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Murdoch offers Dow Jones family seat on News Corp board

► MEDIA
By AINSLEY THOMSON

RUPERT MURDOCH last night stepped-up his efforts to buy iconic American financial publisher Dow Jones by offering the controlling Bancroft family a seat on the board of his company News Corporation.

nalistic integrity at The Wall Street Journal and Dow Jones's other operations. He did not raise News Corp's \$60-per-share offer. Yesterday the family was also under pressure from a powerful American shareholder advisory group — Institutional Shareholder Services — which said the Dow board would be "violating its fiduciary

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Datamonitor chief's £80m

Mike Danson earns fortune from research firm's sale
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DRIVEN UP: Ford shares rise on family sale rumours



SHARES in troubled American carmaker Ford rose 4.7 per cent in early trading in New York yesterday on reports that chairman William Ford, pictured above, and the rest of the Ford family was preparing to sell some of the 71m shares they own in the company, 40 per cent of the voting stock. The family later denied the move.
Picture: GETTY

Shareholder demands explanation for strategy as customers desert over loss of Sky channels

► MEDIA
By KATE WALSH

week, the company said it lost a total of 46,900 customers in the first quarter of 2007 and that it expected more to desert as a result of its dispute with Sky.

Any discussion between Franklin and Nasdaq-listed Virgin Media is bound to consider the cable company's acrimonious relationship with digital rival BSkyB. This resulted in Virgin removing a number of popular BSkyB channels and programmes, including Lost and 24, from its platform. Last

A spokesman for Branson said he "was always interested in talking to other shareholders" but declined to comment further.

British Gas wins custom

Utility hopes to exceed £1.8bn profit forecasts
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Hong Kong shares surge

China allows investors to back foreign companies
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There's been something missing in the UK...



Sp t

Ranieri

Pearce

FOOTBALL

By FRANK DALLERES

FORMER Chelsea boss Claudio Ranieri was last night installed as favourite to take charge at Manchester City in a day of managerial turmoil which saw two Premiership managers depart.

City yesterday sacked Stuart Pearce following a season of underachievement and at times explosive dressing room unrest, while Wigan manager Paul Jewell stunned fans by resigning just hours after steering the club to safety in Sunday's dramatic final round of fixtures.

Jewell, who cited health reasons for ending his successful six-year tenure at Wigan, was initially linked with replacing Pearce at City.

But Wigan chairman Dave Whelan strongly rebuffed suggestions Jewell would walk straight into another job having said he needed "a break from football".

A flurry of bets, meanwhile, saw Ranieri's odds slashed with bookmakers Ladbrokes from 16-1 to evens, with prospective new City owner Thaksin Shinawatra, the former prime minister of Thailand, thought to favour a high-profile appointment.

Ranieri's contract with Parma ends in June and the 55-year-old recently expressed a desire to return to English football.

He was sacked by Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich in May 2004

despite guiding the club to the Champions League semi-finals. One of the other leading candidates to take charge at City, former Bolton manager Sam Allardyce, is expected to be named Newcastle boss today.



Ex-Wigan boss Paul Jewell, right, has been linked with Pearce's City job Pic: ACTION IMAGES

Blades chief vo take Tevez case to EU courts

FOOTBALL

By JON COUCH

SHEFFIELD UNITED chairman Kevin McCabe has vowed to take the Premiership all the way to the European courts in a bid to seek justice over his club's relegation.

Just hours after his side lost the Premiership status, McCabe turned his attentions towards preparing a legal challenge over the League's decision not to impose a points deduction on West Ham for fielding Carlos Tevez and Javier Mascherano ineligible.

"My sole objective is to protect Sheffield United and I am prepared to go as far as is needed to do that," McCabe said.

"I feel cheated because yesterday's result was not the root cause of our relegation. If there is any justice in the land, we will be in the Premiership next season."

Asked how far he would be prepared to take the fight, he added: "Probably even going into Europe to the Human Rights Commission."

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