

Circle: Olympic games – disuniting the Islamic Ummah

Brief

- Last Friday witnessed the start of the Olympic in Sydney. Nearly every Muslim country is represented. Whilst the Taliban tried but were not allowed to send a team, Turkey is aiming even higher and is bidding to host the 2008 games.
- 1) The Muslim athletes who win medals will become overnight heroes and a source of national pride. The Muslim rulers will portray them as role models for today's youth.
- Compare to the youth who aided Muhammad (saw) in carrying the dawah in Makkah. Most Sahaba in Makkah were youth. Though young, they behaved like men once they comprehended their objective to their Creator (swt). They became different from the Quraishi youth who were busy with trivial pursuits. [Sahaba in Makkah: Ali Ibn Abi Talib (8), Sa'ad Ibn Abi Waqas (17), Uthman ibn Affan (about 20), Ummar Ibn Al-Khattab (26)...]
- *"The two feet of the son of Adam will not move from near his Lord on the day of judgement until he is asked about five matters: about his life, how he spent it; **about his youth, how he took care of it**; about his wealth, how he earned it and how he spent it; about that which he acted upon from the knowledge that he acquired"* . Timidhi
- These young Sahaba started their political careers as teenagers and soon became the statesmen, ambassadors and politicians who helped to run the state in Madina.
- 2) Sports and the Olympics are used to reinforce the division of the Islamic Ummah by building pride in us for the success of 'our' nation against others.
Abu Sa'id al-Khudri reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: You would tread the same path as was trodden by those before you inch by inch and step by step so much so that if they had entered into the hole of the lizard, you would follow them in this also. We said: Allah's Messenger, do you mean Jews and Christians (by your words)" those before you"? He said: Who else (than those two religious groups)? Muslim
- National sports and the Olympics are also used to occupy our time and resources with millions of dollars spent hosting them events. This keeps us busy in trivial pursuits as opposed to remembering Allah and striving to establish His deen.
- The Olympics is therefore not just harmless sports, but one of the political tools used to prevent the Ummah's revival and the return of the Khilafah.
- The return of the Khilafah will unite the Ummah and prevent her from engaging in any activities disunite her and consume her efforts in trivial pursuits. The Khilafah will compete with the nations of the world seeking to be the best at looking after the affairs of humanity not just the best at cricket or football.

Reference Articles

Friday, 15 September, 2000, 15:05 GMT 16:05 UK
Spectacular start for Sydney Games



Let the Games begin: Freeman lights the flame

Aboriginal athlete Cathy Freeman has lit the flame to officially open the 27th Olympics during a spectacular ceremony in Sydney.

Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch described it as the "most beautiful opening ceremony of my presidency". But organisers made light of an embarrassing technical hitch at the climax of the four-hour showpiece.

A whip-cracking horse rider got the ceremony underway, with Australian female sporting legends helping to light the Olympic flame at the ceremony's end.

Four-time gold medalist Dawn Fraser was among those carrying the torch at the end of its 17,000 mile trip around the world, but the final honour fell to Freeman.

The identity of the Olympian chosen to light the flame was a closely-guarded secret - and the organisers kept the suspense going until the very end as a series of former athletes passed the torch around the track, eventually reaching Freeman.

The 400 metres runner was a surprise, but popular, choice for what was meant to be a spectacular display of water and fire.

Things did not go according to plan however as the cauldron failed to make its planned ascent up a mechanical waterfall at the back of the stadium.

After several heart-stopping minutes for organisers, the device finally cranked into life and rose to the occasion.

"It was always designed to stop at that time," artistic director David Atkins revealed. "The stop was supposed to be around 30-40 seconds, and tonight it just took a little longer."

Australian officials - keen to deflect attention away from the ever-present issue of drugs - had been desperate to put on a good show.

The unified team of North and South Korea - one of 199 at the Games - earned a standing ovation from the 110,000 spectators.



Sydney says 'G'day'
to the world

Horse riders got the
ceremony up and
running

International Olympic Committee president Samaranch then officially opened the Games with a speech in which he adopted the local vernacular: "G'Day Sydney," Samaranch said. "G'Day Australia. Yes, the Olympic Games are back Down Under."

Oaths were sworn to keep the Olympics free from drugs and doping, but competitors at these Games seem set to test that pledge to the limit.

The host nation's national anthem, *Advance Australia Fair*, boomed out around the stadium as the curtain-raising riders gave way to a dance routine designed to evoke visions of the Australian surf.

A pageant symbolising a young girl's dream of life beneath the ocean waves brought the dancers out in force in the first Olympic opening ceremony ever to be conducted at night. Nikki Webster - the 13-year old girl who was chosen to play out the unfolding story - then greeted Aboriginal tribesmen.

They were next on the scene as representatives of the indigenous people of Australia welcomed the world to their nation.

Australia's history was then depicted in dance, with flames and fireworks lighting up the Sydney sky before marching bands took centre stage.

More than an hour and half into the proceedings, the parade of nations got underway, with Olympic founders Greece taking their customary place at the front.

Sailor Nikos Kaklamanikis carried the flag at the head of the Greek delegation, paving the way for the lengthy procession.

Two-time Olympic gold medalist Matthew Pinsent was the standard-bearer for Great Britain as a smiling Team GB entered the arena.

The tiny East Timor squad was also greeted heartily and the United States were applauded in by visiting Americans as diverse in their fame as Chelsea Clinton, Bill Gates and Muhammad Ali.

But perhaps not surprisingly, the loudest cheers of the night were reserved for the Australians bringing up the rear at the end of a show lasting way past its scheduled three hours.

Focus will now turn to the real business of winning gold medals, though the 17-day Games has to stay clear of scandal to retain its credibility.

Monday, 18 September, 2000, 04:10 GMT 05:10 UK

Britain routed by powerful Pakistan

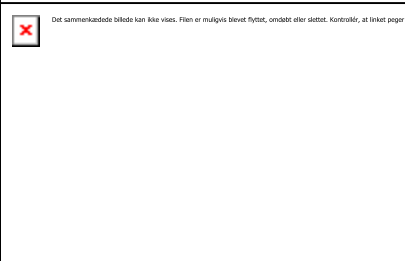


Pakistani flair proved too good for Britain's men

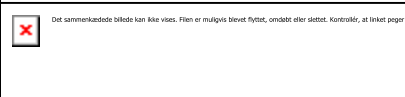
Great Britain 1-8 Pakistan

Great Britain suffered their second successive defeat in Pool A as a Sohail Abbas hat-trick helped a classy Pakistan outfit to a stunning 8-1 win.

Goalkeeper Simon Mason was powerless to prevent the worst defeat in British Olympic history.



Nikki Webster, 13, floated above the sea scenes



An aboriginal stilt walker in dramatic pose



US track star Marion Jones enjoyed the festivities



Matthew Pinsent leads in Team GB

He failed, along with his defence, to find any effective way of shackling the powerful Pakistanis either from penalty corners or open play.

Sohail Abbas netted the first two strikes, one a penalty, before a neat move from another set-piece saw the ball find its way to Mohammad Nadeem.

He flicked home in some style, and Pakistan were 3-0 up inside 18 minutes.

In attack, Great Britain did pose a threat but too often their periods of possession ended with poorly-struck shots or passes going astray.

Mark Pearn did pull one back but it was all one-way traffic with the Pakistanis taking full control.

Sohail Abbas completed his treble and more embarrassment followed after half-time as the British heads began to go down, with three more goals before the end, including a fine reverse effort from Atif Bashir and a second for Nadeem.

Malaysia 0-0 Holland

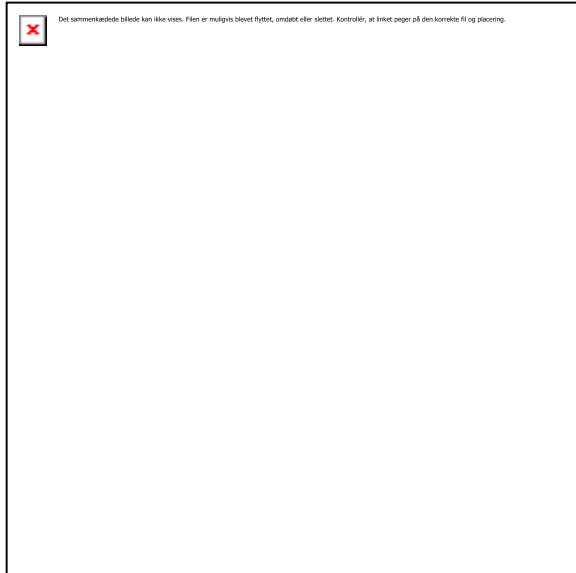
Malaysia meanwhile spilt blood for their cause in the other Pool A match but it was the Dutch campaign which may have been badly wounded by their goalless draw.

With the Netherlands desperately pushing for a winner late in the game, Malaysia's Shanmuganathan Kuhan was struck in the face by a ball deflected off an attacker's stick.

Kuhan was taken to hospital for stitches and could be in doubt for the next game against Britain, but his play typified Malaysia's performance against the defending Olympic champions.

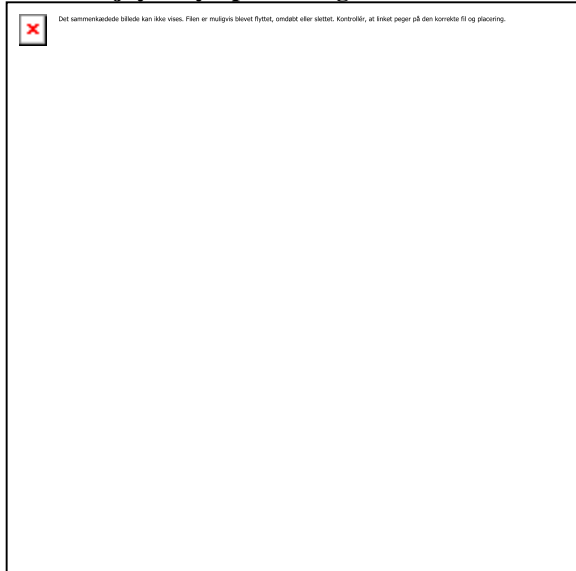
After holding Germany to one goal in their opening match, the Malaysians again resorted to playing 11 men behind the ball and had only two shots at goal compared to 15 for the frustrated Dutch side.

Germany came from behind to beat Canada 2-1 with goals by Bjoern Michel and Ulrich Moissl.



Sunday, 17 September, 2000, 16:26 GMT 17:26 UK

Ozkan enjoys Olympic revenge



Ozkan beats French rival Larbi Benboudaoud

Chechen-born Huseyin Ozkan gave Turkey its first Olympic judo gold medal on Sunday, and Legna Verdecia underlined the depth of the Cuban challenge, as Japan's gold hunt in their own sport stalled in Sydney. Ozkan, said his under-66kg featherweight win over French world champion Larbi Benboudaoud would be celebrated not only in Turkey but also in Chechnya which he left in 1993.

"My family still lives in Chechnya and I am also famous there," the 28-year-old Ozkan said.

"My friends and my family are waiting for the news. But there is no television broadcasting in Chechnya. When they hear about this, they will be very happy."

Ozkan, who lost to Benboudaoud in the world championship final last October, was slapped with a warning early in the final but threw his French opponent at one minute 44 seconds.

Technique

"In Birmingham, the Frenchman caught me first and could execute his technique," Ozkan said. "Now we are even at 1-1."

A disappointed Benboudaoud blamed himself for the defeat.

"I made an error," he said. "My mistake was defence at which I am not good. The best defence is attack."

Italian Girolamo Giovinazzo beat Iran's Arash Miresmaeili by a decision to win a featherweight bronze, with the other bronze going to Giorgi Vazagashvili of Georgia who outpointed European champion Patrick van Kalken of the Netherlands.

En route to the medal round Van Kalken beat Japan's Yukimasa Nakamura, a former world champion and Atlanta silver medallist, by ippon in the closing seconds of their contest.



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Huseyin Ozkan

Japan's hopes of building on their two-gold haul on the first day of the judo competition, were further upset by Verdecia who floored Japanese world champion and her arch-rival Noriko Narazaki in the women's under-52kg final.

Payback

It was payback time for the 27-year-old Cuban who lost to Narazaki by a penalty in the world championship final in Birmingham last October.

Narazaki, unlucky not to succeed with an almost perfect throw 50 seconds into the contest, was dragged down by 1997 world champion Verdecia for ippon knockout halfway through the four-minute final.

Verdecia had previously beaten Narazaki in the third round of the Atlanta Olympics four years ago when both went through the repechage rounds to win bronze medals.

The first women's 52kg bronze medals went to North Korean Kye Sun-Hui, up a division since taking the under-48kg bronze medal at Atlanta, who dumped Romanian Iona Maria Dinea in the consolation final.

The second bronze went to China's Liu Yuxiang who immobilised Deborah Gravenstijn of the Netherlands.



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Larbi Benboudaoud