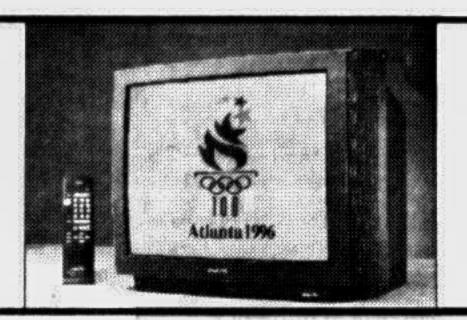


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# PHILIPS

# China takes early lead

ATLANTA, July 21: China led in both gold medals, with two, and frustration, with plenty, on the Olympics' open-

ing day Saturday, reports AP.
Some of its swimming medal hopes failed even to qualify, its defending gold medalist air pistol shooter lost this year's title with a spectac-ular collapse on the final shot. and two weightlifters failed in late challenges.

Poland mixed tragedy with triumph. Shooter Renata Mauer won the first gold medal of these Games, after diplomat Evgeniusz Pietrasik, 48, head of the Polish mission in Atlanta, suffered a fatal heart attack on the field of Olympic stadium during the previous night's opening ceremonies.

The defending men's judo

heavyweight champion, David Khakhaleichvili of Georgia, was disqualified when he couldn't get to his weigh-in on time. and David Douillet of France fought his way to the gold.

Belgium, Ireland and New Zealand each won their first swimming gold medal in any Olympics. The rest of the day's 10 gold medals were spread among Italy, Russia, France and Turkey.

For China's women swimmers, trying to rebound from a doping scandal, world record holder Le Jingyi won the 100metre freestyle and set an Olympic record. Compatriot Sun Fuming won the women's heavyweight judo gold, beating Cuban Estela Rodriguez. But the Chinese had to

watch Ireland's Michelle Smith win in the women's

their final lifts. Instead, Turkey's Halil Mutlu, who said "I couldn't watch" their last attempts, ended up with the

Mutlu had taken the lead by breaking his own world record in the snatch.

Belgium's Fred Deburghgraeve set a world record of 1 minute, 0.60 seconds in the 100-metre breaststroke qualifying heats Saturday morning, and then won the gold at night



in 1:00.65, still better than the old mark of 1:00.95 set by Hungary's Karoly Guttler on August 3, 1993.

Smith overtook American Allison Wagner in the final 100-metre for the gold in the 400 IM. She finished in 4:39.18 to 4:42.03 by Wagner and 4:42.53 by bronze medalist Krisztina Egerszegi of Hungary.

New Zealand's Danyon Loader won the men's 200metre freestyle in 1:47.63,

Poland's Renata Mauer won her championship when Germany's Petra Horneber wavered on her final shot in the 10-metre air rifle event.

Horneber needed only a 9.1 on her final shot — 10.9 is perfect — to win. Instead, she shot an 8.8 and Mauer, the last shooter, squeezed off a 10.7. Mauer finished with 497.2 to 497.4 for Horneber. Aleksandra Ivosev of Yugoslavia won the bronze with 497.2 points

Horneber broke down in tears seconds after her final and worst - shot of the competition.

Later, she explained, "It was just a bad shot. It could have happened at the beginning or in the middle competition."

Wang's miss was more stunning. He scored only 6.5, while Italy's Roberto Di Donna finished with a 10.4, taking gold with a 684.2 total to 684.1 for Wang. Tanu Kiriakov of Bulgaria took bronze with

After Wang was taken for medical assistance, Di Donna said, "I don't know if he had a problem or if he was just disappointed for losing, but I still think he is one of the greatest in shooting."

In men's judo, Douillett, who has won three world titles since 1993, downed Ernesto Perez of Spain for the gold

An early opponent of Douillet, Eric Kreiger of Austria, was sent to the hospital with a possible neck fracture after the French champion dropped

him heavily.



A SHOT THAT BACKFIRED: World champion and gold winner at a Barcelona Wang Yifu of China, who missed the final shot during the air pistol event at the Wolf Creek Shooting Complex near Atlanta on Saturday, is given first aid after he collapsed as a sequel of a late debacle. Wang eventually finished with a sedate silver. - AFP/UNB photo

after Chen Yan had only the 17th best qualifying time and Wu Yanyan the 18th, both swimming about 13 seconds slower than at their national trials in April.

In men's air pistol shooting. China's Wang Yifu missed badly on his final shot, then lowered his gun in disbelief, slumped against a wall and fainted while his father and team officials wiped his brow and tried to console him.

The 35-year-old shooter was given oxygen as he was taken on a stretcher to the shooting range's medical tent, but doctors said later that he

was all right. Chinese weightlifters Zhang Xiangsen, the 1995 world champion, and Lan Shizhang both could have won the 54kilogram division gold with Brazil in 1:48 08 and Daniel Kowalski of Australia in 1:48.25. China's Le broke the

Olympic mark of 54.51 seconds, set by compatriot Zhuang Yong in 1992, as she won the I00-freestyle in 54.50. Her world mark is 54.01. Sandra Volker of Germany took the silver medal in 54.88. American Angel Martino, who led after 50 metres, was third in 54.93.

At the 1994 World Champi onships, the Chinese won gold medals in 12 of 16 women's events. Two weeks later, seven of their swimmers, including two world champions, tested positive for banned drugs and were suspended for two years.

Chinese shooter Wang wasn't alone in losing gold on the final shot.

Alexander Beketov beat Cuba's Ivan Trevejo-Perez 15-14 for the men's epee fencing gold in a final that was tied nine times. Earlier, he had beaten two 1992 Olympic medalists from France, Jean-Michel Henry and Eric Srecki.

Hungary captured the bronze medal when Geza Imre defeated injured compatriot Ivan Kovacs 15-9.

Mutlu won his weightlifting gold with a total of 287.5 kilograms (633 3/4 pounds). including a snatch of 132 (291 pounds) that broke the world record of 130.5 (287 3/4) he had set March 5, 1995.

Zhang took the silver with a total of 280 (617 1/4 pounds) Bulgaria's Sevdalin Minchev won the bronze with 277.5 (611 3/4), and Lan placed fourth with 275 (606 1/4).

# Luck — the fickle lady

ATLANTA, July 21 (Reuter): It's not the winning that counts, it's playing the game Yet at least two Olympic hopefuls didn't even get that far as the Games began in Atlanta on Saturday.

Heading the list of unlucky losers on the first day of the centenary Olympics was a defending judo champion from Georgia who went to the wrong place and missed the weight-in.

Then there was the Afghan boxer who braved rocket attacks on his hometown gym in training, out got delayed in New York and arrived too late to face off against his rivals.

Some accepted a lowly performance with grace, like Irishman Barry McDonald, who made his country's Olympic debut in the gymnastics.

McDonald placed 25th out of 38th after the compulsory exercises and said: "It's a great feeling, beautiful... I didn't fall

off anything." Others took it to heart. China's Yifu Wang collapsed and was carried from the shooting range with an Oxygen mask strapped to his face after a last-shot blunder cost him

Olympic gold in the men's 10-

Defending champion Wang was on target to beat the Olympic record he set four years ago, but a scoreboard malfunction after the penultimate round disrupted his concentration on the final shot and allowed Italian Roberto di Donna to snatch gold.

China's world world-beating women swimmers got off to a poor start after being forced to spend part of the night outside their rooms in the Olympic Village because of a fire alarm.

#### IOC thinking about future

ATLANTA, July 21: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said Saturday it would review the former of future opening ceremonies after suggestions that Atlanta's drawn-out extravaganza in steamy heat was too gruelling. reports Reuter.

The ceremony, due to take four hours, stretched another 30 minutes because the hordes of athletes from a record 197 countries took so long to file into the stadium.

Jingyi led the field after qualifying for the evening's 100 metres freestyle, but three other Chinese failed to get through including a 17-yearold who had set the fastest time in the world this year. In the men's hockey, de-

Double world champion Le

fending champions Germany were handed a surprise defeat by Spain, Wiger Javier Arnau scored a penalty corner goal in

the 51st minute. But at least the Germans were able to take part.

David Khakhaleshvili, defending heavyweight judo champion, went to the sport's downtown venue on Saturday morning only to find that the weigh-in was back at the ath-

letes Village. By the time the 25-year-old Georgian made the return journey. the weigh-in was over and international judo federation president Park Young-Sun took the decision to remove

him from the start list. Afghan boxer Mohammed Jawid Aman was just as unlucky. The light-middleweight trained under rocket fire in a cold and dirty Kabul gym to pursued his Olympic dream.

#### ATLANTA SNIPPETS

#### **NOTHING BEATS** FRIENDSHIP

ATLANTA, July 21: American Angel Martino, third in the Olympic 100 metres freestyle final on Saturday, donated her medal to a friend fighting cancer soon after the victory ceremony, reports Reuter. The disclosure came almost

by accident at the post-race news conference when a reporter asked Martino where her medal was.

"I gave it to a friend, she's fighting for her life," Martino said as the room fell silent.

"She's got cancer."
Trisha Henry, a volunteer at the Olympics, told reporters she had discovered last February that she had contracted

cancer of the uretha. Henry, who has lost a kidney to the disease, said she had left hospital on Saturday in time to watch the opening day

of the swimming programme. She said she has been going in to hospital for two to three days at a time but on her last visit the radiation had been increased.

Looking deceptively healthy and handling a battery of questioning with admirable aplomb. Henry said she had been swimming since the age of seven and a half and was now studying at the University of Illinois.

Asked what Martino had said, Henry replied: "I want to give this to you. I think you're a hero and I want you to know I'm thinking about you. And keep fighting."

#### RIGHT MOMENT FOR ROMANCE

British canoeist Shaun Pearce won the gold medal for romance by kneeling down in the middle of the Olympic stadium during the opening ceremony and proposing the physiotherapist Julie Stark. She accepted to a huge cheer from the British team. "It was so romantic that I cried throughout the rest of the ceremony." she said.

#### An emotional choice

ATLANTA, July 21: Boxers and fans alike saluted the surprise choice of Muhammad Ali to light the Olympic flame in dozens of languages Saturday. reports AP

"It was a great moment. When you get a gold medal you're a champion for life." said French boxer Jean-Louis Mandengue. And yet Ali is not just an

athlete, he said. ve never liked him - he's a draft dodger," said Allen Farmer, a 44-year-old ex-Marine and Vietnam veteran, who was at Alexander Memorial

Coliseum to root for US boxers. "I'm not taking anything away from him as an athlete. he added.

Others recall another Ali: the one who travelled the world, promoting Muslim principles and meeting with kings and heads of state. "They say I'm the world's most recognisable man," Ali himself was recently quoted as saying. "Well. God did that for a reason, man, to help me preach his word.

The choice of Ali was an emotional one.

"It was sad. He was shaking. I got ill when I saw him," said Swedish boxer Roger Petterson, who nonetheless called Ali the right choice. The former champion suffers from Parkinson's syndrome, which caused his left arm to shake as he lit the flame with his right. "I was surprised that I got

so choked up," said fan Alex Eggleston of Rochester. New

#### Transport trauma

ATLANTA, July 21: Olympics organisers ordered an urgent review of Atlanta's transport system on Saturday after it failed its first major test — shuttling 85,000 spectators to the Games opening ceremony, reports Reuter.

Olympic venues in central Atlanta rely heavily on the Marta subway system, consisting of one east-west line and one north-south. Sports fans have been advised to leave their cars at home and many key roads around stadiums have been closed.

But spectators travelling to the Olympic Stadium for the opening ceremony on Friday night found travelling on Marta, an experience they would think twice about repeating. Trains were infrequent and when they arrived, they were stuffed full.

#### Mercedes Cup Muster's

STUTTGART, Germany, July 21: Thomas Muster successfully defended his championship crown at the Mercedes Open tennis tournament Sunday, defeating French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia 6-2, 6-2, 6-4, reports



women's 100m freestyle gold at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Centre on July 20. Le won with a timing of 54.50 seconds, giving China its first gold medal in the Atlanta Olympics. — AFP/UNB photo

### QUIPS & QUOTES

ATLANTA, July 21 (AFP): What people are saying at the Atlanta Olympics:

"Because I'm good at it. If I could swim 100m faster than anybody else in the world, believe me. I would. Kieren Perkins, Australia's

1500m freestyle, on why he swims the arduous event. "I do her laundry. I don't do her advice.

Janet Evans, winner of four individual swimming golu medals in two Olympies, on how she has been helping 14year-old teammate Amanda Beard cope with Olympic life.

"We're here to mine gold. not pick coconuts." Herb Elliott, Jamaican team doctor, on the Caribbean nation's intentions at the

Olympics: "It doesn't matter where they come from, they're just another opponent, two arms. two legs, you get more blows on them and less on you and you've won the fight ... it's a

pretty basic sport, really." Australian boxer Rick Timperi on his team's chances. "None of us were born with gold spoons in our mouths. we've always had to work hard against all odds, so to speak, and if your look at all the individual stories, how we came up

point, hey, we did, and we beat all the odds. American light heavyweight boxing gold medal contender Antonio Tarver.

and what it took to get to this

"He wanted to break the world record in the morning. just to say, hey, I'm here.'

Belgian Fred Deburghraeve's coach Ronald Gaasten after the swimmer had sliced 35 hundredths of a second off the

100m breaststroke world record. "We are trying to be subtle.

subtle, subtle - how to win friends and influence people without trying. Archbishop Desmond Tutu

on Cape Town's attempts to win the 2004 Olympic Games. "It's so nice to be here as an athlete rather than a political player. In that sense, these Olympic Games are very special: We didn't have a flag or an anthem in Barcelona. Now we

do — and it's great." South African marathon runner Elana Meyer.

"I feel cheated." Peter Ribe after being thrown off Norway's Olympic canoe team for failing a drug

"I was not very happy with beach volleyball being introduced into the Olympics. In Russia we don't have beaches like Brazil."

Vitaly Smirnov, president of Russian National Olympic Committee.

"They bring in softball. I can tell you hardly one person in 1.000 can tell you what it is."

Vitaly Smirnov, president of the Russian National Olympic Committee on softball in the Games. "The traffic is terrible, the system is terrible, the pay is

terrible and the hotel is terrible. If it does not improve I'm out of here." Denver bus driver shipped in to help organisers. "It is very difficult to win

two gold medals. To win three in a row is even tougher. Russian wrestler Alexander Karelin on his chances of making it three golds in a row



A beaming Sun Fuming of China acknowledges the crowds' applause with her over-72kg women's heavyweight judo gold at the Georgia World Congress Centre in - AFP/UNB photo Atlanta on Saturday.

## . The champ Dull debut for 'Dream Team III'

**MEDALS TABLE** 

ATLANTA, July 21: Medals table after the first day of competition at the Atlanta Olympics on Saturday: (tabulated under

ATLANTA, July 21: The lights went out on "Dream team iii" during their Olympic opener. And when they returned, the United States team seemed to be the one suffering

gold, silver, bronze):

Country

Belgium

France

Ireland

Poland

Russia

Turkey

Cuba

Brazil

Spain

Bulgaria

Hungary

Australia

Yugoslavia

Germany

New Zealand

United States

Italy

China

from a power failure. A partial power failure at the Georgia Dome here Saturday halted the Olympic debut of the National Basketball Association stars. who battled well into the second half before subduing stubborn Argentina 96-68, reports

By comparison, the 1992 Dream Team that featured Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson opened with a 116-48 rout of Angola and won by an average of 43.8 points in

Barcelona.

a poor substitute for the origi-nal, even though they remain an overwhelming gold medal favourite. They led only 46-44 at half-time, the slimmest margin for any Dream squad.

Other men's medal con-

"Dream Team III" is proving

tenders had problems of their Lithuania edged Croatia 83-81 in double over-time, but lost starter Arturas Karnisovas

with an injured right foot. Croatia now needs Lithuania to be upset in order to avoid being bracketed against Dream Team III" in the medal-round semifinals. The loss also reduces chances for a Yugoslavia-Croatia matchup. which would be their first since the breakup of their common homeland and the

ethnic warfare that followed.

Yougoslavia, the reigning European champions, opened with a 71-63 victory over

In other games: - Wang Zhizhi had 17 points and I1 rebounds to lead China to a 70-67 victory over

 Australia built a 36-point advantage on the way to a 111-88 victory over South

- Brazil edged Puerto Rico 101-98, as the last of Oscar Schmidt's 45 points come on a three-point play with 17 seconds left.

#### Cuban spikers drub Canada

ATLANTA, July 21: Cuba opened defence of their Olympic women's volleyball crown Saturday by routing Canada, and a revitalised Chinese team thrashed the

Netherlands, reports AP. The Cubans overpowered -Canada 15-8, 15-8, 15-5 China, rebuilding after two big disappointments earlier this decade, brushed off the Dutch

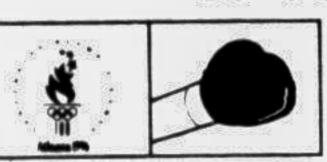
15-10, 15-5, 15-7. Russia beat Germany 15-5, 15-10, 15-7, avenging a loss in the European Zone qualification tournament. The Russians later qualified in Africa.

The United States beat Olympic newcomer Ukraine 15-8, 15-5, 15-11, and South Korea downed Japan 15-10,

15-12, 15-10. Brazil crushed Peru 15-7,

### The blood, sweat & tears

15-1, 15-5.



ATLANTA. July 21: Cuba provided the blood. Tajikistan the tears and a Canadian Hercules the sweat at the Olympic boxing tournament on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The tears flowed freely when Tajik bantamweight Khurshed Khasanov outclassed Nigerian Kahinde Aweda and then watched the referee raise his opponent's hand in triumph. The mixup was rectified but not before Aweda had leapt around the ring in jubilation. "I felt just terrible.

Khasanov said later "I started to cry. It was the first time that I saw something like this happen after I was winning all along." The Cubans, firmly con-

vinced that they should be seen and not heard, let their US rivals do the talking but made their presence felt nonetheless. Welterweight Juan Herna-

ndez, silver medalist at the

1992 Barcelona Olympics.

stopped Hungary's Jazcef Nagy after one minute 48 seconds of the second round. The Hungarian left with a bloody nose. Hernandez strode proudly back to the Village

keeping his silence. Arnaldo Mesa, a featherweight who had to move down a class in place of bantamweight Joel Casamayor after the Olympic champion defected earlier this month. saw off the wooden-looking Swede John Larbi 19-5 in a

Mesa also kept his thoughts to himself, following a noble tradition set by Coach Aldeides Sagarra whose customary reply to reporters so far has been have no comment."

one-sided bout

While actions may speak louder than words, the US team hedged its bets by doing

The American fighters were unstoppable both in and out of the ring, beating their rivals without too much ado and then finding time to analyse every blow from every angle.

Coach Al Mitchell was also in good voice, speaking all the louder to persuade his men to listen to him. Canadian welterweight Hercules Kyvelos laboured in

vain against Tunisian Kamel

Chater and went out on the slimmest of points decisions protesting that he had been robbed. Cuba's triple Olympic heavyweight gold medalist Teofilo Stevenson was given a warm welcome when he put in an appearance but it paled

compared to the reception

given to another great Olympic

heavyweight champion. Smokin' Joe Frazier. Frazier, whose Philadelphia gym is used by several US Olympians, was surrounded by VIPs, athletes and hangers-on seeking a signature and a photograph as pair of nervous armed security guards hovered

> Solid start for Russian gymnasts

in the background.

ATLANTA, July 21: Russia used a lesson learned from an embarrassing performance in gymnastics at last year's World Championships to seize the lead from China after compulsory men's exercises at the Olympics, reports Reuter.

Despite winning the option-

onships in Japan, shaky compulsories doomed the Russians, who finished one point out of the medals in fourth. "In Japan, we were 11th

als at the World Champi

after the compulsories. Here we are in first. I feel 10 places better," said Russian coach Leonid Arkasy.

