

## Wushu family rejoices as Fong Ying bags first gold for Malaysia

Discipline and countless hours of training have paid off handsomely for Asian Games gold medalist Chai Fong Ying, who hails from a family of wushu athletes.

"We are happy and proud of her achievement and this is a gift to all Malaysians," her father Chai Chin Chay said at his home on Wednesday.

Chai, 51, who coaches the Malacca wushu team, said he introduced Fong Ying to the martial art when she was four years old.

Fong Ying, 24, won Malaysia's first gold medal in the women's combined *taijijian* and *taiji-quan* event at the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou on Monday.

Besides her parents, Fong Ying's younger siblings — Fong Wei, 22, Fong Chin, 18, and Chong You, 15 — are also actively involved in wushu.

Fong Ying's mother Teh Mary, 45, said the family was anxious during the competition as Fong Ying was neck-and-neck on points with the other top contenders.

"My youngest daughter, who was training in Bukit Jalil at that time, said the national wushu coach sent text messages about the gold medal achievement at about 5pm on Monday," said Teh, who is secretary of the Malacca Wushu Association.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam made a surprise visit to the Chai family home in Taman Merdeka, Batu Berendam, to congratulate them.

He said Fong Ying has done the country and state proud and she would be rewarded by the state government for her outstanding achievement.

- THE STAR (MALAYSIA)

## Azizul to shave his head in celebration

As he walked towards the podium, Azizul Hasni Awang was shaking his head in disbelief that he had actually led Josiah Ng to a stunning 1-2 finish for Malaysia in the keirin final at the Guangzhou Velodrome on Wednesday.

Then, after getting his gold medal on the rostrum, he was eager to return to the Athletes' Village to shave his head bald "as a promise I had made to myself".

It was indeed a superb feat by the pint-sized rider from Terengganu, who finally ended Malaysia's 40-year gold medal drought in Asiad cycling since the golden double by Ng Joo Ngan and the late Daud Ibrahim in Bangkok in 1970.

"I had to bite my gold medal to make sure that it was for real. Until the results became official, I was worried that I would lose it again ... like what happened in New Delhi (at the Commonwealth Games last month)," said Azizul.

Azizul had earlier failed to get the bronze in the sprint event, losing to Japan's Nitta Yudai. "I was down after not making the sprint final because of a technical mistake on Monday and I thought I could make up for it by getting the bronze," he said.

"But I did not do well against the Japanese rider and then I felt

really tired. But the keirin was the last event and I told myself that I would race all out and take whatever risks necessary."

- THE STAR (MALAYSIA)

## Devi bags silver on bleak day for India

One day ago, wushu, hardly a sport India is famous for, saved the country from an absolute washout in terms of medals on Wednesday.

Wangkhem Sandhyarani Devi was the lady of the day for the country as she clinched the silver in the Sanshou 60kg category, India's only medal of the day at the 16th Asian Games on Wednesday.

"I was looking to go for the gold. Silver is good but I am a little disappointed that I could not win the gold," said Sandhyarani.

"My left foot was hurting and I couldn't really go all out in the attack."

A silver medallist in the Asian Martial Arts Championships last year and champion at the SAF Games, Sandhyarani said she took up the event as it involved a combination of different routines.

"A lot of thinking is involved in this sport. You should know when to kick and when to punch; that is why I took up wushu," said the CRPF employee.

"It isn't a popular sport in India, but with better facilities and expo-

sure, we certainly can do well in this sport," said the Manipuri, whose sister is also into wushu.

- DECCAN HERALD (INDIA)

## Star says Pakistan no pushover

India was playing Bangladesh on Wednesday, but the focus was already on their next match against Pakistan. All eyes in the hockey competition are on the game this Saturday when the two arch-rivals clash at the Aoti Sports Complex's turf.

There was hardly any reference about the 9-0 win over Bangladesh as the post-match interaction with the Indian hockey team members was dominated by the talk of their upcoming game.

The players' thoughts were also on planning for the big game. Star of the day with four goals against his name, Sandeep Singh said: "We are performing very well, but this is a different Pakistan team. They have brought back some experienced players like drag-flick specialist Sohail Abbas. It will be a tough contest."

India has won their last two big games against the Pakistanis, but skipper Rajpal Singh said not to read too much into it.

"Though we beat Pakistan in the World Cup and the Common-



ZHANG CHENGLIANG / CHINA DAILY

wealth Games, the next match is a new game and both teams will start with a 0-0 score line," Singh said.

About Abbas, Rajpal said: "His presence will make a difference for Pakistan."

The battle within the battle will be between penalty corner exponents, Sandeep vs Abbas. "The worth of our penalty corner conversion will be known against tougher teams. In these matches, the goalkeeper and the other defenders did not put up any resistance against our PC experts," said coach Jose Brasa.

- DAILY NEWS & ANALYSIS (INDIA)

## ROK looks to add to Asiad success

Six days into the 16th Asian Games, the Republic of Korea (ROK) has been making a flying start in Guangzhou, garnering more than 20 gold medals.

As of Wednesday afternoon, the ROK stands second in the medal table behind host China. Japan is in third place.

The ROK's initial aim was to win more than 65 gold medals to claim a fourth-straight second place at the Asiad, ahead of its rival Japan. But the target now seems too small.

Until last week, many expected Japan would outrun the ROK as its traditional gold mines, such as swimming and judo, are scheduled for the early stage of the games. The ROK was expected to get into full swing in the latter stage through its dominance in taekwondo and archery.

But while Japan managed to claim seven gold medals in judo, the ROK, rather surprisingly, won six gold medals. The biggest surprise came from the shooting event. Of the 24 gold medals the ROK has won so far, 10 have come from shooting events.

- THE KOREA HERALD