



Indian player Bhupinder Thakur (L) faces the defence of Hong Kong's Lee Wai Man during their World Cup Asia Zone Group D soccer qualifying round match in Seoul yesterday. India upset Hong Kong 3-1 after leading 1-0 at halftime. — AFP photo

Aouita ready to take on Skah

AGDE, France, June 13: Morocco's 5,000m world record holder, Said Aouita, is to run at the distance in the Mediterranean Games, his National Olympic Committee said Saturday, reports AFP.

Aouita's decision to take part in the Games raises the prospect of a final showdown with his compatriot Khalid Skah, the controversial Olympic 10,000m champion.

On his current form Skah represents a serious threat. Running in atrocious conditions on Friday, he clocked an impressive 13.15.85 to win at the distance in the Saint-Denis meeting.

ROK through to Round 2

SEUL, June 13: South Korea beat Bahrain 3-0 Sunday in a World Cup Asian Zone Group D preliminary match to for-mally qualify for the second round of regional qualifiers, reports AFP.

Unbeaten South Korea chalked up 15 points with seven wins and one draw, while Bahrain finished second with nine points.

South Korea dominated Sunday's match, with all the goals coming in the second half. Lebanon is third in Group D with eight points, followed by Hong Kong and bottom-placed India.

In the final match of the

Group D preliminaries, India upset Hong Kong 3-1 after leading 1-0 at halftimes.

The Indians played surprisingly well, with I M Vijayan opening the scoring in the sixth minute. Seven minutes after resumption, Bhupinder Thakur netted the second Indian goal and 25 minutes later Vijayan neatly converted a pass into the goal area by Gunabir Singh.

Hong Kong's Chi Keung got his sides sole face-saving goal in the 66th minute.

Final standings for Group D: (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points) South Korea 8 7 1 0 23 1 15, Bahrain 8 3 3 2 9 6 9, Lebanon 8 2 4 2 8 9 8, Hong Kong 8 2 1 5 9 19 5, India 8 1 1 6 8 22 3

Fatal festivity

BAGHDAD, June 13: Nine people were killed by rogue gunfire during Iraq's World Cup celebrations here after the national side beat China, it was revealed here on Sunday, reports AFP.

The newspaper Al-Joumhouria reported more than 120 others were wounded by bullets after the Asian Zone Group A qualifying match on May 30.

Under-secretary of State for Health Chaw Sabri branded the shootings "non-civilised acts and said many people were still in critical condition in hospital.

The Minister of the Interior Wathban Ibrahim al-Hassan was also reported to have ordered anyone committing similar acts in the future to be punished and to have their weapons confiscated.

Celebrations in Baghdad after the 1-0 win went on during the night with cars parking the streets and blaring their horns, the newspaper reported.

Iraq is leading its qualifying group and meets Jordan on Monday in China in it's next match.

Gazza very happy in Italy

ROME, June 13: Paul Gascoigne, whose fitness and form have become a major worry for England manager Graham Taylor, on Saturday dismissed speculation that he is unhappy in Italy, reports Reuter.

"I've found the ideal environment in Rome. Everyone has helped me and I hope to do great things for Lazio," said Gascoigne in his first interview with the Italian press for several months.

The midfielder pronounced himself "fairly satisfied" with his displays in his first season for Lazio, although he scored only four times in 22 league appearances.

"It was doubly difficult for me this year as the Italian league is tough and I was coming back after injury," said Gascoigne, adding that he hoped to play better next season.

Gascoigne helped Lazio qualify for European competition for the first time since the 1970s their fifth-place finish earning a UEFA Cup spot.

Papin's pair sinks Pirates

JOHANNESBURG, June 13: Jean-Pierre Papin scored twice to lead Italian champions AC Milan to a 3-2 win over South Africa's Orlando Pirates in a soccer friendly on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The French striker netted in the 12th and 42nd minutes to give the losing European Cup finalists a 2-0 half-time lead in the Ellis Park Stadium.

Albert Mahlangu pulled one back for the Pirates in the 54th minute, scoring from the penalty spot after Stefano Nava had bundled him over in the area.

But the 60,000 home fans were silenced three minutes later when Roberto Donadoni scored with a scorching left-foot shot from inside the box.

Argentine Osvaldo Nartallo, on loan from San Lorenzo, rose high above the Milan defence to reduce the arrears 16 minutes from the end.

Milan's star-studded squad leave today for more friendlies in Australia.

Christie lashes at England WC soccer squad

LONDON, June 13: Olympic champion Linford Christie continued his seven-year domination of British 100 metres sprinting here on Saturday and then launched an attack on England's beleaguered football team, reports AFP.

The 33-year-old put behind him a dismal midweek run in Rome to collect his eighth United Kingdom sprint title before accusing England's footballers and especially midfielder Paul Gascoigne of being unfit.

"Our shot-putters are in better condition than Gazza," he said. "Gazza, to me, is the best footballer in the world. He could be worth 20 million pounds. But like the team he's not in shape.

"There are no Gazzas in our team. We train three times a day, seven days a week to make sure we're fit.

"We also take pride in our performance. If they did the same, they could run harder and chase the ball a lot more."

Earlier, Christie fended off a fine challenge from his friend Colin Jackson to triumph in 10.26sec.

Nevertheless, Jackson, who wants to double up in the 100m and 110m hurdles at the World Championships in Stuttgart in August, proved he is equipped to do so with his run of 10.41.

"I'm still a bit rusty and need a bit of polishing up, but that wasn't bad at all," said Christie. "Give me another couple of weeks and I'll be right there."



An Indonesian official raises the arm of Naek Segala (R) who won the first gold medal in the men's marathon event of the 17th SEA Games in Singapore yesterday. Naek finished with the time of 2 hrs 24 min 37 sec. — AFP photo

Indonesians dominate Day One

SINGAPORE, June 13: Records fell like pins as defending champions Indonesia signalled their intentions on the first day of the 17th Southeast Asian Games here by taking nine of the 33 gold medals at stake Sunday, reports AFP.

The Philippines garnered six golds, while Thailand hauled in five, Singapore two and Malaysia one. Ten more golds were on offer later Sunday.

New games records were set in the men's 1,500 metres, men's hammer throw, women's 100 metres freestyle and 200 metres backstroke, men's 200 metres backstroke, women's air rifle team event, weightlifting (up to 54 kilo), weightlifting (54 to 59 kilo) and weightlifting (between 59 and 64 kilo).

The Indonesians had a brilliant start when they won the day's first two gold medals in athletics — the men's and women's marathons — and then went on to win the 1,500 metres.

Police officer Naek Segala, 34, who became the first gold medal winner of the Games with his victory in the marathon immediately set a target for himself, the next Games in Thailand in 1995.

Naek brushed aside age as a setback and said he was determined to defend his title in Thailand.

Describing his victory as "Sweet for Indonesia," Naek admitted he was nervous before the event and had a sleepless night Saturday.

The pre-dawn race saw the policeman from Jakarta staff off the challenge from fellow-countryman Indro Suwarno Wahidi to coast comfortably home in a time of two hours, 24 minutes and 37 seconds.

Indonesia's second gold medal was won by 23-year-old Suryati Marjia who finished in two hours, 50 minutes and 58 seconds.

The silver for the men's marathon was won by Indro Suwarno Wahidi, also of Indonesia, and the woman's silver by Toh So Liang of Singapore.

Suryati's victory is her second SEA Games marathon gold. She won her first gold in the 1989 Games in Kuala Lumpur at two hours, 45 minutes and 43 seconds.

Wong Tee Kue, who set a new record with a distance of 58.50 metres in the hammer throw said he could have gone for 60 metres if not for the heat and the tame competition.

The swimming events started with new records set in the 100-metre freestyle sprint by Singapore's Joceline Yeo and in the men's and women's 200 metres backstroke by the Philippines'

Raymond Papa and Akiko Thomson.

Early favourite Yeo, who won in a time of 57.58sec, had her task made easier when rival Akiko Thomson of the Philippines withdrew from the event Saturday.

Fifteen-year-old Papa said his victory in 2min 03.73sec gave him hopes of a gold at next year's Asian Games in Hiroshima.

Papa, who is studying and training in Pennsylvania, said: "I trained one full year for this achievement. I am doubly glad that I won in record time. My ambition now is to win the gold in the Asian Games in Japan next year."

The 19-year-old Thomson won with more than a length to spare from second placed Prapshasat Minparaphal of Thailand, who also broke the old record of 2min 20.23sec set by Thomson in Manila in 1991.

"I am glad I pulled out of the 100 metres to concentrate on this event," Thomson said.

Torino one up

TURIN, Italy, June 13: Torino beat Roma 3-0 (half-time 1-0) in the first leg of the Italian Cup final on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Benedetti (own goal, 17th minute), Cois (53rd), Fortunato (77th).

Brazilian girls rock ROK spikers

TAIPEI, June 13: Brazil pounded South Korea on Sunday to win the Taipei stop of the women's volleyball Grand Prix, reports AFP.

The athletic Brazilian national team played almost flawlessly after dropping the first game and swept the next three for a score of 11-15, 15-3, 15-5 and 15-5.

The Brazilians went undefeated in three matches while South Korea finished second with a 2-1 record.

In the other match, Japan defeated Germany to salvage third place at 1-2. Germany finished winless at 0-3.

Brazil, South Korea and Japan will join Cuba, China and the Commonwealth of Independent States in the finals of the Grand Prix to be held June 17-20 in Hong Kong. Germany and the United States have been eliminated.

For a while, South Korea rode the momentum from its brilliant comeback victory over Japan on Saturday, taking the first game against Brazil and frustrating the talented Brazilians.

But Brazil then put on the jets and never slowed down. In the second game, Brazil exploded to a 6-0 lead before South Korea finally notched a point. Brazil also went up 11-3 and 9-4 in the third and fourth games, respectively.

Leila Barros Comez was the main weapon for the day, as she consistently leapt from the back row to nail scorching winners.

Trevira Twosome title is Simon's

NEW YORK, June 13: Running the 10-mile (16 kilometre) distance for the first time, Simon Chemotwoyo of Kenya won the Trevira Twosome at Central Park on Saturday. Inna Poushkariva of Russia, another newcomer to the distance, captured the women's division, reports AP.

The 24-year-old Chemotwoyo took command after 2 miles (3.2 kilometres) and was timed in 46 minutes, 27.9 seconds. He finished 75 metres ahead of countryman William Mutwol, the world record holder for 5 kilometres, who was second in 46:32.2. Delmir Dos Santos of Brazil, who made a strong bid to overtake Chemotwoyo with 2 miles (3.2 kilometres) to go, faded to third in 46:43.8.

Poushkariva, 28, who was second in the Sallie Mae 10 kilometre run last Saturday in Washington, ran away from the women's field, finishing in 55:18.3, a good 175 metres ahead of England's Marion Sutton, who was timed in 55:53.2. Madina Biktajirova of Byelorussia was third in 56:05.8.

"This was the first 10 miler ever for me," said Chemotwoyo, who has won five international races this year, three of them in gross country.

"Conditions were perfect and I was confident from the opening gun. Dos Santos is a friend of mine and I knew he was waiting to make his move. When he did I was ready and just pulled away."

Despite her victory, Poushkariva said, "I was not happy with my performance. I just felt as if something was missing."

"No one really challenged me and after 4 miles (6.4 kilometres), I knew the race was mine."

Antlers do it without Zico

TOKYO, June 13: Despite the absence of veteran Zico, Kashima Antlers maintained their league lead, extending their winning streak to five games after beating second-place San Frece Hiroshima 1-0 on Saturday, reports AFP.

Forward Hisashi Kurusaki scored the games only goal to improve his sides win-loss record to 7-2 while Hiroshima fell to 6-3.

Zico, sidelined for seven straight matches with a torn muscle, has already started exercise and is expected to return next week, officials said.

Among other foreign players of Kashima, Alcindo, a 25-year-old former Gremio striker, who scored in the teams win over Urawa Red Diamonds Wednesday, leads the individual scoring table with seven.

With former England captain Gary Lineker sidelined, Nagoya Grampus Eight were defeated by JEF United Saturday. The 37-year-old star of Grampus will be sidelined for at least six weeks with a stress fracture of his right second toe.

A Todoroki Stadium in Kanagawa, Kazuyoshi Miura headed in a goal two minutes into extra time giving Verdy Kawasaki a 1-0 victory over Gamba Osaka.

Marinos defeated Fluegels 3-2 with rookie forward Fumitake Miura scoring twice and midfielder Mamoru Diaz of Argentina adding another goal.

Kihara, Kawasaki and Marinos stood with five wins and four losses, while Fluegels, S-Pulse and Grampus Eight were level at 3-4.

China canter

BEIJING, June 13: China beat Pakistan 3-0 (0-0 first half) and Yemen tied Jordan 1-1 (0-0 first half) in their World Cup Asian Zone second round Group A qualifier in Chengdu on Saturday, the official Xinhua news agency said today, reports Reuter.

China: Gao Hongbo (62nd minute), Hao Haidong (64th minute), Gao Hongbo (final minute)

Yemen: Sharaf H S Abdo (52nd minute)

Jordan: H A Al Shewal'er (3rd minute)

Bad temper earns bad name

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 13: American tennis stars Zina Garrison-Jackson and Pam Shriver were involved in a racism row during their Edgbaston Classic quarter-final here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Garrison-Jackson was so incensed that she threatened to resign from the Board of the Women's Tennis Association, whose president is Shriver, after defeating her 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in a bad-tempered clash.

Shriver swore during the match at Garrison-Jackson's entourage, accusing them of applauding her errors. She also slammed balls into the netting and walls, and hit a ball directly at her opponent.

Garrison-Jackson fumed. "She acted like a bitch. She should have got a warning. If I'd done what she did, I would have got a point penalty or default."

"The way things went, I'm thinking of resigning. I don't want to be a part of that. She's supposed to be our leader, but she called me stupid and I take that as being racial. I'm going to think very seriously of resigning."

Shriver stormed off court at the end of the match, ignoring Edgbaston Priory Club chairman Stuart Johnston's efforts to present both her and Garrison-Jackson with life membership of the club.

"I got pretty annoyed out there. It happens. I thought at 30 I'd outgrown the rage, but it hasn't happened yet."

"She probably said she would quit in the heat of the moment. It would be a great loss. Me the player and the off-court stuff are two different people."

"I haven't a racist bone in my body. My coach is black. That was probably a way of striking back at me in the heat of the moment."

The row deflected attention away from an excellent fight-back by Garrison-Jackson, who took only five points from the opening four games.

She now meets 17-year-old compatriot Chanda Rubin, who beat unseeded Italian Laura Golarsa 2-6, 7-5, 6-4.

The other semifinal will be between another American, Lori McNeil, who defeated France's Nathalie Tauziat 6-4, 6-3, and Latvian Larisa Neiland, who ended the run of Australia's Kristine Radford 6-3, 6-2.

The semifinals were postponed until Sunday in the hope that they and the final may be played outdoors.

Nevertheless, Jackson, who wants to double up in the 100m and 110m hurdles at the World Championships in Stuttgart in August, proved he is equipped to do so with his run of 10.41.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Pickle flavor, 5 "— your old man!", 8 Cross, in Colima, 12 Exchange premium, 13 Jay Leno's sine qua non, 14 Tortoise's rival, 15 Competitionless situation, 17 Swenson of "Benson", 18 Drive, 19 Jefferson's on it, 21 Mule of song, 22 Puzzle-page abbr., 23 Subtraction result: abbr., 26 Saint Bernard's burden, 28 Gerontologist's topic, 31 PDQ, on a memo, 33 Calendar abbr., 35 Choreographer. DOWN 1 Not fully dry, 2 Dr., Frankenstein's aide, 3 Kitchen flooring, for short, 4 Aerobic maneuvers, 5 Bulging, 6 Word before slick or well, 7 Broadway composer, 8 "That toddlin' town", 9 Causing great resentment, 10 Incite, 11 Ardor, 16 Mountain-eeer's goal, 20 Call — day, 23 Margery of rhyme, 24 Equal: prefix, 25 Cozy, in a way, 27 George Burns role, 29 22 1/2 degrees, on a compass, 30 School of whales, 32 You've been had by them, 34 Practical jokers' prey, 37 Badger, 39 Toe woe, 42 Full of information, 44 Halloween option, 45 Saroyan's "My Name is —", 46 Garage job, 48 "So much —", 49 Indolent, 50 Gets by, barely, 53 Color.

Cryptopquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-50 indicating letter positions in the message below.

CRYPTOQUIP
HIICOI GYBAKPZN
BHSZRU YHKOOWA PGGSC
UGGT GR NHNCW
Yesterday's Cryptopquip: BABY GOATS THAT ARE GOING TO BE SOLD ANY DAY NOW ARE THE NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK.
Today's Cryptopquip clue: N equals P
The Cryptopquip 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.