

Sino dominance on Day 3

AFP, Colombo

China's Liu Xiang impressed by coasting to a comfortable win in the men's 110 metres hurdles as his country bagged four golds on the third day of the Asian athletic championships.

The 19-year-old from Shanghai did not set any record but the ease with which he won at the Sugathadasa Stadium here on Sunday showed his potential.

Xiang, who set a continental record in a Grand Prix 'B' level meet at Lausanne (Switzerland) last month, led from the start and was clear of the field by 95 metres.

Xiang eased up towards the end to finish with a timing of 13.56 seconds, which was way off his Asian record of 13.12 seconds and even outside the meet mark of 13.49.

China's other three golds came in the women's section. Wu Lingmei winning the triple jump at 13.83 metres after the country had clinched both gold and silver in the 20 km walk as well as the javelin throw.

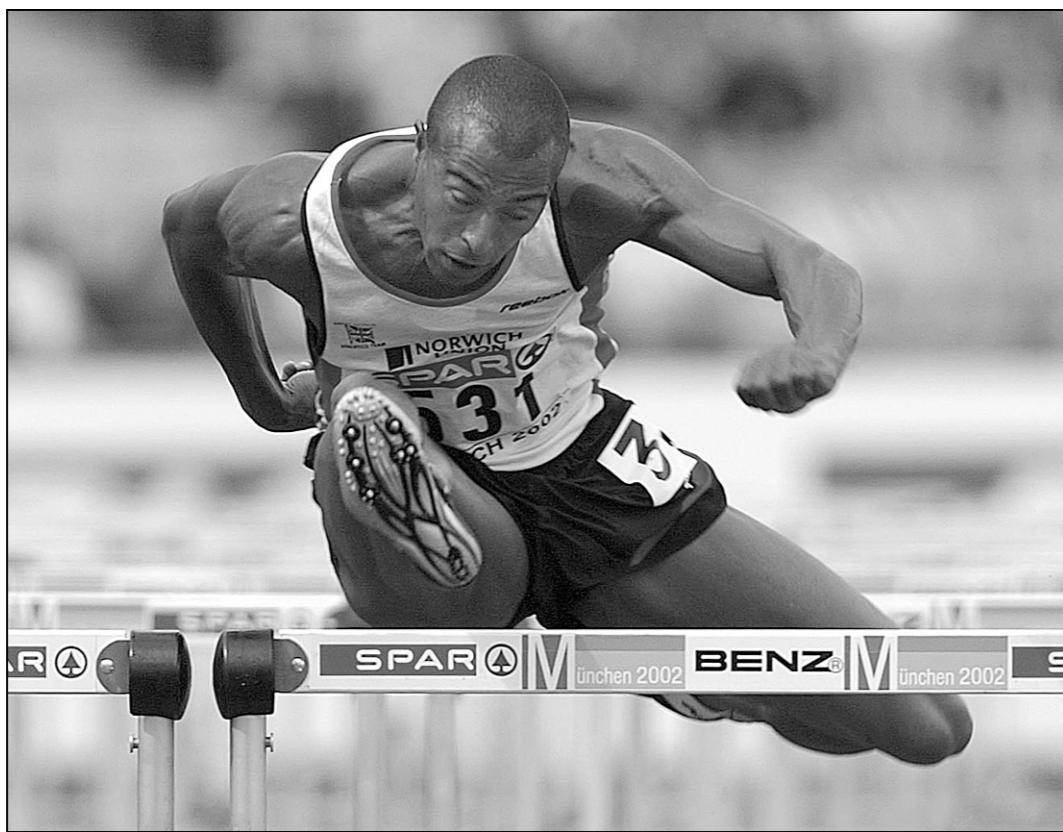


PHOTO: AFP

Britain world record holder Colin Jackson in action during the 110m hurdles final at the European Athletics Championships in Munich on August 10.

Colin creates history

Athletics

REUTERS, Munich

Four-times European champion Colin Jackson has described his place in the history books as "amazing" after winning gold again in the 110 metres hurdles.

The 35-year-old Welshman, who plans to retire next year, sprinted into the record books on Saturday by becoming the first athlete to win four consecutive European titles for the same track event.

"I'm really pleased. When you sit back and think that through the whole span of your career to have four European titles to your name is an amazing achievement," said Jackson after an emotional podium ceremony in the Olympic Stadium.

The double world champion and world record holder has said he will hang up his spikes after the world indoor championships next March in Birmingham, England.

Asked if he would reconsider retiring after clocking the fastest time by a European hurdler this season - 13.11 seconds - Jackson gave an unequivocal "No".

"I won't prepare for another outdoor season," he said. "It's been important for me to be the dominant force in Europe. But

now it's time to hand over to the younger guys and let them take on the Americans," he added.

Those younger hurdlers include European silver medalist Stanislavs Olijars from Latvia, who clocked 13.22 seconds, and Poland's Artur Kohutek who took the bronze in 13.32.

"It's sad that I won't compete in another European championships. But I've still got the World Cup to perform well in for Britain in Madrid. "Then it will be a special occasion for me in Birmingham. I've really got that focus now. I've got this one out of the way so I can now concentrate on my last championships."

Jackson's success in Munich more than made up for his Commonwealth Games disappointment when he was denied gold by South Africa's Shaun Bownes, although he did become the British athlete with the most medals from major championships.

The world record holder, whose time of 12.91 to secure his first world title in Stuttgart has stood since 1993, said he had quickly got over that race in Manchester.

"What happened in Manchester was like just a freaky accident and I paid the penalty for that," he said.

"But I didn't feel any pressure whatsoever here. I was very cool the whole time. When you know you're

in good form it's not a worry."

Israeli pole vaulter Alex Averbukh won a title heavy with significance when he vaulted 5.85 metres for victory.

Averbukh, a 27-year-old Russian emigre, also gave Israel its first ever gold at the European Championships.

Germany's Lars Bergerling and Tim Lobinger won the silver and bronze medals, both clearing 5.80m.

On the penultimate day of the championships, triple jumper Ashia Hansen won Britain's fifth gold medal after producing a last-gasp jump of 15.00 metres.

She had been led by Heli Koivula of Finland who jumped 14.83m in the first round but Hansen's jump, the longest in the world this year, gave her another gold to add to the Commonwealth title.

Nineteen-year-old Swede Carolina Kluff ushered in a new generation in the heptathlon by adding the European title to the world junior crown she won recently.

After six gruelling events, the photogenic Kluff ran a storming 800 metres to beat Sabine Braun of Germany's score by 108 points.

Kluff, also helped by a superb high jump of 1.89 metres and a 23.71sec 200m, scored 6,542 points to Braun's 6,434. Natalya Sazanovich of Belarus was third with 6,341 points.

Olympic champion Denise Lewis of Britain will have a fight on her hands for the world title next year in Paris if she decides to return to competition after the birth of her first child this year.

Antonio Jimenez of Spain won the 3,000 metres steeplechase after pipping Dutchman Simon Vroemen on the line in an exciting race.

Hewitt on course

AFP, Cincinnati

World number one Lleyton Hewitt used 20 aces to win a bruising battle with Chilean challenger Fernando Gonzalez, advancing to the ATP Masters Series final here Saturday with a 6-7, 7-5, 6-2 victory.

Hewitt, winner of the last 10 finals he has played, was severely tested as Gonzalez unleashed the blockbuster ground game that had already sent packing Briton Tim Henman, past Wimbledon winner Richard Krajicek and American Andy Roddick.

Reigning Wimbledon and US Open champion Hewitt will play Sunday for the title against Spain's Carlos Moya, who rode his own fearsome forehand to a his first victory in three years against fellow Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-3, 6-4.

Davenport, Rubin thru'

AFP, Los Angeles

Chanda Rubin registered her second-straight upset at the \$85,000 dollar WTA Los Angeles Open, crushing Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia 6-0, 6-2 to reach Sunday's final.

The match lasted just 42 minutes, making it the worst defeat of the year for No.4 seed Dokic who is ranked fifth in the world.

Rubin said Dokic simply "packed it in" early in the second set as spectators at the Manhattan Beach Country Club expressed their displeasure by booing her. Dokic said afterwards she had the flu.

"I was surprised when she went into semi-tank mode," said Rubin, who was ecstatic to be playing in her first final in two years.

"She packed it in early in the second set. I am not sure the reason other than getting beat and not wanting to accept the challenge.

Dokic, 19, also complained earlier in the week of having the flu. But it didn't prevent her from playing a doubles match on Saturday immediately following the singles' loss.

Rubin will meet fellow American Lindsay Davenport in Sunday's final. It will be a rematch of an early round match last week in San Diego that was won by Davenport 6-2, 2-6, 6-1.

Davenport advanced to the Los Angeles final with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Ai Sugiyama of Japan on Saturday.

Dokic committed 40 unforced errors and failed to hold serve six times. Rubin committed just 21 errors and had seven aces to Dokic's none.

It was the second straight upset for Rubin who beat world No. 1 Serena Williams 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 on Friday.

Jansher plans a comeback

AFP, Karachi

Former world champion Jansher Khan of Pakistan has announced the end of his retirement from international squash, saying he is fit enough to regain his old form.

"I have been training for the last three months and am now feeling fit enough to stage a comeback in international squash and regain my old form," Khan, 33, told AFP late Saturday.

Khan won eight world titles and six British open crowns during an illustrious career between 1987 and 1999. He announced his retirement on his 32nd birthday in June 2001 at Lahore.

"After playing three, four minor level tournaments in Pakistan I will play the qualifying round of a major event, hopefully in the next year," he said.

The search continues

Football

REUTERS, London

The tight-knit community of Soham in Cambridgeshire joined together today to say prayers in the local church for the safe return of 10-year-olds Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells who went missing exactly one week ago.

As shocked residents of the small town attended the church service on Sunday extra police were being drafted in to widen the search area.

Officers are hoping to have triggered memories after Saturday's reconstruction of the girls' last known movements.

Best friends Jessica and Holly were both wearing England and Manchester United superstar David Beckham's replica shirts when they disappeared last Sunday near a Cambridgeshire sports centre, but a massive police hunt backed by hundreds of local volunteers has yet to yield any hard clues.

A newspaper publisher has offered an unprecedented one million-pound reward for information. Football star too has appealed for their return.

A man in his mid 30s, who was arrested on Friday because he failed to co-operate with police making inquiries into the missing girls, was released at 4.00 a.m. on Sunday. Police said another man - in his late 40s - who was also detained for failing to co-operate, remains in custody. Prior to the release, police had been playing down the arrests.

Jessica and Holly spent a half hour on the Internet shortly before

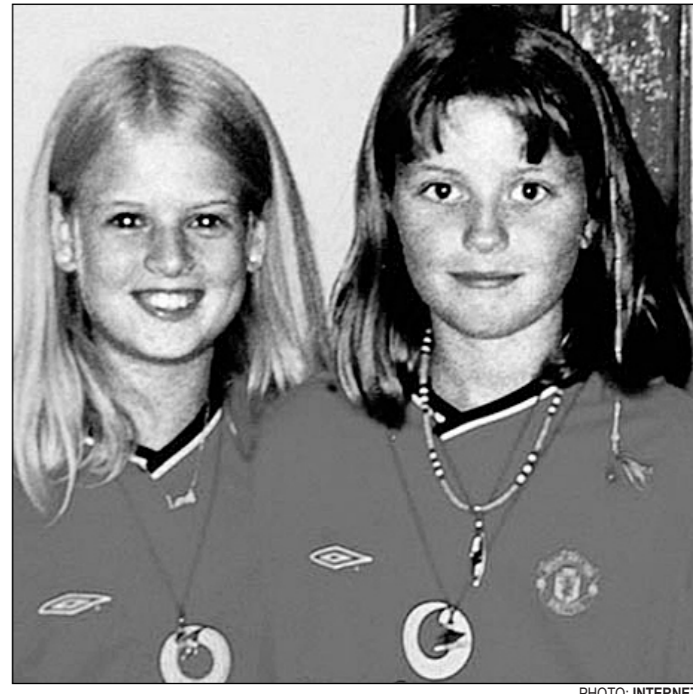


PHOTO: INTERNET

Jessica Chapman (L) and Holly Wells

they vanished, but police have quashed speculation that they were using chatrooms before they disappeared.

During Saturday's reconstruction, two child actors meandered through the centre of the Cambridgeshire town of Soham, where the missing girls were last seen nearly a week ago.

Police have already released grainy CCTV footage of Jessica and Holly, who were captured on film near a sports centre wearing the red football shirts not long before they vanished.

Police said at least 250 officers, special waterway search teams and

hundreds of local volunteers were taking part in the hunt. Surveillance aircraft have also been used.

Express newspapers have offered one million pounds for information. There was an earlier offer of 150,000 pounds from the Sun and the News of the World, part of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp empire.

The parents of another missing schoolgirl - Amanda Dowler, known as "Milly", who vanished more than four months ago - have sent a letter of sympathy to the families of Jessica and Holly.

Waqar banks

FROM PAGE 13

one-day tournament involving Sri Lanka and South Africa.

"The only option we've got is a neutral venue. It's very sad that we can't play any cricket in Pakistan at the moment, very sad."

"I'm very upset about it and the (Pakistan) board is probably very unhappy about it," said Waqar.

"The tour management isn't very pleased with the whole story but that's just the way it is.

"It's not very good back home so I don't think anybody can blame the Australians for not coming. We can just hope that the situation improves and we'll be able to play some cricket there."

Waqar speculated that Sri Lanka, Bangladesh or Sharjah might be used as neutral venues for the series but that it was up to the PCB to secure the best deal.

"As far as we are concerned, we would like to play as close to home as possible," he said.

"But we could even play in Kenya - there are a number of options open to us. We would like to play in front of a crowd, obviously."

Pakistan coach Mudassar Nazar also said his team are prepared to play on neutral soil.

"We want to play this series against such quality opposition, even if it has to be at a neutral venue," said Nazar.

"We do not want to miss out on this series. It is disappointing not being able to play at home, but our players have become accustomed to playing at neutral venues," he added.

Age tricksters

FROM PAGE 13

ing in under-18 sports. It is hard to identify over aged players as the maximum Bangla-deshi sports individuals look so tiny in stature throughout their career.

Average height of most sports persons ranges from 5' to 5'5". As there is no proper birth record system in this part of the world, it is very difficult to have an idea about the age judging their miniature statures.

In this way all the age group sports activities of Bangladesh are going down the drain with full-grown adults getting nurtured like teenagers. A fake young player can be very successful in domestic circle but becomes a huge letdown at the international level.

Back in 1984, I remember my registration with Rahmatganj Football Club where my birth year was mentioned as 1969 instead of 1964! Although this misdeed was a normal practice, but it still haunts me after all these years.

There is no age-cut way to attain success. We all should raise awareness amongst the sporting mass about the pitfall of age cheating and save our sports from the long-standing curse.

-- M S Hamid (Bobby), Old DOHS, Dhaka, e-mail

Morocco Cup

FROM PAGE 13

however, was readying his men for Monday's Morocco Cup clash against South Africa.

"South Africa may have lost to Australia in April and Sri Lanka played poorly in England, but you can't underestimate these teams ever...especially in one-day cricket," he said.

"It's going to be an exciting tournament between three good sides. You can't afford to blink out there in the middle."

Pakistan will be without pace-man Shoaib Akhtar, who preferred to rest for the Morocco Cup after the 2-1 win over world champions Australia in June.

South Africa, clearly shaken by the home defeats against Australia in both the Test and one-day series, are determined to make a new start at the first ever tournament in this north African city.

"The previous season ended in disappointment, but we have to forget that and look ahead," captain Shaun Pollock said.

"A win here will kick-start our preparations for the World Cup. I am looking forward to playing here against two very competitive sides."

SQUADS

PAKISTAN: Waqar Younis (capt), Inzamamul Haq (vice-captain), Saeed Anwar, Shahid Afridi, Imran Nazir, Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Rashid Latif, Abul Razaq, Azhar Mahmood, Shoaib Malik, Wasim Akram, Mohammad Sami, Saqlain Mushtaq and Misbahul Haq.

SRI LANKA: Sanath Jayasuriya (capt), Marvan Atapattu, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Russel Arnold, Aravinda de Silva, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Upul Chandana, Hasantha Fernando, Chaminda Vaas, Chamila Lakshitha Gamage, Dilhara Fernando, Muttiah Muralitharan, Pulasthi Gunaratne, Charitha Buddhika Fernando.

South Africa: Shaun Pollock (capt), Paul Adams, Nicky Boje, Mark Boucher, Boeta Dippenaar, Allan Donald, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Gary Kirsten, Lance Klusener, Mahkayha Ntini, Justin Ontong, Jonty Rhodes, Graeme Smith, Roger Telemachus.

Umpires: Srinivas Venkataraghavan (Ind), Daryl Harper (Aus), Simon Taufel (Aus).

Cute handball

FROM PAGE 13

Sajal netted four while Shidur, Titumir, Walliur and Shamim three goals each for the winners. Milon scored seven while Sajal and Paltu two each for the losers.

Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club beat Old Ideals 15-13 after leading the first half 7-3.

Koko Wai Marna and Neo Thao netted three goals each for Mariner while Mureshed, Jewel and Tareq netted three goals each for Ideals.

Monday's matches: Bangladesh Police vs Dhaka Wanderers Club and Narinda Progoti Boys Club vs Menjees Kira Chakra

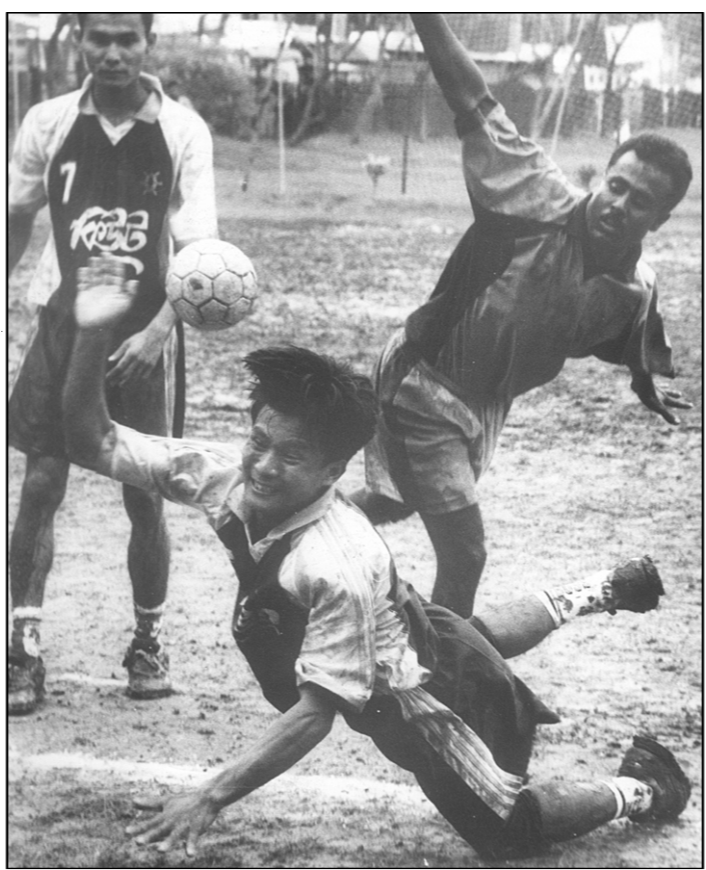


PHOTO: STAR

Action from the Cute Premier Division Handball League fixture between Old Ideals and Mariner Youngs Club at the court adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sternward

4 Permit

7 Rued the

12 Prevent

13 Flamenco

14 Relinquish

15 Rd.

16 Anti-

18 "Mazel"

19 Perfect

20 Actor La

22 Wet

23 Recording

27 FedEx

29 Light

31 Consult,

34 Make

35 Unlike

37 Upper

38 "Children

39 Eventual

41 Admitting

45 Watch

48 Gany-

52 In good

53 Whopper

56 Archie

58 Disen-

61 Admitting

64 Places

65 Ducks

66 Conical

67 MPA's

68 Pac.-10

69 Concealed

70 First lady

71 Aachen

72 Fair share

73 Search

74 Florida

75 "A Chorus

76 Tin Man's

77 Suspect's

78 Designated PG,

79 Scooted

80 Genealogy

81 Stocky

82 Copper-

83 One

84 (Prof.)

85 Glutton

86 Halloween

DOWN

1 Lessen

2 Prefer

3 Roman

4 Ostrich's

5 kin

6 PETA

7 target

8 "David

9 "Aladdin"

10 genie

11 Suspect's

12 defense

13 Prop

14 Scooted

15 Genealogy

16 Stocky

17 Copper-

18 One

19 (Prof.)

20 Glutton

21 Halloween

Solution time: 28 mins.

DOWN

1 UBI

2 HUE

3 BABBLE

4 ERIR

5 DIAWES

6 AUKIA

7 BIAPIT

8 OBOIE

9 DITION

10 ELLIS

11 USH

12 ONICE

13 HIGGINSON

14 WREATHS

15 YIAM

16 TAFHOLE

17 STIPS

18 THINK

19 GEE

20 ALLOHAI

21 TOW

22 HIGHTFIVE

23 ERITE

24 SAJNA

25 EWIE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13			14				
15			16			17				
18			19							
20			21		22		23	24	25	26
			27	28		29	30			
31	32	33				34				
35				36		37				
38				39	40		41	42	43	44
				45						
48	49	50	51			54			57	
53						54			55	
56						57			58	

CRYPTOQUIP

UP XIX QZT Z NUFNKR CIH

ZR Z QKEZM NZMMIMHZBB

U ZRRKEV XIKT VMCI X

AVSSUMA PUFVT

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I CAN'T HELP GOSSIPING YOU COULD SAY I'M GIFTED WITH A WONDERFUL SENSE OF RUMOR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N 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.