



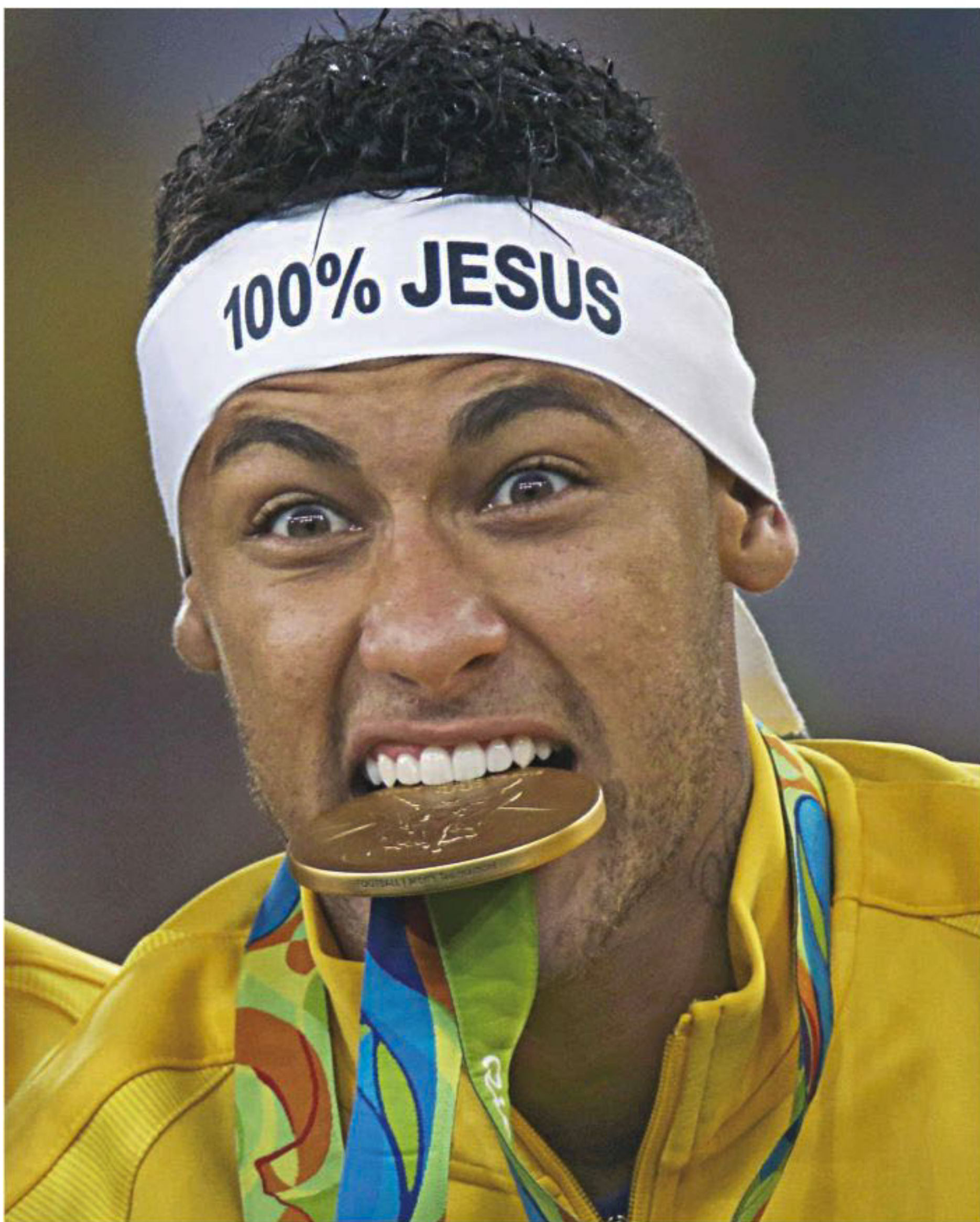
QUOTES OF THE DAY

I have fulfilled my dream and to have fulfilled it in my home country makes me very proud.
- Neymar after sealing a first

It was our silver wedding anniversary recently, which we could not celebrate, but soon we will celebrate it with gold.
- Brazil football coach Rogerio

I just want to go home now and see my beautiful kids and hang my medals around their necks.
- Mo Farah after completing a double-double by retaining his

"When a person is born they only have one hair on their head, and then have a lot of hair and then it's all gone, everything is changing constantly in our life."
- Russian handball coach Yevgeny Trefilov on the



Neymar is not just biting a piece of gold but a piece of history after leading Brazil to their first-ever Olympic gold with a 5-4 shootout victory against Germany in a nail-biting final at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Redemption Maracana

ATIQUÉ ANAM from Rio de Janeiro

For the last 66 years, Maracana had been the name of the biggest tragedy of Brazilian football. Despite its rich history, the spiritual home of football was best known worldwide for one of Brazil's most painful defeats, a 2-1 reverse against Uruguay in the final of the 1950 World Cup.

For 66 years, the spectre of that defeat had haunted Brazilian football. That defeat had attained such a notorious status in the country's football folklore that even people of generations born after 1950 talk of it in a way as if they were there at the Maracana on that fateful day. It seemed like the scar of that defeat would never heal.

But on Saturday night, a young Brazil team led by Neymar achieved something which might go some way in finally healing that scar. The Young Selecaos beat Germany 6-5 in tie-breaker of a pulsating final of the Olympics, ending the five-time world champions' long wait for that one elusive title.

The win was also significant due to the fact that it was played with the memory of Brazil's 7-1 defeat to Germany very much alive. And then there was the obvious pressure of the passionate and success-starved home fans, who would not be satisfied with anything less than a win.

The same crowd that had jeered the team off the pitch after two consecutive 0-0 draws in group stages were in their numbers and on top of their voice to get behind the Young Selecaos at the Maracana on Saturday, thanks to the form they picked up towards the middle of this competition. And they were treated to a fest of nerve-wracking football which culminated in the hosts claiming the title.

"You see, we have been to many of the events of this Olympics to support our athletes and teams. We even didn't know some of the names of the medal winners before these Games," a university student, who went with his friends, said after the match. "But with football it's different. The footballers are our biggest stars and a football title is worth a lot more than the others."

The win was sealed after a nerve-wracking tiebreak where both sides scored four each before Brazil goalkeeper Weverton blocked Nils Peterson's effort, with captain

Neymar tucking home the decisive spot-kick, bringing joy to 80,000 at the stadium and millions around the country. Neymar had earlier given the hosts the lead with a sumptuous free-kick in the 26th minute, but a fine strike by his German counterpart Maximilian Meyer got things level again and that is how it stayed before the game rolled into the drama of the tiebreak.

It was redemption for the Brazil captain too. Having been jeered by the crowd and blasted by the media, the Barcelona frontman turned Brazil's fortune in this competition with timely goals in the quarterfinal and the semifinal before playing the key role in Saturday's final.

The 24-year-old Barcelona forward, who had avoided media all through the competition, told the host broad-



caster that it was his ultimate dream to lead the team at home and win the title. "This is one of the best things that have happened in my life. That's it. Now they'll (the critics) have to swallow me [take back their words]," Neymar said.

Brazil coach Rogério Micalé summed up the mood of the people. "Yes, I am sure this will give reason for pride and confidence in the Brazilian people in the national team," the Brazil coach said at the post-final press conference. "We knew there was huge responsibility on the Olympic team because of how important football is to the country. Now we can look to the future with more confidence, more proud. Brazilian football is not dead. We have great potential and hope to achieve great things in future."

Shakib visits Mirpur for adda

SPORTS REPORTER

For the first time since his return to the country from the Caribbean, ace allrounder Shakib Al Hasan visited the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

After returning from his Caribbean Premier League stint with champions Jamaica Tallawahs on August 12, Shakib went on a holiday with his family to the Maldives. He returned from the island nation last week and joined his teammates for a casual adda in front of the Bangladesh Cricket Board Academy in Mirpur.

While he did not speak to the media yesterday, he was seen having a chat with the likes of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Rubel Hossain. The allrounder is on leave till Tuesday. The national team is currently attending a camp at Mirpur and Shakib will join the camp in time for the scheduled practice match.

The camp initially began with a series of fitness exercises and then gradually shifted to the next stage where the players have to focus on their respective skills.

Tigresses prepare for Ireland test

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's team is set to take on Ireland in two T20Is and two ODIs in September. The Bangladesh team will travel to Northern Ireland on September 2 and are scheduled to meet the Irish side in the T20Is on 5 and 6 September followed by the ODIs on 08 and 10 September.

All the matches will be held at the Bready Cricket Club in Londonderry.

BCB CEO Nizam Uddin Chowdhury said that the tour would be an excellent opportunity for the cricketers to test themselves against fellow World Cup hopefuls: "I want to thank Cricket Ireland for the tour arrangements. Taking logistical and operational convenience into consideration we had to shorten the duration of the tour and Cricket Ireland deserves a lot of credit for accommodating the BCB's [Bangladesh Cricket Board's] request and making the necessary adjustments within a short time. The players I am sure will make the most of the four games that promise exciting and competitive cricket."

"Our cricketers will be greatly benefited by the experience of playing in conditions that are not familiar to them."

"Bangladesh and Ireland are rapidly developing teams and both are on a mission to qualify for the ICC Women's World Cup. This will be very good preparation heading into the qualifiers in Thailand next year," he added.

The national women's team has already begun practising at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. However, the board is yet to announce the women's team. At the moment, Jahanara Alam is the captain of the team.

Booters begin training sans 6

SPORTS REPORTER

All but six players have joined the training camp for the upcoming matches against Maldives and Bhutan in September.

Out of the 33-member preliminary squad, one of the six footballers who failed to report cited illnesses while the others put forward their club commitments. Newly included Rumman Hossain of Sheikh Russel KC suffers from dengue while Atiqur Rahman Meshu, Jamal Bhuiyan, Nasir Chowdhury, Rubel Mia and Shakhwat Hossain Rony are travelling with Sheikh Russel to take part in their AFC Cup Play-Off qualifiers play-off in Bhutan, they are expected to return after playing their last group match on September 25.

Belgian coach Tom Saintfiet will initiate the week-long training programme this morning at the Bangabandhu National Stadium before flying for Maldives on August 29 to play the warm-up match.



The victorious five-woman Russian team pose with their gold medals after winning the rhythmic gymnastics group all-around event at the Rio Olympics on the final day of competition on Sunday. This was the fifth straight gold medal in the event for Russia as they have emerged victorious in all editions starting with the 2000 Sydney Olympics. With Margarita Mamun winning the individual event earlier, the group win marked the fifth time that Russia won both titles. Spain finished with silver and Bulgaria bronze. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hard-fought win for Aus

AFP, Colombo

Half-centuries from Aaron Finch and skipper Steve Smith helped Australia pull off a tricky chase to defeat a resilient Sri Lanka by three wickets in the first one-day international in Colombo on Sunday.

Australia, who suffered their first series whitewash against the hosts in the three Tests, chased down 228 in 46.5 overs to lead the five-match ODI series 1-0. Pacers James Faulkner and Mitchell Starc, who became the fastest to reach 100 wickets in his 52nd match, also played their part with seven wickets between them after Australia elected to bowl first.

Opener Finch, who scored a quickfire 56, gave Australia a brisk start despite the early wicket of David Warner.

Finch took on the Sri Lankan bowlers in the first 10 overs of the mandatory powerplay, hitting seven boundaries and

two sixes during his 46-ball knock before edging debutant left-arm spinner Amila Aponso to Sri Lanka skipper Angelo Mathews at first slip.

Another debutant spinner Lakshan Sandakan got his maiden ODI wicket in Matthew Wade to put Australia in trouble at 128 for three.

But Smith, who top-scored with a dogged 58, put together a 62-run partnership with George Bailey (39) to thwart Sri Lanka's spin attack on a sluggish pitch which was taking vicious turn.

Off-spinner Dilruwan Perera then got Smith in the 38th over with Australia needing another 38 to win the match.

The visitors lost three more wickets after that but bowling heroes Starc, on five, and Faulkner, also on five, remained unbeaten as Australia recorded their highest ODI run chase in Sri Lanka.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: 227 for 8 (Chandimal 80 not out, Mendis 67, Dilshan 22; Faulkner 4-38, Starc 3-32)

AUSTRALIA: 228 for 7 in 46.5 overs (Smith 58, Finch 56, Bailey 39; D Perera 3-48, Sandakan 2-33, T Perera 1-25)
Result: Australia won by 3 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: James Faulkner

বাংলাদেশের সর্বাধিক বিক্রিত #1 পেস্ট ব্র্যান্ড

BERGER Robbialac

বাগেচ মইন উন্নয়ন

MEDALS TALLY

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
United States	44	37	38
Great Britain	27	22	17
China	26	18	26
Russian Federation	19	18	19
Germany	17	10	15
Japan	12	8	21
France	9	17	14
Republic of Korea	9	3	9
Italy	8	12	8
Australia	8	11	10
Netherlands	8	7	4
Hungary	8	3	4
Brazil	7	6	6
Spain	7	4	6
Kenya	6	6	1
Jamaica	6	3	2
Croatia	5	3	2
Cuba	5	2	4
New Zealand	4	9	5
Canada	4	3	15

(The medals tally was updated at 12:30am Bangladesh time)

Taskin anxious to shed the burden

SPORTS REPORTER

Taskin Ahmed's bowling test in Australia is more than two weeks away, but the pacer is already excited. So much so that he would have given the

test tomorrow if he could instead of on September 8. He just wants to be done with the entire process and be deemed legible to bowl in international cricket once again.

The pacer admitted that he went through tough times after his suspension from international cricket during the ICC World T20 due to a faulty action. Now though, according to him, is the time to get things back on track.

"I felt a little low when I was suspended from bowling. When this restriction is over, I think every day will be like Eid for me," Taskin told reporters at Mirpur following their training session yesterday.

"I am completely prepared for this test. But there is a bit of a pressure. No matter how prepared you are for an exam, you do get a little nervous as the dates

approach. What if one or two deliveries don't go according to plan? That's why I am trying to prepare in the best possible way and leave the rest to Allah," he added.

If Taskin passes the test he will be available for the England series in October, a tour that he desperately wants to take part in.

"Honestly speaking, this is a kind of burden on me. The faster I can get my action cleared the better."

In the last few months, Taskin has worked on fixing his action with a number of coaches. His bowling was also analysed by the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) bowling action review committee.

Taskin's action was deemed illegal following a test in an ICC-accredited centre in

Chennai. This time Taskin is going to a centre in Brisbane. When asked if a new arena would give him more confidence, Taskin said: "No matter where I take the exam, the result will be the same. I am not worried about that. The BCB has taken the decision to send me to Australia and that's where I will go. Hopefully everything will go according to plan."

Day Three washed out

AFP, Durban

A wet outfield prevented any play on the third day of the first Test between South Africa and New Zealand at Kingsmead on Sunday.

New Zealand remained on 15 for two in reply to South Africa's first innings total of 263.

Rain, which started falling at lunchtime on Saturday, continued through Saturday and into Sunday morning.

After an inspection by the umpires at midday (1000 GMT), it was announced that underfoot conditions remained treacherous, with water coming up to the surface.

Following a further inspection two hours later, it was decided conditions would not improve in time for play to get under way.

BCB mourns Sunny's loss

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has expressed profound sadness at the passing away of Abdur Rahim, father of Bangladesh national team spinner Arafat Sunny.

Abdur Rahim passed away in Dhaka in the early hours of Sunday. The board extended its deepest sympathies to Sunny and his family.