"I think he lost concentra-

tion in the middle of the second

set." Kuerten said. "But I didn't

take too much advantage. I had

a chance to make it 4-1, but I

was that when he got up, he

started to play really well,"

three-love, he stared playing

boom, boom, boom, all the

"For me, the worst problem

"The first set, he was leading

While Rafter had a slim nu-

merical chance of capturing the

number one spot with a victory

in the tournament, he said he

knew coming in that it was un-

the Australian Open and the

tournament last week in

Scottsdale, Arizona, rehabili-

not doing the hard work so far,"

said the Aussie, who double-

serving practice since my knee,"

he said. This week has been the

only time I've done actual serv-

ing training. And last week it

was bloody awful, my serve.

Henman was also slated for

second-round action, in the fi-

nal night match on Stadium

Seventh-seeded Briton Tim

tating a sore knee.

faulted on match point.

this time it's just awful."

He took off the time between

"I think it's just a matter of

"I haven't been doing any

just did a few little mistakes.

sec-saw affair.

Kuertens said.

shots.

likely.

#### Beckham not loved enough?

LONDON, Mar 10: David Beckham believes he will never be popular with English soccer fans, reports Reuters.

Beckham, lambasted by both fans and the media after being sent off for kicking argentine captain Diego Simeone during the World Cup in France, said he would like to be "really popu-

"But I don't think that is going to happen any more. I think more people dislike me than like me for jealousy reasons."

The Manchester United midfielder, arguably the English game's most gifted player, is engaged to spice Girls pop singer Victoria Adams.

He reveals in a television documentary "the football millionaires" to be screened next week that England team mate Tony Adams was the only person to comfort him after his World Cup sending-off.

Beckham said then England coach Glenn Hoddle "didn't speak to me after the game".

"But Tony Adams sat down with me outside the dressing room and he was absolutely brilliant. I actually needed that at the time."

Adams apart, Beckham said the only support he received was from his family.

He said he had "learned to grow up" since the World Cup.

### Liverpool set for clear-out

LIVERPOOL, Mar 10 (Reuters/ Internet): Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier is planning a summer clear-out with up to 12 players likely to leave the club, British newspapers said on Wednesday.

The Daily Mirror said Houllier believed that only Robbie Fowler, Michael Owen, Jamie Redknapp and Vegard Heggem were good enough to take Liverpool to their first league title since 1990.

The French manager was prepared to listen to offers for all the rest of his first squad including Paul Ince, Sean Dundee. Oyvind Leonhardsen and American goalkeeper Brad Friedel, the newspaper said.

Liverpool, currently eighth in the English premier league, refused to comment on the re-

On Tuesday the club sold defender Steve Harkness to Portugal's Benfica for 750,000 pounds (\$1.22 million). England midfielder Steve McManaman has agreed to join European Cup holders Real Madrid in July and Ireland midfielder Jason McAteer has moved to Blackburn Rovers.

The Mirror said Houllier was interested in bringing fellow Frenchmen Frederic Dehu, from Lens, and Robert Pires, of Marseille, to Anfield, as well as Dutch striker Eric Maijer.

#### Elber's tips for Ribbeck

BONN, Mar 10 (Reuters/Internet): Bayern Munich's Brazilian striker Elber has advised Germany coach Erich Ribbeck to call up young players rather than relying on his old

guard. "What the German team lacks is young players," Elber told weekly Stern in an interview released on Wednesday.

"I have nothing against Michael Preetz but he has just earned his first cap and he is over 30 and Lothar Matthaeus is 37," he added.

Hertha Berlin striker Preetz was picked for the first time for a friendly against Colombia last month and scored two goals in a 3-3 draw.

Bayern Munich libero Matthaeus was recalled for last year's World Cup finals in France, where Germany fell to Croatia in the quarter-finals, and has remained a regular feature since.

"I'm not saying that Matthaeus is not good enough but I couldn't imagine a 37year-old playing for Brazil," El-

The 26-year-old Elber, who has a contract with Bayern until 2001, said he would probably not end his career in Germany.

was expected to be tried in just "Spanish football would suit me," said the gifted Brazilian, who tops the Bundesliga scorers' World Cup-winning France was table with Preetz. Both have favourable on Wednesday. scored 13 goals.

"In Spain, players keep moving the ball forward and that gives strikers a lot of opportunities," he added.

#### SEA Games Vietnam to start work on stadium

new stadium near Hanoi is exquarter next year in prepara-tion for Vietnam's bid to host 2003, a government official

Dinh Can, of the National Sports and Physical Culture Committee, said his organisation is working on a partial feasibility study for a 40,000 to 60,000-seat stadium as the first

approved the pre-feasibility study for the 2.3 trillion dong (165 million dollars) complex which would include a main stadium, three indoor stadiums, swimming pools, a bicycle racing track and tennis courts,

The government has approved investment of 600 billion dong (43 million dollars) for the stadium from the state budget. Can said adding that the committee has sought another 150 billion dong (10.7 million dollars) in loans or other funding for the project.



Argentine President Carlos Menem (2nd from R) presenting two national football team shirts to Prince Charles during a ceremony at the Casa Rosanda Palace in Buenos Aires on March 9. Prince Charles is on a two-day tour of Argentina. -AFP photo

## English football: Dancing to the African beat

LONDON, Mar 10 (AFP): English football first sat up and took notice of African football nine years ago when Cameroon took Bobby Robson's national team to the brink of defeat at the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

Now, almost a decade on from that extra-time quarterfinal eventually decided by two Gary Lineker penalties, African players are having a major impact on the English game.

Nobody has made a more dramatic entrance onto the stage than Arsenal's Nigerian signing Nwankwo Kanu.

Last Saturday the 22-yearold former Inter Milan and Ajax Amsterdam star lashed in the goal which sent Arsenal into the semifinals of the FA Cup, the competition they won

Then of course, Arsenal reached the final by beating Wolverhampton Wanderers in the last four, thanks to a goal by another African, Liberian international Christophe Wreh.

Saturday's heroics were in stark contrast to the uproar Kanu caused when, 11 minutes into his debut at Highbury on February 13, he prompted a bad sportsmanship rumpus by failing to observe accepted foot-ball etiquette in the fifth round match against Sheffield United. United kicked the ball out to

allow an Arsenal player to be treated but when play resumed and Arsenal threw it back to United, Kanu broke the convention of fair-play by intercepting the ball and crossing for Marc Overmars to score what proved the winning goal.

The rest is history, literally. with Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger offering to replay the tie, which they eventually won fair and square.

The unprecedented episode left Kanu a shell-shocked, so

thusiasm on Wednesday.

next season.

one league.

Football's world governing

body announced on Tuesday

volving two referees officiating

every match in "top leagues"

soccer's law-making body, ap-

proved the idea of a two-referee

experiment when it met in

Cardiff last month but the move

Reaction among clubs in

"This is something I've

RC Lens president Gervais

In Germany, national team

"Most of the time the referee

wanted for 10 years," Marseille

Martel said: "I think it's a good

thing...There have been too

many refereeing problems re-

coach Erich Ribbeck said: "I've

always been in favour of two

Rouse dead

US Olympic team, is dead of

coach Rolland Courbis said.

The International Board.

that it would conduct trials in-

LONDON, Mar 10

(Reuters/ Inter-

nned refereeing

revolution was

greeted with en-

net): FIFA's pla-

no-one was more relieved than him when he scored Saturday's late, late clincher against Derby county.

It came as no surprise to Wenger, who believes Kanu's sense of adventure will prove a vital trump card as Arsenal bid to repeat last year's league and FA Cup double.

"He is a quiet guy but I think he has a strong spirit," said the Frenchman. "What he does always surprises you. You can never guess what he is about to do. The way he solves problems on the pitch is always creative." Arsenal are typical of the way English football has been



NWANKO KANU

transformed by the influx of foreign players and nebody is further removed form the old drinking gambling stereotype

based Arsenal squad members in recent seasons than Kanu. "Some players get really

encouraged by some home-

worked up before games," said Kanu. "But I listen to Christian gospel music. I always say a prayer. I pray that my team will win and I'll score the winner. Against Derby God answered my prayers.

And Arsenal aren't the only English team benefiting from a bit of African spiritualism.

Chelsea's athletic full-back Celestine Babayaro is a Nigerian international team mate of Kanu's, while Liverpool have snapped up Cameroon's impressive young defensive captain Rigobert song.

West Ham's drive for a UEFA Cup place has been boosted by the signing of another Cameroonian, muscular midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe and Moroccan Hassan Kachloul has grabbed five important goals to keep Southampton's heeds above water in another difficult Leeds United, for whom

Ghanaian Tony Yeboah made significant impact in 1995. have benefited from the leadership and defensive assurance of South Africa's World Cup captain Lucas Radebe for several

Add Everton's Ivory Coast striker Ibrahima Bakayoko, scorer of a brilliant FA Cup goal at Bristol city in January, and Wimbledon's long-serving Nigerian Efan Ekoku, and it is clear that the English Premiership, with its emphasis on pace and power, is a natural home for the African football. The only catch, as Kanu ad-

mits, is the price of telling family and friends back home how well it's all going. I'm prepared for prefly big phone bills." he

#### German Cup

#### Bayern in final

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany, Mar 10: Bayern Munich tamed Second Division Rot-Weiss Oberhausen 3-1 on Tuesday to cruise into the German Čup final, reports Reuters.

Holders Bayern moved ahead when Carsten Jancker, set up by midfielder Jens Jeremies, struck from close range in the 24th minute.

Štefan Effenberg made it 2-0 for the runway league leaders by racing into the box unchallenged to beat Oberhausen. keeper Christoph Mueller in the 42nd minute.

Defender Thomas Linke used a blunder by Mueller, who failed to catch a high ball, to put the issue beyond doubt in the 79th minute.

Playing in Gelsenkirchen, on the home turf of Schalke 04 because their nearby stadium was too small, little Oberhausen put up a brave challenge before a near 50,000 crowd and reduced their arrears with five minutes remaining.

Daniel Scheinhardt scored from the penalty spot after fellow defender Joachim Hopp was brought down in the box by Bayern keeper Oliver Kahn.

"It was not that easy," said Bayern veteran Libero Lothar Mattheus, "Oberhausen had nothing to lose and fought

Oberhausen, who only moved up to the Second Division this season, had a brilliant run in the cup, knocking out First Division clubs Hamburg SV and Borussia Moenchegladbach on their way to the last

They came close to scoring in the 69th minute when a shot from striker Lars Toborg went just wide.

"Bayern's win was a deserved one," said Oberhausen coach Aleksandar Ristic. "But I want to congratulate my team. They put a great performance against a very strong side."

VFL Wolfsburg entertain fellow First Division Werder Bremen in the other semifinal today. The final is on June 12 in Berlin.

#### Call to end poaching of young guns BONN, Mar 10 (Reuters/In-

ternet): The European Union and FIFA must take steps to prevent big clubs systematically poaching gifted young players nurtured by smaller clubs, said Juergen Friedrich, chairman of German champions Kaiserslautern. The poaching of young tal-

ent must stop," Friedrich told the weekly Die Woche in an interview released ahead of publication on Thursday. Friedrich was reacting to press reports that Bayern Mu-

nich were after Kaiserslautern's

22-year-old midfielder Michael "If we let our talent go, we're digging out our own roots." he

"Both the European Union and FIFA must set up rules to make sure that small clubs can

"A club like Kaiserslautern spends 1.40 to 1.68 million US dollars every year on schooling in order to have two or three new young talents in the team. If they stay only until the end of the season it makes no sense."

continue to form players," he

#### African cups lose 3 clubs

JOHANNESBURG. Mar 10 (Reuters/ Internet): Three clubs have withdrawn from this year's African club competitions which kick off this weekend, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) said on Wednesday. Ethiopian club Coffee FC.

who achieved a shock first round win over Egypt's Al Ahli in last year's Champions League, have pulled out of the African Cup Winners' Cup, giving first round opponents Inter Star of Burundi free passage into the second round in May. In the CAF Cup, Energie

Sport of Benin have withdrawn from their tie against defending champions CS Sfaxien of Tunisia while Ugandan club Express have pulled out a trip to meet Medlaw Megbi in Eritrea. citing fears over the border war between the Eritreans and Ethiopia.

Steffi Graf plays a sliced backhand during her Evert Cup fixture against Ai Sugiyama of Japan at Indian Wells, Calipornia on March 9. Graf won 6-0, 6-1.

Yevgeny, Pat out of race

"I can't really explain what happened," a dejected Kafel-

nikov said. "I just lost the focus

trying as hard as I could.

There's not many times you get

a chance to become number one

chance to grab the top spot in London last month, said he was

more disappointed to make

such an early exit from the first

of the ATP Tour's prestigious

match so badly," he said. "I was

not thinking about number one

in the world, I was thinking

thinking I might be in danger."

he said. When you win 6-0, that

means the guy is not in the

chance, that's basically what

happened. I got broken first

game it was enough for him to

come back to the match, get into

the rhythm and start to play

don't do those mistakes when

you are playing someone like

Once the first set was out of

Kafelnikov added: "You just

"Then when you give him a

about winning that match."

first set win was too easy

game yet

better.

Gustavo.'

"I just wanted to win that

He said he knew that his 6-0

"Anytime you win 6-0, you're

Super Nine events of the year.

Kafelnikov, who also had a

"Don't get me wrong, I was

for a little while.

in the world."

INDIAN WELLS.

California, Mar

10: Yevgeny Kafel-

nikov's bid to to-

pple Pete Sampras

aground to a halt

Tuesday as the Australian Open

champion lost his opening

match at the 2.45 million-

dollar Champions' Cup, reports

let slip a 3-1 lead in the second

set as unseeded Brazilian Gus-

tavo Kuerten battled back to a 0-

6, 7-6, 6-3 second-round vic-

other of the players breathing

down Sampras neck, also

bowed out, losing in three sets

to 334d-ranked German Nicolas

have byes, and Sampras has yet

among four players, who had a

chance to grab the No 1 ranking

from the American this week,

now only third-seeded Alex

Corretja and fourth-seeded Car-

los Moya, both of Spain, re-

the draw, still faces a tough sec-

ond-round match against Aus-

tralian Mark Philippoussis,

while Moya, in the bottom half

of the draw, will play Jim

Corretja, in Sampras' half of

All of the top eight seeds

Kafelnikov and Rafter were

Kiefer 7-6, 3-6, 7-5.

main.

Courier.

to open his campaign.

The second-seeded Russian

World No 5 Pat Rafter, an-

## Safe day for seeds



California, Mar 10 (Reuters/ Internet): Fourthseeded Jana Novotna, fifth-seeded Steffl Graf, sixth-seeded

Mary Pierce and Serena Williams all lived up to expectations Tuesday, winning thirdround matches convincingly at the Evert Cup. Novotna, the reigning Wimbledon champion, making her

first appearance at this event since 1990, moved into the quarter-finals with a confident 6-1, 6-4 win over American Brie Graf, a former two-time

champion here, spent 58 minutes whipping Ai Sugiyama of Japan 6-0, 6-1. Pierce carried the day for

France as she won a 6-1 6-0 match over Rita Grande of Italy. Williams, coming off her first career tournament victory at Paris, scored a 6-0, 7-5 win over Cara Black of Zimbabwe.

The quarter-final pairings for the women are top-seeded Martina Hingis of Switzerland against unseeded Chanda Rubin of the United States. Novotna against Graf, 12th-seeded Sandrine Testud of France against unseeded Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia, and Pierce against Williams.

Novotna needed exactly one hour to dispatch the 81stranked Rippner. The match was so routine for

the Czech that she spent the majority of her post-match press conference discussing her taste in clothing designers. "Giorgio Armani, Donna Karan and Calvin Klein, for

sure," Novotna said, "! like Giorgio Armani. I like very simple, very stylish clothes -nothing too creative." She did take a moment to

look ahead to her quarterfinal match against Graf, a player she has lost to on 28 of 32 occasions. The last time Novotna

posted a victory over Graf was

when she led 6-4 in a final match at a Philadelphia tournament in 1996 when Graf retired from the match.

The last time she beat Graf fair and square was at the 1992 Virginia Slims of Chicago. "I saw her too many times, I

don't have to watch her play anymore," Novotna said, laughing. "Playing Steffi, I have done that so many times. "I will have a strategy -- I

will remember how I played when I beat her. Graf faced one break point at

30-40 in the opening game, but from that point on she was in total command of the match. The German won the first seven games before Sugiyama made it on the scoreboard

"I have nothing to complain about," said Graf, who increased her career lead over Sugiyama to 4-1. "I felt I was moving very well, anticipating her shots

very well. "I definitely felt that I was

going for it."

#### DiMaggio's death lamented of DiMaggio playing and an an-TOKYO, Mar 10 (AP): Even in The Guardian headlined its

Joe DiMaggio.

places where nobody plays his game, news of the death of baseball legend Joe DiMaggio echoed around the world Tues-Attesting to DiMaggio's

stature as an international icon, tributes to him were heard everywhere from soccer-happy Italy to Australia, where cricket is king and baseball almost un-In Italy, which considered

Joltin' Joe one of its own, the news topped TV sportscasts. DiMaggio's fisherman father

was from Isola Delle Femmine. an island just off Palermo on Sicily's northern coast. Baldassare DiMaggio, who lives on the isle, recalled a brief encounter with his famous distant cousin. "He was really a good man,

he seemed like someone from

the island," said DiMaggio, who

is a butcher. "We like to think of him as one of us." Joltin' Joe was at least partly responsible for what in-

terest in America's pastime there is in Italy, which has one of Europe's top baseball leagues. But the slugger's death was even front page news in Hong Kong, where baseball is, at best. a minor sport.

- Baseball mourns Joltin' Joe."

topped television news sports

broadcasts in Mexico as well,

with the television network

Televisa broadcasting old clips

News of DiMaggio's death

Morning editions of the South China Morning Post carried DiMaggio's obituary on its front page, while the Hong Kong Standard ran its story under the Simon-and-Garfunkel-inspired headline "Nation turns its lonely eyes to DiMaggio, 84

as part of an elite whose achievements and persona transcended sport and became part of American folklore," The Daily Telegraph explained in a detailed report on an inside page.

nouncer saying "Rest in Peace, In Australia, the news of DiMaggio's death was over-

shadowed by that country's triumph in their own bat-and-ball game, cricket. Australia drubbed the West Indies in Portof-Spain overnight. Even so, news of DiMaggio

made headlines in newspapers and radio bulletins. A writer for Australia's AAP news agency tried to explain the

significance of DiMaggio in terms of the fact that he was in songs by Simon and Garfunkel and Madonna, and in Ernest Hemingway's book "The Old Man and The Sea.

The reporter also compared DiMaggio's achievements to similar feats in cricket and

"There is really no individual Australian sporting comparison to DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak during the 1941 season," Roger Vaughan wrote. In Britain, where baseball

isn't played, articles focused on DiMaggio's role as an American idol and his marriage to Marilyn Monroe, rather than his sports skills. Only The Daily Telegraph

mentioned his death, briefly, on its front page, although all Britain's national broadsheet newspapers ran full obituaries as well as news stories. "In the US, he ranks with

Babe Ruth and Muhammad Ali

report, "Joltin' Joe has left and gone away," quoting the line from Paul Simon's 1968 song, "Mrs Robinson." Of course, in baseball-crazy

Japan, there was no need to ex-

plain who DiMaggio was. His death was carried prominently in all of Japan's major newspapers and on morning TV news broadcasts. Most also featured photos of

him with Marilyn Monroe. The

two came to Japan for their

honeymoon in 1954. Japan's biggest newspaper, the Yomiuri, which also has a professional baseball team, devoted nearly a quarter of its domestic news page to the DiMaggio story.

"He was major among the major, thinking of the fans very importantly," the Yomiuri quoted Shigeo Nagashima, coach of the Tokyo Yomiuri Giants baseball team, as saying.

"I could not see him actually play, but I learned a lot about baseball through his pictures," Nagashima, a former star slugger himself, said. "I hope Japan will one day produce a player like him."

In 1950, DiMaggio made his first visit to Japan to give technical guidance to Japanese players. He joined in a homerun competition and showed defense skills at Tokyo's Korakuen Stadium, now the Tokyo Dome.

DiMaggio also came to Tokyo for Japan-US baseball games in November, 1951, and homered at Jingu Stadium in Tokyo.

# next year

pected to start in the second the Southeast Asian Games in said Wednesday, reports AP.

stage of a sports complex. The government in January

Can said.

is where nothing happens, HANOI, Mar 10: Work on a which is by the halfway line, and not in the penalty area where all the action is." Sweden's reaction was a little more measured. "It could be good in some matches but you

must have two referees think-HELENA, Mar 10: Roger Rouse, a former light heavyweight boxer who fought on the

Alzheimer's at the age of 64, reports AP. A mortuary notice listing cause of death said Rouse died Sunday. Rouse won a Golden Gloves title in 1954 at Chicago and accepted a boxing scholarship at Idaho State.

He was a two-time collegiate champion and became a member of the 1956 Olympic boxing team, losing a quarterfinal decision in Australia to Gilbert Chapron of France. Rouse turned professional in 1958 and became the No 1 light heavyweight contender in 1965.

ing in the same way and that's difficult.

FIFA plan gaining ground

The South Korean Football Association welcomed the move. Chairman of their Referees' Committee Choi Changseon said: "Having two referees will sharply reduce off-the-ball incidents and will improve the fairness of judgments.

But not every nation was quite so keen on the idea. Belgian soccer union chairman Michel D'Hooghe said he had reservations and was more interested in developing technol-

ogy to help referees. German soccer federation (DFB) spokesman Wolfgang Niersbach distanced himself from Ribbeck's glowing praise for the idea and said: "Our position is to wait and see what

FIFA will decide.

"We, alone, have nothing to say about this and cannot decide anything. The English FA was also re-

luctant to comment on the proposals. Victorio Sanchez Arminez, president of Spain's national school of referees, said the scheme had yet to receive sufficient testing at lower lev-

"It seems to me that it's too soon to test this in a major league, like Spain or France. This needs to go back to a less important league or in a cup competition or maybe at under-16 level.

"We'll have to wait and see if it's successful but it definitely needs more testing." He added: "It would obviously

mean that we'd need a much

bigger squad of referees in each



An attendant massages the left shin of depending World Boxing Association heavyweight champion Evandar Holyfield before a training session at the Church Street Gymnasium in New York on March 9. -AFP photo