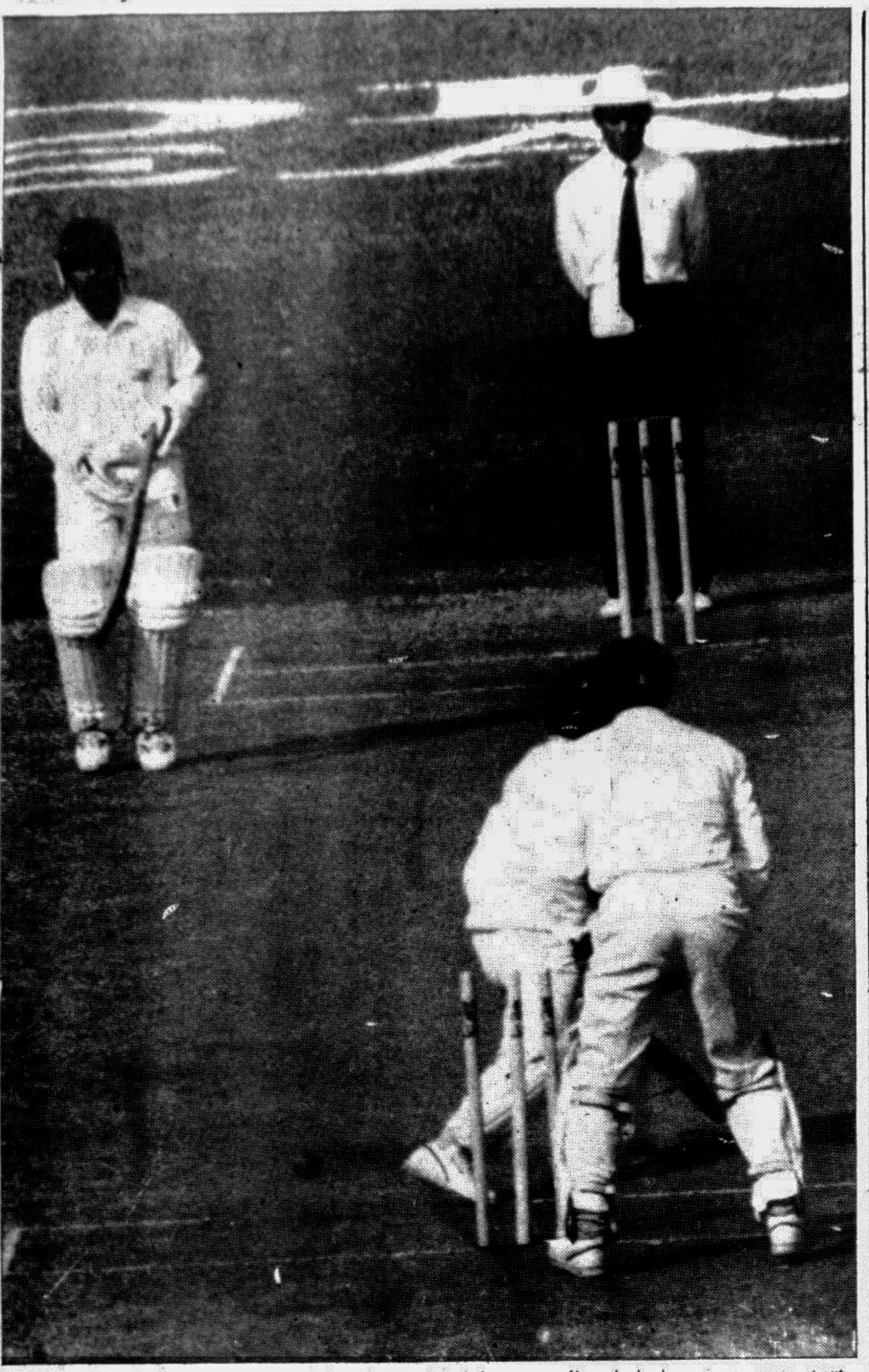


## Sport



BAMBOOLED: Jahangir Alau, who along with Athar gave Bangladesh a rip-roaring start, knew very little about this one from Pakistani leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed. Jahangir scored 17 in an impressive Bangladeshi total of 210 for five. — Star photo

## Fine treble for Indonesia

TOKYO, Jan 23: Ardy Wiranata wrested back the title he won twice before, beating compatriot Heri Yanto Arbie in the men's singles final at the 110,000 dollar Japan Open badminton championships here Sunday, reports AFP.

The 1991-92 champion, whose title defence last year was thwarted by Arbie's sensational jump smashes, frustrated his young teammate by displaying crafty court coverage to pile up a 12-15, 15-6, 15-3 win in an all-Indonesian final.

Fresh from victory at the season-opening Taipei Open a week ago, Arbie started the match with his signature jump smashes, repeatedly hitting the target to get ahead from 6-6 and 12-12 before taking the first game.

But Wiranata, as he had planned before the match, used soft-touched shots to the front and accurate jabs to the baseline, moving Arbie back and forth and not giving many chances for a smash.

### Newcombe new Aussie Davis Cup captain

MELBOURNE, Jan 23: John Newcombe, the winner of seven Grand Slam singles titles as a player, was named Sunday as captain of Australia's Davis Cup tennis team, reports AP.

Newcombe's longtime doubles partner, Tony Roche, was named as coach. The pair shared 12 Grand Slam tournament doubles triumphs.

They gained 7,700 dollars, and the losers 5,500 dollars.

Ricky Subagja and Denny Kantono joined Susanti and Wiranata for Indonesia's triple victory when they powered past Skrappee Thongsar and Pranote Teerawiwatana of Thailand 15-11, 12-15, 18-16 in the men's doubles final.

They gained 7,700 dollars, and the losers 5,500 dollars.

Authorities had been trying to extradite Astaphan since last year. He was arrested Jan. 8 when his flight from the Antigua to Canada was diverted to New York City because of bad weather.

Since his arrest, he has pleaded innocent to a companion federal indictment in Buffalo, NY, charging him with selling 1,300 vials of steroids for \$14,000 to undercover agents who posed as the owners of a Florida chain of physical fitness centres.

A federal magistrate ordered Astaphan held for another arraignment in Tampa before he is returned to Buffalo for a hearing Feb. 16. No date was immediately set for the Tampa hearing.

Astaphan was Johnson's personal doctor when the sprinter tested positive for steroids during the 1988 Seoul Olympics. After Johnson's drug use was discovered, he was stripped of his gold medal in the 100 metres and was suspended from international athletics for two years.

Canadian authorities suspended Astaphan from practicing medicine for 18 months and fined him \$15,000 for supplying steroids to Johnson and other athletes.

While steroids develop muscle tissue to enhance athletic performance, they are suspected of causing liver damage and other health problems. Most athletic organizations ban the use of steroids.

World champion Susi Susanti of Indonesia is at full stretch against Ye Zhaoying of China during the women's singles final of the Japan Open badminton championship in Tokyo yesterday. Susanti won 11-6, 10-12, 11-8. — AFP photo

### Anand just a win away

WIJK AAN ZEE, Netherlands, Jan 23: Indian Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand scored a crushing victory in only 25 moves to take a near-decisive lead over Russian emigre Artur Yusupov in their World Chess Championship Candidates' match in the Dutch seaside town of Wijk Aan Zee on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The 24-year-old Anand is now within one point of victory in his eight-game elimination match against Yusupov, 33, and is set to become the first Asian player to reach the final six of the World Championship in a sport still dominated by players from the former Soviet Union.

A victory in today's sixth round would see Anand exceed the result of the only previous Asian World Championship candidate, Eugenio Torre of the Philippines.

Twelve top grandmasters are competing in knockout matches in the concluding stages of the search for a challenger to world champion Anatoly Karpov of Russia.

In Saturday's eventful game, Yusupov, playing black, startled the capacity crowd in the Moriaan Sports hall by employing the unfashionable Siesta Variation against Anand's Spanish opening.

Yusupov, now resident in Germany, complicated the game by sacrificing a pawn but the world number three from Madras kept tight control. Yusupov could not handle the pressure and resigned in a devastated position with only a minute of thinking time remaining for 16 moves.

Anand was thrilled by his rapid victory. His Siesta Variation did not come as a complete surprise to me, Anand admitted. "I was never in danger."

Another Russian, Valery Salov, 29, moved to within half a point of victory in his match against compatriot Alexander Khalifman by drawing Saturday's game in five hours and 46 moves.

Salov, now living in Spain, was satisfied with his play.

"There were ways to lose this game for both sides, said Salov, but objectively the position was always about equal."

The sole US representative Gata Kamsky, another ex-Soviet emigre, also moved close to victory after brilliant defence kept Dutch champion Paul Van Der Sterren at bay.

Van Der Sterren, 37, again disappointed his large group of fans when he misplayed a winning attack and was forced to concede a draw against 19-year-old Kamsky.

"I was sure I had a winning position," said a surprisingly jovial Van Der Sterren after the game, but when I looked for the winning move it had vanished into thin air.

Susi saved three game points and crawled back to 10-10 for a two-point setting, but her shot went wide on the fourth game point to be tied at 10-10 in the second.

But the following two games turned out to be a tension-packed affair, exciting spectators at the Yoyogi Gymnasium.

Ye increased the speed of the shuttle, hitting an array of lightning smashes to get ahead 10-4 lead in the second.

Susi, conqueror of all the major titles, including gold at the Barcelona Olympics, won 11-6, 10-12, 11-8 to continue her match-winning streak.

She collected the 5,500-dollar first prize with her eighth win over the Chinese teenager against three losses.

Ye, one of only two players who defeated Susanti last season — in Tokyo and the Indonesian Open final in July, received 3,850 dollars.

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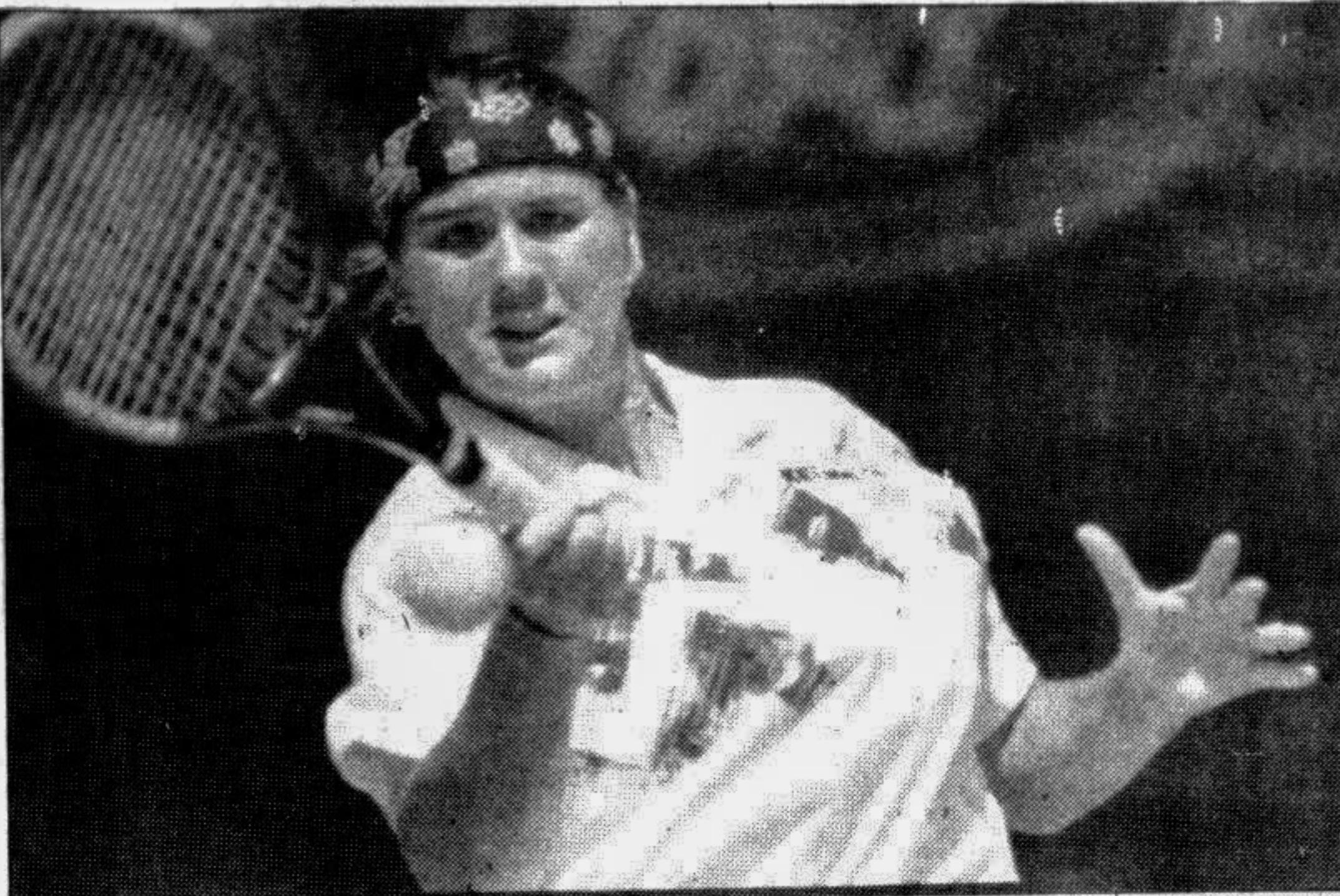
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World champion Susi Susanti of Indonesia is at full stretch against Ye Zhaoying of China during the women's singles final of the Japan Open badminton championship in Tokyo yesterday. Susanti won 11-6, 10-12, 11-8. — AFP photo



Conchita Martinez of Spain plays a forehand return against Chanda Rubin of the United States during her fourth round match in the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday. Martinez won 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 to advance to the quarter-finals. — AFP photo

## Top seeds sail into qtrs



MELBOURNE, Jan 23: The giggle is back in tennis.

With the gregarious Monica Seles on the sidelines, 17-year-old Californian Lindsay Davenport has become the new off-court jester of tennis.

She laughed her way through a news conference Sunday after overcoming an attack of nervousness to defeat Mary Joe Fernandez and reach the quarterfinals of the Australian Open, reports AP.

Davenport, the 16th-seeded woman, defeated the sixth-seeded Fernandez 6-2, 6-7 (4-7), 6-2 despite wasting four match points in the second set.

"It's kind of weird and I don't know if I can explain this, but I was pretty relieved when it got to a third set," Davenport said. "In the second set, when it got close I got nervous and stopped going for my shots. But in the third set I feel better. I don't know. It sounds really weird."

The 6-foot-2 Davenport, one of the hardest hitters in women's tennis, has become an overnight sensation with international journalists looking for a new tennis personality in the absence of Seles. The three-time champion is recovering from being stabbed in the back by a spectator in Germany in April.

With giggles as robust as her booming serve and powerful groundstrokes, Davenport said part of the reason for her success is that she still enjoys tennis.

"I turned pro when I was 16 and I have only been doing it for a year," she explained to a British writer seeking to understand the secret to her mirth. "So maybe in two years I won't be smiling."

Then she exploded in laughter and blurted into a microphone: "No, that was a joke!"

Fernandez, a two-time Australian Open finalist, said Davenport was hitting harder in the third set than the second. Davenport lumbered around the court, but overcomes her lack of speed by controlling points with her power.

"She served well when she had to and really overpowered me on the main points," Fernandez said. "She hits big shots."

Davenport, of Murrieta, Calif., will have a quarterfinal match against top-seeded Steffi Graf in a battle of perhaps the two hardest hitters currently on the women's tour.

Graf needed just 55 minutes to defeat Sandrine Testud 6-1, 6-2, 6-2. Graf, the only woman in the field who has won the Australian Open before, is seeking her fourth title at Melbourne.

Graf has reached at least the quarterfinals in 30 consecutive Grand Slam events, a streak that began with the 1985 US Open. The women's record for consecutive Grand Slam quarterfinal appearances is 34 by Chris Evert.

No 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario defeated No 14 Magdalena Maleeva and will next play her older sister, No 8 Manuela Maleeva-Friga, who defeated Sabine Hack in three sets.

No 4 Gabriela Sabatini fell behind 3-1 in her match against No 9 Mary Pierce but

then won seven straight games en route to a 6-3, 6-3 victory. Her next opponent will be No 5 Jana Novotna.

Also reaching the quarterfinals was third-seeded Conchita Martinez, who overcame an early deficit to defeat Chanda Rubin 7-6 (7-4), 6-3. Rubin, a 17-year-old from Lafayette, La., led the first set 5-2 and wasted a pair of set points.

Martinez will next play No 10 Kimiko Date, a 7-5, 6-1 winner over Ginger Helgeson, who held her serve just three times in 10 tries.

Top-seeded Pete Sampras served 19 aces in a 7-6 (7-5), 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) fourth-round victory over 15th-seeded Ivan Lendl, who had 14 aces. Sampras then paid tribute to the player who helped him develop his physical and mental toughness.

In 1988, when he was 17, Sampras went to Lendl's home in Connecticut to train with the man then ranked No 2 in the world.

"Ivan will go down as one of the greatest of all time," said Sampras, who rallied from a 4-1 deficit in the final set. "I used to be in awe of him."

No 3 Jim Courier, seeking his third straight Australian Open title, defeated No 13 Wayne Ferreira 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 and will next face fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic.

Ivanisevic had 16 aces, bringing his total for the tournament to 66, as he won 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (7-3) over Grant Stafford. No 10 Magnus Gustafsson, who next faces Sampras, was a 2-6, 6-3, 6-1, 6-1 winner over Martin Damm.

The Australian Open, played on Rebound Ace hard courts, is sponsored by Ford.

The judges scored the 12-round fight 11-10, 115-113, all for Pichit.

Pichit, 25, who now boasts a record of 21 victories and no defeats, appeared an easy winner in the first half of the fight. He peppered Johnson with powerful left hooks to the body as he went on the offensive round after round.

But the tide seemed to turn in the seventh and subsequent rounds when Johnson used his longer reach to good advantage, scoring some telling blows while Pichit swung wildly at times, probably because of the bad cut around his left eye.

Johnson, seeming to recover from the punishment of the early rounds, effectively connected with punches to Pichit's head but could not put the Thai away.

By the 11th round, it was clear that Pichit had won the day.

Johnson, 27, was ranked the No 5 contender before the bout, having won all eight bouts in his eight-month professional career.

the Women's Tennis Association has asked her to put more effort into learning the language.

Date has protested that her main concern is maintaining and improving her tennis skills, and that language lessons will distract her from her profession.

"They (the WTA) have asked me to start speaking English, but I find press conferences difficult even in Japanese. I find it hard to explain how I feel," she said.

She beat Conchita Martinez and Mary Joe Fernandez.

She now faces a quarterfinal against No 3 seed Martinez as she aims for her best result in a Grand Slam event.

While Date has not dropped a set in her opening four matches, she finds off-court pressures difficult to cope with.

Most difficult is the ordeal of facing the media.

Date has not mastered English well enough to dispense with an interpreter, and

Date: Dark horse of the pack



MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 23: Kimiko Date, the first Japanese woman to be ranked in the top 10, swept into her second consecutive Grand Slam quarterfinal with a 7-5, 6-1 victory Sunday over American Ginger Helgeson at the Australian Open, reports AP.

Date is emerging as a threat to the biggest names in the sport after winning last week's New South Wales Open, where

she beat Conchita Martinez and Mary Joe Fernandez.

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