



Japanese long-distance runner Mitsuyo Yoshida lets her joy show as she crosses the finish line to win the Paris Marathon on April 25. Yoshida finished the course in 2hrs 29mins 16secs. —AFP photo

Yoshida wins Paris Marathon

PARIS, Apr 26: Japan's Mitsuyo Yoshida showed her male colleagues the way as she won her first marathon in Paris here on Sunday, reports AFP.

While the men's challenge, headed by World Cup marathon winner Yoshito Hashiguchi, crumbled badly before the 30 kilometre (25 km) Yoshida coasted home alone in the French capital.

The 27-year-old from Osaka, who has been running marathons for three years, produced a personal best time of 2hr 29min 16sec, beating her previous best by over a minute.

She was challenged by Russia's Ilyna Nadejda until the 35 km mark (21.5 miles) before making a decisive break.

Hashiguchi, of whom so much had been expected, faded badly to finish in 21st position in 2hr 14min 36sec, while compatriot Toru Mimura, who also figured prominently in the first half of the race, dropped back to finish in 27th place in 2hr 16min 42sec.

Mexicans thrash Canadians 4-0

MEXICO CITY, Apr 26: Canada goalkeeper Craig Forrest had a nightmare game as his team were outclassed 4-0 by Mexico in a World Cup qualifier on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Two of the four goals came following mistakes by Forrest as Mexico took the lead in the final round of the CONCACAF qualifiers.

The previously unbeaten Canadians appeared intimidated by a capacity 120,000 crowd at the Aztec Stadium and also suffered in Mexico City's high altitude.

Mexico dominated from the start and took the lead in the 20th minute when Forrest failed to hold a low cross by Ramon Ramirez and deflected the ball into his own goal.

Fourteen minutes later veteran striker Hugo Sanchez, who missed last week's win over El Salvador through injury, split the Canadian defence with a perfect pass for Ramirez, who scored with a left foot shot.

Mexico goalkeeper Jorge Campos was not called upon until the 42nd minute when he saved a shot by Paul Peschisolido.

Forrest was again at fault in the 53rd minute when he failed to hold Luis Flores header. Alberto Garcia Aspe added the fourth goal from the penalty spot in the 68th minute.

Forrest partially made up for his mistakes with four fine saves which kept the score down as Mexico continued to dominate.

Mexico lead the four-team group by one point from Canada, with both countries having two games left to play.

HONDURAS WIN 2-0

Meanwhile, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, playing their first game under new coach Flavio Ortega, beat arch-rivals El Salvador 2-0 on Sunday to keep alive their slim hopes of reaching the World Cup finals.

Forward Eduardo Bennett scored both goals as his team ran out comfortable winners in the World Cup CONCACAF third-round qualifying match.

Honduras dominated the game and could have added to their tally.

El Salvador only came out of their defensive shell after Bennett's second goal in the 63rd minute and rarely threatened Honduras goalkeeper Wilmer Cruz.

The result put Honduras third in the four-team group, two points behind Canada with two games left to play.

"With this result we can still hope to finish second," said Ortega, appointed last week following the resignation of much-criticised Jose Estanislau Malinowsky.

El Salvador, who began their campaign brightly with a home win over Mexico, are now bottom of the group and virtually out of the running for a place in the finals.

The group winners qualify automatically for the World Cup finals while the second-placed team face the winners of the Oceania group. The winners of that match then play the runners-up of South America Group A for a place in the finals.

Cyprus win 3-1

LIMASSOL, Cyprus, Apr 26: Panicos Xouroupas, Andros Soteriou and Yuni Arge spotted Cyprus to a three-goal lead Sunday, enabling Cyprus to easily beat the Faroe Islands 3-1 in a meaningless World Cup qualifier among soccer minnows, reports AP.

Playing before a crowd of 4,000, Cyprus dominated from the opening kickoff and took the lead only seven minutes in on close-range shot by Xouroupas. The Faroe Islands tightened their defence by Soteriou managed to break through again two minutes before halftime on a diving header.

Ioannou ended any Faroe hopes in the 75th with another header, but Yuni Arge gave the Danish island some consolation with a close-range goal in the 82nd.

The Faroe Islands, playing in their first World Cup qualifying tournament, fell to 0-0-6.

Kempes bids adieu

VALENCIA, Spain, Apr 26: Mario Kempes, star of Argentina's 1978 World Cup winning team, is retiring from football, reports AFP.

Kempes will bow out after a final appearance in a friendly match between PSV Eindhoven and Valencia, the club which bought him for three million pounds from River Plate of Argentina 1980.

The 38-year-old striker, who now works in Spain as a TV and radio commentator, was twice the leading goal scorer in the Spanish league, as well as being top scorer in the 1978 World Cup finals.

Jansher too good for Gregory

NEW YORK, Apr 26: Top seed Jansher Khan of Pakistan opened his bid for the squash Tournament of Champions in devastating style as he swept aside former British champion Paul Gregory 15-3, 15-6, 15-6 in only 33 minutes on Sunday, reports Reuter.

World champion Jansher, beaten just twice in the last 16 months, hardly raised a sweat as he sent Gregory scurrying around the court in desperate defence.

Gregory, a 24-year old Londoner, admitted: "I thought I played pretty well, but in this mood Jansher just makes you look silly. He played every shot in the book — and made a few up of his own."

Pakistan had some more success as qualifier Mir Zaman Gul beat seventh seed Gary Waite of Canada 15-13, 15-12, 15-9 in 41 minutes.

It was a blow for Waite, who is trying to improve his world number 13 ranking having just taken over as number one in the North American hardball version of squash.

A mix-up leaves Beblo winner

PARIS, Apr 26: Poland's Leszek Beblo won the Paris Marathon Sunday after officials sent Ethiopian Belay Wolashe the wrong way while leading near the finish Sunday, reports AP.

Beblo won in 2 hours, 10 minutes, 47 seconds. He and Wolashe were running together over the last few kilometers (mile) after breaking away from a small group of leaders.

With less than 400 meters (yards) to go, Wolashe started a sprint that seemed to be able to hold off Beblo. However he was directed the wrong way and Beblo took over the lead.

After Wolashe was sent the right way, he had lost his momentum and was trailing Beblo who went on to win easily.

Algerian Ali Sakhrri took third.

Polish Leszek Beblo pours water on his head during the Paris Marathon which he won in 2hrs 10mins 47secs on April 25. —AFP photo



Chuck Adams of the US hits a return on way to winning the final of the Korean Open 6-4, 6-4, against Todd Woodbridge of Australia in Seoul on April 25. —AFP photo

Sanguine Sydney officials not worried by Beijing's tactics

SYDNEY, Apr 26: Sydney, a frontrunner with Beijing in the race for the 2000 Olympics, dismissed today suggestions China could buy the votes needed to win September's ballot, reports Reuter.

Bruce Baird, the state minister in-charge of Sydney's bid, said it was totally untrue that the 91 International Olympic Committee (IOC) delegates who pick the host could be bought with gifts and favours.

It is one of the things that is banded around ... But the reality is that the great majority of people there are concerned only with sport and have come up through a strong sporting tradition, he told a news conference.

If anybody started to offer anything untoward, the great majority would be absolutely outraged, he added.

The competition to be Olympic host, which pits Beijing against Sydney, Berlin, Manchester, Brasilia and Istanbul, will be decided by the IOC in Monte Carlo on September 23.

Baird agreed with a recent unofficial IOC poll and odds from British book makers that Sydney and Beijing were the current joint favourites.

I think there is a great chance on September 23 that it will be either Beijing or Sydney, he said.

China has mounted an aggressive public relations campaign to win the Games, but last week denied presenting visiting Olympic dignitaries with thousands of dollars worth of gifts and ancient relics.

China's Olympic committee chief He Zhengliang said overseas media reports of a US dollar 40,000 gift basket to each member of a recent IOC delegation were complete rumour.

Baird was asked if he was concerned that China was using foreign aid as a means to get votes.

Undoubtedly China is doing a lot, we know they are, in terms of the African countries, other developing countries in addition. They have given a lot of aid and are reminding people that they have given the aid, he said.

They have got a legitimate role in doing that ... If we had given the extent of aid that

they have we would also be doing that, Baird said.

But it is going to be determined by more than the aid that they have given, he said.

The edge we have is that we have been to every modern Olympic Games, we have a very strong technical bid, we have the world's greatest city, we have no security problems and we have a great environment, Baird said.

China is the world's most populous country, but they have their own problems which I won't enumerate, he added.

Olympic watchers have said Beijing's bid could be hurt by concerns about human rights following the military's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in and around Tiananmen Square in June 1989, and pollution.

Baird was launching the public release of the Sydney bid book submitted to the IOC on February 1.

Sydney has stressed that it is the only city guaranteeing that all venues for sporting events will be within 30 minutes travel of the Olympic village.

US beat Norway enroute to qtrs

DORTMUND, Germany, Apr 26: Tony Amonte and Darren Turcotte scored 40 seconds apart to spark the United States to 3-1 victory over winless Norway Saturday and a berth in the quarterfinals at the Ice Hockey World Championship, reports AP.

Amonte and Turcotte's goals rallied the United States, who for the fourth straight game trailed 1-0. First two ended in 1-1 ties against the Czech Republic and Finland. The United States then trounced France 6-1.

The victory put the United States in second place in the Pool B standings behind the Czech Republic, who routed France 6-2. Germany and Finland have also qualified for the playoffs starting in Munich on Tuesday.

In Pool A, Sweden dumped Russia 5-2 and Canada routed Italy 11-2, giving the Canadians an unblemished 4-0-0 record and clinching the group title.

Adam Graves added two goals and one assist and Dave Gagner had two goals for the Canadians.

In Munich, Eric Lindros had his second straight six-point game, scoring five goals and setting up one goal as unbeaten Canada trounced Italy 11-2.

The Philadelphia Flyers' center now has a tournament-leading nine goals and five assists for 14 points.

"The pucks seem to be going in and we just got to keep hitting them," Lindros said.

The Americans, who conclude round-robin play against host Germany Sunday, played sloppy hockey in the first period except for the first five minutes.

Svein Enok Norstebø, who plays for a team in Lillehammer, site of next year's Winter Olympics, converted a nice pass from Per-Christian Knold to give Norway the lead at 11:27 in the opening period. It was Norway's first goal in the tournament—a span of 191 minutes and 27 seconds.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Likely
- 4 Expert
- 7 Caan or Coco
- 12 "Cock-a-doodle—"
- 13 Peace, in ancient Rome
- 14 Spry
- 15 Model
- 16 Bewildering
- 18 Sales pitch?
- 19 One's performances?
- 20 Sepulchral structure
- 22 Baptist's bench
- 23 Gave a prompt
- 27 Goller
- 29 Hose
- 31 Eighth Greek letter
- 34 Gets a 0
- 35 Mensa requisite
- 37 Discard
- 38 Lip
- 39 Employment
- 41 Marine mop
- 45 Instrument "on my knee"
- 47 Past
- 48 Succeeded
- 52 Wad
- 53 Foreigner
- 54 Neighbor of Man.
- 55 Sphere
- 56 Grew
- 57 — volente
- 58 Aye
- DOWN
- 1 Make fit
- 2 Reason for the
- 22 Salk vaccine
- 23 Despot's ones
- 3 Reservation emblem
- 4 "Planet of the —"
- 5 Awning
- 6 Philip Nolan's fate
- 7 Predicaments
- 8 Khan address
- 9 Cambridge sch.
- 10 New Haven collegian
- 11 Wine designation
- 17 Grad garb
- 21 Clean up
- 23 Despot's ones
- 24 Terrorist's weapon
- 25 Right angle
- 26 —
- 28 Avril follower
- 30 "Death — Salesman"
- 31 Article in Time?
- 32 Secreted
- 33 Future
- 36 Type-setter's spacer
- 37 Inispid
- 40 Hair net
- 42 Cart
- 43 Market-place of yore
- 44 Cop, in London
- 45 Flex
- 46 Sgt.
- 48 Snorkel's dog
- 49 Felina foot
- 49 Chicken-king link
- 50 Veto
- 51 Society page word

Solution time: 25 mins.

HIE GRAM RAGE
EON HALO EGAD
MUGWUMPS LOPE
RIB HEXAGON
FLAMBE SIX
REV YAW SEVEN
ONES REP DEMI
GOREY BIP NIL
XED CODDLE
POSTWAR LIE
IDEA RADIATOR
LIEN ERIC TWO
LENT DENY ALE

CRYPTOQUIP
KRJDRMRHZ' H NRBDVBRUMA
SIH KUBC IMNBC
VJB TUSIH HZBRMNRMN
TUBIDJMN
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OWNER OF FRANKFURTER STAND DID NOT USUALLY RELISH HIS WORK.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: N equals G

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 apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.