

# Susanti sails into qtrs

TOKYO, Jan 21: World Champion Susi Susanti eased aside the challenge from Kanako Yonekura here today to go through to the women's singles quarter-finals of the 110,000 US dollar Japan Open badminton championships, reports AFP.

The 22-year-old Indonesian, who has conquered all the major titles including the Barcelona Olympics and all-England, paid no attention to the spectators cheering against her, and beat the Japanese high school girl 11-9, 11-3.

Although not on top form, Susanti was never in danger as she jumped ahead after the score went to eight-all in the first game.

"It was my usual game. She (Yonekura) played well, but she lacks experience. If she gains more experiences, I think she'll be a good player," said the world number one.

In the quarter-finals later at the Yoyogi Gymnasium, Susanti will take on Cathrine Bengtsson of Sweden, who edged past China Open champion Han Jingta 12-11, 8-11, 11-4.

All the other Japanese play-

ers were knocked out of the women's singles competition.

Hisako Mizui and her younger sister Yasuko, the winner and runner-up at the National Championships last month, crashed to Camilla Martin of Denmark 4-11, 12-10, 6-11, and Hany 4-11, 8-11, respectively.

And Michiyo Kitaura went down to Lee Joo-Hyun of South Korea 4-11, 12-11, 2-11.

European champion Ernille Nedergaard Jensen, who staved off a total of five match points in the first two rounds Wednesday, booked another place for Denmark when she outplayed Hu Ning of China 12-9, 5-11, 11-5.

She will play another Chinese, Liu Yuhong, the winner over Deng Si-An of Canada 11-3, 11-3.

In the men's singles third round, Indonesians Joko Suprianto, Heryanto Arbie and Ardy Wiranata moved into the next round with straight-games victories, but Hermawan Susanto crashed to Jens Olsson of Sweden 12-15, 12-15.

World Champion Suprianto beat Peter Espersen of Denmark 15-12, 15-2, defending

champion Arby edged out Oliver Pongratz of Germany 15-7, 15-10, and Wiranata defeated China's Dong Jiong 15-8, 15-8.

Joint third seeds Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen and Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen ended their third round matches differently.

Stuer-Lauridsen repeated his performance in the Taipei Open, beating Jerem van Dijk of the Netherlands 14-17, 15-2, 15-3, while Hoyer-Larsen bowed out to Park Sung-Wool of South Korea 18-14, 15-10, 15-2.

In the quarter-finals, Suprianto will play China's Hu Zhilan, Wiranata will take on Park and Arbie will meet Thomas Johansson of Sweden.

Meanwhile, defending champion Ye Zhaoying became the first woman to reach the women's singles semi-finals by trouncing Indonesia's Ika Heny.

The Chinese teenager, who outplayed Christine Magnusson of Sweden earlier, before a tough three-game doubles match with Han Jingta only one hour ago, showed no sign of fatigue in scoring a lopsided 11-3, 11-0 victory.

# Ma withdraws threat

HONG KONG, Jan 21: China's mercurial supercoach Ma Junren has withdrawn a threat to resign after the authorities crumpled to his demand for more cash, it was reported today, reports AFP.

The National Sports Ministry has stumped up grants totalling 1.32 million yuan (1650,000 dollars), and the State Sports Commission and the authorities in Liaoning province have now confirmed that Ma has withdrawn his resignation, the Hong Kong China News Service said.

Ma angrily tendered his resignation on January 15 to officials in the Northeastern province of Liaoning, where his training camp is based.

He complained that lack of funds has forced him to cancel a planned trip to a high-altitude training camp in the Southern Province of Yunnan.

The Beijing-funded agency said today that training had never been interrupted.

Ma became an instant millionaire on Wednesday, when he reportedly sold the recipe for a health elixir for more than 1.4 million dollars to a Zhongshan-based nutritional firm.

The potion, reputedly made the turtle blood, is claimed to have helped his team of runners set up new world records, coupled with unconventional training.

The larger-than-life coach became an international celebrity when his team of women runners, spearheaded by Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia, demolished world records in the 1,500m, 3000m and 10,000m at the World Championships in Stuttgart and the National Games in Beijing.



Steffi Graf of Germany hits a forehand return to her compatriot Barbara Rittner in their third-round match of the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday. Graf won 6-2, 6-4. — AFP photo

# Graf against changeovers

MELBOURNE, Jan 21: The television companies won't thank her for it, but world No 1 Steffi Graf wants to do away with changeovers during tennis matches, reports AFP.

Graf, one of the fastest-moving players on the women's circuit, wants to play on and do away with the traditional one minute's rest at the court-side after every two games.

Graf was asked about her views on changeovers after putting out German compatriot Barbara Rittner in straight sets in the third round of the Australian Open here today.

"I am somebody who likes to go out and play right away," said Graf.

"I just don't like just sitting there.

"That's the way you train and practice, you just keep going and you want to play, you just want to continue.

"But I don't think television would like it (taking away the court-side chairs).

# Lendl fined

MELBOURNE, Jan 21: Former titleholder Ivan Lendl was fined \$1,000 (US) Friday by Australian Open tennis tournament officials for uttering an audible obscenity, reports AP.

Officials said the incident occurred in his third-round match against Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands. Lendl, who became involved in several disputes over line calls, won in four sets.

Tournament supervisor Bill Gilmour is also considering an incident in which fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia smashed his racket during his victory Friday over American Aaron Krickstein.

Ivanisevic has already been fined \$350 (US) during the tournament for ball abuse.

# Sampras, Graf ease through

MELBOURNE, Jan 21: Top seeds Pete Sampras and Steffi Graf both shifted up a gear Friday and scored clear-cut victories to advance to the fourth round of their singles events at the Australian Open, reports AP.

Three-time women's champion Graf overwhelmed fellow German Barbara Rittner 6-2, 6-4, while Sampras, the reigning US Open and Wimbledon champion, recovered from a third-set slump to beat Frenchman Stephane Simian 7-5, 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 and move into the men's fourth round.

Jim Courier, seeking to become only the third man to win three straight Australian titles, found the going tougher.

Courier took two hours 41 minutes to win a night session baseline slugfest against Sweden's Nicklas Kulti 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (7-1).

The first game lasted 10 minutes, setting the pattern for a war of attrition that was interrupted only by a four-minute rain delay in the third set.

Kulti had a set point at 5-4 in the third set, but No. 3 seed Courier fought back to win the last three games, ending with an ace.

Sampras, who is bidding for his third straight Grand Slam, described the blustery conditions as among the toughest he has played in.

"I also took a bit of a siesta (in the third set) and you can't do that in the latter rounds of a tournament like this," he said.

Graf, the women's top seed in the absence of defending champion Monica Seles, was twice forced off court by rain showers but used her lethal forehand to bludgeon her way to victory.

Graf has been gaining weights to build up her strength, while a new racket has given her added confidence and thrust at the net.

"I feel a lot better around the net now," she said. "I kind of know where the ball is going, so I feel more secure."

Graf, winner of the Australian Open in 1988, 1989 and 1990, now faces unseeded Sandrine Testud of France in the fourth round.

Testud, a 21-year-old from Lyon who had not previously made it past the second round of any Grand Slam, downed 13th-seeded Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-3.

"I had nothing to lose," Testud said. "I just wanted to play my best."

No. 3 seed Conchita Martinez of Spain and No. 6 Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States also scored comprehensive victories.

Martinez blasted American Amy Frazier 6-3, 6-0 in 56 minutes and Fernandez beat compatriot Caroline Kuhlman 6-4, 6-1.

Anke Huber, the No. 7 seed from Germany, was surprised 3-6, 7-6 (12-10), 6-4 by American Ginger Helgeson. Huber squandered three match points in the tiebreaker, in which she served three double

faults. Huber had 15 double faults in total.

"My serve was terrible," Huber said. "I still wonder how I can play like this."

Kimiko Date of Japan, the 10th seed, beat Australian Rachel McQuillan 6-3, 7-5, while No. 16 Lindsay Davenport, another American, breezed by Elena Makarova of Russia 6-1, 6-2.

Two-time men's champion Ivan Lendl continued his

resurgence after a disappointing 1993, beating Dutchman Paul Haarhuis to advance to a fourth-round meeting with Sampras.

"Ivan is hitting the ball as well as I've seen him in a while," Sampras said. "If you open the door, he's going to walk right in."

Lendl, the No. 15 seed, downed Haarhuis 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 in a match played after the centre court roof was closed.

# AUSSIE OPEN NOTEBOOK

MELBOURNE, Jan 21: Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash has undergone back surgery in a bid to save his tennis career, reports AP.

Cash, who made a comeback last month after 12 months out of the game with a knee injury, underwent surgery on Wednesday to repair a protruding disc in his lower back.

"It is a nightmare," said Cash, who will not be able to play tennis for at least three months.

Cash requested a wild card into the Australian Open, but later withdrew his request because of the pain the back injury was causing.

Cash has been plagued by a variety of injuries since winning Wimbledon in 1987.

\*\*\*

**IT DIDN'T SEEM TO HELP:** Two players who didn't make it past the first round to the Australian Open — Germany's Michael Stich and Canadian Greg Rusedski — remained the serve-speed leaders.

The second-seeded Stich, who was upset by MaliVal Washington of the United States, has the fastest serve at 206 kilometers per hour (128mph) and Rusedski is second at 201 kph (125 mph).

The women's leaders are top-seeded Steffi Graf and the Czech Republic's fifth-seeded Jana Novotna, both tied at 169 kph (105 mph).

\*\*\*

**LENDL SUPPORT:** Ivan Lendl believes the experimental Tennis Electronic Line (TEL) line-calling system should be installed on all courts at the Australian Open.

The system was successfully trialed during the Hopman Cup in Perth earlier this month and is being used for some matches on Court 2 at the National Tennis Center.

"I thought it was fantastic in Perth — it takes all uncertainty away from calls," Lendl said. "I would have loved to have seen it installed 10 years ago."

The electromagnetic device uses antenna rays installed beneath the court surface, which react to iron filings in the ball — the flight of which is tracked by a computer to its precise landing position.

Lendl, meanwhile, could lose coach Tony Roche, who is one of the leading candidates for the vacant job of Australian Davis Cup captain.

Lendl, whose career is winding down, said he wouldn't replace Roche if he does take the job.

\*\*\*

**SAMPRAS SIGNS:** Top-ranked Pete Sampras is back with the International Management Group, the sports marketing company that he signed with early in his career. The Cleveland-based IMG confirmed in a statement Friday that it would represent Sampras for endorsements, appearances and exhibitions. Other IMG tennis clients include Jim Courier and Monica Seles.

\*\*\*

**SCOREBOARD SHORTCUT:** American tennis player Kathy Rinaldi Stunkel married her high-school sweetheart Brad Stunkel in December, and now plays under the elongated name. But the scoreboards at the National Tennis Center can't quite handle it, so it became "Rinaldi Stunk" in a doubles match. Stadium officials are trying to come up with a better abbreviation for her next match.

\*\*\*

**DRESS THEM UP:** United States-based Mary Pierce of France has turned a few heads at the Australian Open by wearing a white tennis dress over black lycra bicycle shorts, although it's a far cry from the elegant lace-panty versions designed by late couturier and tennis personality Ted Tinling.

Steffi Graf said Friday at the Australian Open that she had considered wearing a tennis dress two years ago at Wimbledon, but decided against it when manufacturers couldn't come up with a suitable stretchy material that would allow her to be comfortable on court.

"I almost had it ready for Wimbledon but I just didn't feel comfortable doing it. I haven't been able to find the right one," said Graf. "When you see the pictures 20 years ago I think it looks great, and that's why I wanted to do it." But she said there is hope she might wear one in the future.

# Osaka to bid for 2008 Summer Games

TOKYO, Jan 21: Osaka, the economic centre of western Japan, is planning to bid for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, city officials said Friday, reports AP.

Osaka, located about 400 kilometers (255 miles) west of Tokyo, will open a full-time promotional operation next year and register its candidacy with the Japan Olympic Committee in 1996, said Yoshiro Nakaf, the city's planning department.

He said the city is considering a budget of from 100 billion to 120 billion yen (dls 1 billion to 1.2 billion) to cover the construction of new facilities and the other costs of holding the Games.

Greater Osaka, with a population of nearly 17 million, is the second-largest urban area in Japan. Osaka city proper, which has a population of 2.6 million, is Japan's third-largest after Tokyo and Yokohama.

Inspired in part by a centuries-old rivalry with Tokyo, Osaka officials are hoping that hosting the Olympics will help draw some attention away from the capital and give their city more international clout and recognition.

Mayor Masaya Nishio first voiced an interest in hosting the Olympics two years ago, but city officials had not been able to decide on which year to bid for.

Planner Nakai said Osaka is the first city to formally express an interest in hosting the 2008 Games. The International Olympic Committee is to choose the 2008 site in 2001.

Osaka would be the second Japanese city to host a Summer Games. The first was Tokyo, in 1964. The Tokyo Games were the first ever held in Asia.

Sapporo, on the northern island of Hokkaido, hosted the Winter Games of 1972, and Nagano, just a few hours north of Tokyo by train, has been chosen to host the 1998 Winter Olympics.

# 'Magic' made persona non-grata?

JAKARTA, Jan 21: Indonesia's immigration director said today that former US basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson will not be allowed to enter the country next month, but that the decision could be overruled by either the health or sports ministers, reports AP.

Johnson, who is scheduled to play in an exhibition game here, has the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the precursor to the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

"If he insists to visit, we will refuse him," immigration director, general Roni Sikap Sinuraya told journalists. "The law stipulates that the immigration officials are allowed to bar a person who suffers from insanity or contagious diseases to enter the country."

Roni said an exception could be made by the Health

Minister or the Youth Affairs and Sports Minister if one of them decided the benefits of the visit would outweigh the risks. The two ministers have not recommended the visit, he said.

Roni added that Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Hayono Isman told him that he had allowed a private organizer to invite Johnson and his All-Star team as long as that did not violate the law.

Roni said, however, that the government had not received a formal request from the organizer to allow Johnson and the team to enter the country, and added that the government was not involved in planning the visit.

Health Minister Suyudi said last week of Johnson, "We should welcome him warmly because he will give information to the society on the danger of AIDS."

Suyudi also said that the HIV-positive Johnson already knows how to conduct himself, "So we do not need to give him special surveillance."

But those statements apparently were not tantamount to official permission for the basketball player to enter.

Magic Johnson All Stars basketball team is expected to arrive here February 24 for a four-day visit that will include an exhibition match to raise funds for a campaign against AIDS.

Johnson's team will face the runner-up of the 1992 Australian Basketball League, the Perth-based Wildcats on February 26 and 27.

# Deep dark secret

BERLIN, Jan 21: Communist East Germany subjected top athletes to electric shock treatment to boost performance, according to new releases of Stasi Secret Police documents, reports AFP.

The regime has already been shown to be the biggest user of banned drugs to win international prestige. But Stasi documents sent to a German Parliament Sports Commission on Wednesday show an even greater desperation to win gold medals and titles.

An 'electrical muscle stimulation' programme costing several million dollars was launched in the 1970s. Press reports said research was carried out with the Soviet Union.

The East German Communist Party's Politburo, presided by former leader Erich Honecker, ordered the programme against the advice of many doctors. The documents said medical experts warned there was a high risk of cardiac problems and heart attacks.

Manfred Ewald, former head of the East German Sports Federation, was quoted as saying in one Stasi report that "only performances count and for that end all means must be used."

The East German authorities bought 60 of the electric shock machines. But researchers have not been able to find the names of athletes who received the treatment. They believe that weightlifters were most involved.

Since reunification in 1990, a special government agency has been responsible for researching Stasi records. It has uncovered evidence of a huge use of anabolic steroids and other banned performance enhancing drugs.

A top secret department developed the drugs and special treatments, and forced coaches to use, coaches in the former east German sports administration now claim.

The latest batch of documents show that five weightlifters even had to go operations in 1984 because their chest muscles had developed out of proportion.

Their is also evidence that anti-depressants were used to make athletes more aggressive in competition.

# Revelation

LONDON, Jan 21: Sports injuries can lead to a crippling form of arthritis in later life, Finnish researchers reported on Friday, reports Reuter.

Doctors at the Helsinki Research Institute for Sports Exercise and Medicine reported a higher incidence in athletes than non-athletes of osteoarthritis, marked by a painful degeneration of the cartilage in the joints.

"Athletes doing endurance sports, mixed sports and power sports all had higher incidence of admission to hospital for osteoarthritis than controls," they wrote in the British Medical Journal.

"Athletes from all types of competitive sports are at slightly increased risk of requiring hospital care because of osteoarthritis of the hip, knee or ankle," said the researchers, who studied more than 2,000 Finnish male athletes.

They did not study the reasons for their findings but said the effect was most likely to be linked to sports injuries. They noted that knee injuries were linked to osteoarthritis in earlier studies.

"Proper treatment of injuries to the joints in these athletic groups is important to prevent premature osteoarthritis," they concluded.

# Good news for dopers

ROME, Jan 21: The current mandatory four-year ban on athletes who fail dope tests could be cut, International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) president Primo Nebiolo said in an interview published on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The IAAF bans athletes for four years. Too long? I would say so and I'm sure that at our 1995 congress in Gothenburg we'll discuss a reduction of this sanction," Nebiolo told the Corriere Della Sera.

# LILLEHAMMER NOTEBOOK

LILLEHAMMER, Norway, Jan 21: The first official Winter Olympic flag was made for the 1952 Games in Oslo, according to Norwegians, reports AP.

"So, after four decades of duty at every Winter Olympics since, what could be more logical than trading it in for another Norwegian flag, from the 1994 host city of Lillehammer?"

The Oslo flag was returned to Norway, with great celebration, after the 1992 Winter Games in Albertville, France. But the Norwegians noticed that the flag they gave the International Olympic Committee was becoming threadbare.

"The flag is 42 years old and is getting worn and soiled," said Lillehammer Mayor Audun Tron. "The flag started out in Norway in 1952 and it seems like the thing to do is to replace it with another Norwegian flag."

Tron said the town of 23,000 would like the old flag, now displayed at the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee (LOOC) headquarters, for an Olympic museum planned after the Games.

LOOC President Gerhard Heiberg said the fate of the Oslo flag would have to be decided by the IOC.

\*\*\*

**FLICKERING FLAME:** LOOC President Gerhard Heiberg might sometimes wish he had a fire extinguisher.

First, the Greeks were angry because the Norwegians wanted to mix their own Olympic flame with the real one from Greece.

Now many Norwegians — especially those from the Morgedal valley in south Norway — are furious because their flame won't reach Lillehammer.

"It started out so simple," said Heiberg about a plan to unite the Greek Olympic flame with one Norwegians ignited in Morgedal, a valley they call the cradle of skiing, on Feb. 5.

"I used to laugh about the dispute. Now I sometimes feel like crying," he said.

Norwegians have been carrying the Morgedal flame on a 75-day nationwide relay after they lit it outside the mountain cabin of Sondre Norheim, a famous 19th century skier.

The first flame for a Winter Olympics was lit in Morgedal for the 1952 Oslo Games, and again for the 1960 Games in Squaw Valley.

"There is a certain historic basis for the protests," Heiberg said.

Some residents of Morgedal have threatened to reclaim their flame and bring it home.

The Greeks, who lit the real flame in Ancient Olympic last weekend, have refused to allow the flames to be mixed in Oslo on Feb. 5 because it would taint the purity of the real flame.

Thousands of Norwegians have been carrying the Morgedal flame on a roughly 8,000-kilometre (5,000 mile) trek through Norway and refuse to see it simply doused.

Heiberg said he thought the problem had been solved several times.

"But I am trying to find a final solution that will be acceptable to everyone," he said.

\*\*\*

**FOLKS MEDAL:** Lillehammer organisers have introduced what they called "The Folks Medal" on which sports fans can keep track of how their country is doing.

The medal, with the official Lillehammer logo, pictographs for the events and a flag of the wearer's choice, also comes in a set of tiny Olympic medals.

Each time the wearer's country wins a medal, he or she can hang a corresponding gold, silver or bronze from their own medal.

The problem for Norwegians — second in total Winter Olympic medals only to the former Soviet Union — is that the set has just 15 medals, five each of gold, silver and bronze.

Norway hopes to run out the first week of the 16-day Games.

\*\*\*

**FIRE TRAP:** The new 240,000 million kroner (dls 32 million) Haakon Hall skating rink in Lillehammer failed a fire department inspection, a newspaper revealed less than a month to go until the Feb. 12 Games.

According to the Oslo newspaper Verdens Gang, the inspectors in December found emergency exits in the 10,000 spectator hall were covered with Olympic curtains and emergency exit signs were covered with paper so they would not show on television.

Organisers were also required to replace up to 2,000 information signs at various venues, at a cost of 300,000 kroner (dls 40,000) because they were the same green as security signs.



**GOLD LEAF PRESENTS ONE-DAY CRICKET SERIES WORLD CHAMPION PAKISTAN IN ACTION AGAINST BANGLADESH**

January 23 & 24, 1994 National Stadium No. 1

Tickets available at the following Agrani Bank branches: B. B. Avenue, Purana Paltan, WAPDA, sadarghat, Mowlovibazar, Dhanmondi, Banani, Dhaka and Court Road, B.B. road, Narayanganj