

Olympic Update

Because you play to win...



Column One

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-46

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. July 19, 1996)

1. Who is the current Olympic 100m sprint champion?	Charles Lewis	Fredericks
2. The 1972 Olympic Games were held in	Munich	Mexico City
3. Bangladesh first participated in the Olympic Games in	1976	1984
4. The first Modern Olympic Games was held in Greece in	1896	1900
5. The name of the IOC president is	Samaranch	Baronage

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (if any) _____

SPORTS TALK



Anil Kumble
(Indian leg-spinner)
"Success has its own way of bringing more success and that is why all this (poor form) does not worry me that much." While talking about success during England tour.

Partex ready to step in Lever's shoes

Sports Reporter

Partex Group has proposed to sponsor the Senior Division football league scheduled to commence at the Dhaka Stadium from August 7.

In a letter to the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) yesterday, the famous business house has shown interest to sponsor both Premier and First Division football leagues with the name of one of their products, Danish condensed milk after Lever Brothers, the original sponsor, pulled their rugs on Wednesday.

Meanwhile DMFA, the organisers, are still hopeful about getting back their previous sponsor, Lever Brothers, who suddenly pulled their name on Wednesday.

Talking to the reporters last night, DMFA secretary Muzammel Haque Mukta said, "We are still trying for Lever Brothers. The BFF president and the Sports Minister are trying to get back the company."

If the attempt fails, we will think for the Partex Group. "The decision on this regard will be made on Saturday," Mukta added.

Besides, the league committee will meet tonight to finalise the fixture of the league. The committee will also discuss on the activities of various sub-committees in the same meeting.

Karate camp

Sports Reporter

A karate training camp, organised by the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation (BJKF) to form a national karate team, will begin at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium from August 4.

Interested karatekas have been instructed to enroll their names with two copies of recent photographs at the BJKF office by July 31.

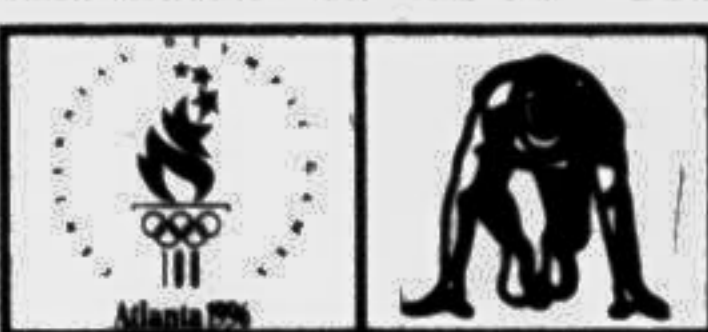
Rajib off to Qatar

Former sub-junior chess champion Enamul Hossain Rajib left here Thursday for Qatar to participate in the 9th Asian boys' (under-16) tournament, reports UNB.



A ground supervisor giving the final touch on flower arrangements at the Olympic Village in Atlanta on July 17. More than 10,800 athletes from 197 countries is expected to accommodate themselves in the village during the 1996 Olympic Games. — UNB/AFP photo

Record book at stake!



ATLANTA, Georgia, July 18 (AFP) — A glut of athletics world records will be under threat as the Olympic Games get underway here tomorrow.

But while Michael Johnson and Frankie Fredericks head the list of contenders likely to send temperatures soaring, the world's top women athletes look set to be left out in the cold.

The world's middle and long-distance stars, too, seem certain to be reduced to the role of bystanders, hampered by heat, humidity and a bone-hard track perfectly turned to the power athletes.

There are few competitors more powerful than Johnson. Fresh from erasing Pietro Mennea's 17-year 200m record last month, the American is confident he can go even quicker, while Butch Reynolds' 1988 time of 43.29 sec in the 400 also looks well within Johnson's range.

As he says himself: "I feel capable of running the 200m in 19.6 and of going below 43 sec for the 400."

Fredericks, meanwhile, is the favourite to erase Leroy Burrell's 100m mark of 9.85 sec, but only if he chooses to run the event.

The Namibian clocked 9.86 and 9.87 in the run-up to the Games but is still not sure whether to concentrate solely on his favourite 200m. Especially after beating Johnson in Oslo last month in a time of 19.82 sec.

The 800m world record — the longest-standing of all in the men's events, dating back to 1981 when Sebastian Coe clocked 1 min 41.73 sec — might also have been challenged, had world champion Wilson Kipketer's switch from Kenya to Denmark not ruled him out of the showpiece.

The women sprinters, in contrast, remain victims of history. While only two men's track world records have remained unbroken over the past five years — Coe and Reynolds' marks — no woman has got close to their 100, 200, 400 or 800 world records.

Florence Griffith-Joyner's extraordinary times of 10.49 and 21.34 at the Seoul Olympics continue to raise eyebrows — particularly since she ran the 100m in 10.70 or under four times within a three-month period in 1988, but never got remotely close again throughout her career.

East German Marita Koch's run of 47.60 sec over one lap, meanwhile — described by current world and Olympic champion Marie-Jose Perec as "impossible" — and Czech Jarmila Kratochvilova's 800m record of 1:53.28 have been discredited by allegations of state-sponsored drug use in the former eastern bloc.

Such illegal methods would also seem to have left most of the women's field world records out of reach. All of them date back to 1988 or earlier — the one exception the triple jump, broken at the World Championships by Inessa Kravets of the Ukraine. All of them are also held by former eastern Europeans, with American heptathlete Jackie Joyner-Kersey the odd-woman-out.

One women's track world record could fall, however. Kim Batten broke the 400m hurdles mark at Gothenburg to win the world title last year and her continuing rivalry with fellow American Tonja Buford and reigning champion Sally Gunnell of Great Britain could produce another new mark.

Both the men and women's middle and long distance stars, however, are unlikely to rewrite their best times in what are likely to be searing temperatures.

Algerian Noureddine Morceli, the triple world champion and record holder over 1,500m, is already confirmed as an all-time great but he will be concentrating on tactics rather than a fast time here.

China's Wang Junxia, meanwhile, will also be running for victory rather than history (her world records over 3,000 and 10,000m in 1993, incidentally, slicing 15 and 42 sec respectively off the previous best times, were greeted with the same incredulity sparked off by Griffith-Joyner's performances).

As for marathon lovers, they can forget all dreams of quick times. The debilitating conditions almost guarantee tortoise times and major upsets.

Many runners' ambitions will be limited to mere survival... which should be possible after the start times were changed to early morning, following medical advice that Atlanta's midday heat could kill.

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ATLANTA SNIPPETS

MONGOLIAN MISERY

ATLANTA, July 18 (Reuters, AFP) — The Mongolian team arrived at the Olympics on Wednesday after being dispersed over three continents on a marathon journey to Atlanta.

"It's a miracle they're all here," said Pat Young, the attaché assigned to help the Mongolian team. "They were happy warriors when they landed."

The attaché said the squad was dispersed after their scheduled flight from Beijing was cancelled because of mechanical problems, forcing athletes on to other flights.

Some arrived via Tokyo, some via Germany and others through Minneapolis, Detroit and other US cities.

One group of four marksmen apparently got delayed for a further four hours in Denver. Young said the team's journey had taken more than a day with the last athlete coming in from San Francisco.

The expected squad of 35 had also increased inexplicably to 62 but, the attaché said, all were accredited after another lengthy wait in Atlanta.

The summer athletes' journey was a breeze compared with the Odyssey undertaken by Mongolia's lone representative at the Lillehammer Winter Games in 1994.

He travelled 10 days by train from his base in Germany to Ulan Bator after being told he had not made the Olympic grade as a short-track speed skater. But when he reached Mongolia he found he had qualified after all. He made it to Norway by plane a week after the opening ceremony.

JOURNALIST PHOBIA

Swedish Olympic veteran Ragnar Skanavik said here Wednesday he was going "on strike against journalists" for the duration of the Atlanta Games, where the 62-year-old is competing in the pistol.

Skanavik, who has won a clutch of gold, silver and bronze medals over the last seven tournaments, explained his move by saying he believed he had previously been the victim of press "lies." Swedish news agency TT reported.

Some publications have claimed Skanavik has on occasion managed to dodge official controls regarding the weapons he brings to tournaments, prompting him to declare angrily in a statement to the Olympic committee. "Now I am regarded as an arms fraudster."

He added that in his view "some journalists should, as is the case with the athletes, be subject to qualifying tests."

DULL DIET

The monotonous menu at the Olympic Village cafeteria is helping Japanese judokas with their last minute diet — or sending them to a Japanese restaurant in Atlanta's upscale backbeat area.

"For the Japanese, the menu is too boring," world light middleweight champion Toshihiko Koga said Wednesday. "So it is beneficial for those who still have to reduce weight."

It was the first time in three Games that Koga has been able to sample the Village fare fully. In Seoul he was overweight, and in Barcelona, where he won the lightweight gold, he was nursing an injury.

Barcelona light middleweight champion Hidehiko Yoshida, who has moved up to middleweight, said he had found an alternative to "tasteless food" at the 24-hour cafeteria, which boasts of offering 550 kinds of food from all over the world.

Gen Salam new Shooting Fed chief

Sports Reporter

The government has appointed Maj Gen (retired) Abdul Salam MP as president of the Bangladesh Shooting Federation yesterday.

According to a PID handout, the appointment is made with immediate effect. Gen Salam replaces Hannan Shah, the former Jute Minister who quit the post after the departure of the BNP government.

BWDB volleyball

Sports Reporter

The 22nd inter-office volleyball competition of Bangladesh Water Development Board got underway at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Abdur Razzak, Minister for Water Resources, inaugurated the 5-day meet as chief guest of the opening ceremony. Water Resources Secretary Dr Mashur Rahman was also present on the occasion.

A total of 20 teams, qualified from the 32 team preliminary round, are taking part in the meet. On the inaugural day, three matches were held.

Brazil eye elusive gold



on the cake on top of that."

The Olympic tournament, which for years was the preserve of anonymous east block teams, is now an important half-way house for up-and-coming young professionals.

FIFA, world soccer's governing body, seeking to preserve the World Cup's pre-eminence, allows professionals to take part but imposes an upper age limit of 23, although each team can now field three over-age players.

Following this rule change, 23 players who appeared in USA '94 are returning to the United States, including Bebeto and Aldair of Brazil's winning World Cup team and Gianluca Pagliuca, who played in goal for Italy, beaten on penalties in the Pasadena final.

Other veterans from the World Cup also include US players Alexi Lalas and Claudio Reyna, flamboyant Mexican goalkeeper Jorge Campos, and striker Daniel Amokachi of Nigeria, while coaches Mario Zagallo of Brazil, Bora Milutinovic of Mexico and Javier Clemente of Spain all have wide experience at the highest level.

Zagallo, who was in Brazil's winning World Cup teams of 1958 and 1962, coached the side to victory in 1970 and was assistant coach in 1994; has emphasised just what success at the Olympics means to the South Americans.

"Perhaps in the past we have never taken the Olympic Games seriously enough. This year is different. We want to be

not only the world champions, but simultaneously the gold medal winners at the Olympic Games," he said recently.

His sentiments are echoed in Brazil where the pre-Olympic media build-up has concentrated almost exclusively on the soccer competition.

Brazil were runners-up to France in Los Angeles in 1984 and also lost the 1988 final to what was then the Soviet Union. If they win the title they will be the first team to be both world and Olympic champions at the same time since Italy in the 1930s.

The competition comprises 16 teams in four groups with Brazil bracketed with Japan, Hungary and Nigeria in Group D.

The host nation United States kick off their campaign in front of a sell-out 80,000 crowd against Argentina at Legion Field, Birmingham, on Saturday with Tunisia and Portugal completing Group A.

France, Australia, Saudi Arabia and Spain make up Group B and Italy, Mexico, Ghana and South Korea are in Group C.

The final is on August 3 in Athens, 45 miles (70 km) northeast of Atlanta.

For the first time women's soccer is also on the Olympic programme with eight nations taking part — the United States, Denmark, Sweden and China in one group and Brazil, world champions Norway, Germany and Japan in the other.

— UNB/AFP photo

China, life's little irony

Deng, the reigning Olympic champion and 1995 world champion, and China's world number two Qiao Hong stand in Chen's path in Atlanta, but as top seeds they will not meet until the final rounds.

Chen, who has only moonlighted in the sport since 1990, admitted that her Olympic chances have been hurt by a lack of world-class training in Taiwan.

"In China, you can rely on the support of a whole coaching staff," the former Olympic champion said in the local Taiwanese lift that has replaced her old Wuhan Drawl.

"In Taiwan, training is still pretty amateurish, including your practice partners and coaching. You have to prepare yourself," Chen said.

Chen even sought to return to China for training, but was barred.

"I am now a serious threat to them. They naturally will not want to train players who can possibly beat their own players," Chen said.

"If I meet them again I am going to get really tough."

Chen's switch of allegiance has made her an outcast in China, where the communist rulers seek to isolate nationalist-ruled Taiwan, which they refer to as a rebel province.

Chinese table tennis authorities have condemned Chen, and other top players who have fled the country, as traitors who need to be taught a lesson.

The bad blood between the bitter adversaries reached boiling point in 1994 when China's world number one Deng Yaping was beaten by another Chinese exile, Japan's Chire Koyama, in the final of the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games.

Since then Deng and other Chinese stars have vowed openly to take revenge against any former compatriots they meet in competition.

"The major threats to us (China) will come from former Chinese nationals living in and playing for other countries," Deng said during the 1995 World Championships in Tianjin.

"As a player I only concentrate on winning. I try not to think of other things," she said.

Chen's switch of allegiance

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