

ICC coaching clinic in Feb

Sports Reporter
The International Cricket Council (ICC) under its development programme will organise a ten-day coaching clinic for under-17 players at the end of February.
The camp, which will be conducted by two reputed coaches under the supervision of ICC's development officer for the Asia former Pakistan Test cricketer Nasimul Ghani, will be held at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) in Savar.
Five cricketers each from six divisions of the country will take part.
According to Mahmud Ul Haque Manu, secretary of BCB coaching and planning committee, South African coach H Ayoob is one of the coaches. He, however, failed naming the other.
Meanwhile, all divisions have been asked to submit their choices—two batsmen, two bowlers and a wicketkeeper—by January.

Davis' hatrick

COLLEGE STATION, Texas, Dec 5 (Reuters/AP): American Josh Davis won his third event in the US Open swimming championships on Friday night.
Davis won the 200 metre freestyle in a US record time of 1 minute 45.24 seconds.
Davis' first record came in the 100 individual medley at the FINA Swimming World Cup on Wednesday, then he came back and set the record in the 200 IM at the US open on Thursday.
The triple gold medalist from the 1996 Olympics swam 21 races in four days.
"This is more than I could ever hope for, to get three American records," he said.
Natalie Coughlin, 16, of Terapins Swim Team was the only double winner Friday with victories in the women's 100 backstroke (58.59) and 400 IM (4:36.24).
Frederick Deburghorae of Belgium set the world short-course record in the 100 metre breaststroke on Thursday.
The 1996 Olympic champion, and world record holder in the long-course 100 breaststroke, Deburghorae broke his own short-course world mark by clocking 58.79 seconds.
His previous mark was 59.02 set in February 1996.
The 1996 Olympic gold medalist and the 1998 world champion and world record holder in long and short course, Deburghorae just two days earlier, had finished second in the same event at the FINA World Cup.

NBL volleyball
Bangladesh Rifles registered their fourth consecutive win in the National Bank Limited Premier Division volleyball league at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday, reports UNB.

Rifles beat Water Development Board in straight sets (15-5, 15-9, 15-10). This was the first defeat for the WDB.
In another match, Azad Sporting Club also beat Wari Club by straight sets (15-12, 15-7, 15-5).
In the First Division league, Jiban Bima Corporation and Brothers Union won their respective matches by 3-0 sets at the same venue today.

Jiban Bima defeated Nabajat Sangha 15-3, 15-13, 15-10 while Brothers Union beat Fire Service 15-3, 15-2, 15-9.
Earlier, on Friday, Power Development Board beat Bangladesh Bank 15-9, 15-6, 15-3 in the Premier Division league.

In the First Division league, East End Club and Dilkusha Club won their respective matches at the same venue.
East End Club beat Shanubagh Welfare Association 15-13, 15-5, 15-17 while Dilkusha Club defeated Nabajat Majlish 15-6, 15-13, 15-8.

Sunday's Premier Division matches: Titus Club vs Bangladesh Bank (2:30 pm), Power Development Board vs Sonali Bank (4 pm).
Sunday's First Division matches: East End Club vs East End Boys (4 pm), Dilkusha Club vs Brothers Union (2:30 pm).

In the name of Cuba

BANGKOK, Dec 5: Their fighters are not here but the soul of Cuba's famed fighters will be present in a host of coaches when the boxing gets underway at the Asian Games on Monday, reports Reuters.

The Philippines, Pakistan, Laos, India, Indonesia and hosts Thailand all have Cuban head coaches for their boxing teams.
There are also a sprinkling of other Cubans as trainers and cornermen in other teams.

Rafael Ramirez, coach of Pakistan since 1993, says the presence of the Cubans throughout Asia has led to a sharp rise in the standard of Asian boxing and made the contests more even than in the past.

"We are spreading our Cuban methods and it is paying off," Ramirez said.
The measures include identifying boxers of the future when there are barely in their teens and uncompromising training regimes that go on non stop.

"We are very professional about boxing back in Cuba even though we only compete in amateur events like the Olympics," he said while supervising his team during their warm up schedule at the Muang Thong Thani Stadium in Bangkok.

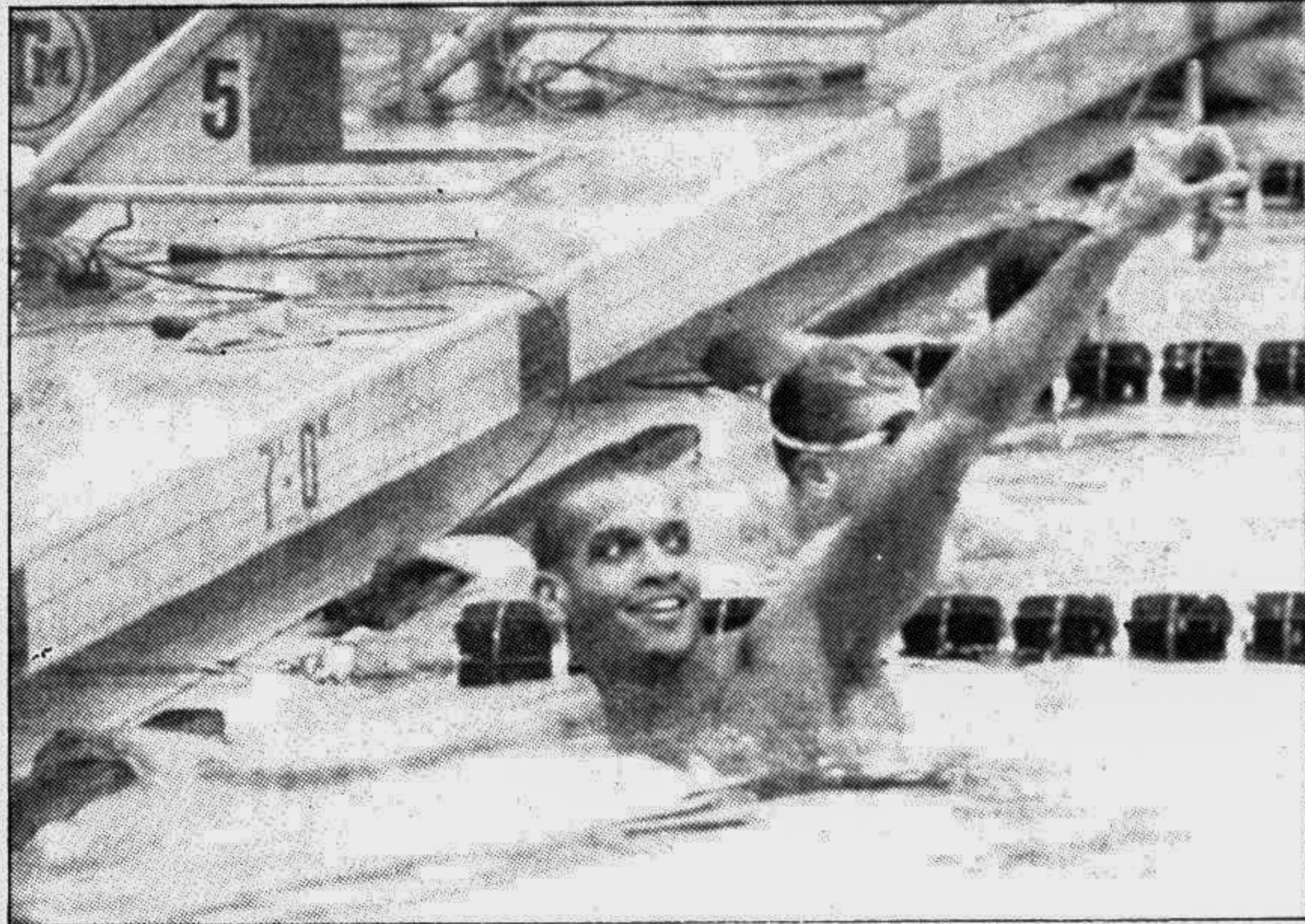
"We start the guys early from 10 or 11 years of age, and take them through set stages depending on how old they are, so when they are old enough for senior competition they have had six or seven years in boxing."

BCCSL's sigh of relief

COLOMBO, Dec 5: Sri Lanka's cricket board Friday welcomed the withdrawal of controversial Australian umpire Darrell Hair from next month's matches but insisted that disciplinary action should be taken against him, reports AFP.
The Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) said it was still pushing the International Cricket Council (ICC), to take action against Hair for his remarks against Sri Lanka's star spinner Muttiah Muralitharan.
"Hair's decision to pull out is a good one in the interest of the game," Board president Thilanga Samathipala said. "But we will pursue with the ICC about Hair violating the code of conduct."
Hair, regarded as Australia's leading umpire said he would stand down from matches against Sri Lanka in the interests of harmony during the limited overs series which also involve England starting next month.

Sri Lanka were angered by comments in Hair's recently published book about Muralitharan.
Hair no balled Muralitharan for throwing seven times in the Boxing Day Test at the MCG in Melbourne in 1995.
Australian Cricket Board chairman Denis Rogers insisted strongly Thursday that Hair's decision was not influenced by the Board.
"I don't want anyone leaving this room saying they have noble him (Hair)... because it is just not true," Rogers said.
Hair's book 'Decision Maker' rekindled the Muralitharan controversy.
The man, described by Rogers as Australia's leading umpire, said he did not regret the book which details in part the events of the 1995 MCG Test.
He said his decision to withdraw from Sri Lanka selection this summer was "fairly easy, after consulting cricket colleagues worldwide."
"I've got no regrets about releasing a book however, the timing was probably unfortunate," Hair said Thursday.

"The timing of my book is inappropriate and in the best interests of cricket harmony I have taken this decision."
Rogers made clear the ACB's displeasure at the timing of Hair's book.
"As I said to him (Hair) in an uncomplicated way, the timing of his book was indeed unfortunate," Rogers said.
"He has made some comments about contemporary players who will be touring here this summer and he is a serving umpire."
"I don't think that is conducive to harmonious relations," Hair wrote of Muralitharan "I don't think he straightens his arm all the time, just on some occasions."
"I could have called him 27 times or even more but I did not want the matter to become a complete farce."
Sri Lanka arrive in Australia on New Year's Day for the one-day series.



Sabir Muhammad exults after breaking the American 100m butterfly record at the US Open swimming in Texas on December 4. He clocked 52.42 seconds. — AP/UNB photo

India A 297/9 dec

CHENNAI, Dec 5: India A declared their first innings at 297 for nine, 16 minutes before tea on the second day of their four-day cricket match against West Indies A at the MA Chidambaram Stadium today, reports PTL.
Overnight not out, Hrishikesh Kanitkar, who scored a century and MSK Prasad stepped out of their sedate game and accelerated the scoring in the post-lunch session.
The two added 175 runs for the sixth wicket in 76 overs before Prasad was run out for 61.
Soon afterwards India lost two quick wickets — Nikhil Chopra (0) and Kanitkar (143) — as the visitors struck back.
Kanitkar's superb innings came to an end when he went for a sweep off McGarrell, only to offer a thin nick to wicket-keeper Courtney Browne. The Indian captain hit 10 fours and a six during his 518 minute stay at the crease.
Obaid Kamal (17 n.o.) launched a counter-attack going for some big hits which included two sixes of successive balls off Neil McGarrell. But, his partner Doda Ganesh (7) fell cheaply to McGarrell, who was

the most successful bowler, taking three wickets for 7 followed by Ian Bishop 2 for 54.
Rahul Sanghi was yet to open his account when the declaration came.
SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the second day of the four-day match between India A and West Indies A on Saturday:
INDIA A: First innings
Jaffer run out 0
Ramesh b Gayle 22
Khurashid c Browne b Tuckett 17
Kanitkar c Browne b McGarrell 143
R Gavaskar c McGarrell b Bishop 11
Prasad run out 61
Chopra b Bishop 0
Ganesh b McGarrell 7
Kamal not out 17
Sanghi not out 0
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-6) 12
Total: (For 9 wickets in 129 overs dec) 297
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-26; 3-50; 4-66; 5-92; 6-267; 7-268; 8-274; 9-297.
Bowler
Collins 19 3 50 0
Bishop 34 12 54 2
Tuckett 19 12 13 1
Gayle 28 6 80 1
McGarrell 26 3 77 3
Hinds 2 0 6 0
Serwan 1 0 11 0

English cricket rings in change

LONDON, Dec 5: The most radical change in the history of the English county championship aimed at improving the fortunes of the national side was approved at Lord's on Thursday, reports AFP.
The 18 counties agreed, by an overwhelming majority, to adopt a two-tier programme from the start of the 2000 season.
Approval was granted by 15 votes to two with two abstentions, one of which was by the MCC.
The two-division idea was thrown out last year but, ever since the first-class forum met in October, the chance has been imminent.
Since 1890, the championship has remained largely unchanged and this move is designed to improve England's competitive strength at international level.
However, there will be more international cricket in 2000 than ever before, with seven Test matches and 10 one-day internationals already inserted into that season's England programme.
That in itself, will reduce the overall strength of counties that provide players for the extended international format.

China sowing the seeds

BANGKOK, Dec 5: For China, staying atop the Asian Games gold medal standings is not the issue, its eyes are set down the road on a bigger target: The 2000 Olympics, reports AP.
In gymnastics, diving and other events, China aims to use the Asian Games starting Sunday in Bangkok to hone future stars. It hopes giving young athletes the vital experience of big competition will pay off in medals at the Sydney Olympics.
The ability of the Chinese sporting machine to churn out a seemingly endless supply of gold medals has long made China Asia's sporting powerhouse. But regional dominance is not enough. Chinese sports officials and athletes want to take on and beat the world's best.

China, the runaway winner at the last Asian Games in Hiroshima, Japan, in 1994, again expects to lead the medals table in Bangkok. But, officials say, it's the quality, not quantity, of gold that will count in the long run.
"It's not just getting a gold, it's getting a gold with a result that is close or at world standards," said Li Furong, deputy head of China's Asian Games delegation. "The main target is the 2000 Olympics."
For China, doing well is also a matter of politics and national pride. China views sporting prowess as a way to showcase — both to the world and its own people — the huge economic strides the country has made under two decades of market reforms that have lifted millions out of poverty. The government works to channel pride generated when Chinese athletes do well into support for the difficult reform process.

Two of China's four women divers — Yang Lan and 14-year-old Li Na — have never attended a major international competition before, team manager Xue Li said. On the men's side, 16-year-old diver Huang Qiang is also in his first big international meet, she said.
In gymnastics, a Chinese strength, three men — Yang Wei, Xing Aowei and Zhao Shang — have never attended a major international competition, team manager Zhang Jian said. Among the women gymnasts, 16-year-old Xu Jing is a newcomer.
"Through the Asian Games, we want to train our young athletes," said Li, the delegation official. "This way we can better prepare for the Olympics in 2000."
The crop of new faces means some famous stars have been left behind. They include table tennis players Wang Tao and Deng Yaping, a three-time world champion. In the pool, world record holders Li Jingyi and He Chong also are missing the Games, as is top butterfly swimmer Liu Limin.



THE PICTURE SAYS IT ALL ... Boxing promoter Don King (C) holds up the hands of Lennox Lewis (L) and Evander Holyfield during a press conference in Los Angeles on Thursday. — AFP photo

Paes isn't going to Bangkok

BANGKOK, Dec 5: India's gold medal prospects at the Asian Games suffered a severe blow today when tennis star Leander Paes withdrew with an ankle injury.
"I am out, I am not going to Bangkok," Paes told AFP from his base in Florida where he is recovering from the injury sustained during the World Doubles Championships last month.
"I was dying to go to Bangkok but my doctor here said that there was no way I could resume playing tennis before December 9," said the 25-year-old.
"I can't still jog or bike, they are putting me in a cast every night so I don't hurt my foot further."
Asia's top-ranked player at 91 in the world, was eyeing three goals in the team, singles and doubles events.
He won the team and doubles gold at the last Asian Games in Hiroshima four years ago, but lost in the singles semifinal.
"What hurts me more is that I will not be able to be India's flag-bearer at Sunday's opening ceremony," said Paes, whose Davis Cup heroics made him a household name at home.
"But that's life, you've got to overcome these disappointments."
The news that Paes will not make the trip to Bangkok disappointed the rest of the Indian squad training in Calcutta.
"It's bad news," said non-playing captain Jaideep Mukherjee.
Paes' absence means his doubles partner Mahesh Bhupathi will assume added responsibility.
Bhupathi will team up with Syed Fazeluddin in the team and doubles events. The pair helped India win the Asia Cup in New Delhi last month.
The other members of the team, which arrives in Bangkok on Saturday, are Prahlad Srinath, Nitin Kirtane and Vijay Kannan.

India also faces doubts about its other top Asian Games star, sprinter P T Usha, making her last Asian appearance at 35. The winner of four gold medals at the 1986 Seoul Games may be denied a final gold chance by a hamstring injury she sustained in a domestic meet.
Kyrgyzstan banks on Bogacheva
BANGKOK, Dec 5: Chinese marathon runners Pan Jinhong and Wang Yanfang will look to get the undisputed giant of Asian sport off to a flying start when the first gold medal of the 13th Asian Games is decided Sunday, reports AP.
While China is expected to break three figures for gold medals for the third straight Games, the oldest runner in the field will be seeking a first gold in any Asian Games for Kyrgyzstan.
Irina Bogacheva, 37, is nine years older than the next eldest competitor in the 13-runner field, and that experience may prove crucial Sunday.
Kyrgyzstan, a nation of 4.7 million people, made its Asian Games debut in 1994, after the break-up of the Soviet Union, and won four silvers and five bronzes.
Bogacheva is her nation's best hope for winning a gold medal here.
The biggest question mark is her decision to run the Chicago marathon less than two months ago. She placed sixth in 2 hours, 30 minutes, 34 seconds but may not have had enough time to recover for a race in sapping heat despite an early morning start.

But Bogacheva knows how to win, having claimed the past two Belgrade titles and victories in Cleveland, San Francisco and Minnesota.
Japan is missing most of its top runners, including last year's world champion Hiromi Suzuki, and its challenge will be led by Naoko Takahashi.
Takahashi became the first Japanese woman to win a race on the international Grand Prix circuit when she claimed the 5,000 meters at the Osaka Grand Prix earlier this year.
Takahashi also has the best entry time of the field — 2 hours, 25 minutes, 48 seconds.
Pan is ranked second on entry times but has more big race experience than her Japanese rival. She was 11th in this year's London Marathon after finishing 17th in 1997.
Wang also ran in London this year, finishing 13th.
North Korean Kim Chang is also experienced, running 26th in difficult conditions at the Atlanta Olympics.



Nantes' Eric Decroix (L) and Pierre-Yves Andre are in quest of the ball during their French First Division encounter in Nantes on December 4. — AFP photo

Chinese, Iranians win

BANGKOK, Dec 5: China and Iran will go into the second round of the Asian Games football tournament with their sights on gold but also with a point to prove.
The pair have emerged as the favourites for the Games gold medal and, with both drawn in the same group for the second phase they are not destined to meet again until the final.
Then both will be out to prove to the game's world governing body, FIFA, that the decision to award Asia just two additional places at the next World Cup in 2002, the first to be held in Asia, was wrong.
Asia will have four places at the next World Championship — the same as in France during the summer — but two will be taken up by the co-hosts — South Korea and Japan.
Both China and Iran will be among the front-runners when the competition for places in Japan and Korea kicks off in around two years time and with just two up for grabs the competition will be more fierce than ever before.

Iran were among the four Asian representatives at France '98 and were the only team from the region to win a match when they defeated the United States 2-1 in Lyon.
Most of the team that achieved that win are competing in the Asian Games, a fact that has the Iranians marked out as one of the favourites. A 2-0 win over Kazakhstan in the first round underlined their status.
Among the players called into the side are Bayern Munich striker Ali Daei and Leicester City target Mehdi Mahdavi. Both played in France with Mahdavi scoring the winning goal against the Americans.
For China all of their European-based stars have returned. Captain Fan Zhiyi and Sun Jihai have both been recalled from English side Crystal Palace while Yang Chen, who scored a hatrick against Cambodia, has returned from Eintracht Frankfurt and Li Jinyu has come back from France.
Two comfortable 4-1 wins over the Cambodians and Lebanon took China through to the second round as the winners of their group and marked them out as a side to watch.

Other teams that will be among the favourites are Kuwait and Uzbekistan, the defending champions.
The pair played out an entertaining 3-3 draw in the first round with both qualifying for the second round ahead of whipping boys Mongolia.
Kuwait have scored 35 goals in their last eight international matches, which included a 3-0 friendly win over Iran, four victories at the Gulf Cup in Bahrain to lift the title and an 11-0 defeat of the Mongolians, the biggest win of the competition so far.
Striker Jassem Al Houwaidi has scored 14 of those Kuwaiti goals in recent months, having grabbed five in the opening two games here.
But he has been out-done by compatriot Farj Laheeb, a last minute call-up into the starting line-up after the last minute withdrawal of Bashar Abdul-lah, who is the competition's top scorer with six.
Uzbekistan, led by veteran striker Igor Skvyrin, showed in the opening round that the are still a force to be reckoned with, especially in the absence of Asian Cup holders Saudi Arabia and full strength sides from Japan and South Korea.
Choi Yung-soo scored twice Friday to power South Korea into the second round with a 4-0 rout of Vietnam.
South Korea rebounded from a surprise 3-2 loss in the opening game, in which the wasted a 2-0 lead against Turkmenistan.

South Korea, one of the favourites of the games soccer tournament, ended with a 1-1 record in Group A behind Turkmenistan in the 23-nation preliminary round.
They still qualified for the next round against the Group C winner, Japan, in a battle Monday between co-hosts of the 2002 World Cup.
Choi topped his goal count to four in two games with two more goals after Kim Eun-jung started the scoring from the top of the penalty area in the 30th minute.
Choi scored in the 42nd minute, making the score 2-0 at halftime. After Yoon Jong-hwan scored in the 66th minute, Choi made it 4-0 five minutes before the final whistle.

Japan had already clinched a second-round spot with two victories in their matches against Nepal and India.
In another Friday game, hosts Thailand defeated Oman 2-0, improving the mark to 2-0 in Group F. Both teams had already beaten hapless Hong Kong and were certain to advance.
The match decided first and second place.
Worawoot Simakua put the Thais ahead in the 8th minute and Tawatchai Damrong-Ongtrakul added an insurance goal in the 38th minute.

BAGOC's apologia for anthem chaos
BANGKOK, Dec 5: Asian Games organisers apologised Saturday for playing a wrong national anthem at a preliminary soccer match but warned a similar mistake could occur again, reports AP.
The Saudi Arabian anthem was played instead of the anthem of the United Arab Emirates before the UAE's match against North Korea last week.
The Bangkok Asian Games Organising Committee (BAGOC) spokeswoman Valerie McKenzie said apologies had been made, but the incident showed urgent action was needed by team officials to prevent a repeat.



Elena Liashchenko of Ukraine performs in the short programme at the NHK Figure Skating Championship in Sapporo, Japan on Friday. — AP/UNB photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Pull an all-nighter
5 Resort
8 Figurine material
12 Vagrant
13 Intimidate
14 Mine finds
15 Fertility goddess
16 Stray of a sort
18 Boo
20 Earlier, in verse
21 Peculiar
22 Actress
23 Imperfections
26 Soho
30 Pernier, e.g.
31 Shell out
32 Columnist
33 Simple dance lesson
36 Lawrence of comedy
38 Listener
39 Intention
40 Hut
43 Do the town
47 Exceed
49 "Rule, Britannia!"
50 "I cannot tell."
51 Card game
52 Tardy
53 Actor
54 "Monty Python" opener
55 Any minute now
DOWN
1 In fashion
2 Parks or source
3 Slightly
4 Kremlin locale
5 Burn with steam
6 Survey device
7 Hole-making
8 Delighted
9 Not pizzicato
10 Sweetheart
11 Noble Italian name
17 Musical
19 TV revenue
20 Rotator
23 Calendar abbr.
24 -tzu (Taoism founder)
25 "La Cage aux Folles"
26 Outdo
27 Pen name?
28 Mork's home
29 IV squared
31 Apiece
34 Mystery
35 Seize
36 Compete
37 African antelope
39 Pal of D'Artagnan
40 Drench
41 Luau dance
42 Persisting
43 Glaswegian, e.g.
44 Stopover en route to Casablanca
45 "Do — others"
46 Adolescent
48 Ms.
49 MacGraw

CRYPTOQUIP
DK HWL RPQ NPQPFY
KWJADQF P SWPA NPI
BTYQ HWL RPQ IJPH
BTY PRRWSADWQ
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU CAN DEFINITELY SAY THAT THE POLITE MAESTRO CONDUCTED HIMSELF PROPERLY.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: R equals C
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.