



Asian

Track & field

March/April 2012

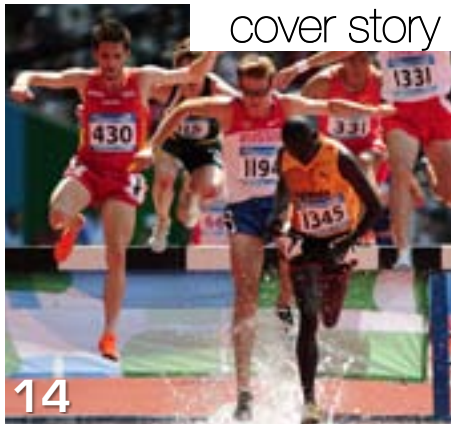
BIG NAMES REIGN
14TH IAAF WORLD INDOOR
CHAMPIONSHIPS

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BIG NAMES REIGN
14th IAAF World Indoor Championships

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GOOD MOMENTS

The big names in track & field stole the show but Asia too had some good moments at the 14th IAAF World Indoor Championships held in Istanbul, Turkey, in March. Kazakhstan's Olga Rypakova, for instance, won silver in the women's triple jump. Asian superstar and Olympic Liu Xiang champion did his bit for China when he clinched silver in the men's 60m hurdles.

Oceania, which joins forces with Asia at the World Cup, also had some success. One of its biggest wins came from Australia's Sally Pearson who won gold in the women's 60m hurdles. Team mate Henry Frayne showed fine form too as he won the silver in the men's long jump. New Zealand's Valerie Adams also stamped her class as she clinched the women's shot put title.

Meanwhile, led by the likes of emerging talent Lu Huihui and world champion Li Yanfeng, Chinese athletes opened their domestic outdoor season in mid April in Zhaoqing with a blast. Huihui made a huge statement in the women's javelin while Yanfeng reigned in the women's discus. In other results in the women's competition, the highly experienced Huang Xiaoxiao took the 400m hurdles while Zheng Xingjuan won the high jump title. Also emerging triumphant here were big names such as 2008 Olympic bronze medallist Zhang Wenxiu (women's hammer throw) and 2009 World Championships bronze medallist Gong Lijiao (women's shot put). In the men's competition, winners included Yang Yansheng (pole vault), Li Jinzhe (long jump), Qin Qiang (javelin) and Xu Jun (100m).

Mr Suresh Kalmadi, M.P
President
Asian Athletics Association





TAKE A BOW LADIES

The rise of women athletes in Asia is clear. Among the biggest names in the region's track & field scene are Bahrain's Maryam Yusuf Jamal, Kazakhstan's Olga Rypakova and China's Li Yanfeng. These days, they take their rightful place alongside male Asian stars.



FRESH FACES

Mention track & field in Sri Lanka and one thinks of athletes like Sugath Thilakaratne and Susanthika Jayasinghe. While its current crop of athletes haven't reached the heights of these former stars, Sri Lanka is certainly moving in the right direction. For example, fresh faces have emerged in events like the women's 400m hurdles and the men's high jump.



BIG NAMES REIGN

14th IAAF World Indoor Championships
Istanbul, Turkey
March 2012

Kazakhstan's Olga Rypakova, for instance, won silver in the women's triple jump with her result of 14.63m, just behind British veteran Yamile Aldama (14.82) but ahead of Cuba's Mabel Gay (14.29).

The big names in track & field stole the show but Asia too had some good moments at the 14th IAAF World Indoor Championships held in Istanbul, Turkey, in March.

Kazakhstan's Olga Rypakova, for instance, won silver in the women's triple jump with her result of 14.63m, just behind British veteran Yamile Aldama (14.82) but ahead of Cuba's Mabel Gay (14.29). Asian superstar and Olympic Liu Xiang champion did his bit for China when he clinched silver in the men's 60m hurdles, clocking 7.49 secs to finish behind USA's Aries Merritt (7.44) but ahead of France's Pascal Martinot-Lagarde (7.53).

Oceania, which joins forces with Asia at the World Cup, also had some success. One of its biggest wins came from Australia's Sally Pearson who won gold in the women's 60m hurdles with an impressive time of 7.73 secs, way in front of Britain's Tiffany Porter (7.94) and Belarus' Alina Talay (7.97).

New Zealand's Valerie Adams also stamped her class as she clinched the shot put title with an area record of 20.54m

Pearson's team mate Henry Frayne showed fine form too as he won the silver in the men's long jump. His result of 8.23m in this hotly contested event earned him silver, behind Brazil's Mauro Vinicius da Silva (8.23) but ahead of Russia's Aleksandr Menkov (8.22). New Zealand's Valerie Adams also stamped her class as she clinched the shot put title with an area record of 20.54m, beating arch rival Nadzeya Ostapchuk of Belarus (20.42) and USA's Michelle Carter (19.58).

Meanwhile, the USA had a superb outing with fine wins in several events. In the men's competition, Ashton Eaton shattered his own world heptathlon record with a total score of 6645 points, Justin Gatlin romped to victory in the 60m with a time of 6.46 secs and Ryan Whiting won gold in the shot put with a result of 22.00m. Among the American women, athletes who shone included Sanya Richards-Ross who won the 400m in 50.79 secs and Chaunte Lowe who took the high jump gold with a 1.98m clearance.

Other winners included Ethiopai's Genzebe Dibaba (4:05.78 in the women's 1500m), Morocco's Abdalaati Iguider (3:45.21 in the men's 1500m), Costa Rica's Nery Brenes (45.11 secs in the men's 400m), France's Renaud Lavillenie (5.95m in the men's pole vault), Ukraine's Natallia Dobrynska (5013 points in the women's heptathlon) and Russia's Elena Isinbaeva (4.80m in the women's pole vault).

Overall, USA reigned supreme with 10 golds, three silvers and five bronzes – well ahead of closest rivals such as Great Britain (2-3-4), Ethiopia (2-1-2) and Kenya (2-1-1).

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PRIDE OF PYONGYANG

25th Mangyongdae Prize Marathon
Pyongyang, North Korea
XX 2012

Shot putter Zhang Jun shone with an Asian record as the Chinese athletes opened their 2012 indoor season in Nanjing in February. With a 20.16m toss, he added seven centimetres to the previous Asian mark of 20.09m

Other winners in the men's events included Cao Shuo (17m in the triple jump), Lao Yi (6.65 secs in the 60m) and Jiang Fan (7.76 secs in the 60m hurdles).

The North Koreans made their mark at the 25th Mangyongdae Prize Marathon held in Pyongyang as Pak Song Chol finished second in the men's race while Kim Mi Gyong clinched the women's title.

It could have been double joy for the hosts but Pak , who won this marathon twice in a row in 2007 and 2008, was denied top spot by Ukraine's Oleksandr Matviychuk. Both clocked 2:12:54. Kenya's Morris Mureithi Mwangi (2:13:29) was placed third followed by Pak's team mate Kim Gwang Hyok (fourth in 2:13:54).

Another North Korean Ryo Bong Hyok (eighth in 2:16:15) also did well. Others in the Top 8 were Ukraine's Anatoliy Orzhekovskyy (fifth in 2:15:14), South Africa's David Ngakane (sixth in 2:16:00) and Taipei's Chang Chia-Che (seventh in 2:16:06).

In the women's race, one of the favourites was last year's winner Ro Un Ok. But Kim Mi Gyong created an upset when she won in 2:30:41, lowering her personal best by almost eight minutes. Just behind her in a national junior record was Kim Hye Gyong (2:31:29) while Jon Gyong Hui (2:31:40) set a PB to clinch third spot.

Ro (2:36:06) could only manage eighth. The first non-North Korean to cross the finishing line was China's Zhang Xiaoxia (2:36:49) who was placed ninth.



BIG JUMP

In Asia, the men's long jump and triple jump are surfacing as events worth watching out for. This is in part due to the rise of new talents. From China alone, there are several names which have stood out in recent meets. Take, for example, the long jump which has seen exciting performances from the likes of Li Jinzhe, Su Xiongfeng and Yun Zhiming.



TEAM SPIRIT

There is nothing like relays to bring out the best in athletes. Take the Thais when it comes to the men's 4x100m relay. While its individual runners may not have the fastest times, the Thai team as whole have often been able to compete among the very best in the region.



WELL & ALIVE

Whether it is in China, Japan or South Korea, the Asian marathon scene is well and alive. And, with the London Olympics just months away, competition heats up in these places where, as JEANNETTE XAVIER finds, we have some of Asia's best long distance talents.

The locals did not deliver a Top 3 finish but they still had plenty to cheer about as several posted personal best times at the annual Lake Biwa Marathon held in Japan in early March.

Plenty to Cheer About

The locals did not deliver a Top 3 finish but they still had plenty to cheer about as several posted personal best times at the annual Lake Biwa Marathon held in Japan in early March.

Leading the way for the host were Ryo Yamamoto (fourth in 2:08:44) and Kentaro Nakamoto (fifth in 2:08:53) as they clocked PBs, just behind Kenya's Samuel Ndungu (2:07:04), Poland's Henryk Szost (2:07:39) and Morocco's Abdellah Taghrafet (2:08:37).

Other locals with fine results included debutant Tomoyuki Morita (sixth in 2:09:12), Takashi Horiguchi (seventh in a PB of 2:09:16) and Masashi Hayashi (eighth in a PB of 2:09:55). Another Japanese debutant Takeshiro Deki (ninth in 2:10:02) also did well while Kenya's Ernest Kebenei (10th in 2:10:04) completed the Top 10 list.

Korean Ladies Shine

Kim Sung Eun and Chung Yun Hee held the fort for the hosts with creditable performances in the women's race at the Seoul International Marathon held in March. The former came in fourth in a time of 2:29:53 while the latter, with a time of 2:30:34, was placed eighth. Ethiopia took the top two spots, courtesy of Tadesse Feyse (2:23:26) and Askale Tafa Magarsa (2:25:29), while America's Serena Burla (2:28:27) came in third.

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WELL & ALIVE

In the highly competitive men's event, the locals found the going way too tough. The Kenyans completely took charge, with Wilson Loyanae (2:05:37), James Kipsang Kwambai (2:06:03) and Eliud Kiptanui (2:06:44) leading the way.

Silver & Bronze For Japan

At the Nagoya Women's Marathon held in Japan in March, local hopes Yoshimi Ozaki (2:24:14) and Remi Nakazato (2:24:28) did well but just could not get the better of Russian winner Albina Ivanova-Mayorova (2:23:52).

Other Japanese who shone included Yoko Shibui (fourth in 2:25:02), Mai Ito (fifth in 2:25:26), Mizuki Noguchi (sixth in 2:25:33), Yukiko Akaba (eighth in 2:26:08), Yoko Miyauchi (ninth in 2:26:23) and Misaki Katsumata (10th in 2:28:01).

Ukraine's Olena Shurkho (2:25:49) finished seventh in a field that also included the likes of Australia's Jessica Trengove (13th in 2:31:02), Romania's Lidia Simon (19th in 2:33:41) and Kenya's Catherine Ndereba (22th in 2:35:08).

Impressive Form

China's top female marathon runners showed impressive form at the Chongqing International Marathon held in March, with Wang Jiali leading the way. Clocking 2:22:41, she won the gold ahead of Zhou Chunxiu (2:23:42) and Zhu Xiaolin (2:24:19). They are expected to make up the Chinese team for the London Olympics where they are among the favourites.

With her latest time, Wang now ranks fourth in the Chinese all-time list - behind Sun Yingjie (2:19:39), Zhou (2:19:51) and Zhang Yingying (2:22:38). Zhou's effort in Chongqing was commendable.

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China's top female marathon runners showed impressive form at the Chongqing International Marathon held in March, with Wang Jiali leading the way. Clocking 2:22:41, she won the gold ahead of Zhou Chunxiu (2:23:42) and Zhu Xiaolin (2:24:19).

It was the highly seasoned athlete's best result for almost five years since she won the 2007 London Marathon in 2:20:38. Zhu's form too was encouraging. Her latest time was her second best career clocking, with her PB of 2:23:57 set almost a decade ago.

Finishing fourth in Chongqing was Wang Xueqin who clocked a PB of 2:25:53 – a result which meant she would most likely be the reserve runner in the Chinese team for London. Notably, reflecting China's depth of talents, some big names – including Sun Weiwei, Chen Rong and Bai Xue – are not expected to head for the London Olympics.

Kenyan Sweep

The Japanese could not prevent a Kenyan sweep but they still put up creditable performances at the Nagano Olympic Memorial Marathon held in Japan in April.

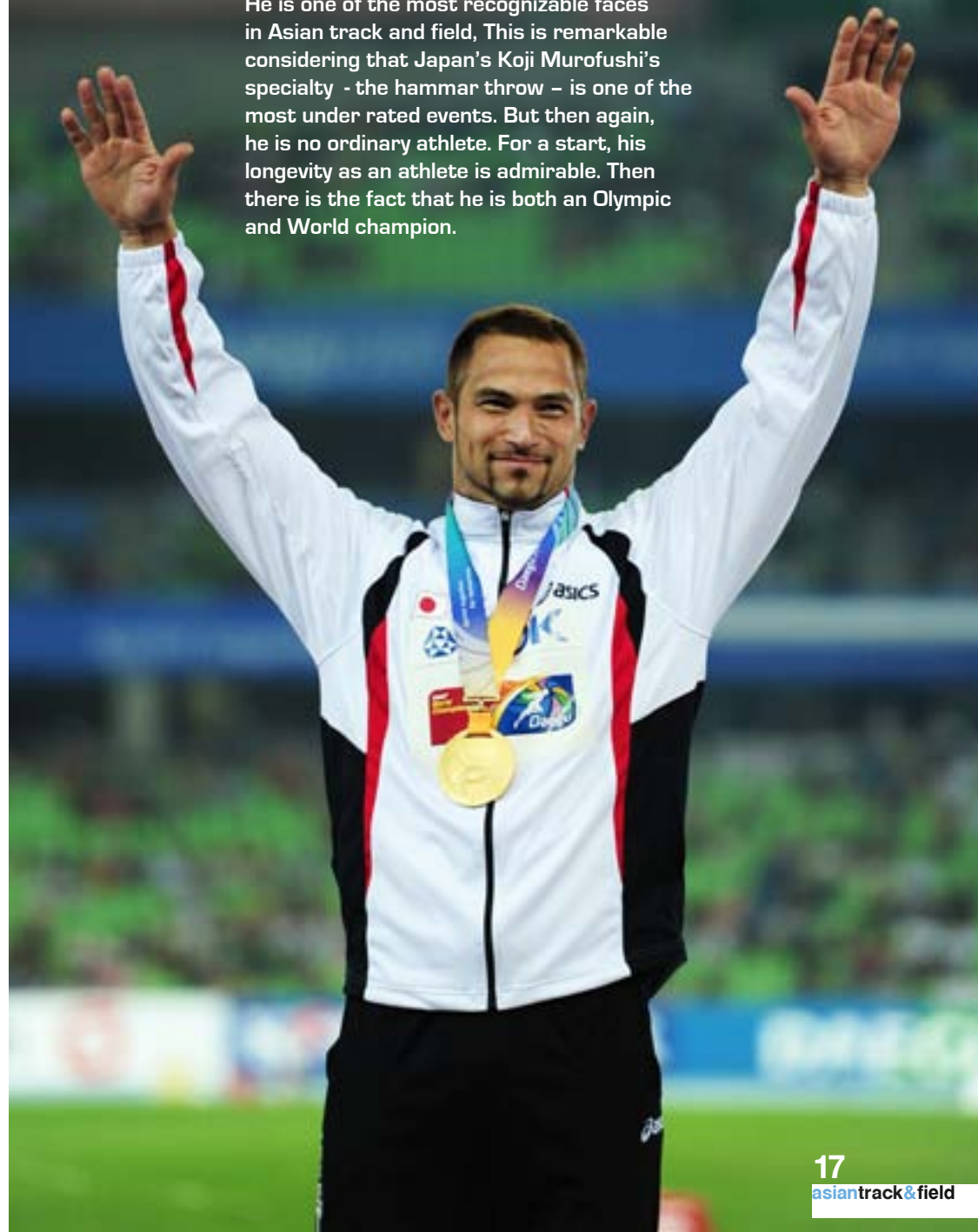
In the men's race, Kiyokatsu Hasegawa (fifth in 2:16:03) was the top local performer as he led the way for Ryoichi Matsuo (sixth in 2:18:15), Shunsuke Sakai (seventh in 2:18:39) and Jun Hasegawa (eighth in 2:19:12).

The top three spots went to Kenya's Francis Kibiwott (2:09:05), Silas Sang (2:09:10) and Moses Kangogo (2:10:53) while Russia's Alexey Sokolov (2:10:59) finished fourth.

The women's title also went to a Kenyan - Pauline Wangui (2:34:22) – as she held off the challenge of team mate Rose Nyangacha (third in 2:36:18) and Ethiopia's Belaynesh Gebre Zemedkhun (second in 2:35:19). Local hopes Sayuri Baba (fifth in 2:37:38) and Chihiro Tanaka (sixth in 2:42:34) also did well as they finished behind Australia's Lauren Shelley (fourth in 2:37:13).

COOL GUY

He is one of the most recognizable faces in Asian track and field. This is remarkable considering that Japan's Koji Murofushi's specialty - the hammer throw – is one of the most under rated events. But then again, he is no ordinary athlete. For a start, his longevity as an athlete is admirable. Then there is the fact that he is both an Olympic and World champion.



The Japanese could not prevent a Kenyan sweep but they still put up creditable performances at the Nagano Olympic Memorial Marathon held in Japan in April.



HURDLING AWAY

The hurdles are a delight to watch. For Asia, the men's hurdles races attract attention in part due to the phenomenal success of China's Liu Xiang in the 110m hurdles. But the ladies too aren't doing too badly. In the 100m hurdles, the likes of Kazakhstan's Natalya Ivoninskaya and Anastasiya Pilipenko lead the way while athletes such as China's Huang Xiao Xiao and Japan's Satomi Kubokura shine in the 400m hurdles.



IN THE NEWS

China's Walkers Shine

Led by little known athletes such as Zhu Chungdong and Ding Huiqin, China clinched the major Asian Race Walking titles in Nomi in March.

In the men's race, Zhu won in 1:21:22, ahead of India's Gurmeet Singh (1:21:31) and South Korea's Byun Young Jun (1:21:42). They were followed by Japan's Isamu Fujisawa (fourth in 1:21:43) and Iran's Rahimian Ebrahim (fifth in 1:24:01).

In the women's competition, Ding was in complete control as she took the title in 1:30:14, well clear of her closest rivals, Japan's Rei Inoue (1:34:06) and Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Thanh Phuc (1:35:13).

They were followed by India's Deepmala Devi (fourth in 1:42:01) and Taipei's Zhang Jia-feng (fifth in 1:45:32). Interestingly, in the national competition held concurrently, Masumi Fuchise (1:30:36) and Mayumi Kawasaki (1:30:51) clocked much faster times than Inoue.

Gold For Hosts

At the All Japan Corporate Team Half Marathon championships held in Yamaguchi in March, host country's Chihiro Miyawaki beat Kenya's Jacob Wanjiuki (1:00:53 vs 1:00:59) to win the gold medal. Another Japanese Masato Kihara (1:01:15) took the bronze.

Other top local finishers included Yoshihiro Wakamatsu (fourth in 1:02:17) and Takehiro Arakawa (fifth in 1:02:18).

In the women's race, Tomomi Tanaka (1:09:47) came in first, followed by Yuka Tokuda (second in 1:10:40), Ai Igarashi (third in 1:10:48), Rei Ohara (fourth in 1:11:02) and Shino Saito (fifth in 1:11:10).

Wins For Bahrain In Cross Country

Bahrain dominated proceedings at the 11th Asian Cross Country



Championships held in Quingzhen, China, in March. In the men's 12km race, Alemu Bekele won gold in a time of 35:33 as teammates Dejene Regassa (35:39) and Bilisuma Shume (35:41) won silver and bronze respectively.

In the women's 8km event, Shitaye Eshete, who finished a creditable 11th place in the World Cross Country Championships at Bydgoszcz two years ago and one place behind last year at Punta Umbria, was the top performer. She won in 26:14. Team mates Tejitu Daba (26:50) came in second while Genzebe Shami finished third.

In the junior races, Japan led the way. Shota Baba took the 8km title for junior men in 25:07 while Miyuki Uehara won the junior women 6km race in 20:26.

London, Here We Come

Japan has announced its team for the marathon at the London Olympics. In the men's event, Arata Fujiwara, who was placed second at the Tokyo Marathon, leads the way. Joining him are Ryo Yamamoto and Kentaro Nakamoto, with Hiroyuki Horibata the alternate.

The women's team comprise Risa Shigetomo, Ryoko Kizaki and Yoshimi Ozaki. Serving as alternate is Yukiko Akaba.

Silver For Japan

The Japanese women's team, with a combined time of 23:44:02, clinched the silver medal at the 26th IAU World Championships held in April in Seregno, Italy. They finished behind the United States of America (22:59:03) but ahead of Russia (24:02:28). In the men's team event, Italy (20:06:41) clinched gold while USA (20:23:09) and France (20:58:44) won the silver and bronze respectively.

Individually, there were no winners from Asia. The men's title went to Italy's Giorgio Calcaterra (6:23:20), ahead of nearest rivals, Sweden's Jonas Buud (6:28:57) and another Italian Alberico Di

IN THE NEWS

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Cecco (6:40:30). In the women's individual contest, the gold went to USA's Amy Sproston (7:34:08) who overcame Sweden's Kajsa Berg (7:35:23) and Russia's Irina Vishnevskaya (7:36:01) in the quest for top honours.

Walkers Deliver

China's best walkers delivered in style in front of their home crowd as they set new records at the IAAF Race Walking Challenge held in Taicang in late March. In the men's 20km race, youngsters Wang Zhen and Chen Ding both went under the old Asian record of 1:17:41 set by Zhu Hongjun in Cixi seven years ago.

The former clocked 1:17:36 for the gold while the latter won the silver in a time of 1:17:40. Another young talent, Cai Zelin, finished third in a time of 1:18:47. Italy's Giorgio Rubino was the top non-Chinese in the competition as he came in fourth in 1:20:10. He was followed home by Australia's Jared Tallent (fifth in 1:20:34) and Germany's Christopher Linke (sixth in 1:20:41).

In the women's race, Liu Hong set an Asian record with her time of 1:25:46, erasing Wang Yan's old mark of 1:26:22 set in 2001. Reflecting China's depth, Lu Xiuzhi (1:27:01) finished second while Qieyang Shenjie (1:27:04) came in third. The trio was followed by team mates Gao Ni (fourth in 1:28:06) and Sun Huanhuan (sixth in 1:30:21). The top non-Chinese was Australia's Claire Tallent (fifth in 1:28:53).

Japan Win Team Events

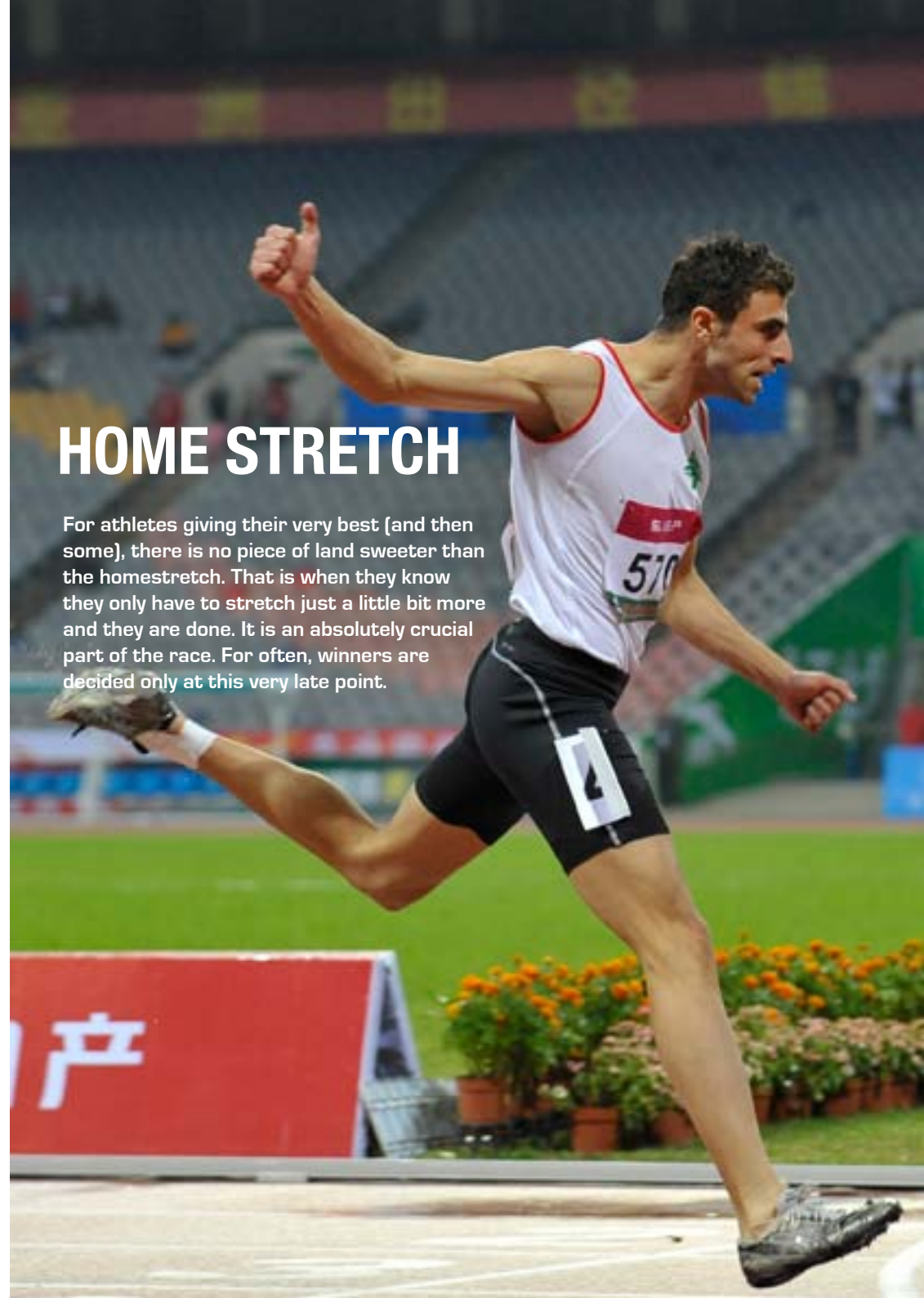
Japan was Asia's pride at the 18th World University Cross Country Championships held in Lodz, Poland, in April as it won both the male and female team titles.

In the men's competition, the Japanese team of Yuta Shitara, Daichi Motomura, Kazuhiro Kuga, Hiroshi Ichida and Masaya Taguchi clinched gold with 36 points. They were followed by Ukraine (57) and Algeria (61). In addition, Yuta Shitara (29:15) and Daichi Motomura (29:22) won individuals honours as they collected silver and bronze respectively, behind Algeria's Abdelmajed Touil (29:11).

In the women's team event, the Japanese team of Mutsumi Ikeda, Ayuko Suzuki, Toshika Tamura, Ayame Takaki and Azusa Kurusu won gold with 21 points as they finished ahead of Romania (23) and Poland (46). The individual honours went to Romania's Ancuta Bobocel (15:48), Portugal's Carla Salomé Rocha (15:54) and Romania's Roxana Birca (15:56).

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HOME STRETCH

For athletes giving their very best (and then some), there is no piece of land sweeter than the homestretch. That is when they know they only have to stretch just a little bit more and they are done. It is an absolutely crucial part of the race. For often, winners are decided only at this very late point.



WATCH FOR CHINA

National Junior Championships
Changzhou, China
April 2012

China's young athletes showed their fine potential with some impressive results at the National Junior Championships held in Changzhou in April. This means the Chinese team are a big threat at the World Junior Championships which will be held in Barcelona this July.

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As usual, the girls produced performances of the highest quality, with some counted easily among the best junior results in the world this year. In one of the meet's best results, Gu Siyu won the discus with a throw of 60.59m. Wang Lan (55.72) was second while Feng Bin (55.62) came in third.

Other outstanding performers among the girls included Liu Shiyong (57.52m in the javelin), Gao Yang (16.81m in the shot put), Ye Jiaying (1.88m in the high jump), Xu Huiqin (4.15m in the pole vault) and Chen Mudan (13.55m in the triple jump). On the track, the Chinese girls also made an impact. Li Zhixuan won the 3000m in 9:24.16 while Li Jiayi dominated the 3000m steeplechase in 10:19.78. Wang Qingling too showed her class, winning the heptathlon with a total of 5668 points.

Among the boys, Luo Nuo stood out as he won the hammer throw with his result of 62.79m.

Among the boys, Luo Nuo stood out as he won the hammer throw with his result of 62.79m. Also making their mark were Li Meng (20.06m in the shot put), Fu Haitao (16.20m in the triple jump), Huang Haibing (7.76m in the long jump) and Zhang Wei (5.30m in the pole vault). In the track events, the boys who left an impression

included Xu Xiangchao and Chu Pengfei. Xu, who showed his immense potential with his time of 49.87 secs in the 400m hurdler last season, won his event in 51.87 secs while Chu took the 110m hurdles in 13.57 secs.

In the 800m, Teng Haining, who won silver at the World University Games last year with a national junior record of 1:46.62, clocked a modest 1:50.84 here but it was clear he had plenty left in him. The youngster, who has a PB of 3:42.05 in the 1500m, should hit top form in Barcelona. Also expected to make an impact in the Spanish city is Xie Zhenye, who won both the 100m (10.45) and 200m (20.77) here.

Apart from the athletes mentioned above, others who are expected to shine at the World Junior Championships in Barcelona include Liang Yan (discus) and Guo Tianqian (shot put) among the girls as well as Lin Qing (long jump) and Wang Jianan (decathlon) among the boys.

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WHAT A BLAST

China's Outdoor Season
Zhaoqing & Wuhan
April 2012

XXX

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Zhaoqing

Led by the likes of emerging talent Lu Huihui and world discus champion Li Yanfeng, Chinese athletes opened their domestic outdoor season in mid April in Zhaoqing with a blast.

Huihui made a huge statement in the women's javelin as her result of 64.95m broke the Asian record of 63.92m set by Wei Jianhua in 2000. She was pushed by Li Lingwei (61.98m), who was second at the 2008 World Junior Championships and third at the 2010 Asian Games, but prevailed in the end. Wei's latest result means she is second in the world this year, just behind Slovakia's Martina Ratej's (65.29m). Li Yanfeng too was pushed hard but proved too strong as she, with her throw of 64.90m in the women's discus, overcame a feisty Tan Jian (63.87m).

In other results in the women's competition, the highly experienced Huang Xiaoxiao proved her comeback was on track as she took the 400m hurdles in 55.47 secs while Zheng Xingjuan took the high jump title with a height of 1.92m. Also emerging triumphant here were big names such as 2008 Olympic bronze medallist Zhang Wenxiu (71.04m in the hammer throw) and 2009 World Championships bronze medallist Gong Lijiao (19.08m in the shot put). Other winners included Jin Yuan (9:45.92 in the 3000m Steeplechase), Ha Xianping (11.45 secs in the 100m and 23.58 secs in the 200m).

In the men's competition, Yang Yansheng won the pole vault with a 5.60m clearance while Li Jinzhe clinched gold in the long jump with his result of 7.91m. Other winners included Qin Qiang (80.77m in the javelin) and Xu Jun (10.29 secs in the 100m). In terms of intensity of competition and thrills for fans, the triple jump and the

400m hurdles were easily the events of the meet. In the triple jump, Dong Bin, with a big personal best of 17.38m, just edged out Cao Shuo who achieved a distance of 17.35m, also a PB. For the 400m hurdles, Cheng Wen (50.36 secs) had to give everything to hold off Li Zhilong (50.41).

Wuhan

Following the high of her Asian record of 64.95m in the women's javelin in Zhaoqing in mid April, Lu Huihui came to Wuhan in late April as a favourite. But her 63.57m could not match the effort of Zhang Li who clinched gold with a distance of 64.74m. In contrast, world discus champion Li Yanfeng, who managed 64.90m in the Zhaoqing, continued her winning way as she achieved a season best of 65.85m. World Championships medallists Zhang Wenxiu (72.31m in the hammer throw) and Gong Lijiao (19.65m in the shot put) also maintained the good form they showed in Zhaoqing where they had won with distances of 71.04m and 19.08m respectively.

Other winners in the women's competition included Wang Huiqin (14.16m in the triple jump), Wu Shujiao (13.16 secs in the 100m hurdles) and Xiao Huimin (16:01.13 in the 5000m and 33:33.49 in the 10,000m). Among the most thrilling events were the long jump, where Lu Minjia (6.48m) just beat Xu Xiaoling (6.47m), and pole vault, where nothing could separate the top two, Li Ling and Xu Huiqin, who both cleared 4.30m.

Among the men's events, the long jump stood out for the quality of the performances. Li Jinzhe won with an impressive result of 8.25m as he edged out World University Games champion Su Xiongfeng (8.21). Xie Zhenye shone with his winning time of 20.66 secs in the 200m while Li Zhilong made his mark as he clocked 49.92 secs in the 400m hurdles to just overcome chief rival Cheng Wen (50.10).

Following the high of her Asian record of 64.95m in the women's javelin in Zhaoqing in mid April, Lu Huihui came to Wuhan in late April as a favourite. But her 63.57m could not match the effort of Zhang Li who clinched gold with a distance of 64.74m.

One event which highlighted clearly the depth of the Chinese was the 110m hurdles. Xie Wenjun won in 13.48 secs, ahead of Ji Wei (13.57), Jiang Fan (13.61) and veteran Shi Dongpeng (13.63).



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Readers, if you have pictures of top Asian athletes, please email: jeanx@singnet.com.sg



ASIAN RACE WALKING IN NOMI, MARCH 2012

MEN

- 1. Zhu Chundong CHN 1:21:22 PB
- 2. Gurmeet Singh IND 1:21:31
- 3. Byun Young Jun KOR 1:21:42
- 4. Isamu Fujisawa JPN 1:21:43
- 5. Rahimian Ebrahim IRI 1:24:01

WOMEN

- 1. Ding Huiqin CHN 1:30:14 PB
- 2. Rei Inoue JPN 1:34:06
- 3. Nguyen Thi Thanh Phuc VIE 1:35:13
- 4. Deepmala Devi IND 1:42:01
- 5. Zhang Jia-feng TPE 1:45:32



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CALENDAR 2012

ASIAN ATHLETICS SEASON 2012	DATE	CITY	COUNTRY
Asian Grand Prix (1st leg)	6 May	Bangkok	Thailand
Asian Grand Prix (2nd leg)	9 May	Kanchanaburi	Thailand
Asian Grand Prix (3rd leg)	13 May	Chonburi	Thailand
15th Asian Junior Athletics Championships	9- 12 June	Colombo	Sri Lanka
4th Asian All-Stars Competitions	30 June - 1 July	Almaty	Kazakstan
Asian Masters Championships	2 - 7 Nov	Taipet	Taiwan



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- ▶ World Military Game, Hyderabad - 2007
- ▶ Asian Athletics Championship, Jordan - 2007
- ▶ Asian Games, Doha - 2006
- ▶ Common Wealth Games - 2006



Steel Shot 4.00 KG, 109mm



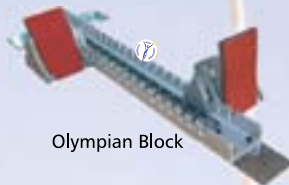
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Won Bronze Medal at Olympic 2008



Steel Shot 7.26 KG, 129mm
Shots used to win Gold Medal at Doha Asiad-2006



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