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Golden day for Vietnam and Philippines - SEA Games, Day 2

Sunday 9 December 2007

Korat, Thailand - Vietnam and the Philippines enjoyed a golden day on Saturday (8) as they won four and three titles, respectively, on the second day of athletics at the 24th South East Asia (SEA) Games in this northern city's 'His Majesty the King's 80th Birthday Anniversary Stadium'.

Vietnam's Truong Thanh Hang became the first athlete to win two individual gold medals on the track as her compatriots Bui Thi Nhung and Vu Van Huyen renewed their crowns in the women's High Jump and the Decathlon. Dinh Cuong Nguyen joined the trio by winning the men's 800m.

Five records fall as Thailand takes the medal lead - South East Asia Games Day 1

Saturday 8 December 2007

Korat, Thailand - Five records fell as host country Thailand took an expected comfortable lead on the opening day of athletics on Friday (7) at the 24th South East Asia (SEA) Games in this city's His Majesty the King's 80th Birthday Anniversary Stadium of the northern province of Nakhon Ratchasima.

1st South Asian Junior Athletics Championship 2007

Nov 29-30, Colombo

India emerge champion in South Asian Junior Athletics

Colombo, Nov 30: Sri Lanka proved that they can produce good sprinters when Gateway schoolboy Shehan Ambeyipitiya clinched the sprint double when he won the 100 metres dash in a close finish on the final day of India finish on top of the medals tally with 21 gold medals in the inaugural South Asian Junior Athletic Championship at the Sugathadasa Stadium .

Sri Lanka could win only 8 gold medals. Sri Lanka's relay teams won the women's and men's 4x100 metres events in style. They won by a big margin from India who were at least five metres behind.

Results (all finals)

100M (men): 1. Shehan Ambeyipitiya (Sri) 10.69 sec. 2. Hemant Maruti Kirulkar (Ind), 3. Daham Madawa (Sri). Shot Put (men): 1. ASwani Solanki (Ind), 17.01M. 2. Shiv Kumar (Ind), 3. Srinath Perera (Sri). 100M hurdles (men): 1. Balamurugan Thiyagarajan (Ind) 14.62 sec. 2. Mohsin Ali (Pakistan), 3.



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Ranga Kelum (Sri). Triple Jump (men): 1. Dhiraj Kumar Mishra (Ind) 15.78M. 2. Deepankumar Velusamy (Ind), 3. Chanuka E. de Silva (Sri). Javelin Throw (men): 1. Samarjeet Singh (Ind), 67.14M. 2. Arivolo Chockanathan (Ind), 3. Waruna Lakshan (Sri). 400M (men): 1. Saman Kumara (Sri), 49.05 sec. 2. Jaspal Singh (Ind), 3. Nuwan Abeywickrema (Sri). 1,500M (men): 1. Trinadh Pandala (Ind), 3:57.05 sec. 2. Prakash Verma (Ind), 3. A.M.E. Abeysinghe (Sri). 4 x 100M (men): 1. Sri Lanka 41.27 secs. 2. India, 3. Maldives.

High Jump (women): 1. Dulanjali Ranasinghe (Sri) 1.75M. 2. Kavya Muthanna (Ind), 3. Lahiruni Peiris (Sri) Long Jump (women): 1. Mayookha Johny (Ind), 6.01M. 2. Runu Bala Mahanta (Ind), 3. Shyamali Gamage (Sri). 100M hurdles (women): 1. Raji Christudas (Ind), 14.86 sec. 2. Sachinthana Perera (Sri), 3. Hani Yuppalapathi (Ind). Discus Throw (women): 1. Priyanka Bhanot (Ind), 45.79M. 2. Rinku Rani (Ind), 3. W.M.S.K. Weerasekara (Sri).

100M (women): 1. Jessy Arulappan (Ind), 12.15 sec. 2. J.A.N.S. Jayasinghe (Sri), 3. Srabani Nanda (Ind). 400M (women): 1. Harathi Gujjala (Ind), 56.32 sec. 2. Debashree Masumdar (Ind), 3. M.M.P. Samaraweera (Sri). 800M (women): 1. Bindhu Simon Rajam (Ind), 2:17.91 sec. 2. Manpreet Kaur (Ind), 3. K.R.P. Sanjeevani (Sri). 4 x 100 relay (women): 1. Sri Lanka 47.14 secs. 2. India, 3. Maldives.

Sri Lanka, India field 69 athletes for South Asian Junior Athletic C'ships

Sri Lanka are expected to win at least ten gold medals at the inaugural South Asian Junior Athletic Championship scheduled to be held at the Sugathadasa Stadium on November 29 and 30. Sri Lanka will field a team of 69 girls and boys while India too will send the same number of athletes for the meet. Pakistan has confirmed to send 35 athletes whereas Maldives 14 and Bangladesh only seven athletes.

South Asian Games gold medallist in the women's high jump event Dulanjali Ranasinghe will be the overall captain of the Sri Lanka team. She will be concentrating only on the high jump event this time too. Hiyanthi Piyadigama will be the captain of the girls' team while Shehan Ambepitiya will be the captain of the boys' team.

Sri Lanka will be fielding 39 boys and 30 girls' athletes for the meet. They have been training together for nearly one month now and hopefully have reached their peak form by now.

Sri Lanka team. (boys): A. Daham Madawa, Shehan Ambepitiya (captain), Ashan Hasaranga, Nuwan Abeywickrema, Saman Kumara, A.M.E.G.K.D. Abeysinghe, Dilan Aloka, Chandana Kumara, Eranda Gamage, Shiran Kanchana, K.G.A.P. Amarasiri, Sudesh Prasanna, H.M.D.M. Bandara, Sajith Nadeeshan, Sasanka Rankoth, Ranga Kelum, Udaya Viraj, Joy Augustine, Amitha Kasun, Udara Silva, Kasun Sampath, Sumith Ratnayake, Asanka Sandaruwan, Chanuka E. de Silva, Isuru Udana Thilakaratne, Lakshan Batugedara, Srinath Perera, Charith Kapukotuwa, Nalin Buddika, Niranga Paul,



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D.S.T. Hettiarachchi, Waruna Lakshan, K.P.R.M. Jayathilaka, Sachin Maduranga, Keith de Mel, Rasika Yapa Kulathunga, K.T.M. Haris, G.L.T. Ishara, S.W.G.J. Weerasinghe.

(girls): Hiyanthi Piyadigama, (Captain), Samalka Anandagoda, J.A.N.S. Jayasinghe, Danushki Perera, M.M.P. Samaraweera, Mihirani Perera, Udeni Pushpakumari, K.R.P. Sanjeevani, T.M.N. Seelaratne, W.K.L.A. Nimali, Mayoma Maushika, Shainy Shaliyana, Sachinthana Perera, Harshani Wijesinghe, Dulanjali Ranasinghe, Lahiruni Peiris, Sajani Madushika, Chirani Amarasiri, Shyamali Gamage, Achintha Nirmani, Devni Madurapperuma, W.M.S.K. Weerasekera, Kumudulami Fernando T. Anusha, P.P.Serena Clarence, Chathurani Neelaka, P.L.D.T.S. Seneviratne, Udara Ratnayake, Amali Nisansala and L.D.M. Jayathilaka.

Indian athletes leave for South Asian Jr Athletics

New Delhi | Wednesday, Nov 28 2007 IST

A 58-member Indian Junior Athletics Team (31 men and 27 women) will take part in the first South Asian Junior Athletics Championships starting in Colombo tomorrow.

The team has already left Chennai for Colombo last night for the two-day meet after the National Junior Athletics Championships held in Vijayawada from November 24-27, an Athletics Federation of India release said.

Team: Men: 100m: Hemant Maruti Kirulkar; Krishna Kumar Rane 200m: Ramchandra Rao Bura; Sukhendu Mondal 400m: Jaspal Singh; Jithin Paul 800m: Prakash Verma; Pankaj Dimri 1500m: Trinadh Pandala; Prakash Verma 5000m: Vinit Malik; Sandip Kumar 110m hurdles: Joyal Joseph; T Balamurugan 400m hurdles: Shejil Varghese; Jithin Paul Triple Jump: V Deepan Kumar; K Dhjiraj Kumar Mishra High Jump: Vipin Singh; C Nikhil Chittarasu Long Jump: Tanmoy Adhikari; Renubala Mahanta Shot Put: Shiv Kumar; Aswani Solanki Javelin Throw: Samarjeet Singh; A Chockanathan Discus Throw: Dinesh Kumar; Akash Antil 4x100m Relay: A Prem Kumar; Amiya Kumar Malik; T Blesson; Hemant Marutyi Kirulkar; S Krishna Kumar Rane; Srabani Nanda 4x 400m Relay: Ashish Mondal; Dharamvir; Jaspal Singh; Jithin Paul; Shejil Varghese; H Maninder Singh Women: 100m: A Jessy; Srabani Nanda 200m: A Jessy; Srabani Nanda 400m: Harathi Gujjala; Debashree Mazumdar 800m: B Simon Rajam; Manpreet Kaur 1500m: Savita Dhankhar; B Simon Rajam 100m hurdles: C. T. Raji; V Hani High Jump: Kavya Muthanna; Long Jump: Johny Mayookha Shot Put: Manpreet Kaur; Neelam Jakhar Javelin Throw: S Kispotta; P Asha Mary Discus Throw: Priyanka Bhanot; Rinku Rani 4X100m Relay: Arjina Khatun; G Gayathry; Asima Bag; Saumya Mohan; A Jessy 4X400m Relay: Komal Tehlan; Harathi Gujjala; Arya Chandrika; T. S. Shanbhag; Ritu Bala; Neha Nisar Ahmed



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LAHORE, Nov 19: The Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP) named a 23-member contingent for the first South Asian Junior Athletics Championship, to start in Colombo on Nov 29. Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Nepal will participate.

Boys' events include 100m, 200, 400, 800, 1500, 5000, 110 hurdles, 400 hurdles, 4x100m relay, 4x400 relay, triple jump, high jump, long jump, shotput, javelin throw and discus throw.

Girls will be competing in 100m, 200, 400, 800, 1500, 100 hurdles, 4x100m relay, 4x400 relay, high jump, long jump, shotput, javelin throw and discus throw events.

Squad (boys):

Asad Manzoor, Mazhar Fareed, Pervez Hussain, Mohammad Tanvir Abbas, Mohammad Asif Javed, Shahid Ali, Ali Aamir Murad, Mohsin Ali, Mohammad Khalil, Mohammad Imran, Mohammad Arsalan, Mohammad Wajahat Ayaz, Farhan Ahmad, Ahmad Hasan and Mohammad Sajjad.

(Girls): Tasneem Akhtar, Zahra Razzaq, Kanwal Naz, Nadia Zulfiqar, Azalfa Shafi, Aman Butt, Madiha Latif, Kiran Rana, Anam Mushtaq and Seema Bilal.

(Officials): Lt Col Qaisar Mustafa (manager); Ejaz-ul-Haq (assistant manager); Mohammad Riaz, Mohammad Yamin (coaches); Sumaira Sattar, Abdul Ghaffar (technical officials); Khalid (attending the championship as secretary of the South Asian Athletics Federation).—APP

Asian Games champion Paulose heads Indian success - Asian Indoor Games, 2nd day

Wednesday 31 October 2007

Macau, China - Indian athletes opened their gold medal account on the second day of athletic competitions in 2nd Asian Indoor Games at the East Asian Games Dome-Arena on Wednesday (31 Oct), with two 1500m titles.

Sinimole Paulose (24), the reigning Asian champion both indoor and outdoor, led from the start to finish to win the women's 1500m with ease in 4:22.56. However, Paulose, who was the bronze medallist in this event with personal best 4:18.08 at the inaugural edition of the Asian Indoor Games last year, was a long way off O.P. Jaisha's national record of 4:15.75.

The men's 1500m race saw a keen contest with Qatar's Ali Abubaker Kamal and Kuwait's Al Rasheedi Omar doing the front-running but Chatholi Hamza, the Indian open winner with a career best 3:39.9, hung on to the leading runners before making a 'move' at the bell, and celebrated the eve of his 26th birthday with a Games' record 3:50.22 for victory. Omar (3:50.58) and Ali (3:50.78) took the minor medal spots. (IAAF- Ram Murli Krishnan)



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Francis secures 60m title in 6.54 – 2nd Asian Indoor Games,

1st Day : Tuesday 30 October 2007

Macau, China - Qatar's Samuel Francis, who set the Asian record for the 100m (9.99 secs) when winning the Asian outdoor sprint title this summer (26 July), outclassed a strong field indoors today to take the 60m dash gold on the first day of the 2nd Asian Indoor Games (30 Oct).

Francis, a 20-year-old former Nigerian, started his inaugural indoor race campaign clocking 6.65 seconds to take second place in his qualifying heat this morning behind Saudi Arabia's 2003 World Youth 100m champion Yahya Al-Gahes (6.61). Francis then took the victory in the first semi-final of the day in 6.55 seconds.

In the final, Francis who was running in lane six, was the first to react to the gun with Al-Gahes, in lane four trying hard to level with him. Francis retained his margin to the line setting a new Games' record of 6.54. The 21-year-old Al-Gahes closed out in 6.56, while Thailand's Wachara Sondee took the bronze in 6.65. (IAAF- Ram Murli Krishnan)

17th Asian Athletics Championship 2007

Amman International Stadium, Amman, Jordan (25-29 July)

Aug 6: 21-year-old Zhang Wenxiu of China set another Asian record in the Hammer Throw winning by almost 10 meters with the new record of 74.86m in the Chinese National Championships. Liu Yinghui (65.70m) and Hao Shuai (65.66m) were the two others on the podium. This was already Zhang's fifth Asian record during her career, her first coming in April 2004 throwing also a then World junior record 72.37m. She had set the earlier record at the World Championships trials in June with 74.30m.

63rd AAA Council Meeting at Hotel Regency Palace in Amman on July 28,2007

Asian Championship- DAY 2

Amman, July 26: In the much awaited final of the day , Francis Samuel of Qatar won the title of the "Asia's fastest athlete" with a amazing timing of 9.99s thus erasing Koji Ito's Asian Record of 10.00s record set in 1998. Francis also made Asia proud by overcoming the psychological barrier of running under 10 second. Francis was very quick off the block ,accelerating with the total thrust towards



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finish line, left everyone more than 2 meter behind by the time he finished the Asia's best ever sprinting race. Japan's MASAHIDE UENO (10.26s) and Qatar's ALWALEED A. ABDULLA (10.30s) won second and third place respectively.

In the women's 100m favorite Susantika Jayasinghe of Srilanka won the title of the "Fastest Women athlete" of the 17th Asian Athletics Championship with a personal best timing of 11.19s with wind speed of +3.1, more than legal. Vietnam's Vu Thi Huong emerged from lane 6 after 50m to give close fight for Jayasinghe , finished on the second place with personal best timing of 11.33s.

Amman, July 26: President of Jordan Olympic Committee HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein inaugurated the 17th Asian Athletics Championship yesterday at the Amman International Stadium. Jordan Prime Minister Dr. Ma'roof Albakheet was also present.

Earlier in the morning session Qatar's Francis Smaual set the new championship record in men 100m with a timing of 10.18s. in the 4th heat of men's 100m qualifying round.

Qiuyan Jiang of China won the first gold medal of the championship with a win in 20k walk ,clocking 1:36.19Hrs. Her teammate Yanmin Bai took silver with 1:38.10Hrs.

Hup Lie Wee of Malaysia won the men's High Jump title with a jump of 2.24m in the hotly contested event. Favorite Rabbat Jean Claude of Lebanon had could not clear 2.24m,settling down on second place with 2.21m.

Ali Zinkawi of Kuwait defended his Hammer throw title successfully inspite of big throw from Tajikistan's DILSilshod Nazarov in the opening round which measured 75.70m but Ali responded with 75.71m to clinch the title.

Amman, July 24:

The stage is set to host the 17th Asian Athletics Championship at Amman International Stadium here from tomorrow to 29th July 2007.

More than 500 athletes and 200 Officials from 34 Asian Countries have gathered in Amman to participate in the Continent's largest Athletics Championship.

Jordan Athletics Federation has put their best effort to make this championship a grand success albeit the short time they had for preparation.



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The Council Meeting and Congress of the Asian Athletics Association will also be held in Amman. As much as 11 reigning champions will try to defend their title, while the new breed of Asian athletes is raring to perform.

Asian Championship- Preview

Amman, the capital city of Jordan, will be hosting the Asian championships from July 25 to 29. This is the third major event the Jordan Athletic Federation organizing in 2007 after the successful conduct of Asian Cross-country championships and Arab Athletics championships earlier this year.

The men's entry lists for Asian championships look stronger with eight defending champions from 2005 edition in Incheon (Korea) and an equal number from last year's Asian Games held in Doha (Qatar).

Among those champion athletes one stood on top of the podium on both the occasions and already assured a place for himself at Amman. He is none other than discus thrower Ehsan Hadadi of Iran who is improved the Asian record earlier this year with a throw of 67.95m. His compatriot Abbas Samimi, who dominated the Asian Grand Prix series, is expected to challenge Hadadi along with India's Vikas Gowda (64.96) and Qatar's Rashid Al Dosari (64.43).

Jordan becomes the second middle-east nation to host the Asian championships. Kuwait hosted it twenty-four years ago in 1983. This year's roster hence aptly included Ali Zinkawi of Kuwait in hammer throw. Ali, leading with a mark of 77.07m would log horn with Dilshad Nazarov (Tadjikistan), winner of Doha Asiad in 74.43m.

Saudi Arabian's Yahya Al Ghaes (100m – 10.28s), Hamed Al-Bishi (200m – 20.66s) and Hamdan Odha Al-Bishi (400m – 45.64) are all set for sprint glory in Amman. Their team-mate, long jumper Hussein Al-Sabee leading the field with a leap measured to 8.25m. Two other 8m jumpers, Li Runrun (China, 8.09m) and Konstantin Safranov (Kazakh, 8.01) are also ensures a keen competition.

The Qatari metric milers Kamal Abubaker Ali (3:36.98) and Dahame Najem Bashir, Bahrainian long distance runner Ali Hassan Mahboob (27:58.88) and Lebanon's ace high jumper Jean-Claude Rabbath (2.27m) are leading the Arab challenge at the continental championships.

India's Chatholi Hamza and Sajeesh Joseph in 1500m, Surendra Singh in 10000m and Harishankar Roy in High Jump are ready to tackle them with their own mettle.

Uzbekistan decathlete Andreev Pavel (8036), Chinese walker Lu Ronghua (1::20:16) and Korean javelin thrower Park Jae-Myoung (83.99m) are the other Asian champions to watch at



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Amman. The Uzbek and Chinese expect competition from their own countrymen while the Korean's nearest rival will be Firass Zaal al-Mohamed (80.50m).

Many of the leading women athletes of the continent are preferred to stay home to concentrate on their World Championship preparation. However, the women's list incorporates four reigning champions from Incheon and two from Doha Asiad to add colour to the continent's important championship.

The defending champions includes Tatiana Efimenko of Kyrgyzstan--the high jump (1.97m) victor at Incheon. The list also displays two athletes from India in Manjit Kaur and Anju George. Although not displayed her best at the recent meets, quarter-miler Manjit Kaur (credited with a personal best of 51.05 secs) is an athlete who never fails to rise at the right occasion. For Anju, the Asian meet will be her last chance to gain a ticket to World Championships. Her best jump this season so far measured to 6.54m. She needs to jump 6.60 to realize her Osaka ambitions. Olga Rypakova (KAZ) continues to dominate this event with 6.63m.

Asian Games toppers from 2006 making a trip to the Jordanian capital is Thailand's surprise winner at Doha--javelin thrower Buoban Phamang 61.31m). In the absence of Khubbiya Guzel, Sri Lankan Susanthika Jayasinghe (11.25) have wide chances to win title, while Emiko Yoshida (57.19) will spearhead the Japanese challenge on javelin sector. (Ram Murli Krishnan for AAA)

Guwahati, June 23: Asian Games champion Guzel Khubbiya of Uzbekistan not only beat her arch rival Susantika of Srilanka for the second consecutive time but also set the Asian Leading mark with personal best timing of 11.24s in the second leg of Asian Grand Prix Series 2007 at Guwahati.

India's Surendra Singh avenged his Bangkok defeat by Sunil Kumar in 3000m with an Asian leading performance of 7:57.87s. Sunil settled on second place with 8:15.20s.

China's Li Ling extend her Asian Grand Prix record by 0.3 cm with a throw of 18.63m while India's Renjith Maheshwary set the new AGP record with 17.04m. He broke India's longest standing record of triple jump in due course and became first Indian to cross 17m barrier.

In 400m races, Asian Games Champion Olga TERESHKOVA of Kazakhstan faced defeat by India's Chitra Soman while Chinese WANG Liangyu remained unbeaten with 46.16s. Iranian Samimi Abbas continued his unbeaten run in AGP with another win in Men's Discus throw with a throw of 60.91m. In spite of bomb explosion in the city in the wee hours, more than 7,000 viewers attended the first ever international meet in north East Indian region.



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XIE Limei ,Asian Games Champion from China set the new Asian Record in the women's triple jump with a jump of 14.73m while Sergey ZASSIMOVICH of Kazakhstan set sailed over 2.30m in the men's High Jump to take lead in Asia with new Asian GP record.

Xie's record jump came in the last jump after struggling with runway distance which was quite short for her. Her 2nd jump was enough for title as no one was able to breached 14m mark except Xie. Her teammate Li Qian finished second with 13.85m while SARDI Rakhima of Kyrgyzstan finished third with a leap of 13.76m. Xie broke 6 year old record of fellow chinese jumper Qiuyan Huang of 14.72m.

Like father like son

Kazakhstan's Sergey Zassimovich was unmatched today in the High Jump. During warm up jump he clearly showed his intentions when he was smoothly sailing over the bar. Most of the jumpers failed to clear beyond 2.14m but Sergey was clearing every height on first attempt with an ease. Sergey was almost there to emulate his father Sergey senior. But at 2.33m Sergey failed all attempts. His father is former European Champion in High Jump with career best of 2.36m. Sergey will attempt to go higher in Guwahati later this week. Kim Young Min of Korea and Hari Shankar Roy of India finished second and third respectively. Both cleared 2.14m. [Click here to view the results>>](#)

Srilanka's ace runner Damyanati Darsha hangs her spikes after 17 years

Three-time Asian Games gold medalist Damayanthi Darsha has finally decided to hang her spikes, ending a proud 17-year career as one of the most successful athletes ever produced by Sri Lanka. "Every good thing should come to an end. I have enjoyed my athletics for nearly two decades and time has now come for me to call it a day," an emotional Darsha said.

Darsha is the only Sri Lankan to win three Asian Games gold medals. In three successive Asian Games from 1994 to 2002, Darsha bagged two gold medals and a bronze. She made a dream Asian Games debut winning the women's 200m bronze at Hiroshima 1994. The 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok saw the peak of her career when she completed a dream sprint double, wining both the women's 200m and 400m gold medals.

In Busan 2002, Darsha retained her 400m title, wining the gold in her pet event. Incidentally, the writer had the fortune of witnessing her at all three Asian Games she took part, though a leg injury forced her to skip the last Asian Games in Doha 2006.



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Darsha, who is employed at Unichella (which comes under MAS Intimates) as a Human Resources Executive, said she has no immediate plans to pursue in the athletic area.

But she hinted her desire to serve Sri Lanka track and field as a coach. "But first, I will have to gain professional qualifications as a coach. I just don't want to take up coaching for the sake of doing it. If I return to serve the sport, then that would be as a qualified coach," she said.

Darsha, who competed in her last international meet at the Commonwealth Games last year, thanked CEO of MAS Holdings Dian Gomes for his continued support.

Darsha's retirement will be a big loss and it will be hard to find a highly talented athlete of her caliber to fill the void. (Dinesh Weerawansa)

Asian Discus Throw record - 67.95m

Minsk, 12 June: Iran's 2004 World Junior champion Ehsan Hadadi improved his own Asian record to the new distance of 67.95m at The International tournament 'Romuald Klim Prizes' on Saturday 9 June. He was trained by Belarussian expert Victor Gutor but nowadays is coached under the direction of Russian Kim Buhantsev broke his own recently set Area record for the men's Discus Throw (24 May 67.88m). On his second attempt the discus landed at 67.95m. The athlete from Iran produced an impressive series - 65.68, 67.95, 64.93, 67.17, 65.03.

Asian Hammer Record by Zhang

Another Asian record were created during the Chinese World Championship trials at Suzhou when 21-year-old Zhang Wenxiu. Zhang, who placed fifth at the 2005 World Champs, bettered her old record 74.15m set at the Doha Asian Games last December by 15cm to 74.30m. Zhang won with a huge margin of almost five metres ahead of Liu Yinghui, who set a season's best for second place at 69.56m.

Asian Grand Prix series 2007

Pune, June. 10 : Over 200 athletes from 20 Asian countries will be competing in the final leg of Asian Grand Prix to be held here on June 27. The opening leg of the Grand Prix is scheduled at Bangkok on June 19 and the second leg at Guwahati on June 23.

The prize money on offer for the winners at each venue was USD 50,000, Suresh Kalmadi, President, Indian Olympics Association said at a press conference on Sunday. The meet would serve as a build



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up for the Commonwealth Youth Games to be hosted here in October 2008, he said, adding top athletes from the Asian countries would be participating.

The largest contingent would be from China. Other countries that would be represented are Japan, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgystan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Syria, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Tazakhstan, Thailand Chinese Taipei, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and hosts India. The 2007 series of Asian Grand Prix will have Asian Games champions from Doha 2006 in the following events—

Guzel Khubbieva (Uzbekistan, 100m), Olga Tereshkova (Kazakhstan, 400m), Marina Aitova (Kazakhstan, High jump), Xie Limei (China, Triple jump), Li Ling (China, Shot put) among the women. Two former world youth champions from China, Xue Juan (2003) and Zhang Li (2005) are taking part in javelin throw.

Among the men, Asian games gold medalist Li Yanxi (China) will figure in triple jump along with 2002 champion Fawzi Al-Shammari (Kuwait) in 400m flat and two time world championship bronze medalist Dai Tamesue of Japan in 400m hurdles. The men's triple jump will also have Asian games silver medalist Roman Valiyev of Kazakhstan and India's Renjith Maheswari. Long jumper Anju Bobby George will lead the Indian contingent of 34 men and 21 women athletes. (PTI)

Li Zhenzhu sets new Asian Steeplechase record clocking 9:32.35

Suzhou (CHN) 11 June : 21-year-old Inner Mongolia athlete Li Zhenzhu sets new Asian Steeplechase record clocking 9:32.35 in the Chinese National Grand Prix, World Championships Trials. Li bettered Minoru Hayakari's (JPN) previous record of 9:41.21 from the 2005 Helsinki World Championships by almost nine seconds.

New York, June 3, 2007: Shuying Gao of China set the New Asian Record in the Women Pole Vault with a height of 4.64m in the Reebok Grand Prix. Gao finished second to Stuczynski of USA who cleared 4.88m to set new America Record.

World Record Holder and Asian Champion Liu Xiang set the world leading mark in men's high hurdles with a brilliant timing of 12.92s.

Liu was quick out of the blocks but rough over the first three hurdles as two-time Olympic silver medalist Terrence Trammell ran to the lead. Liu started to move over the fifth hurdle and went on to win in 12.92, tying Allen Johnson's all-comers mark from the 1996 Olympic Games and posting a world leader. Trammell was second in a personal-best time of 12.95, with Ryan Wilson third in a PR 13.02. American record holder Dominique Arnold false-started and was disqualified.



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Philippine Athletics has a new partner

June 1, 2007: ISLANDER Footwear has joined the sports community through the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association.

Athletics chief Go Teng Kok announced this yesterday after appointing Antonio Yang Sr., owner and chairman of the Islander Footwear Manufacturing Corp., as vice chairman of the athletics association during the Patafa monthly board meeting at the Century Park Sheraton.

With the victory of Patafa chairman Al Fernandez in the mayoralty race in the City of Dagupan in Pangasinan, the bulk of responsibility, particular in financial matters, now rests on the shoulders of Yang.

But Yang said he welcomes the challenge of providing support to the Filipino athletes, particularly with regards to their training and stints abroad as the country prepares for the Southeast Asian Games which will be held late this year, as well as the tracksters' quest for an Olympics berth next year in Beijing, China.

Just like what our advertising campaign says, 'iba ang tibay ng Islander.' Our company is committed to support not only athletics, but Philippine sports in general," said Yang, chairman emeritus of the Filipino-Chinese Shoe Industries of the Philippines and founding chairman of the Quezon City Association of Filipino-Chinese Businessmen. By Edwin Rollon (manilastandardtoday.com)

Chinese star Liu seeks world championship boost

OSAKA, Japan, May 4 2007: Chinese star hurdler Liu Xiang is expecting victory at the Japan Grand Prix this weekend as he builds towards his ultimate goal of a world championship gold medal later this year.

With the withdrawal of sprint great Maurice Greene, the 23-year-old Shanghai-based 110-metre world record holder is the star attraction and knows the track well — he has won here on his last three visits.

"I am trying my best to keep my 100 per cent record in Osaka. The race is very important to me," said Liu. "A victory will give me more confidence to win in August."

The world championships, the last major athletics event before the Beijing Olympics in 2008, will be held at the same stadium here in August.

In 2004, Liu set a new Asian record for his first victory here, setting the scene for his performance at the Athens Olympics where he equaled the previous world record of 12.91 to become Asia's first Olympic track gold medalist. (AFP)



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China's Zhou wins London marathon

Sunday April 22, 2007: Zhou Chunxiu made history as the first Chinese runner to win the London marathon as she came home in 2hrs 20min 38sec on Sunday, finishing ahead of Ethiopia's Gete Wami and Romanian Constantina Tomescu-Dita.

Asian Games champion Zhou put in a punishing spurt over the last three miles of the 26-mile race to blow away the rest of the field.

Zhou got off to a fast start in unseasonal heat in London but it was her finish that made the difference.

She finished more than a minute ahead of Wami, the Berlin marathon winner last year.

Tomescu-Dita, runner-up behind Paula Radcliffe in 2005, passed a shattered Lornah Kiplagat - one of the pre-race favourites who was in contention until the latter stages - towards the finish. (AFP)

Top athletes clash at international tourney

HA NOI, April 21, 2007: Some 344 top national athletes from 36 teams are battling it out in the International Athletics Championships, which is being hosted in Ha Noi for the 12th time.

Athletes from Viet Nam, Malaysia, the Philippines and China's Guangxi Province are competing for 144 sets of medal in the traditional annual athletics event.

Among the women's track events will be the 2,000 metre steeplechase, which was held in Viet Nam for the first time last year.

At a press conference yesterday, national coach Duong Duc Thuy said the competition would be an ideal test for the athletes ahead of the Asian Indoor Games in Macao this September and the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand this December.

Among the names to watch in the high jump are SEA Games gold medallist Truong Thanh Hang and Asian high jump champion Bui Thi Nhung - who broke the Southeast Asia record by clearing 1.94m in the Athletics Thailand Open in Bangkok in 2006.

Nguyen Thanh Phong will be competing instead of Nguyen Duy Bang, who holds the Southeast Asia high jump record of 2.25m, which he set at the All Asian Stars Athletics in Singapore in 2004, but has since retired from competition. — VNS



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Dr. Jegathesan elected chairman of OCA Medical Committee

KUALA LUMPUR, April 19, 2007: The Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) deputy president and former Asian sprint king Datuk Dr M. Jegathesan added another feather to his cap when he was elected chairman of the Olympic Council of Asia's (OCA) Medical Committee.

Dr Jegathesan, also known as the "Flying Doctor" for his exploits on the track during his running days in the 60s, was nominated for the post by the OCM and was elected unopposed during the OCA Congress in Kuwait on April 16-17.

He replaces Dr Yoshio Kuroda who retires after serving the OCA for 28 years.

"This is indeed a big honour for the country as Dr Jega becomes the first Malaysian to head a committee in 32 years," said OCM secretary Datuk Sieh Kok Chi .. Former OCM president Tan Sri Hamzah Abu Samah was the OCA's regional vice-president until 1985.

Dr Jegathesan is no stranger to the medical field, especially in sports, since he is the honorary medical advisor to the Commonwealth Games Federation, chairman of the Medical Committee for the Asian Athletics Association and member of the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) Medical Commission.

Off the medical field, Dr Jega was a speed demon, blazing the tracks of Asia to become the fastest man in Asia during the 60s which was also known as the Golden Era of Malaysian athletics.

After winning the 200m gold at the 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta, he accomplished a sprint double at the 1966 Asian Games in Bangkok by winning the 100m and 200m.

"I feel honoured by the appointment as it was a recognition of my efforts to contribute to the medical field especially in sports and the area of doping," the 63-year-old doctor said .

South Korea's Incheon to host 2014 Asian Games

KUWAIT, April 17 (Reuters) - South Korea's Incheon will host the 2014 Asian Games after beating New Delhi on Tuesday in a vote by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). "The city that will host the Asian Games in 2014 is Incheon," OCA chief Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahd al-Sabah said after a general assembly meeting.

Sheikh Ahmad did not announce how many votes Incheon received in the ballot among the 45 member countries saying that the AOC does not give out the figures.

Yong Suk-shin, chairman of the Incheon bidding committee, said: "I think we had the better bid...for many reasons such as access to the Games, infrastructure and experience. We will produce a better



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Games." Incheon will be the third Korean city to host the Games following Seoul in 1986 and Busan in 2002. India has hosted the Games twice before and New Delhi will stage the 2010 Commonwealth Games. The 16th Asian Games will be held in 2010 in the Chinese city of Guangzhou.

Chinese retained Asian 50k race walking title!

Wajima, April 16, 2007: China's Zhao Chengliang lived up all expectations by clinching the Asian 50 km race walking title in the Japanese city of Kobe on Sunday (15 Apr) with a season's best performance of 3:44:26.

Yuki Yamazaki of Japan moved one place better than his last year's effort by pushing the 2006 silver medalist Li Jianbo (Chn) to third place. Jianbo's time was more than 10 minutes slower than his last year's effort - 3:43:02 - when his compatriot Zhao Jianguo clocked a world junior best 3:41:10 to the victory!

Results:

1. Zhao Chengliang (CHN) 3:44:26 , 2. Yuki Yamazaki (JPN) 3:47:40 , 3. Li Jianbo (CHN) 3:53:24, 4. Ken Akashi (JPN) 3:55:55 ,
5. Yusuke Yachi (JPN) 4:04:08 , 6. Shota Isotani (JPN) 4:11:11,
7. Takahito Otsubo (JPN) 4:24:46 , 8. Hiroyuki Hirano (JPN) 4:27:21

Report by: Ram. Murali Krishnan for AAA

March 28, 2007: World Athletics Meet : Taegu Should Be Korea's Mecca of Track and Field

Taegu's winning the right to host the World Athletics Championships in 2011 has significance not limited to sports and economics. If the Korea's third largest city successfully hosts the global event, Korea will be the seventh country to hold the world's three major sports events, which also include the Summer Olympics and World Cup soccer. The economic benefits for the city and nation will also be considerable. Still, one may find meaning in the Taegu event in two other, less visible, areas.

Firstly, it is significant that a Korean city other than Seoul and Pusan will have hosted a global event. President Roh Moo-hyun's complaint is true: Too much is concentrated in Seoul and the surrounding Kyonggi Province, which account for half of the nation's population and probably its industrial production. Even Pusan, the largest port city that hosted the Asian Games is a distant runner-up. So the government should not leave the preparations to Taegu alone but actively help it to successfully host the event.



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Secondly, it is hoped the championship will upgrade the nation's international position in these most basic sports. In addition to Korea's No. 4 position in the 1988 Olympics and 2002 World Cup, Seoul has managed to be ranked 10th in both Summer and Winter Olympic Games. One noticeable exception is athletics, in which Korea has produced no world _ even few Asian-class _ athletes except in the men's marathon. In short, Korea's global sports power is like a house of cards.

People often compare sports to life. Extending this comparison, we hope events in Taegu _ and hopefully Pyongchang _ will help to narrow the gap between the flourishing and struggling parts and sectors of our Korea. Additionally, it is hoped the Taegu athletics meet will serve as an occasion to enhance the Korea's weak fundamentals not only in sports but also in economics and other areas. (Korea times)

Japan swept 20K Asian race walking honours...

Neagari, Japan - 25 March 2007: The Japanese town of Neagari, located in Nomi district of Ishikawa prefecture, played host for this year's Asian race walking championships.

When another town of Japan – Wajima – hosted the above championships last year, both 20Km and 50Km races were held. Neagari saw only the 20Km races for men and women being held yesterday (25 Mar). However, Wajima will once again witness the best of the asian walkers log horn in the grueling 50Km race on April 15.

Kochiro Morioka of Japan, sixth at world juniors at Grosseto three years ago, led the race initially. His compatriot Takayuki Tanni, a silver medalist in asian juniors in 2001, overcome the challenge to win the event 1:21:09. While Morioka defended his second place from 2006 clocking 1:21:30, Akihiro Sugimoto completed the Japanese sweep of medals in the men's section with a time of 1:23:17.

The women's race, host's Mayumi Kawasaki bettered the national mark with a time of 1:28:57. While Sachiko Konishi – asian junior champion in 2001 – finished second in 1:33:05, Korea's Kim Mi-Jung thwarted another Japanese sweep of medals by taking the bronze at 1:34:54.

Ram. Murali Krishnan

Results: (all JPN, unless stated)

Men:

1. Takayuki Tani 1:21:09, 2. Konichi Morioka 1:21:30, 3. Akihiro Sugimoto 1:23:17, 4. Masato Yoshihara 1:23:27, 5. Isamu Fujisawa 1:23:33, 6. Yusuke Suzuki 1:25:48, 7. Yuki Matagawa 1:26:23, 8. Shin Il-Yong (KOR) 1:26:50, 9. Hiroyuki Hirano 1:26:59, 10. Shutaro Matsuo 1:27:20, 11. Kyohei Shimizu 1:27:21, 12. Yuma Murakami 1:28:24, 13. Daisuke Kojima 1:28:31, 14. P.S. Jalan (IND) 1:28:35, 15. Katsuya Ueda 1:28:53.



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Women:

1. Mayumi Kawasaki 1:28:57 (National Record), 2. Sachiko Konishi 1:33:05, 3. Kim Mi-Jung (KOR) 1:34:54, 4. Kumi Otoshi 1:35:04, 5. Naomi Hakamada 1:35:42.

March 20: Kenyan long-distance runners dominated the 2007 Kuala Lumpur International Marathon (KLIM). Cyprian Kiogara clocked two hours 17 minutes and 38 seconds, a new record for the men's category. Kiogara is the sixth Kenyan long-distance runner to have captured the KLIM title since 2000.

He also headed the Kenyan contingent for an almost clean sweep of the men's category of which nine of the top 10 spots were dominated by their athletes.

Kiogara received RM25,000 for his effort with Lewis Abraham Ondati (2'17:57s) and William Kiptoo Koech (2'19:21s) receiving RM20,000 and RM10,000 respectively.

In the women's 42km category, Winfridah Kwamboka Nyasik, also from Kenya, bettered the time registered by China's Xu Si of 2'53.32s in last year's championship, clocking 2'48:09s to come out top.

Nyasik walked away with RM15,000 for her win, while China's Wang Shidan who clocked 2'52:59s and Sunisa Sailomyen of Thailand (2'55:14s) collected RM10,000 and RM5,000 respectively.

Best Malaysian in the 42km marathon race was Shaharudin Hashim in 2'41:41s for 21st placing in the men's category, while S. Devamani topped the women's category for Malaysia by coming in sixth in 3'10:28s.

The run attracted about 8,100 participants, including 1,200 participants in the full marathon. This is a new record for the organisers as only 7,000 participated in last year's championship.

The 2007 Kuala Lumpur International Marathon was jointly organised by AmBank, Federal Territory Amateur Athletics Association and Kuala Lumpur City Hall with total prize money of RM300,000. For more details visit <http://www.klmarathon.gov.my/>

March 19: Chinese teenager Zhang refreshes Asian indoor pole vault record



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Chinese teenager Zhang Yingning jumped over 4.46 meters to refresh the women's Asian indoor pole vault record here on Thursday.

The 17-year-old, who was competing in the Shanghai leg of the 2007 China's national indoor athletics championships, also booked a ticket for the Beijing Olympic Games with the brilliant result. The previous record of 4.45 meters was set by Chinese No. 1 pole vaulter Gao Shuying in March 2002.

Zhang, a rising star, has also qualified for this year's world athletics championships to be held in Osaka, Japan. Source: Xinhua

Lee Tops Seoul Marathon

SEOUL (Yonhap), March 18 : South Korea's Lee Bong-ju cruised to an unchallenged victory at the Seoul International Marathon on Sunday after passing Kenya's Paul Kiprop Kirui in a late burst.

The 36-year-old Lee, winner of the 2001 Boston Marathon, crossed the finish line with a time of 2 hours, 8 minutes, 4 seconds to win the race in the South Korean capital.

Kenya's Kirui finished 25 seconds behind Lee and another Kenyan runner Laban Kipkemboi came third, 9 seconds behind Kirui.

Lee had not won this kind of international event since the Boston Marathon. In the 2002 Asian Games in Pusan, South Korea, he won the marathon gold medal.

He joined the leaders around the 30-kilometer mark, however, following Kirui who started to lead the race after 35 kilometers.

With about 1.5 kilometers to go, Lee passed Kirui and ran uncontested to the finish line.

"By participating in a couple of half-marathons, I tried to keep in good shape during the last three months and it had a good result today," Lee said after his victory.

"I know I am not so fast, but I believed in my endurance which really helped me win the race."
(Korea times)

March 18, 2007, Doha: Double world steeplechase champion Saif Saaeed Shaheen has said he will not run in next weekend's World Cross Country Championships in Mombasa.

Kenyan-born Shaheen, who emigrated to Qatar in 2003, said he was fit, but surprised by news that he had been entered for the 12km race on March 24.



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"Nobody informed me I was supposed to run... this caught me by surprise," he said.

Shaheen, who has been battling with injury since retaining his world 3,000m steeplechase title in Finland in 2005, said he was not mentally prepared to compete in Mombasa.

"I have no injuries at the moment, but the event was not in my plans," Shaheen added. (Reuters)

March 12, 2007: Twenty-six runners - eight for the men's 12Km team, six for women's 8Km team, six for men's junior team and six for women's junior team - have been selected for the Japanese team for the 35th IAAF World Cross Country Championships, Mombasa, Kenya (24 March).

The team was selected from the top finishers from two cross country races – Chiba International Cross Country and Fukuoka International Cross Country.

Men's 12Km : Hiroyuki Ono, Yuta Takahashi, Hidekazu Sato, Yoshitaka Iwamizu, Naoki Shibata

Takuya Fukatsu, Hiroki Matsumura, Koichiro Nagata

Women's 8Km: Yuka Kakimi, Yui Nakadai, Miho Notagashira, Kumi Akaishi

, Tomomi Yuda Aimi Horikoshi

Men's Junior 8Km: Yuki Yagi, Keisuke Tanaka, Takuro Nakanishi, Takuya Noguchi, Shun Kurihara

Takuya Nakayama

Women's Junior 6Km : Atsuko Matsumura, Misato Tomoeda, Marie Imada, Aya Nagata,

Yoshie Maeda, Yukari Sahaku For more details click here>>

Amman, 11 March 2007: Asian Cross Country Athletic Championship 2007

Oman has embraced the Asian Cross Country Championship for the first time on the field Albcharat golf in Ghamdan under the auspices of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Al-Husseini, head of the Olympic Committee, which was commissioned by Vice-d. Mamoun Nouredine.

Asian Games champion Maryam Jamal won Bahrain's gold in the women's eight-km event which was dominated by the Bahrainis who took the second and third positions through Karima Jassim and Nadia Ejjaferi respectively.



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In the team category, Bahrain was first overall in the women's section, followed by South Korea in second place and China third. Bahrain men's team were second overall behind winners Qatar and ahead of South Korea. India's twin sisters Monika Raut and Rohini Raut finished one-two in the junior women's 6km race. Third place went to host runner Merwan.

Champion perseverance

Iranian popular Jvabadi participated in the 8-km race for women, did not complete the race but won the title of champion persevere! Iranian collapsed just before the finish line, and took place staggered result of exhaustion and rapidly fell on the ground. Advancement tried but fell on the edge, and then tried to crawling on her hands and knees, left organizers trying time for a moment of respect for the perseverance and attempt to complete the race.

A total of 20 countries took part in this championship which consisted of distances ranging from 12-km for seniors, six km for under-21 and an eight-km event for women.

At the end of the championship Nouredine and Suresh Kalmadi president of the Asian Athletics and Maurice Nicolas, secretary and Treasurer of Asian Federation, Saad Hyassat President of the Federation of Athletics of Jordan and the representative of sponsoring company Samsung gave away the winners medals.

9th Asian Cross Country Championship will be held on March 10,2007 at beautiful course of Al Bisharat Golf Club in Amman, Jordan.
