

The nightmare of every boss



PETALING JAYA: The live telecasts of FIFA World Cup matches in Germany may be worth staying up for but employees have been reminded that “work must go on.”

“Football may be important and exciting – but will it run your life?” asked Malaysian Employers Federation president Md Jafar Abdul Carrim.

“My suggestion to employees is to tape the matches or watch the delayed telecasts,”

he said.

The match times for this year’s extravaganza will not favour Malaysians as most of them will be played at between 10pm and 4am local time.

Md Jafar said the MEF does not subscribe to people coming in late for work or not being able to perform because of the late night matches.

“Staying up late is not going to do you or your company any good,” he added.

Md Jafar also said it was not practical for workers to take leave just to watch football.

“If everyone from the same department wants to go off, then I don’t see how a company can be productive. They might have to take turns to go off,” he said.

Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers northern branch chairman Datuk O.K. Lee also said work must go on.

“The factories will not run if

workers don’t turn up or came late. Also, factories are process-based industries where one department usually relies on another.

“If some workers from one department decide to take leave to watch football, productivity would be seriously affected,” he said.

Public Service Department corporate communications chief Hasniah Rashid said it was fine as long as civil servants did not

watch football during working hours.

“Should they want to take leave to watch the matches, then they have to apply to their respective departments,” she said.

MTUC president Syed Sharir Mohamud said employers must appreciate the right of workers to take leave but at the same time, workers must exercise their discretion before deciding to take days off.