

## Spanish Cup Bad day for Primera Liga teams

MADRID, Dec 2 (Reuters/Internet): Four First Division sides were eliminated from the Spanish Cup by clubs from lower divisions in Wednesday first round second leg matches.

The major shock was the 1-0 home defeat of Valladolid by Third Division Real Union which gave the underdogs a 2-1 aggregate victory.

Bankruptcy-threatened Second Division Logrones won 1-0 at Real Sociedad, managed by ex-Spanish national coach Javier Clemente, to go through 3-1.

Second Division Osasuna knocked out First Division Seville 2-1 on aggregate and Compostela gained a 6-5 aggregate win over top flight opponents Numancia.

## Rai no matter what

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 2: Sao Paulo captain Rai will continue to be the team's penalty taker despite his double miss against Corinthians, coach Paulo Cesar Carpegiani said Wednesday.

"If we get a penalty, the first on the list is Rai," Carpegiani said.

Rai added: "I have to take it, I will."

The former Brazil captain saw two second half penalties saved by Dida as Sao Paulo lost 3-2 Corinthians in the first match of their three-leg Brazilian championship semi-final. He had earlier scored a magnificent first half goal.

Dida took his tally of penalty saves this year to a remarkable seven — three for his club and four for his country.

The feart earned veteran Rai instant comparisons with Argentina's striker Martin Palermo, who missed three penalties in a Copa America match against Colombia in July.

Rai said the incident had not been the low point of his career. "I suffered more when I had to miss nine months with a knee injury," he said.

Dida was injured in a scramble for the ball following his penalty save but said he would be fit for Sunday's second leg.

## Koeman to coach Arnhem from Jan 1

ARNHEM, Netherlands, Dec 2: Ronald Koeman will take over as coach of Dutch First Division Vitesse Arnhem next month, the club said on Wednesday.

Vitesse said the former Dutch international, who has been assistant coach with Barcelona this season, would begin the job on January 1 on a 2-1/2-year contract.

Koeman was in Arnhem on Tuesday to meet the team and organise accommodation.

"I have come to the conclusion that the time has come for me to stand on my own feet as a trainer," Koeman was quoted by the club as saying.

"Vitesse is an attractive team for every coach ... Something beautiful is going to take place at Vitesse. I want to be a part of that and contribute to it."

He said Barcelona has not asked for any compensation from Vitesse.

Wednesday's edition of the Barcelona daily Sport quoted Koeman as saying: "Everyone at Barcelona was marvellous when I really hurts me to leave."

Koeman, who scored the extra-time goal which won the 1992 European cup final for Barcelona, has been widely tipped as a long-term successor to the club's current Dutch coach Louis van Gaal.

"I have made no secret of my dream to become coach at Barcelona," Koeman said.

Koeman returned as a player in 1997 and joined the Barcelona coaching staff after a spell with the Dutch squad at the 1998 World Cup in France.

His contract with Arnhem expires at the same time as that of Van Gaal at Barcelona.

"I kept Van Gaal informed right from the start of negotiations with Vitesse and he gave me all his help and support," Koeman said.

Koeman's nationality would make him a popular choice as Barcelona coach following the successful tenures of Dutch compatriots Johan Cruyff and Van Gaal.

## EU with WADA

BRUSSELS, Dec 2: The European Union backed the newly-established world sports anti-drugs agency on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Sports commissioner Viviane Reding said the EU would give its "wholehearted commitment" to the World Anti-Doping Agency after receiving assurances from the International Olympic Committee that the body would be both independent and transparent.

The Commission, the EU's executive, will have observer status in the agency while the EU itself will appoint two representatives to its board.

"I was asked to persuade IOC president (Juan Antonio) Samaranch to include Europe's demands into the statutes of the new agency. These conditions have been met ... making it possible for the agency to become a reality," Reding said.

"I hope we will rapidly achieve tangible results and make a 'clean' Sydney Olympics a real possibility."

The new body has faced accusations, particularly from the United States, that it would not be independent of the IOC.

## Record 197 enter draw

# North Korea won't be there

TOKYO, Dec 2 (Reuters/Internet): A record 197 countries out of the 203 affiliated to FIFA will take part in Tuesday's qualifying round draw for the 2002 World Cup finals — but North Korea will not be one of them.

FIFA spokesman Adrin Cooper said on Thursday North Korea was the only one of FIFA's member associations to have officially withdrawn from the competition, which is being jointly hosted by South Korea and Japan.

"They were the only ones to officially notify us they will not be competing," he said. "The other five countries did not reply by the deadline and will not be in the draw either."

They are Afghanistan, Benin, Guinea-Bissau, Niger and Papua New Guinea. That leaves 197 countries, beating the previous highest mark of 174 in the 1998 World Cup.

In the first World Cup in 1930 in Uruguay only 13 countries took part.

North Korea's absence means that any thoughts the South Koreans had of staging a match there as part of a unification process between the divided halves of the Korean peninsula are at an end.

Cooper said: "By withdrawing from the World Cup, no matches can be staged in North Korea but FIFA's position has long been established. The World Cup was awarded to two countries — South Korea and

Japan — and unless the political status quo changes, the matches in the finals can only be played in those two countries and not a third country."

FIFA will meet over the next few days to finalise the process



for the biggest qualifying round draw in World Cup history.

France qualify automatically as world champions, and South Korea and Japan as hosts, leaving 194 countries in six confederations facing the luck of the draw and battling their way through to the 32-round finals.

The six confederations have all established the procedures for their own qualifying competitions.

## Gaddafi's son turns to Ben!



LILONGWE, Dec 2 (Reuters/Internet): Disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson will be hired to train Al

Saad Gaddafi, son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and a member of the national soccer team, Libya's Italian coach said on Thursday.

Speaking in the Malawi capital Lilongwe before a friendly against Malawi, coach Eugenio Bersellini told Reuters that Johnson and a German trainer, whom he did not name, would work on the personal fitness of Gaddafi for 90 days.

"Al-Saad is hiring Ben Johnson," Bersellini said. "He would like to see what Johnson can achieve with him personally and then maybe we will consider an arrangement for the team."

Libyan officials said Johnson would attempt to do with Gaddafi what he did with Argentine soccer player Diego Maradona, whom he helped train for a comeback in 1987.

They said massage therapist Yousef Omar and coaches Armando Costa and Raul "Lalo" Maradona would accompany Johnson, Johnson and his col-

leagues are due to arrive in the Libyan capital Tripoli on December 15 to start their assignment.

There was no confirmation

that Ben Johnson, son of Libya's Italian coach, will be hired to train Al Saad Gaddafi, son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and a member of the national soccer team, Libya's Italian coach said on Thursday.

Earlier this year Muammar Gaddafi handed over two suspects to a Scottish court in the Netherlands, a move which has ended the country's international isolation and led to a suspension on U.N. sanctions against the north African state.

Bersellini, once on the staff of Inter Milan, took his team to Italy for 40 days of training this year and has since embarked on a long tour of Africa for friendly matches.

Before coming to Seoul, Beckenbauer visited New Zealand and Thailand. He was scheduled to fly to Tokyo Saturday.

South Korea will co-host the 2002 World Cup finals together with Japan.

Germany competes with four other countries — England, South Africa, Brazil and Morocco — for the 2006 host rights. German officials expect South Africa and England to be their main rivals.

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