

Chinese top duo injured

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain, Oct 30: Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia, who shattered three world records between them at China's National Games last month, are both carrying injuries one day before the World Cup marathon, reports Reuter.

Chinese coach Ma Junren told a news conference on Friday that Qu had injured her left leg and Wang had hurt her right foot.

Qu, who broke the world 1500 metres record, has the more serious injury and Ma said he doubted if she would finish Sunday's 42.195-km event.

"The condition of the girl Qu is a little more serious than the other one," Ma said through an interpreter. "Qu will probably not run the whole distance."

Ma said Wang, the world 3,000 and 10,000 metres record holder, would receive treatment today.

"If Wang can get better before the race, most probably the injury will not affect her

race too much."

Although Norwegian Ingrid Kristiansen has predicted her world best could be beaten up to six minutes by one of the Chinese, the overwhelming impression left by Ma was that Sunday's event would serve largely as a training and public relations exercise.

He said the last marathon run by any of his five-strong team had been at the National Championships on April 4 this year when Wang clocked two hours 24 minutes seven seconds and Qu was timed in 2:24:32.

"So without very good preparation for such a long distance I think it's no practical that we can run a very good time," he said.

Ma said he thought the Chinese times would be around the same as the National Championships, then further hedged his bet by adding: "If they run two hours 30 minutes, that will be an ideal time."

Kristiansen's world best set at the 1985 London Marathon is 2:21:06.

Asked why the Chinese had

entered two injured athletes in the World Cup, Ma replied that the race would provide invaluable experience.

"This is one of the major events of the year for the IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation)," he said.

"This race is to give our athletes more experience of international competition."

"Many people in the world are interested in the Chinese athletes. We want to give our athletes opportunities to be examined and tested by our friends in the world."

Ma's mention of testing was an open reference to widespread suspicion — shared by Kristiansen — that the Chinese are taking performance-enhancing drugs.

Asked directly about the doping allegations, Ma became briefly animated.

"I was very angry when I heard them," he said. "So it pushes me to give my athletes more opportunity to take part in big events like this, to give people more chance to know Chinese athletes and to test the Chinese athletes."

Bulgarian athletes threaten to wash dirty linen in public

SOFIA, Oct 30: A simmering row between Bulgaria's Olympic Committee and the National Bank over profits from commemorative Olympic coins has flared up, with athletes threatening to seek international arbitration, reports Reuter.

The committee claims the bank has breached the Olympic charter by minting coins using the copyrighted Olympic theme without passing any of the profits to the Olympic movement.

Olympic Committee (BOC) Secretary-General Dimitar Kharalampiev said on Friday they wanted nine million Levs (310,000 dollars) to help athletes prepare for the Games, although the bank's profits from the coins were much greater.

Bulgarian athletes, whose subsidies shrank dramatically after communism collapsed in 1989, said earlier they would seek international arbitration and disown the Bulgarian flag at the next Olympics if the problem was not resolved within a month.

"I am ashamed and offended that... we are placed in an awkward position in the eyes of the world," former world record woman high-jumper Jordanka Blagoeva said.

But the bank replied in a statement that there were no grounds to pass on the profits and that they were not in breach of copyright laws.

"There was no formal reason to transmit part of the profit to the IOC since apart from the world Olympic, which had not been registered as a trade mark, no Olympic symbols were used on the coins," the bank statement said.

It said there was no case for a National Bank to transfer funds from commemorative coins directly to any non-governmental organisation.



Grand Master (GM) Anatoly Karpov of Russia concentrates on a move in the 20th game of FIDE series against Dutch Jan Timman in Jakarta yesterday. Karpov leads 12 to 8. — AFP photo

'Olympic truce', IOC's hope

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 30: Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, said Friday he believed there would be a cease-fire in Bosnia-Herzegovina during next February's winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway, reports Reuter.

"We have begun talks with the three parties involved in Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia and we are sure they will follow our request and will stop fighting for 30 days," he told a news conference.

The IOC appealed for an "Olympic truce" during last July's Summer Games in Barcelona — a halt to all wars and conflicts in the world starting a week before the Games and lasting until a week after they end.

But it started its campaign in earnest earlier this month. To this end, the UN General Assembly Monday adopted a resolution urging all 184 member states to comply.

The Olympic truce idea is based on an ancient Greek tradition, established in the ninth century BC.

Wars stopped to athletes.

artists, their relatives and pilgrims could travel safely to the Games and then return to their homes afterwards.

Samaranch said his optimism was based on reports from sports officials in the former Yugoslavia. He said they had talked to the parties involved. But he would not say which political or military leaders were contacted.

He admitted that stopping civil wars in many areas of the world, such as Angola, would be extremely difficult since the committee could not contact all feuding parties.

But he said "We are optimistic and confident that the Olympic truce in 1994 will be a success."

"We know that it is symbolic but even that can be very important. If (conflicts) stop in some places in the world, maybe they can stop forever," he added.

Meetings with regional Olympic committees to discuss the truce are planned over the next two months. The European Olympic committees will meet in Dublin November 5, followed by the Americas in Puerto Rico November 17. Asian groups met in Kuwait on November 30 and Africans in Harare on December 2.

Samaranch also said he doubled athletes from the Yugoslav Republics of Serbia and Montenegro would participate in Lillehammer because most of them did not specialise in winter sporting events. The main competitors in the former Yugoslav Federation team came from Slovenia, Croatia or Bosnia.

At the Barcelona Games, Yugoslav athletes competed as individuals following Security Council sanctions barring the country from international sporting events because of Belgrade's role in fomenting the Bosnia war.

Asked if he expected the Palestinians to attend the Norway Games, he said he doubted it because they too did not field a winter sports team. The IOC Thursday ruled that Palestinian athletes were allowed to compete in the Olympics, despite Israel's objection that the decision was premature.

In answer to questions, Samaranch said he had a firm commitment from the United States government that all athletes would receive visas, regardless of the politics of their home countries, to attend the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta.

Tommy Morrison's chance slips away

TULSA, Okla, Oct 30: Tommy Morrison saw his chance at a \$7.5 million payday against Lennox Lewis go by the boards Friday night when he was knocked out in the first round by Michael Bentt, reports AP.

Bentt took the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title away from Morrison by knocking him down three times after being stung by a Morrison punch.

Referee Danny Campbell stopped the bout 1 minute, 33 seconds into the round as a stunned crowd of 7,200 watched. Morrison was raised 90 miles (145 kms) away in Jay, Okla. This was the first heavyweight title fight in state history.

Morrison's first title defence, in August, turned into a sham when he wound up fighting a journeyman and knocked him out in four rounds. Bentt proved to be no such slouch.

Bentt, 11-1 with six knockouts, seemed to be stung by a left about 20 seconds into the round. But he quickly got away from the ropes and a short time later knocked Morrison down with a right hand.

After an 8-count, Bentt moved in quickly and unleashed a right that dropped Morrison to one knee. The end came after a flurry of punches.

The loss was Morrison's second in 40 fights, both by knockout. The first was Oct. 18, 1991, against Ray Mercer, for the WBO title.

Morrison regrouped after that and won eight straight fights before getting another shot at the WBO championship.

Kasparov, Short show the way

LONDON, Oct 30: Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short won the first battle in the world chess war with a heavily hyped \$2 million breakthrough championship which showed that a game for eggheads can work on television, reports AP.

But the world chess federation, FIDE, which has staged every championship since 1948, isn't surrendering — even though it was forced to cut the prize money and scramble for a new venue during its rival title match between Anatoly Karpov and Jan Timman.

For the first time in history, the chess world is deeply divided and there will be two world champions.

Kasparov, the highest-rated player in chess history, won the first Professional Chess Association crown and about 956,250 pounds (\$1.43 million) on Oct 21 Karpov, who lost to Short in a qualifying match, was on the threshold of winning the FIDE title and \$440,000 on Saturday.

While boxing fans accept several rival titleholders, many top chess players are upset about the split and would like to see a reconciliation.

"It's been a clash of personalities and money has played a big role," said Nathan Divinsky, president of the Commonwealth Chess Association and Canada's zonal FIDE president.

Last February, Kasparov and Short refused to play their title match for FIDE, denouncing the federation as corrupt, bureaucratic and inept. Much of their venom was reserved for FIDE's president, Florencio Campomanes.

To stage their match, they set up the Professional Chess Association with the aim of making the top rung of competitive chess as lucrative as professional golf or tennis.

The Times newspaper, which put up most of the 1.7 million

pound (\$1.25 million) prize money, insists its sponsorship paid off.

"This has been the most talked about event with which The Times has been associated since the first assault on Mount Everest in 1953, said editor Peter Stothard.

New York attorney Bob Rice, the PCA's first commissioner, said the Kasparov-Short match had taken some "historic strides" toward commercialising chess.

"Most important, by far, we proved that chess does work on TV, does attract a highly desirable audience, and does hold that audience," he said. "We can prove now beyond a shadow of a doubt the commercial value of chess."

Britain broadcast 60 hours of chess, and millions of viewers tuned in coverage of the match in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia and Africa.

The PCA has a busy schedule of events planned for the next year.

Rice said 46 of the world's 52 top players had accepted invitations to compete in a PCA qualifying match in Groningen, Netherlands, in December, with a prize fund of \$230,000.

Timman clings to life-line

JAKARTA, Oct 30: Jan Timman of the Netherlands kept his title hopes alive by beating Anatoly Karpov of Russia in the 20th game of the official World Chess Championship on Saturday after 40 moves and 5 hours play, reports Reuter.

Karpov still leads Timman by 12 points to 8 in the 24 game series and needs one more draw to win the match and take most of the one million Swiss francs (\$1.75 million) prize fund.

The next game will be played on Monday.

Sotomayor's Spanish expedition for Cuban athletics

MADRID, Oct 30: World and Olympic high jump champion Javier Sotomayor of Cuba is to compete for leading Spanish athletics club Larios, reports Reuter.

An agreement announced on Friday covers six other Cubans, including Ioanmet Quintero, winner of the women's world high jump title in Stuttgart last August.

"This is an important step forward which opens new possibilities for financing Cuban athletics," Jesus Molina, secretary general of the Cuban Athletics Federation, told a news conference.

Under the agreement Larios will finance the Cubans but they will not be on formal contract. The seven will continue to represent their country but as individuals will compete for Larios.

The other athletes are Silvia Costa, high jump silver medalist at Stuttgart, high hurdles Emilio Valle and Aluisia Yanira Lopez, long jumper Ivan Pedroso and sprinter Ivan Garcia. Additional athletes may be included at a later date.

Three-times European club title holders, Larios have been Spanish national champions for the past seven years.

Goodwill Games has a future

ST PETERSBURG, Russia, Oct 30: The Goodwill Games between Russia and the United States could become a permanent fixture despite the large number of international competitions, US broadcaster Ted Turner said on Friday, reports Reuter.

"There are lost of competitions but, apart from the Summer Olympics, only the Goodwill Games gives athletes from so many sports the chance to participate on a world stage in the summer," he told a news conference. "We're willing to continue it indefinitely."

Turner said he was happy with the preparations for the third Games to be held in St Petersburg next July and August. The event is staged every four years.

Turner started the Games in 1986 after Cold War-related boycotts prevented the US and Soviet teams from competing against each other in the 1980 Moscow and 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

"While there is now goodwill between the United States and Russia, this is not true all over

the world. Games are a good example for smaller countries which have shown animosity towards each other," he said.

Russian Olympic committee chairman Vitaly Smirnov said although the Games would end just two weeks before the start of the European track and field championships he was sure there would be a top-class field.

"I am convinced the Goodwill Games have a great future," he told the news conference. "For Russia, only the Winter

Olympics in February would be more important next year.

Turner Broadcasting Systems (TBS), which organises the Games, says participants will include British hurdler Colin Jackson, German world long jump champion Heike Drechsler and the US individual gold medalists from last year's Olympics.

In all, it says 2,000 athletes from more than 50 countries will take part in 24 sports, including the triathlon for the first time.

TBS lost 70 million dollars on the first two Games, in Moscow in 1986 and Seattle in 1990, but Games president Jack Kelly said losses in 1994 would be much less.

"Red is very confident about the Games — we don't expect to lose large sums of money this time at all. I see us as very close to break-even now," he said after the news conference.

"This time we're trying to raise more money and control expenses. Last time we sometimes spent money too early and had to pay for some things twice."

Marcetta wins Aussie title

SYDNEY, Oct 30: John Marcetta scored a ninth-round knockout win over Paul James on Saturday night to win the vacant Australian super-middleweight boxing title at the Balmain rugby league club, reports AP.

Marcetta, 21, caught James with a flurry of blows and then sent him to the canvas with a right uppercut. James failed to beat the count and Marcetta was declared the winner at 2:37 of the round.

The bout had been scheduled for 12 rounds and was even on the judges' cards at the time of the stoppage.



Boxer Heather Poyner watches the scale during the weigh-in for her Oct 30 fight against another female boxer, Dallas Malloy. The match between the two women will be the first fight ever sanctioned by the USA Boxing, an organisation that Malloy sued for sex discrimination. —AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pugilistic tactic

4 Vacation st.

7 Asian peninsula

12 Stout relative

13 Torched

14 Join

15 Chum

16 Eland and oribi

18 15

19 Hester Prynne's daughter

20 Yule refrain

22 Prepare to fight

23 Mop

27 "— Town"

29 Microscope specimen

31 Rio Grande-feeder

34 Take in, maybe

35 Gets the lead out?

37 Pinkerton Agency logo

DOWN

1 Black lacquer

2 A place to remember

3 Prove otherwise

4 Tent opening

5 Straight

6 Rose oil

7 Ponder

8 Uru-guayan's year

9 Sass

10 Consumed

11 Absolutely

17 Columnist

18 Bombeck

21 Un-tethered

23 Cobbler's supply

24 Drenched

25 Copper head?

26 Tavern

28 Put to work

30 Has potential

31 Worshiper's place

32 Earlier than

33 Train component

36 Unaccompanied

37 Fireplace souvenirs

40 River horse

42 1951 song, "I Get —"

43 1952 song, "— People"

44 Inexperienced

45 "Woe is me!"

46 "Check"

48 Zsa Zsa's sis

49 Wooden shoe passenger

50 Through

51 New Haven growth

Solution time: 25 mins.

JIG ALDA WORM
ADO SOUR IDEA
GOODLUCK NOTI
DOE KINDRED
PAWNED NOS
URI PUP WOMAN
SELL GAY RAVE
HALOS WEB KOS
ZAP TALENT
PESETAS RUG
ORAN THURGOOD
MING HOKE ORR
PEKE SEED DAY

Yesterday's answer 4-9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16			17				
18			19							
20		21	22			23	24	25	26	
		27	28			29	30			
31	32	33				34				
35			36			37				
38			39	40		41	42	43	44	
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48	49	50	51					52		
53						54			55	
56						57			58	

CRYPTOQUIP
W Q K T R M Y G G U O Z P
Z F O Z M P P I V Q Q V S W K R
I Q G K A F X V S I D X
U V I Y D X S

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PEOPLE WHO CONGRATE DOWN AT THE POOL HALL LIKE TO STICK TOGETHER.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: O equals W

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.