

Olympic Update

Column One

SPORTS TALK



David Lloyd

(England cricket coach)
They are classy bowlers when it comes to getting into a batting line-up. They can swing the ball late and that makes it very difficult to defend against.

Commenting on Pakistani bowlers after losing the Lord's Test.

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN



Sports WHIZZ KID competition-48

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. August 2, 1996)

1. Which country won the first gold in Atlanta Olympics?	Poland	Holland	Finland
2. In weightlifting, who is called as "Pocket Hercules"?	Malu	Soleymangif	Irenots
3. The first ever Belgian to win Olympic gold in swimming is	Burggraeve	Popov	Perkins
4. The century Inzamam scored in the Lord's Test was his	Seventh	Fourth	Fifth
5. When did Mohammad Ali won his light-heavyweight Olympic gold?	1964	1958	1980

Name: _____
Class: _____ Roll No: _____
School Address: _____
Phone: (if any) _____

Army, Ansars clinch nat'l v'ball crowns

Sports Reporter

In a gritty display of dominance yesterday, Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Ansars clinched the men's and women's volleyball titles.

On the final day of the six-day BGIC national volleyball tourney at the Mirpur National Indoor Stadium, last year's runners-up Army took a sweet revenge by defeating champions Bangladesh Navy with a 12-15, 7-15, 5-15. It was the ninth title for Army.

Meanwhile, the Ansars' girls trounced holders BJMC 15-7, 15-12, 15-7 to wrest the second title. Ansars won their first trophy in 1994.

Besides, Bangladesh Rifles and Narayanganj became third in the men's and women's group respectively after winning their play-offs against Bangladeshi Air Force and Pabna.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad witnessed the final and distributed prizes among the winners.

Women's h'ball

ATLANTA, July 31: For Denmark and Hungary, the question wasn't whether they would qualify for the semifinals, but where.

Camilla Andersen helped answer the question. She scored a game-high seven goals — including one with 31 seconds remaining in the first half to give Denmark the lead for good — and paced the Scandinavians to a 27-22 victory, reports AP.

With that, Denmark finished 3-0 in Pool A in the preliminary round and, as the group's top seed, advanced to meet Norway in Thursday's semifinals.

Hungary slipped to 2-1 and will have to face Pool B winner and defending champion South Korea.

South Korea won its group with a 25-21 victory over 1992 silver medalist Norway.

Big shows take back seat

ATLANTA, July 31: From the new to the nearly extinct, smaller sports were in the spotlight Tuesday at the Olympics. But they were overshadowed by news that a "hero" security guard may have set up last week's terrorist bombing at the heart of the Atlanta Games, reports AP.

While Tuesday's events involved sports of lower stature, no competitors came bigger than 166-kilogram (365.5 pound) Russian super heavyweight lifter Andrei Chemerkin.

He broke one world record and squashed another on the way to lifting total of 457 kilos (1,000.5 pounds) to claim the gold medal and title as the strongest Olympian.

Mountain biking made its debut on the dirt tracks and favourites Paola Pezzo of Italy and Bart Jan Brentjens of the Netherlands won the inaugural gold.

A sellout crowd was on hand to see the United States win the softball gold medal, beating China 3-1 in the final. Australia took the bronze in Tuesday's other debutante sport.

Another small sport under threat of being scrapped due to lack of interest is modern pentathlon. Officials held the five-event competition over one day this time, instead of two days as in the past, to try to increase the drama.

After nearly 13 hours of competition, Alexander Parygin of Kazakhstan came back in the final meters of the cross country to defeat Russian Eduard Zenovka for the gold.

"I felt Eduard had won and I was thanking God for letting me win the silver," Parygin said. "Then I found some more power, but I can't believe I am an Olympic champion."

The United States has 25 golds and a total of 66 medals, while Russia is second with 19 golds and 41 overall. France has 13 golds and China a dozen.

The Games themselves found some extra power Tuesday to bounce back from the terrorist bomb that killed one woman and injured 111 other people early Saturday at the Olympic Centennial Park.

Tears and shouts of celebration marked the park's reopening Tuesday with officials and spectators saying it was important to show that adversity could be overcome. But few people were prepared for the news that followed.

The security guard, who alerted police to a suspicious package and helped evacuate many people before it exploded, became a focus of the investigation, three days after being lauded a "hero" for his alertness.

Drug use surfaced again Tuesday, with a Russian woman swimmer and two Lithuanian cycling officials getting kicked out of the Olympics in connection with the drug bromantane, which can be used as a stimulant or a masking agent to hide other drugs. Three others were disqualified for the new drug on Monday, including two Russian athletes who lodged an appeal

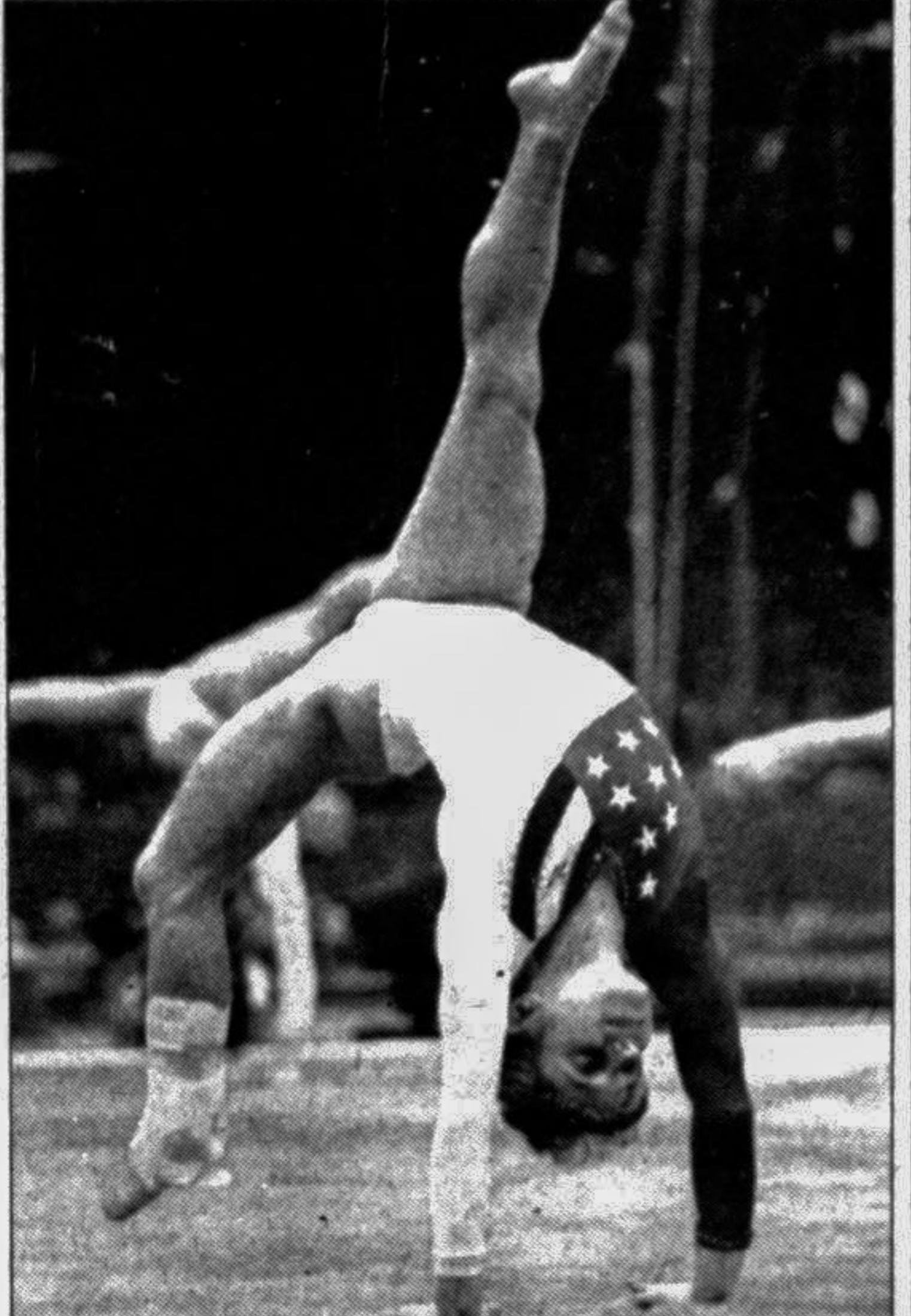
that will be considered later this week.

China got a gold from a familiar source — table tennis. Kong Linghui and Liu Guoliang beat compatriots and defending champions Lu Lin and Wang Tao 21-8, 18-21, 21-19, 21-17 in the men's doubles.

Two near-bellyflops put world champion Tan Shuping of China out of the springboard

competition Tuesday but compatriot Fu Mingxia kept alive her hopes of securing a rare Olympic double.

Following Tuesday's preliminaries, Olympic platform champion Fu stayed on course to become the first woman to win both the springboard and platform events in one Olympics since Germany's Ingrid Kramer did it in 1960.



Kerri Strug of the United States performs on the floor during an exhibition gala at the Georgia Dome on July 30. It was her first public appearance since she sprained her ankle at the Olympics. — AFP/UNB photo

QUIPS & QUOTES

ATLANTA, July 31 (AP): Some notable quotes Tuesday at the Atlanta Olympics:

"We're here not to wallow in tragedy, but to celebrate a triumph — a triumph of human spirit."

Andrew Young, an Olympic official and former mayor of Atlanta, at the reopening of Centennial Olympic Park three days after a terrorist bomb there killed one person and injured more than 100.

"It didn't destroy us. Look at all the people here. The park has more meaning now."

Peter Leyra, an American among the thousands of visitors who thronged to Centennial Olympic Park on its reopening.

"People want me to run the relay and they think I have the right to run. That's where the pressure is coming from, it's not coming from me."

Carl Lewis, who has a record-tying nine Olympic gold medals after winning the long jump at Atlanta and wants to be put on the US 400-metre relay team for a chance at a 10th.

"It was a very relaxing day ashore and we are very, very happy with our gold medal win."

Spain's Fernando Leon as he and teammate Jose Luis Ballester sat out of the final race of Tornando class Olympic sailing competition because they already were assured of victory.

"In the last 10 minutes I got a little angry with the players for not doing the things that they ought to have done. But in the first 75.80 minutes they were excellent."

Coach Daniel Passarella after his Argentine team advanced to Olympic soccer's gold medal game with a 2-0 victory over Portugal.

"It takes a lot of effort to organize the Games as badly as Atlanta did."

Fani Pali-Petralia, who was the Greek sports minister when the International Olympic Committee picked Atlanta over Athens in 1990.

"He should have been kicked off the court for the things he was saying."

South Africa tennis player Wayne Ferreira, speaking about a penalty assessed against American opponent Andre Agassi during Agassi's 7-5, 4-6, 7-5 quarterfinal victory Tuesday.

"That was about the only way he was going to beat me."

Agassi in response to Ferreira's comment.

Cagers for ABC jr tourney

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation picked a 12-member team yesterday for the qualifying round of the 14th ABC junior basketball championship to be held in Calcutta from August 13 to 14.

The cagers are: Fazle, Faisal, Shiplu, Bani, Farhan, Hasib, Blaize, Nawab, Plintu, Zayed, Shafeen and Imran.

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ATLANTA SNIPPETS

AN OLYMPIC REVOLT

ATLANTA, July 31: Olympic modern pentathlon competitors staged a revolt against Olympic organisers on Tuesday and threatened to call off their event halfway through, reports AFP.

After completing the shooting, fencing and swimming, the athletes were being taken by bus 30 miles to the riding venue when their vehicle broke down. Organisers sent another bus without air-conditioning. In the midday heat of Atlanta and after competing since early morning, the athletes refused point blank to take their seats.

The mutiny lasted half an hour before organisers backed down and alternative transport was arranged.

An air-conditioned bus finally arrived and the weary competitors arrived late for the riding and the cross country running sections at the Georgia International Horse Park.

For the first time at the Olympics, the five disciplines in modern pentathlon, normally spread over five days, were telescoped into one.

Competition started at 7 am and were due to end more than 12 hours later.

MSC keen to host match with Laos

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club have shown their interest to organise the home match of the two-leg 7th Asian Cup Winners' Cup football championship.

The Dhaka J League runners-up Mohammedan Sporting Club is scheduled to take on Electricity Club of Laos at the Dhaka Stadium on August 24 and the away encounter will be held in Laos on September 7.

According to sources at the Dhaka J League, Mohammedan formally informed the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday expressing their desire to organise the match.

Azizul Haque resigns

Sports Reporter

M Azizul Haque, the president of Dhaka Metropolis Football Association and Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation, has decided to step down from his posts on Tuesday.

In a resignation letter to the NSC, Haque, a veteran sports organiser who served the local sports for last thirty years in various capacities, said, he has personally decided to quit the arena due to his poor health.

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