

# Double blows for Koreans

CHIBA, Japan, May 4: Unified Korea suffered a double blow while Sweden and China tightened their grip on the men's singles tournament at the world tennis championships here today, reports AFP.

But it was north of the Korean border where the defeat hit home with two of Pyongyang's top contenders bowing out.

Seventh seed Li Gun-Sang, rated one of the best chopper-style strategists in the world, was upset in five sets by China's lowest ranked individual player, Xie Chaojie, in the third round.

Then Kim Song-Hui, a fellow northerner competing in Korea's first ever joint sporting team, lost to China's Wang Tao 3-2 in another third round upset.

Meanwhile the Swedish machine clicked back into gear following shock defeats for their world number two Mikael Appelgren and Eric Lindh, the number 12 seed.

Jan-Ove Waldner, the world number one, moved effortlessly into the last 16 with a



**JAN-OVE WALDNER**  
21-19, 21-18, 21-11 defeated Soviet Dimitry Mazunov. Waldner, 25, appears on course for a repeat of his 1989 world championships final against fellow Swede Jeren Persson, seeded six. Persson won the deciding singles in a display of remarkable coolness under pressure

to earn Sweden the world team crown on Tuesday.

The former European champion believes he will go one better here than in Dortmund two years ago and said after beating Germany's Georg-Zsolt Bohm 21-17, 19-21, 21-16, 21-16, in the third round: "My way is fairly clear to the final. I'm in the kind of shape to win it this time round."

The Chinese and the Koreans may have something to say about that. They each have four players through to the last 16, with China's number one Ma Wenge beating Chinese-born Austrian Ding Yi in straight games to book a place in the fourth round against another former Chinese team player Chen Xinhua, now settled in England and married with two children.

Chen, who won the team gold with China in Calcutta in 1975 and is now the English number one, eliminated Yugoslav's Zoran Prtorac 21-14, 21-11, 21-18.

South Korea's Olympic champion Yoo Nam-Kyu, seeded fifth here, beat Norway's Chinese-born star

Wang Yangsheng 21-14, 21-19, 15-21, 24-22.

He is seeded to meet Ma in the quarter-finals and Persson in the semis.

Anrzej Grubba of Poland, seeded third, beat South Korean Kang Hee-Chan to reach the last 16 but made hard work of his 3-2 win.

But another South Korean, Seoul student Lee Cheul-Seung, who had to play through the qualifying rounds to reach the main draw here, pulled off a shock win.

The 17-year-old, who has just left high school, beat Soviet top player Andrey Mazunov 21-15, 21-14, 21-14 to reach the next round.

**Belgrade in 1993**

Meanwhile, the sports ruling body confirmed that Mexico had been rejected as the venue for the 1993 World Championships.

Seoul, Beijing and Copenhagen "have shown interest" in replacing them, said International Table Tennis Federation secretary Tony Brooks at the close of the federation's general meeting here which confirmed Belgrade as the venue for the 1995 championship.

# Bangladesh lead Bahrain 2-1

MANAMA, May 4: Bangladesh lead Bahrain 2-1 after winning the doubles in the first round of the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group Two here today, reports Reuter.

Shovon Jamaly and Sardar Ifekhar of Bangladesh beat Essam Abdul A'al and Shehab Rashid Shehab of Bahrain 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 in the doubles.

Earlier, in the singles, Shovon Jamaly defeated Shehab Rashid Shehab 6-1, 6-1, 6-4 while Sardar Ifekhar lost to Essam Abdul A'al 2-6, 3-6 and 2-6 yesterday.

The reverse singles will be held tomorrow.

# Abahani in semis

Abahani Krira Chakra qualified for the semi-final in the Nagjee football tournament beating Titanium 1-0 in the last match of Group Two at Kozhikode Kerala, India, Friday according to a message received here tonight, reports BSS.

Rumi scored the all important goal for Abahani in the 16th minute.

Both the defending champions, Abahani, and the Indian national Pre-Olympic football team collected five points in Group Two to enter the semi-finals. The goal averages of the two teams are also equal and the group positions were decided through lots. Abahani were placed in the second position in the lots.

The Indian national eleven will play the first semi-final against Kerala Police in the first semi-final.

# BKSP's offer

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) has expressed its willingness to play some exhibition football matches in different districts to raise funds for the cyclone affected people, according to a press release yesterday, reports BSS.

The funds, raised from the matches will be donated to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

Intending district sports associations and teams have been requested to contact the Director (Training) of the BKSP immediately.

# Nat'l basketball postponed

Sports Reporter

The 15th national basketball championship scheduled to begin from May 10 has been postponed due to the adverse situation prevailing in the country after the recent cyclonic storm in the coastal belt according to a press release issued yesterday by the secretary tournament committee, Imtiaz Khan Babul of Bangladesh Basketball Federation.

The fresh date for the competition will be announced later on.

Imtiaz Khan condoled on behalf of the federation, the loss of thousands of lives lost in the devastating storm and paid respect and prayed for the departed soul.

# Lankans take 3-0 lead over Syria

COLOMBO, May 4: Sri Lanka took an unassailable 3-0 lead over Syria in the Davis Cup Asia Oceania Zone Group 11 first-round tie here today, comfortably winning the doubles match 6-1, 6-1, 6-1, reports AFP.

Jayendra Wijeyesekera partnered his captain Arjun Fernando to bring Sri Lanka victory over Syria's doubles pair of Samer Mourad and Amis Hafez.

Sri Lanka won the two opening singles on Friday.

# More fines for Maradona

MILAN, May 4: Disgraced Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona was fined 12,500 dollars on Friday for insulting the referee in one of his last matches in Italy, reports Reuter.

Maradona, released on bail on drugs charges in Buenos Aires last weekend, criticised the referee after his Napoli club's 1-0 home win over Sampdoria in the Italian Cup semifinals in March.

The punishment brought to about 63,000 dollars the amount the outspoken Maradona has been fined in a tumultuous season in Italy.

Napoli were fined 10,000 dollars for their former captain's offence.

The Argentine returned to his home country on April 2 after a league dope test showed he had taken cocaine and five days later he was suspended from soccer worldwide for 15 months.

Meanwhile, AP adds from Naples: A Naples judge, investigating a drug trafficking and prostitution case allegedly involving Maradona, on Friday was handed the experts reports about wire-tapping of the player's calls.

Judge Nicola Quatrano refused to disclose details of the tapping but said the public prosecutor will decide next week whether Maradona can be charged in the case.

The 1986 World Cup most valuable player was accused by some Neapolitan figures of using cocaine and of being a regular customer of a prostitution ring.



**Added insult!**

NAVARRRE, Spain, May 4: Disgraced Argentina and Napoli soccer star Diego Maradona, banned from football and charged with drug possession, has one more torment to endure.

A Spanish village has voted to burn him in effigy at the stake.

The 275 villagers of Murieta in the Basque-speaking region of Navarre voted in a traditional May rite to put a straw effigy of Maradona on a pole in the village square to be insulted for a month before being burnt at the stake.

Every year we choose a popular figure and this year it is Maradona," a local official told Reuter on Friday. "The fiesta is a lot of fun."

Previous effigies burnt by villagers, include former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Real Madrid goalkeeper Paco Buyo and J.R. Ewing, villain of the US television series "Dallas".

Maradona denied the accusations before returning to his native country last month.

Enozo Maria Stinischke, Maradona's lawyer in Italy, said earlier this week that the player plans to return to Italy later this month to clear up his position.

It was unclear, however, if Maradona can leave Argentina while free on bail.

# Minister's denial

Another AP message from Buenos Aires said: Maradona has not requested enrollment in any government programme offered to persons seeking help in curing drug dependence, Health Minister Avelino Porto said Friday.

"So far, we have not received any such request" from Maradona, the minister told reporters during a tour of the state-run Center for Social

Reeducation, which specializes in treatment of drug addiction.

Maradona, considered the world's best soccer player for most of the last decade, is free on 20,000 dollars bond on charges of drug possession and distribution. He was arrested April 26 in a police raid on a Buenos Aires apartment.

Marcos Franchi, Maradona's manager, said Thursday that "several psychologists already are treating Maradona" who has remained in seclusion at his home since his release from custody last Sunday.

Maradona "is firmly resolved not to fall under the temptation of drugs again" and "if necessary, is willing to be hospitalized" for treatment, Franchi said.

# Johnson-Lewis rematch July 1

PARIS, May 4: Ben Johnson and Carl Lewis could race each other in France on July 1 in their first direct meeting since the fated 1988 Olympics 100 metres final, reports Reuter.

A spokesman for the French Athletics Federation, which is responsible for the Grand Prix in Villeneuve D'Ascq near Lille, said on Friday that Johnson, back from a two-year ban for doping, and his American rival had been contacted.

Asked whether the contacts involved a race against each other, the spokesman said: "Maybe."

He refused to give further details. "We have contacts with a number of athletes, including (Soviet pole vaulter) Sergei Bubka and (Moroccan middle-distance runner) Said Aoutia," he said.

"But nothing is definite yet." He said more details should be announced on May 14.

Johnson Lewis in the Seoul Olympics but the Canadian then had his gold medal taken away and was stripped of the world record. His form on indoor tracks since his ban



Carl Lewis (left) and Ben Johnson ended has been mediocre. Lewis was awarded the gold medal and credited with the world record for the time of 9.92 seconds he set in Seoul. A rematch between the two would be certain to involve large fees for both, men, who

have already agreed to meet in Malmo, Sweden on August 5 before an expected confrontation later that month at the world championships in Tokyo.

# Johnson's trial

Meanwhile Reuter from Toronto adds: A Canadian judge agreed on Friday to postpone the trial of sprinter Ben Johnson on an assault charge until October 21 to allow him to compete this summer without interruption.

Judge Bill Babe of the Ontario court's Provincial Division said trial dates were available in June, but agreed with the defence lawyer that Johnson should be able to complete his schedule in Europe and the United States.

Sprinter Cheryl Thibedeau alleged that Johnson, who recently resumed his running career after a two-year ban for drug use, grabbed her around the throat in an incident last December. She said she suffered an asthma attack, a swollen throat and whiplash as a result.

Johnson was disqualified from the 1988 Seoul Olympics and stripped of a gold medal and his world record after testing positive for steroids.

# Lewis, Evans to skip Pan Am Games

RALEIGH, (North Carolina) May 4: Olympic stars Carl Lewis and Janet Evans and a number of other top US athletes will bypass this summer's Pan American Games to concentrate on other events, according to US officials, reports Reuter.

While top-ranked US teams are expected in basketball, boxing, baseball and diving, key performers in athletics, swimming and gymnastics will skip the August 2-18 games in Havana and prepare instead for competitions their federations say are more important.

"It will not be a front-line US team across the board, and it never has been, in spite of the domination of the Games by the United States," said US Olympic committee spokesman Mike Moran. "There are too many conflicts."

The conflicts, which include world and regional championships, the World Student Games and the lucrative European athletics circuit, have chipped away at the prestige of the Games, others said.



**JANET EVANS**  
Joe Douglas. "It's just not a major meet," told Reuters. "The most prominent (athletes) meet this year will be the World championships."

then the invitational meets (in Europe) where the athletes are paid and will meet the best competition," Douglas said in a telephone interview.

Even Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson has said no to the Games, which is expected to draw some 6,650 athletes and officials from 39 countries.

The former world record-holder will face Lewis and US teammate Leroy Burrell in an eagerly anticipated 100-metre race on August 5 in Malmo, Sweden, that conflicts with the Pan Am Games' athletics schedule.

Sprint star Michael Johnson, two-time Olympic hurdles champion Roger Kingdon and 1988 gold medalists Joe DeLoach and Steve Lewis also will be in Europe or preparing for the world championships, in Tokyo August 24 through September 1.

"It's a 'B' team for sure," said Pete Cava, a spokesman for the Athletics Congress, the US governing body for athletics. "But in some ways our 'B' team would be an 'A' team in

many countries."

In swimming, the best US talent will be heading North, not South, in August.

The first two finishers in the US championships are committed to the Pan Pacific championships, August 22-25 in Edmonton, Alberta, which will match swimmers from Australia, Canada, China, Japan, the United States and Latin America.

For top US gymnasts, the focus will be on the World gymnastics championships September 6-15 in Indianapolis.

"There wasn't enough time for them to prepare for both the Pan Am Games and the World championships," said Patti Auer, US Gymnastics Federation spokeswoman.

The US men's basketball team, a group of college players, will bear only a slight resemblance to the 1992 US squad for the Barcelona Olympics, where pros from the National Basketball Association are expected to be a dominant force.

# Tahmid inches towards IM norm

National Champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman maintained his lead in the first United Insurance International Masters' chess tournament beating former Bangladesh Champion Rezaul Hoque in the eighth round yesterday, reports UNB.

FIDE master Tahmidur Rahman topped the points table securing seven points and needs two and half points more from the remaining five encounters to earn his first norm for becoming an International Master.

Tahmid will play against IM T.N. Paremawaran and V. Koshi of India, Zillur Rahman Champak, Jamilur Rahman and Younus Hassan of Bangladesh.

Pakistani International Master Mahmood Ahmed Lodhi followed the leader with five and half points. Yesterday we drew with V Koshi of India.

International Masters T.N. Paremawaran and N.K.Misra of India were jointly in third position securing five points each at the end of the eighth round.

Paremawaran beat Maruf Ahmed while N.K. Misra drew with Ashraf Hossain Nannu on Saturday.

# Korda in semis

TAMPA, Florida, May 4: Top seed Richey Reneberg and fourth-seeded Czechoslovak Petr Korda posted convincing straight set victories on Friday to advance to the semifinals of the 250,000-dollar Clay Courts of Tampa tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

Reneberg, ranked 27th in the world and looking for his first career tournament title, downed seventh-seeded fellow American Malival Walfait Washington 6-3, 6-3.

Today, Reneberg will take on Peruvian Pablo Arraya, who recovered after dropping a first set tiebreak to eliminate Kelly Evernden of New Zealand 6-7, 6-4, 6-1.

Korda easily handled Mikael Pernfors of Sweden 6-3, 6-2, to set up a semifinal against unseeded American Chris Garner, who prevailed in a tight match with Argentine qualifier Javier Frana 4-6, 7-6, 6-6 by taking both tiebreaks by 7-5 scores.

Korda said Friday's win was "like a dream" because he had admired Pernfors ever since he watched the Swede reach the 1986 French Open final as

# Radical decision postponed

ZURICH, May 4: The organising committee for the 1994 World Cup on Friday postponed a decision on a radical proposal from the US organisers regarding the final, reports Reuter.

An International Football Federation (FIFA) committee spokesman said the proposal was that the final be replayed and not settled by penalty kicks if it remained tied after extra time.

The committee decided that to facilitate identification, the players names would be on the back of their jerseys with the numbers in front.

The committee also gave the green light to a request from coaches that the two substitutes allowed be chosen from any of the 11 remaining players of the 22 registered with FIFA before the final rounds.

But, as this involved a change in the rules it would need the approval of the FIFA's law-making body, the International Football Association Board, when it meets in Belfast next month, the officials added.

# Lendl, Borg for Italian Open

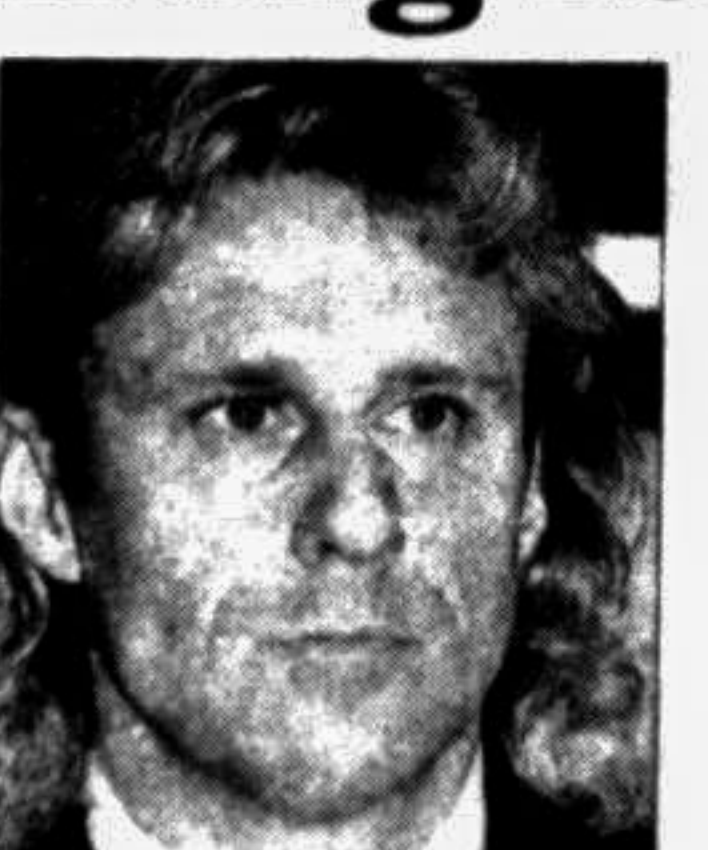
ROME, May 4: Ivan Lendl and Bjorn Borg may have to dig deep into their reserves of courage when they return to Rome for the Italian Open tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

World number three Lendl, who declared he would never play in Rome again after being constantly heckled by the Italian crowd on his way to the title in 1988, has decided he is ready to face the rowdy Foro Italico fans again.

Five-times Wimbledon champion Borg, returning at the age of 34 after a considerable long absence than the Czechoslovak-born American, faces a far tougher test of his mettle in his comeback attempt.

His first competitive match for eight years in Mote Carlo last month ended in a humiliating defeat, followed shortly after by the added trauma of a suicide attempt by his Italian wife Loredana Bertie.

Organisers said Borg, winner on his last appearance in Rome when he beat Italian idol Adriano Panatta in the 1978 final, had asked to play



**BJORN BORG**

but they could not confirm he would do so.

The entry for the tournament is the strongest for years. It includes most top players except men's world number one Stefan Edberg and women's number two Steffi Graf.

The 500,000-dollar women's tournament, for which seeds will be announced on Sunday, runs from May 6 to 12.

The men's competition, worth 1.28 million dollars, is from May 13 to 19. With Graf absent because of playing commitments in her

native Germany, the women's favourite is likely to be world number one Monica Seles who won last year.

Yugoslav Seles, who in March knocked Graf off the number one perch she had occupied since August 1987, can expect to meet either third-ranked Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina or the fourth-ranked Martina Navratilova in the final.

As well as Sabatini, the wildly partisan fans will get behind American teenager Jennifer Capriati - beaten by the Argentine last year - and Italian number one Sandra Cecchini.

In the men's competition, three-times Wimbledon winner Boris Becker, who was beaten in the final of the Monte Carlo Open on Monday, will again be chasing that elusive first clay court title.

Lendl, more at home on clay than Becker, won here in 1986 and 1988.

Also strongly in the running will be Guy Forget of France, now world number five behind Andre Agassi. It is not yet clear whether the colourful American will play in Rome.

Last year's winner, Austrian



**IVAN LENDEL**

Thomas Muster, has dropped out of the top 20 but remains a dangerous outsider.

Local passion will be reserved for Italy's fastest-rising player, Cristiano Caratti, dubbed the Karate Kid, who beat Lendl at the Milan indoor tournament in February.

Other crowd-pullers will be John McEnroe, whose fiery temperament delights the raucous Italian fans, and Sweden's Mats Wilander, back after dabbling in a rock music career.