J-League

S-Pulse beat **Fukuoka**

TOKYO, Nov 21: Shimizu S-Pulse are just one victory away from clinching the J. League's second-stage championship and booking a place in the twoleg play-off in December, reports Reuters.

In yesterday's 13th round of games in the 16-team division, S-Pulse beat Avispa Fukuoka 1-0 at home thanks to Yoshikiyo Kuboyama's 12th goal of the season just three minutes into the game.

Victory for S-Pulse, who are managed by Englishman Steve Perryman, moved them on to 32 points, five clear of Yokohama F Marinos and Nagoya Grampus Eight, who both won to jump to

With only two games remaining, S-Pulse need one victory to put them out of reach of the chasing pack, but their last two fixtures are difficult, away to second-placed Yokohama on Tuesday and at home to fourthplaced Kashiwa Reysol next Saturday.

The winners of the second stage meet first-stage champions and Asian Super Cup holders Jubilo Iwata in the play-off on December 4 and 11 to determine the overall league champions.

Marinos won 2-1 away to Cerezo Osaka but had five players booked in keeping the home team's South Korean Hwang Sun-hong, who leads the league in goals, off the scoresheet. Marinos' goals came from

Brazilian midfielder Valber after 19 minutes and from World Cup striker Shoji Jo on the hour, before Hiroaki Morishima pulled one back for Cerezo with 10 minutes remain-

Grampus eight are running into form but may have left it too late. Yugoslavia's national team captain Dragan Stojkovic inspired the 4-1 home win over Verdy Kawasaki, scoring the first and setting up two more.

At the bottom of the table. Urawa Reds' 2-0 home win over Bellmare Hiratsuka sent Bellmare tumbling into the second division, where they look like being joined by JEF United Inchihara, who lost 1-0 at home to Vissel Kobe.

Indonesia trounce Cambodia

JAKARTA, Nov 21: Indonesia guaranteed itself a place in the finals of next year's Asian Cup after slaughtering the visiting Cambodian team 9-2 in the two teams' group seven qualifying clash here today, reports

The host team, which only need draw against bottomplaced Cambodia in the final group match, played aggressively since the match opened, with Indonesia's flamboyant striker Rochy Putiray scoring the first goal in two minutes into the game.

The Indonesian kept the pressure in front of the Cambodian goal, lodging another goal before Cambodia's Teng Saknida kicked a penalty ball into the Indonesian goal 16 minutes into the match.

The first half closed with three other goals for the Indonesians.

In the second half, the same pattern of play surfaced with the host team relentlessly attacking the Cambodia goal. Indonesia scored four other goals, including one header by Bambang Pamungkas, while Cambodian striker Hok Sochetra, in a rare play near the Indonesian goal, scored his team's second

The aggressiveness, both from the attackers and the defenders, forced referee Krishnar. Manoharan to issue four vellow cards - all but one to the Indonesians.

Bima Sakti received two of the cards, leading to his expulsion from the match 25 minutes into the second half.

The match, watched by some 20,000 people, was held at the Senayan main sport stadium which had been doused by rain just an hour earlier.

Hong Kong to bid for 2006 Asian Games

HONG KONG, Nov 21: Hong Kong will make a bid to host the 2006 Asian Games, the government announced Saturday, reports AP.

It marks the first time that and lost, today we played badly Hong Kong has attempted to and won," he said. "It was a rehost the Games, Asia's biggest ally important match to win, because otherwise we'd be right sporting event.

The government will invite | down at the lower end of the the Hong Kong Sports Federation and Olympic Council, headed by Timothy Fok, to par-

ticipate in a bidding committee. The announcement was made after a meeting of the ter-

ritory's Executive Council. which serves as a cabinet to Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-

It came only hours before Fok was to leave for Kuwait to attend a meeting of the Olympic Council of Asia, which was to discuss the issue.

The Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur officially launched a campaign in August to host the 2006 event. There were also reports that Qatar is interested in the Games.

Pusan, South Korea, is hosting the 2002 Games. A government statement said Hong Kong will be able to host the Games without having to build any new venues solely

for the event. The 2006 Asian Games will be a very substantial and worthwhile project, and will offer both local and international marketing opportunities," the government said.



Dennis Bergkamp (top) Arsenal's Dutch superstar, jumps to clear Middlesbrough custodian Mark Schwarzer during a Premiership encounter at Highbury on November 20.

- AFP photo

Premiership

United owe Cole one



LONDON, Nov 21: Andy Cole once again proved his worth as a striker, although little used for England, by hitting the winner for

Manchester United in their 2-1 Premiership win at 10-man Derby, reports AFP. Nicky Butt's deflected volley

and Andy Cole's header put United 2-0 ahead in the second half, with help from a reduced Derby side when Stefan Schnoor was sent off just before the break. Republic of Ireland interna-

tional Rory Delap hit a consolation late strike but with little time left Derby-failed to find the equalizer.

Cole's good performance was in contrast to his omission from England's starting line-up in their 1-0 defeat at the hands of Scotland at Wembley in midweek.

Challengers Leeds United made heavy weather of struggling Bradford at Elland Road before winning by the same margin to stay a point behind in second spot ahead of Arsenal.

The Gunners crushed Middlesbrough 5-1 at Highbury aided by a Marc Overmars hattrick and a double from Dennis Bergkamp to leapfrog Sunderland, who went down 2-0 at home to Liverpool.

Manchester United now have 33 points from 15 games while Leeds have 32, likewise from 15. Arsenal follow on 29 from 15 with Sunderland a point further back.

United manager Alex Ferguson said afterwards: "I think we made it difficult for ourselves and so did Derby.

"I can't think of a team that worked so hard to hunt the ball down and that's a measure of

United on Tuesday, the club

have admitted here after an-

other poor performance in the

winner against the run of play

to beat Perugia 1-0 on Saturday,

their first league win for two

whistled by the home crowd for

a gutless performance that was

only salvaged by on-form goal-

Midfielder Angelo Di Livio,

who won the European Cham-

pions League with Juventus in

1996, made it clear they will

need to show more heart when

they face current holders

"In the past we've played well

"But the problem is we're

frightened of playing," he said.

"When the crowd start whist-

ling, everyone tries to hide and

lot of personality. But we abso-

Gallardo

injured

midfielder Marcelo Gallardo

hurt his thigh during Monaco's

2-1 win over Sedan yesterday

and could miss the first leg of

the club's UEFA Cup third

round tie away to AEK Athens

with his national team and he

aggravated it (the thigh) today.

We'll know more tomorrow but

it looks serious," Monaco coach

half-time, was with Argentina

for their friendly international

against Spain in Seville on

Wednesday but did not play.

Gallardo, who came off at

seconds.

Claude Puel said.

"He was injured when he was

on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

PARIS, Nov 21: Argentine

"We obviously don't have a

no-one wants the ball.

lutely have to find some."

keeper Francesco Toldo.

Fiorentina snatched a late

But the team were frequently

Serie A.

months.

United.

table.

FLORENCE, Italy.

Nov 21(AFP): Fio-

rentina need an

injection of cou-

rage before they

Manchester

their desire to stay in the divi-

Ferguson revealed that Mark Bosnich missed the game because of a swollen knee and he is doubtful for Tuesday's Champions League game away to Fiorentina.

"He trained on Friday but he woke up on Saturday morning with some swelling in his knee, which makes him maybe doubtful for Tuesday." Chelsea were in trouble from

the start against Everton when they lost Gabriele Ambrosetti with an injury in the first minute. Kevin Campbell put Everton

in front before Frank Leboeuf, at fault for the goal, was sent off for a second bookable offence. Everton dominated the game only for Tore Andre Flo to grab a late, late equaliser.

Middlesbrough had not won at Highbury for 60 years and never looked like re-writing history as Overmars grabbed a hat-trick in a 5-1 romp for Arsenal. Overmars gave Arsenal the

lead after 26 minutes then set up Bergkamp five minutes before the break. Bergkamp made it 3-0 early in the second half and Overmars hit home the rebound after his penalty was saved by Mark Schwarzer and then sealed his hat-trick. Hamilton Ricard took advantage of a rare defensive lapse for a consolation effort.

Sunderland were beaten at home for the first time in 12 months, laid out by a stunning individual goal from Michael

Owen, who set up a 2-0 win. Liverpool were outplayed for long periods but maintained a record of not losing at Sunderland since 1958 and Patrik Berger made sure there would be no fight-back with a clinical right-foot finish.

Trapattoni's men need more zest

Coach Giovanni Trapattoni

talked about the display after-

wards with Fiorentina's movie-

mogul owner and chairman

that there were times when one

of our players had the ball but

no-one came forward to collect

it -- even if a teammate was two

"It's a question of character,"

"A lot of our players need to

Looking ahead to his

get their self-confidence back. I

English opponents on Tuesday

night. Trapattoni tried to sound

hopeful by claiming: "There's

nothing to say they'll cause us

any more trouble than Perugia

hope that this win does that."

"Even the chairman realised

Vittorio Cecchi Gori.

metres away," he said.

Trapattoni explained.

Bradford, who had not won at Elland Road in nine previous visits, extended the sequence in a poor derby contest against

Alan Smith gave Leeds the lead and struggling City knew their luck was out when Leeds got a penalty, converted by Ian Harte. Dean Windass reduced the arrears close to the whistle.

Leeds manager David O'Leary said: "I thought we played good football and ran out worthy winners. Bradford came and worked hard and set out their stall with a particular game plan.

"I'm sure they would have been delighted to have taken a point, but we totally dominated the game and I'm delighted we have bounced back to winning

"The first half we looked particularly good but we just couldn't get that final ball in there. But our actual football tobreak them down and get in behind them was excellent."

Two goals in a minute set Filbert Street alight, Marcus Gayle running clear, to put Wimbledon in front only for Tony Cottee to equalise and the little man made it six goals in four consecutive home games with winner after 58 minutes.

Tottenham ended a sequence of one victory in seven previous visits to The Dell with a winner from Oyvind Leonhardsen. But Southampton felt hard done by when they were denied a penalty after Marian Pahars was challenged in the boxer by Leonhardsen, only to be booked for diving and the game finished 1-0 to Spurs.

It took Watford and Newcastle some time to get going at Vicarage Road where Michel Ngonge gave the home side the lead only for Nikos Dabizas to equalise. It ended 1-

"If anything, they might

Then good news for

even allow us more space to

Fiorentina at the weekend was

an inspired return from injury

of Di Livio's former Juventus

teammate, wingback Moreno

Torricelli, who had been out for

quality of the football against

Perugia, there are continuing

doubts over whether striker

Enrico Chiesa will recover from

a recent thigh injury in time for

Arsenal drew 0-0 in the last

round, should be a sell-out for

the first time in Fiorentina's

European campaign this sea-

- AFP photo

The Franchi stadium, where

Tuesday's second round tie.

However, aside from the

play in.

six months.

Eri Yamaguchi of Japan who won the Tokyo Marathon

yesterday. Yamaguchi clocked 2 hours 22 minutes 12

HARTFORD. Connecticut, Nov 21: Top seeds Mahesh. Bhupathi and Leander Paes of India and fourth seeds Sebastien Lareau of Canada and American Alex O'Brien posted three-set victories yesterday to reach the final at the ATP Tour World Doubles Championship. reports Reuters.

Bhupathi and Paes advanced to their second final here in three years by rallying for a dramatic 5-7, 6-2, 7-5 victory over second seeds and two-time champions Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde o Australia.

Lareau and O'Brien, the 1996 runners-up, dispatched sixth seeds Wayne Black of Zimbabwe and Sandon Stolle of Australia 6-3, 6-7 (4-7), 6-3.

The Indians were down a set and trailing 1-2 in the second but reeled off five straight games to force the deciding set. Both teams held serve until the 11th game, when Woodbridge double-faulted on break point to give the Indians a chance to serve out the match. Paes did just that as the Indian pair won for only the second time in six meetings with the "Woodies."

After an exchange of breaks early in the third set, Black lost his serve in the eighth game as Lareau and O'Brien took a 5-3 lead. The Canadian served out the match to earn a trip to Sunday's best-of-five sets final.

Bhupathi and Paes have won 15 titles together, including this year's French Open and Wimbledon crowns and their homeland event in Chennai. This is their third straight appearance at the season-ending

Overall, the Indians are 5-3 lifetime against Lareau and O'Brien.

Lareau and O'Brien have won seven titles as a team, including three this season. They captured their first Grand Slam title together at the US Open, defeating Bhupathi and Paes 7-6, 6-4 in the final.

Three years ago, Lareau and O'Brien reached the final at the year-end event and lost to the "Woodies."

Woodforde and Woodbridge suffered their first loss of the week after going unbeaten in three round-robin matches. Winners of 53 career titles, the Aussies finished 1999 in the midst of their longest career title drought, failing to win an event after February.

The total purse at this event is \$900,000.

Woods leads **US** to victory

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 21: Tiger Woods slashed another six shots off par Sunday, shot the best total ever in the World Cup and ensured that the team trophy would return to the United States, reports AP.

Woods' 21-under-par 263 total added to Mark O'Meara's 282 gave the United States a fiveshot victory over Spain, 545 to O'Meara managed only a 77

Sunday, but Woods made up for that with a 65 to clinch the dlrs 400,000 team prize. Spain's Miguel Angel Martin shot 68 for 273, and Santiago Luna slumped to a 72 for 277. When Woods also took the

100,000 dollars for best individual score, it was his fifth personal triumph in his last six tournaments and ninth in 13. It also marked his 13th victory in a row in tournaments where he has been leading after 54 holes.

His 263 total beat the 265 set by Fred Couples in the 1994 World Cup, although Couples was 23 under on the par-72 Dorado Beach course in Puerto Rico. The United States now has

won 22 of the 45 World Cups. It had not won, however, since Couples and Davis Love III swept four in a row from 1992 through 1995.

Woods' individual trophy will be the last from the World Cup. The World Cup is becoming the fourth event of the World Golf Championships next year, and changing from stroke play to best-ball and alternate-shot competition. Ireland moved up into third

place at 554 as Padraig Harrington shot 67 and Paul McGinley

Argentina was fourth at 555 after a 67 by Angel Cabrera and 72 by Eeuardo Romero, and Sweden fifth at 556 after a 69 by Jarmo Sandelin and 70 by Patrik Sjoland.

Garza defends WBA title

NAGOYA, Japan, Nov 21: Nestor Garza of Mexico regained the World Boxing Association (WBA) super bantamweight title Sunday by stopping Kozo Ishii of Japan in the 12th round after scoring his first knockdown, reports AP. Garza floored Ishii with his

left hook. After he got up, Garza unleased a flurry of punches. prompting referee Erzo Nontero of Venezuela to end the bout at two minutes, 30 seconds in the final 12th round. It was Garza's second defense

of the title he won from Enrique Sanchez of Mexico in Indio, California with a unanimous decision on Dec 12, 1998. Fighting at the Nagoya municipal gymnasium in central

Japan, No 11 WBA contender Ishii attacked Garza with a series of hard punches in the earlier rounds, often forcing him into the corner. But Garza took command of the fight from the eighth round.

In the final round of a 12round scheduled fight, Garza landed a flurry of punches against helpless Ishii after having already floored him. "I thought I could win easily,

but I had hard time from the beginning," said Garza.

Bhupathi, Paes in World Doubles Hingis-Davenport final final



hours." pion Martina Hingis defeated

third seed Venus Williams on Saturday to record her 300th career match win and claim a place in the year's final final, where she will face second seed Lindsay Davenport, reports Reuters.

The climax of the WTA Tour season features a clash of the world's top two players in a rematch of last year's Chase Championships final after Davenport stormed to a 7-6 (7-3), 6-0 victory over sixth seed Nathalie Tauziat. "I can't believe I'm back to

this point again ... back to the final, giving myself another shot to win it the third time in the finals," said a delighted Davenport, who was also runner-up in her Madison Square Garden debut in 1994. Hingis played a brilliantly

consistent match from the

baseline, withstanding the awesome power of Williams's strokes for one hour and 49 minutes, to post a 6-4, 7-6 (7-2) victory and reach the final here for the third time in four years. "I'm glad I didn't have to go through three sets," admitted

the 19-year-old Swiss sensation. "We played only two sets

also reached today's doubles final with partner Anna for the third consecutive year.

matches. "I'm very happy about being in the final again," added Hingis, who will play in her 13th final of the year as she goes for her Tour-best eighth ti-tle and the 500,000 dollars top

year, including Wimbledon and last week's Philadelphia tournament, where she beat Hingis in the final.

She should be fresh after Tauziat's pitiful showing in the second set. After the first set, Davenport was pretty much out there by herself as the 32-yearold Frenchwoman won just four points - three of them on double faults by the 6-foot-3 (1.90 metres) American.

Davenport, was up an early the second seed's serve.



- AFP photo

Where is Romario



striker will only

"There is no possibility that Romario will work with those people," Romario said of himself at a news conference in his Rio nightclub, the Cafe do Gol.

trated fans eager to know where he will play next, after Flamengo fired him for sneaking out of training camp to go to a nightclub last week. Top clubs are competing for his services -

Flamengo President Edmundo Santos Silva met with Romario in Friday and later

"He clearly said that he would like to stay with Flamengo until the end of his career," Silva said Saturday, adding that his return depended only on a meeting next week with the team's soccer superin-

possibility after Gilmar was quoted as saying that "the Romario case is closed."

that Romario would announce

his return to Vasco da Gama, the Rio club that projected him to fame a decade ago. Earlier Saturday, Vasco officials said the striker would join the team for the World Club Championship in January. "Romario will play in the

world championship for Vasco. period," Vasco Vice President Eurico Miranda said in an interview with CBN radio. But Romario refused to con-

firm the switch, saying only that he would announce his decision by Tuesday. "I have no contract with

anyone," he said. Other contenders for Romario's services reportedly include national champion Corinthians and Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr, which also wants him

onship. The big loser could be Flamengo, which now has a reduced chance of winning the Mercosur Cup. Romario was the team's leading scorer and only marquee player, and it's too late for Flamengo to sign up another

player for the tournament.

box

26 Annulty

27 Check

29 Skater

30 Team-

work

trum's

band

terned

fabric

39 Finished

sailing

"The

portrayal

Swedish

Nightin-

obstacle

outermost

Dream-

wearer

11 Say it

ain't so

native

Babilonia

Flamengo faces Uruguay's Penarol in the first-leg semifinal game this week. The winner of the series plays Argentina's San Lorenzo or Brazil's Palmeiras in the final.

breaker, and that was pretty much all she wrote.

"I think she was probably really disappointed not to win the first set at 6-5." Davehport surmised. "Once I got the first break to go up 2-love. then it

was pretty much over." The Hingis-Williams clash was their sixth meeting this year alone in what has become the hottest rivalry in women's tennis. Strangely, Hingis has won all three meetings in the United States, including in the US Open semis, while the American beat Hingis three times in

Europe in 1999. While Saturday's contest was tight, Williams often struggled to find the range on her shots and reaped far fewer free points off her serve than she is accustomed to.

She blamed her difficulties on a recurring neck injury that she said especially hurt her serve — usually her most potent weapon - and her backhand. Williams took an injury

timeout for treatment after los-

ing her serve in the first game of the second set and held an ice pack to the left side of her neck on subsequent changeovers. "The last two times I played Martina I was healthy and I had some good results," the 19-year-

old American said of recent wins over Hingis at the Grand Slam Cup and in Zurich. The match was filled with long, hard-hitting rallies, but the vast majority of the longer

the net. to keep up with her today because of extenuating circumstances," Williams said of her discomfort. "I think there were

The tall, athletic American did have an unusually low firstserve percentage (54 per cent). and five more double faults than aces (7-2), adding credibil-

ity to her complaint. Hingis, who gave Williams plenty of opportunities but survived eight of nine break points she faced, said patience was the key to winning the big points.

had to try with patience and just wait for my moments ... but you have to be in pretty damn goods shape," Hingis said. Williams picked up 125,000

dollars for reaching the semifinals in her first appearance in the 16-player season finale and earned 2,123,082 dollars for the She finished with six 1999

"I wanted to have a higher ranking, to say the least, and

naturally take home some Grand Slams," she said.

Kremer, Maleeva in Volvo final

21: Fourth-seeded Anne Kremer of Luxembourg surprised topseed Silvia Talaja of Croatia in a marathon 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2 victory Saturday to book her place in the final of the 112,500 dollars Volvo Women's Open, reports AP.

She will face Bulgarian qualifier Magdalena Maleeva. who got even with Denisa Chladkova, who beat her earlier this year, defeating the Czech seventh-seed 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 in the other semifinal.

Seeking her first WTA title. the World No 39 Kremer used her impressive baseline game to outperform Talaja in a match lasting two hours and 16 min-

Starting slowly in windy conditions, she lost the first set, struggling against Talaja's backhand, and then trailed the Croatian 4-2 in the second before forcing a tie-break.

then on, losing only two points in the tiebreak, then taking charge in the third from the back of the court while Talaja overhit a series of shots, to

In the other semi, Maleeva, ranked 131 in the world, rallied from 3-5 down to take the first set tie-break 7-4. Once in her rhythm, the Bulgarian breezed through the second 6-2, wrapping up the match in one hour and 14 minutes.

"She played so fast in the first set, but it was my serves that helped me today," said Maleeva, the youngest sister of the Maleeva siblings and chasing her first title.

39 40 41

R MSRCC-LGDRQL

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER A SUMPTUOUS

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an an afrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and time

NEW YORK, Nov it was a pretty intense two 21: Top seed and defending cham-The world number one, who

> Kournikova, is guaranteed of surpassing the 3 million dollar mark in tournament earnings "This was one of my best

Davenport has six titles this

Tauziat, now 3-12 against

break in the first set and actually held a set point at 6-5 on But Davenport belted a service winner to save the set point

and drilled a 99 mph (159 kph) ace to send the set into a tiebreak. The second seed then raced out to a 6-1 lead in the



World No 1 Martina Hingis executing a backhand against American Venus Williams during their Chase Championship semifinal.

headed?



RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 21: The race is on to sign Romario, but for now the veteran

say where he won't go - back to Flamengo, reports AP.

The 33-year-old striker frus-

even Flamengo. hinted at a reconciliation.

tendent Gilmar. But Romario ruled out that

Brazilian media speculated

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 42 Disfigure 3 Rested 25 Tool 1 Fairy talo 44 Plati-4 Dolawaro, tudos 5 Bore 48 Kauai "The" 5 "Techni-9 Dejected keepsake 12 Kirghiz

49 Margarita

50 Hydrox

13 It takes

the cake

producer

20 Indolent

enhancer

14 Pay dirt 51 34-Acr., 6 Acknowl-15 Actor edge Dullea 52 Nobel 7 Take 31 Spec-16 Auction-Prize city out of eer's cry 53 Quire context? 17 Cacophgroup? 8 Means 54 Young ony justifier 35 Pat-18 A really Lincoln 9 Pop 55 Excoriate 10 N. Mex. long time 56 Box neighbor 36 "9 to 5" 19 Wool

21 Spigot 20 "When 23 Sri Lanka DOWN all else 1 Respond fails" ploy 40 Lawless export 25 Tawdry to reveille 22 Sour 24 Atelier 2 Dairy 28 Egg roll case buy prop Solution time: 28 mins. 32 Furious 33 Wells

office

tally

Fargo SMEARING transport 34 Canterbury tales stopover 36 Punctua-37 Schedule ABBOT (Abbr.) 38 Mug filler 39' Wheel rotator Yesterday's answer

arch of 45 Neighborhood 46 Overly diluted 47 Indefinite number 49 Cast-

away's

for the World Club Champi-

CRYPTOQUIP NQMFV RDVSJ ZG TRSSGP CFXD "MXXPZJG, NL. JTFQDC"?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals T

points seemed to end with Williams dumping a shot into "Unfortunately, I was unable

lot of points where I was unable to play my best."

"I can't overpower her so

titles and a career-high ranking of third in the world, but still unsatisfied.

PATTAYA. . Thailand, MNov

Kremer dominated from clinch the set 6-2.

DINNER, I SUFFERED FROM EAT PROSTRATION.