

'Marry me, David' BANGALORE, Feb 3: Rahul Dravid had an embarrassing time for a short while when a young girl threw a tantrum and insisted that he marry her, police said, reports PTI.

Nat'l Duplicate Bridge begins today Sports Reporter The opening ceremony of the 19th National Duplicate Bridge Championship (teams) will be held today at the Sonargaon Hotel at 9:30 am.

Spanish Cup Osasuna see off Deportivo BARCELONA, Feb 3(Reuters/Internet): Second Division Osasuna pulled off their second Spanish Cup upset on Wednesday, beating championship leaders Deportivo Coruna 1-0 to clinch a 2-0 aggregate win and a place in the quarter-finals.

Atletico Madrid continued their good run of late with a 2-0 win over Real Union with goals from Zoran Njegus and Marcos Marquez making it 5-0 over the two legs.

African Nations Cup SA, Algeria book qtrs. ticket

KUMASI, Ghana, Feb 3(Reuters/Internet): South Africa and Algeria finished in the top two places in Group B at the African Nations' Cup finals on Wednesday, their stale 1-1 draw in Kumasi enough to steer them into the quarter-finals.

Both sides conspired to put on a drab performance in front of a meagre crowd but were content to play out for the points. The Democratic Republic of Congo, who had an outside chance before the start of play to pip Algeria to second place, drew 0-0 with Gabon in Accra to end the tournament without a goal.

When Shaun Bartlett scored after just two minutes for South Africa, the stage was set for a dramatic revival by the Congolese.

Congo, who failed to make the quarter-finals for the first time since 1990, created several openings but their strikers repeatedly failed to get in a shot, sometimes failing to make contact with the ball altogether and sometimes shooting or heading weakly wide of goal.

dispossessed by Congo defender Ezele Bakasu as he was about to shoot. Nzighou, who scored against South Africa, also wasted a couple of chances.

ALGERIA-SOUTH AFRICA In Kumasi, Algeria fought back hard after conceding the early goal and should have been awarded a penalty in the first half when South African goalkeeper Hans Vonk brought down Bilal Dziri.

Thursday sees the completion of the first round with Nigeria and Morocco needing a draw in their Group D match in Lagos for both sides to progress at the expense of Congo and Tunisia, who meet in Kano.



Algeria's Fawzi Moussouni (L) celebrates after grabbing a goal against South Africa in an African Nations' Cup game on February 2.

STANDINGS African Nations' Cup standings after Wednesday's matches. Group A: Cameroon 3, Ghana 3, Ivory Coast 3, Togo 3. Group B: South Africa 3, Algeria 3, DR Congo 3, Gabon 3. Group C: Egypt 3, Senegal 3, Zambia 3, Burkina Faso 3. Group D: Nigeria 2, Morocco 2, Congo 2, Tunisia 2.

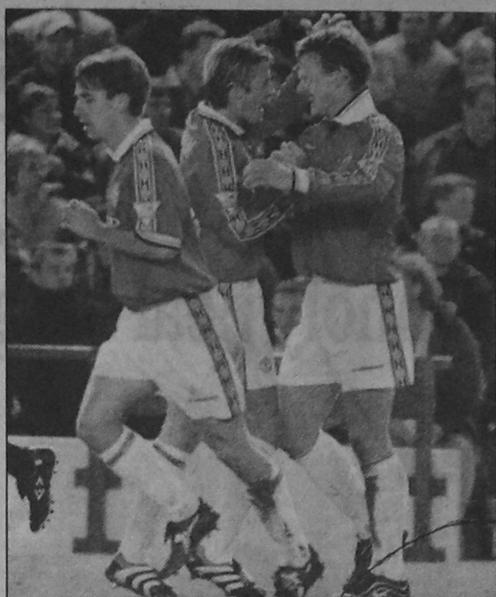
English League Cup Elliot carries Leicester into final

LEICESTER, England, Feb 3: Matt Elliot put Leicester City into their third English League Cup final in four years on Wednesday with a goal on the stroke of half time against Aston Villa, reports Reuters.

Leicester had beaten Leeds United and first division Fulham with penalties on their way to a place in the last four, drawing criticism for their allegedly negative tactics, but they deserved their 1-0 second leg win at Filbert Street.

Leicester, who beat Middlesbrough in the 1997 final and lost to Tottenham Hotspur last year, will be favourites to lift the Cup again and secure a place in Europe when they play first division Tranmere Rovers at Wembley on February 27.

Cerezo, seek Bayern's help TOKYO, Feb 3: Japanese soccer club Cerezo Osaka have turned to German giants Bayern Munich to improve their fortunes, reports Reuters.



Manchester United ace midfielder David Beckham (C) congratulates teammate striker Teddy Sheringham (R) after scoring the winner against Sheffield Wednesday in their Premiership encounter at Hillsborough on February 2.

Premiership United owe Sheringham one

SHEFFIELD, England, Feb 3(Reuters/Internet): Manchester United owe three points clear in the English Premier League on Wednesday after beating Sheffield Wednesday 1-0 with a late Teddy Sheringham goal.

The defeat was another major blow for Wednesday, a side who have spent most of the season rooted to the bottom of the league but who had hoped for a vital point at Hillsborough. Wednesday had the better of the early exchanges but then found themselves up against the determined English and European champions, who came close repeatedly.

Call to ban four players Israeli sex scandal confirmed

JERUSALEM, Feb 3: A report into a sex scandal in Israel's national soccer team recommended on Wednesday that four players be banned from playing for their country for coveting with call girls while training for a crunch international, reports Reuters.

links with the IFA. The committee's conclusions contrasted with an interim IFA report on the scandal, which found no evidence of misbehaviour, and vehement denials from members of the national squad.

FA wants limit on foreigners LONDON, Feb 3: English soccer's governing body is in favour of a quota system to limit the number of players from outside the European union being signed by the country's clubs, reports Reuters.

The scandal broke days after Israel crashed to Denmark in Tel Aviv and while they were already in Copenhagen preparing for the second leg, which the Israelis lost 3-0.

Latif passes away CALCUTTA, Feb 3: Renowned football player of yesteryears and a member of the gold medal winning Indian team in the 1951 Delhi Asian Games, Abdul Latif, died in a city hospital yesterday after a brief illness, reports PTI.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division, Moulvibazar Notice Inviting Tender Tender No. 57/EM of 1999-2000

Sealed tenders are invited in BD Form No. 2911 for the undermentioned work as per terms and conditions stated below: 1. Name of work: Construction of Co-operative Zonal Institute at Moulvibazar under the Scheme Physical Infrastructure Development of eight Co-operative Zonal Institute (Sub-Head: Providing compound light).

Chittagong Port Authority Tender Notice No. EE/Const/101/1999-2000. Construction work of 4-storied 4 (four) dormitory buildings near port main market (block no. 11,12,13 and 14) (with boundary wall).

বাংলাদেশ রপ্তানি প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকা কর্তৃপক্ষ ২২২, নিউ ইস্টার্ন রোড ঢাকা-১০০০ নং-বেপজা/সিই-০৯/৯৯/২২ তারিখঃ ০২-০২-২০০০ইং সংক্ষিপ্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-২২/৯৯-২০০০