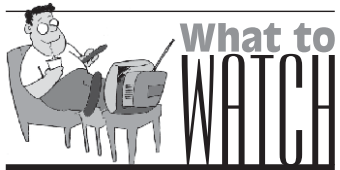




The last Olympic gold medals that were made entirely out of gold were awarded in 1912.



TEN Sports
Sri Lanka vs South Africa
First Test, Day Two
Live at 10:30 am

ESPN
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
India vs Bangladesh
Repeat at 12:00 pm
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports
Sportslive
Live at 8:00 pm
Cincinnati Tennis Masters
Last 16
Live at 9:00 pm



Shoaib Akhtar
(Pakistan fast bowler)
"His style is very professional and he knows what he wants to achieve. I think after one tournament every one of us is also aware what is expected of us."
On coach Bob Woolmer.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 215

Tick the correct answers, post to

The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm August 6, 2004 and draw

1. Who clinched the national tennis men's crown?	Pasit	Amal	Murad
2. How many Test wickets has Shane Warne taken?	519	527	434
3. Who won the Wimbledon men's title?	Agassi	Federer	Henman
4. Who lifted the Wimbledon women's crown?	Serana	Sharapova	Venus
Name			
Class			
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

SA will regain 2nd spot if ...

CRICINFO, undated

South Africa, who have slipped down to third spot in the ICC Test Championship table, could regain their second spot if they win the ongoing series against Sri Lanka.

England's strong performances over the last few months have helped them slide into the number two slot, but currently only one point separates the two -- South Africa have 106 to England's 107.

If South Africa win both Tests, their rating will go up to 110 points, while a 1-0 victory will take them to 108. If they draw the series, however,

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

'Realistically we target 220-230'



BISHWAJIT ROY

A year into his job as chief national selector, Faruque Ahmed has conceded that the current crop of cricketers forming Bangladesh's one-day international squad are not ideally suited to take on the big boys.

But the situation is down to lack of resources rather than anything else believes the former Bangladesh captain.

Smarting from a pathetic showing by the side he chooses in the recently concluded Asia Cup in Sri Lanka, Faruque, whose selection committee completed it's first year this month acknowledged that most often they had to settle for what little was available to them in terms of talent.

"We picked the best available side under the circumstances for the Asia Cup. Unfortunately there is hardly any scope to bring major changes in the team considering the reserve strength," said Faruque while talking with The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

The 38-year-old, who ended his playing career only last season, thought the problem stemmed from a weak domestic structure which is not ideal for producing quality cricketers. It is also the reason for Bangladesh not having a formidable second string or an A team.

"Unless local competitions like the Dhaka Premier Division and the National Cricket League become more competitive, we will continue to

struggle for back-ups. It is the responsibility of the authorities to come with a regular calendar of events. They must also think of a format that would ensure standard cricket. To do that, matches must be played on proper wickets and good grounds which is hardly the case at the moment.

"When we try to select the A side we struggle to complete the list as we don't get enough names who can push the



FARUQUE AHMED

national players. So we end up including cricketers from the national pool in the A team. We are looking at the High Performance Unit of the BCB to narrow the gap but I must insist again that without competitive domestic cricket we simply can not achieve anything," said Faruque.

On the performance of his selection committee so far, Faruque felt it has been a mixed bag.

"There has been ups and downs

over the last 12 months. The boys showed definite signs of improving against Australia, Zimbabwe and the West Indies. But the Asia Cup came as a shock for me."

The present committee gave no less than 10 players their international debuts and Faruque revealed that with the exception of opening batsman Moniruzzaman and off-spinner Jamaluddin Babu, the others are still either in the side or in contention. But the selectors have been perplexed by chronic top order batting failure which is seriously hurting the Tigers especially in the limited overs matches. Faruque lamented the scenario in which they have been forced to pick bits and pieces allrounders to strengthen the batting while compromising with the bowling department and overall balance of the side.

"The continuous failure of batsmen has prompted us to experiment with a stop-gap bowling attack. But it has been very frustrating watching all our plans go in vain. There is no doubt about someone like (Alok) Kapali's talent but tell me what has he done in the recent past?" said Faruque.

"Besides, we can not give excuses of inexperience in ODIs after 93 games. After four years of Test cricket and a decade of one-dayers, you don't see much difference in the basic thinking of the cricketers. The real talents in the side should come out of the habit of playing 'satisfactory' 30s and 40s and start going for hundreds to show what they are made of," he added.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

With Asghar's consent PCB announces it?

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is all set to entertain Sri Lanka's desire to duck the series in November. The Lankan cricket team was scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on November 8 to play two Tests and three one-day internationals.

But they are now interested to shift the schedule in February next year so that Marvan Atapattu's men could play a Test series in Pakistan after featuring in a triangular tournament, which also involves Zimbabwe, in October.

Although most of the BCB officials expressed their ignorance about the latest development, the chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Shaharyar Khan on Tuesday announced that Bangladesh have agreed to chance their schedule.

"But now they (Sri Lanka) are coming because Bangladesh have agreed to host them next year in February," Reuters quoted the PCB chief as saying.

While the PCB chief made the strong statement, his Bangladesh counterpart Ali Asghar was unavailable to tell his side of the story.

Asghar, who spent a week in Sri Lanka during the Asia Cup, is likely to return home on Friday. BCB chief executive Macky Dudhia however spoke briefly confirming that there were talks going on about this issue between his president and the Sri Lanka Cricket.

"Things are going on but it needs to be formalised and we will all know the result in a couple of days," Dudhia told The Daily Star last night.

The Sri Lankan tour was to set off a hectic home season for the Tigers with New Zealand and India to follow.

U-19s having batting practice

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19 cricketers opted for some batting practice ahead of their next week's second Test as they decided not to enforce the England Development of Excellence side to follow on on the third and final day of their warm-up match at Lincolnshire yesterday.

Instead, the tourists batted for the second time after bowling out the local side for 233 at the Sleaford Cricket Club. They were replying to Bangladesh's massive first innings total of 466 for 9 declared.

And by lunch, the Bangladeshi youths reached 32 for 1, a lead of 265 runs.

The visitors will play a two-day match against the same opponents from August 7 before their second four-day Test against England Under-19s from August 10.

Mahela mans Galle fort



AFP, Galle

Mahela Jayawardene struck a solid century to prop up Sri Lanka on the opening day of the first Test against South Africa at the Galle International Stadium here on Wednesday.

The stylish middle-order batsman struck an unbeaten 116 as Sri Lanka reached 279-7 at close after electing to bat on a pitch that helps spinners.

Jayawardene, who had scored 167 in Sri Lanka's only win in Tests against South Africa at the same venue four years ago, notched up his 12th century in 62 Tests.

The 27-year-old came in to bat when Sri Lanka were struggling at 22-2 after seamer Shaun Pollock's early strikes and did a good job to stick around even as Kumar Sangakkara attacked the bowlers.

Jayawardene struck 15 fours and a six to long-off off left-arm spinner Nicky Boje during his five-hour essay in which he exhibited some lovely drives and pull shots.

"It was important for me to stay at the wicket and I did that and waited for the loose deliveries," said Jayawardene, who also crossed a milestone of 1,000 runs at this venue.

"I have some good memories of this ground and hope to carry on tomorrow morning to try and take my team to a position from where we can go for a win," said Jayawardene, who faced 249 deliveries.

Sangakkara scored a quick 58 off 65 deliveries with 11 well-timed fours for his 16th half-century before falling to Boje.

Having hit the spinner for a lofted four off his first ball, Sangakkara tried a cut and was caught behind just three deliveries later to give the bowler a wicket in his very first over.

South Africa had no choice but to persist with their seam attack after deciding to play only one specialist spinner in Boje.

Pollock was the pick of the bowlers bagging 4-24 to keep Sri Lanka on their toes.

Pollock struck the early blows when he removed openers Sanath Jayasuriya (12) and Marvan Atapattu (nine) in the space of seven deliveries.

Jayasuriya played him off the legs to give a simple catch to Lance Klusener at square-leg while Atapattu edged one to wicketkeeper Mark Boucher.

Pollock then trapped Thilan Samaraweera (13) lbw in the second session and came back to take the wicket of Romesh Kaluwitharana (33) with the second new ball in the last session.

Jayawardene felt there was still some batting to come for the home side.

"Hopefully, if we can stretch the

score to around 350, we will have a lot to bowl for," he said.

Sri Lanka picked Farveez Maharoof as the new-ball partner for left-arm Chaminda Vaas with ace off-spinner Muttiah Murali-tharan and leg-spinner Upul Chandana the spinners in the team.

They also have left-arm spinner Jayasuriya and side bowlers Samaraweera and Tillakaratne Dilshan to make use of the conditions at a venue where Sri Lanka have won six of 10 Tests and lost just two.

Sri Lanka have yet to beat South Africa in a Test series.

The second and final Test will be held in Colombo next week. The Tests will be followed by five one-dayers.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the opening day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and South Africa at the Galle International Stadium on Wednesday:

SRI LANKA: First innings
Atapattu c Boucher b Pollock 9

Jayasuriya c Klusener b Pollock 12
Sangakkara c Boucher b Boje 58
Jayawardene not out 116
Samaraweera lbw b Pollock 13
Dilshan b Hayward 25
Kaluwitharana b Pollock 33
Chandana b Ntini 5
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, nb-3) 8
Total: (For 7 wks in 90 overs) 279
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-22, 3-108, 4-145, 5-189, 6-274, 7-279

To bat: Muralitharan, Vaas, Maharoof
Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**
Pollock 15 4 24 4
Ntini 13 0 42 1
Hayward 10 0 57 1
Kallis 13 3 37 0
Klusener 11 0 44 0
Boje 24 3 64 1
Rudolph 4 2 6 0

SOUTH AFRICA: Smith, Dippenaar, Van Jaarsveld, Kallis, Rudolph, Boucher, Pollock, Boje, Klusener, Ntini, Hayward
Toss: Sri Lanka
Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and Daryl Harper (Australia)

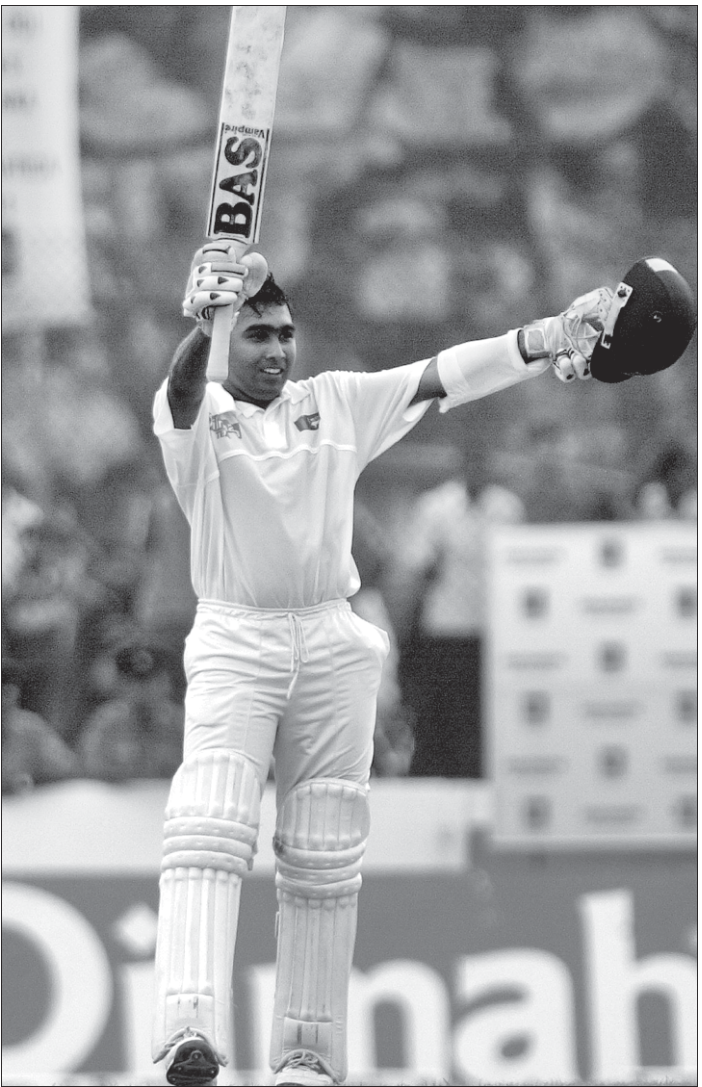


PHOTO: AFP

HI THERE: Sri Lanka batsman Mahela Jayawardene salutes the crowd on reaching the hundred against South Africa on the opening day of the first Test in Galle yesterday.

D-Day looms



AFP, London

Sven-Goran Eriksson's rollercoaster relationship with English football could come to a bitter and controversial end on Thursday after a three-and-a-half year spell where his reputation on the field has been largely sabotaged by his behaviour off it.

The fallout from the 56-year-old Swede's affair with Football Association secretary Faria Alam has helped plunge the game in Britain into another depressing, sleazy round of backstabbing and betrayal.

FA chief executive Mark Palios has already quit following the implications of his relationship with the same woman and, on Thursday, the powerful 12-man FA Council will meet here to decide whether or not Eriksson will also be shown the door.

The Swede, who took England to the quarter-finals of the 2002 World Cup and the European championships in Portugal this summer, has always insisted his private life is his own business.

He survived the public outcry over his affair with television personality Ulrika Johnsson, a fellow Swede, as well as the even greater furore when it was suspected he may jump ship and take over as coach of Premiership moneybags Chelsea.

But this is his greatest crisis with his FA paymasters meeting to decide whether or not they were deliberately misled over the Alam affair.

His lucrative contract means he could be entitled to a compensation package deal worth 14 million pounds (25 million dollars) and the removal of him as coach would come just a month before England open their qualifying campaign for the 2006 World Cup with

a match against Austria.

Eriksson became the first foreigner to take charge of England when he succeeded Kevin Keegan in January 2001 having won the Italian League and Cup double the previous year with Lazio.

His first game in charge was a 3-0 victory against Spain and four subsequent wins in consecutive games ensured that he achieved the most successful start of any England coach.

He was virtually a national hero when his side beat old enemy Germany 5-1 in a World Cup qualifier in Munich later in 2001 as England took a huge step towards the finals in Japan and South Korea.

That campaign ended with a 2-1 loss to Brazil while hosts Portugal put an end to his Euro 2004 hopes in June this year.

"In three and half years, we have lost three games at major championships and if you see how we lost them, we lost in a strange way," said Eriksson.

"It gives us hope for the future, we are up there. I think we are very close."

Although he may be public enemy number one as far as the average fickle English fan is concerned, Eriksson is admired by his players.

"Even though he's an international manager, there's more of a club type relationship with him," said the midfielder Phil Neville.

"If you're suffering from injury, or for instance, when my wife had a baby, he rings you up to congratulate you, and probably in the past England managers haven't done that. That's why all the players like him."

"In terms of the way he wins over his players, he doesn't do it by shouting

or screaming; he does it by treating the players as adults."

However, a very public flirtation with Chelsea earlier this year underlined Eriksson's apparent willingness to contemplate abandoning the national side if the right opportunity to return to club football came along.

"The best in football has always been to win games," he acknowledged in the wake of the Chelsea furore, which ended with him signing an extended and enhanced contract designed to keep him in his current post until at least the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

"If you don't win games, whatever you do, you will be criticised."

Eriksson is getting used to dealing with the critics, but it remains to be seen whether or not he can win over the most influential here on Thursday.



SVEN-GORAN ERIKSSON



FARIA ALAM

Batty awaits his chance



BBC ONLINE, undated

Gareth Batty wants the chance to get his own back on West Indies captain Brian Lara at some point this summer.

Batty, whose delivery Lara hit to reach a new world record score in April, is tipped for an England recall next week, with a spin-friendly wicket expected.

"It's not what I want to be remembered for, being the bowler when he achieved the record," Batty said.

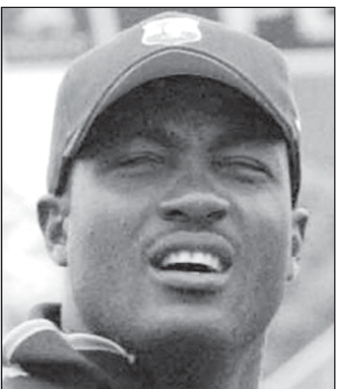
"I am not one of those who stays on the canvas. I wanted to get back up and bop him on the chin!"

However, Batty admitted: "The winter tour experience was good for me and I have learnt a lot about different conditions and how you have to adapt."

The third match of the series begins at Old Trafford next Thursday.

Off-spinner Batty stated his ambition to be England's number one slow bowler, but would be happy to bowl in tandem with left-arm Ashley Giles, who has already taken 18 wickets in the series.

"If Gilo keeps playing well, why do I



BRIAN LARA

winning us two Tests."

Batty is enjoying a successful season with Worcestershire, and has already taken 40 first-class wickets at an average of 23.65. He also boasts a



GARETH BATTY

at the selectors' meeting.

"Hopefully they'll have no choice but to pick me if they go for a second spinner because of volume of wickets and other things I bring to the party."

BCB names 18 to join pace bowling camp

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday called up 18 players to join an under-15 pace bowling camp.

The selected players have been asked to report to the BCB office at Bangabandhu National Stadium at 5pm on Friday.

The selected players are Rezaul Karim Ronny, Khairul Alam Sumon, Mashurul Alam Rubel, Mamun, Nadimuzzaman, Imran Hossain, Sayeed Apu, Mokhesur Rahman, SK Ashiquzzaman, Masud Rana, Sujit Hossain Moon, Mehdi Rahman, Imran Khan, Akid Rahman, Talha bin Tareq, Rumman Islam, Ariful Haque, Mshiquir Rahman Riyel.

J'wardene hails Protea bowling

AFP, Galle

Sri Lankan batsman Mahela Jayawardene Wednesday praised South Africa's bowling on the opening day of the first Test here on Wednesday.

"I thought they bowled to a fine line and length with the field set well, so it was hard to get runs," said Jayawardene, who struck an unbeaten 116 in a team score of 279-7.

"The two early wickets from

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

A 'billion dollar' Indian question

AFP, New Delhi



It's that silly season again when India's chattering classes lament why a nation of a billion people can't win Olympic gold

medals.

The subject is furiously debated every four years whenever the Olympics are held, the government orders a probe, the media is in a state of hysteria, before discussions are put on the backburner till the next Games comes around.

Meanwhile, the nation's obsession with cricket grows. The world may be glued to Athens, but India's eyes will be on the high-profile cricket series against arch-rivals Pakistan and world champions Australia to be played in the Netherlands at the same time.

The Olympics do not enthuse India's millions, for there is little to celebrate. The last time India won a gold medal was in hockey at the western-boycotted Moscow Games of 1980.

Only three Indians have won individual bronze medals, wrestler KD Jadhav in 1952, tennis player Leander Paes in 1996 and women's weightlifter Karnam Malleswari in 2000.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4