

Record-breaker Li defends -53kg title

STAR ENHANCES CHINA'S TREMENDOUS LIFTING LEGACY

GUANGZHOU — China's Li Ping set two world records on the way to defending her Asian Games title in the women's -53kg weightlifting class on Sunday.

Li, the 2007 world champion, snatched 103kg to beat the previous best of 102kg set by Ri Song-hui of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) at the 2002 Busan Asian Games.

The 22-year-old's best clean and jerk of 127kg was then enough to rack up a combined total of 230kg to break the previous aggregate best of 226kg set by compatriot Qiu Hongxia in October 2006.

The records complete a hat-trick for Li, who already held the world record for the clean and jerk of 129kg set in April 2007.

Kazakh teenager Chinshanio Zulfiya, the 2009 world champion, took silver (219kg) with Olympic champion Prapawadee Jaroenrattanakoon (215kg) of Thailand claiming bronze.

"I'm very happy to get a gold medal in my home country," beamed Li, who actually broke the world record at the national championships in October 2009, although it was not ratified by the International Weightlifting Federation.

"I was doing really well in the snatch, but it was in fact the crowd that reminded me that I had broken the record," she said.

"In practice, the clean and jerk was going great but it was not quite as good as expected come the competition."

Li will now be eligible for \$10,000 from the Chinese government after breaking the total record,



WEIGHTLIFTING

but she said no plans had been made about what to do with the prize.

"I've not thought about that yet," she said. "I'll worry about that later."

In the absence of reigning world champion Chen Xiaoting of China and the Republic of Korea's Olympic silver medalist, Yoon Jin-hee, Li outshone her rivals throughout, even though Zulfiya threatened to steal some of her thunder with a late, failed effort at a clean and jerk world record.

Li bade her time in the snatch after Prapawadee came in at 92kg, but bombed early after failing with two efforts at 95kg.

Zulfiya was successful at 95kg before Li nailed 96kg with ease.

The 17-year-old Kazakh finished on 97kg before the home favorite took to the stage and lifted the record-breaking 103kg with aplomb, much to the delight of the raucous crowd.

In the clean and jerk, Prapawadee could manage a best of only 123kg, as Li battled it out with Zulfiya.

The Kazakh proved to be lacking in the final thrust, however, as Li managed a 127kg lift to ensure a second brace of golds for China at the Dongguan Gymnasium after teammate Zhang Jie secured victory in the men's -62kg.

Li's podium topping display continued Chinese women lifters' amazing record at the Asian Games, taking their gold medal haul to 39 of 41 possible in Asiad competition since the sport's introduction for women in 1990.

The only other countries to have won gold are the DPRK and Thailand.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



YANG SHIZHONG / CHINA DAILY

China's Li Ping celebrates her record-breaking performance at the Asian Games on Sunday.

MEDAL TALLY >>

through Sunday's competition

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
China	37	14	12	63
ROK	13	10	12	35
Japan	8	20	15	43
Hong Kong	2	2	2	6
India	1	3	1	5
Chinese Taipei	1	2	6	9
Macao	1	0	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	3	3	6
DPRK	0	3	2	5
Kazakhstan	0	1	6	7
Indonesia	0	1	3	4
Iran	0	1	3	4
Thailand	0	1	3	4
Myanmar	0	1	1	2
Singapore	0	1	1	2
Malaysia	0	0	3	3
Philippines	0	0	2	2
Mongolia	0	0	1	1
Vietnam	0	0	1	1

24 HOURS >> HOW THE DAY PLAYED OUT

13:43 The Asian Handball Federation has suspended Bahrain centerback Husain Ali Hasan Ebrahim Alsayyad and Qatar centerback Fawaz Almoadhadi for two matches each due to unsportsmanlike conduct.

15:48 China's Yao Fuwen shrugged off his fourth-place finish in the opening race of the men's mistral sailboard competition at Shanwei Sports Center to win the second race and take the provisional lead. Indonesia's Gusti Made Oka Sulksana protested over a start-boat pushing incident, but the jury found in Yao's favor.

15:50 India took its first gold medal of the Guangzhou Games in the men's billiards singles. Pankaj Advani defeated Nay Thway

3-2 in a tense match. Advani won gold at the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi earlier this year.

16:50 Choi Jun-sung led the Republic of Korea to victory in the equestrian team dressage event for the third straight Asian Games, joining Sun Jung-kyun as the only athlete to win the same equestrian event three times in a row. It was the fifth career gold medal for Choi at the Asian Games, moving him within one of equaling Suh's record of six. Choi has a chance of sharing that mark in the individual dressage event on Wednesday.

17:05 China made a clean sweep of the inaugural dance sport competitions by winning all 10 gold medals. It is the sixth time that a national Olympic committee

has won all of the events in a single sport in an Asian Games containing at least 10 events. Japan did so in swimming (23 golds) in 1966, as did the ROK in boxing (12) in 1986, China in rowing (14) in 1990, China in rowing (11) in 1998, and China in diving (10) in 2006.

19:07 Hong Kong took its second gold medal of the games by winning the inaugural women's 6-red snooker team title at the Asian Games Town Gymnasium. Hong Kong beat China 3-1 in an entertaining final match.

19:39 Japanese superstar Kosuke Kitajima failed to make the podium in the men's 50m breaststroke as he finished fourth in a tight race that was won by Chinese Xie Zhi.

19:58 Iran remained unbeaten in men's volleyball with a 3-0 win over Turkmenistan at Zhongda Gymnasium.

20:02 World No 1 Kim Jae-bum defeated Uzbekistan's Shokir Muminov to win gold in the men's under-81kg judo class. Kim's victory capped a prolific first two days of judo for the ROK, which has won five gold and three bronze medals.

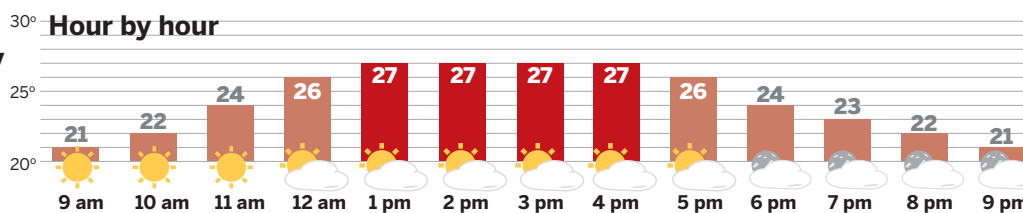
20:11 Chinese Taipei completed a captivating comeback to upset defending champion Japan 2-1 and recapture the soft tennis men's team gold for the first time since the Hiroshima Asian Games in 1994.

22:45 Thailand upset Indonesia 3-1 in the women's badminton team semifinals and will face China in the title match on Monday.

WEATHER CENTRAL >> FORECASTS, TEMPERATURES AND TODAY'S CHANCE OF RAIN

Today's forecast
Mostly Sunny

Max **28°C**
Min **16°C**
Source: weather.com



Tuesday **27°C**
17°C

Wednesday **28°C**
17°C

Chance of rain today **10%**