

## LIN IN NO RUSH TO TIE THE KNOT

Chinese badminton pin-up Lin Dan kept alive the faint hopes of millions of adoring female fans on Monday after revealing he has no intention of getting married in the near future.

The dashing Lin, whose girlfriend and former teammate Xie Xingfang has retired after winning a silver medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, has his personal life closely scrutinized by the Chinese press.

"I am still young, so getting married is not on my agenda yet," the 27-year-old said ahead of the men's team final.

"As an athlete, I need to focus on my training and competition," Lin, widely regarded as the best player of all time, was quoted as saying by Xinhua news agency.

Lin has won every major title going — except an Asian Games singles gold.

Xie, a Guangzhou native, is not competing here but is heavily involved in her role as the head of recruiting volunteers.

She said over the weekend that she was busy, but hoped to make time to watch her boyfriend play.



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## China coach blasts 10-goal girls

China women's soccer coach Li Xiaopeng lashed out at her team on Monday despite a 10-1 hammering of hapless Jordan in its Asian Games opener.

Li was furious that her defenders conceded a goal against the same side they crushed 12-0 at the Doha Games in 2006.

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"Jordan's one goal is more important than our 10," said Li. "I always tell my players to stay focused. We have one goal-

keeper and four defenders, but their carelessness let Jordan score.

"Their player (Shahnaz Jebreen) ran very fast and was threatening to us. Our players didn't pay any attention to her and this should be a lesson to be remembered."

Jordan's Dutch coach Hesterine Dereus, who has only been in charge for four months, admitted that there was an embarrassing gulf in class between the two nations.

"There are only 360 players in Jordan. I'm not sure how many there are in China, but I think it's more than that."

## 'Fab 50' David heads for Asiad

World squash champion Nicol David heads for the Asian Games buoyed by reaching yet another landmark in her glittering career, a 50th professional tour title.

The Malaysian player, the defending Asian Games champion, achieved the breakthrough with a 11-5, 11-8, 11-9 win over long-time rival Rachael Grinham in the Qatar Classic final on Sunday.

David was in dominant form from the outset, triumphing in just 34 minutes to claim her fourth Qatar crown since 2006.

"It's good to finish the tour season on a winning note. Now it's back to Malaysia for a few days and then join up with the rest of the team for the Asian Games," said David.

"Rachael and I know each other's games so well, you're always going to get close matches and long rallies.

"You try not to think about past matches, head to head records — but the one you lost always comes to your mind and you know it's not going to be easy."

The Asian Games squash tournament starts on Thursday.

## Wushu winner credits Jackie Chan

China's Huang Guangyuan, below, won another wushu gold for China on Monday and put the credit at the door of Hong Kong movie star Jackie Chan.

Huang posted the highest score in each of the nanquan and nangun elements of the all-round final for a total of 19.73 out of a possible 20.

It was a close race for the silver and bronze, with Hong Kong's He Jingde and Vietnam's Quoc Khanh Pham eventually finishing second and third.

Huang said he owed a debt to Hollywood star Chan, something silver medal winner He, who works as a martial arts movie stuntman, can relate to.

"I loved watching Jackie Chan's movies when I was just a child," said Huang.

"He plays an important role in my life, as do my parents who give me great support to learn wushu."



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## Reporters hungry for stories, snacks

The Guangzhou Asian Games are in full swing and the snacks offered at each of the sporting venues are fueling reporters who are too busy to have a formal meal.

Cookies, bread, fruit and coffee are available, but the mini cookies, which come in a variety of flavors including green tea and cheese, are proving the firm favorites.

Reporters are also feasting on bananas, oranges, apples and pears, staff say.

"More than 1,000 bags of snacks and about 200 bags of fruit are being consumed every day just here," said one volunteer at the media lounge of the Aoti shooting range.

The shooting competition offers 44 gold medals over a 10-day period. The volunteer, who is responsible for providing the reporters with their snacks, described keeping them energized with food as a never-ending job.

## Chinese Taipei's Lu pulls out

Chinese Taipei's hopes of winning a tennis gold medal at the Asian Games have been dealt a blow with Wimbledon quarterfinalist Lu Yen-hsun withdrawing from the men's singles due to a waist injury.

The 27-year-old Lu, top seed at the Guangzhou tournament, also pulled out of the men's team and mixed doubles competitions, Chinese Taipei coach Lien Yu-hui said.

"The doctors suggested he pull out because the injury is serious," he said.

Lu beat American Andy Roddick to reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals this year. The world No 37 is Asia's second highest-ranked man after 36th-ranked Kazakh Andrey Golubev, who is not competing in Guangzhou.

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