



Did U Know?

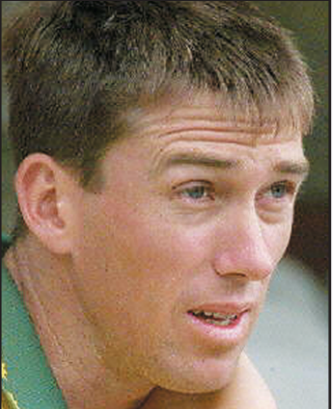
The last Olympic gold medals that were made entirely out of gold were awarded in 1912 Games.



ESPN
NatWest Challenge
England vs Australia
First ODI
Live at 3:45 pm
STAR
Sportsline
Live at 8:00 pm



Premier Football League
Sheikh Russel vs Dipali Sangha (5:00 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



Glenn McGrath
(Australia fast bowler)
"I think Harmison is a class bowler. There's no doubt about that and I think he's one of the main reasons England have improved over the last 18 months and one of the reasons why they've been so successful."

RATING CHESS Reefat keeps winning

SPORTS REPORTER

Reefat Bin Sattar continued his winning run in the Greenwich University FIDE Rating Chess tournament when he won the second round against FIDE Master Khandokar Aminul Islam at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday.

Reefat, who recently completed third and final Grand Master norm, shared the lead with International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib, International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib and FIDE Master Mehdi Hasan Parag.

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman slipped to second position sharing points with FIDE Master Abu Sufian Shakil.

In the day's other matches, Rajib beat Javed, Rakib beat Delwar, Parag beat Mahtabuddin, Nasir beat Maleq, Rani Hamid beat FM Rezaul Haque, Debaraj beat Anwar, Firoz beat Lavlu, Uten beat Ali, Sohel drew with Moniruzzaman and Mizanur Rahman drew with Hasan.

FIRST DIV FOOTBALL Agrani hold Rahmatganj

SPORTS REPORTER

Agrani Bank came from behind to hold leaders Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society 1-1 when the First Division Football League resumed yesterday after a four-day break due to inclement weather.

Don put Rahmatganj ahead in the 30th minute but Dipu struck for the bankers in the 42nd minute to level the margin at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

The day's collection pushed Rahmatganj's tally to 26 points from eleven matches while Agrani Bank improved their tally to 10 from the same number of outings.



DELIGHT FOR LONDON, DESPAIR FOR PARIS: (L) Londoners celebrate their city's winning the 2012 Olympic Games at Trafalgar Square while (R) a French schoolboy, who was part of the bidding team, in Singapore breaks down upon hearing his country's failure in the IOC voting on Wednesday.

London gets the Games BU's 12-year wait over



AFP, Singapore

London's bid was trailing badly behind the French and looked doomed.

But Coe, along with businessman Keith Mills and London mayor Ken Livingstone, turned everything around and on Wednesday the tens of thousands of miles flying the world to seal the bid paid off in spectacular style.

"This is amazing because when we started out we thought this was a mountain to climb, that we would never actually win. Now we are going to give the world the best Games they have ever seen," said Livingstone.

It was also a massive personal victory for British Prime Minister Tony Blair who flew into Singapore three days before the IOC members voted to hold a series of private one-on-one meetings with the members to sell the bid.

Nearly 20 members were escorted up to a special suite in the

Swiss Hotel over Monday and Tuesday to meet the prime minister.

"It is a momentous day for London," said Blair, who heard the news in the heavily fortified Scottish golf resort of Gleneagles where he was to host a three-day Group of Eight leaders' summit.

Blair said he could not bear to watch the final bids.

"It is fantastic. I am thrilled." Moscow, New York and Madrid were all eliminated in three rounds of voting by the nearly 100 IOC members present, leaving London and Paris as the two survivors and one of them sure of victory.

When IOC president Jacques Rogge opened the envelope baring the winner's name and read out London the London bid team jumped to their feet.

Coe was embraced by everyone around him.

Across the aisle the French team sat in stunned disbelief.

It was the third time in 20 years that the French capital had been rejected by the IOC.

And it was a bitter blow for French President Jacques Chirac, who has been personally involved in all three Paris bids - once as mayor of Paris and twice as president.

The 72-year-old Chirac had flown into Singapore on Tuesday afternoon so he could address the IOC session during Paris' final presentation.

The French team were hoping that the presence of Chirac would clinch victory for a bid that has been the front-runner since the campaign began.

But in the end the IOC decided that London, who last held the Games in 1948, should have 2012.

SPORTS REPORTER



Brothers Union stormed to the top of the Premier Football League table when the defending champions edged Abahani 2-1 with first-half goals by Pranotosh and Victor Edwards in an eighth round clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

It was Brothers' sixth win in the league and their third over Abahani in as many meetings in all competitions this season. However, it was the first in 12 years that they have beaten Abahani following the 3-2 victory in 1993. The defending champions are now on top with 19 points, two ahead of Mohammedan who have a match in hand.

Abahani, who suffered their second loss, finished the match with

ten men after their scorer Ndem's 89th minute sent-off. They remained stuck to 14 points.

The men in orange started with a flat-four backline in the absence of Masud Rana while Abahani, inspired by their 2-0 win over Sheikh Russel in the last round, stuck to a three-man central defence despite playing with four backs throughout the season.

But even an extra man did not help the Sky Blues as defensive midfielder Pranotosh put Brothers ahead after 25 minutes. The ex-Abahani player, completely unmarked in the penalty area during a quickly taken corner by Lito, headed Abul's right-flank lob into the net post.

Abahani pulled one back when Ndem coolly converted a 48th minute penalty which was given after substitute Obaidur was fouled by Lito inside the Brothers box.

Farhad and Ibrahim then deprived Abahani of at least one point. Farhad fired the ball into the side netting in the 52nd minute while Ibrahim, who was set free by an exquisite back-heel by Farhad, put the ball over the bar from a hand-shaking distance.

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Get insured against monster bite!



GUARDIAN UNLIMITED

One of the world's most famous fables faces a serious financial test in two weeks' time when 100 international athletes plunge into Loch Ness - each insured for £1m against monster bites.

A hefty but undisclosed premium has been paid by organisers of Scotland's biggest triathlon in case the swimming stage of the event tempts the mysterious (and possibly non-existent) creature from the lake's depths.

Teams from five countries are taking part in the event and organisers, who also manage the Great North Run in Newcastle upon Tyne, are worried about health and safety consequences if the monster strikes or tries to join in.

"With so many top athletes in the water of Loch Ness at one time, we

couldn't take the risk of one of them being attacked by Nessie," said David Hart of the firm Nova International.

"The competitors will all be very psyched up and very driven, so there's going to be a lot of noise and a lot of splashing going on, just the sort of thing that might annoy a prehistoric lake monster. Or even worse, give it an appetite."

The swimming stage of the race, the Visit Scotland Adventure Triathlon, will see athletes swim twice round Urquhart Bay, the setting for many of the most famous sightings and photographs of the alleged beast.

The race also takes in an 11.8 mile afternoon bike section and an evening run along a 6.2 mile mountain trail.

Not everyone welcomes the insurance deal, though. The official Loch Ness Monster Fan Club took exception to the suggestion that Nessie would attack anyone -

however much they splashed. The club's chairman, Gary Campbell, said: "Everyone knows she is friendly; she has been present in the loch for centuries and never hurt a soul in all that time."

"If she wanted to get involved in the race, though, that would be another matter. Through her knowledge of the loch, she'd beat everyone. She might even continue on land and finish the competition, though I doubt that."

The insurance cover will include accidental damage from the monster nipping human competitors or shoving them aside if she, or he, does decide to join in.

David Parker, the head of commercial insurance at NIG, the firm providing the policy, said: "From an insurance perspective, this is a very unusual risk and a lot of insurers wouldn't want to deal with it."

Claimants, he said, would have to provide definite proof that the monster was responsible.

This side and that side of Eurotunnel

AFP, London/Paris

London erupted with joy Wednesday after it was named the host of the 2012 Olympic Games, beating arch-rival Paris and three other cities in a nail-biting contest.

A crowd of thousands whooped and cheered as the International Olympic Committee (IOC), meeting in Singapore, broadcast its announcement on two giant television screens erected in Trafalgar Square.

Union Jack flags waved and music blasted as Londoners celebrated in the square, which aptly features Nelson's Column dedicated to Admiral Horatio Nelson, who 200 years ago defeated the French at the Battle of Trafalgar effectively ending Napoleon's ambitions of invading England.

"I can't believe it, it was so nerve wracking," said Dame Kelly Holmes, who won two gold medals at last year's Games in Athens and was helping to host the London party, SEE PAGE 13 COL 4



THIS ONE'S FOR THE NEWBORN: Brothers' Russian striker Victor, whose wife gave birth to a boy last week, performs a cradle celebration after scoring against Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.



GET BITTEN BY HIM AND EARN ONE MILLION POUNDS! Loch Ness Monster photographed by Anthony Doc Shiels from Urquhart Castle on 21 May 1977.

PHOTO: INTERNET SOURCE