

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 Aguero reveals that Diego's daughter Gianinna is pregnant.



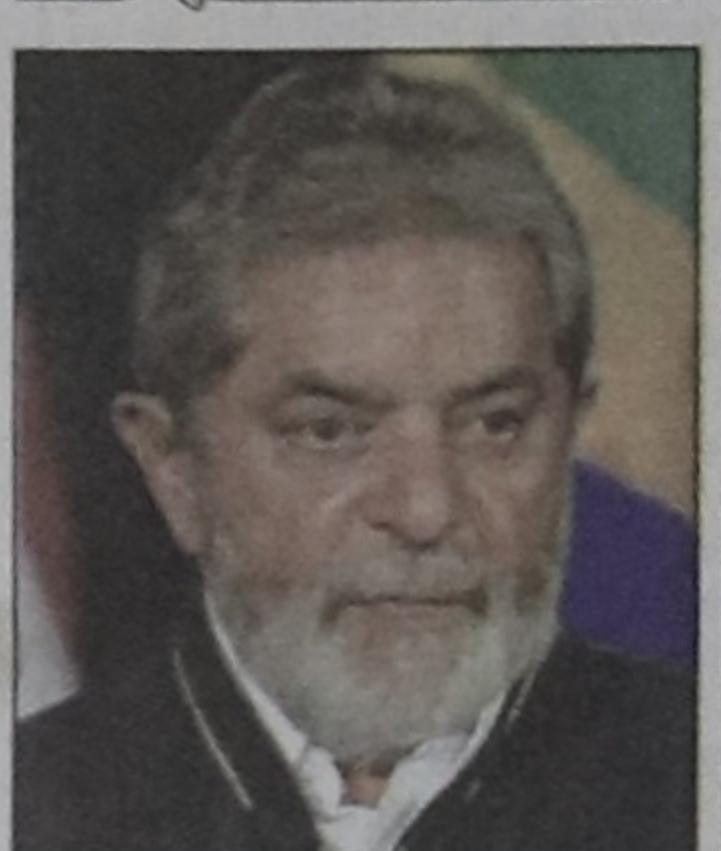
Another volt from Bolt

AFP, Beijing



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 Halaszy 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 semifinal of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games on Tuesday.



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 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."

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

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.

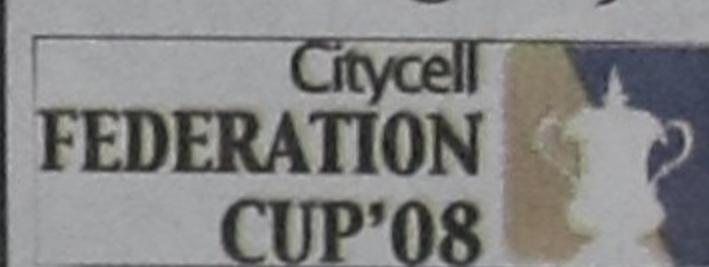
The BFF had promised to give 70 percent of the sponsorship money for the second edition of the professional league to the clubs, who nearly half of the amount in the first instalment.

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

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

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.

Russel (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 during

play.

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

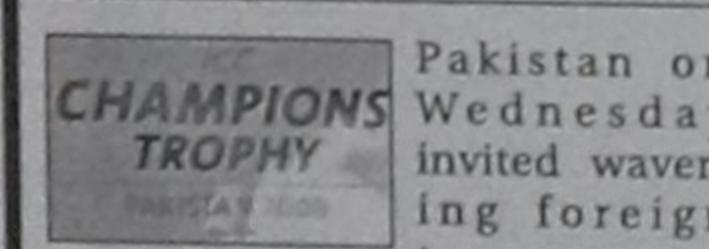
With six points, the Dhaka riversiders' game against Mukti Joddha only have significance for the latter who must collect one point. A loss for four-point Mukti Joddha would open up the chance for Wanderers -- on one point -- to make the quarters with a two-goal margin win against bottom-table and pointless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

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Last ditch effort

AFP, Karachi



Pakistan on Wednesday invited waver foreign teams to inspect security arrangements for the Champions Trophy in a last-ditch bid to keep next month's tournament from being shifted or canceled.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) was due to hold a meeting in Dubai later Wednesday which could decide the fate of the September 12-28 event after reports that defending champions Australia were set to boycott it.

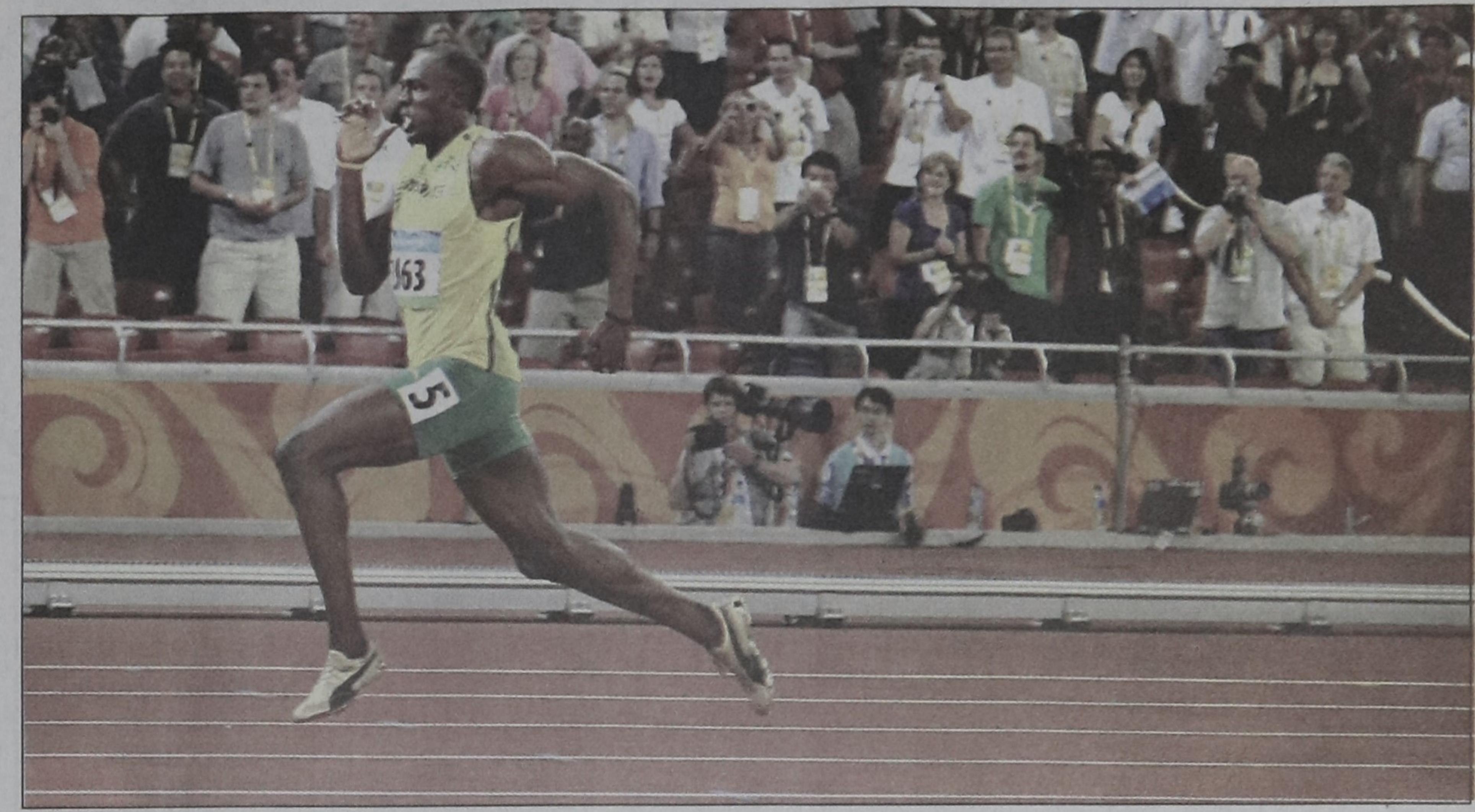
The ICC, which has repeatedly declared Pakistan as a safe venue for the event but has also indicated that it could be shifted to Sri Lanka, is expected to take a final decision at the meeting starting Wednesday.

"We will resist any attempt to shift the event and today's (Wednesday's) meeting will be crucial," Pakistan Cricket Board chief operating officer Shafiq Naghmi told AFP by telephone from Dubai.

"In order to save the event we have invited reluctant countries to come and see for themselves the practical implementation of the security plan."

The ICC, which has repeatedly declared Pakistan as a safe venue for the event but has also indicated that it could be shifted to Sri Lanka, is expected to take a final decision at the meeting starting Wednesday.

England, New Zealand and



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.

PHOTO: AFP

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 Geeves, 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 Coolangatta 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.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

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, Suharwardi Shuvro and Marshall Ayub took one wicket each.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

India pay Lanka back

AFP, Cricket

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).

"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."

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

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

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Russia keep their crown

AFP, Beijing

Russians Anastasia Davydova and Anastasia Ermakova won the Olympic synchronised swimming duet gold on 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



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