



Mwangangi Muindi of Kenya (R) clears a hurdle in the final of the 3000m steeplechase of the 4th IAAF World Junior Athletics Championships at Seoul's Olympic Stadium on his way to winning the gold medal. Ayele Mezegebu (No 209) finished second, ahead of Stephen Chepseba (No 469). —AFP photo

Chinese juniors world's best

Sports Reporter



China who emerged as the top Asian sporting nation at the recent 25th Summer Olympic Games in Barcelona maintained their ascendancy by topping the medals table of the fourth World Junior Athletics Championships which concluded in the South Korean capital Seoul yesterday, according to agency reports.

Chinese female athletes bagged four gold medals on the concluding day of the five-day meet Sunday to give their country a haul of 14 medals inclusive of eight golds, three silvers and three bronzes.

The United States bagged nine medals, only four of them being gold, to finish second while the Unified Team of the Commonwealth of Independent States who topped the Barcelona medal chart managed only four golds, a silver and a bronze for a third-place finish.

Hosts South Korea could muster only a solitary silver medal and placed 22nd among the 30 nations that made it to the medals table.

China's Zhang Lin Li won the women's 3000 metres race in a time of 8:46.86 secs while her compatriot Gao Hongmiao took the women's 5000m walk gold. China's third success on the concluding day came when Bao Dongying hurled the discus a distance of 58.34 metres for the gold medal. Liu Dong completed the Chinese success story by claiming the women's 1500m clocking 4:05.14 secs.

Stephen Smith of Great Britain won the men's high jump by scaling 2.37 metres while Erica Johansson of Sweden won the women's long

jump with a leap of 6.65 metres.

RESULTS

Following are the results of the final day's competitions Sunday in the fourth World Junior athletics championships:

MEN

3,000-Metre Steeplechase: 1. Mwangangi Muindi, Kenya, 8:31.62; 2. Ayele Mezegebu, Ethiopia, 8:32.43; 3. Stephen Chepseba, Kenya, 8:32.48; 4. Steffen Brandis, Germany, 8:39.58; 5. Glenn Stojanovic, Australia, 8:40.62; 6. Emerson Vettori, Brazil, 8:41.55; 7. Takeshi Yamamoto, Japan, 8:41.73; 8. Yoshituki Ikeda, Japan, 8:42.52.

1,500 Metres:

1. Ato Boru, Kenya, 3:37.94; 2. Venuste Niyongabo, Burundi, 3:38.59; 3. Kevin Sullivan, Canada, 3:39.11; 4. Kim Soon-hyung, South Korea, 3:40.26; 5. Eddie Crowe, New Zealand, 3:40.82; 6. Javier Rodriguez, Spain, 3:40.94; 7. Dominique Loeser, Germany, 3:41.47; 8. Funtwaki Yusuke, Japan, 3:42.02.

High Jump:

1. Stephen Smith, Britain, 2.37 metres (7-9-1/2); 2. Tim Forsyth, Australia, 2.31 (7-7); 3. Kimino Takahiro, Japan, 2.29 (7-6-1/2); 4. Kim Tae-young, South Korea, 2.23 (7-3-1/2); 5. Segey Keyugin, Unified Team, 2.20 (7-2-1/2); 6. Kristofer Lamos, Germany, 2.20 (7-2-1/2); 7. Tomas Japku, Czechoslovakia, 2.17 (7-1-1/2); 8. Conrad Roux, South Africa, 2.17 (7-1-1/2).

400-Metre Relay:

1. Britain, 39.21; 2. United States, 39.59; 3. Nigeria, 39.88; 4. Jamaica, 40.06.

1,000-Metre Relay:

1. United States, 3:06.11; 2. Jamaica, 3:06.58; 3. Japan, 3:06.66; 4. Poland, 3:07.01.

WOMEN

3,000 Metres:

1. Zhang Linli, China, 8:46.86; 2. Gabriela Szabo, Romania, 8:48.28; 3. Zhang Liang, China, 8:48.45; 4. Paula Radcliffe, Britain, 8:51.78; 5. Annemari Sandell, Finland, 8:56.02; 6. Embetge Shiferaw, Ethiopia, 9:00.5; 7. Jung Young-im, South Korea, 8:58.36m.

World record holder Stefka Kostadinova of Bulgaria leaped 2.00m to defeat Galina Astafel of Romania in the high jump, while Ellen van Langen of the Netherlands clocked 2:05.03 to beat Russia's Lilla Nurutdinova and win the 800m race.

Leading athletes from 19 countries, including 36 Olympic medalists, took part in 27 events at the one-day competition.

Bubka's way of retaining interest

TOKYO, Sept 20: Sergei Bubka of Ukraine, who set his 32nd world pole vault record clearing 6.13 metres on Saturday, said he had thought of raising the bar to 6.14 metres, but dismissed the idea because "It gives me more possibilities in the future."

"It's not just for money, like some people talk about," he said. "If I jump very high results, there's no more interest, no more motivation."

"Right now, I'm training to jump more world records.... It is my main motivation."

Meanwhile, Jan Zelezny of Czechoslovakia repeated his Olympic gold medal performance to win the javelin throw at a distance of 90.18m, beating silver medalist Seppo Raty of Finland who threw for 88.36m.

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Masya, McColgan win

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, England, Sept 20: Kenyan runner Benson Masya set an unofficial world best time on the way to defending his title in the Great North Run half-marathon race Sunday, reports AP.

His time of 60 minutes 24 seconds was three seconds faster than the previous best, by Australian Steve Monaghan set at Tokyo earlier this year.

The women's race was won by New York marathoner Liz McColgan of Britain.

Runner up to Masya was Argentina's Antonio Silio in 60 minutes and 40 seconds and Boay Akunay of Tanzania was third in 60 minutes 45 seconds.

McColgan, a 28-year-old Scot, won in 68 minutes 53 seconds, 28 seconds ahead of second place Japanese Megumi Fujiwara. Third was Rosanna Munerotto of Italy in 69 minutes 38 seconds.

Tadesse wins World Junior half-marathon

GATESHEAD, England, Sept 20: Ethiopian Kassa Tadesse pulled off an astonishing victory in the inaugural World Junior half-marathon championship here on Saturday, reports AP.

Surviving on just four hours sleep after travelling for 36 hours, he ran away from the field to win in 64 minutes 51 seconds, 10 seconds clear of South African Melik Mothuli.

Bangladesh Army go down to neighbours 0-2

The Indian Armed Forces team defeated the Bangladesh Army team by 2-0 goals in a friendly football match at the Bangladesh Army Stadium in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

The visiting team scored both the goals before the recess. They opened their accounts through Hav P Paite at the 13th minute. Hav Chakradhar added another goal at the 41st minute to consolidate their victory.

After the breather, however, the host team tired to return to play. But all their moves saw futile finishings.

Chief of the General Staff, Bangladesh Army, Major General Muhammad Abdus Salam witnessed the match as chief guest.

Azad Products weekly chess

Sports Reporter

The Azad Products weekly chess tournament, a three-month long competition, played on every Friday afternoon, had its fourth week's matches decided yesterday at the National Sports Council chess room.

This week's matches, however, had to be deferred to Saturday since the venue for the competition — the NSC chess room — was still hosting the last round matches of the qualifying meet for the forthcoming international rating chess tournament scheduled for October.

Collecting six and a half points from seven matches A N M Ruhul Quddus became champion of the fourth week which was specially arranged for the fledglings of the chess arena.

Anisuzzaman Mullick, a cerebral warrior from Narayan, finished second, half a point short of the champion.

Hosts win three out of five



SEMARANG, Indonesia, Sept 20: The host team took three titles at the Indonesian Open badminton tournament here Sunday, with China taking the women's singles and Sweden's picking up the mixed pairs, reports AFP.

Olympic men's singles silver medalist Ardy Wiranata notched a hat-trick of Open titles with his third victory in successive years, beating compatriot Joko Suprianto in a three-set thriller, 15-7, 6-15, 15-9.

"This is the toughest game I have ever had," Wiranata said, adding that he would be back in Jakarta soon to prepare for next week's Singapore Open.

"I will do my best to grab the title in Singapore by beating whoever my opponent is," he said.

Wiranata pocketed 13,500 dollars while Suprianto took 7,500 dollars.

In the women's singles China's rising star Ye Zhenyong, 18, beat Indonesia's Sarwendah in an easy victory, 11-7, 11-6, to bring home 10,000 dollars.

"I was surprised that I could beat her that easily," Ye said. For Sarwendah who took home 6,000 dollars, it was her second defeat by the Chinese player after losing to her at the Japan Open in February.

Indonesia's Erna Sulistyaningin and Roslana Tendean beat English pair Gillian Gomers and Gillian Clark 15-12, 15-9 in the women's doubles.

Sulistyaningin, who is also retiring, and Tendean who will play as a mixed doubles player in the future, brought home 10,000 dollars, while the English pair took 6,000 dollars.

The English pair said they were exhausted as this championship was their sixth since the Barcelona Olympic Games.

Pair of Gunnar Jonsson and Maria Bengtsson became the first Swedish mixed doubles team to win a title at the Indonesia Open since the championship was first held in 1982, beating Indonesian pair Aryono and Eliza 12-15, 15-11, 15-12.

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high note with his share of a 15,000 dollar cash prize. Subagia and Mainaki, who in the first game had lead 12-5 before their seniors recovered to finish 12-15, won 10,000 dollars.

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