

Svetlana Mounkova of Uzbekistan soars over the bar at 1.92 m during the women's high jump competition at the Asian Games yesterday. Mounkova captured the gold. - AFP photo

lost their crowns

HIROSHIMA, Oct 14: The three housewives nagged back to the running track by their husbands have now been forced to admit defeat in their attempt for final Asian Games glory, reports AFP.

Lydia de Vega of the Philippines and India's Shiny Wilson both finished outside the medals in the finals today. P T Usha, India's other former track queen, finished fourth in her 200 metres earlier this

All three gave up promising track careers to marry and have children. All three were persuaded back by their husbands and past memories.

After coming a distant seventh in the 100 metres. De Vega insisted she would be going back to domestic bliss.

The Philippines athlete. who won the title in 1982 and 1986, said, "From now on, it's cooking and cleaning. I would love to become a coach some

De Vega said she even feared she had come last "for the first time in my career."

"I felt great in the first 60m but in the last 40 I felt like I was dying. I was sick before came here and there was so much pressure back home."

Usha and Wilson insist they will carry on but as both are 29 they will not be seen at another Asian Games, though Usha is still in the Indian relay team in Hiroshima.

Wilson managed fourth place in the 400 metres today. She won the 800 metres bronze and wants to run on, but knows she will never realise her teenaged promise.

Teammate Sarmma Saramma, 23, burst through in the final to snatch the bronze medal from Wilson this time. "Obviously Saramma is young and fast," she said. "I had my chances during a long career,"

She said she would retirebefore the next Asian Games but hoped to run for India in the next Asian Championships.

At the Seoul Asian Games in 1986 she was the fastest in the 800 metres, but the stewards ruled she had broken early from her lane and the gold medal went to a South Korean.

Like De Vega, Wilson walked away from the track to start a family and missed a folden opportunity in the 1990 Asian Games in Beijing.

Her husband persuaded Wilson to make her comeback and she had been running the fastest times of her life in the run-up to the Asian Games.

But was beaten at India's National Championships by Saramma and was clearly upset

to finish behind her again. No German Olympic bid

till 2006 FRANKFURT, Oct 14: Still reeling from Berlin's muchcriticized effort to secure the

2000 Summer Olympics, the countrys' top Olympic official ruled out on Thursday German candidacy for the next Summer Games, reports AP. The National Olympic

Committee issued a report pinning Berlin's failure on too little support from the country's sports organisations and inadequate German representation on international bodies.

There was also underwhelming support from Berliners. some of whom mounted an Citympic campaign.

Committee president Walther Troeger said a bid for the 2004 Summer Games was out of the question. But he would not rule out trying to win the Winter Games that will be held two years later, with a possible bid by the Bavarian re-

sort of Garmish-Partenkirchen. Sydney, Australia was awarded the 2000 Summer

Queens have China, Uzbekistan steal show

HIROSHIMA, Oct 14: China captured two field events but shared the limelight with central Asian na-

tions as track competition resumed at the Asian Games Friday, reports AP. After a rest day, a total of 10

golds were up, for grabs at Hiroshima's 50,000-seat "Big Arch" stadium. The men's decathlon competition also began, with China's Cai Min and Asian record holder Ramil Ganiev of Uzbekistan battling for Asia's best male athlete ti-

China's Liu Mao bested favoured Sergei Kot, also of Uzebekistan, in the men's shot put with a Games record heave of 19.26 metres. Kazakhstani Sergey Roubtsov also bettered the former mark of 18.89 with a 19.24 effort for the silver. and another Chinese, Xie Shengying, won the bronze with 18.64.

Kot, currently ranked Asia's No. 1 at the event, was a disappointing fourth with 18.44, well off his personal best of

HIROSHIMA, Oct

14: Chi-na's Oly-

mpic Committee

chief promised a

clampdown on

drug cheats Frid-

av after confirming that the

national women's discus

champion flad failed a drug

the world's fourth-best discus

throw in Hiroshima in June.

failed a test for steroids five

days before the Asian Games.

Wei Jizhong, secretary general

of the Chinese Olympic

thrower was one of 17 athletes

tested in Beijing on September

breaking runners were also

ties decided to drop Qui even

though the result of her "B"

sample analysis was not

known. The 92kg (202

pounds) athlete threw 66.08m

in Hiroshima at an earlier

meeting and was favourite for

Wei declared that the cen-

tral sports administration in

Beijing faced an enormous task

trying to stamp out drug use by

unscrupulous coaches in the

difficult to control everything

happening in far-flung parts of

embark on a campaign to in-

form and educate people about

drugs and to expose anybody

the country," he said

"China is a big country. It's

"But we are prepared to

provinces.

the Asian Games gold medal.

Wei said the sports authori-

28. Ma Junren's world record-

The 22-year-old discus

Committee, told AFP,

asked to give samples.

Qiu Qiaoping, who recorded

test, reports AFP.

19.87.

The Chinese women won the discus, with Min Chunfeng taking the gold with a throw of 62.52 metres and Ikuko Kitamori of Japan the silver with 53.92. South Korean Chung Hye-young's throw of 44.22 gave her the bronze in a competition well short of the Asian record distance.

> "The result was not so good. But I am happy to get the gold medal," the Chinese winner said. "The real goal is to get the gold medal in the Olympic

Asia's top woman high jumper, Svetlana Mounkova of Uzbekistan, cracked the Chinese domination of the field events with an expected gold, clearing 1.89 metres. Silver medalist Svetlana Zalevskava of Kazakhstan cleared the bar at 1.89. The bronze went to Thailand's Rasamee Taemsri at 1.83

The Asian Games debut of the former Soviet republics of central Asia has been eroding the Chinese gold hoard at track as well as other sports. although China will still rake in

Chinese women's discus champ tests positive

using drugs in order to clear

will use this case to accuse

China of using drugs systemat-

ically. We are upset but this is

an individual case and she

Britain and the United States

test positive the country is not

that in a closed society like

China drugs could only be ob-

tained through official chan-

nels. "You can get drugs just as

easily as anywhere in the

or doctor found guilty of sup-

plying Qiu with drugs would be

ltable to the same sanctions, as

the International Olympic

Committee called for in Paris

"Any officials will be pun-

The British Athletics

Federation is now embroiled in

an embarrassing legal conflict

with Dianne Modahl after

sending the 800m runner

home from the Commonwealth

Games in Canada in August be-

fore her 'B' sample had been

we will have an investigation

and decide what action to take

We may impose heavier sanc

tions than those imposed by

Athletic Federation suspends

athletes who test positive for

steroids for four years. "A heav

The International Amateur

"After the "B' sample result

He promised that any coach

world," he said.

in August.

tested.

the IAAF."

ished," he said.

"When athletes from Great

-He dismissed the argument

"Some parts of the media

China's name," he said.

bears the responsibility.

most of the 43 track golds. After three events of the decathlon. Ganiev had won two but trailed Cai in points because of the Chinese athlete's

margin in the 100-metre sprint, which he won in 10.78. Ganiev took the long jump with a 7.34-metre leap and the shot put at 14.20 metres. Cai, ranked No. 3 in Asia. had accumulated 2.507 points to Ganiev's 2,493. Asian Games

record holder Munehiro

Kaneko of Japan was third among the seven competitors with 2,326. In heats, Qatar's Ismail Ibrahim Muftah, a gold medalist in the 400 metres, registered the best time of 20.85 in the men's 200. Japan's Koji Ito was right behind in 20.90. Also advancing was Muftah's team-

mate Talal Mansoor, who cap-

tured the men's 100 metres

for the third straight time at

the Games and plans to retire after Hiroshima Friday's schedule was

crowded because of events postponed when strong winds curtailed Wednesday's programme.

Officials promise clean-up ier suspension would be tan tamount to a life ban," an IAAF

> official said. IAAF' president Primo Nebiolo said from Copenhagen: 'You cannot blacken China's name because one athlete tests positive.

> "There might be a problem but I'm confident the Chinese Federation can deal with this:

He said the recent swoop on Chinese athletes did not mean the IAAF had singled out

"We conduct random tests throughout the world and China's record is in line with other federation members.

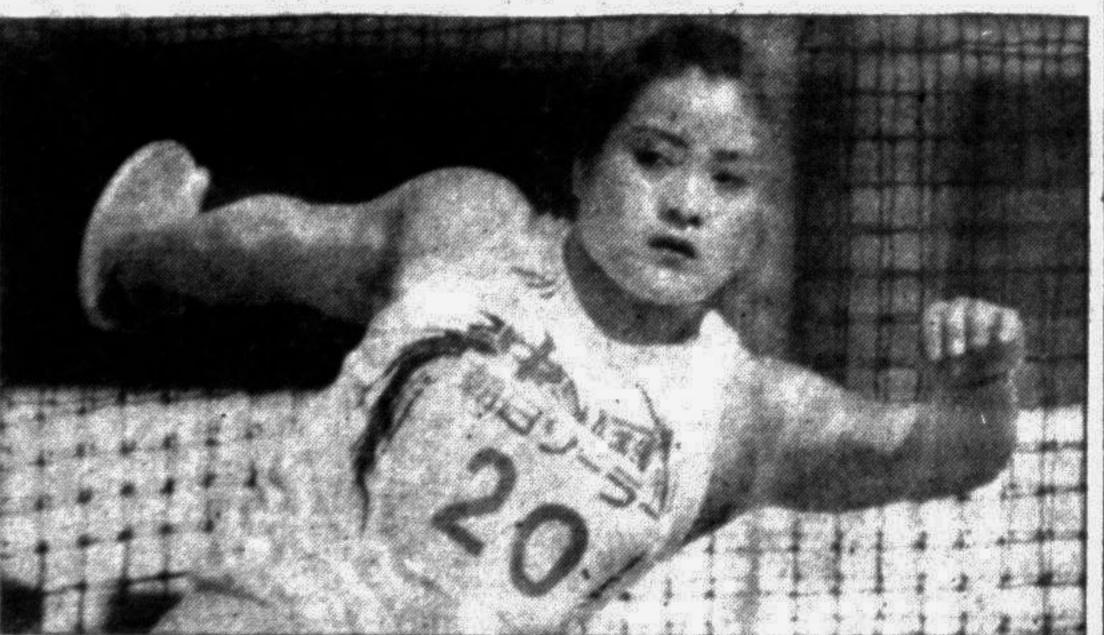
China's recent string of world record performances in athletics and swimming set off new speculation that drugs was behind the success.

Eighteen western coaches at the World Swimming Championships in Rome called on the swimming federation FINA to implement more frequent random tests after China won 12 of 16 women's events.

And last month Swimming World, a leading authority on the sport, said it would no Jonger consider Chinese competitors for its swimmer of the-year award.

China's swimmers were tested twice during these Games where they won every women's race and half the men's events.

Swimming head coach Chen Yunpeng said they accepted the tests as the price to pay for



Min Chunfeng of China prepares to hurl the discus during the women's final at the Asian Games yesterday. Min took the gold with a throw of 62.52 metres.

Mizui shatters Susanti's dreams

HIROSHIMA. Oct 14: Hisako Mizui of Japan upset Olympic gold medalist and All-England champion Susi Susanti in Friday's semifinals of women's singles badminton, wrecking Susanti's dream of an Asian Games gold medal, reports AP.

Susanti, the world's top player, had said winning an Asian Games title was one of her remaining ambitions in the sport, but Indonesia was beaten 4-1 by South Korea in last week's team final.

Mizui, a 22-year-old Tokyo office clerk, stunned the topseeded Susanti 11-4, 11-5 and now will face Bang Soo-hyun of South Korea in Saturday's final. Bang defeated second-seeded Ye Zhaoying of China 10-12, 11-8, 11-3,

Susanti had struggled to a three-set victory over China's Han Jingna in the quarterfi-

Indonesian teammates Joko Suprianto and Arbi Herivanto succeeded where Susanti failed and will meet in the men's singles final.

Suprianto, ranked No 2 in the world, defeated Kim Hakkyun of South Korea 15-6, 15-5. while Arbi beat Dong Jiong of China 15-7, 15-7.

Another tussle between Ma, officials on card

HIROSHIMA. oct 14: Mercurial eoach Ma Junren's smile was slapped off his face at the Asian Games here on Friday as his greatest hour was wrecked by a drugs scandal and a direct attack on him by one of China's top officials, reports AFP.

Ma, made famous by his army of world-beating women runners, saw his first male champion Sun Ripeng storm home in the men's 3,000m steeplechase as China bagged six of the ten golds on offer.

But already, as Sun triumphantly paraded the Chinese flag around the stadium, the talk had turned to drugs as secretary of the Chinese national Olympic committee Wei Jizhong revealed champion discus thrower Qiu Qiaoping had tested positive for anabolic steroids.

Wei then immediately turned his sights on Ma. "Last year we found that

Ma's athletes were being trained too hard to break world records," he said.

"I told sports officials to pay attention to this and to stop

Ma came here determined to prove he could develop a stable of men runners to match 10,000m champion Wang Junxia and 1,500m number one Qu Yunxia.

Sun's victory over favourite Sa'ad Shaddad Mouazze of Saudi Arabia in a new event record of 8min 31.73sec, following Ma man Mu Weigo's sil ver in the 800m earlier in the Games, should have proved the point.

But by then the focus of attention had switched dramati-

Wei's attack clearly suggests Ma faces further power struggles with liaoning officials over his training methods, which brought three gold medals at the World Championships last

His runners, however, have failed to repeat that form this year and have got nowhere near their record bests here.

Ma said: "There is no competition - they cannot run fast with nobody to push them."

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Chinese assault unabated, ROK overtakes Japan

HIROSHIMA, Oct 14: South Korea today fought back to second place at the Asian Games, setting the scene for a nail-biting finish in a battle with Japan to be runnerup to China, report agencies.

With the Games entering their last 48 hours, South Korea had 57 gold medals to Japan's 52, both of them far behind China's 127 golds.

There were still about 40 gold medals to be decided and none was willing to forecast who would come out the winner between the land of the rising sun and the land of the morning calm.

They are traditional rivals and for the last two Asian Games South Korea has come out on top. But this time Japan hoped that with a home ground advantage and with the biggest team it might make up ground.

China has already wrapped up the champion title it first won at New Delhi in 1982 when it replaced Japan.

South Korea has made its move into second place because of an unexpected strong showing in judo where it has won six golds to favourite Japan's five. Four other judo golds are up on Saturday.

It was a mixed day for the Chinese with their track and field stars taking seven out of 10 gold medals but once again a drug cloud descended.

While Liu Xiaomei was crowned Asia's sprint queen and the first male recruit to Ma's family army won gold, the Chinese team were thrown into turmoil by the revelation that absent discus thrower Qu Qiaping had failed a dope test. In Qu's absence, the

another Chinese woman, Min Chunfeng, with a throw of 62.52 metres. Min's winning throw was

women's discus was won by

considerably below Qu's personal best of 66.60 metres and there seems little doubt that Qu would have taken first place in Hiroshima had she competed. Sun Ripeng, one of the first

men to come under the stern eye of Chinese coach Ma

Junren, made an astonishing sprint at the end of the 3,000 metres steeplechase to humble Saudi pre-race favourite S al-

The only break in the Chinese women's domination at track and field Friday came when Asia's top high jumper, Svetlana Mounkova of Uzbekistan, won her event

with a leap of 1.92 metres. The 400-meter and 400meter hurdles races both were 1-2 sweeps. Ma Yuqin won the flat 400 in a Games record



THE 12th ASIAN GAMES HIROSHIMA 1994

51.17 seconds, and Han Qing took the hurdles gold in 54.74, also a record.

Kazakhstan had two winners in men's field events -Igor Potapovich in the pole vault, with a Games record 5.65 metres, and Oleg Sakirkin in the triple jump, with a leap of 17.21 metres. Kazakhstan's Grigory Egorov. the Olympic silver medalist in the pole vault, had to settle for second here too with 5.50.

In the battle for leading allaround athlete. Uzbekistan's Ramil Ganieve led China's Cai Min 4,242 points to 4,051 after five of the decathlon's 10 events.

China also took the men's shot put and discus. Liu Hao sent the shot a Games record 19.26 metres and Zhang Cunbiao hurled the discus 58.78 metres.

Qatar's 100 metres champion Talal Mansoor al-Rahim and compatriot Ibrahim Ismail Muftah, winner of the 400 metres title, bid to add the 200 metres to Qatar's tally. In heats for Saturday's final

Muftah, who took the 400 metres gold on Tuesday in 45.28

seconds, led the qualifiers in a time of 20.85.

The South Koreans repeated their 1990 triumphs in women's field hockey and men's handball. They clinched the hockey gold Friday by blanking Japan 4-0, and took the handball title by beating the Japanese 26-21.

They also won the men's 4kilometer team pursuit cycling race in a Games record 4 minutes, 22.901 seconds. Kazakhstan was second in 4:23.885.

China swept the women's sprint race medals, while Japan's Toshinobu Saito won gold in the men's.

Wang Yifu won the men's air pistol shooting gold and led China to the team title. His individual score was an Asian record 688.3. Cho Eun-young did the

same for South Korea in the women's standard rifle prone shooting event. Japan won the women's and

South Korea the men's in doubles competition in softball tennis, an Asian variation of standard tennis. The biggest upset was in

badminton where Indonesian superstar Susi Susanti broke down weeping when she was defeated by an unfancied Japanese in the semifinals of the women's singles.

Japan's Hisako Mizui's upset 11-4, 11-5 victory cost Susanti, the reigning Olympic, world and All-England champion, a chance to add the only title of significance left for her

"This was the only big title I

have not won and I let it slip." Susanti said, weeping in dis-In table tennis, China's

Wang Tao scuttled the chance of a golden double for sentimental favourites by defeating veteran South Korean You Nam-Kyu in the men's singles. On Thursday, Chire Koyama

came back from a controvarsial retirement and a move from China to Japan to win gold for her adopted country in an emotion-charged women's sin



Liu Xiaomei (L) of China beats off a challenge from Wang Huei-Chen (L) of Chinese Taipei and Kitada Toshie (R) of Japan to win the women's 100m final at the Asian Games yesterday. Liu clocked 11.27 seconds, a new Games' record.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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QBIAUGPA ZCIFVPCZ: UGZ JQVBZV!" "P W CGJJGPA · Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WORKER IN LOCAL CHEWING GUM FACTORY TO HIS GIRLFRIEND:

"I'M STUCK ON YOU." Today's Cryptoquip clue: P equals N

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.

