

China's Chen Xiaomin is as steady as a rock during the women's 59 kg class at the Asian Games yesterday. Chen lifted a new world record for the combined snatch and jerk with a total of 220 kg.

## ASIAN GAMES MEDALS TABLE

HIROSHIMA, Oct 4: Following is the second day medals tally at the 12th Asian Games here on Tuesday (tabulated under gold, silver, bronze and total):

	G	S	B	T
China	20	7	2	29
Japan	8	5	10	23
Iran	1	2	0	3
Syria	1	0	0	1
S Korea	0	3	5	8
Thailand	0	4	0	4
Indonesia	0	3	3	6
Chinese Taipei	0	2	3	5
Vietnam	0	2	0	2
India	0	1	2	3
Kuwait	0	1	1	2
Malaysia	0	0	2	2
Brunei	0	0	2	2
Nepal	0	0	1	1
Kazakhstan	0	0	1	1
Burma	0	0	1	1
Macau	0	0	1	1
Philippines	0	0	1	1
UAE	0	0	1	1
S. Arabia	0	0	1	1

(Note: Seven extra bronze medals were awarded in karate competition.)

## Deep drug secrets

HIROSHIMA, Oct 4: The mystery of a surprise drug test here on almost the entire squad of China's world beating women swimmers deepened on Tuesday with even Asian Games organisers unaware of the results, reports Reuters.

Results of the first part of the tests, carried out four days ago, theoretically can be known the following day.

But miffed organisers of the Asian Games said they were completely in the dark about the results, even though some swimmers, including the Chinese, have already competed and won medals in the Games.

"We have not been told because the tests were administered by FINA (International Amateur Swimming Federation)," said Koji Oda, a spokesman for the organising committee's medical and health division.

"It leaves a cloud over everyone," one Games official said.

Of the 16 Chinese swimmers tested by FINA last Friday, two days before the opening of the Asian Games, 12 were women from a squad that dominated August's World Championships in Rome. Japanese swimmers were among others FINA had tested.

The Chinese women won 12 of the 16 gold medals that were at stake in Rome and set five world records, sparking some western charges that their performances were improved by drugs.

All the Chinese women swimmers who were tested at Rome were cleared, and Chinese officials say racism is behind the charges.

Japanese sports officials were unable to say why FINA flew in its own testers in a cloak-and-dagger operation, just three days before the Hiroshima testers began their job.

"It is not clear why they did this. Our testing facilities are the best in the world," said one Games official.

Oda said his own division had tested its first batch of athletes who had taken part in events on Monday, the first day of swimming competition.

The "A" samples of the tests are flown to an International Olympic Committee-accredited laboratory in Tokyo where they tested for banned performance enhancing substances. The results are flown back within 24 hours to Hiroshima for further action on anyone who tests positive.

## No sports independence for HK

HIROSHIMA, Oct 4: China's Sports Minister Wu Shaouzu on Tuesday said his country may not let Hong Kong have sports independence after 1997, reports AFP.

In an interview with the Yomiuri newspaper, Wu said China had yet to agree that Hong Kong could compete independently at future Olympic Games and other world events after Britain hands over the colony.

Wu also said Taiwan's campaign to stage the 2002 Asian Games was part of a "two Chinas" plot.

The ministers comments will be an embarrassment for International Olympic Committee chairman Juan Antonio Samaranch. The IOC leader promised on arriving at the Hiroshima Asian Games that Hong Kong would be allowed to go to the Sydney 2000 Olympics under its own name.

Samaranch said: "There's a special agreement that Hong Kong, under China's flag, shall we say can still take part in the Olympic Games."

But the Chinese Sports Minister replied, "That was in keeping with Hong Kong's hopes. But China for its part has not yet agreed to it."

"We will make a decision through future consultations," he told Yomiuri.

## China sets another world mark in lifting

# Xiong's terrific treble

HIROSHIMA, Oct 4: Swimmer Xiong Guoming became a triple gold medalist Tuesday as China swept all of Tuesday's swimming, diving and weightlifting battles, sending its gold medal lead soaring in the Asian Games, reports AP.

Chinese broke world records in two more divisions of women's weightlifting, bringing their total to five in six events.

With victories in women's team gymnastics and individual foil fencing too, the Chinese seized 12 of the 16 golds decided on the second full day of competition — missing only those in karate, a Japanese fighting sport in which it has no entries.

That gave them a total of 20, with Japan far back in second place at eight. Iran and Syria wrecked Japan's chances of a sweep in karate by winning two of the day's four events.

Japan also had hoped to win at least one of the day's swimming golds after its big lead in morning qualifying for the men's 800-metre freestyle relay.

But China won that too, beating the Japanese by nearly a second in an Asian record time of 7 minutes, 26.28 seconds. Japan finished in 7:27.18 and South Korea took the bronze in 7:33.61.

Xiong anchored the relay team to victory after winning the gruelling men's 400-metre individual medley on Tuesday and the 200 freestyle on Monday.

In Tuesday's 400, he won in an Asian record 4:19.40, with Thailand's Ratapong Sirisanont second in 4:20.03.

Although China's men had been in the shadow of the women's world champion-laden team, Jiang Chengli contributed to the day's shutout by edging Japan's Hajime Ito 25.72 to 25.81 in the 100-metre butterfly, setting a Games record.

The day's two women's races were Chinese 1-2 sweeps, both with Games records: Yuan Yuan and Daihong finished in 2:28.34 and 2:29.72 in the 200-metre breaststroke, and Lu Bin and Le Ying went 1:57.37 and 1:59.77 in the 200 freestyle.

The day's two diving events both were tight all-Chinese battles for gold and silver.

On the men's 3-metre springboard, Wang Tianliang edged teammate Yu Zhuo-cheng, the world champion, for the gold medal thanks to a high-scoring final dive. Wang finished with 709.41 points. Yu had 698.76 and Japan's Chinaki Yasuda was third with 649.53.

Chi Bin, silver medalist in the World Championships last month, had a narrower victory over 13-year-old teammate Wang Rui, 496.14 to 494.58 in the women's platform diving. Natalia Chikina won Kazakhstan's first Asian Games medal, a bronze, with 433.80.

China's world record-breakers in weightlifting Tuesday were Chen Xiaomin at 59 kilograms and Tang Wefang at 70 kilograms.



THE 12th ASIAN GAMES HIROSHIMA 1994

## Typhoon does canoeing a favour

HIROSHIMA, Oct 4: The Asian Games canoeing was given the go-ahead Tuesday, on the eve of the competition, with the organisers thanking a powerful typhoon for ending a three-month drought, reports AFP.

"We are having a dress rehearsal. We have sufficient water for competition," said Taku Yamate, organising committee director of facilities. "It may sound funny, but we shall thank the typhoon for raising the level of water."

Typhoon Orchid, which hit Japan islands five days ago with heavy rains and wind, helped raise the level of water at lake Yachyo, which was four metres beneath competition level at one point.

Belgium's John Leukemans, technical delegate for the International Canoe Federation, approved the site for the Asian Games after an inspection Tuesday. Yamate said.

## Palestinian plea

HIROSHIMA, Japan, Oct 4: Palestine, with a lone competitor at the Hiroshima Asian Games, appealed to the world sports community on Tuesday for help in building its sports facilities, reports Reuters.

Rabie Al-Turk, representing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at the Hiroshima Games, said his country was in such deep crisis that it could not afford to send more than one athlete to compete at the Games.

"The International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) should help us... we dream of stadiums, equipment, but we have nothing... nothing," Al-Turk said.

He pointed out that the 1.5 billion dollars that Hiroshima spent in building facilities for the Games, which opened on Sunday, would have helped rebuild half of Gaza and Jericho.

"But we also take heart from the fact that Hiroshima, like Palestine, had to be completely rebuilt," he said.

Hiroshima, was raced to the ground by an atomic bomb in World War II in 1945, while Palestine has just been handed over to limited Palestinian rule by Israel.

"Japan had the help of the United States to rebuild, we too need the help of someone powerful," Al-Turk said.

## Bangkok to back out if OCA does not

HIROSHIMA, Oct 4: Thailand may cancel the next Asian Games in Bangkok because of a row with the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) over revenue, authoritative sources said here on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency also quoted a Seoul Olympic official as saying Bangkok might give up the 1998 event if it did not get its way on a revenue split.

The sources said the OCA wants to double its share of the revenue from advertising to 10 per cent and allot a further 20 per cent to national Olympic committees of the other Asian countries.

The organising committee currently gets 95 per cent of all earnings, and leaves five per cent for the OCA.

The sources said there was also a dispute between the OCA and Bangkok over bringing in an international firm to market the Games.

There was no immediate indication if another country would step forward at this late date to stage the Games if Thailand withdrew.

## Pusan gets '97 EA Games

HIROSHIMA, Oct 4: The South Korean city of Pusan was awarded the 1997 East Asian Games here on Monday and it immediately invited the country's arch foe, North Korea, reports Reuters.

The venue for the second version of the Games was decided at a meeting of the executive board of the East Asian Games Association, whose members include the region's sports powerhouses China, Japan and South Korea.

The Games are scheduled for between late April and May, 1997.

"Naturally, we will invite North Korea to the Games and try to do our best to realise the participation of the North," an official of South Korea's Olympic Committee said.

# Ma mystery sure to live on

HIROSHIMA, Oct 4: Ma Junren arrived in Hiroshima on Tuesday to claim some assured Asian Games gold medals but he warned that his "army" of runners will really peak at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, reports AFP.

The now-legendary athletics coach was first off the plane that brought the latest Chinese contingent to Hiroshima. He was mobbed in the airport as he waited for his track stars to join him.

Ma said he had brought two men who have been added to his battalion of seven women runners, including world champions Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia, for Hiroshima.

"I am looking for five gold medals for my team," he told reporters.

But in a warning of what to expect, he added: "They will reach their peak for the 1996 Olympics. They have not been at their top form this year and they may not be next year either."

After their success at the World Championships last year, Wang and Qu were kept away from the international Grand Prix circuit this year. Ma himself has also been struck down by a mystery ill-

ness which his entourage described as "a stomach ailment."

Wang, the 10,000m and 3,000m world record holder and now one of the world's premier athletes, gave a relatively modest assessment of her chances in Hiroshima. "I don't think I can break a world record here. I came to win a gold and I think I can do that," she said.

Ma has arrived with the mystery surrounding his training methods still intact. No-one outside China knows the key to the success of the former soldier and self-taught track expert, which is sure to continue here.

His "army" made its first major impact at the World Championships in Stuttgart, where Wang, Qu and Liu Dong all won middle-distance titles before stunning the world by shredding the record books in Beijing last September.

Their rivals immediately blamed drugs but the tide of opinion has now turned. Several top western coaches share the opinion of former British supreme Frank Dick that: "They are working harder than us and may have discovered better ways of recovering from training — we should try and learn from them."

Zhu Zanling, deputy secretary-general of the Chinese Olympic Committee, argued: "It seems only the United States and Europe are allowed to become a powerful force in athletics. When China becomes a force it is not accepted and there is all this talk about drugs. Why?"

Liaoning-based Ma, however, has shrewdly cashed in on the mystery. Altitude training and discipline were the key, he revealed — as well as turtle blood and an elixir he was quick to market and sell to the highest bidder.

He is also the supreme politician, winning a power game with China's athletics bosses by reportedly threatening to resign at the start of the year over interference in his training methods and lack of financial support.

The shroud of mystery continued when Wang and Co. who are reported to run huge distances everyday, were pulled out of the London Marathon at the last minute and have barely been seen since outside China.

China's national athletics coach Han Funlin said there would be no world records here, because Ma's runners had been plagued by injuries recently.

But one thing is sure — the Ma Mystery, as well as his success, looks sure to continue.

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"I am looking for five gold medals for my team," he told reporters.

# Japan's party without Date

HIROSHIMA, Oct 4: Japan doesn't have a Date but they are still headed for the party in women's tennis at the Asian Games while in the men's competition Malaysia upset favourites South Korea today, reports Reuters.

Playing without star player Kimiko Date, Japan beat Taiwan today to advance to Thursday's final against Indonesia. Date is the top-ranked women's player in Asia and 10th in the world but she decided to miss the team and doubles events and just play singles, a choice criticised by Japan's media.

But Japan's second and third best players, Naoko Sawamatsu and Mana Endo both won singles games to put Japan in the final.

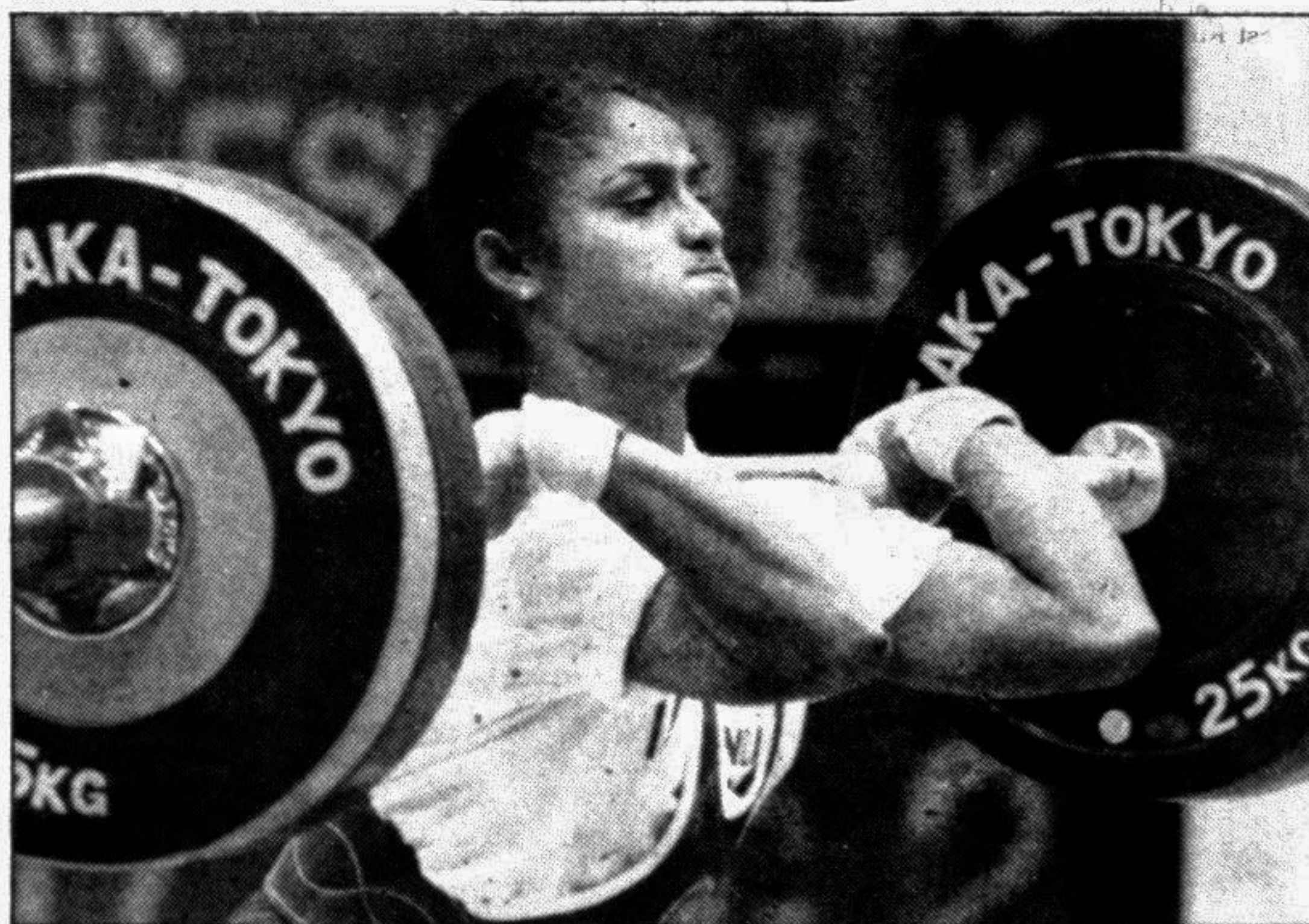
In men's team quarter-finals, the Malaysians upset number one seed South Korea 2-1 with a 6-4, 5-7, 7-7 win in the doubles match.

Three of the four matches went to the doubles with host Japan, Indonesia and Malaysia winning. India was the other team to advance.

In the women's competition Endo easily handled Weng Tzu-Ting 6-1, 6-1 in the opening match while Sawamatsu beat Taiwan's top player Wang Shi-Ting in a slugfest on Centre Court at the Games



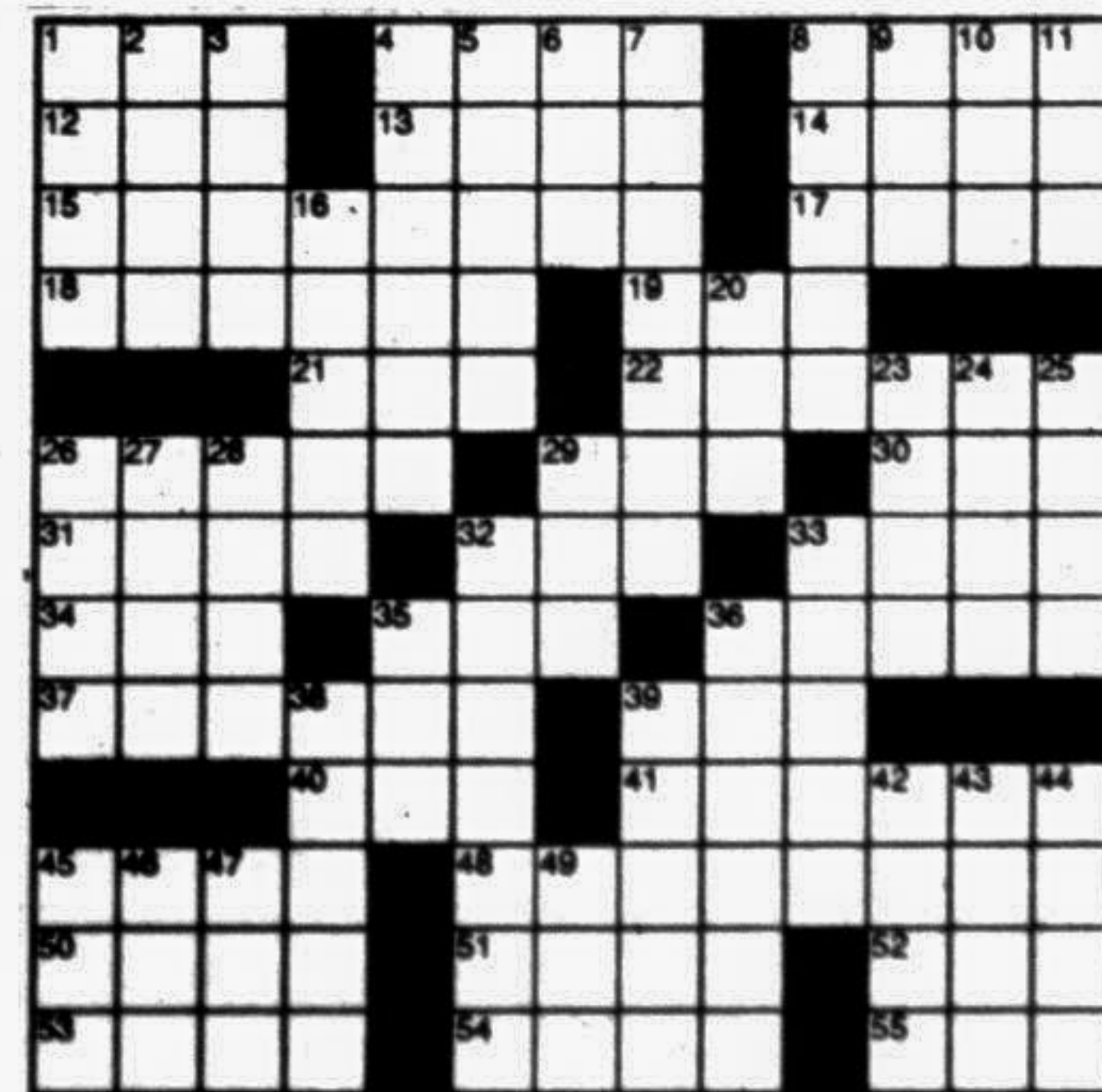
KIMIKO DATE



India's Karnam Malleswari in action during the women's 54 kg category at the Hiroshima Asian Games on Oct 3. Malleswari took the silver for the combined snatch and jerk event.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	mixture	Willy	23 Drudge
1 Coal compartment	37 Fenway squad	Loman's sons	24 Anise-flavored liqueur
4 "Dracula" author	39 Arts deg.	2 Rock star	25 The picture of health?
6 Rain-delay need	40 Bat wood	3 Mrs. Nick Charles	26 1960s musical
12 Berlin's "What'll —?"	41 Look the other way	4 Scenter of attention?	27 Lotion add-in
13 Verdi opera	45 Comfy-cozy	5 Water-melon discards	28 Rip
14 Hodge-podge	48 Conforming	6 Com-motion	29 Heidi's height
15 Gold-finger's target	51 "Smile Be Your Umbrella"	7 Upper jawbone	32 Private place?
17 Fourth dimension	52 Kyoto cummerbund	8 Family emblem	33 Southwest-ern plain
18 Widened	53 Just say no	9 Mr. Baba	35 — Alamos
19 Rocks	54 TV's Jeannie	10 Edge	36 Dog or blanket
21 Apr. money-grubbers	55 On pens. DOWN	11 "The Bells" poet	38 "What Makes — Run?"
22 Owl	1 One of	16 Nonsense	39 "Please, mein Fraulein"
26 Shrew	Solution time: 28 mins.	20 Prompt	42 Skunk's defense
28 Brewery output	RATS PIED CEL		43 Judicial raiment
30 "Mutual Friend"	ITEM TOLE OVA		44 Labyrinth goal
31 Sheltered	COMING OFF MIZ		45 Spillball
32 Peninsula st.	APPLES EMILY		46 Nashed
33 Judy's kid	LET KAREN		47 Movie director
34 "And — the opposite shore..."	LUCY ENG AGED		48 Flushed
35 Prune	ISO RIM TAU		
36 Metallic	DAMP OSE MORE		
	IRISH FA		
	CANON BUNGLE		
	ORG COMING OUT		
	LEI UPON INAN		
	DAN RANG AGUA		



## CRYPTOQUIP

Z P A H E D Z P F F W Q O P  
U D F Q W M A Q F V P W O  
M S X Z S G , " Z G H W U Q  
O D Q V A ' B X A O Q F V B P A O Z Q .  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PET SHOP OWNER TO  
CUSTOMER, REGARDING MISSING SANDWICH: CAT  
GOT YOUR TONGUE?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals N

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.