

## Div III cricket qualifiers

Bangladesh Boys, Prierbagh Pragati, Tongi Cricketers and Islampur CC won their respective matches of the Third Division qualifying cricket tournament at different city grounds yesterday, reports APB.

Bangladesh Boys beat Azad SC by three wickets at the City Club ground.

Batting first Azad made 137 all-out in 46.3 overs.

In reply, Boys reached their target making 138 for seven in 39 overs.

Prierbagh outplayed Shajahanpur Cricketers by 150 runs at Mirpur Outer Stadium. They bundled out Shajahanpur for a trifling 50 after making 200 runs.

Tongi defeated Muslim Institute by 51 runs at Uttara Friends Club ground.

Batting first Tongi made 250 for 8 in 35 overs.

In reply, Muslim Institute wrapped up innings at 139 for nine in 35 overs.

At the T&T ground, Islampur CC earned the most convincing win of the day beating Pacific Sports by 8 wickets.

## Philippoussis recalled

SYDNEY, Feb 3: Mark Philippoussis was recalled to play to the Australian team to play Zimbabwe in the Davis Cup World Group first round match in Harare in April, reports AFP.

Philippoussis, out of favour since pulling out of the corresponding round last year when Zimbabwe beat Australia, has settled his differences with Australia's Davis Cup captain John Newcombe and coach Tony Roche.

Rat Rafter, who beat the 'scurd' in the US Open final last year, doubles specialist Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge, and teenager Lleyton Hewitt were also named in the squad for the first round tie.

"This is a great opportunity for our guys to redeem themselves," Newcombe said.

"All the guys are pumped, and Tony and myself are delighted we have the best team available for this all-important match."

The winners of the April 2-4 tie play Britain or the United States in the quarterfinals.

## Hoddle's England days over



LONDON, Feb 3: Glenn Hoddle's reign as England manager ended on Tuesday when the English Football Association (FA) terminated his contract following his reported remarks about disabled people, reports AFP.

The English Football Association (FA) announced its decision after a day of discussions at its Lancaster Gate headquarters.

Hoddle had been quoted in The Times newspaper on Saturday as implying that disabled people were being punished for sins committed in a previous life.

After Tuesday's decision was announced Hoddle apologised for having caused any offence.

"Regrettably you will have heard my contract with the FA has been terminated by mutual consent," he said in a prepared statement.

"I accept I made a serious error of judgement in an interview which caused hurt to people, that I apologise for."

"My personal thanks go to all my staff, go to all my colleagues and in particular the players with whom I have worked over the past two years."

The FA's acting executive director David Davies had earlier said both the FA and Hoddle recognised that his position had become "increasingly untenable."

In a statement, which was briefly interrupted by a shouting protester, Davies said: "With regret the FA and Glenn Hoddle have today agreed to terminate Glenn's contract."

"The position had become increasingly untenable for both the FA and for Glenn."

The FA's current director of football, Howard Wilkinson, together with Hoddle's assistant John Gorman, will take charge of the England team for the friendly against World Cup holders France at Wembley a week today.

Hoddle had been quoted as saying in Saturday's Times, "you and I have been physically given two hands and two legs and a half-decent brain."

"Some people have not been born like that for a reason, the

karma is working from another lifetime. I have nothing to hide about that. It is not only people with disabilities, what you sow, you have to reap."

The reported comments provoked a storm of protest from disabled groups and government ministers as well as the football community and England sponsors.

Hoddle's 13-year-old daughter Zara had earlier on Tuesday pleaded in a letter to the BBC for people to listen to her father.

"I am very supportive of disabled people and so is my dad," she said.

"It think this situation is the most pathetic reason for someone to maybe lose their job and to have so much hassle over."

"If you would take time to listen to what his explanation is then maybe you would understand it a bit more."

The 40-year-old former Tottenham and Monaco player became England manager when Terry Venables left the job following the 1996 European Championship.

Under Hoddle's command England won the Tournoi de France in 1997 but were knocked out of the World Cup last year in the second round after a penalty shootout defeat by Argentina.

Hoddle later caused a storm by revealing in a World Cup diary details of his confrontation with Paul Gascoigne, whom he left out of the World Cup Squad, and claiming that if he had taken his faith healer Eileen Drewery to France, England would have done "20 per cent" better.

However, he would not concede the decision to not order his players to practice penalties was a mistake. David Batty, whose penalty miss gave the tie to Argentina, had never previously taken a spot-kick.

His last match in charge was the 2-0 Wembley win against the Czech Republic on November 18.

After hearing Hoddle had lost his job on Tuesday Drewery denounced what she saw as "a witchhunt" against her friend.

Hoddle is the third high-profile departure from the FA in the last two months. Chairman Keith Wiseman and chief executive Graham Kelly both resigned over a controversial loan to the Welsh FA.

Blair said if the comments had been accurately reported Hoddle should go but Hoddle refused to resign, claiming he had been "misinterpreted."

Blair's office gave no comment following Hoddle's sacking but Sports Minister Tony Banks said: "It is a personal tragedy that Glenn Hoddle's career as England coach has ended in this fashion."

"He is a decent man but his views as expressed, as David Davies has just said, caused distress to many disabled sports men and women who have achieved so many sporting triumphs for the country."

Mencap, Britain's largest disability charity, said it "wholeheartedly" supported the FA's decision and branded Hoddle's comments as "dreadful."

Sarah Talbot-Williams, Mencap's head of communications, said: "Glenn Hoddle's exit

is a victory for fair play in football and among people with a learning disability."

"It is only right that the English coach pays a just penalty for comments which caused offence and fuelled more bigotry to those who already face prejudice."

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## Hingis, Seles reach qtrs

TOKYO, Feb 3: Australian Open champion Martina Hingis rebounded for a 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 victory over fast-moving Ai Sugiyama of Japan in the Toray Pan Pacific Open at the Metropolitan Gymnasium Wednesday, reports AP.

Sugiyama, unseeded but at 25th Japan's highest-ranked in the world, bothered the No. 2 ranked and second-seeded Swiss teenager with some big serves, good returns and sharp-shooting down the lines in the first set of second-round action in the 16th annual women's tournament.

But Hingis, fresh from winning her third straight Australian Open title last week, came back in the second set with two consecutive service breaks, running Sugiyama ragged in rallies and tapping her out with volleys or soft, angled shots.

Defending champion and the world's top-ranked Lindsay Davenport of the United States was idle in the singles play. The top seed, one of four prominent players who were given first-round byes, meets compatriot Mary Joe Fernandez in a second-round action Thursday.

Third seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic, the 1997 US Open champion, takes on South African Mariaan de Swardt also in a second-round match Thursday.

First reaching the quarterfinals Wednesday along with Hingis was fourth seed Monica Seles of the United States, who easily ousted Sarah Pitkowski of France 1-6, 3-6.

In one of four first-round matches on the second day of the tournament, fifth seed Steffi Graf of Germany took just 40 minutes to eliminate American qualifier Samantha Reeves 6-0, 6-1.

Hingis said she had a difficult match but was satisfied with the day's result coming "after a big win and in the fifth week of the season."

"And I was very tough," Hingis added. She was giving 100 per cent, may be 200, at the beginning... I was surprised the way she played. She was very fast and didn't miss anything."

Hingis said after losing the first set she kept telling herself, "I want to get back to the No. 1 spot and I won the Australian Open. Then I lose here in my first round? No way. Come on, you've got to fight."

Seles the former No. 1 in the world and currently ranked fourth, was a quarterfinalist here last year.

"All my goal really for this year will be to win a Grand Slam," said Seles. "Obviously I had a great tournament in Australia. But at the same time Martina beat me very easily (6-2, 6-4 in the semifinals). So there is a long way to go to really play consistently against someone like Martina, Lindsay and some other players."

For Graf, it is her first time to compete in the Toray Open since 1997, when she was forced to withdraw in the final against Hingis due to knee injury.

Graf, seven-time Wimbledon champion, is ranked seventh in the world. "And my knee is doing very well."

Gustafsson exits

MARSEILLE, France, Feb 3: Magnus Gustafsson was among three seeds to suffer shock defeats to French opposition in the first round of the 514,000 dollars Marseille Open on Tuesday, reports AP.

The Swede, seeded five, was beaten in straight sets by Guillaume Raoux, 6-3, 6-4.

Russia's Marat Safin, the No. 8 seed, was eliminated by Julien Boutter, 6-4, 7-6 while No. 7 seed Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic was easily beaten by another Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, 6-2, 6-3.

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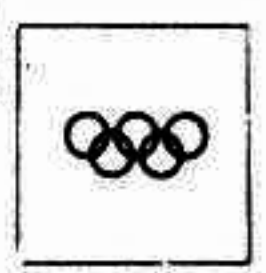
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German superstar Steffi Graf obliging autograph hunters after her Toray Pan Pacific Open match against American Samantha Reeves at Tokyo yesterday. Graf won 6-0, 6-1.

— AFP photo

## IOC summit starts on hot note



LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Feb 3: The International Olympic Committee came under fire from world government leaders Tuesday, as the White House leading calls for the scandal-hit agency to clean up its act, reports AP.

"Recent examples of alleged corruption, lack of accountability and the failure of leadership have challenged the legitimacy of this institution," White House drug czar Barry McCaffrey said on the opening day of the IOC's drug summit.

McCaffrey said the IOC must institute democratic reforms and open its books to have any credibility in leading the fight against doping.

A top IOC official retorted that the United States has no right to lecture the IOC when drug use remains rampant in American sports and cited baseball slugger Mark McGwire's use of a controversial muscle-booster as a sign of American "hypocrisy."

"If you go on the moralising and lecturing tone, you must be sure you own house is in order," senior IOC executive board member Jacques Rogge said.

The sharp exchange underscored the IOC's worst fear — that the drug conference would be overshadowed by the fallout from the worst corruption scandal in Olympic history.

"We need to restore faith in the Olympic movement," British Sports Minister Tony Banks said. "At the moment, it's sour and sullied. The IOC's reputation is on the line. The British government expects the IOC to clean up its act."

While McCaffrey and Banks stopped short of calling for Samaranch's resignation, German Interior Minister Otto Shily suggested it was time for the IOC leader — in office since 1980 — to step down.

"A constitutional monarchy in sports is harmful," Schily told German television in Lausanne. "If someone is too long in an office, he loses his legitimacy. Everyone has his time and everyone must know when it's time to go."

Throughout the day, speaker after speaker demanded that the centerpiece of the conference — a proposed international anti-doping agency be totally independent and not run by the IOC.

This was a direct slap to Samaranch, who has proposed that the agency be overseen by himself and run by IOC drug chief Prince Alexander de

Merode. "For complete credibility the agency must be headed by someone other than an IOC member," US Olympic Committee executive director Dick Schultz said.

Said Banks: "We support a totally transparent world anti-doping organisation. We don't believe the IOC should be that agency."

De Merode said he couldn't understand this "lack of confidence" and questioned the moral authority of politicians.

"I take offense that politicians don't trust me to chair this agency," he said. "Why should I trust politicians?"

Pointing to government corruption scandals throughout Europe, De Merode said: "Ask people in the streets if there is a great confidence in politicians. I have some doubts."

The conference was further jeopardized by wide disagreement on another key issue: drug sanctions. While some delegates pressed for fixed minimum two-year bans across all sports, De Merode and Rogge proposed more flexible penalties that would survive legal challenges.

The disputes came on the same day that the IOC cleared Australian officials of any wrongdoing following allegations of vote-buying in Sydney's winning bid for the 2000 Summer Games.

Rogge, the IOC official with oversight for the Sydney Games, said he had reviewed documents provided by Australian Olympics chief John Coates.

Rogge said Coates had broken no rules when he offered 70,000 dollars in sports aid to two African IOC members the night before Sydney beat Beijing by two votes.

"It was legal, legitimate and according to the rules," Rogge said. "There is absolutely no problem in the way it was done. No cash money was given, no under-the-table payment. Everything was straightforward."

The Sydney scandal emerged as part of a widening saga that started with bribery allegations surrounding the selection of Salt Lake City as host of the 2002 Winter Games. Nine IOC members have resigned or been expelled so far for receiving cash payments, scholarships and other favors from Salt Lake.

The IOC had hoped the scandal would not overshadow the drug summit, but it was clear from the start that was impossible.

Samaranch referred to the scandal at the start of his opening address, saying, "We have taken all the necessary measures and are continuing our investigations to ensure that Olympic ethics are respected."

The IOC's credibility in the wake of the scandals was raised forcefully by McCaffrey, director of the White House Drug Policy Office. He said it was time for the IOC to reform itself.

"The IOC must operate as a democratic and accountable public institution," he said. "Its procedures must be based on open books and records, open and recorded votes on issues, and an elected membership that is accountable."

Schily, the German minister, blasted those who "sacrifice the credibility of sport on the altar of economic interests."

"The IOC cannot comply with its role unless this institution is completely reorganized and there is a proper disclosure of its finances," he said.

The biggest debate was over the composition of an anti-doping agency to coordinate random drug testing and other doping control matters around the globe.

The 15 EU nations came out in a bloc — later endorsed by McCaffrey — to oppose the IOC's proposal. They objected to the agency being governed by the IOC president, as well as giving leading roles to sponsors and pharmaceutical companies.

IOC officials chafed at the notion of politicians telling the IOC how to operate.

Rogge said there was "no relevance" between the IOC's structure and the doping problem, and took a direct pot shot at the United States.

"The IOC was the very first body to start the doping fight in 1964," he said. "As far as I know, the United States still has no anti-doping law today."

Rogge said the United States is a country "where in professional sports you see a lack of real anti-doping rules, where you see that one of the biggest heroes, McGwire, is admitting taking and rostenedione, which is forbidden in all other sports around the world."

Andro is banned by the IOC as a steroid but is not prohibited by Major League Baseball, McGwire, who hit a single season record 70 home runs, said he took andro as a legal, over-the-counter nutritional supplement.

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## Winter Games roundup

YONGPYONG, South Korea, Feb 3: China's Zhang Qing took his second biathlon gold medal in the Winter Asian Games Wednesday by winning the men's 10-kilometre (6.2-mile) sprint, reports AP.

Earlier in the day, Chinese Xue Ruihong gave her country its first gold of the day by outrunning two fellow Chinese in the women's 500-metre speedskating competition.

In the men's 500 metres, Japan's Shoji Kato beat South Korean Jaegul Sung and fellow Japanese Kazuya Nishio to grab the gold.

With one shooting penalty and a quick performance on the tough racetrack, China's Zhang won the 10-kilometre biathlon sprint with a total time of 30 minutes, 10.6 seconds.

Dmitriy Pozdnyakov of Kazakhstan was second, followed by fellow Kazak Dmitriy Pantov.

In the women's 500-metre speedskating, China's Xue finished the second run in 40.84 seconds, the best record of the day. She had earlier set a new Asian Games record of 39.29 seconds in the first 500-metre run Tuesday.

Xue was victorious with a combined time of 80.13 seconds, trailed by fellow Chinese Yang Chunyuan in 81.53. Wang Manli, also from China, finished third in 82.53.

## Atletico in Cup qtrs

## Juninho stays put



MADRID, Feb 3 (Reuters/APF): Atletico Madrid squeezed through to the quarterfinals of the Spanish Cup on Tuesday, a 1-0 home defeat to Real Sociedad enough to give the team victory on away goals, with the tie level at 2-2.

In a scrappy encounter which saw the newly committed Juninho included in the Atletico starting line-up, the home side had the better chances but consistently lost their composure in the opposition penalty area.

The only goal of the game came after 58 minutes, Real's Croatian striker Igor Cvitanovic finishing emphatically after he had been found in space on the left by Oscar de Paula.

Early in the second half Real had a couple of half-chances to take the lead for the first time in the tie but the sending off of their midfielder Mutiu Adepoju on 75 minutes settled Atletico nerves and they held out comfortably for the remaining 15 minutes.

Juninho, who earlier on Tuesday rejected a move to England, had a solid if unspectacular game, always in the thick of the action but creating few clear chances.

The Brazilian dismissed speculation that he was on his way to English Premiership club Middlesbrough in a 10 million pounds (16 million dollars) transfer from Atletico.

Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson claimed at a press conference earlier on Tuesday he was confident the

Brazilian would return to the Riverside stadium but Juninho has since insisted he has no immediate plans to leave Spain.

The midfielder did not rule out a move from the Vicents Calderon stadium in the summer, though.

Madrid managing director Miguel Angel Gil, meanwhile, has also hit out at the transfer speculation.

"After talks between the president Jessu Gil, the coach and the player, it has been decided that Juninho will not move from the club," said Gil.

"After taking everything into account, we have decided the most appropriate thing is to respect the wishes of the player and the coach and to keep things the way they are," Gil said.

This brings an end to the saga, we won't talk about this again this season."

Juninho spent 18 months with Middlesbrough after signing from Sao Paulo in October 1995. He left the club after it was relegated.

Aston Villa have also been talking to Juninho but chairman Doug Ellis said on Tuesday he had been told the midfielder would be staying in Madrid by Juninho's father, Osvaldo.

Juninho