

WC 2002 qualifiers

Super Eagles

ease past

Sudan

LAGOS, Jan 28: Nigeria's 'foreign legion' helped get the Super Eagles' 2002 World Cup qualifying campaign back on track here Saturday with a 3-0 victory over Sudan, reports AFP.

Two goals from Germany-based Victor Agali and a third by Arsenal striker Nwankwo Kanu secured victory for the Nigerians, desperate for points after their shock 2-1 loss to Liberia last year.

Nigeria had to wait for almost an hour before opening the scoring against a young Sudanese side who appeared undaunted by their star-studded opponents.

Agali, who scored in his debut game against Zambia two weeks ago, was again on target in the 57th minute when he clinically nodded home a cross from the left taken by Garba Lawal.

The lanky forward from Bundesliga outfit Hansa Rostock grabbed his second eight minutes later after Finidi George outpaced the Sudanese defence and delivered a pinpoint cross for Agali to head past goalkeeper Ahmed El-Nour.

Only the woodwork denied Agali a hat-trick in the 85th minute - but his shot cannoned off the post to allow substitute Kanu to tuck away the rebound.

Nigeria's victory over Sudan has improved their standing in the qualifying group for the 2002 World Cup. They have now recorded six points from three matches while Sudan stay on three points from two games.

Nigeria's next match will be away to old rivals Ghana on March 10.

**Iraq, Lebanon renew rivalry**

BAGHDAD, Jan 28: Iraq and Lebanon are set to revive memories of their thrilling Asian Cup 2000 2-2 draw when the two sides meet on Wednesday in a friendly in Beirut, site of their previous meeting, reports AFP.

Iraq, who went out to eventual Asian Cup winners Japan 4-1 in the quarter-finals, led Lebanon 2-0 after just 23 minutes only for the hosts, who failed to make it past the first round, to storm back and force the draw.

The Lebanese encounter is the first of a mini Middle Eastern trip by the Iraqis - they are to play Jordan twice and play two more matches in Tunisia - as they build up for the 2002 World Cup Group 6 qualifiers which take place in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from April 21-25.

Whether they take place in Almaty is under appeal as the Iraqis wrote to FIFA to protest over the qualifiers being switched from their original venue of Kathmandu, which were due to take place from March 25-29, to their main group rivals' base.

'Playing in Kazakhstan is unacceptable to us,' IFA official Hussein Mohammed said in a letter to FIFA general-secretary Michael Zen-Ruffinen.

Hussein said the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) had informed them FIFA was responsible for the venue switch, but neither body was immediately available for comment.

**Bundesliga**  
**Effenberg stars for Bayern**

BERLIN, Jan 28: Bayern Munich's captain Stefan Effenberg struck in the 89th minute to salvage a 3-2 win over bottom club Bochum on Saturday and keep his side just one point away from leaders Schalke 04, reports AFP.

Effenberg scored the first and last goals of the match in front of just 32,000 fans in a half-full Olympic Stadium to cancel out the double strike from Bochum's Turkish midfielder Yildiz Basturk.

Brazilian striker Giovane Elber was Bayern's other scorer, taking his season's tally to 10, three behind Schalke's Danish international Ebbe Sand.

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld was happy with his team's battling performance against the worst team in the division.

'I am very happy. The team never gave up and fought hard,' he said.

'We deserved the victory because we had more of the play.'

Schalke had set Bayern their target by beating Hansa Rostock 2-0 on Friday in the first match since the closest-run German championship for years went into a six-week winter break.

Third-placed Borussia Dortmund kept the race on the boil on Saturday by beating third-bottom club Energie Cottbus 2-0.

Fredi Bobic and Christian Nerlinger scored for the 1997 European champions in front of 61,000 fans, leaving their team on the same number of points as Bayern.

Kaiserslautern lost way in their race for the championship by drawing 0-0 with Wolfsburg and are now six points adrift of Schalke with 31 points.

Fourth-placed Bayer Leverkusen, who also have 31 points, play struggling VfB Stuttgart on Sunday.

**FA Cup**

# Everton Aldridge-struck again



LONDON, Jan 28: First Division Tranmere Rovers, coached by former Liverpool favourite John Aldridge, provided the biggest shock in the fourth round of the FA Cup Saturday with a 3-0 win at Merseyside neighbours and Premiership strugglers Everton, reports AFP.

Aldridge, who scored the winner for Liverpool against Everton in the 1989 FA Cup final, masterminded the victory, Rovers' sixth Premiership cup scalp in 16 months.

Everton went the same way as West Ham, Coventry, Leeds, Middlesbrough and Sunderland against a Tranmere team who come to life against the top clubs.

Defender Steve Yates headed two fine goals and Jason Kumas, the architect of many of Tranmere's lightning attacks, grabbed the other.

Aldridge was beaming after the result particularly as Rovers were under the cosh early on.

'The lads were terrific,' he said. 'They had to ride the storm early on, but once we'd scored we grew in confidence and stature.'

'Everton had to chase the game and we could hit them on the break. If they'd scored in that opening spell the game would have been very different.'

'I had 11-14 with the substitutes - heroes out there and they gave everything.'

Two goals in the dying minutes from Liverpool's substitutes booked their place in the fifth round with a dramatic 2-0 win over Premiership rivals Leeds at Elland Road.

Leeds, who had beaten their opponents 4-3 at Elland Road in the league earlier in the season were heading for a replay until two minutes from time when Nicky Barmby came off the bench to put the League Cup finalists in front.

A goal in stoppage time from record signing Emile Heskey sent Leeds crashing out.

The day was an emotional one for two of Leeds' most promising young footballers.

Midfielder Lee Bowyer, 24, and defender Jonathan Woodgate, also 24, are due at Hull Crown Court on Monday on charges - which they both deny - of causing grievous bodily harm and affray following an attack on an Asian student a year ago.

Arsenal overcame an early scare before trouncing First Division Queens Park Rangers 6-0.

A goal from Sylvain Wiltord, sandwiched by own goals from Chris Plummer and Matthew Rose, put Arsenal in control before Wiltord grabbed his second.

Wiltord's French international team-mate Robert Pires fired the fifth and Dutchman

Dennis Bergkamp completed a miserable day for Garry Francis and his team. Francis admitted Rangers had been 'murdered.'

'After the first two goals we just had to go for it and send on an extra striker, but Arsenal murdered us with their passing and movement which was exquisite,' Francis said.

'It was desperately disappointing because we went out with the right attitude and you couldn't tell who was the Premiership team in the first half.'

Second Division Wycombe, managed by Lawrie Sanchez, scorer of Wimbleton's winning goal in their historic 1-0 win over Liverpool in the 1988 FA Cup final, surprised First Division Wolves with a narrow 2-1 win.

Non-league Kingstonian, second bottom in the Conference league, were denied a famous win by a last-minute equaliser for Peter Taylor's men.

Charlton scraped past the determined challenge of non-League Dagenham and Redbridge but only after extra-time in a full-blooded third round replay.

The part-timers, who came within four minutes of going through at The Valley, performed superbly but succumbed eventually to Shaun Newton's strike within 36 seconds of the start of extra-time.

On Sunday Cup holders Chelsea travel to First Division Gillingham, the team they thumped 5-0 in last season's quarter-final, while runaway Premiership leaders Manchester United host West Ham at Old Trafford.

Jim Smith's Derby, fourth from bottom in the Premiership, were held to a goalless draw at Ewood Road by First Division high-fliers Blackburn.

Sunderland edged Ipswich 1-0 in the all-Premiership tie at the Stadium of Light thanks to Danièle Dichio's 23rd minute effort.

Shaun Goater's goal three minutes into stoppage time gave Manchester City a 1-0 win

Two goals in the dying minutes from Liverpool's substitutes booked their place in the fifth round with a dramatic 2-0 win over Premiership rivals Leeds at Elland Road.

Leeds, who had beaten their opponents 4-3 at Elland Road in the league earlier in the season were heading for a replay until two minutes from time when Nicky Barmby came off the bench to put the League Cup finalists in front.

A goal in stoppage time from record signing Emile Heskey sent Leeds crashing out.

The day was an emotional one for two of Leeds' most promising young footballers.

Midfielder Lee Bowyer, 24, and defender Jonathan Woodgate, also 24, are due at Hull Crown Court on Monday on charges - which they both deny - of causing grievous bodily harm and affray following an attack on an Asian student a year ago.

Arsenal overcame an early scare before trouncing First Division Queens Park Rangers 6-0.

A goal from Sylvain Wiltord, sandwiched by own goals from Chris Plummer and Matthew Rose, put Arsenal in control before Wiltord grabbed his second.

Wiltord's French international team-mate Robert Pires fired the fifth and Dutchman

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out step of his left foot during an FA Cup fourth round match against Leeds United at Elland Road on January 27. -AFP photo

Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler (front) flicking the ball with the out