

Proud of son-in-law!

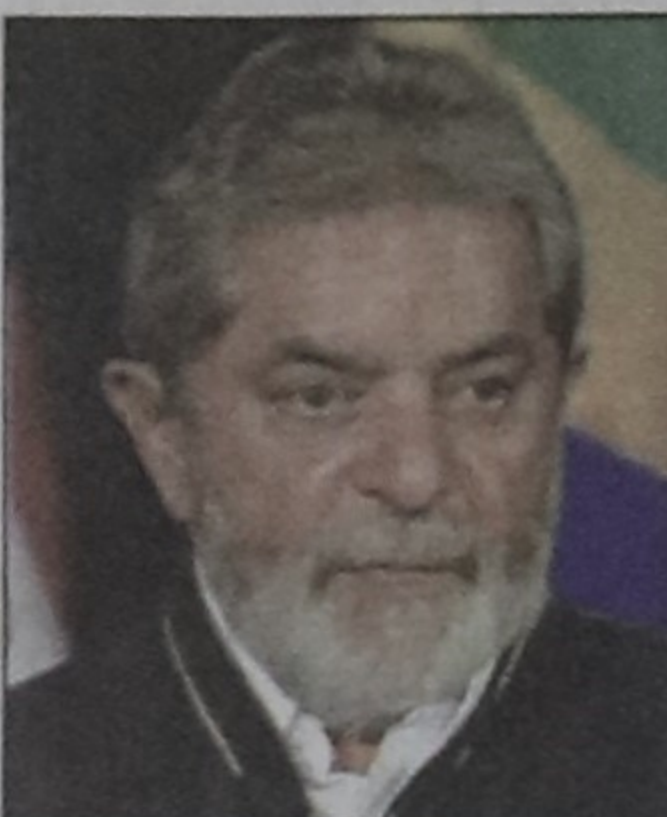
"I'm very proud of having a son-in-law who can score two goals against Brazil and then gets fouled in the box for a penalty. I couldn't be happier."

Diego Armando Maradona sets his priorities straight after son-in-law Kun Agüero reveals that Diego's daughter Gianinna is pregnant.



Did U Know?

South African swimmer Natalie du Toit, five-time gold medalist at the Athens Paralympics in 2004, has qualified to compete at the Beijing Olympics, thus making history by becoming the first amputee to qualify for the Olympics since Oliver Hallissy of Hungary in 1936.



Luiz Inacio Lula de Silva

(President of Brazil)
"Losing the game to Argentina in this way is really shameful." After Brazil lost to archrivals Argentina 3-0 in the football semi-final of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games on Tuesday.



BTB

Beijing Olympic Games
Women's Beach Volleyball Final
Live from 9:00am
Women's Volleyball Semifinals
Live from 10:30am
Football (Women's) Bronze
Germany v Japan
Live from 4:00pm
Aquatics Women's 10m Final
Live from 6:00pm
Football (Women's) Gold
Brazil v United States
Live from 7:00pm

Vijender makes India proud

AFP, Beijing

Indian middleweight Vijender Kumar was mobbed by dozens of excited journalists after sealing the country's first ever Olympic boxing medal on Wednesday.

Kumar was vigorously hugged and kissed by Indian media as he left the Workers Stadium arena after his historic 9-4 victory over Carlos Gongora 9-4 of Ecuador.

The 23-year-old bus-driver's son, and part-time model, said he fought the bout of his life to reach the semifinals. Two other Indian boxers, both also named Kumar, were eliminated in the last eight.

"This is a great day for Indian boxing. We've been under a lot of pressure recently so one of us had to do it," Kumar said.

"This was the best fight of my life because I've achieved something for the country. I want to thank all the Indian people for praying for me."

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BFF hands over cheques to B. League clubs

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday handed over cheques of Tk three lakh to each of the 11 B. League clubs.

The BFF had promised to give 70 percent of the sponsorship money for the second edition of the professional league to the clubs, who not nearly half of the amount in the first instalment.

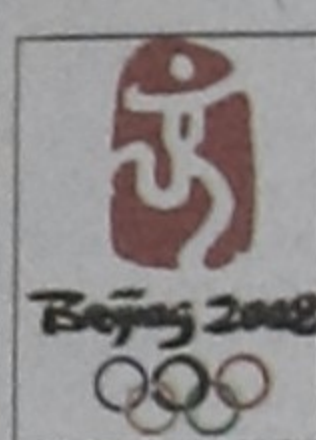
BFF senior vice president and chairman of B. League Abdus Salam Murshed, who handed over cheques to the club representatives, informed that the federation disbursed the amount from their own fund.

"We have yet to get the sponsorship money (Tk one crore) from Citycell but we did not want to wait. I am happy to have kept our word."

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Another volt from Bolt

AFP, Beijing



Jamaica's Usain Bolt broke the 200-meter world record to complete the first Olympic golden sprint double in 24 years, surging ahead from the start to win Wednesday's final in 19.30 seconds.

Just four days after shattering his own world 100m record and on the eve of his 22nd birthday, Bolt pulled away around the curve and stretched his victory margin, with Churandy Martina of Dutch Antilles runner-up in 19.82.

Bolt, who had not before been pressed to run to the finish line at these Games, raced past the former world record of 19.32 set by American legend Michael Johnson at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Not since Carl Lewis in 1984 had any man claimed 100m and 200m gold in the same Olympics, but this lightning Bolt struck twice in the same place to the delight of 91,000 roaring fans at the Bird's Nest.

As Bolt danced around the track on a victory lap, the stadium loudspeakers played "Happy Birthday"

to the Jamaican some 90 minutes early.

Bolt became the ninth man to achieve the 100-200 Olympic double after winning the 100 final on Saturday in an astounding 9.69 seconds, breaking his former world mark of 9.72 from May in New York.

After crossing the finish line and raising his arms in celebration, Bolt grabbed a Jamaican flag and draped it around his neck. He took off his golden shoes and began an impromptu celebration dance.

American Wallace Spearmon crossed the line third in 19.95, but was disqualified and with 2004 Olympic champion Shawn Crawford of the United States moved up from fourth in 19.96 to take the bronze. American Walter Dix was fifth in 19.98.

Bolt started in lane five after making his trademark "Lightning Bolt" arm gesture before the start with Crawford just inside him at the gun.

Ironically, Johnson had said just hours earlier he did not think Bolt had what it took to erase his record from the books in Beijing.

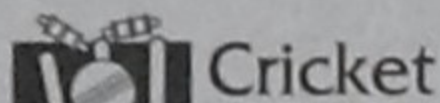
"I don't think his training has been geared to that part yet," Johnson said. "But in a few years it

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WHERE HAS EVERYONE GONE? Jamaican sprint king Usain Bolt has left other competitors way behind in the men's 200m final to win the gold, of course with a world record time of 19.30 seconds, of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games at the National Stadium yesterday.

Mashrafe rescues Tigers



TIGERCRICKET.COM, Darwin

Exemplary batting by the eighth wicket pair enabled Bangladesh to recover from a dodgy position and beat the Australian Institute of Sports (AIS) by three wickets in the second warm-up match at the Gardens Oval yesterday.

Wicketkeeper Dhiman Ghosh and the mercurial Mashrafe Bin Mortaza were the Tigers' heroes. Both remained unbeaten on 56 and more importantly shared 97 in an unbroken stand to guide Bangladesh past the challenging target of 285 with 31 balls to spare.

Bangladesh had started the climb with a new opening combination. Mehrob Hossain Jr. was partnered by allrounder Mahmudullah Riyad as Tamim Iqbal, who had topscored with 85 in the first game, was given precautionary rest after complaining of back pain.

Riyad (17 off 21) was bowled by paceman Ben Cutting when he tried to swing a length ball to the mid wicket fence but 29 runs had already come in 5.3 overs and skipper Mohammad Ashraful started from where he left off dur-

ing his 71 in Monday's match and rapidly moved to 41 off 27.

The run rate was ticking along nicely at six an over as Ashraful cleared the smallest mid-wicket boundary at the Botanical Garden end twice.

Mehrab meanwhile dropped anchor and the two put on 66. Just

when it looked as if the batsmen were in control of the situation Ashraful got dropped at cover and rather than digging in played another uppish cut and was caught at point soon after off the bowling of left-arm spinner Jon Holland (95/2 in 14.2 overs).

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PHOTO: TIGERCRICKET.COM

Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza cuts for a boundary during his unbeaten 56 in the second warm-up match against Australian Institute of Sports at the Gardens Oval in Darwin yesterday.

BKSP hold champs Farashganj through, Russel win



SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP brightened their chances to upset one of the Group C giants for a quarterfinal berth of the Citycell Federation Cup when the boys from Savar held defending champions Brothers Union to a goalless draw yesterday.

Having stunned B. League side Sheikh Russel 1-0 in their group opener, BKSP once again put on a stubborn show against Wasim Iqbal's men in yesterday's first match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The race for the last eight from

the group, meanwhile, remained wide open after Sheikh Russel's 2-0 win over Victoria later on the day at the same venue.

BKSP are level with Brothers on four points after two rounds while Russel are following them closely with three.

Russel, who rode on goals from former international Alifaz Ahmed and Moroccan striker Touati Youness either side of the break on way to their first win in the competition, now must beat Brothers -- unless the Savar sport institute slip against rank-outsiders Victoria in their last game -- in the group finale to ensure their passage to the quarterfinals.

Farashganj, meanwhile, entered the last eight from Group A with a solitary goal victory against Dhaka Wanderers. Enamul slotted the

lone goal for at the Gazipur Stadium for Farashganj, who had crushed Khulna Abahani 3-0 in their opener.

With six points, the Dhaka riversiders' game against Muktiyoddha only have significance for the latter who must collect one point. A loss for four-point Muktiyoddha would open up the chance for Wanderers -- on one point -- to make the quarters with a two-goal margin win against bottom-table and pointless Khulna Abahani.

The Oranges drew early blood but veteran striker Farhad, who did well to get near a through by Tapu inside the BKSP box after eight minutes, was denied by the stretched hands of goalkeeper Mustaq.

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Lee to skip ODI series

AFP, Melbourne

Star Australian paceman Brett Lee will miss the upcoming one-day series against Bangladesh to deal with a "family issue," Cricket Australia (CA) announced Wednesday.

In a surprise move, Lee was replaced for the three-match series by Tasmanian Brett Gervase, who has not previously played for Australia. Acting CA chief executive Michael Brown said Lee would also be allowed to miss a pre-series training camp in Coolool and matches in Darwin on August 30 and September 3 and 6, but was confident Australia would cover his absence.

"The selectors are comfortable this move will maintain the competitive edge for the Australian side"

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Academy lose by 19 runs

SPORTS REPORTER

GP-BCB National Cricket Academy went down by 19 runs to their South African counterparts in the first one-day match of the three-match series at Dobsonville in Johannesburg yesterday.

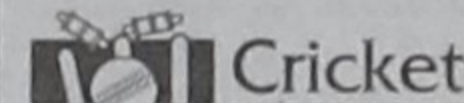
The tourists were restricted to 192-8 in 45 overs, in reply to 211-9 in 45 overs made by South African Academy.

The hosts' academy rode on Richard Levi's half-century to put up the decent total on the board. Levi contributed 72 off 86 balls while David Wiese and Reeza added 38 and 31 runs respectively.

Delwar Hossain claimed three wickets for 46 runs while Ziaur Rahman bagged two wickets for 27 runs.

Mahbubul Alam Robin, Suhrawardi Shuvo and Marshall Ayub took one wicket each.

India pay Lanka back



AFP, Dambulla

Mahendra Singh Dhoni capped Zaheer Khan's devastating spell with a crucial 39 as India posted a tense three-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second one-day international here on Wednesday.

Left-arm seamer Zaheer ran through the top order in his incisive opening spell to finish with 4-21 as India bundled Sri Lanka out for a meagre 142. He was brilliantly backed by paceman Praveen Kumar (3-34).

But India skipped a few heartbeats before achieving the modest target with more than 10 overs to spare to level the five-match series 1-1.

They were wobbling at 75-5 after seamers Thilan Thushara and

Nuwan Kulasekara shared four wickets, but skipper Dhoni and debutant Subramaniam Badrinath (27 not out) held their nerve under pressure.

When Dhoni inside-edged paceman Dilhara Fernando's delivery on to his stumps, his team were just eight runs short of the win with four wickets in hand.

"Zaheer did the job for us as he bowled in right areas. Credit also goes to Badrinath as he had not played Sri Lankan spinners Ajantha Mendis and Muttiah Muralitharan before," said Dhoni.

"We needed this victory. There was pressure on us, especially after losing opener Gautam Gambhir (stiff neck) before the match. We would have liked to win comfortably, but in the end it is about winning."

Unorthodox Sri Lankan spinner Mendis yet again made the Indian

batsmen struggle for runs with shrewd variations, getting the big wicket of Yuvraj Singh before finishing with 2-22 off 10 overs.

Yuvraj (20) tried to ease the pressure by smashing Thushara for three fours in two overs, but his flourish did not last long. He was trapped leg-before by Mendis to leave his team wobbling at 52-3.

India appeared to have squandered the advantage given by Zaheer when they lost makeshift opener Irfan Pathan and Suresh Raina in Kulasekara's opening spell and then Virat Kohli (37) and Rohit Sharma in Thushara's one over.

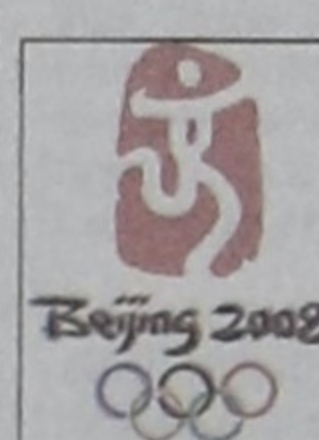
Dhoni and Badrinath then applied themselves well to add 60 for the sixth wicket which proved vital in a low-scoring game.

"We knew we could win this match only by getting wickets. We tried hard, but Dhoni and

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Russia keep their crown

AFP, Beijing



Wednesday, repeating their triumph of Athens four years ago.

The Russian pair, who also took team gold in Athens, underlined their technical superiority with a beautifully executed final free programme to the music of Peer Gynt, their free score of 49.917 pts giving them a total of 99.833 along with points carried

over from the technical phase of competition.

Spain's Andrea Fuentes and Gemma Mengual were second and Japan's Saho Harada and Emiko Suzuki third.

China's twin-sister team of Jiang Tingting and Jiang Wenwen missed out on a medal but were encouraged by their performance against the world's best and vowed to come back stronger.

While Ermakova and Davydova went into the final as prohibitive favorites - Mengual said Tuesday that Spain were shooting for silver - Ermakova insisted they were never complacent.

"In our training, we never forgot for a single moment how hard our competition was," she said. "No

one serves up a gold medal on a silver platter."

Davydova said proving they could do it again motivated them over the past four years.

"You know, your first Olympic gold medal is the highest point in your whole life. Having the status as Olympic champion, there's nowhere else to strive for. We had to prove to ourselves we could do it again."

Mengual and Fuentes gave Spain its first Olympic synchro medal, as the top eight placings replicated the results at the 2007 world championships in Melbourne.

Harada and Suzuki kept Japan's streak of Olympic synchro medals intact. Since the sport was introduced, Japan have never left a Games without a medal.



Russia's Anastasia Davydova (L) and Anastasia Ermakova perform during the synchronized swimming duet free routine final in the Beijing 2008 Olympics at the National Aquatics Centre yesterday. The Russian pair won the gold.

PHOTO: AFP