

# Memory, MSC's nightmare

Sports Reporter



Et tu Arambagh. Drowned in depression the fans of reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club must have felt like the moribund Roman emperor after seeing their team throw in the towel in its bid to collect at least one trophy this year, following a 0-1 defeat to neighbours Arambagh Krira Sangstha in the Star Premier League at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

For knowers, it would be naive to indulge in such proverbial musing. Arambagh have a commendable and commencing history of spoiling Mohammedans' broth.

Yesterday they made Mohammedan fans travel through time to another bloody night

on the right flank simply tore apart the Mohammedan defence where left back Parvez, who came from Brothers Union this year, was time and again beaten for sheer speed of the dark outside right.

Former national custodian Syed Hassan Kanan, who was been griping on the line for a place under the bar ahead of young Abdullah Lahul, saved his side from a certain disaster as early as in the second minute after the kick off when he fisted a powerful drive by Alfaz.

The irresistible Alfaz raced down the right to send in a lovely minus six minutes later and Babu Das, who missed a couple of sitters in the previous encounter against Abahani Krira Chakra, made no mistake in guiding the ball much to

when he tipped over the bar a pile drive by Mohammedans' Inatav for a corner.

It was party time for the overjoyed Arambagh footballers, who were richer for Taka 1,000 each as an outcome of a bonus announcement made earlier by club general secretary Alamgir.

They now have ten points from thirteen matches while Mohammedans, four points adrift from leaders Abahani who are inching towards regaining the title with 20 points from twelve matches, stayed put to 16 points from 13 matches.

In the day's other Star Premier engagement played earlier at the same venue, Wari beat Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club 2-1.



Arambagh defender Faisal rises to the occasion to quash the predatory intentions of Mohammedans' Asad during yesterday's Star Premier football league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium. Arambagh virtually buried reigning champions' title retaining hopes with a thoroughly deserving one nil victory.

at the same venue nine years ago. The black and whites had the championship almost under threat and rape in 1985 before two second half goals by Ramzan and Salahuddin nullified Nepalese Ganesh Thapa's goal and Mohammedans' apple cart was well and truly upset.

Last night, there was no such big stake for the popular giants of local soccer for their title pretensions had already been put in the cold storage following the loss of eight points including two defeats and a memorable night in fledgling career of an unheralded Babu Das made sure Mohammedans' premature withdrawal from the title race with their third loss.

Plagued with persistent bad luck and injury problems and an awful want of far-sight on the part of their officials, Mohammedans had not much to complain about last night.

Playing with astonishing positiveness marked with unabated penchant for aggression, Arambagh simply swept their fancied but beleaguered opponents off their feet.

So well organised coach Wazed Gazi's (former Mohammedan winger), boys in a makeshift green were that they successfully defended a lead as early as of the eighth minute.

Sacrificing their colours to avoid chromatic confusion, since Mohammedans stuck to their traditional combination of black and white, Arambagh drew their inspiration from Alfaz and Tushar in the midfield.

While Alfaz set up move after move, the pacy Jahangir

the horror of Kanan, back on the field after a long lay-off.

While Arambagh delighted with some imaginative football, Mohammedans, although playing a wretched blend of soccer, came across a couple of chances to restore parity.

A Kaiser head off a good ball provided by hardworking media Nurul Huq Manik just missed the mark in 12th minute.

However, the nearest Mohammedans got to levelling the score last night was in the 28th minute. Andrey Kazakov, one of Mohammedans' three Russians, who is heading the list with nine goals so far, scooped the ball over an advancing Arambagh custodian Milan only to see it go over after bouncing in front of an empty goal.

Arambagh continued to harass the Mohammedans into the second half. An Alfaz attempt missed the mark in the 50th minute.

Poor Kanan, who had a cruel return, was in position to grip after a Jahangir cross from the right was connected by his peer on the other flank Alamgir eight minutes later.

Munna, who helped Mohammedans to a laudable win against star-studded Mukti Joddha Sangsad Krira Chakra earlier in a first-leg encounter with two goals, failed to deliver the goods when he was set free with the goalie to beat in the 74th minute but his attempt was wide off the mark.

Milan ensured that after Agrami Bank and Brothers Union Arambagh were to hand Mohammedans their third defeat in the Star Premier league

Sattar, one of the four hat-trick notchers this season, put Fakirerpool ahead with a neat placement after Rana laid the ball on his way in the 59th minute.

Babu and substitute Bazlu struck in the space of two minutes to help Wari turn around. A shot from the edge of the box by Babu in the 73rd restored parity while two minutes later Bazlu utilised a through by Shankar to carve an important win for the traditional club.

Wari have 12 points from 13 matches. Fakirerpool remain glued to seven points from 13 matches.

## FARASHGANJ IN FRAY

Farashganj Sporting Club entered the race for the two berths in Premier league when they edged past East End 3-2 in an entertaining Star First Division encounter at the Mirpur Stadium.

Zahir scored twice while Arif got another to ensure Farashganj's win.

East End pulled back twice through Suman and Dulal who found the net in the 17th and 87th minutes respectively.

Farashganj along with Sadharan Bima trail leaders Rahmatganj with 18 points from 13 matches while East End remained on 13 from 14 matches.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha vs Muslim Institute 6 pm (Mirpur Stadium)

Agrami Bank vs Bangladesh Boys 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Abahani vs PWD 6:30 (Dhaka Stadium)

# Bangladesh-India tie today



HIROSHIMA, Oct 3: The Indian campaign to recapture the lost glory in men's hockey commences in night earnest tomorrow when they taken on weaklings Bangladesh in their Group-B opener at the Hiroshima Regional Park Hockey Stadium, reports PTL.

We are taking every match seriously and are confident of putting up a better show this time," chief coach Zafar Iqbal said.

A determined Zafar Iqbal has left no stone unturned to

bring back the Indian confidence and has put the boys through the grind. "We have prepared well and all the boys are in good shape."

"We have also tried out variations in taking the penalty corners and have practised penalty strokes which had been our weak points," the coach said.

Zafar said Mohammed Arif and Anil Alorin have been entrusted with the job of getting goals though penalty corner hits.

Captain Judge Felix, recalled to the team to bolster the midfield, is also optimistic of a much improved display. "Ranjit Singh who was not a regular left winger is shaping up well and providing excellent openings," the skipper said.

India, who last won the Asia title for the only time in 1966 at Bangkok, lost it four years later at the same venue when they lost to Pakistan 0-2 in the replayed final after their first clash ended 1-1 draw.

Zafar rated the Koreans as the speediest team in the world, possessing a very effective set of wingers and it would need all the guile and skills of the two Indian wing-halves Shakeel Ahmed and Harpreet Singh to block the Korean flankmen.

India have enough rest days

in between the matches at the league stage to recoup their energy, Zafar said.

India and Korea were expected to make it to the semi-final from Pool-B, while Pakistan who have had some outstanding results in international meets this year, start as the overwhelming favourites to top Pool-A.

Shabaz Ahmed, the experienced Pakistani skipper, is obviously the trump card for them with some outstanding new players like centre forward Kamran Ashraf and speedy right winger Asif Bajwa who can tilt the scale in Pakistan's favour.

Adams to stand in for Platt

LONDON, Oct 3: Tony Adams will take over as national team captain for the injured David Platt when England hosts Romania in an international exhibition game next week, reports AP.

Platt injured a knee while playing in a Cup Winners' Cup game with his Italian club Sampdoria on Thursday night, giving Arsenal defender Adams, who turns 28 next Monday, a chance to wear the England captain's arm band for the first time in the Oct 12 match at Wembley.

## ASIAN GAMES MEDALS TABLE

HIROSHIMA, Oct 3: Following is the first day medal tally at the 12th Asian Games here on Monday (tabulated under gold, silver, bronze and total):

	G	S	B	T
China	8	3	1	12
Japan	6	2	4	12
Indonesia	0	3	3	6
South Korea	0	2	2	4
Chinese Taipei	0	1	3	4
India	0	1	1	2
Thailand	0	1	0	1
Vietnam	0	1	0	1
Brunei	0	0	2	2
Nepal	0	0	1	1
Total	14	14	17	45

(Note: Two bronze medals were awarded in karate competition)

## Qarar out of his depths

Sports Reporter

Qarar Mizanur Rahman found the international qualification mark far beyond his reach when the SAF Games 100-metre breaststroke bronze winner clocked the 11th best time in the heat of his specialised event at the Hiroshima Games yesterday.

Qarar, the lone Bangladeshi representative in August's Rome World Championships, finished seventh in the Preliminary Heat 1 with a time of 1 min 10.13 seconds.

Meanwhile, the hockey squad braces for a wretched time when it opens the campaign against eight-time Olympic winners India while boxers are expected to fare no better against Korea and India in the 51 and 91 kilograms categories.

## Damal Summer cricket begins this month

Sports Reporter

The 15th Damal Summer cricket tournament is expected to commence from the last week of this month.

Organisers the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) have requested the Premier and the First Division outfits of Dhaka to complete the entry formalities by October 10.

## Aussies beset with injuries

KARACHI, Oct 3: Injury problems have struck the Australian tourists after they lost the first Test by one wicket here Sunday, reports AFP.

New South Wales fast bowler Glenn McGrath, who retired to the pavilion suffering from a thigh muscle injury to his right leg may not be fit for the second Test while off-spinner Tim May has a stiff neck.

"McGrath's injury will take some time and we don't know how long it is going to take before it heals," said coach Bobby Simpson, indicating that May will be fit.

McGrath's injury left the tourists short of a key bowler in the second innings.

## H'ball results

Sports Reporter

Brothers Union and Shaheed Nabi High School won their respective first round matches of the Rear Admiral M A Khan memorial handball tournament at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the second match of the day, Brothers posted a facile 26-11 goal victory over Bangladesh Air Force with Rafique notching highest nine goals in a one-sided affair.

Shaheed Nabi beat Progati Boys' Club 16-12 in the first match of the day.

Priotosh with seven goals was the top marksman for the winners, who led 10-7 at the breather.

# Chinese juggernaut on the roll

HIROSHIMA, Oct 3: China's three smallest women weightlifters started their nation on its way to another big gold haul by smashing world records Monday, and its swimmers followed up by winning three of four races, reports AP.

Host Japan swept the first four gold medals in its native sport of karate and won one swimming race and the equestrian team dressage event.

But the Japanese still ended the first full day of competition trailing China eight to six in gold medals. The Chinese won the men's gymnastic team event — ahead of South Korea and Japan. And China's Dong Zhaozhi tipped the balance by defeating Japan's Yoshihide Nagano in the men's foil fence.



ing final.

In total medals, China and Japan were tied with 12 each. Indonesia had six — three silvers and three bronzes.

Over the two weeks of competition among nearly 5,000 athletes, China was expected to win the overall medals race for the fourth consecutive Games, and the big battle was between Japan and South Korea for second.

The South Koreans had just two silvers and two bronzes on Monday, however.

Attention focused on the swimming pool after China's women won 12 of 16 events last month in the World Championships in Rome.

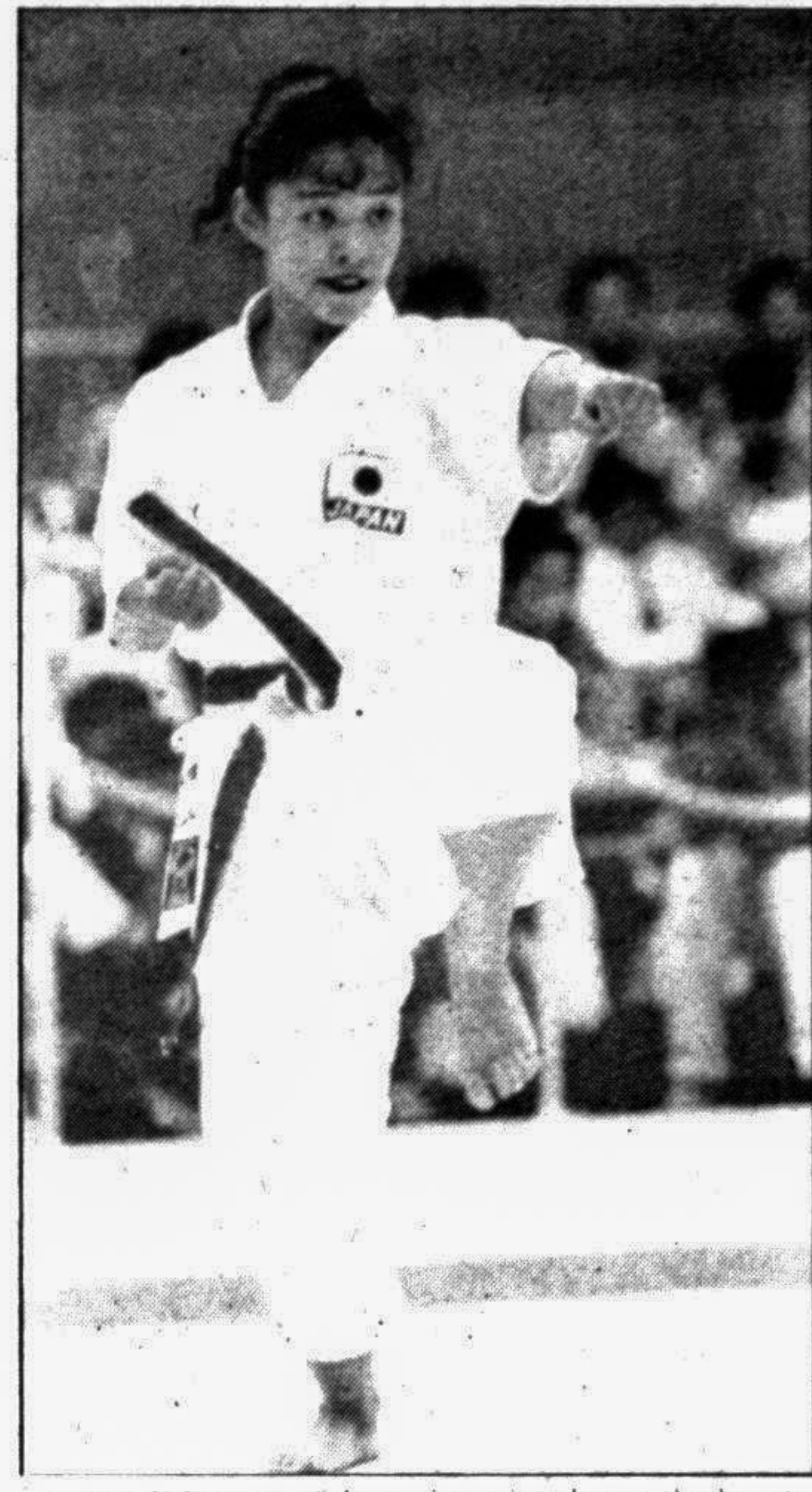
But it was newcomer Shan Ying who stole the spotlight, winning the women's 100-metre freestyle in the third best time ever and edging Chinese teammate Lu Bin, the silver medalist in Rome.

China's other winners were veteran Lin Li, ahead of world champion teammate Dai Guohong, in the women's 400-metre individual medley, and Xiong Guoming, who beat two Japanese in the men's 200 freestyle.

For Japan, Akira Hayashi beat two Chinese in the men's 100 breaststroke.

Hayashi also set a Games record, 1:02.04, with China's Wang Yiwu second in 1:03.42.

World champion Liu Xihua



Hisami Yokoyama of Japan in action during the kumite karate event of the 12th Asian yesterday. Yokoyama won the first gold of the Games.

— AFP photo

China's Chen Jianhong, who held the old record of 1:02.60, took the bronze in 1:03.94.

In the women's 46-kilogram weightlifting division, China's Guan Hong hoisted a total of 182.5 kilograms (401.5 pounds), well better than the world mark of 165 (363 pounds) set by China's Luo Hongwei last December in China.

Sanga Wangkiree of Thailand won the silver medal with 177.5 (390.5 pounds), and India's Mameirakpam Kunjirani won bronze with 172.5 (379.5 pounds).

World champion Liu Xihua

broke her own record of 187.5 (412.5 pounds) with a total of 197.5 (434.5 pounds). Indonesia's Binti Wasman Supeni followed with 180 (396 pounds) and South Korea's Choi Myung-shik was third with 177.5 (390.5 pounds).

Zhang Juhua lifted a total of 202.5 (445.5 pounds) in the 54-kilogram competition, beating the record of 200 (440 pounds) set by teammate Chen Xiaoming, who has moved up to a higher weight division. Karnam Malleswari of India was the silver medalist with 195 (435.6 pounds). Indonesia's Fatmawati took the bronze

with 182.5 (401.5 pounds).

Chinese were favoured to sweep all nine women's weightlifting golds in these Games.

Japan, meanwhile, was expected to take all 11 golds in karate, a fighting art making its debut in the Games, where it joins Korea's taekwondo, China's wushu and the Olympic sport of judo, also a Japanese creation.

Japan's Hisami Yokoyama shadow-boxed her way to these Games' very first gold medal, winning in the kata competition, in which the athletes perform against an imaginary opponent. Five judges rate them on their technique in attacking, defending and countering.

"I'm overwhelmed to have won the first medal of the Games," said the 23-year-old high school teacher, who began learning karate at age 9.

She was awarded 48.1 points, to 46.5 for Omita Olga Ompt of Indonesia and 46.1 for Chen Shu-Chen of Taiwan.

In the kumite division, involving actual bouts but with punches pulled, Hiromi Hasama defeated Pham Hong Ha of Vietnam for the 53-kilogram division gold medal. Hisako Yoshimi beat Su Shu-chen of Taiwan at 60 kilograms, and Hiromi Hirose downed Mity Johana Kaseger of Indonesia in the over 60-kilogram class.

A total of 337 golds are at stake in competition among athletes from 42 nations and territories.

With the addition of karate and other changes to the sports lineup since the last Games in Beijing in 1990, and the debut of five former Soviet republics, the Chinese are saying their gold total is likely to fall from the 183 four years ago. South Korea had 54 golds and Japan 38 four years ago.

This time, the Chinese still are expecting more than 100 — enough to claim the overall championship.

In the equestrian event, Japan scored 2,886 points to 2,759 for South Korea and 2,501 for Taiwan.

China's men gymnasts won the team event with 286,600 points. South Korea took the silver with 283,575 and Japan won the bronze with 281,550.

China also started impressively in the diving, taking the top two qualifying places Monday in both the men's springboard and the women's platform events. Finals in both events are scheduled Tuesday.

# Uzbekistan continues steamrolling Emirates embarrass hosts

HIROSHIMA, Oct 3: Uzbekistan continued their successful debut at the Asian Games soccer tournament with a 5-0 victory over Malaysia Monday night, but defending champions Iran and highly rated hosts Japan both struggled to draws in their opening matches, reports AP.

Iran were held to a 0-0 draw by a combative Bahrain team in their Group A opener, while Japan needed a second-half penalty from star striker Kazu Miura to salvage a 1-1 draw in a fiery contest with the United Arab Emirates in Group D.

China kept alive their hopes of a quarterfinal spot with a crushing 4-0 victory over Yemen in the other Group A game, while Kuwait swamped Nepal 8-0 in Group C.

Uzbekistan got two goals each from powerful striker Igor Shklyrin and midfielder

Rustam Durmanov as they scored their second straight victory in Group B following their 4-1 win over Saudi Arabia on Saturday. Andrei Fedorov opened the scoring in the 24th minute and all five goals came from close range.

The mobile Shklyrin now has scored four goals in two games.

Iran, winner in Beijing four years ago, looked composed against Bahrain, but could not find a way past some stern defence and acrobatic goalkeeper Ali Husain despite outshooting their opponent 21-7.

Japan trailed early when Adnan Altayani touched home a swerving corner taken by midfielder Mohamed Ali Mohamed.

The highly paid J-League professionals never looked convincing but earned a share of the points when Genoa-based Miura converted the hotly-disputed penalty in the second half.

Several Emirates players jostled Malaysian referee Abdullah Mohd Nazri while disputing the penalty decision and defender Ismail Ismail was dismissed late in the game after a clash with Miura, who was one of six players given cautions.

The Emirates squandered a chance late in the game when Altayani blasted off target from close range, but Miura was equally profligate at the other end, shooting across the face of goal.

"Our team was very young and nervous and made a lot of mistakes in the first half," said Japan's Brazilian coach Paulo Roberto Falcao.

China recovered from their disappointing opening Group A draw with Turkmenistan to hit three goals in the first 21 minutes against a woefully disorganised Yemen defence.

Gao Feng beat the off-side trap to score with a looping header after 10 minutes and Li Bing made it 2-0 with a low drive four minutes later.

Cao Xiangdong set up the third goal for Peng Weiguo, who headed the ball home, and then scored the fifth goal himself with a powerful shot from 25 metres (yards) out in the 82nd minute.

China dominated thanks to their ability to attack quickly down either flank and the aerial superiority of Li, but wasted a series of second-half chances by being over-elaborate.

Qatar drew 2-2 in Group D with Burma, who scored both their goals in the last 10 minutes. Win Aung and Aung Tin Myint were the late marksman for Burma, while Qatar's goals came from a penalty converted by Al Majid-Juma and Mahmoud Soufi, who had nine shots during the game.

Lam Hing Lun and Le Kin Weng got the goals for Hong Kong in their 2-1 win over Thailand in Group B. The Thais netted on a clever curling direct free-kick from Dusit Chalermsarn but lost despite dominating possession.

Kuwait's win over out-gunned Nepal left the Nepalese having conceded 19 goals in their opening two matches. They also had six men cautioned and Mami Shah sent off in the second half.

— AFP photo



Benfica's Argentine star Claudio Caniggia (R) tries to weave through a tackle by FC Porto's Paulinho Santos during their Portuguese league encounter on Oct 2. The game ended 1-1.

— AFP photo

## Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Oct 3: Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club beat Bakalia Krira Sangstha 2-1 in the CJKP First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Mohammedans dominated play but they failed to break the deadlock.

In the 16th minute Bakalia took the lead through Anwar. Five minutes later Mohammedans levelled the scores through an Avjit equaliser.

Murad grabbed the winner seven minutes from time. Brothers Union beat PDB Club by a solitary goal in another encounter.

## Natore football

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Oct 3: Jammarg Uttarban Club blanked Samata Sangha 4-0 in the Natore football league '94 at the local stadium today.

All the goals came in the second half. Assaduzzaman, Mohadev, Shahjada and Hassan were on target for the winners. Shati Club will face Rajanigandha Sporting Club in tomorrow's encounter.

## AB Bank TT

Sports Reporter

It was an old tale retold in the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league when Brothers Union, Armanitola Juniors and Wari Juniors recorded their eight successive win at the Dhamondi gymnasium yesterday.

Title-contenders Brothers and Armanitola Junior had little difficulties in taking care of Cynthia Sports Club and Purbachal Parishad respectively by straight sets while Wari, who lost the second match, wrapped up their engagement against Mariners 3-1.

In the other match of the day, Swamibagh TT thrashed Bangladesh Bank 3-0.

## Div II hockey

Combined Sporting Club beat Dilkusha Sporting Club by a solitary goal in the metropolis Green Delta Second Division Hockey League at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Mahmood Ahmed scored the match winner in the 44th minute by a nice field goal.

The other match between Shisu Kishore Sangha and Tejjagan Agramaji ended in a goalless draw at the same venue.