

African Nations Cup

Senegal move closer

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 9: Senegal regained pole position in the race for the final place at the 2000 African Nations Cup with a 2-0 win over Zimbabwe in Dakar at the weekend, reports AFP.

Moussa Ndiaye put the Lions ahead after 15 minutes in the West African city and Ousmane Diop converted a 90th-minute penalty kick to seal a significant success.

Senegal and Zimbabwe have six points each after three matches and the Lions top the standings thanks to a plus-five goal difference while Zimbabwe have scored and conceded three.

Eritrea, the other team in a mini-league necessitated by the transfer of the finals from ill-equipped Zimbabwe to Ghana and Nigeria, visit Harare on August 15 and host Senegal six days later.

The winners will join holders Egypt, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, Togo and Zambia at the biennial event.

Senegal, beaten at home only once in 32 Nations Cup qualifiers since 1987, dominated opponents lacking star striker Peter Ndlovu and could even afford the luxury of missing a penalty.

Ndiaye broke the deadlock when a free kick rebounded into his path, but he failed to convert a 67th-minute spot kick after Omar Traore had been crudely tackled.

Diop succeeded where Ndiaye failed in the last minute, leaving Senegal well placed to reach the African football showpiece after failing to qualify for the 1996 and 1998 tournaments.

ROK workers leave for DPRK

SEOUL, Aug 9: A team of South Korean trade unionists Monday left for North Korea to play in a landmark inter-Korean soccer matches in Pyongyang this week, the Unification Ministry said.

Some 37 workers belonging to the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) left today to participate in the matches, an official of the KCTU, one of the two umbrella union groups in South Korea said.

This game is special in a sense that the workers are taking the initiative in a bid to overcome the partition between the two Koreas.

The soccer match, organised by non-governmental groups, between workers from both sides of the world's last Cold War frontier will be held on August 12 and 13.

The KCTU play a team from North Korea's General Confederation of Trade Unions on Thursday ahead of another game Friday, with each team fielding with a mixture of workers from the two Koreas.

The South Korean players will arrive in Pyongyang on Tuesday via Beijing. They will return through the tri-city village of Panmunjom on the border between the divided countries.

Despite tensions following a naval clash in the Yellow Sea in June and fears the North is planning to test-fire another ballistic missile, civic groups here continue to approach North Korea.

"We agreed with the North Korea last May that the inter-Korean soccer match will be held once a year alternately in Seoul and Pyongyang," the KCTU official said.

South and North Korea have remained technically at war since the 1950-1953 Korean conflict ended with the signing of armistice.

The two Koreas have held sport exchanges but they were stalled in July 1991 when a North Korean judo competitor defected to the South.

Sandeno snatches gold

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug 9: Hours after arriving here on an early morning Kaitlin Sandeno won the 400-meter individual medley in the Phillips 66 National Swimming Championships, reports AP.

Sandeno arrived at 6 am Sunday from Winnipeg, Manitoba, after winning two gold medals at the Pan American Games last week. Hours later, she swam in the preliminaries at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.

Sandeno's time of 4 minutes, 42.92 seconds earned the 16-year-old her second national title.

Jenny Thompson recorded another national championship by winning the 200-meter freestyle in 2:00.19. It was the 22nd career national title for Thompson, 26, who moved into 10th place on the career list. She is the winningest active swimmer in the United States.

Ugur Taner won his second title in as many nights, taking the 200-meter freestyle championship away top-seeded Chad Carvin. Taner swam a 1:49.19 to follow up Saturday's 200 butterfly victory.

Robert Margalis, 17, earned a victory in the men's 400 individual medley with a time of 4:19.70. Coming in second was top-seeded Eric Donnelly (4:20.42), who arrived from Minnesota on the same bus as Sandeno early Sunday morning. Donnelly won the silver medal at the Pan Am Games in the same event at 4:17.86.

About 1,400 swimmers are competing in the five-day meet, which should produce 10 additional qualifiers for the US team at the pan Pacific games Aug 22-28 in Sydney, Australia.

Martina's majestic show



CARLSBAD, California, Aug 9: Martina Hingis celebrated her return to the number one ranking by beating Venus Williams 6-4, 6-0 to win the WTA Tour's TIG Tennis Classic on Sunday, reports AP.

The win took just 61 minutes and earned the number two seed 80,000 dollars. The victory marked an impressive turnaround in her fortunes, after her dramatic capitulation to Steffi Graf in the French Open final and first round exit to qualifier Jelena Dokic at Wimbledon.

"It was one of my best matches ever," said Hingis. Both players came out firing from the baseline, and the four breaks of serve in the opening four games was not an indication of weakness by either player. Instead, it was a measure of their commitment to attack regardless of the consequences.

Although both continued to face break points after the first four games, it was Hingis who made the vital move by breaking to lead 5-4 as Williams netted a backhand. But after the competitiveness of the first set there was no indication that Hingis would be able to dominate the second so completely.

The number two seed dropped only three points on serve as a rising Williams failed to maintain her challenge. Two double-faults in the first game of the second set, with one serve



MARTINA HINGIS

bouncing before reaching the net, led to Hingis breaking to lead 1-0, and Williams was unable to rebound.

While Hingis continued to pound her groundstrokes cross-court or down the line, Williams failed to find the mark. At 4-0 another serve bounced before the net, and it was obvious the number four seed would not find a way back.

"She played well, but I was just too tired," Williams admitted.

was in Italy (for the Fed Cup) and then went straight to Stanford (where she also reached the final) and then here."

Hingis drew great satisfac-

tion from seeing the month of work she put in before the tournament pay dividends.

"I was able to stay in the long rallies and it seemed like it was back and forth, never ending, cross-court and down the line," said Hingis. "It was like practise almost. That's what I was doing at Saddlebrook, and the hard work really paid off. I was in great shape today."

"I just kept her running most of the time, right left, right left, and she was more tired than I was. She was playing doubles and it was her third week, and in the end I was more fresh and able to keep doing what I was doing."

In such a tightly contested match, Hingis considered that getting the opening set gave her an important edge.

"Mentally I think it was very important for me to win the first set because it was great tennis, and she had to think she had to be out there for another two sets and that wasn't easy for her, I guess," said Hingis.

Having come through the toughest period of her career, Hingis saw the week as an opportunity to assess where her game was now. The outcome was a relief.

"That was a great match for me today. It was a good test for me to see where I'm at, and I feel right now I'm pretty good. Beating Venus four and love, and especially in the second set not letting down and being focused. I used to have ups and downs in the match, but not today," she said.

More foreigners For Wimbledon

LONDON, Aug 9: English Premiership club Wimbledon on Monday completed the signings of Norwegian defender Trond Andersen and Israeli midfielder Waleed Badir, reports AFP.

Under-21 international Andersen joined the Dons for 2.5 million pounds (3.8 million dollars) from Molde.

Badir, who agreed terms with Wimbledon's Norwegian manager Egil Olsen last month, has got his international clearance and completed his 1 million pound switch from Hapoel Petah Tikva.

Both players could make their debuts in Tuesday's Premiership clash with Middlesbrough.

Sanchez-Lorenzo lifts Sanex Trophy

KNOXKE, Belgium, Aug 9: Spain's Maria Antonia Sanchez-Lorenzo won her first WTA final Monday, coming from a set down to defeat Denisa Chladkova of the Czech Republic in the rain-interrupted final of the Sanex Trophy, reports AP.

The Barcelona-based No 4 seed lost the first set on a tiebreak Sunday before rain halted play. It was the first set Sanchez-Lorenzo had lost in the whole tournament, but she bounced back in style under the Monday morning clouds, overpowering the unseeded Czech 6-4, 6-2 to claim the \$16,000 first prize.

Both players were making their debuts in a WTA final. Sanchez-Lorenzo, the world's 49, had looked upset by the freak conditions Sunday, when showers twice forced long interruptions before halting play. The 21-year-old Spaniard handed the 77th-ranked Chladkova the first set on a series of unforced errors.

With the rain holding off Monday, Sanchez-Lorenzo recovered her confidence and used her strong forehand to advance on the slow clay of the Royal Zoute club, giving no chance to Chladkova.

The 20-year-old Czech can take some consolation from her play earlier in the tournament when she upset second seed Silvia Llagostera of Croatia and third seeded Slovak Karina Habšudova on her way to the final.

Victory in the \$16,000 tournament continues a good year for Sanchez-Lorenzo who recorded one of the biggest upsets at the 1999 Australian Open when she downed Jana Novotna 6-3, 6-0 to reach the fourth round.

Between 850 and 1,000 urine samples were taken at the games, and the percentage of positives was minimal.

"I would love it to be zero per cent," Vazquez Rana said, "but that is almost impossible."

Vazquez Rana also had high praise for what he called "extraordinary organization."

"I can tell you very proudly these are the best Games ever," he said. "They are better than

SYDNEY, Aug 9: Aboriginal leaders warned today they were planning to use the 2000 Olympics to shame the government about the plight of Australia's indigenous people, reports AP.

Senator Aden Ridgeway, only the second Aboriginal ever to become a member of Australia's upper house, said after he was sworn in today that a special Games kiosk would be set up in Sydney to illustrate the problems facing Aborigines.

The kiosk would target the thousands of foreign journalists and dignitaries expected in Australia during the 2000 Olympics, he said. But he denied the move would spark protests or boycotts.

The idea of an indigenous kiosk at the Olympic Games is clearly there just to facilitate a positive and constructive way of being able to promote indigenous issues of concern," he said.

It would be "an opportunity for international press to be able to inquire into some of the poorer circumstances that exist on indigenous communities."

Aboriginal leaders said they would also organise guided tours of remote indigenous communities to show visiting journalists the poor state of housing and general welfare.

Ridgeway said he had already agreed to act as an intermediary for a number of major US television networks who wanted to explore Aboriginal issues as part of their Olympic coverage.

Another Aboriginal leader Murrando Yoner said he had already been approached by a number of African delegates who wanted to see Aboriginal living conditions first-hand.

Yoner said this strategy was preferable to a boycott which would penalise champion Aboriginal athletes, such as sprinter Cathy Freeman, who is expected to be one of the major drawcards at the Sydney games in September 2000.

"People don't want to protest and block the roads because we'd like to see Cathy in particular get a good run," he said. "I wasn't always of that view, but I strongly believe that she deserves a shot."

Olympic Games organisers have made a concerted effort to include aspects of Aboriginal culture in the presentation of the 2000 Olympics and are planning to fly the Aboriginal flag at a number of venues — but not in the main stadium.

However, there has been widespread concern that disgruntled members of the Aboriginal community could stage boycotts or more violent protests during the games in a bid for international media coverage.

The idea of an Aboriginal kiosk has been welcomed by opposition leader Kim Beazley who said it would be a shame if the Olympics left victim of the Australian government's poor record on reconciliation with indigenous people.



Mayor of Santo Domingo, Juan de Dios Ventura (L), can't control his joy during the closing ceremony of the Pan American Games on August 8. — AFP photo

Americans finish atop Goodbye to Winnipeg

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Aug 9: No more defections. But a lot more doping.

The 13th Pan American Games said goodbye to Winnipeg on Sunday, leaving under a cloud despite taking with them the title of "best Games ever."

Four more positive tests — all for the anabolic steroid Nandrolone — were announced, the most notable being a pair of Cuban weightlifters who were stripped of their gold medals.

William Vargas, who won the 62-kilo weightlifting title on Tuesday, and Rolando Delgado, who won the 69-kilo crown on Wednesday, were stripped of their crowns, while Mexican baseball players Roberto Vizcarra and Hector Alvarez also failed their tests, officials announced.

If no more follow over the next couple of days, the Pan Ams finished with seven positive tests — five of which cost individuals or teams their gold medals, the most notable being high jump world champion and world record holder Javier Sotomayor of Cuba.

Despite the seven positive tests, Pan American Sports Organization president Mario Vazquez Rana of Mexico called this year's Pan Ams competition "very clean Games."

Between 850 and 1,000 urine samples were taken at the games, and the percentage of positives was minimal.

"I would love it to be zero per cent," Vazquez Rana said, "but that is almost impossible."

Vazquez Rana also had high praise for what he called "extraordinary organization."

"I can tell you very proudly these are the best Games ever," he said. "They are better than

the ones I organized in Mexico (1975). The pride goes to the organizing committee."

Vazquez Rana lauded the facilities and the volunteers at the Games, which have been criticized by some drawing small crowds for events not involving Canadian teams and for attracting second-class fields for many sports.

With a performance by Winnipeg's most famous rock export, the 1960s band The Guess Who, the Games officially ended Sunday night with a closing ceremony featuring splashes of culture from across the Americas.

As highlights of the competition played on the large television screen at the far end of the stadium, about 2,500 athletes and coaches swept into Winnipeg's stadium en masse, an unruly gaggle who danced and swayed and gyrated to the beat.

Two athletes carried hand-lettered signs: "Thank You Winnipeg."

Despite bringing mostly secondary or developmental athletes and squads, the United States finished atop the gold medal table for the 11th time in the 13 editions of the Games.

Four more on Sunday gave it 106, its — and therefore the Games' — lowest winning total since the Americans claimed 105 in Cali, Colombia, in 1971.

But there were 99 fewer medal events this year than in 1995 in Mar del Plata, Argentina. And that number could shrink further four years from now in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Regardless, the host Canadians set an all time high for golds with 64, easily beating their previous best of 47 set four

years ago.

Despite three positive doping tests and nine members of its delegation abandoning the gold chase (69) for the sixth time — all of them coming since 1971.

The last defection from the Cuban team, Juan Leopoldo Vazquez, was in Toronto on Sunday, where he plans to seek political asylum.

Ninoska Perez of the Miami-based Cuban American National Foundation, said Vazquez was to remain in the Canadian city with a former teammate and fellow defector while he resolves his immigration status.

Vazquez defected Saturday night while attending a women's basketball game between Cuba and Brazil in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Brazil and Argentina finished tied for fourth with 25 golds each, but Brazil finished ahead with more medals of all colors, 101-72.

Brazil's final-day charge with victories in the gold medal games of men's basketball, women's handball and team rhythmic gymnastics enabled it to catch and pass the Argentines for fourth spot.

Brazil beat the United States 95-87 for the basketball crown and its women toppled Canada 31-27 for the handball title.

FINAL MEDALS TABLE

Final medals table at the Pan American Games after Sunday's events.

Country	G	S	B	T
United States	106	110	80	296
Cuba	69	40	47	156
Canada	64	52	80	196
Brazil	25	32	44	101
Argentina	25	19	28	72
Mexico	11	16	30	57
Colombia	7	17	18	42
Venezuela	7	16	17	40
Jamaica	3	4	6	13
Guatemala	2	1	1	4
Bahamas	2	0	1	3
Puerto Rico	1	3	9	13
Chile	1	3	7	11
Dominican Rep	1	3	5	9
Ecuador	1	2	5	8
Bermuda	1	2	0	3
Suriname	1	0	1	2
Netherlands	1	0	0	1
Antilles	1	0	0	1
Peru	0	2	6	8
Uruguay	0	1	3	4
Barbados	0	1	1	2
Panama	0	1	1	2
Cayman Islands	0	1	0	1
Honduras	0	1	0	1
Trinidad	0	0	1	1
Costa Rica	0	0	1	1
El Salvador	0	0	1	1

Summer badminton from Aug 20

The summer badminton tournament, organised by Bangladesh Badminton Federation, will begin on August 20 at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium, reports UNB.

Four events — men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles — will be held in the competition.

Interested participants have been requested to collect their entry and registration forms between August 15 to August 18 from the federation office.

Johansson wins du Maurier



MONTREAL, Aug 9: Thomas Johansson overcame a groin injury to win the du Maurier Open men's tennis championship with a 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 upset of third-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia, reports AP.

The Swede, the 11th seed, became the first player in eight years to win the du Maurier in his first appearance at the event, also known as the Canadian Open. Andrei Chesnokov of Russia did it in 1991.

"It's been a great week," said Johansson, 24, who outbattled the world's fourth-ranked player to earn \$61,000 dollars Sunday. "It's a great start to my (North American) tour."

"To win a Super-Nine event is an incredible feeling."

The Swede earned his third career ATP Tour victory and first this year.

Johansson took two timeouts during the match — one while he was down 0-3 in the first set and another in the third set. A tournament spokesman said Johansson strained his right groin during the match.

But Kafelnikov wasn't convinced that Johansson was hurt.

"He wasn't injured," Kafelnikov said.

nikov said. "If you pull your hamstring, you can't run like he did. He wasn't hurt at all. The players all understand these tricks. It's all part of the game."

Kafelnikov said his own mistakes cost him the match, and Johansson felt his opponent's strategy contributed to his win.

"They taped me up really well and after that I could run more than ever," Johansson said. "I think he saw I was injured and tried to make me run. Instead of going for winners, he played safe shots to make me run."

The hardcourt match on a cool and breezy afternoon started 1 hour, 25 minutes late due to rain, and the sold-out, 10,400-seat du Maurier stadium had many empty seats as Kafelnikov dominated the opening set.

Kafelnikov lost only four points on his serve in the first set and rallied from 0-40 to break the 24-year-old Swede in the second game.

Johansson, who beat Kafelnikov at the US Open last year, fought back in a second set that featured five service breaks, including four games in a row.

Johansson broke Kafelnikov en route to a 3-0 lead. But then missed two easy drop vol-

leys at the net to lose service as Kafelnikov closed to 4-3. But Kafelnikov bounced his racquet on the court and kicked it after losing his serve right back, making it 5-3.

Johansson finally won the set on his third set point.

The third set saw three service breaks in a row before Johansson, who showed no signs of injury, broke serve for a third time in the set to claim the biggest win of his career.

Kafelnikov, the Australian Open champion, and Johansson have split their eight career meetings, but Johansson has won the last three.

Kafelnikov, the 1996 French Open champion, ranked fourth in the world, was coming off a masterful two-set victory over second-seeded Andre Agassi in the semifinals, while Johansson was a surprise finalist.

The Swede, ranked 22nd but due to move into the world's top 20 by reaching the final, did not play a seeded player until beating Nicolas Kiefer in the semifinals.

Patrick Rafter of Australia and Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden won the doubles final, downing Byron Black of Zimbabwe and Wayne Ferreira of South Africa in straight sets. The winners shared 1,52,800 dollars.

The Chinese take 'em all



EINDHOVEN, Netherlands, Aug 9: The all-conquering Chinese team left the 45th World Table Tennis championships here with all five gold and silver medals in the bag and warned the rest of the world that the best was yet to come, reports AP.

China, who also took four bronze medals, came to Holland determined to win back the men's singles title that has spent most of the 1990s in Europe — they already dominated the women's game — and they were not disappointed.

But even they were surprised by the extent of their supremacy in these games in which not a single non-Chinese player managed to reach a final in any category.

It is the third time China have swept the board — the other occasions were in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia in 1981, and on home soil in 1995.

New men's champion Liu Guoliang was diplomatic after European sensitivities after a Championship in which they were simply outclassed.

He said: "I would say that between Europe and Asia it is very much 50-50. I think the confrontation between Europe and Asia will continue for some time."

But, even though victory against compatriot Ma Lin gave Liu the one title to elude him in his glittering career, the new champion indicated that the collective hunger for success was greater than ever.

When asked if he was eager to defend his Olympic crown at Sydney next year, Liu retorted: "The most important title for China is the world team title."

"This (the World Team Championships in Malaysia next February) is more important than the Sydney games because it is closer."

In fact these were indeed the individual World Championships but you would never have guessed it, judging by the way the Chinese delegation bonded as a team.

Liu said: "In our training camp we have 20 or 30 very good players together."

In Europe most of the good players are with different clubs so it is difficult for them to come together.

"But our training camp is a big advantage."

And the new Millennium promises an even brighter future for the Chinese if Wang Nan, their new women's singles champion is to be believed.

lowing the retirement of Deng Yaping, a living legend in her native country.

But, at 20, the pugnacious left-hander revealed she was worried that she might not reign for too long.

Wang said: "We (herself and Li) could be regarded as older players. This time I think Li Nan, Zhang Yining and Zhang Yinying played great games."

Li was unheard of before this tournament and like Zhang Yinying is only 16.

Wang again displayed the team ethic when asked if she was disappointed to miss a third gold in the mixed doubles.

She said: "I can't be too greedy. I was not too regretful because I lost to a Chinese couple."

To be fair China were already dominant in the women's game with the main opposition coming from Chinese-born players based in Europe.

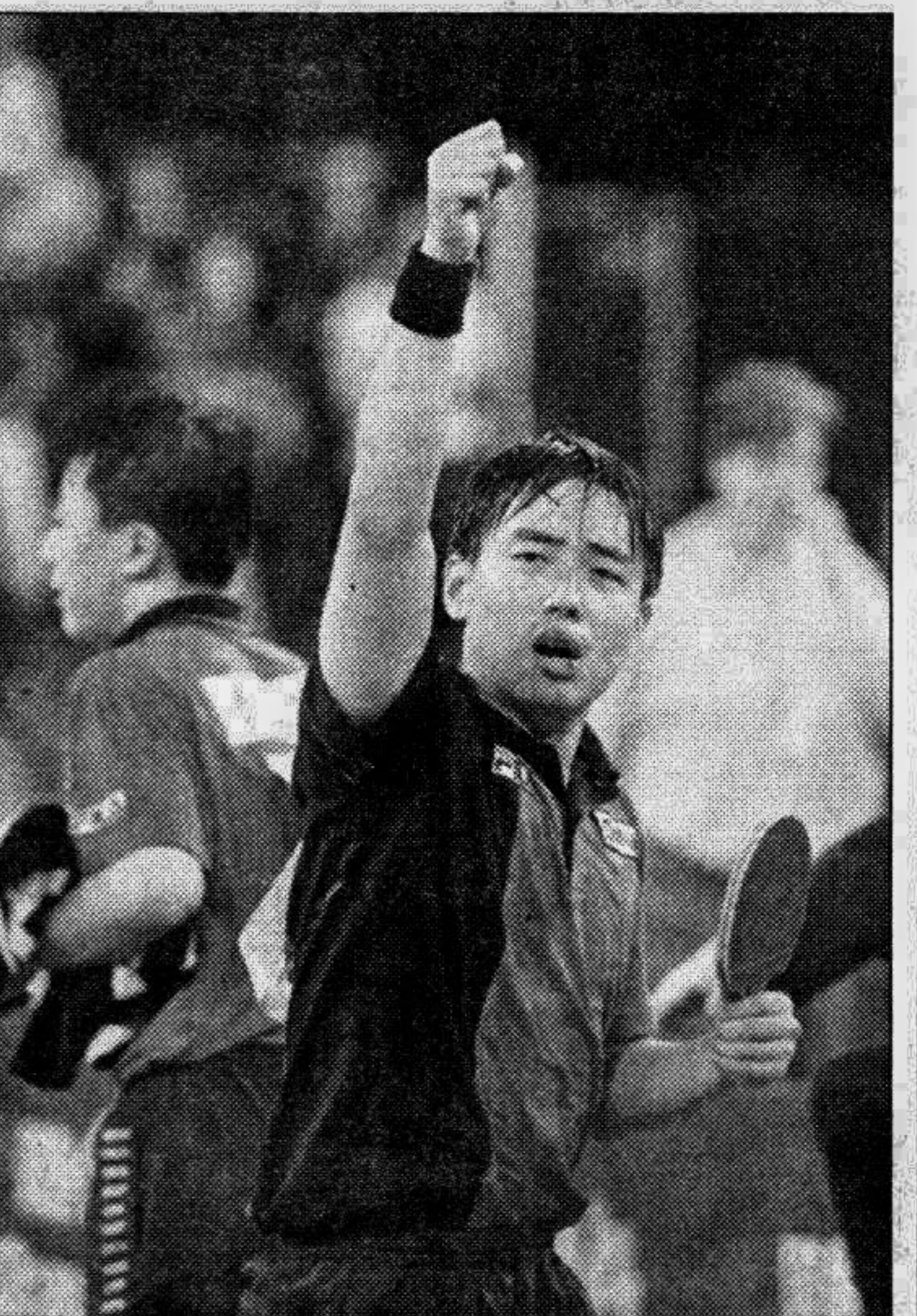
But now the balance of power looks to have shifted definitively from Europe to the world's most populous country in the men's game too.

The team event will be played in Kuala Lumpur in February but — on this evidence — the International Table Tennis Federation could put all other 182 member countries into one Rest of the World side and China would still be in a league of their own.

In Sunday's other final Wang Nan and Li Ju defeated Yang Yim and Sun Jin.

Li and Kong Linghui, the Olympic champions, were crowned men's doubles kings on Saturday while Ma and Zhang Yinying lifted the mixed doubles Friday.

Victory in the men's singles has been something of an obsession for China during the 1990s with four of the five previous titles going to European men.



China's Liu Guoliang celebrates after defeating compatriot Ma Lin in the men's final at the World Table Tennis Championships on August 8. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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