



LIVE ON PHILIPS TV

Atlanta 1996

Mandela greets Penny Heyns

PRETORIA, July 22: South African President Nelson Mandela today congratulated swimmer Penny Heyns for her victory in the 100 metres breaststroke, the first Olympic gold won by a South African since 1952, report agencies.

"I watched with great pride the coverage of your feat ... you have done our country proud. You are our golden girl," Mandela said in a message sent to Heyns in Atlanta.

History beckons 'Pocket Hercules'

ATLANTA, July 22: The man dubbed "Pocket Hercules" may be on the verge of making Olympic weightlifting history.

Naim Suleymanoglu, 29, of Turkey, is one of 12 lifters to win gold medals in two Olympics, reports AP.

On Tuesday, he goes after his third gold — a weightlifting feat never before accomplished — in the 64-kilogram (141-pound) division.

Samaranch thanks the Pope

VATICAN CITY, July 22: International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch sent a message of "profound gratitude" to Pope John Paul today for his prayers for this year's Games, reports Reuters.

The blessing of your holiness will encourage us to promote friendship, solidarity and fraternity among all people of the world," Samaranch said in a letter sent to the Vatican.

"In the name of the Olympic Movement I am honoured to express our profound gratitude... for your message."

The Pope on Sunday prayed for a peaceful Olympics and said he hoped that the event, the 100th anniversary of the modern Games, would "strongly re-launch the ideal of sport as the promotion of man and peaceful and caring encounter between peoples."

Olympics: What's on today

ATLANTA, July 22 (Reuters): Timetable for the fourth day of Olympics competition on Tuesday (all venues Atlanta unless stated, all times BST):

Swimming

8.05 pm: Men's 400 metres freestyle preliminaries.

8.50 pm: Women's 200 metres breaststroke preliminaries.

9.15 pm: Men's 100 metres backstroke preliminaries.

9.40 pm: Women's 100 metres butterfly preliminaries.

10.05 pm: Men's 4x100 metres freestyle relay preliminaries.

5.30 am (Wednesday): Men's 400 metres freestyle final.

5.50 am (Wednesday): Women's 200 metres breaststroke final.

6.15 am: Men's 100 metres backstroke final.

6.35 am: Women's 100 metres butterfly final.

7.00 am: Men's 4x100 metres freestyle relay final.

Soccer

Men's preliminaries

Group C

6.00 am (Wednesday): South Korea v Mexico (Birmingham, Alabama)

7.00 am: Ghana v Italy (Washington, DC)

Group D

6.30 am: Brazil v Hungary (Miami, Florida)

6.30 am: Japan v Nigeria (Orlando, Florida)

Hockey

Men's preliminaries

Group B

7.00 pm: Netherlands v Britain

3.30 am (Wednesday): Malaysia v South Africa

6.00 am (Wednesday): Australia v South Korea

Shooting

Men's 50-metre free pistol

7.00 pm: Qualifying

10.00 pm: Finals

Women's double trap

7.00 pm: Qualifying

12.30 am (Wednesday): Finals



Penny Heyns of South Africa paddles her way to win the 100m breaststroke with a new world record. The 21-year-old clocked one minute 07.02 seconds.

— AFP/UNB photo

Springboks' spring back



sult in the 1992 Olympics.

In addition, it continued a South African sport renaissance after the three decades the country was banned from most international sports — including the Olympics — because of apartheid.

Since negotiations began six years ago between the former white-led government and Nelson Mandela's African National Congress, South Africa has slowly made its way back into international arenas and on to glory. It won the Rugby World Cup last year and the continental soccer championship this year.

Heyns said she felt the pressure of swimming for a sports-crazy country that last celebrated an Olympic gold medal in 1952.

"I know the country had a lot of big expectations and I tried not to let that weigh on

me," she said. She began her perfect day in the pool by smashing her own world record in the preliminaries. Her time of 1:07.02 lowered the mark she set in the qualifying heats of the South African Olympic trials in March by 0.44 seconds.

Heyns then won the final over a fast-closing Amanda Beard of the United States and waved a multicolored South African flag on the medal platform as the country's post-apartheid national anthem was played for the first time at any Olympic Games.

The anthem was adopted with the nation's first all-race election in 1994 that ended white rule and brought Mandela's ANC to power. At the 1992 Olympics, South Africa's first after the ban was lifted, its athletes won two silver medals competing under the Olympic flag and anthem.

Di Donna won the 10-metre air pistol event on Saturday, by a nailbiting one tenth of a point, the narrowest possible margin.

The national wine group

'Città del Vino' (wine city),

which aims to use wine to

boost tourism and economic

development, said it would

present di Donna with the

prize later in the year in the

Tuscan city of Suvereto.

Di Donna, who will be given

a bottle for each of the 150

localities which belong to the

association, triumphed in the

event after a blunder by defending champion Wang Yifu of

China. Wang had been on

course to beat his own Olympic

record but blew his final shot.

He collapsed and had to be

given oxygen.

Heyns sports a tattoo on her shoulder of a springbok, a small African antelope, that was the national sports symbol during the apartheid years. As blacks hated the emblem and it has been dropped as a symbol in every sport except

rugby.

"I'm aware there's certain

people that find it offensive."

Heyns said, "I've never been

able to wear my springbok

colours and this was a way to

do it."

She got the tattoo in March when she first set the world record in the 100-meter breaststroke. The accomplishment earned her an invitation to meet Mandela, who she called one of her major supporters.

South Africa is bidding to host the 2004 Olympics in Cape Town to help promote and develop a nation left riven and impoverished by apartheid. Once the sentimental favourite to win the bid, Cape Town has fallen from favour, due in part to the perception development money should help millions of impoverished blacks instead of building sports facilities.

"I have mixed feelings," Heyns said of the bid. "In some ways, South Africa should host the Olympics the future, but maybe 2004 is too soon."

A psychology major at Nebraska, Heyns swam four seasons for the Cornhuskers and has another year of study before graduating.

She goes for another medal in the 200-metre breaststroke on Tuesday, although she's not favoured to win. Beard and bronze medal winner Samantha Riley of Australia are considered stronger in the longer race.

No matter, Heyns has secured her role in South African sports history, tattoo and all.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Tuesday 23rd July
(All programmes are in local time. We recommend programmes printed in bold. There may be changes in the programmes)

Bangla 11:35 Wednesday's programme 11:40 Close down

BBC

6:00am BBC Newsroom inc. World Business Report: Asia Today/24

Hours 9:00 BBC World Headlines

9:05 Panorama 10:00 BBC Newsday 1:00 BBC World News 1:15 Panorama 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: The Contenders 3:00 BBC World News 3:00 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 4:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:00 BBC World News 6:15 The Money Programme 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC News 8:00 BBC Newshour Asia & Pacific 8:30 Time Out: First Day Show 11:00 MASH 8:30 The Flying Doctors 9:30 The Extraordinary 10:00 BBC World News 9:15 Panorama 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Building Sights 11:00 The World Today 1:00 BBC World Headlines 1:05 Panorama 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Auction 3:00 BBC World Report inc. World Business Report/24

6:30am Voltron 7:00 Teenage

STAR PLUS

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6:30am Jagran 7:00 ZED

Naya A to Z 2 Zee Education Prog.

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