

VAN SCHOOR PASSES AWAY

Namibia international Raymond Van Schoor has died at the age of 25, five days after he collapsed during a match in the capital Windhoek. Van Schoor, who first played for Namibia as a teenager and has played more than 200 matches for his country, collapsed during a South African domestic game against Free State on Sunday and was rushed to hospital. Scans later revealed that he had suffered a stroke. Yesterday, Cricket Namibia confirmed that the 25-year-old had passed away. A wicketkeeper-batsman who could also bowl medium-pace, Van Schoor played 92 first-class matches in his career, scoring five centuries and taking 28 wickets.

-- AGENCIES, Windhoek



Barca crush Real

AFP, Madrid

Luis Suarez and Neymar continued their sensational goalscoring form as Barcelona moved six points clear of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga with a 4-0 thrashing of their bitter rivals at the Bernabeu on Saturday.

Barca even had the luxury of leaving Lionel Messi on the bench, but the Argentine did make his return from a two-month injury layoff half an hour from time and played a part in Suarez's second and Barca's fourth goal.

Suarez got Barca off to the perfect start after just 10 minutes and Neymar deservedly doubled the visitors' advantage just before half-time.

At that point Neymar and Suarez had scored every one of Barca's last 19 La Liga goals, but Andres Iniesta ended that run in style when he blasted a third into the top corner.

And Messi, Neymar and Suarez all combined for the latter to score a fourth before Isco sealed an embarrassing defeat for Madrid by getting sent-off late on.

Despite just two defeats in 16 games in charge, Madrid boss Rafael Benitez's job is now in doubt as the home fans turned on club president Florentino Perez towards the end of the game.

The build-up to the match had been dominated by security fears after last week's series of deadly attacks in Paris which killed 130 people.

A minute's silence was held to the tune of the French national anthem La Marseillaise and a large French flag was unfurled by the Madrid fans before kick-off in honour of the victims before kick-off.

However, the sombre atmosphere quickly turned hostile as the home fans saw their side completely outplayed by Barca.

Sergi Roberto was rewarded for his great form of late with a start in the position normally occupied by Messi and he repaid Luis Enrique's faith with a big role in a fine opening goal.

The Spaniard collected Sergio Busquets's pass and drove at the Madrid defence before threading a pass through for Suarez who coolly slotted home with the outside of his right foot.

Roberto should then have made it 2-0 midway through the half when he fired over from close range.

Karim Benzema started for Madrid for the first time since he was charged with complicity to blackmail and conspiring to commit a criminal act in his native France in a case involving a sex tape featuring French international teammate Mathieu Valbuena.

And after six weeks out, Benzema's rustiness showed as he failed to make a clean contact when presented with a great chance from Jeremy Mathieu's slip.



Barcelona star Neymar (L) celebrates his goal with teammate Andres Iniesta during their Primera Liga Clasico against Barcelona at the Bernabeu yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Kaiser denies WC corruption

AFP, Berlin

German football legend Franz Beckenbauer denied Friday that Germany bought the right to stage the 2006 World Cup but admitted that he often signed documents without reading them.

Spiegel magazine last month alleged that the votes of four members of FIFA's executive committee were bought in 2000, when Germany narrowly won the vote to host the 2006 finals.

At the centre of the scandal is a 6.7 million-euro (\$7.2m) payment, which is alleged to have been used to purchase the support of FIFA's executive committee.

But in an interview to appear in Saturday's Suddeutsche Zeitung, Beckenbauer, who led the successful bid to stage the tournament and later served as chairman of the organising committee, insisted there was no wrongdoing.

"The accusations are false, there was no money," said Beckenbauer.

At the heart of the scandal is a draft agreement, signed in part by Beckenbauer, which reportedly offered a lucrative friendly against Germany, but no cash.

It was made with disgraced former CONCACAF president Jack Warner -- who is banned for life by FIFA.

Liverpool stun City

AFP, London



Manchester City suffered a surprise 4-1 defeat by Liverpool while Jamie Vardy equalled a Premier League goalscoring record to leave Leicester as the shock leaders of English football's top-flight on Saturday.

City started the late kick-off match at their Eastlands ground knowing victory would see them go top on a day when the Premier League paid tribute to the victims of the Paris terror attacks.

But instead Manuel Pellegrini's men found themselves 3-0 down inside 32 minutes after an Eliaquim Mangala own-goal preceded two sweeping Liverpool moves finished by the Brazilian pair of Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino respectively.

City pulled a goal back before the interval through Sergio Aguero's 20-yard effort, but Jurgen Klopp's visitors

RESULTS

Chelsea 1 (Costa 64) Norwich 0
Everton 4 (Barkley 17, 42, Lukaku 28, 59) Aston Villa 0
Manchester City 1 (Aguero 44) Liverpool 4 (Mangala 7-og, Coutinho 23, Firmino 32, Skrtel 81)
Newcastle 0 Leicester 3 (Vardy 45+1, Ulloa 62, Okazaki 83)
Southampton 0 Stoke 1 (Bojan 10)
Swansea 2 (Ayew 28, Shelvey 39-pen) Bournemouth 2 (King 10, Gosling 26)
Watford 1 (Deeney 87-pen) Manchester United 2 (Depay 11, Deeney 90-og)
West Brom 2 (Morrison 35, Arteta 40-og) Arsenal 1 (Giroud 28)

had the last word when Liverpool defender Martin Skrtel struck nine minutes from time.

England striker Vardy equalled Ruud van Nistelrooy's record of scoring in 10 consecutive Premier League games for his club by netting Leicester's opener in a 3-0 win over Newcastle during first-half stoppage-

time at St James' Park.

However, Vardy is still short of all the time English top-flight record for goals in an unbroken run of 12 club matches set by Jimmy Dunne of Sheffield United in the old First Division during the 1931/32 season.

Few would have tipped former non-league forward Vardy, who scored just four goals last term, or Leicester to hit the heights they have both achieved this season.

Leonardo Ulloa headed in the Foxes' second goal in the 62nd minute before Japanese substitute Shinji Okazaki assured Italian manager Claudio Ranieri's side of victory seven minutes from time.

Arsenal, who could have gone top themselves, suffered a shock 2-1 loss away to West Bromwich Albion.

It was just their third league defeat this season and hardly ideal preparation for their must-win Champions League group match at home to Dinamo Zagreb on Tuesday.

FIFA ethics probe wishes sanctions

AFP, Geneva

The FIFA ethics committee probing allegations of corruption against suspended president Sepp Blatter and his would-be successor, Michel Platini, requested Saturday that sanctions be levelled against both men.

Citing privacy and the presumption of innocence, the committee said it would not disclose the nature of the punishments requested against the two men, who for years were the most powerful figures in world football.

The committee, known as the investigatory chamber of FIFA's independent ethics watchdog, said it had submitted its final report to the body's judgement arm, which will weigh up the recommendations.

The fallout from the report could prove massive for the future of world football's governing body, including the possibility of permanently derailing Platini's candidacy to lead FIFA.

The investigatory chamber said in a statement that its final report contained "requests for sanctions against Joseph Blatter and Michel Platini."

A separate statement from the adjudicatory chamber confirmed that it had received the reports and will study the findings "carefully."

The judgement chamber said it would "decide in due course about whether to institute formal adjudicatory proceedings against Joseph S. Blatter and Michel Platini."

The adjudicatory body has in the past recommended suspensions of several years, or even life, but there was no indication as to the severity of the punishments requested against Blatter and Platini.

Both men were provisionally suspended by the ethics committee in October for 90 days.

The moves came after Swiss prosecutors opened an investigation into possible criminal mismanagement at FIFA during Blatter's tenure, including evidence of a murky \$2 million payment made to Platini in 2011.



PHOTO: AFP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns to Spain's Rafael Nadal during the semifinal of the ATP World Tour Finals in London yesterday.

Tuchel not happy

AFP, Berlin



Borussia Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel admits his side showed a 'dramatic' drop in performance in a shock 3-1 defeat at Hamburg on Friday that dented their Bundesliga title chances.

The win saw Hamburg move up to eighth, but defeat leaves second-placed Dortmund facing the prospect of finishing the weekend eight points behind leaders Bayern Munich if they beat Schalke on Saturday.

The start of Friday's game was delayed for

safety reasons, adding to the tension just three days after a bomb scare caused Germany's friendly with the Netherlands in Hanover to be postponed and a week after the Paris terror attacks.

Tuchel slammed his side for a poor first-half display which left them 2-0 down at the break.

"Especially in the first half, the difference between our usual standards, how we perform as a team, and reality was dramatic," fumed Tuchel.

"We deserved to be punished for it."

"I have no explanation for it, but it was obvious from the first minute that we lacked the necessary body language and attitude."

"It wasn't the performance we imagined and we also didn't see it coming."

"It was far too little to achieve a good result in the Bundesliga."

"There was no indication beforehand. We were very diligent and worked hard in the international break."

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World number one Novak Djokovic pulled out a near-perfect performance as he downed the resurgent Rafael Nadal 6-3, 6-3 in their World Tour Finals last-four clash on Saturday.

Djokovic was beaten by Roger Federer in the group stages of the season-ending tournament, disputed on a hard court between the year's top eight players at London's O2 Arena.

Spanish fifth seed Nadal won all three of his group matches to reach the semi-finals but there was little he could do to stop the defending champion in this sort of form.

Djokovic will play either Federer or his Swiss compatriot Stan Wawrinka, the French Open champion, in Sunday's final.

If the Serb lifts the trophy for a fifth time, he will become the first player to win the Tour Finals four years in a row.

Djokovic, the Australian, Wimbledon and US Open champion, hit 24 winners to nine from Nadal, who could not fashion a



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