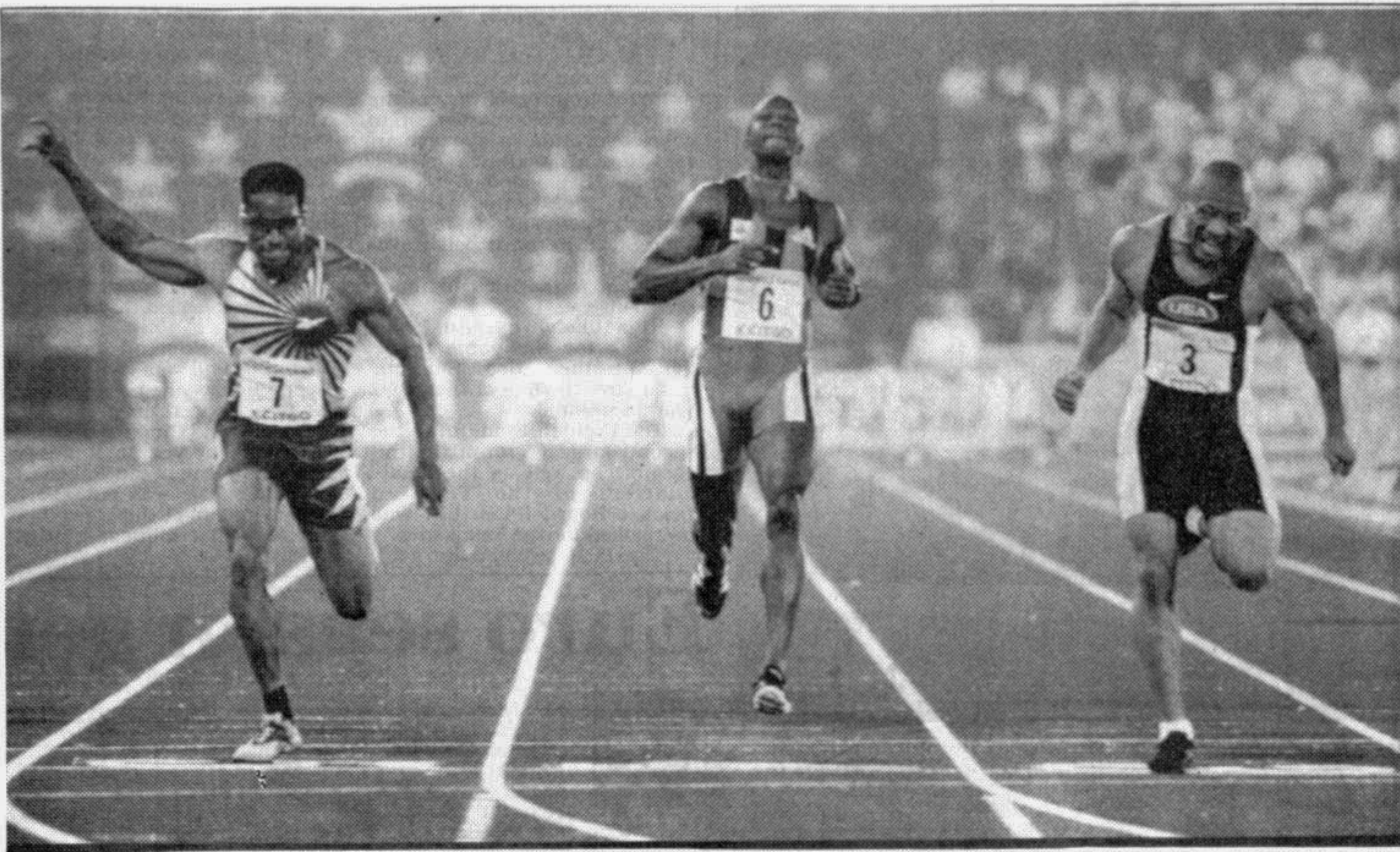


LYON, France, July 22: French soccer legend Eric Cantona gets to run amok in a film being shot near his southeastern city, his first leading role on the silver screen, reports AFP. Entitled 'The Children of the Swamp,' the angry man of football stars alongside Michel Serrault and Jacques Villeret in the film set in the 1930s in which he is due to 'destroy everything' in a village café, officials at the Trevoux town hall said Tuesday. Directed by Frenchman Jean Becker, the movie is to be released in September 1999. The 32-year-old Cantona, who makes his last appearance for Manchester United at a benefit match in August, made a brief movie appearance in the French film 'Le bonheur est dans le pré' and played in a short film on boxer Jake La Motta. Shooting in Trevoux is to last until July 29.



Friendship in the desert

Sports Reporter
 A 26-member Bangladesh football team is likely to leave for Qatar on July 28. The team will play two friendly matches at the invitation of the Qatar Football Federation against the home side in Doha, said a senior Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) official last night. The first match will be held on July 31 but the match on August 4 was yet to be confirmed by the Qataris. BFF has communicated its desire to play more matches to the Qatar Football Federation.
 Khurshid Babul, a former national player and a member of the BFF technical committee, has been appointed manager of the team which includes 20 booters and six officials. Monturul Haque Chowdhury, a vice-president of BFF, will be the mission chief for the brief desert safari.
 Abu Yousuf, assistant coach of Abahani Krira Chakra, will be the coach of the squad which will be announced today. His assistant for the tour is yet to be decided by the BFF.
 The other officials in the team are: Rumi, a BFF member from Faridpur, and Dr. Nazmul as medico.



GREENE IS THE FASTEST: US sprinter Maurice Greene (R) crossing the finishing line in the men's 100 metres final of the Goodwill Games ahead of Ato Boldon (L) of Trinidad and Tobago and Canada's Donovan Bailey at Unionsdale, New York on July 21. Greene clocked 9:96 sec. — AFP photo

Greene, Johnson just too good

NEW YORK, July 22 (AFP/AP): World champion Maurice Greene outtraced Trinidad's Ato Boldon and blew away Canada's Donovan Bailey to win the 100-metre title here Tuesday at the Goodwill Games. Greene led from the start to win in 9:96 seconds with world 200m champion Boldon second in 10:00 and American Brian Lewis third in 10:25.
 "I guess I'm the world's fastest man," Greene said. "I had a very good start, a very good drive phase and I accelerated very well. The reason I won is I executed my race and did not worry about the other guys."
 Bailey set the world record at 9:84 seconds to win the 1996 Atlanta Olympics but has not run well this season. He had a poor start and slowed before the finish line and was seventh in 10:30.
 "I had a bad race. I had a bad start. I lost," Bailey said. "I'm not disappointed at all. I'm surprised. It's just one of those things. I was too tight. I wanted to win it too much."
 "It's not like Atlanta (with preliminaries) where I can get into a groove. One race, anyone can win."
 Boldon and Greene were unhappy Bailey pulled up at the end, with Greene saying, "I don't know what's going through his mind. I can't worry about him. I have people out there who are not walking through the line."
 "If the car runs out of gas, you put it in neutral," Boldon added.
 Bailey said the loss does not make him worry that Greene and Boldon might dominate him in a similar manner this season.
 "I'm not worried. They know I am training hard and that I am healthy," he said. "No excuses. It's just one of those things. Essentially what I'm trying to do now is get into the season."
 Responding to taunts his world record was soft, Bailey said he also expects the mark to be lowered. "It can go a lot faster than this," he said. "I know I can run faster."
 Namibia's Frankie Fredericks, who has beaten Boldon and Greene twice this year, was not entered. "I wish Frankie had been here," Greene said. "We will see him next week. We will see him several more times."
 Tragedy struck the Games in gymnastics when 17-year-old Chinese vault champion Sang Lan was paralysed after a fall in the vaulting finals resulted in fractured and dislocated vertebrae in her spinal cord.
 "At this time she cannot move her legs. She has minimal motion of her arms," Goodwill Games chief medical officer Brock Schnebel said. "She cannot feel from her mid-chest down. This is consistent with a spinal cord injury at that level."
 World and Olympic champion Michael Johnson pulled away at the midpoint to win the 400m in 43.76, the fastest time in the world this year and one he said shows he is ready to put nagging left leg injuries behind him.
 "It tells me I can run well this season and I'm back where I was," Johnson said. "It's a matter of getting in a few more workouts and some races. I'm definitely on the road to getting back where I was."
 Two-time Olympic heptathlon champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey stood second after the first day of her last heptathlon. She will retire on Saturday after one final long jump competition at a Grand Prix meet.
 Joyner-Kersey won the shot put at 15.59m to match the lead but was fifth in the 200m in 24.47 to stand at 3,833 points, 34 behind fellow American Dedee Nathan and two ahead of Lithuania's Remigija Nazaroviene.

"It has been difficult but I'm trying to stay positive," Joyner-Kersey said. "I still have three events left. It's going to be a battle and I am here until the end."
 Bobby Kersee, her husband and coach, said his wife should win even though she has not competed in the event since the 1996 Olympics.
 "There is no doubt in my mind she can win this thing," he said. "It should be easier but if she wants to make it a mental battle, so be it."
 British world-record holder Jonathan Edwards won the long jump with 1998's best leap, 7.65m, on his final attempt. He had jumped Sunday in Britain, came here Monday and left for home immediately after winning.
 "I'm tired. It's very late in the evening on my body clock," he said. "I'm very happy with 17.65 and to beat a great field. As I warmed up it wasn't all there. There is always a little adrenaline in the last run."
 Edwards, who set the world mark of 18.29 in 1995 at Göteborg, Sweden, made Cuban world champion Yoelbi Quesada a runner-up at 17.27. Olympic champion Kenny Harrison of the United States was eighth, last, at 16.53.
 Jeff Hartwig set an American pole vault record with a 1998 world best of 6.01m. Olympic champion Jean Galfione of France was second at 5.80.
 Ukrainian world pole vault champion Sergei Bubka failed to clear his opening height of 5.70m, continuing a season of struggles. After two misses, Bubka's third attempt was a time foul after he halted his run.
 Algerian world-record holder Noureddine Morceli won the mile in 3:53.39, exactly nine seconds slower than the world mark he set in 1993. Kenya's William Tanui was second with world 3,000 and 5,000m world record holder Daniel Komen of Kenya third.
 Julius Gitahi led a Kenyan 10,000m medal sweep, winning in 27:49.26 while Nigeria's Falilat Ogunkoya won the women's 400m in 49.89 seconds.
 Australia's first gold medal of the Games was won by Joanna Stone, who took the javelin with a throw of 66.25m.
 Romania's Mihaela Melinte won the hammer with the fourth-best effort in history, 72.64m, while Russia's Olga Kuzenkova, who set the world record of 73.80m on May 15 in Tolyatti, Russia, was second at 70.98.

The US basketball team advanced to the semis with a 106-75 victory over Brazil. The United States plays Lithuania in the medal round Thursday. Australia also advanced with an 82-64 victory over Lithuania. It was Lithuania's first loss.
 In water polo, world-champion Spain defeated the Americans with Salvador Gomez and Ivan Perez each scoring twice. Then Russia advanced to the gold-medal game by beating the United States in the final round-robin match, and will meet Spain for the title.
 The United States will play Italy for the bronze.

| Country | G | S | B | T |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|
| United States | 14 | 18 | 18 | 50 |
| Russia | 15 | 7 | 3 | 25 |
| Kenya | 3 | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Jamaica | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| Romania | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Cuba | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Australia | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Ukraine | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Japan | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Algeria | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Belarus | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Britain | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Mozambique | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Nigeria | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| France | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Germany | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Mexico | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Brazil | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Czech Republic | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Ecuador | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Greece | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Iceland | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Morocco | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

Farooq Sobhan made SAARC bridge boss

Bangladesh Bridge Federation president Farooq Sobhan has been made the president of SAARC Bridge Association, reports UNB.
 The decision was taken at a meeting of the SAARC Bridge Association held in the Indian city of Hyderabad recently.
 The meeting also decided to hold the Second SAARC Bridge Competition in Dhaka on December 9.
 Meanwhile, the National Bridge Championship, organised by Bangladesh Bridge Federation, will be held on August 28 at the Hotel Sheraton.
 The teams participating in the national championship from outside Dhaka will be given Tk 1,000 each as conveyance and food plus accommodation at the Mirpur Krira Palli and the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium, said a federation press release on Wednesday.

Cricket's Steering Committee sits

Sports Reporter
 The committee bequeathed with the responsibility of forming different standing committees under the Bangladesh Cricket Board met for the first time at the BCB office yesterday. The five-member Steering Committee is chaired by Tanveer Mazhar Tanna, a BCB vice-president.
 The standing committees are expected to be ratified in the next executive committee meeting of the Board.
 The other four members of the committee are BCB general secretary Syed Ashraf Haque, two joint-secretaries—Mahmud-ul-Haque Manu and Dewan Shaiful Arefin Tutul, and executive committee member Enayet Hossain Siraj.
 It was learnt that the committee had primary discussion about the formation of different committees including the Selection Committee and the Cricket Committee for Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM).
 The meeting was adjourned and the committee is likely to sit again ten days later to finalise a draft proposal, which will be submitted to the Executive Committee meeting on August 21.

Water-logged volleyball

Sports Reporter
 Bangladesh Volleyball Federation (BVF) has deferred the start of their two tournaments due to the existing flood condition prevailing across the country, according to a press release.
 According to the revised programme, the Incontrad inter-district volleyball tournament, which was scheduled for a July 28 start at the Mirpur National Indoor Stadium, will now commence from August 6 while the BJC national volleyball championships, scheduled to start on August 7, will begin six days later.

Kabadi League next Monday

Sports Reporter
 The 5th KM Mainuddin Smriti Premier Division kabadi league will commence at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium from July 27.
 Seven teams from BDR, Police, Ansars & VDP and Fire Service & Civil Defence, will be taking part in the league.

Brazil-ROK friendly in October

SEOUL, July 22: World Cup finalists Brazil have asked for next month's scheduled friendly against South Korea to be postponed until October, reports Reuters.
 South Korea's football association had today Brazilian soccer authorities had sent a letter requesting a new date. They cited a need to resolve "internal problems."
 The friendly has been rescheduled for mid-October, the association said in a statement.

Postponement

Sports Reporter
 Trials of West End Street Club to select cricketers for their team which will take part in the Third Division league next season, has been postponed for indefinite period.
 According to press release of the club yesterday, interested players have been asked to contact Nurul Karim, convener of the club's cricket committee, at the club premises at the 5/2 West End Street, Dhanmondi any day from 5 to 7 pm for further information.

Yan's sprint double

FUKUOKA, Japan, July 22 (AP/AF): Chinese sprinter Yan Jiansun became a double gold medalist at the Asian Athletic Championships Wednesday, while her country grabbed 14 of the 19 golds at stake on the meet's final day.
 That gave the Chinese 26 of the meet's 43 golds, far ahead of Japan's six. Qatar had three and Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka two each.
 Chinese women missed only one of nine gold medals on Wednesday, and finished with 17 in all.
 Yen edged teammate Huang Mei 23.00 seconds to 23.21 in the 200 metres, adding that gold to her victory Monday in the 100.
 "I knew I could win both events," she said. "And I thought I could run much faster today. Maybe I was a little tired."
 India's P T Usha in her first international meet after several years of self-imposed retirement, was third in 23.46, taking her second bronze medal of the meet.
 "I'm more than happy," the 33-year-old Usha said. "Hopefully I'll be better fit and run faster in the Asian Games."
 She didn't have to wait until December for gold, however. Later Wednesday, she anchored India's victorious 4x100-metre relay quartet.
 That was the only women's event on Wednesday that China didn't win.
 She also anchored her country's silver medal team in the 4x400, which finished 0.16 behind China.
 Japan won three of the 10

men's gold medals Wednesday and Qatar won one, when Mubarak S Al-Nubifara took the men's 400-metre hurdles.
 For Japan, Koji Ito edged China's Han Chaoming by 0.07 second in the 200 metres, winning in 20.70. Toshihiko Takaoka beat India's Gulab Chand by more than a second in the 5,000. And Japan won the 4x400-metre relay, more than a second ahead of South Korea.
 Chinese women's triple jump winner Ren Ruiping came 0.55 metres short of her 2-year-old Asian record of 14.66, but noted that "none of my Asian rivals has ever beaten me."
 "I'll try to be qualified for Bangkok in a national meet in September, and to set a much better record in the Asian Games," the 22-year-old Ren added.
 In the women's discus, 192-centimetre (6-foot, 3½-inch) tall Yu Xin threw 57.47 metres for the gold, beating the 56.81 of Neelam J Singh of India and 33.32 of Asian record-holder Xiao Yaling, also of China. Xiao said she has almost recovered from a leg injury she suffered in April.
 "I'm glad to win the gold in my first international meet," said the 21-year-old Yu. "I'm not satisfied with today's record, however, and I feel like I can overcome the pressure next time and do a better job."
 In the distance races, China left home the latest batch of women runners in "Ma's Army", the pupils of coach Ma Junren who broke a succession of world records in the early 1990s.
 But in the 10,000, China's Liu Shixiang, silver medalist in the 5,000, spurred ahead of Japan's Chiemi Takahashi

with 100 metres left and won in 32 minutes, 28.49 seconds. Takahashi was second in 32:32.99.
 A sumo fan from Mongolia, Dashdendev Mahashiri, will take home his nation's only medal, a silver. He won with 57.00 metres in the men's discus.
 "It's a good present for my wife and my 4-month-old daughter," said the 30-year-old Mahashiri.
 China's Li Sahojie took the gold with 60.28, while Ajit Badhuria won the bronze with 55.46.
 In the men's high jump, Zhou Zhangde cleared 2.30m for the gold, but failed at a new championship record attempt of 2.35m.
 Lee recorded 2.27m for the silver, followed by Loo Kum Ze Loo of Malaysia with a best height of 2.23m.
 In the new women's pole vault competition, Peng Zhaoming of China cleared 4.00m for the gold. Japan's Masumi Ono took silver with 3.80m and Chie Miyoshi won bronze at 3.70m.

MEDALS TABLE

| Nation | G | S | B | T |
|------------|----|----|----|----|
| China | 26 | 13 | 3 | 42 |
| Japan | 6 | 17 | 14 | 37 |
| Qatar | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| Kazakhstan | 2 | 4 | 5 | 11 |
| Sri Lanka | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| India | 1 | 3 | 8 | 12 |
| S Korea | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| S Arabia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Uzbekistan | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Malaysia | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Taiwan | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Mongolia | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Iran | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Syria | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Thailand | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

Azzurri awaits Zoff's arrival

ROME, July 22: Italy was preparing today to welcome Dino Zoff, the legendary captain of their 1982 World Cup-winning side, as the new coach of the national soccer team following the departure of Cesare Maldini, reports Reuters.
 Italian soccer federation president Luciano Nizzola was due to meet former goalkeeper Zoff, the most capped player in Italian soccer history, during the day to tie up a deal, according to Turin-based Tuttosport.
 The newspaper said 56-year-old Zoff, currently president of Rome-based club Lazio, would sign a two-year contract with an option for two more years.
 A federation spokesman declined to comment on the report, which was echoed by other newspapers, saying only that an announcement was expected by Friday.
 Maldini took over less than two years ago but his days as

Zoff's appointment has been money. As Lazio president, he earns about one billion lire (570,000 dollars) a season and has a deal until 2002, compared with Maldini's salary of around 650 million lire, Gazzetta said.
 The federation can only offer him a two-year contract since Nizzola's term expires in 2000, but the offer on the table is expected to consist of a two-year deal renewable for another two years and a series of bonus incentives to top up the salary.
 If an agreement can be reached Zoff will take the helm for Italy's European Championship qualifier against Wales on September 5.
 Zoff enjoys an almost mythical status as the man who led Italy to victory in the 1982 World Cup in Spain.
 He was Italy's European Championship-winning team in 1968, captained the side 59 times and was capped a record 112 times in all, playing his last match for Italy in 1983.
 Zoff coaches Italy's Olympic squad through an unbeaten qualifying campaign for the Seoul Games in 1988. He had a glittering career in Serie A as a player and coach at Juventus, who won the UEFA Cup and Italian Cup under his guidance in 1990 and as coach of Lazio.
 Veteran Italy forward Roberto Baggio said he was delighted at the prospect of Zoff taking over.
 "I'm happy for Zoff, who I consider someone with a great deal of charisma," he said.
 But Christian Vieri, one of Italy's brightest stars in France, said he was disappointed for Maldini, whom he had known when the former coach was in charge of Italy's under-21 side.
 "I don't think Maldini did anything wrong. We went out of the World Cup with our heads held high," he said.
 As part of the Maldini's settlement, Nizzola said he would offer the former coach a still-to-be-defined role at the federation.

Latest

ROME, Italy 22 (AP): Dino Zoff, a link to Italy's past soccer glory, was named the new head coach of the national soccer team Wednesday.
 The Italian soccer federation announced Zoff signed a four-year contract, which runs through the next World Cup, in 2002.
 coach were numbered after Italy's lacklustre World Cup performance in which they crashed out to France in the quarterfinals.
 Italy almost did not make it to France at all, scraping through only after a two-match play-off. Once there, the 66-year-old father of captain Paolo Maldini was criticised for relying too heavily on dull, defensive tactics.
 Italy's sports bible La Gazzetta Dello Sport, said Nizzola, who met Maldini on Saturday, had originally hoped he could stay on and had been embarrassed to have to call him on his mobile while Maldini was sunbathing to announce the change of plan.
 "Cesare Maldini was bitter. I can understand that. He's been well and truly lynched," the paper quoted Nizzola as saying.
 The main stumbling block to



GOLDEN GIRL STRIKES GOLD: Veteran Indian track queen P T Usha (L) receiving the baton from teammate E B Shyla during the ladies' 4x100 metres relay at the Asian Athletic Championships at Fukuoka yesterday. Usha led the Indian's to a gold medal. — AFP photo

Arsenal plan to spring Boksic

LONDON, July 22 (The Mirror/Internet): Arsenal have turned their sights on Croatian hit-man Aler Boksic after missing out on Patrick Kluyvert in their hunt for European fire-power.
 Highbury boss Arsene Wenger has pinpointed Lazio's widely-famed striker Boksic, 28, as the man who can boost the club's bid for glory in the Champions League.
 Wenger has made contact with the Rome club's boss Sven-Goran Eriksson about a possible deal, which would cost Arsenal around £8million.
 But the Gunners' move for Dutch midfielder star Ronald de Boer was plunged into doubt last night as European Cup holders Real Madrid claimed they were set to snap up him and his fellow international, twin-brother Frank.
 Holland's World Cup boss Guus Hiddink has just taken over at Madrid and he said: "The twins are vital to my plans."
 Boksic has the style to suit

the Premiership and Wenger is desperate to land a forward because Dutch ace Dennis Bergkamp will miss Champions League fixtures because of his fear of flying.
 Manchester United and Newcastle have both tried and failed to land Boksic in recent seasons.
 He would have spearheaded Croatia's attack alongside Davor Suker in the World Cup, but was ruled out by a calf injury.
 He is now recovering, but his opportunities at Lazio could be limited following a spending spree by Eriksson.
 He has signed Chile's Marcelo Salas from River Plate and also captured exciting Yugoslavian youngster Dejan Stankovic from Red Star Belgrade - effectively squeezing out Boksic.
 Wenger has a massive transfer fund at his disposal but has been unable to pull off a significant deal since the Gunners won the Double in May. His attempts to land Dutch international Kluyvert for £9m have been knocked by Milan's demand for more than £10m.