

## Sport

**Hwang hits a hattrick**

TOKYO, Sept 18: South Korea's three-time World Cup player Hwang Sun-Hong scored a hattrick to stretch his lead in the goal rankings as Cerezo Osaka defeated Vissel Kobe 5-0 in the J-League football on Saturday, reports AFP.

Hwang quickly collected his teammate's wrong-angled shot to open the scoring in the 26th minute and then added two more in the 70th and 80th minutes for a total of 19 goals this season.

"I thought I would have another scoring chance. I was seeking a third goal. I'm going to aim for 25 goals this season," said Hwang, who was four goals above Brazilian Baron of JEF United Ichihara in the goal rankings.

Shimizu S-Pulse took the sole lead when they blanked Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2-0 for their seventh win against two defeats for 20 points, three points above Yokohama Marinos, Kyoto Purple Sanga and Kashima Reysol.

Marinos came back from a goal down in the last four minutes and then Japan's international striker Shoji Jo in the 99th minute as they defeated Verdy Kawasaki 3-2.

Purple Sanga made too many mistakes and suffered a humiliating 5-1 defeat to Avispa Fukuoka, although Brazilian midfielder Silas once tied the contest in the 44th minute.

Kashima Reysol edged past Bellmare Hiratsuka 1-0 thanks to Hideaki Kitajima's header shortly before the first half.

**Euro 2000****Ukraine can play in Moscow**

KIEV, Sept 18: Ukraine are ready to play a European Championship qualifier against Russia in Moscow next month after suggesting the game should be moved to a neutral venue because of fears of terrorism, reports Reuters.

President Leonid Kuchma, a big soccer fan, told a news briefing on Friday that the Group Four match should go ahead on October 9 despite several bomb attacks in Russia.

"As a fan, I think the match should take place in any case, Kuchma said. "But Russia should provide security for the soccer players and the match."

Ukrainian news agencies had quoted Borys Voskresensky, vice-president of the Ukrainian Football Federation, as saying on Thursday that the qualifier should be switched.

"Definitely, you can't play in Moscow," Voskresensky had said, adding that Ukraine would ask European governing body UEFA to move the tie to a neutral country.

Volodymyr Lashkul, a deputy chairman of the football federation, said on Friday the body had not asked UEFA to move the match from Moscow and would not do so.

"We have not sent any appeal to UEFA on moving the match and would not initiate this in the future," Lashkul said.

A group of UEFA experts will visit Moscow in the near future, and only UEFA will make the final decision," he said. The Russian Football Union decided this week to impose extremely tight security measures at all domestic matches.

Russia, who are level with France on 18 points in their group, had leaders Ukraine (19 points) in the final qualifier which will decide who goes to the Euro 2000 finals.

The French are at home to fourth-placed Iceland.

**UEFA turns down AIK's claim**

GENEVA, Sept 18: UEFA have rejected a protest by AIK Stockholm over a controversial goal in their midweek 2-1 Champions League defeat by Barcelona and suspended the Swedish club's English coach Stuart Baxter for one match, reports Reuters.

However the European soccer body said on Friday AIK had until midnight on September 20 to appeal.

UEFA also suspended Hertha Berlin defender Konstantinos Konstantidis for three matches for his Champions' League red card against Galatasaray of Turkey while PSV Eindhoven midfielder Mark van Bommel earned a two game ban after he was sent off against Bayern Munich.

AIK had lodged a protest after French referee Alain Sars allowed a Barcelona goal, following a corner kick, to stand although it was scored while the home team were in the process of substituting two players.

The equalising goal came with just four minutes remaining in Tuesday's match and Barcelona went on to win three minutes into injury time. Baxter was shown a red card for his pitch-side protests after the disputed goal.

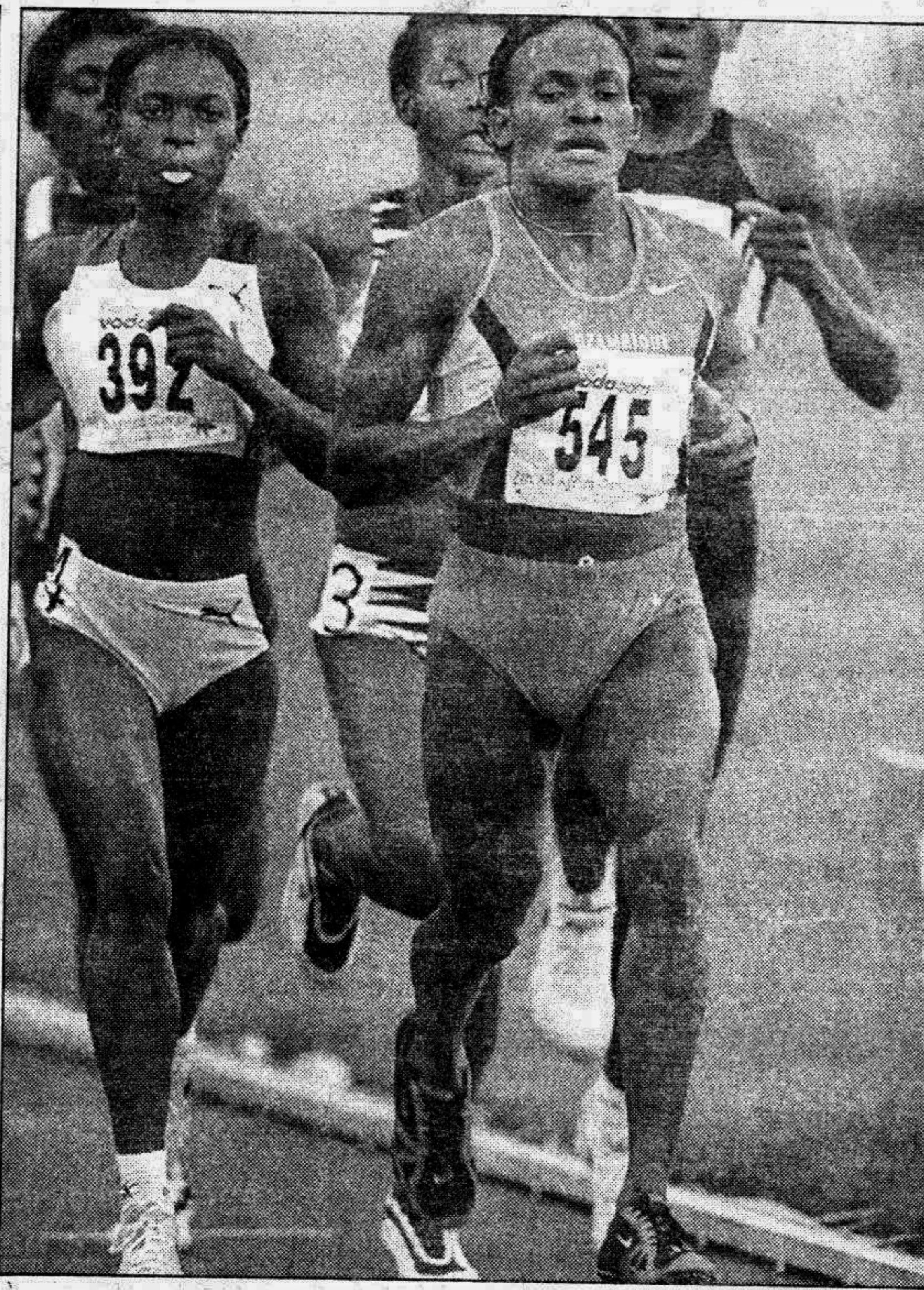
UEFA said in a statement that its control and disciplinary body had decided not to accept the protest.

It said Sars clarified that he had waited for AIK's Pontus Kamark to leave the pitch and for his replacement, Karl Corneilsson, to come on.

"He did not notice that the fourth official was indicating another substitution until he was on his way back to the centre circle after the Barcelona goal," it said.

"Law 5 of the laws of the game states clearly that the referee's decision is final, even if it is based on a misunderstanding," UEFA added.

The AIK head coach, Stuart Baxter, sent off for continuous abuse following the Barcelona equaliser, has been suspended for one match."



Maria Mutola of Mozambique leads the pack in the 800 metres semifinal at the All Africa Games. — AFP photo

**Nigerian boxer tests positive****Hosts set pool afire**

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 18 (AP/Xinhua/Reuters): South African swimmer Mandy Loots has contributed six gold medals to put her country, with 61 medals, comfortably atop the medal table of the seventh All Africa Games.

Loots won the 200-metre butterfly Friday in 2:16.02, and the 200-metre backstroke in 2:21.22, both Games records. She helped South Africa to 30 of the 32 golds on offer in swimming.

Second in the standings is Nigeria, with 48 golds, and Egypt is third with 46.

In track action, Ethiopia's Gete Wami added the All Africa Games 10,000-metre title to her world cross country championship and her World Athletics Championships 10,000-metre title. In a race of pedestrian pace, she injected a big surge after 24 minutes to break clear and win comfortably in 32:08.15 from compatriot Merima Hashim and Kenya's Leah Matol.

Earlier, Iboi Fave of Senegal won the 400-metre hurdles in 48.30 from Zimbabwe's Ken Harnden and Kenya's Erick Keter.

Mozambican star 800-metre runner Maria Mutola qualified comfortably for Saturday's final in 2:04.69.

Both South Africa's field hockey teams stand on the brink of qualification for the Sydney Olympic Games. Should the men beat Egypt in their gold medal match Saturday, and the women emerge victorious against Zimbabwe, they qualify automatically for the Olympic games.

Zamalek trounced Kwa United of Nigeria 4-0 in Cairo to advance 5-2 on aggregate while Wydad squeezed through on away goals after losing 2-1 in Algeria to USMA.

Abdel Halim Ali ensured four-time African champions Zamalek would qualify for a showdown with the winners of the between Tunisian clubs Etoile du Sahel and holders CS Sfaxien by scoring twice early in the second half.

A late penalty converted by Ayman Mashali completed the rout and confirmed the Gulf between the experienced African campaigners from Cairo and the continental debutants.

Redouane al-Allay scored in the last minute to take 1992-African Champions Cup winners Wydad into a semifinal clash with Canon Yaounde of Cameroon or Etoile Filante of Burkina Faso.

The other quarterfinals will be staged in Sousse and Yaounde on Sunday.

About 5,000 athletes from 52

countries are participating in the All Africa Games, the continent's biggest sporting event. It ends on Sunday.

South African victories in the men's pole vault and the women's heptathlon put the hosts' haul of athletic golds at nine, followed by Nigeria's six.

In other events, Egypt won the men's freestyle wrestling under-85kg and under-130kg class. Nigeria's Iboi Oziti took gold in the 69kg class and South Africa's Tjionkie Rensburg in the 55kg category.

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Gete Wami of Ethiopia celebrates after winning the 10000 metres race at the All Africa Games on September 17. — AFP photo

**Chinese TT GP Liu clinches singles title**

GUILIN, China, Sept 18: Last-minute substitute Liu Guozheng became the talk of the '99 China Grand Prix Table Tennis Championships as the unfancied Chinese paddler won the men's singles title here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Liu, entering the tournament as the understudy of injury-hit former world champion Kong Linhui, toughed out a 21-11, 17-21, 12-21, 21-19, 21-19 victory over South Korean Lee Chul-Seung in the final and pocketed 12,500 US dollars in prize money.

In the women's doubles unfancied Li Nan and Lin Ling from China topped this year's World Championships gold medalists Wang Nan and Li Ju 21-19, 16-21, 21-17 in 35 minutes.

The result completed a dismal day for world number one Wang Nan, who was bounced out of the women's singles final Saturday morning.

It was the first major title for Liu, and it came the hard way.

He took the biggest scalp of the tournament by eliminating his world champion teammate Liu Guoliang. In the third round, after overcoming another heavyweight compatriot Wang Linqin, ITTF Pro Tour final winner in the semifinals earlier Saturday.

"Today is a very important day in my career," said a jubilant Liu. "Finally I translated my training efforts into a major title."

Liu Guozheng revealed that he had an impressive record against Liu Guoliang in the training camp but lack of strong nerves at crucial moments often cost him in the big events.

But the absence of top European players, especially Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner, Vladimir Samsonov of Belarus and Croatian Zoran Primorac, made Liu's triumph less convincing in a depleted men's singles field.

In the following men's doubles final, Chinese duo Wang Linqin and Yan Sen thrashed the South Korean pair Kim Taek-Soo and Oh Sang-Eun 21-15, 21-19 to take the gold.

Earlier, Chinese women's world number three Li Ju scored a walk-over victory over Chinese-born German Qianhong Gotsch, who quit the final due to a fever after a gutsy four-set win over world champion and top seed Wang Nan in the semi-finals.

Cuba won a magnificent year that I won Wimbledon," said Davenport, who has won four titles this season. "Other than that it has been okay. It hasn't been tremendous. Wimbledon helped a lot."

Davenport, with three other top seeds, received a first-round bye before playing either American Corina Morariu of Australia, who shocked reigning world number one Martina Hingis of Switzerland in the first round before reaching the quarterfinals in July.

American 14-year-old prodigy Monique Viele will make a professional debut in Tokyo as a wild card entrant, forcing the WTA to change the rules prohibiting players 14 or less from playing on the tour.

Viele, being hailed as a super

**Princess Cup from Tuesday**

TOKYO, Sept 18: Lindsay Davenport, currently playing for the United States in the Fed Cup final on her home ground, will have a busy week to spearhead the Princess Cup tennis tournament to get underway Tuesday, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old Wimbledon champion from California is the top seed of the 520,000-dollar outdoor hardcourt tournament here, ahead of fellow American defending champion Monica Seles, the second seed.

Davenport hopes to salvage her disappointment at Flushing Meadows where she failed to defend the US Open title losing to her Fed Cup teammate Serena Williams in the semifinals.

But winning Wimbledon on the surface Davenport hates has already helped ease the pain of her disappointing year.

"It has been a magnificent year that I won Wimbledon," said Davenport, who has won four titles this season. "Other than that it has been okay. It hasn't been tremendous. Wimbledon helped a lot."

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Viele, being hailed as a super

star of the next generation, is a singer, a model and an actress who became the youngest champion of the Florida Open under-18 last season and has won 70 junior titles by the end of last year.

Viele will play American Jane Chi, while Dokie will challenge Martinez in the first round.

**Kiefer, Bastl reach final**

TASHKENT, Sept 18: Third seed Nicolas Kiefer overcame an indifferent start to beat Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic 7-6, 6-2 in the semifinal of the President's Cup on Friday, reports Reuters.

Kiefer, who has dropped only one set on his way to the final, admitted to being "pretty bad" early on.

"But beginning from the tie-break I played confidently for the rest of the match."

Kiefer, the only seeded player to advance beyond the second round, will meet Swiss qualifier George Bastl today.

Bastl reached his first major final by beating Peter Wessels of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-3.

"This has been one of the best weeks in my entire tennis career," said Bastl, who has yet to drop a set in the tournament.

The 23-year-old American born Swiss, who began the week ranked 154th in the world, turned professional only 18 months ago after excelling in a different sport.

**LINDSAY DAVENPORT**

plays Thai top player Tamarine Tanasugarn in the first round.

The field also included Wimbledon sensation Jelena Dokic of Australia, who shocked reigning world number one Martina Hingis of Switzerland in the first round before reaching the quarterfinals in July.

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**IBF welterweight title fight**

IBF welterweight champion Felix Trinidad of Puerto Rico (L) and challenger Oscar de la Hoya of the United States flex their muscles in Las Vegas on September 17. — AFP photo

**Fighters weigh & wait**

LAS VEGAS, Sept 18: To the shrieks and chants of dueling fans Friday, Oscar De La Hoya and Felix Trinidad weighed in for their scheduled 12-round welterweight title fight Saturday, reports Reuters.

Both men weighed the required 147 pounds (67 kg) but the muscular De La Hoya needed all the help he could get to make the weight and so, to the delight of his female fans, had to take off his undershorts to be weighed.

The World Boxing Council champion was, however, shielded by a blanket held by his handlers.

Trinidad, the International Boxing Federation champion from Puerto Rico, entered the Mandalay Bay arena first and was greeted with fans waving the Puerto Rican flag, ringing cowbells and cheering.

The Cuban government also criticized the anti doping laboratory at the Winnipeg Games.

Juantorena, himself a well-known former Olympic track champion, described Sotomayor as "a symbol of our sports and the victim of a conspiracy".

Former middleweight champion Marvin Hagler also drew cheers when he raised Trinidad's hand before he