



Medal winners in the women's 100m freestyle, China's Zhuang Yong (C), Le Jing Yi (L) and Japan's Sumika Minamoto, listen to the Chinese national anthem after having received their medals at the first East Asian Games in Shanghai on May 10. Zhuang took the gold with a time of 55.32 sec and Le finished second. — AFP photo

It's Shanghai entrepreneurship

SHANGHAI, May 11: Shanghai's display of entrepreneurship at the inaugural East Asian Games will reach its climax when Julio Iglesias sings love songs at the closing ceremony for free, the organisers said Tuesday, reports AFP.

The 880,000-dollar closing ceremony on May 18 will also feature world-famous Hong Kong kungfu film star Chen Long in the entertainment programme combining the typical rituals of a multi-sport festival with "traditional Chinese characteristics."

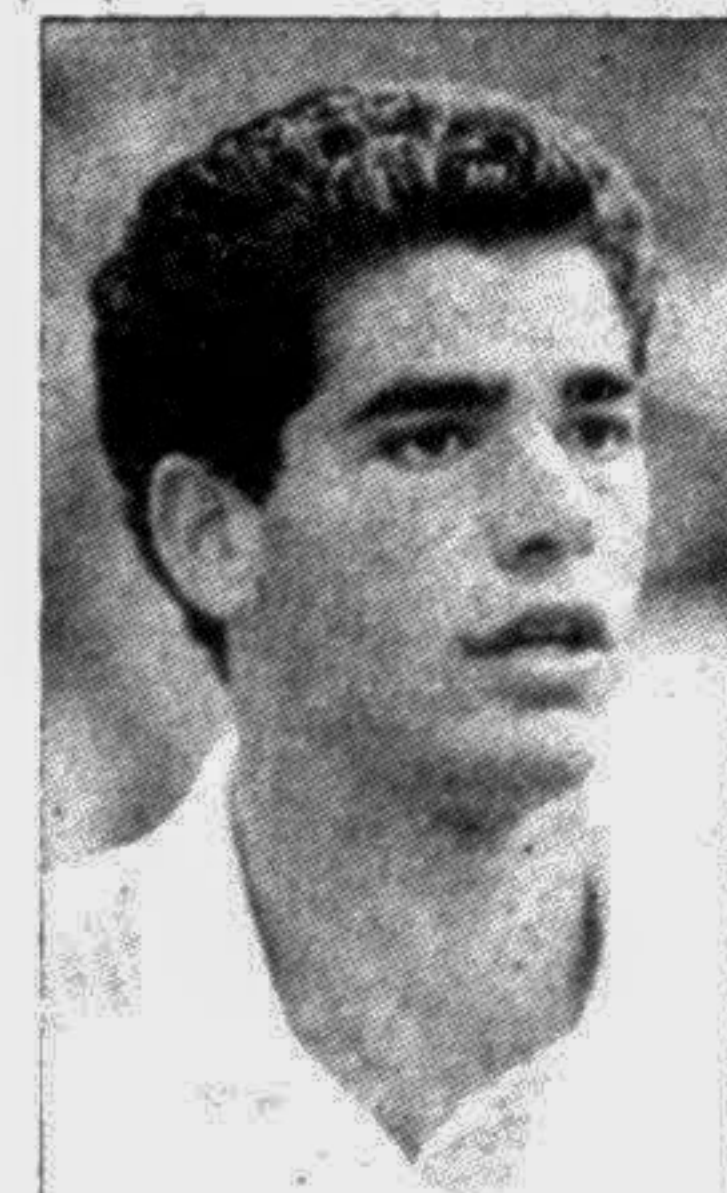
many years," said Ying Wei Wei, a volunteer interpreter for foreign journalists. "But it was more sensational when we learned about the deal with Michael Jackson," said the 23-year-old English major at Shanghai International Studies University. "I was much disappointed when the deal failed."

Sampras left short of breath

ROME, May 11: World number one Pete Sampras was made to struggle against Italy's top-ranked player Renzo Furlan— and a vocal Rome crowd— on Monday before winning through to the second round of the Italian Open, reports Reuters.

Sampras, who took over the premier men's ranking from fellow American Jim Courier last month, needed to pull out some big serves in the second-set tie-break to win 6-1, 7-6.

former title holder Thomas Muster (13) of Austria and Frenchman Cedric Pioline (14). The first casualty among the seeds was the number 12, American Maitav Washington, who went down to Dutch left-hander Jan Siemerink 6-4, 7-6.



PETE SAMPRAS

Lendl bows out

ROME, May 11: Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay hammered Ivan Lendl 6-2, 6-1 Tuesday, eliminating the fifth seeded veteran in a first round match at the Italian Open, reports AP.

No. 6 seed Michael Chang advanced, defeating Jordi Arrese of Spain, 6-2, 6-3. Lendl, at 33 the oldest player in the tournament, was dominated by Filippini, who has failed to get past the second round in 12 tournaments this year.

Dresden expelled from Bundesliga

DRESDEN, Germany, May 11: Dynamo Dresden, the only team from the old East Germany currently playing in the Bundesliga, have been expelled from the First Division for alleged financial irregularities, reports AFP.

Mumtaz Haider, the Pakistani forward who impressed the local hockey fans with his brilliant stickwork and superlative marksmanship last year when he played for defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, witnessed his old team's First Division league match against Bangladesh Railway yesterday. Haider is in Dhaka on a business trip. On his right is the Abahani manager Pushkin. — Star photo

US rigid about sex education, says Magic

DEN BOSCH, Netherlands, May 11: Magic Johnson says America has a lot to learn from Europe about sex education, reports AP.

Several days into a European basketball tour, the NBA star-turned-AIDS activist said Tuesday that Europeans candid attitude about sex raises awareness about sexually transmitted diseases.

Johnson announced in 1991 that he tested positive for the HIV virus that causes AIDS. The 34-year-old former Los Angeles Laker has since devoted himself to increasing public AIDS awareness and promoting safe sex.



Japan's Hitomi Maehara on her way to winning the gold in the women's 400m individual medley at the first East Asian Games in Shanghai on May 10. Maehara finished with a time of 4 min 42.84 sec. — AFP photo

Hosts dominate the opening day

SHANGHAI, May 11: Chinese weightlifter Yang Bin claimed the first gold medal of the East Asian Games on Monday, but a strong Japanese squad gave China a run for their money both in the pool and on the gymnastics mats, reports Reuters.

China's men's gymnastics squad, led by crowd favourite Li Xiaoshuang, a Barcelona gold medalist, and his twin brother Li Dashuang, fought off a tough Japanese challenge to win the team event with a total score of 277.575 to 271.000.

Under-54 kg category. South Korean weightlifter Chun Byung Kwan was the only record breaker of the day, setting a new Asian mark in the Under-59 kg division by lifting a total of 295 kg, beating the previous record of 287.5 kg set by China's Liu Yuangang in Fuzhou in March.

Asian giants off to great start in world TT

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, May 11: Asia had a great start at the world table tennis championships here on Tuesday as Japan, China, and South Korea all won their opening matches in the men's team event, reports AFP.

Second favourites China beat Austria 3-1, though they had a slight hiccup when Liu Guoliang lost to Werner Schlager 21-19 in the deciding third set.

China's Wang Yong snatches 140 kg for a combined total of 322.5 kg to win the gold medal in the 70 kg division of the weightlifting competition in Shanghai yesterday. — AFP photo

Chinese cagers maul Mongolia

SHANGHAI, May 11: Top favourites China offered a tough lesson to inexperienced Mongolia, while South Korea pipped North Korea for the second straight day on the East Asian Games basketball court here Tuesday, reports AFP.

But the limelight was grabbed by a North Korean player, 2.32-metre Li Myong-Hun, who notched up 36 points—more than half his team's score. Li was roared on by a small but highly vociferous group of around 50 North Korean spectators, beating traditional drums and cymbals.

Only China can deny Sweden, says Thunstrom

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, May 11: Former champions China pose the biggest threat to Swedish hopes of a title triumph at the world table tennis championships, Anders Thunstrom, Sweden's men's coach, said on Monday, reports Reuters.

Sweden won the men's team crown in 1989 and 1991, ending a sequence of four consecutive titles for China. "China are the most difficult to beat because they can choose from five (top) players, not many teams can do that. They are our strongest title opponents," Thunstrom said on the eve of the championships.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across, Down, and Cryptiquip. Clues include: 1 Resorts, 5 Night Court, 9 Faux follower, 12 Shade, 13 Peruvian's ancestor, 14 Parcel of land, 15 Amuse, 17 Cross-word puzzle bird, 18 Irritations, 19 Lost cause, 21 Divorcee, 22 Treat disdainfully, 24 Choir's rendition, 27 Opinion, 28 Tightly stretched, 31 "Do — favor", 32 Sales pitch?, 33 "This — recording", 34 Drink greedily, 36 "— De-Lovely" (Cole Porter song).

Cryptiquip puzzle grid with a 11x11 grid of letters and numbers. The clue is: Yesterday's Cryptiquip: MEMBERS OF A RATHER ECCENTRIC SOCCER TEAM ARE A BUNCH OF ODDBALLS.

Today's Cryptiquip clue: T equals R. The Cryptiquip 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.