTO: AFP

## Kroos has knee operation

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich confirmed on Wednesday that their German international midfielder Toni Kroos underwent a knee operation on Monday.

Club spokesman Markus Howick revealed that the operation was simply to remove "a piece of cartilage" from the player's left knee.

Kroos was ruled out for the remainder of the season after suffering an adductor injury in the Champions League quarterfinal first leg against Juventus on April 2.

The 23-year-old midfielder is expected to be back with the rest of the Bayern squad by the start of July, when new coach Pep Guardiola takes over at the Allianz Arena.

**DHAKABANK**  
LIMITED

Head Office, Dhaka

## Distribution of Stock Dividend 2012

This is for information of shareholders of Dhaka Bank Limited that the 16% Stock Dividend for the year 2012 approved in the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on April 18, 2013 have been credited to the respective BO accounts of the Shareholders on April 23, 2013 whose names were recorded in the Register of Members of the Bank on March 28, 2013.

The Stock Dividend of the shareholders who have not provided us their BO A/C numbers, have been kept in the Bank's Suspense Account. The Shareholders are requested to provide us with their BO A/C numbers for enabling us to credit their Account with the Stock Dividend through Central Depository System.

April 24, 2013

Sd/-  
**Arham Masudul Huq**  
Senior Executive Vice President  
& Company Secretary