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Scherbo regains touch



BRISBANE, Apr 23: Vitaly Scherbo, the dominant figure in men's gymnastics for the past two years, rebounded back to top form Saturday, winning the floor exercise gold medal at the World Championships, reports AP.

The 22-year-old from Belarus scored 9.75 points for his floor routine to finish ahead of Neil Thomas of Britain and Ioannis Melissanidis of Greece, who shared second place at 9.687 points.

Yuri Chechi of Italy, the defending champion, won the rings gold medal with 9.787 ahead of American Paul O'Neill at 9.725, with Dan Burina of Romania and Valeri Belenki of Germany sharing third place at 9.700.

Luo Li of China, a tiny 17-year-old competing in her first World Championships, scored a championship-high 9.912 to win the women's uneven bars title.

Svetlana Chorkina and Dina Kochetkova, both of Russia, were second and third. Chorkina scored 9.875 and Kochetkova 9.850.

Gina Gogean, a 16-year-old Romanian, won the women's vault gold medal with 9.812 ahead of Chorkina, who scored 9.800, and Lavinia Milosovici of Romania, who scored 9.787.

Shannon Miller of the

United States, who successfully defended her all-around title Friday night, led after her first vault with 9.825 but tumbled on the dismount from her second vault, landed on her bottom and finished seventh



VITALY SCHERBO

with an average of 9.543.

"I wished I would have done a better second vault, but it was the first time I'd tried it in competition," said Miller, a 17-year-old high school student.

Coach Steve Nunno was disappointed Miller was unable to execute the half-on, half-off front layout.

"If she'd hit the vault she

would have won," Nunno said. Marius Urzica, an 18-year-old student competing in his first major senior competition, collected Romania's second gold medal of the night when he won the pommel horse title with a total of 9.712.

Eric Poudjad of France, the European Cup champion, was second with 9.700 while Li Unghua of Switzerland and Vitaly Marichuk of Ukraine shared third place at 9.662.

Scherbo won his first title of the championships after finishing a disappointing third in defence of his all-around title earlier in the week.

He won six gold medals at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games and three at last year's World Championship at Birmingham, England.

The Minsk resident will contest three further apparatus finals Sunday — in the vault, parallel bars and horizontal.

Scherbo was the last of the eight finalists to complete his routine, overhauling Thomas, a 26-year-old from Liverpool who also was runner-up in last year's World Championship.

and Melissanidis, a 17-year-old who is the European junior champion in the discipline.

Defending champion Grigory Misutin of Ukraine was fourth with 9.650 points.

The last five individual apparatus finals will be held Sunday afternoon.

A soccer party without ball

CAPE TOWN, Apr 23: Score with the Soccer Party. That's the liberal sex-and-drugs play-form of South Africa's newest contender in next week's first democratic election, reports Reuter.

The fringe group pledges to legalise drugs and prostitution, do away with income and sales taxes and make all education free.

It also promises more jobs, equal salaries for all, cheap petrol and sports and leisure complexes in every town.

The Soccer Party is listed second on the ballot paper for the April 26-28 poll, with a picture of Rastafarian — dreadlocked leader, rock star James Maseko, seeking votes.

"When we are in government we will make a lot of money from the production of dagga (marijuana). We all know that the farms exist so why not make them legal?" grins the party's general secretary Mwandile Lavisa.

Soccer, the game favoured by the country's blacks, does feature in its manifesto but the party name is an acronym for Sports Organisations for Co-lective Contributions to Equal Rights.

The general secretary, a 27-year-old graduate of Cape Town University, smiled when he told reporters the Soccer Party was "based on the principle of uniting the whole country around sport, music and the arts."

A hastily photocopied, 18-page manifesto explained how it would pay off South Africa's 136 billion rand (dollars 38.5 billion) debt within 10 years by means of a one per cent tax on all bank and credit transactions over a value of 2,000 rand (dollars 666).

All schools will teach sports, music and the arts to exam level.

"Less cerebral but crucial to the party's ethos is the legalisation of prostitution and marijuana or dagga."

"Nobody represents the prostitutes of the country. We should use the energy of these people in a constructive way rather than force them into the closest. Everyone knows it's the oldest profession in the world," Lavisa said. And dagga?

"Rastafarian use it as part of their religion to meditate... and it is used as medicine. Alcohol is used and promoted in South Africa so much but its effect is just as harmful as dagga when it is abused," he added.

The Soccer Party has 49 candidates around the country. They include surprise choice Daryll Cullinan, a star of South Africa's national cricket team. Lavisa said little on party funding.

"You could say that we are privately funded but they want to remain anonymous," he denied, however, that any funds from either dagga or prostitution were involved.

"The Soccer Party will be happy if it can make people in South Africa smile."

WC demarche

WASHINGTON, Apr 23: Washington ambassadors from the 23 foreign countries competing in this summer's World Cup will don boots and shorts to play in a six-a-side tournament mirroring the championships, reports Reuter.

The first matches will be on Saturday and the US team will be comprised of foreign service officers, said Gudi Barbosa, assistant to the Washington host committee's executive vice-president, on Wednesday.

"The minimum age is 28 years and the ambassadors of each country are required to play," he said. "All will play at least 10 minutes of each game. They probably won't be running around much but they'll be on the pitch."

"All players need to be diplomats with AL or A2 visas," he added. "This is a very serious tournament and some of the embassies are training already."

Each match will be 50 minutes rather than 90 but otherwise the diplomatic World Cup will divide the nations in the same way as the World Cup, which starts in Chicago on June 17.

Barbosa said matches will be played each Saturday in Kensington, Maryland, with the final on May 21 on the ellipse, an open expanse of ground south of the White House.

Countries such as England that failed to qualify for the World Cup finals need not despair however.

"There's also going to be an Embassy Cup starting from May 1 through to June 5," a World Cup spokesman said.

"It will be between many more teams."

Moroccans weak but undaunted

RABAT, Apr 23: If FIFA delegates had voted differently in 1988 the world's elite players could now be preparing for the World Cup finals in Morocco rather than in the United States, reports Reuter.

The North African kingdom were the only serious contenders to the US when the vote was taken six years ago to decide the host nation for the 1994 finals.

The United States collected 10 votes, Morocco seven and Brazil just two.

Although the United States could not be matched in terms of communications, facilities and marketing opportunities, they were a poor second to the Moroccans in their passion for the game.

Unfortunately for Morocco, that was not enough to enable them to clinch the votes needed to stage the event.

Morocco realistically lacks the infrastructure to stage an event as huge as the World Cup and few Moroccans ever through they really would host the tournament.

What they are far more upset about is losing to West Germany in the dying seconds of their second round clash in Monterrey in Mexico in 1986, when they were beaten 1-0 by an 89th minute Lothar Matthaus free-kick.

Whether Morocco will have a chance to get over that disappointment this summer is debatable.

They were drawn in a tough first round group along with Belgium, the Netherlands and



European sides and then beating the Saudis by as big a margin as possible.

Coincidentally Morocco and Saudi Arabia have already met each other in international competition in the United States. In 1984 Morocco beat the Saudis 1-0 in the first round of the Los Angeles Olympics soccer competition at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, the venue for this summer's final.

This will be Morocco's third appearance in the World Cup following their debut in Mexico in 1970 and their credible showing back in Mexico 16 years later when they drew with Poland and England before beating

Portugal 3-1 to top their first round group.

But their squad this year looks like being the weakest to represent the country so far.

Coach Abdella "Blinda". Ajri has been rebuilding the side since he took over from Abdelkhalik Louzani following the completion of the qualifying competition, and unlike Louzani, is keen to use as many players now based in Europe as he can.

But there are no players as good as 1986 heroes like strikers Aziz Boudoukhal, Merry Krimou and Mustapha Haddaoui, or keeper Baddou Zaki, who all went professional in France, Spain or Portugal.

The general feeling in African circles is that if Zambia had not lost their first-choice squad in an air crash on April 28, 1993, they would have qualified for the finals in place of Morocco. But in the event, Morocco clinched the place with a 1-0 home win over Zambia in their final qualifier last October.

And the Moroccan results in their training matches so far tends to bear out that Morocco is a weak side.

They were beaten 1-0 in France in December by both First Division Nantes and Second Division Nancy, and were held to 1-1 draws by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates in the United Arab Emirates tournament in January.

On March 23 they had what local sports writers called an "unconvincing" 2-1 away win in

Luxembourg and have generally failed to impress. They lost again on Wednesday when Argentina beat them 3-1 in Argentina, although the Moroccans did trouble the South Americans with some dangerous fast counter-attacking play.

The squad will spend the month of May in France playing against minor league clubs to create "harmony among the players" according to the coach.

His main problem is coordinating teamwork between professionals with teams in Europe who it is hoped will stiffen the backbone of the other members of the section with less international experience.

Blinda will have to knit his homebased players in with a dozen players from European clubs like Mustapha Hajji (Nancy), Mohamed Chaouch (Nice), Ismael Triki (Chateauroux), Mustapha Haddou (Angers), Aziz Ouali (Bastia), Abdallah Nacer (Bruges), Rachid Azzouzi (Duisburg), and Hassan Nadir (Farense).

Players from at home and abroad have rarely played together and Blinda seems in a quandary over who to select and is tight-lipped about his final 22.

The Moroccans are hoping that the hot and humid climate will favour them, particularly in Florida which is on the same latitude as Morocco. If that does not help they always have "baraka," the local word for good luck.

Medvedev moves into final



MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Apr 23: Andrei Medvedev defeated his friend and former junior doubles partner, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 Saturday in the first semifinal of the dlr 1.7 million Monte Carlo Open, reports AP.

The 19-year-old Medvedev, an ethnic Russian who represents Ukraine, defeated Kafelnikov, 20 original from Sochi, Russia, in 1 hour, 43 minutes. Both developed in the former Soviet system and played a number of matches in the junior ranks but never as pros.

Later Saturday, defending champion Sergi Bruguera of Spain was scheduled to meet second-seeded Stefan Edberg in the other semifinals.

Kafelnikov earlier had eliminated Andre Agassi and Michael Stich. Medvedev beat Jim Courier in a 3-hour, 19

minute marathon in their quarterfinal Friday.

The Medvedev-Kafelnikov match lacked the intensity of the Courier-Medvedev match. Courier and Medvedev went at with baseline rallies and occasional delicate drop shots. They went to a third set tiebreaker to decide the match.

Medvedev and Kafelnikov went to a first-set tiebreaker after more than an hour of play. However, it was a minimum of risk-taking throughout the set and the key points went to Medvedev when Kafelnikov would make the error.

In the tiebreak with Kafelnikov leading at 5-3, Medvedev won five of the next six points with Kafelnikov errors, mostly forehands going wide or into the net.

An Medvedev then rolled through the second set in 36 minutes, breaking Kafelnikov in the fourth game at 3-1, held serve to make it 4-1 and maintained that advantage the rest

of the way. The final three points were Kafelnikov errors without much pressure from Medvedev.

The Russians have practised together a few times this week. They won the Sunshine Cup, a top junior event in Miami, Fla. for the old Soviet Union in 1990 as well as the World Youth Cup in the Netherlands the same year.

Kafelnikov said that they had played nine times as juniors and Medvedev had a 7-2 advantage.

Kafelnikov has won two tournaments earlier in the year but on hard courts. It is the first semifinal on clay courts in his pro career. He is ranked 41st in the world after starting the year at No. 104.

Medvedev had made the top 10 as a 18-year-old in June 1993 and is currently ranked ninth in the world. It is only his third tournament of the year after injuring his knee in Australia in January yet his second final.

LUCKY WINNERS OF The Daily Star QUIZ I

The following persons were the lucky winners of first TDS WC Quiz competition, the draw for which was held at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium on April 17.



First Prize

Name: Rubayat Mahmud (Mithun)
Address: 87/2, Barabag, Mirpur Section-2, Dhaka.
Father's Name: Mohsin Ali Munshi



(1)

Name: Ms Nahreen Maherukh
Address: House No: 24, Road No: 7, Block-H, Banani, Dhaka.
Father's Name: Abdul Mannan Chowdhury



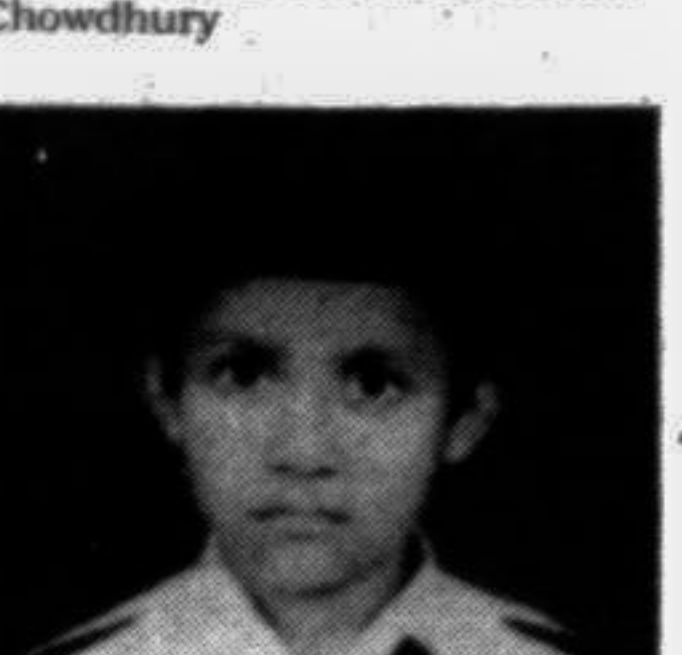
(4)

Name: Sayed Tanveer Ahmed
Address: 443, Jagannath Hall, Dhaka University
Father's Name: Sayed Kawser Ahmed



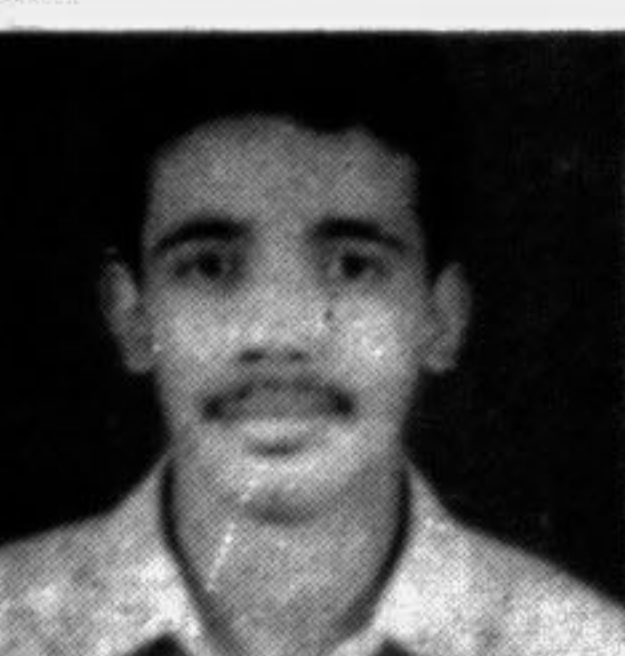
2nd Prize

Name: G M Faiz Ahmed
Address: BTRI, PO: Srimangal, Dist: Maulvibazar
Father's Name: Me Saifulah Gazi



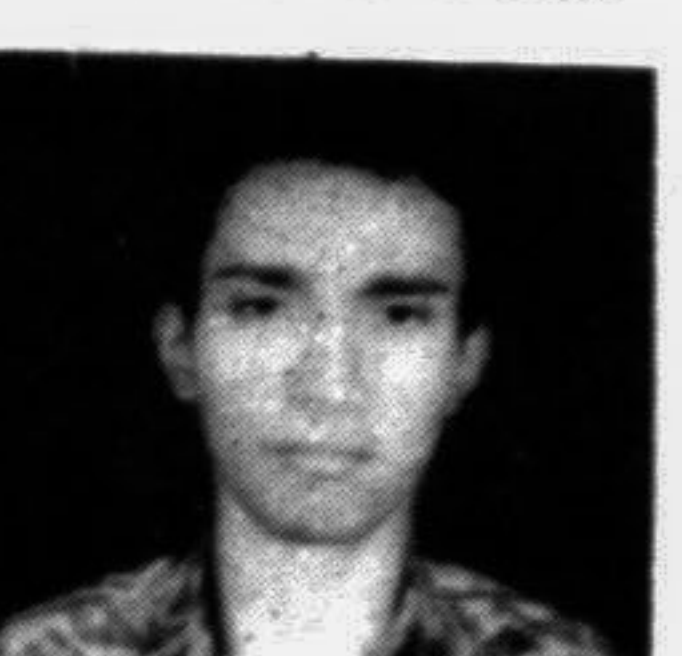
(2)

Name: Abul Ishaque
Address: C/O A M M Yahya, PO: Telecom CRB, Chittagong.
Father's Name: A M M Yahya



3rd Prize

Name: Latiful Mannan Chowdhury
Address: House No: 24, Road No: 7, Block-H, Banani, Dhaka.
Father's Name: Abdul Mannan Chowdhury



(3)

Name: A N M Taherul Islam
Address: C/O Prof Saiful Islam, Seujgari, Palpara, Bogra-5800.
Father's Name: Prof Md Saiful Islam

Cameroon's WC build-up in chaos

YAOUNDE, Apr 23: Cameroon's chaotic preparations for this year's World Cup finals hit a new low on Saturday when state radio announced the cancellation of Sunday's friendly match against Zambia, reports Reuter.

The radio gave no reasons for the last-minute decision. The warm-up match in Douala, Cameroon's economic capital, was organised by an obscure company called audio visual international communication.

Soccer journalists said the company was unable to raise the funds to bring Zambia, one of Africa's top teams.

Cameroon's indomitable Lions were Africa's pride in the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy, reaching the quarter-finals. The team qualified for this year's finals in the United States but preparations have been thrown into chaos by squabbling inside the soccer federation. Its president was sacked on March 30 but he says the dismissal was illegal and has refused to give up the job.



The Daily Star

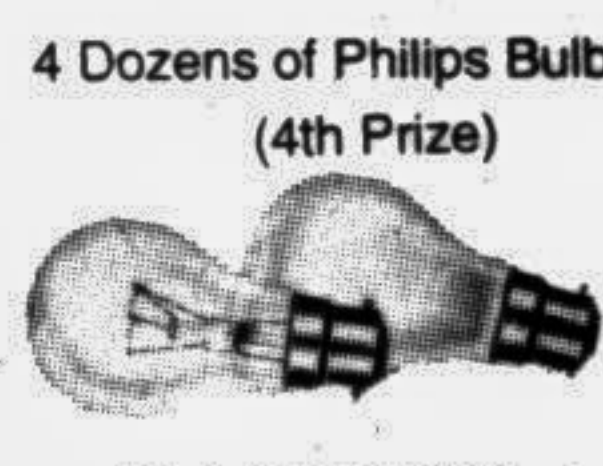
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COMPETITION RULES

- INTRODUCTION:**
 - The Daily Star World Cup Quiz'94, is a series of 10 Quiz Competitions on World Cup Football. Sets of questions will be published for 10 consecutive days in the Sports Page of The Daily Star for the first 10 Quiz Competitions. For the final and final Bumper Quiz Competition, a set of questions will be published for one month in the Sports Page of The Daily Star according to the schedule (Picture of the Rounds) as fixed by The Daily Star authorities.
 - For the first 10 Quiz Competitions there will be 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th prize consolation prizes. The prizes will be Colour TV, Black & White TV, Super Turbo 2-in-1 Stereo Recorder and light bulbs respectively.
 - Any taxes or levies, as per rule, for all the above prizes will have to be borne by the winners.
 - Names and addresses of all prizewinners will be published in The Daily Star. Winners will be responsible for collecting their prizes from The Daily Star office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.
 - For the Bumper Quiz Competition, there will be the BUMPER PRIZE consisting of a ticket to the World Cup Final match, along with an Economy Class return air ticket (Dhaka-Los Angeles-Dhaka) and an amount for incidental expenses. The Daily Star does NOT take any responsibility for any visa or other travel documents that may be required. The BUMPER PRIZE Winner will have to make his/her own arrangements in this regard. In case of the Bumper Prize winner's inability to travel to the USA he/she may choose to receive a sum of Tk.100,000/- in cash in lieu of the air fare and living expenses.
- RULES**
 - Residents of Bangladesh, subject to these rules, will be eligible to participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz'94. All personnel and family members of The Daily Star, Transcom Electronics Ltd. and Unirend (advertising agency) and all its affiliate companies shall be deemed disqualified to participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz'94.
 - Participants are to cut the original form along the indicated dotted lines. All entries must be submitted on the original form printed in The Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.
 - Participants are to put a tick (✓) mark in the box which they think is the correct answer to the question. A person may send as many entries in his/her own name and address.
 - Each entry form should be clearly filled-in complete with a ball-point pen. Participant's name, address, father's name must be clearly written. Each entry form must bear the correct date and signature of the participant.
 - Participants must ensure the following: All entries must reach the office of The Daily Star on or before the closing date marked on the entry form. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "STAR QUIZ". Entries may be hand delivered or sent by post to The Daily Star, House No:11, Road No:3, Dhanmandi Residential Area, Dhaka:1205.
 - Entries will be opened by The Daily Star authorities. Entries with all correct answers will be placed in a sealed box for the lucky draw, to be held on the notified/appointed date in public in the presence of invited guests and quiz participants, if any.
 - The Daily Star authorities, in their absolute discretion, reserve the right to amend, modify or substitute any of the above rules and/or change or reschedule any and all dates of The Daily Star World Cup Quiz'94 in any circumstances.
 - All participants agree to abide by all rules, instructions and guide-lines as may be issued from time to time, by The Daily Star authorities. Participants' entry in the quiz competition shall be construed as their respective agreement to all such rules, instructions and guidelines.
 - Any decision of The Daily Star authorities in the conduct of the Quiz Competition (including the answers selected as correct) shall be deemed final and binding on all participants and shall not be called in question and/or challenged in any manner whatsoever.

Quiz 3.

Read the instructions carefully. Then tick (✓) the answer which you think is correct.

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Which country was the 1930 World Cup runners-up? | Chile <input type="checkbox"/> | USA <input type="checkbox"/> | Argentina <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. What was the name of the 1982 World Cup mascot? | Pique <input type="checkbox"/> | Ola <input type="checkbox"/> | Naranjito <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Where will the '94 World Cup opening ceremony be held? | Chicago <input type="checkbox"/> | New York <input type="checkbox"/> | Detroit <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Which Argentine coach was nicknamed 'Big Nose'? | Bilardo <input type="checkbox"/> | Menotti <input type="checkbox"/> | Basile <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Which Asian country played in the 1978 World Cup? | Iran <input type="checkbox"/> | Jaral <input type="checkbox"/> | Kuwait <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Who was the West German manager in 1966? | Derwall <input type="checkbox"/> | Schoen <input type="checkbox"/> | Meisl <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Who was the referee in the 1974 World Cup Final? | Taylor <input type="checkbox"/> | Reader <input type="checkbox"/> | Warken <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. When was the World Cup first televised? | 1954 <input type="checkbox"/> | 1958 <input type="checkbox"/> | 1962 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. How many European teams will play in World Cup USA '94? | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Which country is making its debut in the WC finals this year? | Sweden <input type="checkbox"/> | Spain <input type="checkbox"/> | Greece <input type="checkbox"/> |

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

FATHER'S NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

AGE: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Write with a ball-point pen in clear, CAPITAL LETTERS. Cut along the dotted lines and mail it to us FAST!