



South Korea's top archers Lee Eun-Kyoung (C), Lim Jung-Ah (R) and Han Hee Jeong raise their arms after taking all three honours in the individual event at the 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima yesterday. —AFP photo

Koreans surge ahead of hosts in medals table

Lu Bin's fourth, courtesy Xiong

HIROSHIMA, Oct 8: China's Lu Bin swam to her fourth gold medal of the Asian Games Saturday, thanks in part to a slip by her world record-holding teammate, while South Korea edged into second in the gold standings, reports AP.

Xiong Guoming, of the weaker men's part of the Chinese swimming team, also won a fourth gold.

While the Chinese were completing a clean sweep of all the women's swimming races here and padding their lead in the overall medals race, five nations — Malaysia, Vietnam, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan — were winning their first golds of the Games.

In all, 11 different nations won golds Saturday, including Syria in swimming, Taiwan in taekwondo and Kazakhstan in shooting and weightlifting. South Korea advanced in the standings with victories in archery and shooting and two in its native fighting art of taekwondo.

Japan, with golds in bowling and swimming, fell to third in golds but gained a measure of revenge on the

Chinese swimmers by beating them by 3 1/2 seconds in the final race on the program, the men's 400-metre medley relay. China's four swimming golds for the day, two in shooting and one each in fencing and table tennis gave it a total of 62, to South Korea's 24 and Japan's 22. Kazakhstan

testing positive for stimulant drugs. He was the first athlete expelled from these Games for doping. The Asian football Confederation said he has been suspended at least until December.

Two of the new nations in the gold medal column — Kuwait and Saudi Arabia — won theirs in shooting. Malaysia won in bowling, Vietnam in taekwondo and Turkmenistan in weightlifting.

In the pool, Chinese world record-holder Le Jingyi was disqualified for a false start in the 50-metre freestyle and Lu raced to victory in 25.68 seconds, ahead of two Japanese. She ended the Games with four golds and two silvers.

Xiong won the 200 individual medley in a Games record 2 minutes, 32.9 seconds, with Thailand's Ratpong Sirisanont second in 2:04.16.

Xiong finished with four golds and one silver, but his was the only victory of the day for the Chinese men, who took gold in eight of 16 races in all.

Japan won the men's 400 medley relay in an Asian record 41.70, with China

second in 3:45.28. Syria's Hisham Masri won the men's 1,500 in a Games record of 15:29.70, nearly two seconds ahead of Japan's Masato Hirano.

Completing the sweep for the women were Liu Limin, who led a Chinese 1-2 sweep in the 200 butterfly in an Asian record 2:06.77, and he Cihong, who led another 1-2 finish in the 200 backstroke in a Games record 2:09.46.

South Korea swept all three medals in women's individual archery. Lee Eun-Kyoung beat Lim Jung-ah 9-8 in a shootout for the Gold, and teammate Han Hee-jeong beat Mongolia's Jargal Otgon by the same score in another shootout for the bronze.

In its native sport of taekwondo, however, it managed only two golds in four weight classes. It had no entries in the other two divisions.

China, Seung-Tae, South Korea, stopped Jordan's Mohammad Sari Zoabi for the flyweight title and Kim Kyun-young beat the Philippines' Robert Vargas in bantamweight.

But Vietnam's Tran Quang Ba beat S. Alfons Lung Tekwan Beraon of Indonesia for gold in bantamweight, and Chang Jung-San of Taiwan outpointed welf. Riyandi Lugi of Indonesia for the finweight title.

Japan's Kengo Yamamoto and Hiroshi Yamamoto became double gold medalists when they teamed with Kosaku Tatemoto for victory in men's trios bowling. The pair earlier had taken the doubles gold.

The Japanese trio rolled a total of 3,789 for six games, breaking the 16-year-old record of 3,669 set by a Thai trio.

Malaysia's Lydia Poh Ling Kwah, Chew Chun Shirley Chow and Shalin Zulkipli won the women's trios with 3,734.

Kuwait's first gold came when its shooters smashed the Asian record in team trap shooting, scoring 357. China had set the old mark of 341 last year, and was second this time with 352.

In the individual event, China's Zhang Bing won with 144, breaking the Asian mark of 140.

Saudi Arabia's Saeed Al-Mutairy won the individual skeet gold with 145, tying the Asian record Zhang Xindong of China followed with 144.

Kazakhstan won the skeet team title with 356, breaking the Asian mark of 350 set by China last year. China was second here with 354.

China's Ning Lijia was the individual air rifle gold medalist with 690.3 breaking the 3-year-old Asian mark of 690.1. South Korea's Chae Keun-Bae was second with 690.0, and helped his team beat Japan 1,753-1,750 for the team title. The winning score tied the Asian record.

China won the men's individual foil fencing title when Xu Xuening beat Alexei Pistorov of Kazakhstan 15-9 in the final.

But the Chinese women's badminton team, Asian Games champions since 1974, were knocked out 5-0 in the semifinals by South Korea.

The Chinese won the women's team table tennis gold with a 3-1 victory over Hong Kong in the final.

Turkmenistan's gold came from Altumurat Orazdurdiev's victory at 76 kilograms with a total lift of 340 kilograms.

From C Asia with threats

HIROSHIMA, Oct 8: Central Asian newcomers, relying on a beefy contingent of field stars, pose a major threat next week to the athletics dominance of superpowers China, Japan and South Korea at the Asian Games, reports Reuter.

But the biggest challenge to the Chinese men in their chase for the 24 golds on offer in Hiroshima will be to raise their image.

A quick look at the record books show the difference between China's vanquishing hordes of amazons and their male counterparts.

While the Chinese women hold a clutch of world marks, only on one entry graces the men's columns — Bu Lingtang set the world 20-km road walk record in Beijing last April in a time of one hour 18 minutes and three seconds.

But is here and on form, so that's one for the Chinese men.

Other good bets for Chinese gold include Geng Huang in the long jump and Li Tong, who competes on the European Grand Prix circuit in the 110 metres hurdles, but after that there are no real certes.

Liu Hao should have had it all his own way in the shot put, but he faces a strong challenge from Sergei Kot, the 34-year-old veteran of the Uzbekistan team.

Kot is in the vanguard of Central Asian competitors, taking part in the Asian Games for the first time and who have excellent chances to jump and throw their way to gold.

Kazakhstan's Grigory Egorov, who lives in the eternal shadow of world record-holder Sergei Bubkov of Ukraine, should soar over the opposition in the pole vault.

The 27-year-old Egorov recorded his best jump just last year at the Stuttgart World Championships when he took second place with 5.90 metres. Tajikistan's best chance of gold has disappeared with the last-minute withdrawal of hammer thrower Andrei Abdouvaliev, gold medalist at Stuttgart and Olympic champion.

His departure through illness probably leaves the field open for China's Bi Zhong.

On the track, all eyes will be on the international debut of "Ma's men," a group of young colts who have started training with the throughbred fillies in the stable of Chinese super-

coach Ma Junren. Ma adopted eight male athletes at the end of last year — only three of them will compete in Hiroshima — and since then their progress has been astounding and they could provide the upset of these Games.

Zhang Fukui will be running in Sunday's marathon, but he has not removed the favourite tag from South Korea's Barcelona Olympic champion Hwang Young-Jo.

South Korea's other likely golden boy is Lee Chin-Il in the 800 metres, who has a personal best of 1:44.14, but he will face a strong challenge from Japan's Tomonari Ono.

Mu Weiguo, Ma's most successful male athlete to date, is obviously thriving on the punishing training routine and tonics of turtle blood which are the trademarks of the flamboyant Chinese coach.

In June's Chinese National

Championships, after training with Ma for just two months, 22-year-old Mu broke the country's 31-year-old 800-metre record with a respectable time of the minute 47.14 seconds, taking two seconds off his best time ever.

"I believe Mu's time will be better than the one he set in June," Ma said. "But it will take at least 10 years for Chinese male runners to be at the top of world class runners."

Another of Ma's proteges is Sun Ripeng, down for the 5,000 metres and 3,000 metres steeplechase. But in the 5,000 he faces the customary charge of talent from Middle Eastern and Indian middle-distance runners.

Veteran Indian Bahadur Prasad, among the leading runners at this seasons athletics World Cup in London, has his eye on the medals podium in both the 1,500 metres and 5,000 metres.

ASIAN GAMES MEDALS TABLE

HIROSHIMA, Oct 8: Following is the sixth day medals tally at the 12th Asian Games here on Saturday (tabulated under gold, silver, bronze and total):

	G	S	B	T
China	62	41	13	116
South Korea	24	12	15	51
Japan	22	23	43	88
Kazakhstan	4	7	10	21
Taiwan	2	5	8	15
Syria	2	3	0	5
Iran	1	4	2	7
Vietnam	1	2	0	3
Malaysia	1	1	6	8
Kuwait	1	1	4	6
India	1	1	3	5
Saudi Arabia	1	1	3	5
Turkmenistan	1	0	0	1
Indonesia	0	9	3	12
Thailand	0	5	3	8
Uzbekistan	0	1	6	7
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	2	3
Philippines	0	1	2	2
Hong Kong	0	1	1	2
Jordan	0	1	0	1
UAE	0	0	3	3
Brunei	0	0	2	2
Nepal	0	0	2	2
Singapore	0	0	2	2
Burma	0	0	1	1
Macao	0	0	1	1
Tajikistan	0	0	1	1

Japanese cagers swamp Saudis

HIROSHIMA, Oct 8: Hot three-point shooting helped hosts Japan beat Saudi Arabia today and advance to the play off round of the Asian Games basketball tournament, reports Reuter.

Japan were four for eight from three-point range as they won 85-63.

It was Japan's second straight victory and they now play China on Sunday to see who finish first in Group A.

Saudi Arabia were eliminated with one win and two losses while Taiwan have lost three of their games.

Japan had four players in double figures with Masaki Goto the top scorer with 21.

Iran edged Kazakhstan 69-68 in a Group B game, which only confused the playoff picture.

The Philippines and South Korea lead the group with two wins from two games, Iran and Kazakhstan are 1-2 and the United Arab Emirates 0-2.

South Korea and Kazakhstan play on Sunday, and on Monday Iran and the UAE play and the Philippines meet South Korea.

Korean shuttlers dump Chinese

HIROSHIMA, Oct 8: South Korea scored a 5-0 victory over China in the Asian Games Women's badminton semifinals Saturday—ending a 20-year run of success, for the Chinese, reports AP.

China had won the women's badminton team title at every games since 1974.

In the other semifinal, Indonesia scored a tense 3-2 victory over Japan.

The men's final also will be between South Korea and Indonesia after Indonesia blanked China 6-0 and the Koreans edged by Malaysia 3-2.

Chung So-young and Gil Young-ah sealed the South Koreans' place in the women's final when they won 15-9, 15-7 against Chen Ying and Wu Yuhong in the doubles.

Yuliani Sentoso, 22, kept her nerve to defeat Takako Ida 11-3, 11-4 in the fifth and deciding match to take the Indonesians into the gold medal round.

Susi Susanti, Indonesia's reigning Olympic and All-England champion, opened with a 11-3, 11-2 win in just 17 minutes over an out-matched Aiko Miyamura.



Hong Kong's Tan-Lui Chan serves the ball to world champion Deng Yaping of China in the finals of the team table tennis match at the 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima yesterday. Chan defeated Deng in a surprise upset. — AFP photo

Pak rookie rocks the ring

HIROSHIMA, Oct 8: Pakistani rookie Ali Mohammad Kambrani scored an upset quarterfinal victory over former World Championship silver medalist Khimatulla Akhmedov on Saturday in the flyweight boxing competition at the Asian Games, reports AP.

The 20-year-old Karachi student, competing in his first major international tournament, outpointed his Uzbekistan rival 15-9 to assure himself of at least a bronze medal.

The lanky Kambrani used his height and reach advantages to pile up points against Akhmedov, the runner-up at the 1993 World Championships.

He clinched the win by sending southpaw Akhmedov to the canvas in the third round with a crisp combination.

Kambrani earned a semifinal meeting with tough Filipino Elias Recaido, who stopped Bishnu Singh of Nepal in the second round.

Recaido, a dual Southeast Asian Games gold medalist from Bacolod City, scored his second straight stoppage win after stunning Singh with a sweet right hook.

Vichai Khadpo of Thailand will face the tidy Kenji Nakazono of Japan in the other semi after outclassing San Hla Lay of Burma 9-1. Nakazono got a hotly disputed 16-11 victory over an all-action Korean Shin Dong-kil.

Anthony Iguisquiza, an 18-year-old Filipino stylist from Manila, was most impressive in outpointing Bektas Aboubakirov of Kazakhstan 12-5 at bantamweight.

Iguisquiza, who has been boxing seriously for only a year, decked former Soviet Cup

champion Aboubakirov with a left hook in the first minute and then dominated with his slick boxing skills, despite getting caught a times late in the bout.

He now faces Yeom Jong-Kil of South Korea, who beat brave but out-gunned Umesh Katuwal of Nepal 15-0.

India's Gurmeet Singh will face Pakistani veteran Khaliq Abdul in the other bantamweight semi. Singh, from the Punjab, outpointed Tseyen-Oldov Davaatseren of Mongolia 11-4, while 32-year-old Abdul was a 20-3 winner over Nilantha Wallsundera of Sri Lanka.

Anoushirvan Nourian of Iran looked powerful but ran out of fitness late in his 10-2 welterweight quarterfinal against Nurgazy Arziev of Kyrgyzstan and will now fight Arkom Chenglat, a Thai soldier who was a 12-8 victory over Lee Hoon of South Korea.

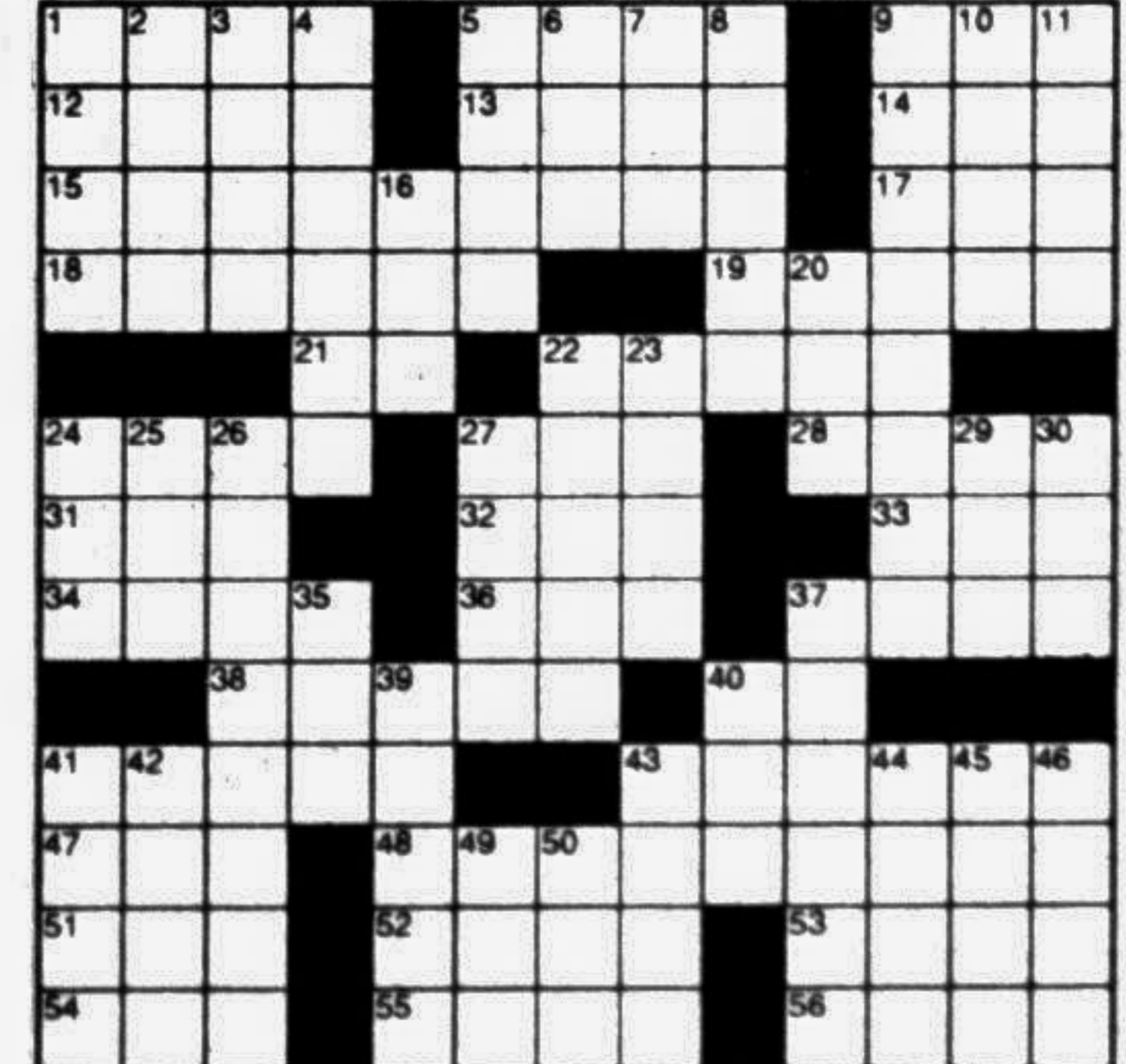


Chinese Taipei's Jung-san Chang (L) jump-kicks Indonesia's Lugi Riyandi during the men's finweight final at the 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima yesterday. Chang won the gold. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Charlie Brown's expletive
 - 5 Mottled
 - 9 Animation frame
 - 12 Particular
 - 13 Between jobs
 - 14 Future aces
 - 15 Starting to detach
 - 17 B'way show, "Les —"
 - 18 Bait for Atlanta
 - 19 George's love in "Our Town"
 - 21 Hero of a Spielberg movie
 - 22 Actress Valentine
 - 24 Long-popular TV heroine
 - 27 In the env.
 - 28 On in years
 - 31 Equi-
 - 32 Lip
 - 33 Greek cross
 - 34 Not fully dry
 - 36 Simple sugar
- DOWN**
- 1 Costa —
 - 2 On
 - 3 Part-timer in the office
 - 4 John le Carré hero
 - 5 Gluttons
 - 6 "— not choose to run"
 - 7 Subordinate Claus
 - 8 Put off
 - 9 Regaining consciousness
 - 10 Malefic
 - 11 Indolent
 - 16 Trapezist's insurance
 - 20 "Beulah, peel — grape"
 - 22 Potato turnover
 - 23 Summit
 - 24 Cap
 - 25 Springsteen's birthplace
 - 26 Entering
 - 27 Piccadilly statue
 - 29 Corn serving
 - 30 Payable
 - 35 Not an amateur
 - 37 Trattoria directive
 - 39 Bring upon oneself
 - 40 Enjoyment
 - 41 Incurable disease?
 - 42 Neighborhood
 - 43 Harry Lillis Crosby
 - 44 Bell-like disk
 - 45 Waikiki wingding
 - 46 Lab vessel
 - 49 — Locka, Fla.
 - 50 French possessive

Solution time: 22 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

D V E J N F D F S Y V C E F
W P J E F K V C , C V M X C Z Q Y M
K Q J J Q Y M J X Y Z S Q W N :
W X E M F E H F P C E F Y M P V ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SAID A WISTFUL KING
KONG OF FAY WRAY: "SHE SURE MADE A MONKEY
OUT OF ME."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: W equals C

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.