

Around 11 Shanghai college students perform a welcoming dance at the Shanghai Airport following the arrival of International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch yesterday. Samaranch is in China to attend the opening ceremony of the first East Asian Games. -AFP photo

# please IOC chief

BEIJING, May 9: Sparing no effort in its bid for the 2000 Olympic Games, China put out the red carpet Sunday for the president of the International Olympic Committee, reports

"I'm very pleased, very happy to be once again in the People's Republic of China, Juan Antonio Samaranch said during a one-hour stopover at the Beijing airport, which was draped in banners and flags bearing the Olympic rings and the words, "Beijing 2000." A red carpet was rolled out on the stairs to the arrival lounge.

Samaranch was traveling from Zurich and switched to a chartered plane for Shanghai, where he is to attend the opening ceremony of the first East Asian Games Sunday evening.

The games are a minor international competition, with only eight countries and territories participating, but officials are going all out to make it a showcase for China's bid to bring the 2000 Summer Olympics to Beijing.

The event is of such little importance outside China that Samaranch couldn't remember its name. He started to call it the Far East Asian Games, but stopped short and looked confusedly at his hosts, who whispered the correct name.

Samaranch was greeted by Beijing Mayor Li Qiyan, He Zhenliang, president of the Chinese Olympic Committee, and Zhang Baila, vice chairman of the Beifing 2000 Olympic

Games Bid Committee. Samaranch brushed checks with He and Zhang as a crowd of Chinese reporters fought to catch the moment on film.

Security personnel stopped all other passenger traffic as Samaranch was escorted through the airport to a VIP

Along the way, Li pointed to large photographs on the walls showing Chinese athletes at the Barcelona Games last summer and Beiting's sports facilities. They stopped briefly in front of a photo of Samaranch presenting a gold medal to Chinese table tennis champion Deng Yaping. Samaranch said he wished to see her again.

#### Conver may get the honour

CONVERS, Ga, May 9 Olympic officials said Saturday they expect to sign a contract Monday to hold equestrian competition near here during the 1996 Games, reports AP.

Extensions in the negotiating process had twice led to postponements in groundbreaking at the 1,100-acre (440-hectare) site in northern Rockdale County, 20 miles (32 kilometres) east of Atlanta.

The agreement was reached Friday, said Lyn May, spokeswoman for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic

In addition to the Olympic venue, plans for the site in clude an equine theme park and museum and recreational

### S Korea forced to a draw

BEIRUT, May 9: Asian favourites South Korea were held 0-0 by Bahrain in their opening World Cup qualifying match here on Sunday, reports

The former Asian champions, looking for a big win against their part-time opponents, played a listless first match in the group D tourna-

Bahrain, beaten 2-1 by Hong Kong on Friday, had several chances to steal a shock vic-

#### China's bid to First East Asian Games on LII 20 mast usian Games on

SHANGHAI, May 9: A deafening crescendo of fireworks wrapped up a stunning 20minute pyrotechnic display at the opening ceremony of the inaugural East Asian Games here Sunday, reports AFP.

Thunderous rockets cloaked Shanghai's Hangkou Stadium in a multicoloured canopy at the climax of a 3-1/2 hour song and dance celebra-

With Beijing's bid to host the 2000 Olympics clearly in mind, organisers repeatedly referred to the Chinese capital's candidacy as International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch and 20 IOC delegates looked on.

Earlier, the Games were officially declared open by Chinese President and Communist Party general secretary Jiang Zemin.

The arena was turned into a moving sea of colour as performers draped the entire stadium floor with a giant billowing length of light blue cloth, which then parted to reveal

SHANGHAI, May 9: South

Korea may settle for a distant

second spot behind the proud

hosts China at the inaugural

East Asian Games but they are

vying to win the first gold

we won the first and last gold

medals. We'll try to get the

first one here at any cost,"

South Korea's delegation chief

Kim Sang-Kyum said before

the opening ceremony of the

nine-country, 12-sport festival

Olympic silver medalist Lin

Qisheng of China on Monday

afternoon in the 54-kilogram

weight lifting event that will

decide the first of the 168

golds at stake in nine days of

the Barcelona 52 kg contest

and has since stepped one

Ko only finished fourth in

If Ko failed, Olympic 56 kg

champion Chung Byung-Kwan

may make it up for South

Korea in his new class of 59

kilograms to challenge China

who bagged six of the 10 titles

But Ko Kwang-Ku faces

"At the Barcelona Olympics

medal, reports AFP.

here today.

hundreds of dancers in futuristic white, grey and red costumes representing the mountains of China.

They were followed by hordes of gold-and red-clad men and women, symbolising the people, who danced around a raised stage support ing four characters from Chinese mythology.

The ceremony, which cost an estimated 17 million dollars, got under way with the arrival of 10 skydivers, who then gave way to a 1,000strong marching band playing an upbeat number called: "Revitalise the Chinese nation and move towards the year

A far more enthusiastic reception was accorded to Hong Kong pop stars Sally Yeh and Jacky Chan, who belted out a trio of hits between them.

In between the acts, the Games mascot-a fluffy rooster called Dong Dong (east east) hovered erratically around the stadium - thanks to a pair of rota blades stuck through his

at the Asian Championships in

few sports in which South

Korea can upstage China as the

two Koreas bagged two golds

the South Korean Olympic

Committee, expected China to

win "more than 110 golds."

"Only a few will be left to the

golds, 19 at most," Kim said,

citing other hopes in a few

men's swimming events and a

Asked about prospects of

"Anything can happen in

Japan winning 28 golds, he

said, "It is what Japan may ex-

this kind of the games," he

said. "We will make our ath-

letes give it all they have and

Games represent the current

power hierarchy in all of Asia

as the three dragons and

North Korea only gold medal

winners from the far-flung re-

In fact, the East Asian

try to finish second overall."

few more in athletics.

"We expect to get 16 to 18

Kim, the vice-president of

Boxing is another one of the

February.

each at Barcelona.

other countries."

pect."

A Chinese air force operation earlier in the day to disperse threatening grey clouds with chemicals apparently bore fruit as the sky above the stadium remained clear throughout.

Following the Chinese national anthem, came the pa rade of athletes led by the Japanese delegation, complete with a mobile Mount Fuji.

They were followed by the other teams from Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, North and South Korea, Mongolia, Macau, special guests Guam and finally the hosts China.

The Mongolian team caused something of a stir as they were led in by three members of their wrestling team clad in skimpy pants.

One entire bank of the 30,000-seat stadium was reserved for local volunteers who used reversible placards to spell out giant messages such as "All out for Olympic Games in 2000," while a giant banner suspended from a nearby building overlooking the arena read "People of Shanghai support Beijing's Olympic bid"

ROK hope to bag first gold South Korea won the first gold at Barcelona in shooting and Hwang Young-Cho broke away from Japan's Koichi Morishita on the final climb up Montjuic Hill to lift South Korea their first marathon to

> in style. China stood fourth in the Olympic gold medal chase with 16, against 12 for South Korea who finished seventh. North Korea went one better than Japan with four golds.

> finish their Olympic campaign

China, trying to use success here for boosting Beijing's bid for the 2000 Summer Olympics, are fielding the best in most sports, including four women swimmers who tri-

umphed at Barcelona. But as South Korea and Japan did not send all of their top competitors in such major sports as athletics and swimming, the levels of competition here might not reach the limit

"We hope to get more than 12 gold medals in swimming, said Chinese head coach Cheng Yunpeng. "But I don't expect any world records to fall."

### Gullit to stay with AC Milan

MILAN, Italy, May 9: Dutch star Ruud Gullit is set to stay with Italian champions AC Milan for a seventh season, te ports AFP.

"I've decided to renew my contract with Milan," he tole Italian daily La Gazzetta dello Sport on Saturday. 'I'm going to sign for another year.

"We're going to get everything signed and sealed next week. We're agreed on nearly everything."

Gullit, who will be 31 at the start of next season, has also been talking about his long-term ambitions with Milan's millionaire president Silvio Berlusconi, king of the Fininvest Business Empire.

"I've discussed my future within Fininvest and what I'd do when my playing career is over. It went very well."

# Rudolph is no

stranger TAMPERE, Finland, May 9 Germany's Marco Rudolph beat Canada's Mike Strange to stay on course to retain his light heavyweight title at the World Amateur Boxing Championships here on Sunday, reports

Rudolph, champion in Sydney in 1991 and the Olympic silver medalist in 1992, put on a fine show of at tacking flair progress to the quarter-finals.

### Smith outpaces Mitchell

MITO, Japan, May 9: Former world record holder Calvin Smith turned the tables on fellow American Dennis Mitchell, edging him by 0.01 second Sunday in the men's 100 metres at the Mito International Track and Field Meet, reports AP.

Smith was timed in 10.54 seconds and 1992 Olympic bronze medalist Mitchell in 10.55. Japan's Satoru Inoue finished third in 10.79.

"I made a very good start and had a good race today," said Smith, who lost to Mitchell in the Shizuoka International last Wednesday in Japan.

Randy Barnes to the United States, who had to compete without his regular track shoes, easily won the shot put, hurling 20.31 matres (66 feet,  $7\frac{1}{9}$  inches), far below his world record of 23.12 (75-10

"It was a world record for deck shoes," joked Barnes, whose gear had not yet arrived in Japan. His 33-centimetre (13.2-inch)-size shoes are not available here.

Japan's Takahisa Yoshida won the high jump with a leap of 2.31 metres (7-7), a Japanese record, beating American Hollis Conway, bronze medalist in the 1991 World, Championships, who cleared 2.28 metres (7-5 3).

Yoshida broke the old mark of 2.30 metres (7-6 -) set by Takao Sakamoto in 1984.

Floreal Eedrich of Canada took the triple jump with, a leap of 16.63 metres (54-6-) Yoshito Kondo of Japan won the 800 metres in 1:50.72 beating American Terril Davis, who finished second in 1:51.24.

In the women's events, Chryste Gaine won her second 100-metre race in four days, finishing in 11.92. China's Huang Zhihong the 1991 world champion, captured the shot put, tossing 19.58 metres (64-3).

#### Bruno far from impressed

LONDON, May 9: Frank Bruno, who stayed home and watched on television as Lennox Lewis defended his WBC heavyweight title, was as unimpressed with his fellow countryman as the booing fans in the Las Vegas arena, reports

"There are still a lot of questions left unanswered after this performance," Bruno said Sunday. "I shall be providing the answers if and when we get it together September.\*

Lewis, Britain's first heavyweight champion this century, was forced to go the distance before winning the decision in his first defence against American Tony Tucker Saturday night. The fight was marred by periods of inaction and left observers questioning whether Lewis deserved to be called champion.

Bruno, tentatively scheduled to be Lewis' next opponent, was among the doubters.

"Tucker and Lewis looking in trouble a couple of times, and he has not got half my power," said the 31-year-old heavyweight. "Lennox will not find me lumbering and predictable like Tucker, who fought a one-pace fight."

"Our fight is going to draw even bigger crowds than Buckingham Palace, said Bruno.

area

as judge



LAS VEGAS, May 110. 9: Lennox Lewis recognized by some as the first British heavyweight champion of this century, got his first

retained his crown with a unanimous points decision.

first defence, reports AP. Lewis, who was awarded the title by the World Boxing Council after Riddick Bowe failed to agree to defend against him, retained it Saturday night by scoring a unanimous 12-round decision over 33-year-old Tony Tucker.

championship victory in his

The victory pleased the British fans among the 15,000 in the Thomas and Mack Center but it probably didn't convince many that Lewis deserved to be called a cham-Lewis knocked down

rounds in a fight in which most of the action was packed into the six minutes of the eighth and ninth rounds. Judge Jerry Roth of Las Vegas scored it 117-111 for

Tucker in the third and ninth

Lewis, Mickey Vann of Britain scored it 118-111, and Harry Gibbs of Britain had it 116-

The AP favored Lewis 117-

Lewis knocked down Tucker, a former IBF champion whose only previous loss was to Mike Tyson, with a right hand at 2:18 of the third round. He also stung Tucker with a big right hand at the

American challenger Tony Tucker (R) appears to have dropped his guard as he backs away from a series of punches delivered by World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Lennox

Lewis of Great Britain during the fifth round of their title bout in Las Vegas on May 8. Lewis

From the third until the eighth, the fight was marred by long periods of inaction that drew boos from the crowd.

Then, in the eighth round, Tucker landed a short right to the head of the 27-year-old Lewis and landed a four-or five-punch flurry that backed Lewis up. Suddenly Lewis fought back with five or six head shots that sent Tucker reeling across the ring to a neutral corner. At the bell, Lewis landed a

hard right and Tucker wobbled to his corner.

Lewis, sensing victory, roared out at the opening of the ninth and put Tucker down with a right just 12 seconds into the round. Tucker got right up and Lewis attacked for another 40 seconds, but in the final two minutes Tucker had Lewis in trouble, first with a series of punches to the head and a right to the body, then with a right hand to the head, and with 15 seconds left a hook and a right to the That, however, was

Tucker's last hurrah. Action slowed perceptively in the last three rounds but

Lewis kept the edge. "I lost to a good lighter", said Tucker. "He was the bet-

ter man tonight. I will be

back". Whether he will be back as a major figure in the heavy weight division remains to be

Lewis, who weighed 235 pounds (106.5 kilos), boosted his record to 23-0, but had to settle for his fourth win by decision. Tucker, 235, of Cleveland, now is 48-2.

The loss snapped a 14-fight winning streak that followed Tucker's IBF title loss to Tyson on points on Aug 1, 1987.

Lewis was only the second heavyweight champion to win a title outside the ring. The first was Ken Norton, who got WBC recognition when that organi zation stripped Leon Spinks in 1978. Norton, however, lost in his first defence to Larry

# Savon too strong for Dixon



TAMPERE, Finland, May 9: Cuban Felix Savon scored the first knock out of the World Amateur

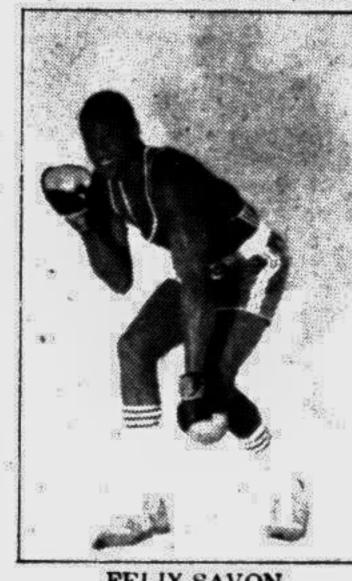
Championships when he dropped American Derrel Dixon in the third round of their heavyweight bout here on Saturday, reports AFP.

The multiple world and Olympic champion, one of the biggest name fighters here in Tampere, demonstrated his superiority from the first second of the contest before knocking out the American with a left hook flush on the

Savon will face Russian Alexander Lezin, who beat Lithuanian Vasili Melnikov 7-0 on points.

US armyman Orlando Hollis gained some consolation for American by beating fellow welterweight Svetislav Stojkovic of the ex-Yugoslavia.

Gi Hollis, the 1992 North American services champion. dominated the bout, the judges



FELIX SAVON

scoring the fight 11-2. Cuban welterweight Juan

Hernandez put on a fine display against Scotsman Alan' Wolccki, who didn't even wait for the final referees verdict.

The Cuban, a silver medalist at the Barcelona Olympics. used immaculate technique to outfox and outbox Wolecki, and the referee eventually had to move into protect the Scot-

Another welterweight, German Otto Andreas, won a less emphatic victory against Irishman Neil Gough, the judges scoring the fight six to four.

A vicious left-hander from flyweight Bektas Abubakirov of Kazakstan ended the bout against North Korea's Song Hvo in the second round.

The referee twice had to hold up the fight to clean up the blood coming from the wound to Song Hyon face, before the judges awarded Abubakirov a comfortable 5-1 verdict.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

#### **ACROSS** 37 Preside 1 Leo's remark? 5 Watch pocket

8 Cold Adriatic wind 12 Wild, debauched

party 13 Perjurer's assertion 14 Animal's den

15 Puritanical person 17 Major or Minor 18 Where to

mellow

river

21 Encore

thrust

23 Incantation

26 Beginning

the Inca

partner

32 Appraise

30 Home of

31 Mike's

22 Quick

53 Suppose see an iris DOWN 19 Become 20 Hamelin's gown 2 Busy

transport 23 Health

SEC OTT LOBO 40 Watch
AMAH LEO EDEN
TITO EAR SAGO 41 Applaud
STOWE KARL 42 Corn ATTRACT LEAD COB HOPI MACHOELBOWED ASTUTE

airport resort 3 Chills and 24 Literary fever 25 Unit of work 26 Seventh son of Jacob N.Y.

- Harbor, 28 "Who am - argue?' (1940 29 Matched group 31 Advance. in cribbage

11 Sandarac 34 Stewart or Steiger tree 35 Comic Johnson measure 20 Pallid 37 Scornful 21 Folk-tale remark 38 Fun or

song follower 39 Countertenor 40 Watch

42 Corn bread 43 Strong

44 Ledger entry 46 Bikini top

slapped in

old movies

47 He gets

53

**CRYPTOQUIP** 

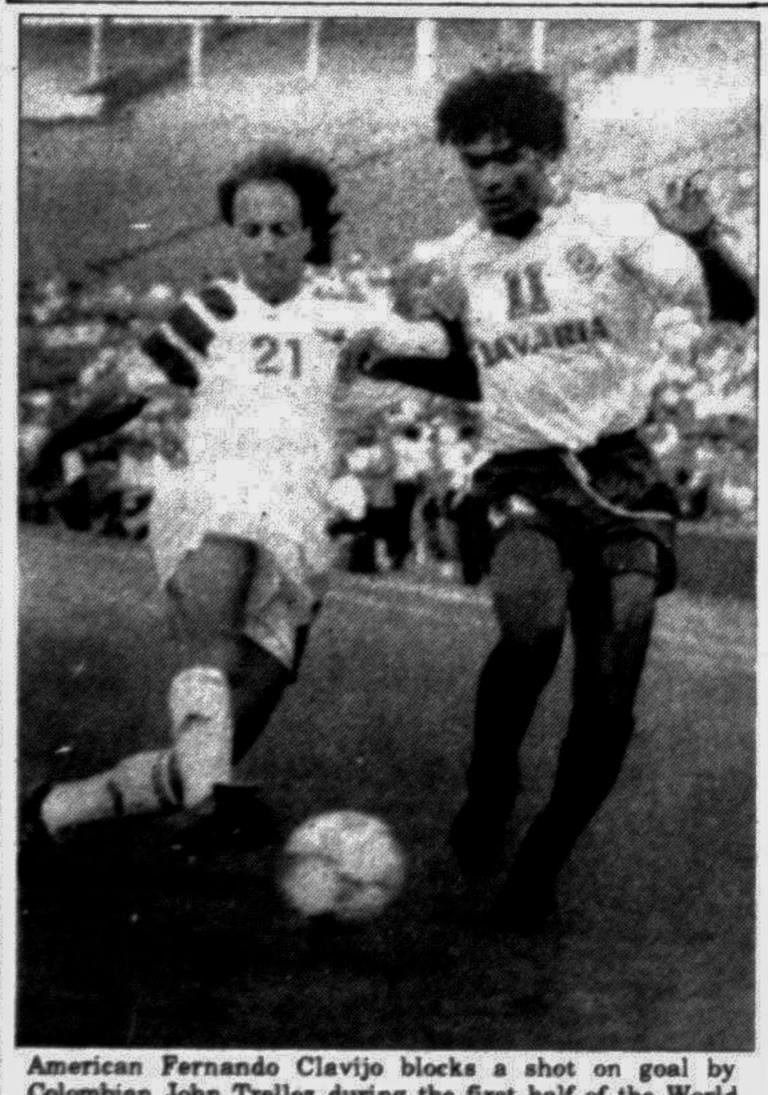
NQKY AIGJZYE ADLKS NZOQ GED, IDYE X V SV Z V AGSOYKS GUL V K G 1? X D S YKN

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CALCULATING THE

DEPTH OF THE OCEAN IS SOMETHING I DOUBT I CAN FATHOM.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals D

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.



Colombian John Trellez during the first half of the World Series of soccer match in Miami, Florida on Saturday. Colombia defeated US 2-1. -AFP photo

33 Made wrathful 35 Jargon of criminals 36 Marshy

38 Like some 4 Deli loaf blue jeans 5 Beats with 41 Singer a whip Stevens 6 Seine 42 Key letter feeder 45 Charles 7 Sewing or Lamb spelling 46 Police follower 8 "- Hill" officer 48 Marquee

name song) 49 Operated 9 Rowers 50 Pay to 10 Originate the beans 16 Old cloth 52 Likely

1 Dressing villain 22 Fast French Solution time: 27 mins.

ARCHOISTS GOAD TACIT SHAH SID RANI PARE EVA DROP ANTS LAY ENS