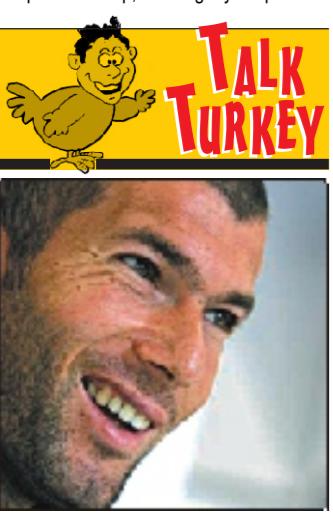




Did U Know?

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 superstar)
"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

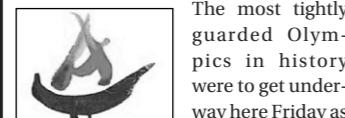
1. Who clinched the national tennis men's crown?
Pasta Amal Murad
2. How many Test wickets has Shane Warne taken?
519 527 434
3. Who won the Wimbledon men's title?
Agassi Federer Herman
4. Who lifted the Wimbledon women's crown?
Serena Sharapova Venus

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

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.

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 Kostadinos 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.

"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 stated.

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.

"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.

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.

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.

"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.

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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.

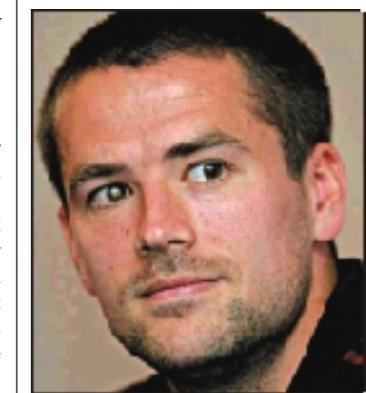
The Australian is the man most likely to thwart Phelps's ambitions.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

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

An Iraqi wonder

AFP, Athens



Iraq marked their return to Olympic football after a 16-year absence with a fairytale 4-2 victory over Portugal Thursday as highly rated Italy scrambled a lucky 2-2 draw with Ghana.

Iraq, who made the quarter-finals of the Asian Cup in China last month, went into the Group D match as underdogs against a Portuguese side boasting a wealth of top class talent including Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo.

They endured a chaotic build-up to the Athens Games, with the ravages of

war in their homeland forcing them to play all their home qualifying matches in neutral Jordan while their German coach Bernd Stange in July citing concerns over deteriorating security, leaving assistant Adnan Hamid in charge.

Iraq took the upper hand against Portugal when the Europeans had Fulham's Luis Boa Morte sent off in the second-half with the scores locked at 2-2.

Iraq had fallen behind through a Haidar Jabar own goal before hitting back to lead thanks to Emad Mohammed and Hawar Mulla Mohammed.

Portugal were level by the break thanks to Bosingwa before the match exploded in the second half when Boa Morte saw red card which paved the way for Younis Mahmoud to score the third.

Substitute Salih wrapped up the famous upset win in injury time.

"Everybody expected Portugal to win," said Mahmoud. "But we played very good football, showing that we are a good team and we pulled off a surprise."

Portugal meanwhile were lucky not to have been reduced to 10 earlier in the match when Ronaldo escaped with a yellow card after elbowing Younis Mahmoud, causing a deep cut on the Iraqi player's brow.

In Group B, Alberto Gilardino grabbed an equaliser seven minutes from time as Italy fought back from two goals down to scrape a 2-2 draw against Ghana, the 1992 Olympic bronze medalists.

The Parma marksman, the second highest scorer in Serie A last

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



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.

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 Headingly.

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

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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.

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

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

His position had looked settled in

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-

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



ARSENÉ WENGER



SIR ALEX FERGUSON



RAFAEL BENITEZ



JOSE MOURINHO

unprecedented campaign that saw Arsenal go the entire season unbeaten.

For weeks it had been feared that Vieira would say farewell after eight years, that would have certainly upset the champions in a similar way to what Manchester United experienced with David Beckham last term.

In fact, the Red Devils have plenty of

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 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.

Having declined a chance to join the 'galacticos', 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

unprecedented campaign that saw Arsenal go the entire season unbeaten.

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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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