

Div III cricket qualifiers

Bangladesh Boys, Pirobagh 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.

Pirobagh outplayed Shahjahanpur Cricketers by 150 runs at Mirpur Outer Stadium. They bundled out Shahjahanpur 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 6 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 today to the Australian team to play Zimbabwe in the Davis Cup World Group first round match in Harare in April, reports APB.

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.

Pat Rafter, who beat the 'scud' in the US Open final last year, doubles specialists Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge, and teenager Leyton 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 play Britain or the United States in the quarterfinals.

Winter Games roundup

YONGPONG, 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 speed-skating competition.

In the men's 500 metres, Japan's Shoji Kato beat South Korean Jaegil Sung-yeol and fellow Japanese Kazuya Nishioka 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 Dmitry 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 Chuyuan in 81.53. Wang Manli, also from China, finished third in 82.53.

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, this I never intended and for that I apologise.

"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 half-decent brains."

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

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.



GLENN HODDLE

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said if the comments had been accurately reported Hoddle should go but Hoddle refused to respond, 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".

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

FA 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 great offence and fuelled more bigotry to those who already face prejudice."

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 Derry 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 Derry 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.

"And Ai was very tough," Hoddle 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."

Hoddle 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.

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 Schily 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 Alexandre de

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 Pitkowska of France 6-1, 6-3.

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 of "after a big win and in the fifth week on the roads."

"And Ai 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.

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 Schily 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.

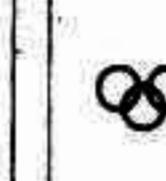
This was a direct slap to Samaranch, who has proposed that the agency be overseen by himself and run by IOC drug chief Prince Alexandre de



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 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 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 Schily 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 Alexandre de

DD 7

10:30 Jaunadlin (Birthday Greetings) 10:35 Daily Sope: Shree Ram Krishna 11:00 Sunehra Sapne 11:30 Serial: Itihas 11:30 Serial: Waqt ki Raftaar 2:30 News in English 2:50 Serial: Roop Suhane 3:00 Serial: Aap ki Shanti 3:30 Serial: Ujal: 4:00 Tea Time Monoranjan 4:30 Sunhara Sapne 5:00 Bhajan 5:30 Music 6:00 Buzzgurzon Ke Liye 6:15 CIEL Programme 6:30 Premier 7:30 Old Tevra Sizlaars 8:00 Coca-Cola World Premier 8:30 Jharkha 9:00 Bajrangi 9:30 Bajrangi: 10:00 Dilkash 10:30 Dil Ki Nazar 11:00 Pop O Mania 12:00 Jharkha 11:00 Aalaip 11:30 Shabab 12:30 All Time Hits 1:30 Jharkha

12:00 Cocotela-World Premier 12:30 Old Tevra Sizlaars 1:00 Jharkha 1:30 Pehla 2:00 Music Box News 2:30 Bajrangi 3:00 Old Tevra Sizlaars 3:30 Jharkha 4:00 House of Choice 4:30 Bajrangi 5:00 Zee Face To Face 9:00 Zee Countdown 9:30 Zee News 10:00 Insight 10:30 Zee News-Hindi 10:50 Zee Business News-Hindi 11:00 Vision Beyond 11:30 Zee News-English 12:00 Beech Shaar 1:00 Mystery 12:30 Calderon Stage 1:00 Mystery 13:00 Beech Shaar 1:00 Mystery 13:30 Calderon Stage 1:00 Mystery 14:00 Beech Shaar 1