


Wang Junxia runs this year's fastest 10,000m

Double for magnificent Mansoor



**HIROSHIMA, Oct 15:** Chinese world record holder Wang Junxia ran this year's fastest 10,000 metres.

Qatar's Talal Mansoor became Asia's undisputed sprint champion and Ramil Ganiev of Uzbekistan took best male athlete honours at the Asian Games Saturday, reports AP.

The three performances, all of them games records, highlighted the next-to-last day of track and field competition at the 12th Asian Games, where 43 golds are at stake.

China enters the final stretch with an unsurpassable lead, having taken 18 to Kazakhstan's four, Qatar, Uzbekistan and a faltering Japan have three apiece while South Korea has two golds.

Wang, world record holder in both the 3,000 and 10,000 metres, suddenly went into high gear with eight laps to go and ran her own race until she dashed across the finish line in 30 minutes, 50.34 seconds.

It broke the old Games mark of 31:50.98 but still was far from her 1993 world best of 29:31.78. Teammate Dong Li gained the silver in 31:31.08 and Japan's Miki Igarashi the bronze in 31:45.82.

"It's a regular training run for us. If she ran records, she would be tired," said Ma Junren, the flamboyant coach whose formidable racers are known as "Ma's Army".

Gaining even more crowd applause was Qatar's Talal Mansoor, who streaked to a Games record of 20.41 seconds in the men's 200 metres in what he said would be the last individual race of his stellar career. The 8-year-old mark had stood at 20.71.

Mansoor earlier had captured his third straight Games 100 metres. The 30-year-old sprinter, who says he is retiring to spend more time with his young son, also will run in a relay race Sunday.

Koji Ito of Japan was the silver medal winner in 20.70 and Ibrahim Ismail Mufiah, Mansoor's teammate and the 400-metre gold medalist, took the bronze in 20.88.

Mansoor, clutching a Japanese flag, and Mufiah, holding a Qatari one, circled the track at the 50,000-seat "Big Arch" stadium after the victory.

The day's third big star was

Ganiev, who won half of the decathlon's disciplines to earn the unofficial title of Asia's best all-around male athlete. The physical education teacher and former Alpine skier accumulated 8,005 points, which bettered the Asian record of 7,995 set by Munehiro Kaneko of Japan last year.

Another Uzbekistani, Oleg Veretelnikov, was the silver medalist with 7,702 while Tomokazu Sugama of Japan earned the bronze, totaling 7,666 points in the two-day event. Cai Min of China, who stood second after seven events, withdrew with an injury after the pole vault.

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, former Soviet republics making their Asian debut, have displayed their prowess at Hiroshima, snatching some of the medals China and Japan would otherwise have taken.

Unexpected was Kazakhstan's Sergei Korepanov's victory in the 50-kilometre walk in 3 hours, 54.37 minutes. China's Zhou Youngsheng, No 1 in Asia, dropped out of the punishing contest despite early lead and the other Chinese entry, Jin Guohong, finished only fourth.

Taking the silver was Japan's Fumio Imamura in 3:56.16 and the bronze went to teammate Tadahiro Kosaka in 4:05.00. The top three finishers all beat the previous best games performance of 4:08.33. Formal records are not kept in this event since courses vary widely.

Another upset occurred in the women's javelin.

Going in with a personal best throw five metres shorter than that of China's favoured Ha Xiaoyan, Oksana Yargina of Uzbekistan won with a 64.62-metre effort.

"I am extremely happy," she said. "Today, I could set my personal record and I think that is because of this encouraging atmosphere."

Silver medalist Lee Young-Sun of South Korea threw 62.30 metres, while Ha had to settle for a bronze with 62.08.

But the Chinese roared back with a 1-2 victory in the men's 110-metre hurdles. Asian record holder Li Tong broke his own Games record of 13.57 with a 13.30 clocking. Silver medalist Chen Yanhao also bested the mark with a 13.39 and Malaysia won its first track medal when Nur Herman Majid posted a 13.73 for the bronze.

Li, who has trained in the United States for six years and now teaches sports there, took a victory lap, waving the Chinese flag. Li had set the former Games mark here in heats and the Asian record earlier this year.

Other 1-2 Chinese finishes came in the women's long jump and shot put.

Asian record holder Yao Weil added another trophy to her collection when she took gold and smashed the 6.69-metre record in the long jump with a leap of 6.91.

Li Jing, ranked No 2 in Asia, took the silver for China with a record-equaling 6.69 and Elma Muros presented the Philippines with its first track medal with a 6.41 jump for the bronze.

Games record holder Sui Ximei hurled the shot put 20.45 metres for gold and teammate Zhang Lihong added a silver with a 19.25-metre heave. Thailand's Sunisa Yooyao won the bronze with 16.24.

To the rhythmic clapping of the crowd, Japan's Takahisa Yoshida bested Asia's top high jumper, Lee Jin-taek of South Korea, with a leap of 2.27 metres. Both Lee and China's Xu Yang cleared the bar at 2.24 but Lee was awarded the silver because of fewer misses.

Asia's fastest man bids 'bye

Rivalry of an epic stature

**HIROSHIMA, Oct 15:** Asia's fastest man, Talal Mansoor Al-Rahim of Qatar, announced his retirement on Saturday only minutes after adding the 200 metres crown to his 100 metres Asian Games gold medal, reports Reuters.

"I'm satisfied. I'd like to thank God for enabling me to capture two golds," said Mansoor, 30, at a post-race press conference.

"I promised myself I would win two gold and I have. It is time to go," the lithe Qatani soldier said.

Mansoor, who has now won the 100 metres gold medals at the last three Asian Games, is the most talented male sprinter of Asia has ever produced.

He has competed in the last three Olympic Games and was a regular on the European Grand Prix circuit.

In his final race, Mansoor sprang out of the blocks and blazed to a Games record of 20.41 seconds in the 200 metres.

It was the first time for 20 years, since the 1974 Games in Tehran, that the men's 100 metres and 200 metres had been won by the same athlete and only the fourth time since the Games started in 1951.

**OCA award for China**

**HIROSHIMA, Oct 15:** China, which has dominated the Hiroshima Asian Games from day one, is to get a special award from the Olympic Council of Asia as well, reports AP.

The OCA announced today that the Chinese Olympic Committee would be the first recipient of the Sheikh Fahad Cup, given in memory of the OCA president killed when Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in 1990.

The cup is to be awarded at each Asian Games to the best performing national Olympic committee, said an OCA statement.

China will officially get the cup from the Sheikh's son, Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah, who took over from his father as OCA president.

**Soccer bronze for Kuwait**

**HIROSHIMA, Oct 15:** Kuwait recovered after conceding an early goal and defeated South Korea 2-1 Saturday night in the bronze medal playoff game of the Asian Games soccer tournament, reports AP.

World record holder Wang Junxia of China on a victory lap after setting this year's best time in the women's 10,000m for her gold at the 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima yesterday. Wang clocked 30 min 50.34 secs.

— AFP photo

Muktis back in winning ways

**Sports Reporter**

Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra returned to the winning ways after a four-match drought when they blanked the lowly Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club 2-0 in one of the two Star Premier Division football league encounters billed for the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The Federation Cup champions turned out to be a bunch of big flops when they flaked off the title race with a second league loss to holders Mohammedans in their previous match following three successive draws against Agrani Bank, Brothers Union and would be champions Abahani Krira Chakra since their disastrous desert honeymoon in Qatar.

However, in the day's second match defender Ataur Rahman and striker Mizan scored one goal each for the winners.

It was Muktijoddha's ninth win in the league and they now have 22 points from 17 matches while Fakirerpool remained at their previous collection of 11 points from 17 engagements.

ARAMBAGH ALLAYED

In the first match of the day, Arambagh Krira Sangsitha crossed the dreaded relegation zone with a 3-0 thrashing of babes Bangladesh Boys.

Meanwhile, the outcome of yesterday's match was a severe blow for one of the two promotion contenders, Bangladesh Boys who are destined to be relegated from the elite group with a meagre haul of nine points from 17 matches.

With these two crucial points Arambagh are now in the safe zone with 14 points from 17 outings.

BLIGHTED BIMA

Away at the Mirpur Stadium, lowly Eskaton Sabuj Sangha Shattered Sadharan Bima's hope of promotion when the former earned a 2-1 win in a crucial Star First Division football league encounter yesterday.

With this win Eskaton collected 16 points while Sadharan Bima remained at their previous collection of 20 points on completion of their 17th league engagement.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka Wanderers vs Dhanmondi Club 4:30 (Dhaka Stadium)

Abahani KC vs Brothers Union 6:30 (Dhaka Stadium)

Harare Test heading nowhere

**HARARE, Oct 15:** Zimbabwe's middle-order collapsed Saturday but with almost an entire session lost to bad light, the first cricket Test against Sri Lanka here looks to be headed for a draw, reports AFP.

Resuming at 172-2 in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings total of 383, Zimbabwe were 319-8 five minutes into the final session on the fourth day when the umpires called a halt because of fading light.

With one day left and Zimbabwe still 64 runs in arrears with two wickets in hand, the prospects of a result were remote.

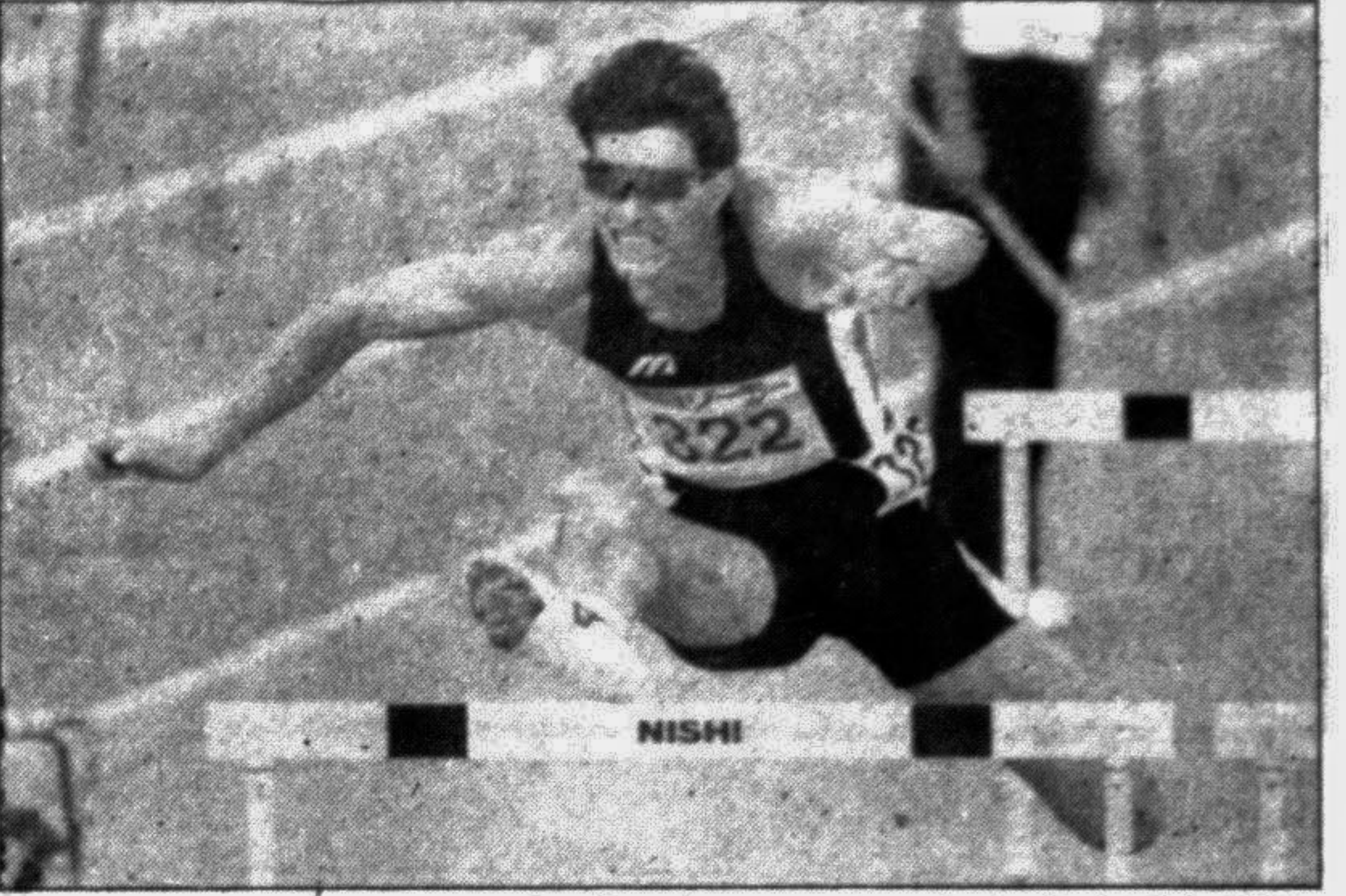
Before the premature close the Sri Lankan bowlers claimed 5-48 in the post lunch session as Zimbabwe slumped from 269-3 to 307-8.

Chaminda Vaas, playing in only his second Test, was the pick of the bowlers with 4-47 off 37 overs.

The 20-year-old left-arm fast medium specialist made good use of the overcast conditions and all his victims were caught behind by wicket-keeper Pupudu Dasanayake, including top scorer Dave Houghton who took four and a half hours to make 58.

SCOREBOARD

Fourth day scoreboard of the first cricket Test between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka at Harare Sports Club on Saturday:					
<b>SRI LANKA:</b> First innings 383 (A Gurusinha 128, S Ranatunga 118, A Ranatunga 62).					
<b>ZIMBABWE:</b> First innings (overnight 172 for two).					
G Flower c Dassanayake b Vaas	41				
M Dekker c sub b Muralidharan	40				
A Campbell c Tilakaratne b Wickremasinghe	44				
D Houghton c Dassanayake b Vaas	58				
A Flower c Dassanayake b Vaas	26				
G Whittall c Dassanayake b Pushpakumara	4				
W James c Dassanayake b Vaas	18				
H Streak c Gurusinha b Muralidharan	8				
S Peall not out	9				
D Brain not out	6				
Extras: (lb-18, b-10, nb-36, w-1)	65				
Total: (for eight wickets)	319				
Fall of wickets: 1-113, 2-115, 3-202, 4-259, 5-264, 6-274, 7-294, 8-307, third.					
To bat: M Jarvis					
<b>Bowling to date:</b>					
Wickremasinghe	26	3	60	1	
Vaas	37	11	74	4	
Pushpakumara	20	0	68	1	
De Silva	6	0	20	0	
Muralidharan	32	7	60	2	
A Ranatunga	2	0	9	0	



Ramil Ganiev of Uzbekistan clears a hurdle on his way to 110m win in the the Asian decathlon at the Big Arch in Hiroshima yesterday. Ganiev won the gold with an Asian Games record of 8,005 points.

— AFP photo

UEFA amercers AC Milan

**GENEVA, Oct 15:** Title-holders AC Milan were sent to the bottom of their group in the European Champions' League on Friday when UEFA stripped them of the two points earned for their 3-0 home win over Salzburg, reports Reuters.

UEFA's disciplinary commission ruled that Milan should be punished for an incident in which Salzburg goalkeeper Otto Konrad was hit on the head by a blastic water bottle during the September 28 tie.

UEFA also told the Italian club, left on zero points after two matches, that they will have to play their next two home ties in the competition at least 300 km away from Milan.

Neither club was happy with UEFA's ruling. Milan immediately announced that they would appeal and Salzburg officials said they might follow suit.

Austrian champions Salzburg had demanded that

European soccer's governing body reverse the result of the match and award them the points.

But UEFA, at a special meeting, decided that Konrad's injury "did not change the face of the game." It ruled that the result would stand but that Milan would forfeit the two points earned for a win.

It also find Salzburg 10,000 Swiss francs because their supporters lit fireworks during the match at the San Siro Stadium in Milan.

Angry Salzburg club officials said UEFA's ruling helped the other two teams in the group — ask Athens and Ajax Amsterdam — more than it helped Salzburg themselves because the others would not now have to play in Milan.

"They accepted our argument in principle but we were not fully repaid," Salzburg president Rudolf Quehenberger told reporters.

The commission said the injury of our goalkeeper did not affect the result and that is wrong."

He added: "We have a slight chance now because Milan have lost the points but it is not much."

The decision comes as a blow to Milan. Confident of another win, the Italians had been willing to accept a replay in a neutral ground.

Milan's Champions' League campaign had already got off to a poor start with a 2-0 defeat to Ajax two weeks before the Salzburg match.

Their win had put them in second place behind the Dutch but they now languish at the bottom of Group D.

Ajax lead the group with four points while Salzburg and Athens have one point apiece. Two teams will go through to the knockout stage of the competition.

Konrad's injury occurred in the 40th minute, a few seconds after midfielder Giovanni Stroppa had put Milan in the lead.

Konrad stayed on the pitch. He received treatment during halftime but was substituted in the 59th minute after Milan's second goal.

Milan, owned by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, disputed the injury and even accused Konrad of faking it to salvage the game.

But the UEFA commission said it was clear that Konrad had been hurt.

"The evidence produced clearly showed that Casino Salzburg's goalkeeper had been hit by a half-full plastic bottle and that he had to leave the playing field because of this injury," it said in a statement.

"The commission therefore partially admitted the claim made by the Austrian club after the match.

"However, it does not consider that the incident in question changed the face of the game. That is why it confirms the validity of the sporting result, 3-0 in favour of the Milanese club."

ASIAN GAMES NOTEBOOK

**HIROSHIMA, Oct 15 (AP):** An Asian Games champion has sold his medals to a local coin shop, the national newspaper Asahi Shimbun reported Saturday.

The athlete, from a central Asian nation, said he needed the money to move to Russia, the paper added. It did not identify him or his sport.

The athlete, who is of Russian origin, said economic difficulties made it necessary to sell the gold and silver medals. He sold them for 150,000 yen (dhs 1,500), it said, adding that the average monthly salary in his country is about 1,100 yen (dhs 11).

"I have to move to Russia as soon as I return to my country after the Asiad, so I urgently need the money for the move," the athlete told the store owner.

**HWANG HONOURED**

Olympic games gold marathon gold medalist Hwang Young-jo has been named as the MVP of the Asian Games by the Asia Sports Press Union.

Hwang won the marathon last Sunday in 2 hours, 11 minutes, 13 seconds.

He was awarded the Sang Beck-lee Cup, an award named in honour of the first International Olympic Committee member from South Korea.

**KOREAN CAMPAIGN**

South Korea has been active in sports diplomacy through the Asian Games.

The Koreans, a rising sports power in the region, have mounted energetic campaigns as they bid to be chosen host for both the World Cup soccer tournament and Asian Games in 2002.

A delegation of about 100 officials, including members of the National Assembly, came to Hiroshima to back up the campaign — although some members of the Olympic Council of Asia reportedly believe the double bid is overambitious.

**YOUTHFUL COMPETITOR**

Bayasgalan Bulgan of Mongolia is the youngest accredited athlete at the Asian Games. The tiny wushu competitor is just 9 years old, but was only a reserve and did not get the chance to strut her stuff in Hiroshima.

"She lives far away from the training school, but comes to practice whenever I tell her, even at 7 am, or in the winter," said coach Nyamdavaa Bulgan.

Navratilova bows to Huber

**FILDERSTADT, Germany, Oct 15:** Martina Navratilova refused to leave the stage easily in her final European tennis tournament, fighting off six match points Friday before losing a three-set thriller to Anke Huber at the Porsche Grand Prix, reports AP.

The 37-year-old tennis great made her last appearance in Europe a memorable one for the 3,000 fans before the 19-year-old Huber defeated her in a quarterfinal match 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

In a late match, first seed Conchita Martinez of Spain was upset by unseeded Karina Habsudova of the Slovak Republic 6-4, 6-1. Martinez, the reigning Wimbledon champion played throughout with an ankle injury that was treated court-side several times and badly hampered her game.

In another late meet, third seed Mary Pierce of France needed only 44 minutes to defeat Gilly Fernandez of the US, 6-0, 6-1.

Martina Hingis, the 14-year-old Swiss prodigy, also lost in her second tournament as a pro. Showing inexperience, she squandered four match points before American Marianne Werdel pulled out a 0-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5) win.

Huber meets Werdel in Saturday's semifinals, with Pierce facing Habsudova.

Navratilova, seeded second, appeared to be beaten when

game. Twice more Navratilova fought off the winning point as she cut the eighth-seed's lead to 4-5.

But on the seventh match point, Navratilova's forehand missed, ending the match in two hours and 20 minutes.

"Navratilova, who has said she will end her unparalleled career with two tournaments in the United States, will be honored at a special ceremony at Saturday's semifinals. She has won the tournament six times.

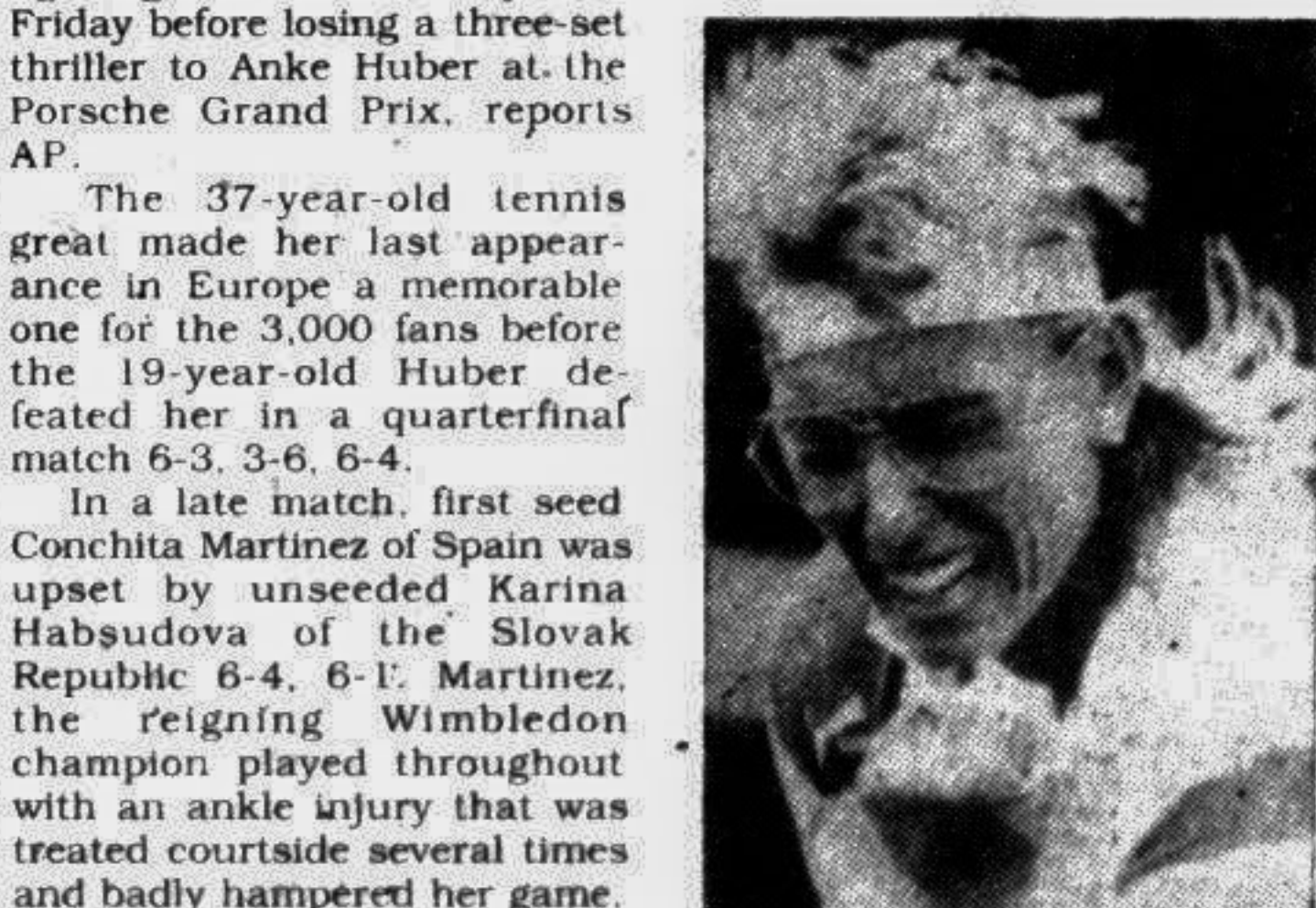
She won 167 career titles, including nine Wimbledon and two French Open titles.

Hingis used steady ground strokes to force Werdel into mistakes in ripping through the first set in just 23 minutes.

But in the second set, the 26-year-old Werdel began to slam easy winners off the weak serve of Hingis, who won junior titles at the French Open and Wimbledon.

Hingis blew her match points while holding 5-4 and 6-5 leads in the final set, finally losing in one hour and 54 minutes.

"At 5-5 in the third set, I already felt beaten. I didn't think I would have any more matchballs," said Hingis.



M NAVRATILOVA