



Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY AUGUST 30, 2004, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com



Athenà Phèvos



SEAGULLS! Italian rhythmic gymnastics team, which won silver, performs during the all-around final at the Olympic Games in Athens on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Tigers chasing 206 to win

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh were chasing 206 for victory in 32 overs against Ireland in their first limited-overs practice match at the Civil Service ground, Stormont, in Belfast yesterday.

Rain stopped play after 19 overs with the home side making 80-1 and when play resumed, the ICC associate members ended their innings on 179-7 after 32 overs.

The Tigers' winning target was revised according to the D/L Method.

Earlier, Tigers' new captain Rajin Saleh won the toss and decided to field.

Medium-pace Mushfiqur Rahman was injured during his third over, prompting Rajin to complete the over.

Mohammed Rafique and Tareq Aziz were rested to make way for the three U-19 players, Nafees Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed and Nazmul Hossain.

As part of their ICC Champions Trophy build-up, the Tigers are scheduled to play their second and last match against the Irish today at the same venue. They will fly to Scotland for two more warm-up matches on September 1 and 2.

Belal antics sink MSC

SPORTS REPORTER



Muktijoddha Sangsad stayed on course for a semifinal berth in the 4th Nitol-Tata National Football League when the defending champions beat Mohammed-dan

Sporting Club 2-1 in a battle of giants at the Sher-e-Bangla Mirpur National Stadium yesterday.

Incidentally it was Muktijoddha defender Belal Ahmed who was in the thick of things to break Mohammedan hearts with his trademark long throw. Belal made a name for himself when he successfully used this weapon against the same team in a Premier League encounter last season.

The stout stopper with strong arms hurled the ball like guided missiles to

set up both the second-half goals for the Reds in the space of four minutes.

Mohammedan custodian Taerq managed to fist the first throw away but only to the path of a lurking Ajmal Hossain Biddut who wasted no time to bang in a superb volley that rocketed into the roof of the net giving Muktijoddha the lead in the 58th minute.

Belal's second set piece after four minutes brushed off Tareq's outstretched gloves allowing Kanchan to outjump two tall Mohammedan defenders and nod the ball home.

Farhad reduced the arrears deep inside the injury time for the Black and Whites when he toe-poked a lob by Kaiser over Aminul's head but by then the damage had already been done.

The victory put Muktijoddha at the top of the six-team table along with Abahani both having seven points after

their first matches. Both teams have carried four bonus points from the first round.

Mohammedan on the other hand are left with it all to do as they have only two bonus points in the bank. The popular Motijheel outfit now face a massive task of winning their next two games including the big match against their bitter rivals Abahani to stand a chance of reaching the semifinals.

Although Mohammedan dictated terms in a match surprising watched by only a few hundred fans, it was Muktijoddha's ploy of packing the defence and hitting on the break that ultimately proved decisive.

Mohammedan started the game at a brisk pace and should have taken the lead just after kick off. But their ageless warrior Imtiaz Ahmed

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Razzak relieved

SPORTS REPORTER

Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak returned home on Sunday morning from England after his bowling action was reviewed by English bio-mechanic Dr Paul Hurron.

"Paul assured me after analysing from four different angles that there is nothing wrong with my action. However, everything will be clear once the Bangladesh Cricket Board receives his written recommendations," a relieved Razzak said.

It was learnt that the English bio-mechanic will send his assessment and video footage of Razzak's bowling action within two days and then the BCB will decide its next course of action.

The 22-year-old spinner from Khulna, who was ignored for the ICC Champions Trophy in England because of having a suspect action, which was reported during the Asia Cup, was hopeful of returning to action during New Zealand's tour of Bangladesh in October.

"I'm not frustrated at all after missing the Champions Trophy. I'm looking forward to rejoining the team in without any fear about my bowling action," he added.

The real WWF!

REUTERS, Athens

A brawl erupted between spectators, officials, police and competitors at the Olympic freestyle wrestling on Sunday after a close bout between a Russian and Belarussian athlete.

As world champion Buwaysa Saytiev of Russia and Murat Gaidarov left the mat they appeared to exchange heated words and punches, triggering a melee that delayed the competition for several minutes.

The International Wrestling Federation (FILA) said the athletes and federations faced sanctions and a possible 10,000 dollar fine.

"I have issued both delegations warnings and both athletes and federations face the possibility of sanctions and a minimum fine of 10,000 dollar depending on the findings of the disciplinary committee," said FILA president Raphael Martinette.

Resembling a scene from professional wrestling, the officials appeared uncertain what to do as spectators quickly joined the scuffle and members of both teams swung wildly at each other.

Hicham makes history

AFP, Athens



Hicham El Guerrouj and Kelly Holmes doubled their Olympic delight here, each capturing a second gold of the Athens Games as

athletics competition concluded in the Olympic stadium.

Morocco's El Guerrouj became the first man since Paavo Nurmi in 1924 to win both the 1,500 metres and 5,000 metres at one Games with his triumph over the longer distance.

The astonishing double deprived Kenenisa Bekele of Ethiopia of a 10,000m-5,000m double of his own, as the 22-year-old had to settle for silver ahead of world champion Eliud Kipchoge of Kenya.

It was a further vindication for El Guerrouj, the multiple world champion who had failed in two previous heart-breaking Olympic bids for the 1500m.

"After all that went on in Atlanta and Sydney this is a deserved reward, but also unbelievable that I can win two Olympic gold medals in the space of five days," El Guerrouj said.

"This has been the most remarkable week of my life."

Britain's Holmes added the women's 1,500m title to the 800 metres gold she won on Monday, repeating the feat of Russia's Svetlana Masterkova

who clinched the double in 1996 in Atlanta.

After relegating Russian Tatyana Tomashova to silver, Holmes sank to the track and burst into tears as she took in the enormity of her achievement.

"Maybe it's fate," said Holmes, 34. "Amazing things have been happening to me here."

There was more joy for Britain as they stunned the United States in the men's 4x100m relay -- only the second Olympic victory in the event for Britain and the first since 1912.

The British quartet anchored by Mark Lewis-Francis clocked 38.07 to edge a US team anchored by 2000 Olympic champion Maurice Greene by one-hundredth of a second, while Nigeria took the bronze.

The US rallied with victories in the men's and women's 4x400m relays, but Americans were having their problems in various venues around Athens where 34 gold medals were handed out on the penultimate day of the Games.

No Americans had even made it to the night's five boxing finals, from which Cuba and Russia each emerged with two titles.

Two-time world champion Odanier Solis captured the heavyweight (91kg) crown for Cuba with a victory over Viktor Zuyev of Belarus, and Yuriorkis Gamboa triumphed over game Frenchman Jerome Thomas in the flyweight (51kg) final.

Russia's Gaydarbek Gaydar-bekov (75kg) and Alexei Tich-tchenko (57kg) also came away with gold, while Thailand's Manus Boonjumnong triumphed in the 64kg class.

American wrestlers received a bloody nose from their opponents and an ear-bashing from the crowd as two out of three finalists were beaten in gold medal match-ups.

Stephen Abas and Jamill Kelly both lost heavily before Cael Sanderson, the most experienced of the trio, restored some pride with a narrow 3-1 victory over South Korea's Moon Eui-jae in the 84kg category.

The majority of the crowd were against the American athletes as they attempted to underline their traditional superiority in Olympic freestyle wrestling.

China, America's closest rivals in the gold medal standings, were meanwhile celebrating their best performance ever at an Olympics.

They passed their previous top gold medal total of 28 when Luo Wei won the women's taekwondo under-67kg class.

Canoeists Meng Guanliang and Yang Wenjun had earlier claimed number 28 with their triumph in a thrilling men's flatwater canoe C2 500 metres final in which six of the nine boats finished within 0.58 seconds of each other.

And after Luo made it 29, diver

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PHOTO: AFP

TWO OUT OF TWO: Moroccan long-distance runner Hicham El Guerrouj flashes the number 'two' after winning the men's 5,000m gold in the Olympic Games in Athens on Saturday. He earlier won the 1,500m.

Britain's new queen

REUTERS, Athens



Just as Paula Radcliffe faltered, Kelly Holmes stepped up to the mark to become the new queen of British athletics.

Radcliffe had been touted as the country's only real hope for an Olympic track and field gold but after she failed to complete the marathon last Sunday, Holmes took over the mantle in glorious style.

The following day she ended a succession of frustrating silver and bronze medals by winning the 800 metres and on Saturday she completed a dream double by breaking her own seven-year-old British record to win a 1,500 race in which seven of the first nine recorded personal best times.

Both victories were achieved in

classic style, with Holmes patiently waiting in the pack before going wide to launch a devastating attack on the final bend.

Only Tatyana Kazankina of the Soviet Union in 1976 and Svetlana Masterkova of Russia in 1996 have previously managed the double and Holmes was overwhelmed to be joining such illustrious company.

"For the last seven years I have had loads of injuries and I have only brought back silvers and bronzes," she said. "Now I have had an injury-free year and look what's happened."

At 34, Holmes is the oldest winner of the 1,500, introduced in 1972 and the race she was targeting before the start of the Games.

"I have been training specifically for the 1,500 and the hardest thing tonight was to focus," she said. "I've

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THE TALLY

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	35	38	29	102
China	31	17	14	62
Russia	27	27	38	92
Australia	17	16	16	49
Japan	15	10	12	37
Germany	14	15	18	47
France	11	8	12	31
Italy	9	11	11	31
Great Britain	9	9	12	30
Cuba	9	7	11	27
Ukraine	9	5	9	23
South Korea	8	12	9	29
Hungary	8	6	3	17
Romania	8	5	6	19
Greece	6	5	4	15
Norway	5	0	1	6
Netherlands	4	9	9	22
Brazil	4	3	2	9
Sweden	4	1	2	7
Spain	3	11	5	19
Canada	3	6	3	12
Turkey	3	3	3	9
Poland	3	2	5	10
New Zealand	3	2	0	5
Thailand	3	1	4	8
Belarus	2	5	8	15
Austria	2	4	1	7

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What to WATCH

BTV
Nitol-Tata National Football League
Brothers Union vs Ctg Mohammedan
Live at 7:00 pm

ESPN
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Everton
Live at 4:55 pm
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm

English Premier Football League
Portsmouth vs Fulham
Live at 12:55 am (Tuesday)

STAR Sports
Sportsline
Live at 8:00 pm
US open Tennis
Men's & Women's First Rd
Live at 9:00 pm



PHOTO: STAR

Mohammedan striker Farhad (R) skips a sliding tackle by Muktijoddha defender Hassan Al Mamun during their Nitol-Tata National League fixture at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.