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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.

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 relaunch 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): **Finals for the fourth day of the 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
3.00 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



ATLANTA, July 22 (AP): South Africa, the world's largest gold producer, hadn't won Olympic gold for 44 years. It took a woman from the heart of America to finally bring it home Sunday night.

Penny Heyns, a 21-year-old student at the University of Nebraska who competes for her native South Africa, triumphed in the 100-metre breaststroke to become her country's first post-apartheid Olympic champion.

Her time of 1 minute, 7.73 seconds was slightly off the world record she set earlier in the day, but a huge improvement over her 33rd-place result 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.

Heyns sports a tattoo on her shoulder of a springbok, a small African antelope, that was the national sports symbol during the apartheid years. Associated with white privilege, 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-metre 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 in 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.

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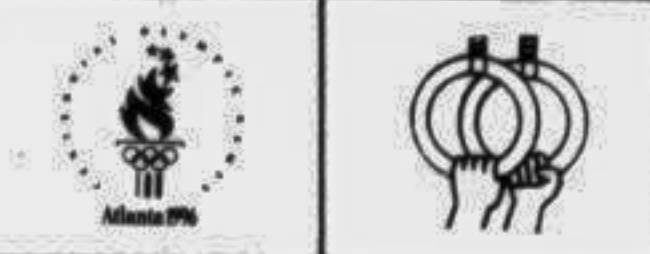
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Russia wrest lead



ATLANTA, July 22: Russia's women gymnasts, responding to an inspiring pep talk from coach Leonid Arkaev, grabbed a slender lead over the United States on Sunday after the compulsory exercises, report agencies.

World champions Romania set the early mark in the morning session but were overtaken by the Americans, who in turn were caught by the Russians in a compelling competition that promises a sizzling showdown in Tuesday's optional.

Russia needed a superb showing on the vault to stay ahead of the powerful US team and they got it.

"We told them they had to hit other landings, that we needed to do well in the vault," said Arkaev, who rallied his team around him before the crucial exercise.

Paying closest attention to her coach was Rozalia Galiyeva, who soared to a score of 9.837, matching the best mark of the day on the apparatus.

Russia totalled 193.796

points from 24 routines to lead the United States by a scant 0.127 of a point. Romania were third another half-point back, followed by Ukraine and China.

The Americans looked as if they might run their medal chances to zero with four successive shaky performances on the beam.

The US women showed few signs of nerves, despite performing in front of a flag-waving, cheering crowd that expects nothing less than gold. The tiny Moceanu, who sat out the Olympic trials with a stress fracture in her right shin, missed a blind release move on the uneven bars twice during warmup, but nailed it squarely during her routine.

Then came Shannon Miller's turn, and the five-time medalist in Barcelona put the US team back on course with the day's best beam performance, a 9.737.

"I didn't see anyone else's performance but I knew I needed a good routine to help the team," said Miller.

Tiny 14-year-old Dominique Moceanu followed Miller with another superb routine on the gymnastics equivalent of the high wire and the US side was off and running.

US coach Martha Karolyi said the beam is always a worry.

Toasting gold in Italian style!

ROME, July 22: An Italian wine association said on Sunday it would award marksman Roberto di Donna 150 bottles to toast his gold medal, Italy's first of the Atlanta Olympics, reports Reuters.

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 'Citta 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 one 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.



Belgian Ulla Werbrouck (R) is about to topple her opponent Yoko Tanabe of Japan during their 72kg division final in the judo event at the Georgia World Congress Centre on July 21. Werbrouck won the gold.

— AFP/UNB photo



MEDALS TABLE

ATLANTA, July 22: Medals table after the second day of the 26th Olympic Games in Atlanta on Sunday:

Country	C	G	B	Total
Poland	4	0	0	4
France	3	2	0	5
Russia	3	2	2	7
China	3	2	1	6
United States	2	6	2	10
Belgium	2	0	1	3
Turkey	2	0	0	2
Italy	1	1	1	3
South Korea	1	1	0	2
Australia	1	0	2	3
Costa Rica	1	0	0	1
Ireland	1	0	0	1
Kazakhstan	1	0	0	1
New Zealand	1	0	0	1
South Africa	1	0	0	1
Germany	0	4	5	9
Belarus	0	2	1	3
Cuba	0	2	1	3
Brazil	0	1	1	2
Sweden	0	1	1	2
Greece	0	1	0	1
Japan	0	1	0	1
Spain	0	1	0	1
Bulgaria	0	0	3	3
Hungary	0	0	2	2
Canada	0	0	1	1
Yugoslavia	0	0	1	1



Asian youth championship

Bangladesh off to Maldives

Sports Reporter



A 25-member Bangladesh under-19 football team is scheduled to leave for Maldives this afternoon to take part in the qualifying round of the 30th Asian Youth championship.

The tourney involving Bangladesh, Iraq and hosts Maldives will begin from July 27.

Bangladesh will face a strong Iraq in the inaugural match on July 27. They will play their next match against the hosts on July 31. The winners of the qualifying round will be through to the final round, scheduled to be held in South Korea next September.

The Bangladesh team comprising of 20 players, are very much confident of crossing the

first round hurdle.

While talking to The Daily Star at the BFF office last night, captain Hasan-Al-Mamun said, "We are looking at the tour very positively. Our mission is to win both the matches and we are hopeful of beating Iraq."

Mamun, the young national left-back further added that rigorous training for the last two months at the Mirpur Sports Village has been very helpful in tuning themselves into a cohesive force.

Besides, a confident Mamun said, "We played a few practice matches during the last two weeks and the results are convincing. They U-19 team beat Mohammedan Sporting Club 3-0 in their last warm-up match."

Asked whether he considers Iraq as powerful opponents, the handsome young defender of Abahani said, "You see at the under-19 or under-16 levels there is hardly any difference between us. I don't think Iraq are formidable opponents. What we need is a

well co-ordinated game. If we can play as per our normal abilities, I think we have a better chance to beat both Iraq and the Maldives."

On the other hand, German coach Otto Pfister, who will accompany the team as technical adviser, refused to make any pre-tournament comments. But, asked about the chances of qualifying, the German coach who missed most of the training session said, "I am not coach of the team. I was out of the country during the training session. You better ask Sadeque (the coach). He knows better."

However, Abdus Sadeque, the coach of the team, was not available to make any comments in this regard.

Meanwhile, the members of the national youth team met with Obaidul Qader, State Minister for Youth and Sports, at his office yesterday afternoon. The team also met BFF president Mohammad Hanif at the Dhaka City Corporation ofice last evening.

There was a last-minute change in the 20-player squad after forward Milan withdrew himself from the tour for his academic commitments. Milan has been replaced by Tazu of Victoria Sporting Club.

The team: Hasan Al Mamun (captain), Toni, Himu, Anwarul, Faisal, Nazrul, Pradeep, Shahjaza, Jahangir, Rajani, Don, Tipu, Rana, Tazu, Azim, Iqbal, Nayan, Senoo, Asker Babu and Raju.

Officials: Dr. Shamimuzzaman Basunia (team leader), Nazrul Islam (manager) Otto Pfister (technical advisor), Abdus Sadeque (coach), and Hasanuzzaman Babu (assistant coach).

Quiet end to booters' transfer

Sports Reporter

The three-day inter-club footballers' transfer concluded at the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) office at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

A total of 263 booters drew their tokens in the last three days. Among them 203 changed their allegiance.

There was nothing special in the transfer on the last day as most of the big clubs stayed away from bourse. Only Mohammedan Sporting Club, last year's runners-up paid a brief visit to the DMFA office on Saturday to sign up two youngsters. They are Wari's goalkeeper Mizanur Rahman Minar and Dhanmondi midfielder Bilalul Rashid Dolon.

On the day, Brothers Union roped in Masud Iqbal from Badda Jagarani while Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool, who finished fourth in the Premier Division league last year, enticed three new booters to their side. They are Kamal Uddin Kajal (Matuail Udayan Sangsad), Selim Khan (Rayer Bazaar AC) and Ramzan (Little Friends Club).

Eritrea & an errant IOC

ATLANTA, July 22: Eritrea, Africa's youngest nation, has been denied a chance to compete in the Atlanta Olympics, reports AP.

Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1991 and was granted UN membership two years later. But it was not among the nations invited to take part in the Centennial Games. A record 197 countries sent teams to Atlanta, totaling nearly 11,000 athletes.

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 programme)

BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement: Al Quran Programme Summary 3:10 Recitation from the Gotta 3:15 Documentary Film: Cinema Europe 4:00 News in Bangla 4:15 Esho Para Shikha: Mass Education 4:45 Cartoon Series: The Animals of Partingwood 5:00 News in Bangla 5:20 Sangeeta: Modern Songs 5:30 News in Bangla 5:35 National Television Debate Competition 7:00 The News 7:05 Open University 7:25 Comedy Series: Seinfeld 8:00 News in Bangla 8:40 Drama Series 10:00 News in English 10:30 Soap Opera: Programme based on Publications 10:55 Mini Series 11:30 News in

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 News 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 3:30 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 Newsday 9:00 BBC World News 9:05 Panorama 9:30 Time Out: Summer Holiday 9:00 BBC World News 9:15 Panorama 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Building Signs 11:00 The World Today 1:00 BBC World News 1:15 Panorama 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Auction 3:00 BBC World Report inc. World Business Report/24

CHANNEL V

7:00am Rewind VJ Sophia 8:00 Jump Start VJ Trey 9:00 Frame By Frame 12:00noon The Vibe VJ Luke 1:00 By Demand VJ Trey 2:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 By Demand VJ Trey 5:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 6:30 The Vibe VJ Luke 7:30 First Day First Show 8:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 8:30 VJ Alessandra 9:00 The Sex Of It Ka Teen 9:30 Top Of The Pops 10:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 10:30 First Day First Show 11:00 Visuals: A Def Leppard Special 12:30 Vot The Hard Rock featuring Def Leppard 1:30 Speak Easy 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 Frame By Frame

STAR PLUS

6:30am Voltorn 7:00 Teenage

Hours 5:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newscast

Mutant Ninja Turtles 7:30 GI Joe 8:00 Saber Rider And The Star Sheriff 8:30 The Adventures of Black Beauty 9:00 Aerobics Oz Style 9:30 Nanny and the Professor 10:00 Mr Belvedere 10:30 Yan Can Cook 11:00 For Your Entertainment 11:30 Gabriella 12:30 Santa Barbara 1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 2:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 3:00 Remington Steele 4:00 Yan Can Cook 4:30 Thailand Panorama 5:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 5:30 Adventures Of Black Beauty 6:00pm

Lost in Space 7:00 Home and Away 7:30 Charles in Charge 8:00 MASH 8:30 The Flying Doctors 9:30 The Extraordinary 10:30 The Budget 96 Review 11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00pm The New Twilight Zone 12:30 Boywatch 1:30 Kink! 2:30 For Your Entertainment 3:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 4:00 Hooperman 4:30 Home and Away 5:00 The Sullivan 5:30 Gabriella

STAR Sports

6:00am Japan Sevens 7:00 SEA Touring Cars Rd 5/6 7:30 Trans World Sport 8:30 Cricket Week 2 9:00 High 5 III 10:00 Spark 10:30 World Windsurfing HIL 11:30 Cricket 96: Under 19 Youth One Day Int'l England Series vs New Zealand 2nd One Day Int'l 4:00 Cut to 5.5 hrs 4:30 Bud Pro Surf 2 5:30 This is the PGA Tour 6:30

The Asian Football Show 7:30 1996 World Motorcycle Championship British Grand Prix Hills Donington Park Circuit 9:00 Indian Football Federation Cup Pre Quarter Finals Mahindra vs BSF 11:00 Super 8's New Zealand vs Australia "A" From Kuala Lumpur 1:00 Super 8's India vs Asia From Kuala Lumpur 3:00 Super 8's Australia vs South Africa From Kuala Lumpur 5:00 Australian Football League Highlights

STAR MOVIES

7:30am Comedy: Johnny Be Good 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 Family: Little Marines II PG (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Western: The Tall Men 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Family: Ngati PG (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Musical: Phantom of