



Did U Know?

Pierre de Coubertin wrote an oath for the athletes to recite at each Olympic Games. During the opening ceremonies, one athlete recites the oath on behalf of all the athletes. The Olympic oath was first taken during the 1920 Olympic Games by Belgian fencer Victor Boin. The Olympic Oath states: "In the name of all competitors, I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules that govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and



Zinedine Zidane

(French soccer super star)
"It's the time, it's my time. It's the end of a cycle: there have been some great players who retired in 2000 and 2002, other players are doing it and now I'm doing it. It's like that. You have to stop one day."



ESPN

England vs West Indies
Third Test, Day Three

Live at 3:30 pm

English Premier Football League

Liverpool vs Tottenham Hotspur

Live at 5:40 pm

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League

Man City vs Fulham

Live at 7:55 pm

Middlesbrough vs Newcastle United

Live at 10:10 pm

TEN Sports

Sri Lanka vs South Africa

Second Test, Day Four

Live at 10:15 am

Star WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION 215

Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
August 20, 2004 and draw

1. Who clinched the national tennis men's crown?	Pasia	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?	Serena	Sharapova	Venus
Name		
Class	Roll No
School Address		
Phone: (If any)		

Not the ideal start

AFP, Athens



The most tightly guarded Olympics in history were to get underway here Friday as Greece reeled from a drugs bombshell that has left the hosts' biggest athletics star facing expulsion from the Games.

An unprecedented security operation had been mounted in the Greek capital as a trouble-plagued seven-year marathon to prepare the city for the greatest sporting show on earth was poised to end with a lavish opening ceremony.

But as the Olympic torch wound its way through crowds of fans lining Athens' streets in searing heat Friday, the host nation was struggling to digest a doping scandal embroiling local hero Kostadin Kenteris.

Reigning Olympic 200 metres champion Kenteris and training partner Ekaterini Thanou were still in hospital Friday after sustaining cuts and bruises in a late-night motorcycle accident, hours after failing to turn up for a mandatory doping test.

The duo had been meant to appear before an International Olympic Committee inquiry hearing early Friday to explain Thursday's drug test no-show, which could lead to a two-year ban and exclusion from the Olympics.

However the hearing was delayed until Monday following a request from Greek team officials and a hospital statement that said the athletes needed to remain in hospital for a further 48 hours.

"In order to ensure a fair process and give due consideration to the athletes, the disciplinary commission has decided to postpone the hearing until Monday, 16 August," the IOC statement said.

Kenteris and Thanou have stayed silent on the controversy, which has appalled and embarrassed Greeks desperate to present their country in the best possible light during the Olympics.

Kenteris -- believed to have been the original choice for the honour of lighting the Olympic flame in Friday's opening ceremony -- has been idolised in his homeland ever since striking gold at the 2000 Sydney Games.

But the public mood was rapidly turning against the 31-year-old on Friday, with newspapers and Athenians condemning his failure to appear before testers.

"The Olympic Games start with a megatonne bomb on their Greek foundations," daily Eleftherotypia said, while the Ethnos daily demanded in a headline: "Tell us the truth".

Ethnos said it was time for Kenteris -- who has battled persistent speculation over doping because of his reluctance to compete regularly outside of Greece -- to set the record straight.

"Costas (Kenteris), Katerina (Thanou) ... you owe it to all Greeks to prove now that you're clean," the paper demanded as the Ta Nea daily proclaimed that "Greece's biggest celebration" was "on fire".

Lukia Eutixia, part of a huge crowd of fans gathered to watch the Olympic torch relay in downtown Athens, poured scorn on Kenteris for missing the test and cast doubt on his motorcycle accident, saying he had shamed the nation.

"What accident are they talking about? It's just an alibi. He fell into a trap all by himself but he took down all of Greece with him," she said.

IOC President Jacques Rogge meanwhile said Kenteris and Thanou's standing as national heroes would have no bearing on how their cases were treated.

"That they are both Greeks will have no impact on the disciplinary inquiry which has been launched. We do not bear in mind nationalities or local circumstances in our discussions," said Rogge.

"They are presumed innocent until a decision is rendered. But the Games are bigger than individuals."

The furore overshadowed Olympic organisers' predictions of a triumphant Games despite years of construction delays and the spectre of drugs and terrorism hanging over the multi-billion-dollar showpiece.

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PHOTO: AFP

AN ANCIENT RITUAL: Legendary American athlete Carl Lewis waves while he carries the Olympic torch yesterday as he approaches the Acropolis (background) to enact an ancient lighting ceremony overlooking Athens.

Junior Tigers lose series

SPORTS REPORTER

Another shoddy batting display by the touring Bangladesh Under 19 team handed their English counterparts an easy victory in the second Test at Taunton, Somerset yesterday.

England scored the winning target of 56 losing just two wickets on the final day to wrap up the Test and the series with one match to go after Bangladesh could add just seven runs to their overnight second innings total of 171 for seven. The home side had won the first Test by five wickets at Headingley.

Once again the tourists' batting was found wanting as they had no answer to the bowling of England's new ball pair of Mark Turner and Luke Wright who combined to take seven wickets. Turner followed up his five-for in

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Extra Saleh!

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Having returned to the national fold after being forgotten for almost four years following a 12th man's appearance in the country's inaugural Test against India, Rajin Saleh shot himself into instant fame during Bangladesh's tour of Pakistan.

His 186 runs in three Tests against the Pakistanis earned the gritty middle-order batsman a nod in the one-day side and he was equally impressive in the shorter version scoring 211 runs from five matches on the tour. Decent performances against England at home and Zimbabwe away, plus his dedicated approach further lifted his credentials and he was named deputy to Habibul Bashar.

His position had looked settled in a

batting order that always struggles for consistency until recently as Saleh's one-day form has taken a worrying dip.

The 21-year-old's bat produced just 48 runs in five matches in the recently concluded Asia Cup in Sri Lanka and in the last 10 ODI appearances, he hasn't seen a fifty. This has raised questions about his ability to handle the demands of one-day cricket.

But the selectors kept faith in him and he was chosen for next month's ICC Champions Trophy and Saleh is determined to give it his best shot.

Although it was the Tigers' day-off on Friday, Saleh decided to come to the Bangabandhu National Stadium for some extra batting practice. He spent around two hours in the nets with two net bowlers assisting.

"I have decided to do the extra

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Phelps starts odyssey today

REUTERS, Athens

Michael Phelps dives into the Olympic pool on Saturday in search of the first of a possible record eight gold medals as the Athens Games explode into life.

Appropriately the first event for the 19-year-old American is the 400 metres individual medley, showcasing each of the four strokes with which Phelps will attempt to better Mark Spitz's haul of seven golds at the 1972 Munich Games.

Phelps has also entered the 200 individual medley, the 100 and 200 metres butterfly and the 200 freestyle. He is a candidate for three of the relays.

Australia's Ian Thorpe, who takes part in the 400 freestyle, also has a Spitz record in his sights.

Thorpe, who won three gold medals at the 2000 Sydney Games, has targeted six titles in Athens which would equal Spitz's tally of nine in two Olympics.

The Australian is the man most likely to thwart Phelps's ambitions.

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It's Real for Owen

AFP, Liverpool

Michael Owen was on his way to Real Madrid on Friday after Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez confirmed the



MICHAEL OWEN

sale of the England striker.

Provided he passes a medical, Owen will join Real for a fee believed to be in the region of eight million pounds (12 million euros) with 25-year-old Real midfielder Antonio Nunez moving to Anfield as a makeweight.

Benitez, the former Valencia boss

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PHOTO: AP

ICING ON THE CAKE: Substitute Sadir Salih (L) celebrates with his teammates Abbas Bassim (C) and Haidar Abdul Razzaq, after scoring the last Iraqi goal during their Olympic football match against Portugal in Greece on August 12.

Preview to the season

Arise, it's Premiership time

Football

LENIN GANI

Euro 2004 and the even the gossip surrounding Faria Alam and Sven Goran Eriksson may have to take a backseat. Why? Because for the ten months there is only one thing that matters who will be crowned kings of English football. Yes, a new Premiership season is upon us.

It seems like only yesterday when Arsenal paraded their trophy. But all this time there has been plenty of moving and shaking in the unrelenting world of football managers.

And already the axe has fallen on Claudio Ranieri, Gerrard Houllier and even Carlos Queiroz even before the first goal.

While Houllier and Queiroz paid a heavy price for failing to deliver silverware at Liverpool and Real Madrid respectively last season, Chelsea and more importantly their Russian billionaire owner Roman Abramovich, sent the likable Italian on his way after losing patience with his 'tinkering' style.

Although it must be said Ranieri did guide the Blues to runners-up in the English Premier League as well as the semifinals of the UEFA Champions League.

But even that was not enough to satisfy his Russian paymaster because no sooner had Jose Mourinho master-minded FC Porto's greatest title tri-

umph then it was destination Stamford Bridge to join the Russian revolution.

For all his technical expertise Houllier just managed to ensure the disenchanted Anfield faithful a fourth qualification spot in Europe's elite competition. And sensing that the former French national coach had run out of tricks after six years in charge, the

Eindhoven Mateja Kezman. Dutch winger Arjen Robben will provide extra strength on the flanks and Ricardo Carvalho of Portugal who was arguably the best central defender at Euro 2004. Petr Cech will finally give Carlo Cudicini some competition for the goalkeeper's jersey.

It all points to Chelsea mounting a



ARSENE WENGER



SIR ALEX FERGUSON



RAFAEL BENITEZ



JOSE MOURINHO

Reds brought in Valencia's Rafael Benitez to kick-start the fortunes of the most successful English club.

The new Premiership welcomes another foreign coach and his name is Jacques Santini. He will be hoping to erase memories of a disastrous Euro 2004, where France failed to defend their crown and instead take Tottenham Hotspur out of the shadows of North London rivals Arsenal.

The close season has certainly seen a flurry of activity too in transfer market.

Mourinho has ushered in strikers Didier Drogba from Marseille and PSV

very serious title challenge to Arsenal this time.

But at least 'professor' Arsene Wenger will be relieved hearing that Patrick Vieira won't be swayed by the dazzling lights of Madrid and lead the Gunners to glory.

Having declined a chance to join the 'galaticos', the French midfielder will be leading a relatively unchanged squad based on the trickery of Robert Pires and predatory instincts of Thierry Henry and backed up by central defenders Sol Campbell and Kolo Toure. All were instrumental in an

problems especially with several key players missing right at the start notably hit-man Ruud van Nistelrooy who is recovering from a hernia operation. The news that Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is sidelined for the whole 38-game campaign is another serious blow.

A depleted strike force means that new signing Alan Smith will have to carry the scoring burden as he did for relegated Leeds United.

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