



## Did U Know?

Running barefoot, Abebe Bikila of Ethiopia won the marathon at the 1960 Rome Olympics. Despite undergoing an appendectomy just over a month before the race, Bikila returned to win the marathon at the Tokyo Games in 1964 in a world record time, this time with shoes and socks.



## Guo Jingjing

*"I am satisfied with my performance and we are both very happy, because we are on home soil in China -- we are very proud to have won."*

After winning the synchronised three-metre springboard diving gold in the Beijing Olympics Games with her partner Wu Minxia on Sunday.

## Thrilling win for Academy boys

SPORTS REPORTER

Pacer Mahbubul Alam scripted an exciting three-run win for GP-BCB National Cricket Academy in the first four-day match against their South African counterparts at Tukkies in Pretoria yesterday.

It looked like a formality for the South African Academy side to complete a victory on the fourth and final day as the home side came to bat requiring only 81 runs to win to take a lead in the two-match series.

But Mahbubul and co dashed their hopes to wrap up their second innings for just 77 runs in 23.1 overs.

The tall right-arm seamer, who also captured four wickets in the first innings for 86 runs, was the chief wrecker with 4 for 38 while left-arm paceman Shafiq Al Jibar claimed two wickets and Ziaur Rahman took two for 19.

Left-arm spinner Suhrawardy Shuvu picked up a wicket and one batsman fell victim of a runout.

Earlier GP-BCB Academy scored 217 and 237 runs while South African Academy side amassed 374 in their first innings.

The second and final four-day match will also be held in Pretoria from August 14 while the one-day matches are scheduled for August 20 (Johannesburg), August 22 (Pretoria) and August 24 (Johannesburg).

## BFF's vast plan for women's football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will introduce the girls' school football competition this October in Dhaka, it was decided after the first meeting of the BFF women's football committee at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin attended the meeting, chaired by committee chairman Sirajul Islam Bachchu.

"Women's football is not played by many countries in South Asia. I want to concentrate on this sector beside development of others sectors," Salahuddin told after the meeting.

"We will form a women's wing in the Hill Tracts with professional executives to groom women footballers as girls from this area have more potential," he added.

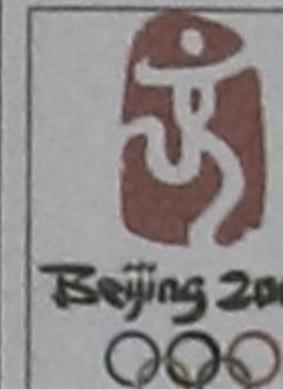
The BFF chief also promised to donate 500 footballs to the women's committee to be distributed in 64 districts.

The committee also plans to hold the National Championship in October-November and the national women's team are expected to tour the South Asian countries in December and January (2009).

Also on the card are a club tournament, the Inter-divisional tournament, a coaches training programme and refreshers' course for women referees.

# Golden boy Bindra

AFP, Beijing



Abhinav Bindra won India's first ever individual Olympic gold medal on Monday, saying it was a reward for "punching holes in a paper target" in his life.

Bindra, a 25-year-old businessman from Chandigarh, followed his world championship title of two years ago by grabbing the men's 10m Air Rifle shooting gold medal.

Athens Games champion Zhu Qinan of China won the silver and Henri Hakkinen of Finland the bronze after one of the most thrilling shooting finals in Olympic history.

Bindra, who trailed by two points after the qualification round, trumped his rivals in the 10-shot final as he went into the last shot level with Hakkinen on 689.7 points.

While Bindra secured his best score of 10.8 in the deciding shot, Hakkinen managed only 9.7 to concede the silver to Zhu, whose

last shot was 10.5.

"It's the best feeling of my life," said an elated Bindra, a winner of India's highest sporting award, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna (sports jewel), in 2001.

"I was just trying to concentrate on shooting, I was not thinking about making history."

"For me life will go on. All my life I have just been punching holes in a blank piece of paper target."

"It is amazing," said Makela-Nummela. "I did not believe I would win today."

"I could not concentrate in the final because I was thinking of home. But it's good I did not think of the results or who was breathing down my neck."

"That made sure I was not under any pressure."

Cogdell, the youngest of the three medallists at 21, won the shoot-off against a field that included 2000 Sydney Games champion Daina Gudzinevičiūtė of Lithuania.

Of the six shooting golds decided over the first three days of competition, China and the Czech Republic have won two each with India and Finland taking the other two.

## Lanka win in style

### Mendis breaks WR

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

after the tourists had resumed at 161-5.

Unorthodox spinner Mendis, all of 23 years, had David caught at first slip by Jayawardene for his third victim of the innings to finish the series with 26 wickets, the highest by any bowler in a debut three-Test series.

The previous record-holder was Englishman Alec Bedser, who took 24 wickets against India at home in 1946.

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wicket before Mendis ended India's fightback. David hit six fours in his 166-ball knock, his first half-century of the series.

Laxman, batting with a runner after twisting his left ankle on Saturday, hit three fours in his second half-century of the series to emerge India's most successful middle-order batsman with 215 runs in sixinnings.

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