

Olympic Update

Because you play to win...



Column One SPORTS TALK



Marie-Jose Perec

(French athlete)
"At home in France I am as famous as Michael Jordan. In Los Angeles I can walk down the street and no-one recognises me. May be that will change now."

After winning 100 and 200 metres gold in Atlanta Olympics.

Sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-49

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. August 9, 1996)

1. Double Olympic gold medalist Marie-Jose Perec is	French	American	Japanese
2. The electronic timing devices were first introduced in	Tokyo	Stockholm	Berlin
3. Which country leads the opening ceremony march-past in every Olympic Games?	Hosts	Albania	Greece
4. The number of golds US swimmer Mark Spitz won in the 1972 Olympics were:	Eight	Five	Seven
5. Cricket was a gold medal sport in 1900 Olympics. Who won the gold?	Great Britain	Australia	West Indies

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

Iraqi awarded asylum

ATLANTA, Aug 3: Iraqi weightlifter Raed Ahmed, who fled from his teammates at the Olympics and denounced his country's government, said Friday he has been granted political asylum in the United States.

The US Immigration and Naturalisation Service refused to confirm or deny the claim. A document with an INS letterhead, sent by fax to the Associated Press, said that Ahmed's request for political asylum had been approved. The document was given to the AP by an Atlanta spokesman for the London-based Iraqi National Congress, an organisation opposed to Saddam Hussein's regime.

"It has been determined you have established a well-founded fear of persecution were you to return to your country," said the letter, which bore the signature of Joseph P. Martin, director of the INS asylum office in Arlington, Virginia.

The letter granted Ahmed asylum indefinitely and said the athlete could apply to be a permanent resident in one year.

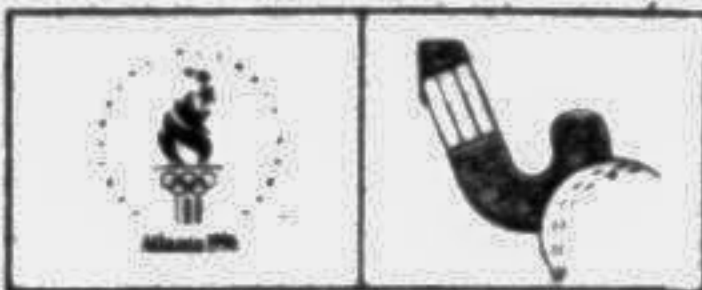
Ahmed, 29, said Thursday he surely would be executed if he returned to Iraq. He met with the INS, then nervously waited for the decision. Ahmed said Friday.

"I was very sensitive, like a person waiting for exam results," Ahmed said through an interpreter. But I was very optimistic. I know the American people will accept me.

Ahmed who earlier expressed fear of reprisals against family members remaining in Iraq, said he has heard nothing about the government's reaction to his defection.

He also said he did not know his wife's status. The Iraqi National Congress reportedly arranged for her to be moved earlier this week, from their home in Basra to a safe haven in northern Iraq's Kurdish region, where Iraqi forces are barred by international sanctions.

Dutchmen end a drought



ATLANTA, Aug 3: The Netherlands won their first Olympic men's hockey title on Friday when they beat Spain 3-1 in the final, report agencies.

Floris Jan Bovelander scored twice in three minutes to rally them from a one-goal, second-half deficit to the Olympic gold medal.

Bovelander, a 30-year-old midfielder with 235 international appearances, scored in the 52nd minute on a penalty corner and then added a second off a penalty corner in the 55th minute to put the Netherlands ahead for good.

The goals came after the Dutch failed to even a shot off during its first two penalty corner attempts.

Bram Lomans scored an insurance goal for the Netherlands off another penalty corner in the 67th minute.

Victor Pujol gave unrated Spain a shock lead in the 45th minute but Bovelander's goals turned the game around.

Their best previous performances were in 1928 and 1952 when they won silver.

In the first half, a series of fine saves by Dutch goalkeeper Ronald Jansen had kept them in the game.

"It was our third final in 1-1/2 years and we lost the last two on penalty strokes," said Dutch coach Roeland Oltmans.

Referring to Jansen he said: "The goalkeeper played a

fantastic game but that's because he's a very good goalkeeper. At halftime, it was Spain nil Ronald Jansen nil.

His Spanish counterpart Antonio Forrellat, given the credit for his team's meteoric rise in the last year, gave away his secret after the game.

"We made the team very aggressive, playing with a lot of forwards and taking a lot of risks because this is the only way to win. We gave the team Spanish personality."

"Netherlands won within the rules but if the penalty corner didn't exist, they would never have beaten us."

Pujol, playing his 100th international, scored with a fine rising shot following a free-kick 30 metres out. Spain just about deserved the goal on the run of play.

Up to that point, Spain had moved the ball around quickly to create many problems, although their danger men Javier Arana and Juan Escarri did not receive a lot of the ball.

It was only after the goal that the Dutch, beaten on penalty strokes in the finals of the last World Championship and European Championship, began to find their true rhythm.

In the 52nd minute, a break by Stephan Veen forced a rare error by Joaquin Malgosa. Spain's outstanding defender, to concede a penalty corner which resulted in the equaliser.

Three minutes later, Bovelander, who has scored over 215 international goals, struck again and Spain never looked

like recovering.

AUSSIES BAG THE BRONZE

In the bronze medal game played earlier in the day, Baeden Choppy scored on a penalty corner with 1:19 minutes remaining to give Australia a 3-2 victory over Germany.

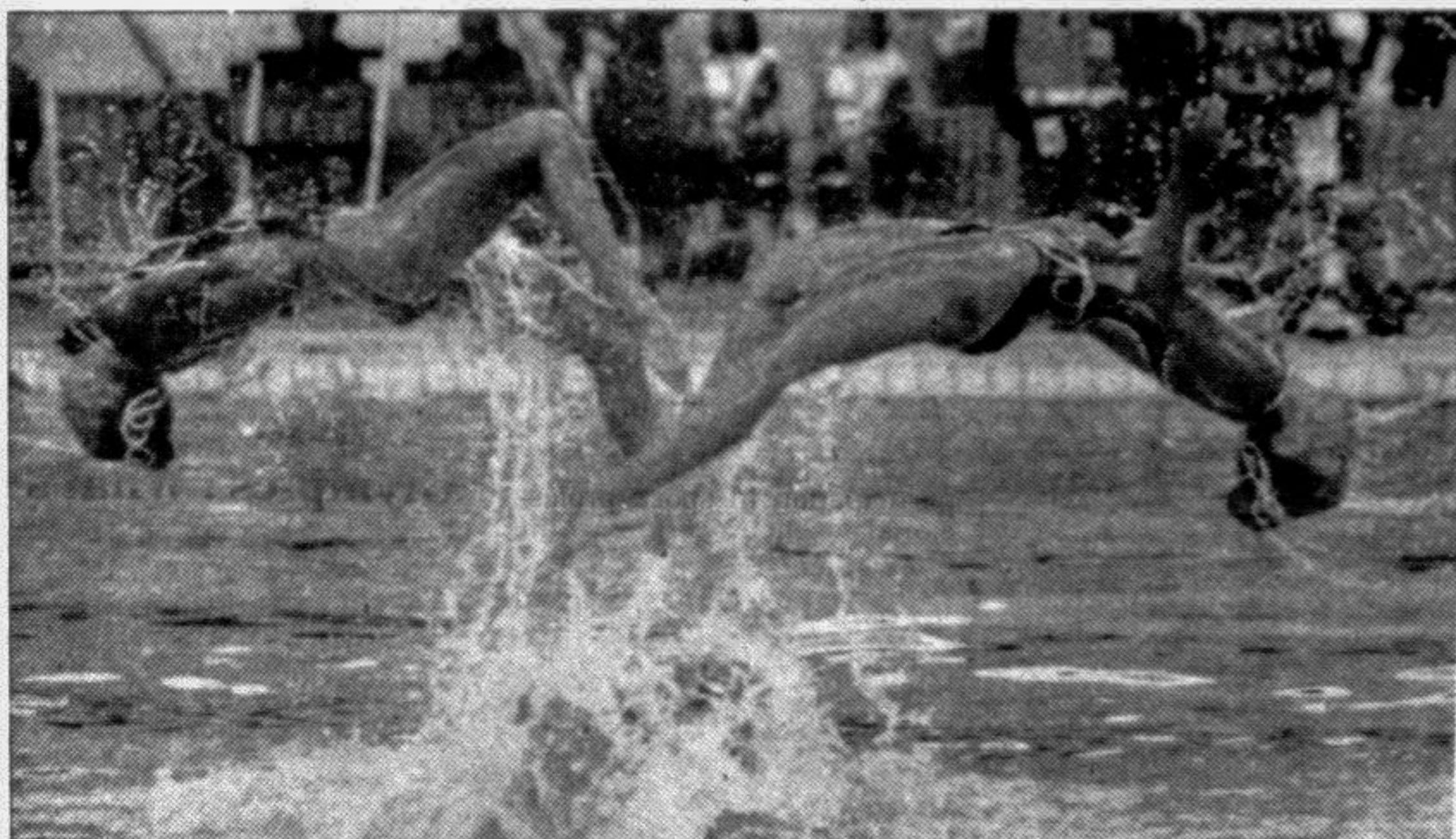
Choppy's match-winning shot against Germany deflected off defender Carsten Fischer into the German goal as Australia got a little revenge from the gold medal game of four years ago in Barcelona. Germany prevailed in that contest 2-1.

Australia scored all its goals on penalty corners, converting all but one of its four attempts. Germany, conversely, converted only one of nine.

POSITIONS
Final standings in the Olympic hockey competitions which concluded Friday, reports AFP.

Men:
1. Netherlands — gold
2. Spain — silver
3. Australia — bronze
4. Germany
5. South Korea
6. Pakistan
7. Britain
8. India
9. Argentina
10. South Africa
11. Malaysia
12. United States

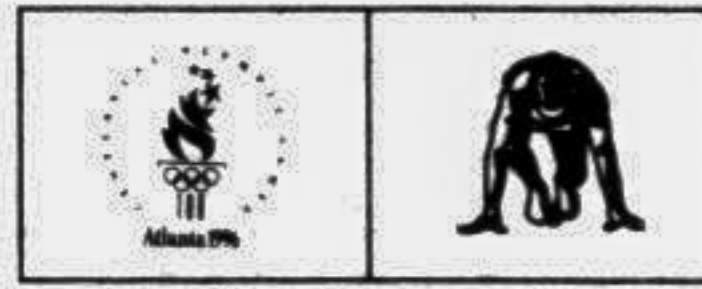
Women:
1. Australia — gold
2. South Korea — silver
3. Netherlands — bronze
(There were no play-offs for women's minor standings)



The US synchronized swimming team puts up a gold-winning free routine performance at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Centre on August 2.

— AFP/UNB photo

Bubka athletes' choice



ATLANTA, Aug 3: Sergei Bubka, the great Ukrainian pole vaulter with the lingering Olympic jinx, is the most popular athlete in Atlanta among the athletes, reports Reuters.

The International Olympic Committee said on Friday Bubka clearly topped the poll in elections to the IOC Athletes' Commission, the athletes' voice in the organisation.

Among others elected were Russian swimmer Alexander Popov, a double gold medalist in both Barcelona and Atlanta, and Algerian middle-distance runner Hassiba Boulmerka.

One American was elected, volleyball star Robert Ctrtlik — 921 Olympic athletes actually managed to spell his name on the ballot paper.

Of 10,629 athletes accredited in Atlanta, 5,688 or 54 per cent took part in the month-long poll.

Bubka, who has set 35 world records and won five world titles but has not won an Olympic title since 1988,

walked out of the Atlanta Games without making a vault because of an Achilles tendon injury.

In Barcelona in 1992, he failed to clear the opening height because he was put off by wind in the stadium.

The Athletes' Commission was set up in 1982 and its members have been chosen since then by IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch. Current members include American hurdler Ed Moses and Prince Albert of Monaco.

The IOC decided two years ago that Olympic athletes should be able to elect seven members of the commission and held the first vote at the Atlanta Games.

IOC executive board member Anita DeFranz, who organised the poll, said Bubka received 2,412 votes.

Popov, the enigmatic Russian who retained both his 50-metre and 100-metre freestyle titles, was second with 1,693 ahead of Czech Jan Zeleny, defending Javelin champion and world record holder, who was chosen by 1,108 athletes.

Next on the list was Canadian 800-metres specialist Charmaine Crooks with 928 votes, followed by Ctrtlik — known to his US teammates as "Buy-a vowel."

Boulmerka, who failed to defend her women's 1,500 metres title in Atlanta, received 908 votes. Boulmerka has resisted Islamist pressure back home to stop training and running in shorts and bare legs.

Russia's anxious hours

ATLANTA, Aug 3: A ruling was expected Saturday on the Russian appeal against the disqualification of two medal-winning athletes for using the controversial drug bromantan, reports AP.

The court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) began deliberations Friday night after a six-hour hearing into the cases of swimmer Andrei Korneyev and Greco-Roman wrestler Zafar Guliyev.

"A decision will be taken as soon as possible," CAS secretary general Jean-Philippe Chat said. "It won't be tonight. Hopefully tomorrow."

Some solace for Brazil

ATHENS, Georgia, Aug 3: World Cup striker Bebeto struck a second half hat-trick as Brazil thrashed Portugal 5-0 on Friday to take bronze in the Olympic soccer tournament, reports Reuters.

Bebeto's three goals took his tally to six, making him the leading scorer in the Games. Argentine Hernan Crespo, who plays in today's final against Nigeria, has five.

The Brazilians, who threw away the chance of a first Olympic soccer gold in Wednesday's shock 4-3 semi-final defeat by Nigeria, took out their frustrations on their former colonial rulers.

The four times world champions went 2-0 ahead within 11 minutes thanks to goals from Ronaldo and Flavio Conceicao before captain Bebeto took over in the second half.

Portugal were denied even a consolation goal when Brazilian goalkeeper Dida pushed Calado's weak penalty on to the post in the 63rd minute.

Barcelona-bound striker Ronaldo opened the scoring in the fifth minute, rifling home a powerful shot which went straight through Portuguese goalkeeper Costinha.

Midfielder Flavio Conceicao doubled the lead six minutes later with a simple tap in after a fine run and a cross by defender Ze Maria.

Portugal, beaten 2-0 on Tuesday by Argentina in their semi-final, flooded in the second half.

Bebeto slide home his first and his side's third in the 47th minute and sent Costinha the wrong way from the penalty spot seven minutes later.

His third goal, 15 minutes from time, was gifted to him by Costinha. The Portuguese goalkeeper, fumbled a back pass and Bebeto, a World Cup winner in 1994, pounced on the rebound before rounding the goalkeeper and slotting the ball into an empty net.

MSC Fed Cup karate champs

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club emerged champions while Shaolin Temple Club became runners-up in the second Federation Cup karate tournament '96 which concluded at the National Indoor Stadium on Friday.

As many as 170 karatekas from 18 clubs took part in the two-day meet organised by the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation.

Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Youth and Sports, distributed prizes among the winners.

Sheikh Kamal's birthday today

Sports Reporter

The 47th birthday of late Sheikh Kamal, son of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the founder of Abahani Krira Chakra, will be observed in a befitting manner by Abahani Samarhak Goshthi tomorrow.

The programme, to be held at the Abahani Club premises tomorrow at 5:00 pm, includes a seminar on "Krirangane Sheikh Kamal", a photo exhibition and a prize distribution ceremony for the winners of essay and children drawing competitions on Sheikh Kamal.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the function as chief guest. Among others, Mohammad Hanif, the Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation, Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Youth and Sports and Salman F Rahman, Chairman of Abahani Limited, will also be present on the occasion.

Prominent singer Sabina Yasmeen and two former national footballers, Golam Sarwar Tipu and Ashrafuddin Chunnun, will take part in seminar.

USA consolidates lead

ATLANTA, Aug 3: The United States, already assured of overall domination, closed in on a triple digit medal count Friday, with gold in everything from archery to synchronized swimming. It is also favoured to win a slew of medals during the closing weekend, report agencies.

The home nation will have to achieve the 100-medal target without double gold medalist Michael Johnson, who

his Olympic steeplechase dream dashed.

Unheralded Joseph Keter of Kenya upstaged the triple world champion with a sprint off the final hurdle to win in 8 min 07.12 secs, leaving the triple world (8.0833) staring at his spikes in disbelief.

The bronze went to Italian Alessandro Lambroschini (8.11.28).

In men's platform diving, Dmitry Sautin of Russia won

Cuba proved it still was the greatest nation in amateur baseball, beating Japan 13-9 in the gold medal game. The United States, beaten by Cuba earlier, earned the bronze with a 10-3 win over Nicaragua.

In archery, South Korea won its third straight gold in the women's team event, but the United States upset the odds and the Koreans with a come from behind effort in the men's event.

The US synchronized swimming team continued the American domination in the pool with a gold medal win over Canada.

Spain did get a team gold Friday when its five-athlete team won the first Olympic gold in rhythmic gymnastics with an upset win over world champion Bulgaria.

But Bulgaria also got its share of glory. Seven-time world champion Valentine Jordanov beat Azerbaijan's Namik Abdullayev in overtime to win his first Olympic gold in the 52-kilogram (114.5-pound) freestyle wrestling class.

In the 90-kilogram (198 pound) division, Russia's Makharbek Khadarisev was denied his third consecutive gold medal, losing 3-0 to world champion Rasul Khadem of Iran.

US wrestler Tom Brands took the 62 kilogram (136.5 pound) class by a 7-0 decision over surprise finalist Jang Jae Sung of South Korea.

Germany, boosted by an Olympic title for Astrid Kumbernuss in the shot put, closed in on Russia with 14 golds for a medal total of 51. China is fourth with 48 medals.

France earned its 15th gold in the pole vault, an event destined for a surprise winner after Sergei Bubka withdrew with an injury and South African Okkert Brits failed to clear the qualifying height.

Jean Galfione won the gold medal with a vault of 5.92 metres (19 feet, 5 inches), even though Igor Trandenkov of Russia and Andrei Tivotchkov of Germany scaled the same height. But Galfione took the gold because he had the fewest misses.

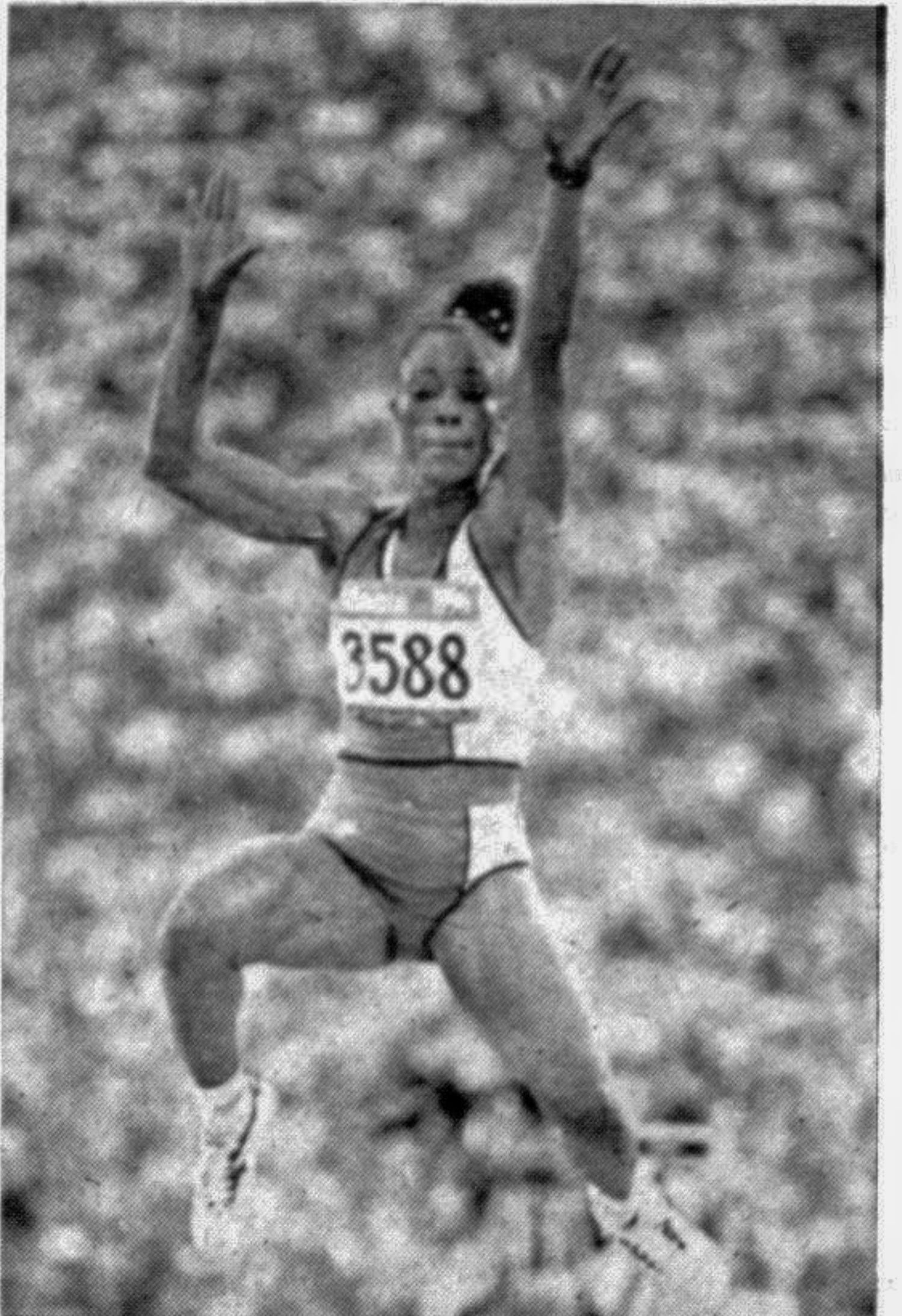
Robert Korzeniowski won the 50-kilometre race walk, earning a seventh gold for Poland, which is having one of its best Olympics ever.

In the women's long jump, Chioma Ajunwa of Nigeria won with a leap of 7.12 metres (23 feet, 4.5 inches), ahead of Italy's Fiona May with 7.02 (23-0.5).

Jackie Joyner Kersee of the United States capped a brilliant career with a sixth medal. Even though she was troubled with a hamstring injury, her final leap of 7.0 (22-11.75) gave her a bronze.

Chioma Ajunwa of Nigeria leaps to capture the long jump gold at the Olympic Stadium on August 2. The Nigerian scaled 7.12 metres.

— AFP/UNB photo



Chioma Ajunwa of Nigeria leaps to capture the long jump gold at the Olympic Stadium on August 2. The Nigerian scaled 7.12 metres.

pulled out of the 4x400 relay with a hurt hamstring after setting an amazing 200 metre record on Thursday.

Other nations continued to reign over their strongest sports. Kenya had a more than predictable 1-2 in the steeple chase, but it was Joseph Keter who prevailed over favourite Moses Kiptanui.

Rebel Moses Kiptanui, almost axed from his national team just before Atlanta, saw

the gold medal to prevent a Chinese sweep of all four diving events. Jan Hempel of Germany won the silver and Xiao Hailiang of China took the bronze.

Portugal extended its tradition in women's long distance running with Fernanda Ribeiro winning the 10,000m with an incredible final kick to sweep past China's Wang Junxia in an Olympic record time of 31 minutes, 1.63 seconds.

Cubans rule the ring



ATLANTA, Aug 3: Cuba sent seven boxers to the semifinals and all seven won, giving it the most finalists of any country and the title of amateur boxing champion of the world, report agencies.

Finalists decided Friday included Vladimir Klitchko of Ukraine and Paea Wolfgramm of Tonga in the over 91 kilograms (201 pounds) division, the largest of the tournament.

Klitchko defeated Alexei Lezin of Russia 4-1 while Wolfgramm took his extraordinary Olympic adventure a step closer to a golden conclusion by beating Nigeria's Duncan Dokiari in the dying seconds to reach the super-heavyweight final.

The Tongan, who caused a sensation by outpointing Cuba's Alexis Rubalcaba in the quarter-finals of the boxing tournament, threw a last-gasp winning punch to beat Dokiari 7-6.

At 81 kilograms (178 pounds), Vassili Jirov of Kazakhstan defeated Antonio Tarver of the United States 15-9 and Lee Seung-bao of South Korea won a 12-8 decision over Thomas Ulrich of Germany.

American David Reid beat Karim Tulaganov of Uzbekistan 12-4 in the 71 kilogram (156 pound) class to advance against Alfredo Duvergel of Cuba, a 28-19 winner over Ermanhan Ibraimov of Kazakhstan.

Another Cuban, Hector Vincent, pounded another Kazak, Bolat Niyazymbetov, in a 23-6 decision to gain a berth in the 63.5 kilogram (139 pound) final against Germany's Oktay Urkal, who beat Fethi Missaoui of Tunisia 20-6.

Todorov, who won the disputed match over Mayweather of the United States, faces Somluck Kamsing of Thailand for the gold medal at 57 kilograms, while Maikro Romero of Cuba takes on Bolat Djumadilov of Kazakhstan in the 51 kilogram (112 pound) class.



Skipper Monem Munna (C), Abahani's inspiration for the last two seasons, embarks on his mission to strike the Premier football league title for the third successive year, by joining a practice session at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

Ali again steals Olympic show

ATLANTA, Aug 3: Boxing great Muhammad Ali received a rapturous ovation when he appeared at the Olympic Stadium during the athletics programme on Friday, reports Reuters.

Ali who has been suffering from the debilitating illness parkinson's disease, signed autographs for dozens of fans who seamed around him.

Fathers held up their young children to give them a glimpse of the man hailed as "the greatest."

The former world heavyweight champion lit the Olympic flame in a moving moment at the opening ceremony two weeks ago.

After a week...

ATLANTA, Aug 3: Joe Bleckley came to Centennial Olympic Park early Saturday to whisper a prayer for the woman killed in the park by a pipe bomb a week ago. Authorities, though, made sure the park was silent when the hour arrived.

Bleckley and hundreds of others were blocked from the entrances while thousands inside were asked to leave the games' prime party spot at 12.30 am Saturday, 90 minutes before the posted closing time, reports AP.

Police at the gates said those signs had been out of date since the bomb exploded a week ago and they have routinely locked things down earlier.

"If they have to close the park to keep it safe, then that's all right with me," said Bleckley, who lives in Atlanta. "Whatever they have to do."

He and his friend Charles Tillman of West Yellowstone, Montana, honored Alice Hawthorne and the 111 injured in the blast with a few seconds of silence against the police barriers that ring the park.

"I was worried about coming here," said Tillman, whose flight from Salt Lake City was evacuated and gone over by bomb-sniffing dogs because of a threat. "It's in the back of my mind. It will probably always be."

By 1:25 am, the time the bomb went off last week, there were only security guards, special officers and exhibit workers walking the bricked paths.