

Column One

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

HAT it doesn't matter what you do, as long as you enjoy doing it, there is competitiveness involving physical exercise, there is amusement and fun, it falls within the gamut of sports. So, there are ball games, there are bat and ball games, there are court games, there are board games, etc. And sports and games are as old as man.

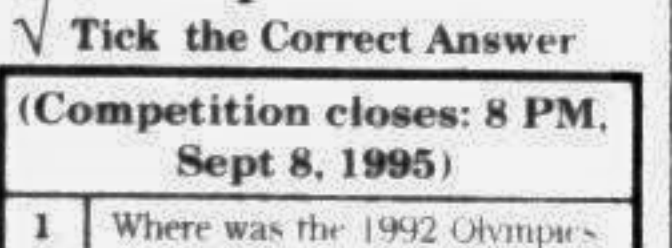
There is evidence that Stone Bowls was played in the Stone Age. Wow! The Egyptians played some sort of ninespins. Cricket is derived from a game called Knurr and Spell played by the Vikings. So is golf and baseball. Football, as I mentioned earlier in this column, has roots in a 200 BC Chinese game of Tsu Chu. Rugby is a close cousin of football. Polo was conceived in Central Asia in 600 BC.

Racing of different sorts has always been a favourite sport. Man racing, women racing, horse racing, car racing, cycle, dog, rabbit, pigeon, boat, well almost anything that moves has been raced.

But, some men have gone to the extreme of having a race of something that nobody thought could move. There are some among humans who pursue Bath racing with all seriousness. There is an annual inter-nation 36-mile bath race between Nanaimo and Vancouver. Tubs are limited to 75 inches and 6 horse power motors. The record for this race is 1 hour, 29 minutes, 40 seconds set by Australian Gary Deatheridge in July 1978.

Well, in Bangladesh we also have bath racing, but of a different version. Here, we race to see who can install a bath tub in his toilet before any of their neighbours.

SPORTS TALK



Pele
(Brazilian soccer star, 1970)
"Our football comes from the heart, theirs from the mind."
On the difference between South American and European football.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN
The rules are published every Saturday.

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-3.
Tick the Correct Answer

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options regarding sports events and records.

Nat'l b'ball results
Sports Reporter

The Dhaka University-Habiganj match of the Pepsi 18th national basketball championship played on Thursday was the only one closely-contested.



Record setter Kalpana Biswas of BJMC doing the Fosbury Flop for the benefit of photo journalists after the high jump event of the 4th summer athletics meet at the barren Mirpur Stadium on Thursday. — Star photo

Fourth summer meet begins Kalpana, Rahima shine

Sports Reporter
The opening day of the fourth summer athletics championship was marked by two new national records on the distaff side with Kalpana Biswas and Rahima Khatun improving their previous marks in respective events at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

After a bizarre opening ceremony with the chief guest State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain arriving half an hour late of the schedule and the electronic scoreboard out of order, Rahima Khatun of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) set up the first record on the day when she won the 1500-metre event eclipsing her previous mark of four minutes, 57.60 seconds by 2.75 seconds.

It was a resounding comeback for Rahima, who after being out of action for the last 30 days due to an injury, ran a dream run to win the first gold for her team with a timing of four minutes, 54.85 seconds followed by Monira Akhter of Customs and Nasima Begum, who won the silver and bronze respectively.

With our men athletes failing to improve their marks, Kalpana Biswas was the other BJMC contender on a rather tame day created yet another sensation in the women's high jump.

Kalpana, who had earlier ended the reign of Shamima Sattar Mimu in the last national championship early this year, scaled 1.57 metres to win the third gold for BJMC.

The refulgent woman athlete, a second year student of Fultala College in Khulna, expressed her dissatisfaction for failing to cross 1.60 metres. She further added that her target is to reach the SAF mark of 1.75 metres.

Meanwhile, in the other events on the first day of the two-day meet, Abdur Rahman Naim of Bangladesh Navy, who won the silver in the last SAF Games, retained the gold in the 200-metre sprint with a timing of 54.8 seconds, according to a manual time record.

Following are the results of the 11 events:
1500-metre (men): Gold — L/Nk M Ansar Ali (Bangladesh Army); Silver — Corp Wahab Khan (Bangladesh Air Force); Bronze — L/Nk M Badsha Mallick (Bangladesh Army).
1000-metre (men): Gold — H/M Mostafa Talukdar (Bangladesh Army); Silver — H/M Mominul Haq (Bangladesh Army); Bronze — Montaj Mollah (BJMC).

Hammer throw (men): Gold — H/M Mostafa Talukdar (Bangladesh Army); Silver — H/M Mominul Haq (Bangladesh Army); Bronze — Montaj Mollah (BJMC).
Triple jump (men): Gold — H/M Nazrul Islam (Bangladesh Army); Silver — L/Nk M Alef Uddin (Bangladesh Army); Bronze — LAC Ferdous Hossain (Bangladesh Air Force).

400-metre hurdles (men): Gold — Abdur Rahim Nayeem (Bangladesh Navy); Silver — Ahsanuzzaman (Bangladesh Navy); Bronze — LAC Quamrul Hasan (Bangladesh Air Force).
High jump (women): Gold

Incidentally Dhanmondi was the same out fit against whom Victoria recorded their first win by an identical margin during their first leg engagement on July 16.

However, it was not Angur but substitute Selim, who scored the match winner in the 69th minute with a gem of a header.

The win now left Victoria with 15 points with 13 matches while with this defeat Dhanmondi remained stuck to the previous collection of 13 from as many outings.

In an up and down encounter Rahmatganj, who were only 30 second away from their second win in the league, found themselves dumfounded by a brilliant side volley from Akhter.

Earlier, Rahmatganj, who were badly in need of a win to raise their paltry collection, took the lead in the 22nd minute through their defender Iqbal heading home a left flank corner of Jagu.

With this draw Rahmatganj, who are holding the second position from the bottom of the table, raised their paltry tally to eight on completion of 14 league matches while Agrami Bank earned 15 points from 14 matches.

Meanwhile, in the lone Lifebuoy First Division football league encounter at the same venue, Victoria Sporting Club beat Dhanmondi by a solitary goal for their second win in the league.

Soccer returns to Baghdad
BAGHDAD, Sept 7: Baghdad was hosting its first international football match since the 1990 invasion of Kuwait as an Iraqi side faced a Jordanian team in the Asian Champions Cup today, reports AP.

The match was the second leg between Al-Zawra of Iraq and Jordanian champions Al-Wedhat. The Iraqis won the first leg in Amman 3-1.

Nat'l hockey NTI dump Rangpur

Sports Reporter
Former champions Dhaka University were off to a marauding start in the 17th national hockey championship when they handed lowly Rangpur DSA a humiliating 11-1 defeat at the BKSP ground in Savar on Thursday.

With striker Alamgir Alam celebrating the first hat-trick in the meet the star-studded Dhaka University, who possess ten national players in their ranks, made a mockery of the contest in the second match of the day.

Alamgir, the national centre-forward, who opened the floodgates in the second minute, completed his treble with strikes in the 41st, 46th and 50th minute respectively as Dhaka University, who were leading 5-1 at the breather, confirmed the highest margin victory so far in the meet. Earlier, on Wednesday BKSP routed Jamalpur by 7-0.

In an one-sided affair Tutul struck twice while Mamun, Rabi, Siam, Haider Alam and Zahid Bishwash scored one goal apiece for the winners. For Rangpur Mahfuz scored the consolation goal in the 18th minute of the 70-minute stop-watch time.

Dhaka University will now take on Bangladesh Navy in their next round match of the knock-out meet on September 11.

Meanwhile, in the day's first match a last-minute strike by Swapan Kumar enabled Bangladesh Police to record a sensational 1-0 over Jessore DSA.

In an evenly contested match Swapan Kumar struck the all-important goal in the 69th from a penalty stroke. The winners will now take on defending champions Bangladesh Army on Saturday.

Rajib holds Reefat

Enamul Hossain Rajib of Bobby Fischer Chess Club maintained his solo lead in the international open rating tournament with 6.5 points at the end of 7th round at the NSC chess room yesterday, reports UNB.

He drew with IM Reefat-bin-Sattar of Bangladesh Biman.

Two players — M Ziaur Rahman of Biman and Enayet Hossain of Farashganj SC — are jointly holding the second position collecting six points each.

Zia beat Farid Ahmed while Enayet beat Afroza Khanam Babi of Ansars.

Reefat-bin-Sattar, Fide Master Rezaul Haq, Tayebur Rahman Sumon and Kazal Mahmood are in the third position having 5.5 points each.

Symonds' another 48 hours

LONDON, Sept 7: Australian-raised batsman Andrew Symonds was given a further 48 hours by Gloucestershire on Thursday to decide whether to play for England, reports AP.

Army aquatic

SAVAR, Sept 7: Chittagong area retained the title of the annual Army aquatic meet collecting 13 gold, one silver and four bronze at the BKSP swimming pool here today, reports UNB.

Comilla area became runners-up — with two gold, four silver and two bronze medals.

fitness royale with rani padamsee

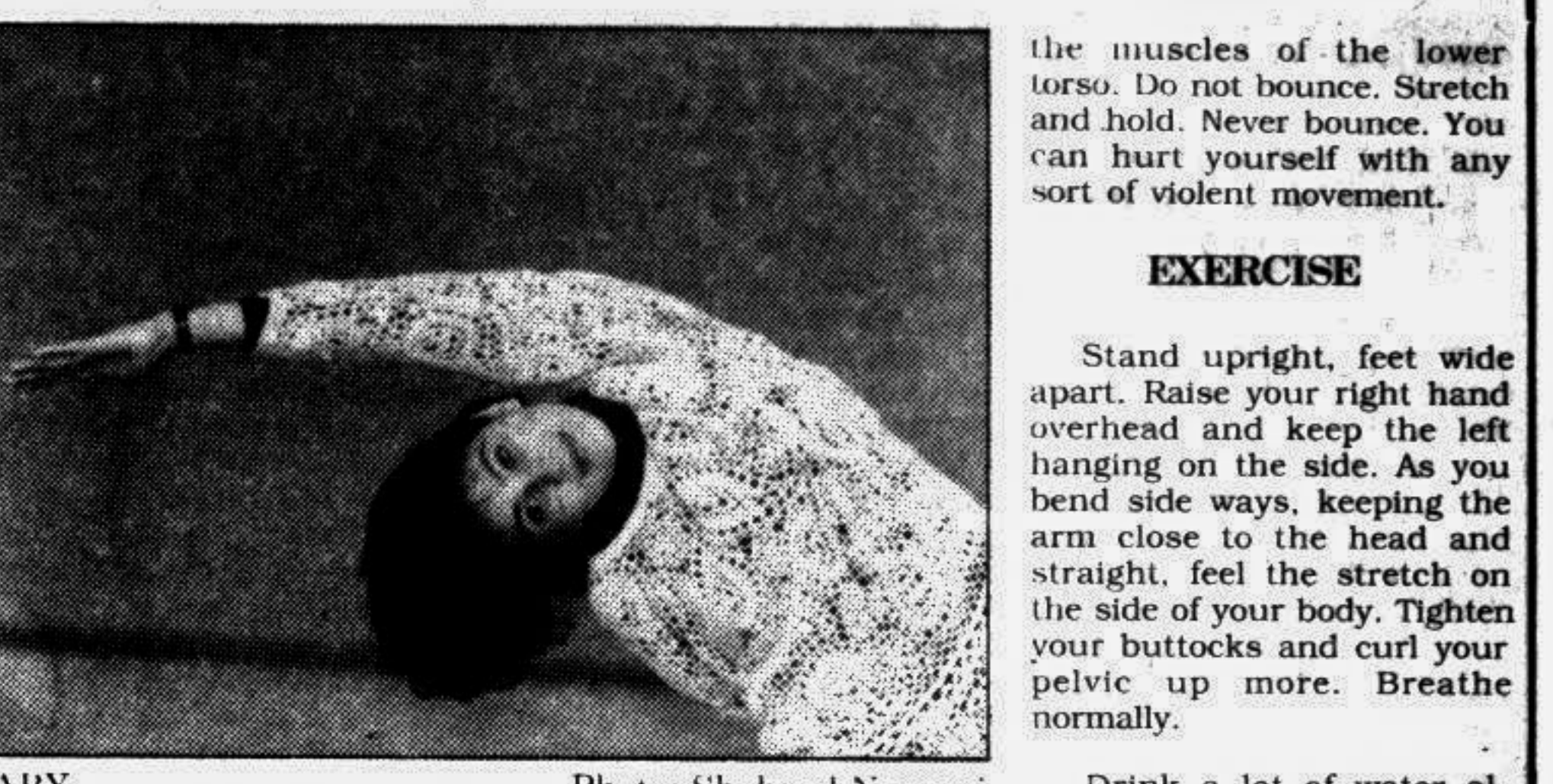


Photo: Shehzad Noorani
BABY
L ETS face it, ladies. When it comes to working out, its time to forget about everything else and get serious about your "one and only body".

SIDE BENDS
This movement stretches
Stand upright, feet wide apart. Raise your right hand overhead and keep the left hanging on the side. As you bend side ways, keeping the arm close to the head and straight, feel the stretch on the side of your body. Tighten your buttocks and curl your pelvic up more. Breathe normally.



Photo: Shehzad Noorani
BABY
L ETS face it, ladies. When it comes to working out, its time to forget about everything else and get serious about your "one and only body".

Seles, Martinez in semis

NEW YORK, Sept 7: Monica Seles reached the semifinals of the US Open with a 7-6 (7-5), 6-2 victory over Jana Novotna that turned on four pivotal points at the end of the first set, reports AP.

The way Seles played those points, the grit she showed while under pressure for the first time in 10 matches over two tournaments, may also be the determining factor when she plays Friday against Conchita Martinez, 3-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-2 victor over Brenda Schultz-McCarthy.

In an even closer and much longer match on Wednesday, 1989 men's champion Boris Becker reached the semifinals by surviving the longest duel of the tournament — 4 hours, 7 minutes — against Patrick McEnroe, 6-4, 7-6 (7-2), 6-7 (7-3), 7-6 (8-6).

Becker, who closed the match with his 30th ace, will play defending champion Andre Agassi, a 6-4, 6-2, 1-6, 7-5 winner over Petr Korda. Agassi, who played indiffer-

A sublime Spaniard

NEW YORK, Sept 7: The winning has come from the heart this summer for Conchita Martinez.

"I think she wants to fight," her coach Carlos Kirmayr said of the fourth-seeded Spaniard after she rallied to beat big-serving Brenda Schultz-McCarthy Wednesday for a spot in the US Open semifinals against Monica Seles, reports Reuter.

"I think she wants to show that side," Kirmayr said of Martinez, who has not lost a match since the Wimbledon semifinals. "There is not much that anybody can say to somebody who doesn't want to fight. That spirit has to come from her heart."

Martinez, the 1994 Wimbledon champion, brandished plenty of fighting spirit as she managed to combat the rocket serves of the 16th seeded Dutch woman for a 3-6, 7-6, 6-2 win and a berth in the final four for the first time here.

A relieved Boris Becker of Germany raises his arms in triumph after overcoming unseeded Patrick McEnroe of the United States in a thrilling 6-4, 7-6, 6-7, 7-6 quarter-final at the US Open in Flushing Meadows, New York on Wednesday. — AP/UNB photo