

Winds reign at 'Big Arch'

HIROSHIMA, Oct. 12: A South Korean and strong winds stole the show from the Chinese in Asian Games track and field Wednesday, and injury kept China from winning anything in the opening event of its native martial art reports AP.



Winds of up to 36 kph (23 mph) forced postponement of six track and field events, leaving just three finals on the programme. China won one, with 1,500-metre world record holder Qu Yunxia leading a 1-2 finish in the women's 800.

But in the men's taijiquan competition of wushu, the Chinese fighting sport, China's Wang Erping had to drop out with a sprained ankle and Japan's Masaru Masuda won the gold, ahead of Chan Ming-shu of Taiwan, where the art also flourishes.

The Chinese recouped in shooting, however, with three golds and won the women's soccer championship, beating Japan 2-0 in the final. They also won one judo gold.

Japan, meanwhile, won two golds in judo and one each in cycling, wushu and shooting, slightly expanding its lead over South Korea in the hotly contested battle for second place in the gold medals column.

Japan had 41 golds to 38 for the Koreans, who had victories Wednesday in track, judo and softball tennis.

But China was far ahead with 106. Kazakhstan stood fourth with 17 after a cycling victory.

In total medals, China had 204 to 147 for Japan and 119 for South Korea.

Qu, a member of coach Ma Junren's 'army' of stellar distance runners, took the women's 800 in a Games record 1 minute, 59.85 seconds, with teammate Liu Li second in 2:00.66. India's Shiny Wilson took the bronze in 2:02.22.

South Korea's Lee Jin-Il also broke a Games record in the men's 800, winning in 1:45.73. China's Mu Weiguo was second in 1:46.44. The old record of 1:46.81, set by India's Charles Borromeo, had stood for 12 years.

Ibrahim Ismail Muftah captured Qatar's second gold medal in 45.48 seconds, with South Korea's Shon Ju-Il taking the silver in 45.87.

Japan took two of the day's four gold medals in its native sport of judo. Shigeru Okaizumi was a decisive winner over Kim Jae-Sik in the men's 95-kilogram division, and Jun Konno beat Iran's Seyed Miran in the open class. In the women's competi-

tion, South Korean's Kim Mi-Jung scored a clear victory over China's Leng Chunhui at 72 kilograms and Zhang Ying of China was a decisive winner in the open class over Taiwan's Yeh Wen-Hua.

In cycling, Japan's Masanaga Shiohara won the men's one-kilometre time trial in 1:05.581, breaking the Games record of 1:06.789. South Korea's Hong Suk Han took the silver in 1:06.317.

Vadim Kravtchenko of Kazakhstan won the 4-kilometre individual pursuit, beating Kyrgyzstan's Evgeniy Vakker 4:40.509 to 4:40.757 in the final and breaking the 8-year-old Games record of 4:40.850.

South Korea beat Taiwan 3-1 in the final for the gold medal in the women's team event of softball tennis, a variation on ordinary tennis developed at a time when Asians

third seed Benny Wijaya of Indonesia.

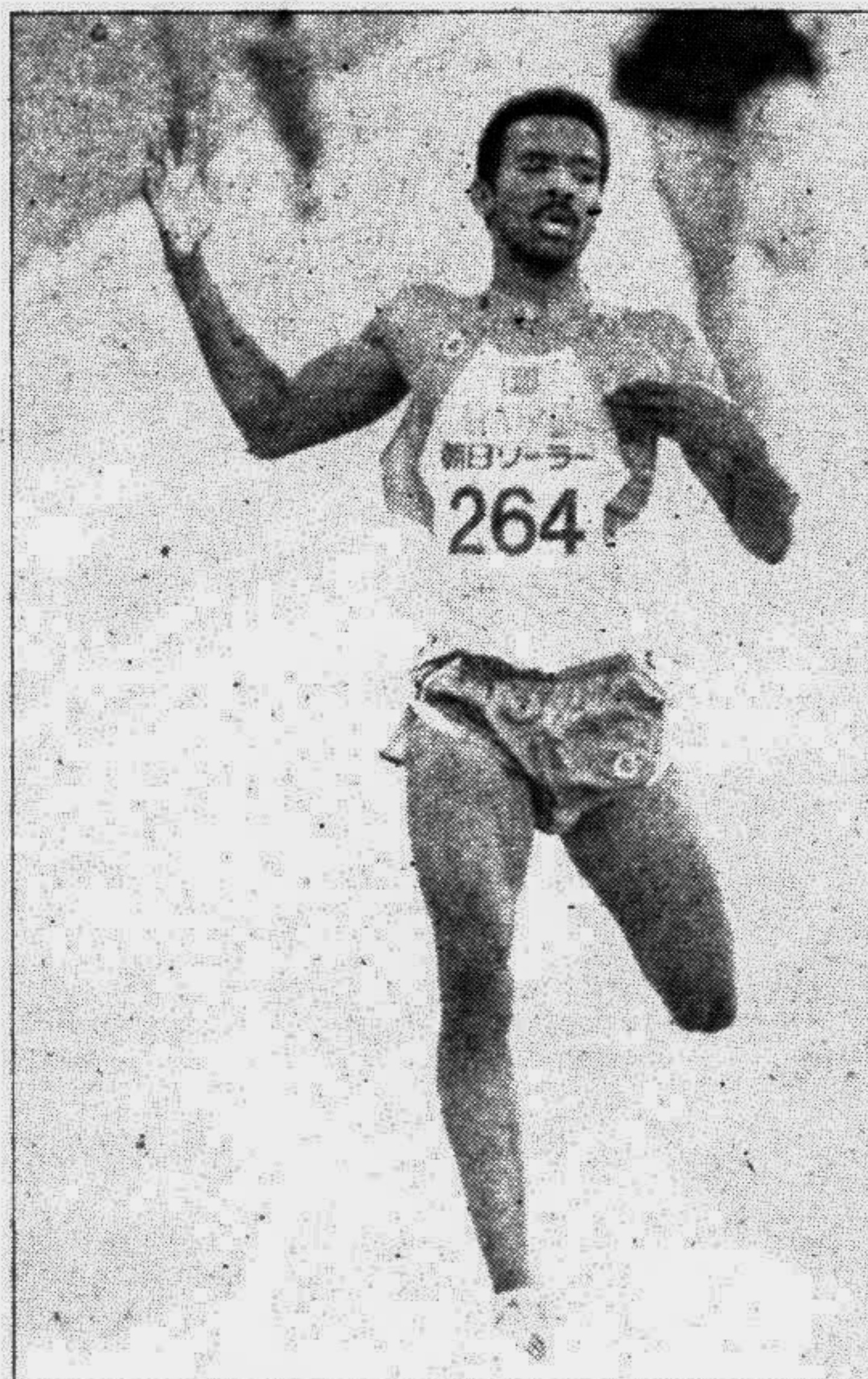
The women's singles final will be all Japanese. No. 1 seed Kimiko Date ousted Indonesia's Yayuk Basuki 6-0, 5-7, 6-0, and Naoko Sawamatsu beat China's Chen Li 6-1, 6-3.

Japan captured one of Wednesday's shooting medals, but China took the other three.

Norihiko Ojima won for Japan in individual standard, 666.7 to 662.7. But China's team event with 1,698.3, South Korea took silver with 1,692.

Wang Yifu tied a Games record in winning the individual standard pistol event with 575, and helped his team take another gold with a Games record 1,714. China also had set the old mark of 1,708.

China won the women's



Ismail Ibrahim Muftah of Qatar crosses the finish line in the men's 400m event at the 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima yesterday. Muftah won the gold in a time of 45.48 seconds.

—AFP photo had a hard time obtaining a regular supply of the customary tennis balls. A soft rubber ball is used, and scorekeeping is different.

But Taiwan gained revenge in the men's final, beating the Koreans 3-2.

In standard tennis, South Korea's Yoon Yong-Il upset No. 1 seed Leander Paes of India 6-7 (2-7), 6-4, 7-5 in the semifinals. In the finals, he will play No. 2 seed Pan Bing of China, a 6-3, 6-3 winner over

basketball bronze medal by trouncing Taiwan 83-31. South Korea and Japan will meet in the gold-medal game Thursday.

Pakistan, the defending Games champion in men's field hockey, bowed to South Korea in the semifinals Wednesday. The Koreans won a penalty shootout 4-1 after the two teams tied 2-2.

In Saturday's final, the Koreans will play perennial power India, a 1-0 winner over Japan.

ASIAN GAMES MEDALS TABLE

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

	G	S	B	T
China	106	68	30	204
Japan	41	47	59	147
South Korea	38	34	47	119
Kazakhstan	17	15	23	55
Iran	8	8	7	23
Taiwan	7	10	15	32
Uzbekistan	3	7	16	26
Syria	3	3	1	7
Malaysia	3	1	10	14
Kuwait	3	1	4	8
Qatar	2	0	2	4
Indonesia	1	11	6	18
Turkmenistan	1	3	2	6
Mongolia	1	2	2	5
Vietnam	1	2	0	3
India	1	1	11	13
Saudi Arabia	1	1	5	7
Singapore	1	1	2	4
Thailand	0	5	9	14
Hong Kong	0	4	4	8
Kyrgyzstan	0	3	5	8
Philippines	0	2	6	8
Jordan	0	2	2	4
Pakistan	0	1	4	5
UAE	0	1	3	4
Sri Lanka	0	1	1	2
Brunei	0	0	2	2
Nepal	0	0	2	2
Burma	0	0	1	1
Macao	0	0	1	1
Tajikistan	0	0	1	1

Arkhom aims to prove 'em wrong

HIROSHIMA, Oct. 12: Chenglai Arkhom will be out to prove his critics wrong and make his Cuban trainer happy when the veteran welterweight leads Thailand in the Asian Games boxing finals here Thursday, reports AFP.

The Barcelona Olympic bronze medalist is considered lucky to be fighting Asian champion Nour Jan Smanov of Kazakhstan for the gold after the Thai soldier's controversial points win over Nourian of Iraq.

The jury will be expected to be on their best behaviour after being chewed out by International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) chief Anwar Chowdhury over that and other debatable decisions in the semifinals.

Thailand have four finalists — more than any of the 10 countries left in contention. They are also contending the light flyweight, feather weight and lightweight divisions.

Cuban coach Juan Fontanills Quesada, who is eager for at least three golds to improve his \$50 dollars a month salary, considers Chenglai his best hope.

The Philippines lead three other teams with three finalists each, and sailor Mansueto Velasco will be looking to torpedo the Thais and make amends with his older brother Roel when he fights Hosuwan Pramuanasak.

His brother, a Barcelona bronze medalist, was left out of the team after losing to Mansueto in the national trials.

Paes beaten

HIROSHIMA, Oct. 12: South Korea's Yoon Yong-Il upset No. 1 seed Leander Paes of India in the semifinals of Asian Games men's tennis Wednesday despite letting a 5-2 lead slip away in the first set, reports AP.

Yoon, seeded sixth, won 6-7 (2-7), 6-4, 7-5, in a 2 1/2 hour match played in strong winds and interrupted by rain after the second set.

Paes, the 1990 Wimbledon junior champion, earlier had led India to the men's team title and had been seeking three gold medals here.

He still has a chance for a second in men's doubles. He and Gaurav Natekar, seeded first, survived a tight second set and beat Indonesia's Donny Susetto and Teddy Tandjung 4-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2 in the semifinals.

Their final opponents will be Koreans Chang Eun-jong and Kim Chi-wan, the third seeds, who edged second seeds Pan Bing and Xia Jiaping of China 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (10-8).

In Thursday's singles final, Yoon will face No. 2 seed Pan, who beat No. 3 seed Wijaya of Indonesia 6-3, 6-3.

Women's No. 1 seed Kimiko Date recovered from a second-set lapse and beat third seeded Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia 6-0, 5-7, 6-0, setting up a gold-medal match with Japanese compatriot Naoko Sawamatsu.

Date, a top ten player on the women's pro tour, was hammering the ball into the corners in the first and third sets, but was missing against some of Basuki's hard-hit forehands in the second.

Sawamatsu, the second seed, won 6-1, 6-3 against Chen Li of China, who had ousted No. 4 seed Wang Shi-ting of Taiwan in the quarterfinals.

In Women's doubles, the top-seeded pair, Japan's Kyoko Nagatsuka and Ai Sugiyama, beat South Korea's Park Sung-hee and Choi Ju-yoen, the fourth seeds, 6-4, 6-1, advancing to a final against China's Li Fang and Chen Li.

Li and Chen, seeded third, beat No. 2 seeds Nana Miyagi and Mana Endo of Japan 6-3, 7-5.



(From L to R) Liu Li and Qu Yunxia of China, Kimiko Okamoto of Japan, Shiny Wilson of India and Japan's Mariko Ikeda begin the final assault during the women's 800m at the Asian Games yesterday. Qu took the gold while compatriot Liu finished second and Wilson third respectively.

Ma's army starts to roll

HIROSHIMA, Oct. 12: China's world class women, hunched in the previous day's track competition, bounced back to a record-shattering 1-2 victory in the 800 metres at the Asian Games Wednesday, reports AP.

In the day's only other two finals, Qatar won its second gold when Ibrahim Ismail Muftah took the men's 400 metres while South Korea also picked up its second on Lee Jin-Il's Games record-breaking effort in the men's 800 metres.

Winds of up to 36 kph (23 mph) swept through the 50,000 seat 'Big Arch' stadium, forcing the postponement of four field and two track events.

After four days of track and field, China has gathered seven golds while Japan, South Korea and Qatar have two apiece and Kazakhstan, Taiwan and Syria one each.

Qu Yunxia, world record holder in the 1,500 metres, and teammate Liu Li proved a class apart as they surged ahead in the last third of the 800 and then fought it out in the home stretch.

The 21-year-old Qu captured the Games record with a time of 1 minute, 59.85 while Liu's 2:00.66 also broke the previous mark of 2:01.04. The bronze went to veteran Indian middle distance runner Shiny Wilson in 2:02.22.

Notably absent from the

race was Liu Dong, world Champion and Asian record holder in the event and like Qu a member of Chinese coach Ma Junren's 'army' of record wreckers.

Ma said he did not know Liu's whereabouts, but some Chinese reporters speculated that she was in trouble with her disciplinary coach for having a boyfriend and wearing her hair too long.

South Korea's Lee, Asian Champion in the event, lowered one of the oldest Games records with a 1:45.72 clocking in the 800. The previous mark of 1:46.81, set by India's Charles Borromeo had stood for 12 years.

One of Ma's up and coming male charges Mu Weiguo, led in the earlier stages of the race but couldn't hold on. His time of 1:46.44 was good enough for a silver, while another South Korean, Kim Yong-Hwan, got the bronze in 1:46.69. Mu and Kim also bettered the old record.

Qatar's Muftah proved again that he was Asia's best in the 400 metres but could not break his own Games record of 44.93, set earlier in the heats. His winning time was 45.48.

South Korea's Shon Ju-Il took the silver in 45.87 and Thailand's Aikawat Sakulchun was the surprise bronze medalist in 46.50. Going into the race, he had the slowest personal best in the field.

Aside from forcing changes

in the schedule, the winds were too strong for Chinese runner Liu Xiaomei's 11.23 to stand as a Games record in women's 100 heats. Liu, the Asian record holder, is favoured to win the 100 gold.

In the women's 400-metre heats, China's Ma Yuguin led competitors with a 52.35 timing. Ma is ranked No. 1 in the world and also holds the Asian record for the event.

Occasional showers also marred Wednesday's competition, forcing spectators — most of them Japanese school children in neat uniforms to run for cover.

Based on 20 years of weather statistics, the first two weeks of October were picked as the best possible time to stage the Games. But this can also be a time of typhoons, and one blew in just before the start of the 12th Asiad.

Although China could take only two of the seven golds on offer Tuesday, it will certainly capture the majority of the 43 gold medals in track and field.

However, its hopes of taking as many as 18 of 19 women's events were dashed with Tuesday's defeats in the 200 metres and 100 metre hurdles.

The Chinese women hold 17 of 18 Asian track and field records and all but two of the Games best marks. They also own three world records — the same number as American women.

A hair-splitting problem

HIROSHIMA, Oct. 12: Top medical experts at the Asian Games have again failed to come up with a clear-cut answer to the vexed question of who is a man and who is a woman in sports, reports Reuter.

At the end of a conference this week on the issue only two things were clear — chromosome testing was not the answer but some test was needed.

"I am afraid without controls there will be imposters," said Dr Charoensat Chintanaseri, deputy governor of Thailand's sports authority.

"It's possible, it can happen. They can do it by genetic engineering," he added.

The conference was held against a background of accusations by some western coaches

that there was something suspicious about the sudden emergence of China's recent women world record swimmers and middle distance runners.

Among the most poignant experiences heard at the conference was from a Filipino doctor who revealed the case of a 'female' high school athlete who had both male and female organs.

Dr. Bee Glok Tan said the athlete, brought up as a girl, wanted to participate in international competition but while International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) rules do not require gender or femininity verification, examinations as performed on a case by case basis.

"I am afraid she won't be allowed to compete," said Tan.

"She is not intentionally trying to pose as a man."

"I don't know how to proceed in the current situation," Tan said. "She has both male and female organs."

The IAAF stopped testing female athletes in 1992 after they concluded chromosome testing was inconclusive and scientifically inaccurate in determining the sex of an athlete.

"The only reason for gender or femininity testing is to exclude any man from a woman's competition," said Dr Arne Ljungqvist.

The dilemma for Asian Games officials is their event falls under International Olympic Council (IOC) rules, where female athletes are still required to take a gender test before they are allowed to compete.

S Korea, India in Asiad hockey final

HIROSHIMA, Oct. 12: South Korea ousted defending champions Pakistan in a dramatic penalty shootout Wednesday evening and advanced to the final of the men's hockey tournament at the Asian Games, reports AP.

The teams were level 2-2 at the end of the regulation 70 minutes and the Koreans then won the shootout 4-1 to advance to Saturday's final against India.

The Indians, silver medalists four years ago in Beijing, scored a 1-0 victory over Japan in the second semifinal.

South Korea and Pakistan were evenly matched throughout their game. The Koreans got goals from captain Park Shin-heum, who converted a penalty stroke, and Kim Yong-Kyu, while Pakistan's strikes came from captain Ahmed Shahbaz and Asif Muhammad.

The Koreans were successful with all four of their attempts in the shootout, while goalkeeper Koo Jin-soo made a diving save to stop the first Pakistani attempt and Meh-mood Irfan then scooped Pakistan's third penalty over the crossbar.

The Koreans embraced ecstatically at the end, while the Pakistanis were disconsolate. India, the sport's traditional power, used slick stick work and cohesive defence to outplay Japan, despite midfielder Varkey Sabu being given a red card early in the second half for a vigorous challenge on Kyoichi Hasegawa.

Anil Alexander got the only goal of the game in the 14th minute, drilling the ball low into the net after a penalty corner.

The Indians dominated the game territorially, but Japan could have equalised with nine minutes to go. Speedy Shuji Fukusawa got clear of the defence for once, but his close-range shot flew across the face of the goal.

India beat South Korea 3-1 when the finalists met in a preliminary round game.

ROK spikers begin well

HIROSHIMA, Oct. 12: South Korea made a winning start to their Asian Games volleyball campaign Wednesday, scoring a straight-set victory over Iran in their Group A game, reports AP.

The Koreans triumphed 15-3, 15-6, 15-3 to join Kazakhstan on top of the section. Both teams are 1-0.

Kazakhstan, who did not drop a set in six games in the preliminary rounds, face South Korea on Thursday.

In Group B, China won a battle between unbeaten teams, edging Japan 15-9, 15-10, 10-15, 15-12, while Pakistan were dominant against Mongolia, triumphing 15-5, 15-1, 15-4.

South Korea, Japan and China joined the competition after missing the first two round-robin preliminary rounds while competing in the World Championships in Athens, Greece.

Anwar stays on

HIROSHIMA, Oct. 12: Anwar Chowdhury of Pakistan was re-elected Wednesday as president of the Asian Amateur Boxing Federation during the organisation's general assembly at the Asian Games, reports AP.

Malaysians must wait 4 yrs

HIROSHIMA, Oct. 12: Malaysia have set themselves a four-year deadline to unearth a crop of young badminton players to replace the legendary Sidek brothers, reports AFP.

"The target year is 1998" said team manager Mohammad Idris, whose men finished with an Asian Games bronze here after failing to retain the silver they won in Beijing. Idris knows there are difficult times ahead.

Malaysia will host the Commonwealth Games in 1998 and there are the Bangkok Asian Games the same year, which is why the intense four year search is underway to find a handful of players capable of beating the best, Idris said.

Rashid Sidek is considering a future as a full-fledged professional independent of the Badminton Federation. Negotiations will be held with him after the Asian Games, Idris said.

As the search for shuttlers goes on, Malaysia expect to be confronted by a difficult two years in world badminton, said Indonesian manager Lufti Hamid, whose team beat Malaysia in the Thomas Cup final.

China have vowed to get back to their winning ways by the Atlanta Olympics and in the recent Junior World Championships gave a glimpse of their immense potential.

Indonesia, with five men out of the world's top 10, look invincible.

"It will be very difficult for Malaysia in the couple of years," Hamid said. "They will have to strive hard to match our standards."

Badminton has been one of the few medal-winning sports for Malaysia, who have been hard hit by the retirement of Tazif, Jalani and Abdur Rahman Sidek, while Foo Kok



Hong Kong paddler Chan Tan-Lui returns the ball to South Korea's Kim Moo Kyo during the second round women's singles match at the 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima yesterday. Chan defeated Kim to move into the quarterfinals.

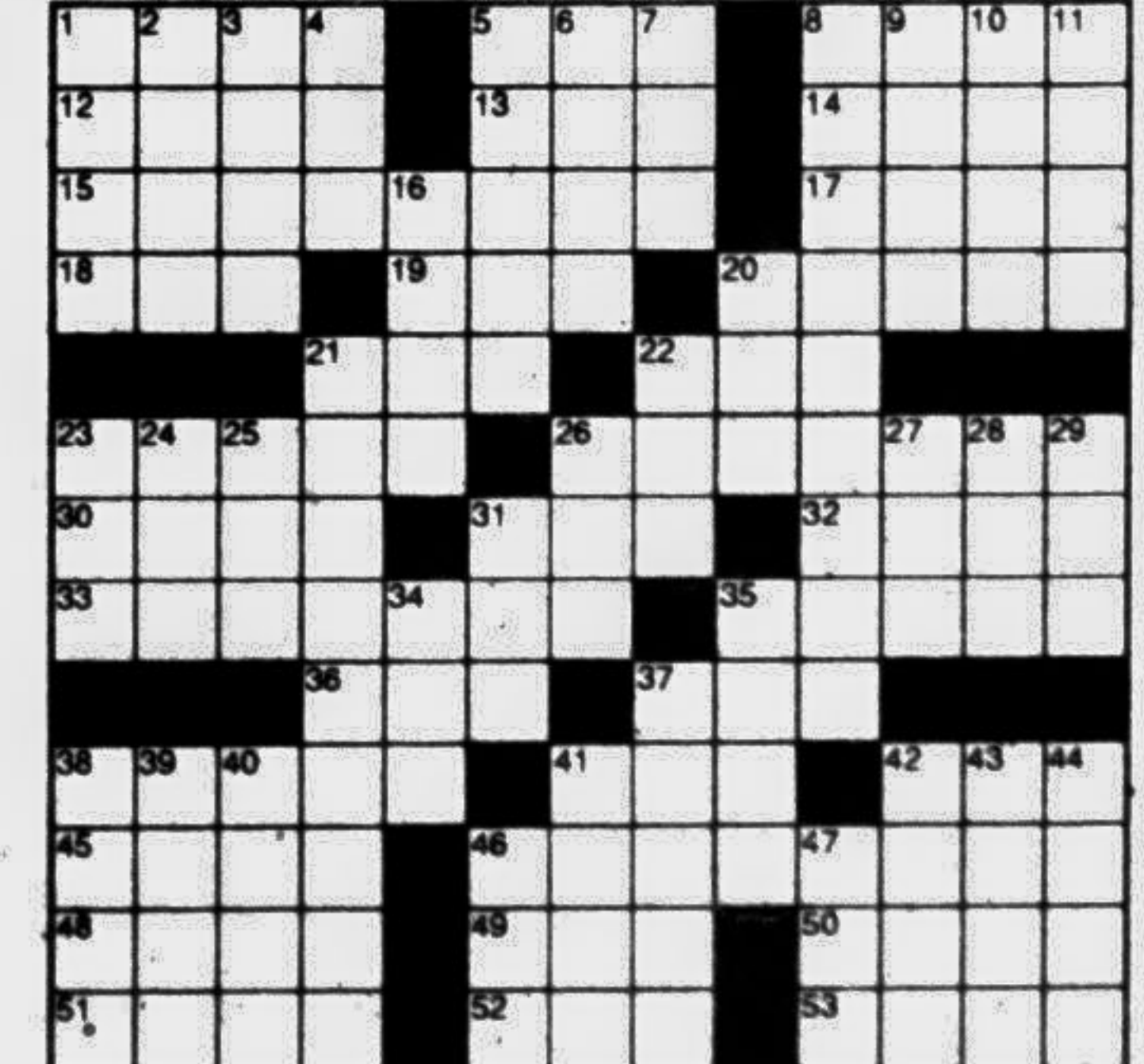
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38 With fervor	3 — Beauty	21 Runner's goal,
1 String	41 State leader, abbr.	(apple)	maybe
5 Pal of Fidel	42 Existed	4 About to arrive	22 Seek a handout
8 Harness part	45 India, Pakistan, etc.	5 — de Guerre (French medal)	23 Humorist
12 "— ben Adhem"	46 Nostalgic, in a way	6 "The Accidental Tourist"	24 Milwaukee product
13 Wish undone	48 Membership	7 "A mouse"	25 NRA item
14 Augury	49 Prepare to fight	8 Culkin movie	26 Abner's adjective
15 Child's evening chore	50 Actress Massey	9 Andy's pal	27 Bother
17 Gelatin shaper	51 Hardy cabbage	10 Dissolve	28 — de plume
18 Society-page word	52 TV actress Susan	11 Tackles teammates	29 Dander
19 Selout	53 Bump into DOWN	16 A timely question	31 Chat away
20 Pre-diplo-ma hurdles	1 Songwriter Sammy	20 Prefix for angle or sect	34 Dale's long-time hubby
21 Whammy	2 Reed instrument		35 Be philanthropic
22 Corset-ier's ware			37 The Who's rock opera
23 Cart			38 Lone Ranger's trademark
26 Sweet girl of song			39 Cruising
30 Grad			40 TV knob
31 Leprechaun's steps			41 Lesley or Tipper
32 Skunk's defense			42 Zinfandel, e.g.
33 All-purpose			43 Teen's woe
35 Paracel-sus "earth-dweller"			44 Old card game
36 "Bliff"			46 Swindled
37 Father's Day gift			47 "Muppet Show" eagle

Solution time: 27 mins.

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JEDI	GIS	AVOW
ARIA	ELI	NINA
BAAL	ROB	DEY

Yesterday's answer 1-25



CRYPTOQUIP

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T S K A X H R R Z G Q Y T D J L M
D J S X N R X L E Q L X K H O
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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY COUSIN, A PROFESSIONAL PIG FARMER, GREW INCREASINGLY DISGRUNTLED.

Today's Cryptoquip clue