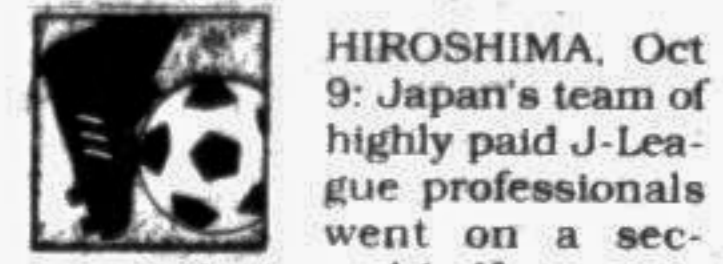


J-League pros power hosts



HIROSHIMA, Oct 9: Japan's team of highly paid J-League professionals went on a second-half scoring spree Sunday night as it beat Burma 5-0 and grabbed the last quarterfinal spot in the Asian Games soccer tournament, reports AP.

Japan led only 1-0 at half-time through a goal from midfielder Tetsuji Hashiratani, but local hero Takuya Takagi, Teruo Iwamoto, Tsuyoshi Kitzawa and Masaaki Sawanobari all found the net in the second half as Japan finished on top of Group D.

The Japanese squandered a handful of other scoring opportunities in recording their first win after two draws.

Saudi Arabia scrambled by Hong Kong 2-1 to clinch a quarterfinal spot earlier Sunday, while the United Arab Emirates and Turkmenistan advanced with draws.

The Saudis struggled early against Hong Kong before scoring twice late in the game, while the Emirates drew 2-2 with regional rivals Qatar and finished second behind Japan on goal difference.

Turkmenistan scored two second-half goals to salvage a 2-2 draw with Bahrain that clinched them the second place in Group A behind China and eliminated Bahrain, who needed the win and looked to have it until two minutes from the end.

China, Kuwait, South Korea and Uzbekistan, all of whom were inactive Sunday, already had clinched their quarterfinal spots.

Tuesday's quarterfinals will see Japan play South Korea in a battle between the two rivals seeking to be named host to the 2002 World Cup, while unbeaten China play Saudi Arabia and Kuwait face the Emirates.

Uzbekistan, who won all four of their first-round games and topped Group B, will meet Turkmenistan — another former Soviet republic making their Asian Games debut.

Bahrain, led 2-0 against Turkmenistan on goals from Khalid Al Doseri and Adel Marqoob, but Turkmenistan got two goals from Amandourdy Annadourdyev in the second half — including a close-range equaliser in the 89th minute.

The game was a fierce one with Thai referee Russamee

Jindamai handing out nine yellow cards — including five to Turkmenistan — and ejecting Sami Al Hayki of Bahrain late in the game.

The Emirates got strikes from Nasser Khamis and the prolific Adnan Khatami against Qatar, who twice led through goals from Juma Al-Majid.

in the 75th minute when a corner from Khalid Alsenhaf was deflected into his own net by defender Yau Kin Wai — although Alsenhaf was credited with the goal.

The goal galvanised the Saudis, who then sealed the victory when a clever pass from Obeid Al-Dossary gave



Qatar's Ahmad Mubarak Al Shafi (R) and Munther Ali Abdulla of the United Arab Emirates chase after the ball during their Asian Games encounter yesterday. The match ended 2-2 with the UAE moving into the quarterfinals ahead of Qatar on points. — AFP photo

from the penalty spot, and Mahmoud Soufi, Altalyani got the crucial equalizer from close range with just 12 minutes left.

Saudi Arabia scored twice in the last 15 minutes to record their unimpressive 2-1 win over Hong Kong, who had taken a 27th minute lead through a goal from Australian-based striker Tim Bredbury.

The experimental Saudi team, comprised of players under 23 years old, equalised

speedy Saud Al-Qanat the chance to cut into the penalty area and score with a low drive.

In other matches played Sunday that had no bearing on qualification, already-eliminated defending champions Iran beat Yemen 4-0, Thailand drew 1-1 with Malaysia and Oman edged Nepal 1-0.

In women's soccer action Sunday, Taiwan recorded a 2-0 victory over South Korea, who suffered their third straight loss.

Indonesia win one, lose one



HIROSHIMA, Oct 9: Indonesia won their first gold medal of the Hiroshima Asian Games today when their badminton kings led by world number one Ardy Wiranata regained the prestigious men's title after a gap of 24 years, reports AFP.

The Indonesians raced to a crushing 5-0 win over South Korea in a lopsided final after a stirring contest for the women's championship at the Tsuru Memorial gymnasium.

South Korea denied the Indonesians a golden double when their tigerish women won an emotionally-charged final 4-1 to land their first Asian Games team title.

Both teams said they were satisfied with a gold and a silver. Chinese and Malaysian men and Chinese and Japanese women, the losing semifinalists, all won bronze medals.

"We are proud to win the first gold medal of the Games for Indonesia," said manager Lufti Hamid.

Korean coach Kim Jong Soo said the Indonesian men, with three players ranked among the top five and boasting the world's top doubles combination, were too powerful for any team.

In the women's section, Indonesia, Korea and China were all equally strong and he was happy for his team to be going back with the gold.

Wiranata ensured a flying start for Indonesian men with a quick 15-8, 15-10 win over South Korea's top player Park Sung-Woo, who won a bronze at the Asian Championships.

Woo committed too many errors while the Indonesian played what he described as "safe badminton."

As he has done in his last two matches, world number two Joko Suprianto struggled and gave up a game before overcoming Kim Hak-Kyun 11-15, 15-5, 15-8.

The world's top doubles combination of Rexy Mainaky and Ricky Subagja then thrashed Ha Tae-Kwon and Yoo Yong-Sung 15-2, 15-8 to give Indonesia an unbeatable lead.

"This is for the country," the 24-year-old Wiranata exclaimed after the victory, the first for Indonesia since the 1970 Asian Games.

Susi Susanti gave the Indonesian women an equally fluent start when she beat Bang Soon-Hyun in a repeat of the 1992 Olympic final.

The 23-year-old won 11-5, 11-2 in just 25 minutes. She reeled off nine successive points from 2-2 in the second game, bringing into play her

superb footwork and mobility for breathtaking retrieval and returns that left the 22-year-old bang stranded.

Susanti then sat down on the sidelines to cheer on the team but that was the only point Indonesia were to win.

Singapore Open winner Ra Kyung-Min, a 17-year-old from Seoul, pulled South Korea level by beating Kartika Juni 11-9, 11-10.

Juni, 21, an Asia Cup semifinalist, fought hard before bowing to the speedy and aggressive Korean in 34 minutes.

The Korean doubles combination of Chung So Young and Jan Hye-Ock beat Finarsih and Lilytampi 15-5, 15-11.

Trailing 6-10 in the second game, the Koreans won five successive points through a string of unforced errors by Finarsih to forge ahead and wrapped up the match when Finarsih hit wide to the dismay of the Indonesian camp.

Elysa and Resiana Zelin

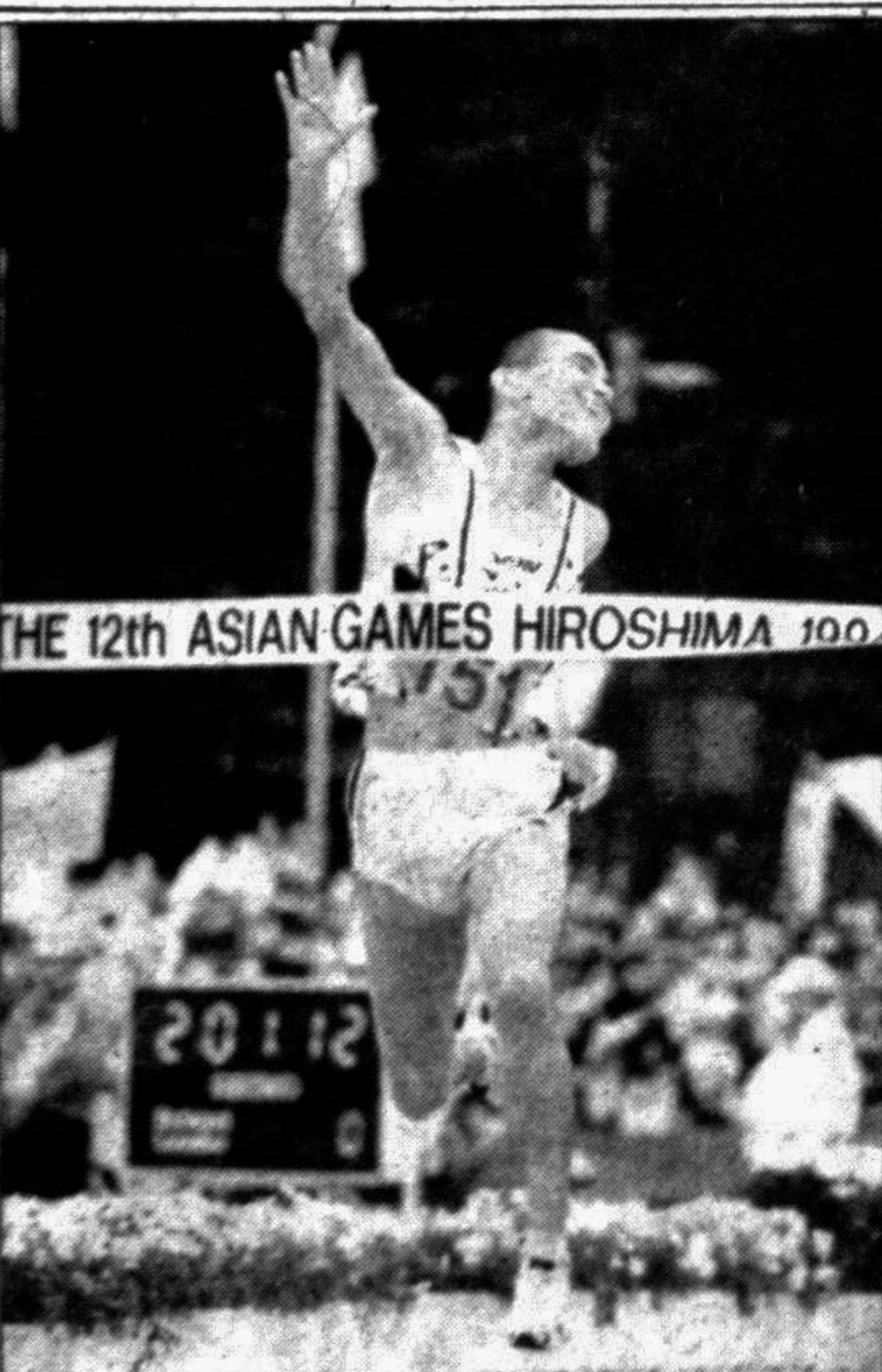
fought every inch of the way to keep Indonesian hopes alive. After splitting the first two games with Gil Young-Ah and Shim Eun-Jung, they raced to a 6-0 lead before the Koreans caught up.

Gil and Shim levelled, at 10-10, then yielded just one more point before closing out the match and hugged each other in joy. Lee Heung-Soon beat Yuliani-Sentosa 11-8, 11-5 in the dead rubber.

South Korean coach Soo shuffled his two doubles combinations to confuse the Indonesians, and the move paid off.

The two finals were a repeat of semifinals in the men's Thomas Cup and women's Uber Cup both of which Indonesia won to record a rare double.

Indonesian men and South Korean women beat the reigning Asian Games Champions China in the semifinals.



Barcelona Olympic champion Hwang Young-jo of South Korea lunges for the tape to win the Asian Games men's marathon yesterday. Hwang clocked 2:11.12 second. — AFP photo

President Ramos taken for a ride

MANILA, Oct 9: President Fidel Ramos has ordered investigators to find out who tricked him into sending congratulations to a Filipino swimmer for winning a gold medal, although she actually finished last, reports Reuter.

"This is obviously an affront to the credibility, dignity and integrity of the presidency," a presidential spokesman quoted Ramos as saying after realising he had been the victim of a hoax.

Ramos congratulated swimmer Akiko Thomson on Friday after receiving a facsimile message supposedly from the Philippine Sports Commission saying she had won the women's 100-metre backstroke event at the Hiroshima Games. In fact she had finished eighth, more than five seconds behind the winner.

Ramos hastily recalled the congratulatory message after realising he had been duped.

"I won't let the incident go just like that," Ramos said as he ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to track down the culprit.

ASIAN GAMES MEDALS TABLE

HIROSHIMA, Oct 9: Following is the seventh day medals tally at the 12th Asian Games here on Sunday (tabulated under gold, silver, bronze and total):

	G	S	B	T
China	73	48	17	138
South Korea	31	20	30	81
Japan	28	30	49	107
Kazakhstan	9	11	12	32
Iran	5	7	4	16
Taiwan	5	6	11	22
Syria	2	3	0	5
Malaysia	2	1	10	13
Kuwait	2	1	4	7
Indonesia	1	10	4	15
Uzbekistan	1	4	9	14
Mongolia	1	2	1	4
Vietnam	1	2	0	3
India	1	1	3	5
Saudi Arabia	1	1	3	5
Turkmenistan	1	0	0	1
Thailand	0	5	4	9
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	3	5
Jordan	0	2	2	4
Philippines	0	2	2	4
UAE	0	1	3	4
Hong Kong	0	1	1	2
Brunei	0	0	2	2
Nepal	0	0	2	2
Singapore	0	0	2	2
Burma	0	0	1	1
Macau	0	0	1	1
Tajikistan	0	0	1	1

(Note: There are differences in medals totals because of ties).

Another Asiad sneak-in foiled

HIROSHIMA, Oct 9: Japan's alert immigration officials have thwarted another mass attempt to use the Asian Games as a cover to illegally enter the country, reports Reuter.

This time 15 Burmese posing as a "cheering squad" for their football team made the attempt.

But it was nowhere near as elaborate as the scam tried last week by 50 Filipinos who posed, uniforms and all, as their country's volleyball team.

The 15 Burmese — 10 men and five women aged between 18 and 37 — were caught on Saturday with fake visas in their passports at Naha Airport on Japan's southern island of Okinawa, an immigration spokeswoman said today.

The visas were top quality counterfeits, which only experts could tell from genuine ones. The spokeswoman said immigration officials became suspicious after one of the men was not able to give details about his accommodation in Japan.

He told the officials he wanted "to go sightseeing after cheering for the Myanmar (Burma) soccer team in its game against Japan at the Hiroshima Asian Games."

The group had arrived on a Japan airlines flight from Hong Kong.

ROK President greets Hwang

SEOUL, Oct 9: South Korean President Kim Young-Sam today personally telephoned marathon winner Hwang Young-jo to congratulate him on his dramatic win in the 12th Asian Games marathon in Hiroshima, reports AFP.

"Our people cherish your fighting spirit which hoisted our national flag high in the sky over Japan," Kim told Hwang, 23, who repeated his winning performance in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics to snatch the marathon from Japan's Toshiyuki Hayata in a time of 2:11.13.

Thousands of Koreans were glued to their TV sets to watch the gruelling marathon in which Hwang's compatriot Kim Jae Ryong took the bronze.

Said Kim in his message "You showed the reserves of strength inherent to the Korean people at the marathon which tests the physical and psychological limitations of human beings."

First golds for Uzbekistan, Mongolia & Indonesia

Zhong sets pace for Sino athletes

HIROSHIMA, Oct 9: China's women, complete champions of the swimming pool, started their assault in track and field Sunday as Zhong Huan-di won the marathon by nearly seven minutes — over another Chinese runner, reports AP.

In total medals, China lead with 140 to 107 for Japan and 81 for South Korea. Kazakhstan had 33.

In swimming, which ended Saturday, the Chinese women were 15-for-15, with one world record. They also were

2:37:03, collapsed after the finish and was taken by ambulance to a hospital, but appeared later at a news conference.

In the men's marathon, Hwang seized the lead from Hayata with about eight kilo-

race and Kazakhstan won in the two-man canoe race. China took the men's pairs and four-man kayak and one-man canoes races, and the women's singles and pairs kayak events.

After sweeping all three medals in the women's event, South Korea placed 1-2 in men's archery. Park Kyong-Mo beat Chung Jae-Hun 116-114 for the gold, while teammate Han Seung-Hoon lost 115-109 to Taiwan's Wu Tsung-Yi for the bronze.

The South Koreans also won the five-man team bowling with a Games record 6,029, with the Philippines second with 6,012. But Japan's Kengo Tagata, already a gold medalist in the men's doubles and trios bowling, took the all-events gold with 5,036.

Malaysia's Shalin Zulkifli won the women's all events with a Games record of 5,016, but Taiwan took the five-woman team title with a Games record 5,831.

In its native fighting sport of taekwondo, South Korea ended up with four golds from eight weight classes. It didn't enter competitors in the other four. South Korea's winners Sunday were Jung Kwang-Chae at welterweight and Kim Je-Jyoung at heavyweight. Iran's Fariborz Askari won at lightweight and Kuwait's Hameed Hasan at middleweight.

South Korea's one freestyle wrestling winner was Kim Tae-Woo at 100 kilograms, while Iran had golds from Nader Rahmati at 48 kilograms, Ali Akbarnejad at 68 and Amir Reza Khadem at 82. Mongolia's Tserenbaatar Tsogtbyayar won at 57.

In badminton, Indonesia and South Korea traded victories. South Korea beat the Indonesians 4-1 for the women's team gold, but Indonesia gained revenge with a 5-0 shutout of the Koreans in men's team play.

Table tennis power China swept to a 3-1 victory over South Korea for the men's team gold in that sport.

The Chinese also beat the South Koreans 9-7 for the men's sabre team fencing gold medal.

Japan won both the solo and duet synchronized swimming titles. Solo winner Fumiko Okuno teamed with Miya Tachibana in the gold medal duet.

Japan's Kaname Yokoo won the men's golf with a 12-under-par 276, nine shots ahead of China's Zhang Lianwei and helped his nation take the team title with a total of 864. Taiwan was second with 866.

Taiwan took the women's individual and team titles. Huang Yu-Chen also had a nine-shot margin, shooting a 2-under-par 286 while South Korea's Kang Soo-Yun shot 295 and teammate Song 588.

Japan's Konoshi Kuwahara won in jumpoff with teammate Ryuzo Okuno in the equestrian jumping competition, where officials had a scare when Princess Haya of Jordan fell from her horse when it missed a jump. But doctors said the 20-year-old princess, daughter of King Hussein, was not seriously hurt.

China took both the individual and team titles in women's air pistol shooting. Fan Xiaoping was the individual gold medalist.

In men's rapid fire pistol competition, Kazakhstan's Vladimir won the individual title but China was the team champion.

Kazakhstan's weightlifting winners were Andrei Makarov at 91 kilograms and Serguei Kopytov at 99.



South Korea's Hwang Young-jo, the 1992 Olympic champion, won the men's marathon by 44 seconds, but Japan's Toshiyuki Hayata prevented Korean 1-2 sweep.

Uzbekistan, Mongolia and Indonesia won their first golds of the Games — Uzbekistan in canoeing, Mongolia in wrestling and Indonesia in badminton.

With China far ahead in the gold race, Hwang helped keep South Korea just ahead of archrival Japan in the battle for second.

The South Koreans picked up seven golds for the day, including two in their native fighting sport of taekwondo. They also had one each in bowling, badminton, archery and wrestling.

Japan was held to six — two each in golf and synchronized swimming and one each in bowling and equestrian jumping.

China boosted its gold total to 73 by winning five of the day's seven canoeing races, capturing three shooting titles and winning in fencing, table tennis and the women's marathon.

South Korea had 31, Japan 28, Kazakhstan nine, and Taiwan and Iran five each.

Kazakhstan added five golds Sunday with two weightlifting titles and victories in canoeing, 100-kilometre team time trial, cycling and shooting.

Taiwan won two in golf and one in bowling. Iran won three wrestling titles and a gold in taekwondo. Kuwait also won in taekwondo, and Malaysia won a bowling gold.



Japan's Fumiko Okuno performs her routine during the solo synchronized swimming event at the Asian Games yesterday. Okuno took the gold. — AFP photo

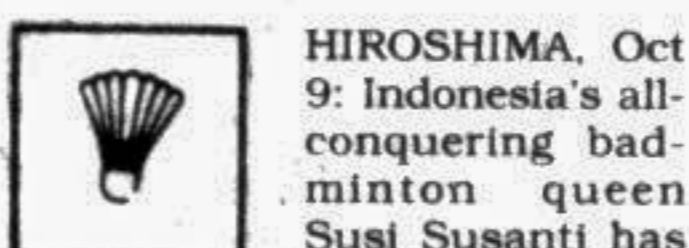
expected to dominate track and field competition.

Zhong, marathon silver medalist in last year's World Championships, began pulling away in the second half of Sunday's race and finished in 2 hours, 29 minutes, 32 seconds. Teammate Zhang Lirong, who was third in the 1993 World Cup, passed Japan's Nobuko Fujimura in the last kilometre and finished second in 2:36:27. Fujimura third in

metres (5 miles) remaining and finished in 2:11:13. Hayata was 44 seconds behind in 2:11:57. South Korean Kim Jae-Ryong, silver medalist in last year's Boston Marathon, crossed the finish line in Hiroshima's Peace Park in 2:13:12.

The only breaks in China's domination of 500-metre canoeing races Sunday came when Ivan Kireev of Uzbekistan won in the men's singles kayak

Susanti to quit in two yrs



HIROSHIMA, Oct 9: Indonesia's all-conquering badminton queen Susi Susanti has set her mind on retirement in two years, reports AFP.

And at this stage of her career, she says, it is difficult for her to contemplate a drastic change in her playing style some find tediously defensive.

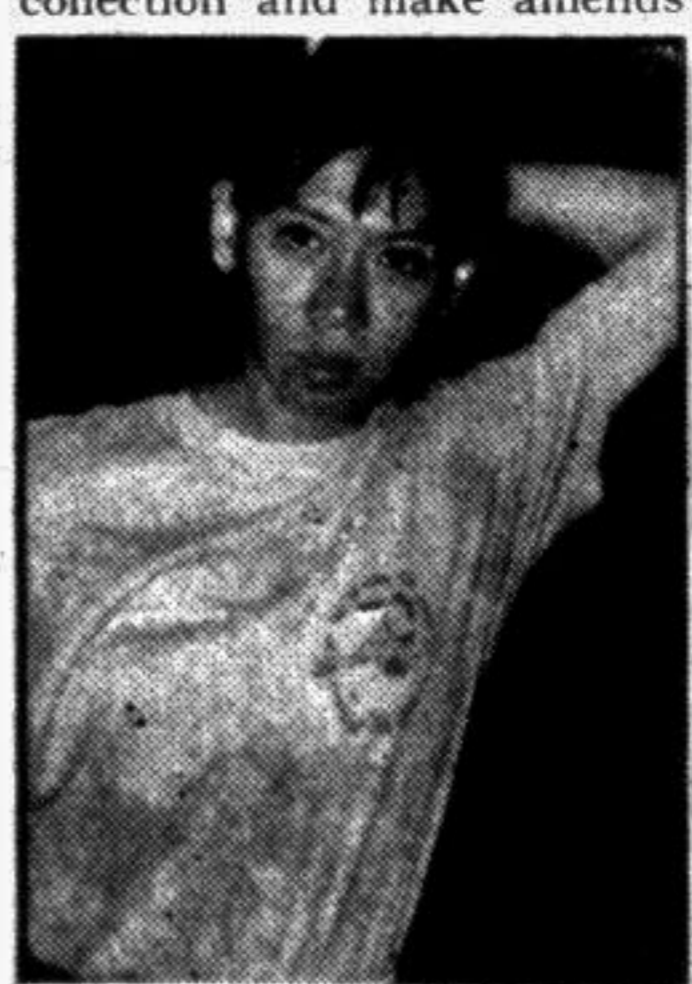
The 23-year-old world number one, a sporting icon in her country, has won practically every major badminton title.

She won the Olympic title when badminton was introduced in Barcelona in 1992, four all-England tournaments, the World Championships, the Grand Prix and the World Cup.

Susanti also played a key role in Indonesia regaining the Uber Cup, symbol of supremacy in women's team badminton. Most rival players have a sense of inevitable defeat even before they enter the court to face her.

So awesome is her track record that the slender Susanti is seen as a sure bet for the Asian Games singles title she needs to complete her vast collection and make amends

opponents mistakes. She points them down at the back of the court, serving and returning deep, pouncing on any mistake, using her cat-like mobility and footwork that always has her in the right position to receive the shuttle.



SUSI SUSANTI here for a semifinal loss in Beijing.

But the Indonesian's record, however enviable, has been built on a highly defensive style that profits from her

Delicate wristwork and deceptive drop shots that enchant the connoisseur are not a part of her repertoire.

Ten-time all-England champion Judy Hashman commented recently that Susanti, despite all her talent, displayed no initiative and waited for things to happen. "Why does not she force opportunities to happen?"

"To the average spectator her game is dull ... to me her game is superbly constant but negative," Hashman wrote.

"This is the way I play," Susanti said in an interview here. "It is difficult to change, to improve, because I am in the peak of my condition."

"I will go on playing for two more years, until the Atlanta Olympics, and I am trying to maintain myself," added Susanti.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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Saturday's answer 2-21

CRYPTOQUIP

P T A R L P R L J Y C O Z P
 G L B R O R Q C G N J Z O T N Z X Y A
 I D G I R J J D O B R Y Y
 J Z L V G Y Z V

Saturday's Cryptoquip: FIREFIGHTER'S GIRL-FRIEND TEMPORARILY DAMPENED HIS ARDOR.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: P equals M

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.