

Final Medals Table

Sunday August 24 1100 GMT	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1 China	51	21	28	100
2 United States	36	38	36	110
3 Russia	23	21	28	72
4 Britain	19	13	15	47
5 Germany	16	10	15	41
6 Australia	14	15	17	46
7 South Korea	13	10	8	31
8 Japan	9	6	10	25
9 Italy	8	10	10	28
10 France	7	16	17	40
11 Ukraine	7	5	15	27
12 Netherlands	7	5	4	16
13 Jamaica	6	3	2	11
14 Spain	5	10	3	18
15 Kenya	5	5	4	14
16 Belarus	4	5	10	19
17 Romania	4	1	3	8
18 Ethiopia	4	1	2	7
19 Canada	3	9	6	18
20 Poland	3	6	1	10
21 Hungary	3	5	2	10
22 Norway	3	5	2	10
23 Brazil	3	4	8	15
24 Czech Republic	3	3	0	6
25 Slovakia	3	2	1	6
26 New Zealand	3	1	5	9
27 Georgia	3	0	3	6
28 Cuba	2	11	11	24
29 Kazakhstan	2	4	7	13
30 Denmark	2	2	3	7
31 Mongolia	2	2	0	4
32 Thailand	2	2	0	4
33 North Korea	2	1	3	6
34 Argentina	2	0	4	6
35 Switzerland	2	0	4	6
36 Mexico	2	0	1	3
37 Turkey	1	4	3	8
38 Zimbabwe	1	3	0	4
39 Azerbaijan	1	2	4	7
40 Uzbekistan	1	2	3	6
41 Slovenia	1	2	2	5
42 Bulgaria	1	1	3	5
43 Indonesia	1	1	3	5
44 Finland	1	1	2	4
45 Latvia	1	1	1	3
46 Belgium	1	1	0	2
Dominican Rep.	1	1	0	2
Estonia	1	1	0	2
Portugal	1	1	0	2
50 India	1	0	2	3
51 Iran	1	0	1	2
52 Bahrain	1	0	0	1
Cameroon	1	0	0	1
Panama	1	0	0	1
Tunisia	1	0	0	1
56 Sweden	0	4	1	5
57 Croatia	0	2	3	5
Lithuania	0	2	3	5
59 Greece	0	2	2	4
60 Trinidad & Tobago	0	2	0	2
61 Nigeria	0	1	3	4
62 Austria	0	1	2	3
Ireland	0	1	2	3
Serbia	0	1	2	3
65 Algeria	0	1	1	2
Bahamas	0	1	1	2
Colombia	0	1	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	2
Morocco	0	1	1	2
Tajikistan	0	1	1	2
71 Chile	0	1	0	1
Ecuador	0	1	0	1
Iceland	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0	1
South Africa	0	1	0	1
Singapore	0	1	0	1
Sudan	0	1	0	1
Vietnam	0	1	0	1
79 Armenia	0	0	6	6
80 Taiwan	0	0	4	4
81 Afghanistan	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Israel	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
Mauritius	0	0	1	1
Togo	0	0	1	1
Venezuela	0	0	1	1



PHOTO: AFP
ELASTIC: Ukraine's Ganna Bessonova performs in the individual all-around final of the rhythmic gymnastics at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games on August 23.



Rebecca Romero

English sportswoman Rebecca Romero, whose slogan is "...live your dream", came to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games with a unique goal on her mind. Winning the silver in rowing in Athens in 2004 was not enough for the 28-year-old, who switched to cycling just two years ago to pursue her dream of Olympic gold. Through grit and determination, she accomplished this in spectacular fashion in the Laoshan Velodrome in Beijing on August 17. The only other woman to win medals at two different Summer Games was German Roswitha Krause who claimed silver in the swimming in 1968 and handball in 1976.

Day-by-Day

DAY-9

August 17 (Sunday)

- Phelps achieves his dream winning eight gold medals after winning the 4X100metre medley event. He ends his Beijing adventure with 7 World Records and finishes with a total Olympic haul of 14.
- China equal their best ever Olympic haul of 32 golds.
- Grant Hackett sees his dream of a medal crushed after finishing second in the 1500 metre freestyle.
- Great Britain's Rebecca Romero becomes only the second athlete to win medals in two different sports. She adds a cycling individual pursuit gold to the rowing silver medal she won in Athens.

DAY-10

August 18 (Monday)

- Russian beauty Elena Isinbaeva sets the bar at 5.05 metre and clears on her third try to set a new World Record in the pole vault.
- Chinese He Kexin brushes off allegations about her age to pip USA's Nastia Liukin in a first ever tie-break.
- The Chinese cry collective tears of sadness at the pull-out of sprint star Lui Xian from the men's 110-metre hurdles.

DAY-11

August 19 (Tuesday)

- Argentina pull off a minor surprise as they thrash arch-rivals Brazil in the men's football semifinals by 3-0.
- Rashid Ramzi wins Bahrain's first ever gold in the 1500 metre track and field.

DAY-12

August 20 (Wednesday)

- Usain Bolt sets his second record mark in the 200 metre sprint and becomes the first man in 24-years to win a 100-200 double. Bolt's time of

19.30 is quicker by .02 seconds than Michael Johnson's mark set at the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

- Liudmyla Blonska is the first high-profile doping case of the games. The Ukrainian is stripped of her silver medal.

DAY-13

August 21 (Thursday)

- USA win the women's football gold by beating Brazil in a pulsating final.
- Tyson Gay's miserable Games continues as he drops the baton in the 4X100 metre relay heat as the USA exits before the final.

DAY-14

August 22 (Friday)

- Usain Bolt sprinted into racing folklore with his third straight gold medal and third straight World Record with a win in the 4X100 metre relay.
- Bryan Clay wins the decathlon earning himself the title of the 'best all-around athlete.'

DAY-15

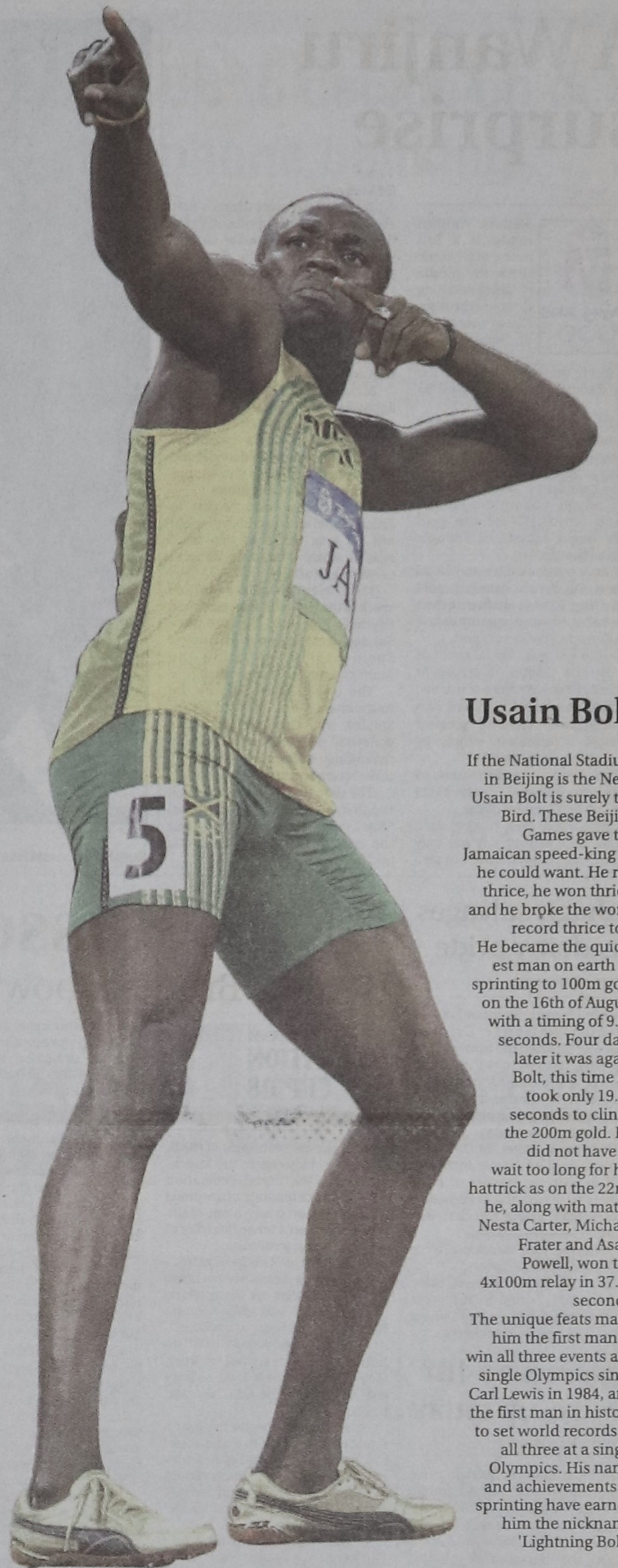
August 23 (Saturday)

- China confirm their status as the new king's of Olympics by taking an unassailable lead on top of the standings.
- Lionel Messi leads his Argentina side to their second successive gold with a series of sterling performances that also confirm his standing as the best player in the world.

DAY-16

August 24 (Sunday)

- Kenya's Samuel Kamau Wanjiru wins gold in the 42km marathon.
- Beijing bid the Games bye with all the theatricality with which they welcomed it. A closing ceremony that featured the likes of Led Zeppelin and David Beckham will leave the London 2012 committee with plenty to ponder.



Usain Bolt

If the National Stadium in Beijing is the Nest, Usain Bolt is surely the Bird. These Beijing Games gave the Jamaican speed-king all he could want. He ran thrice, he won thrice, and he broke the world record thrice too. He became the quickest man on earth by sprinting to 100m gold on the 16th of August with a timing of 9.69 seconds. Four days later it was again Bolt, this time he took only 19.30 seconds to clinch the 200m gold. He did not have to wait too long for his hat-trick as on the 22nd he, along with mates Nesta Carter, Michael Frater and Asafa Powell, won the 4x100m relay in 37.10 seconds. The unique feats made him the first man to win all three events at a single Olympics since Carl Lewis in 1984, and the first man in history to set world records in all three at a single Olympics. His name and achievements in sprinting have earned him the nickname 'Lightning Bolt'.

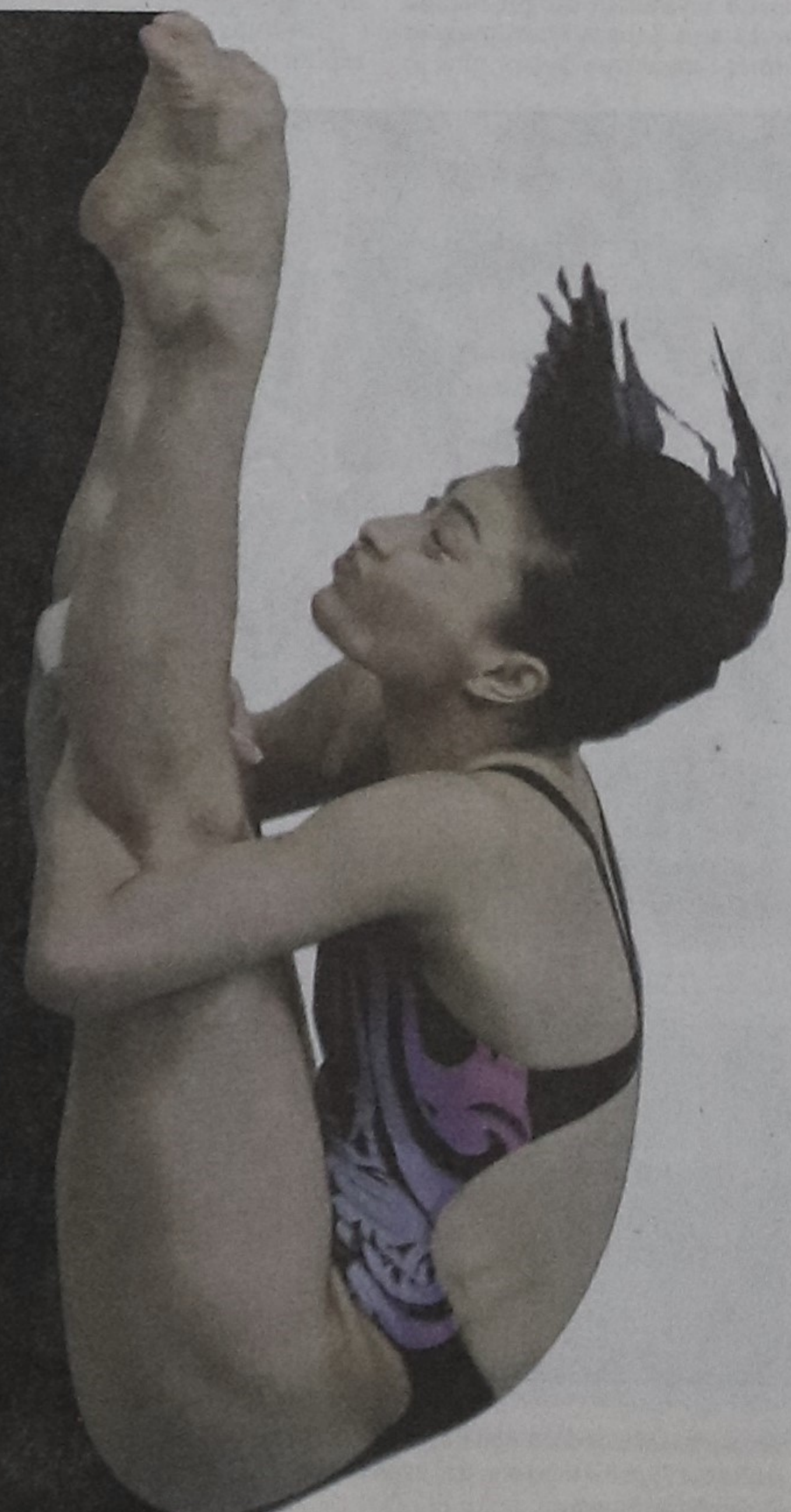
Guo Jingjing

Guo Jingjing is a diver from China and is considered to be the most successful woman diver in Olympic history. Guo is the princess of diving, just like Maria Sharapova to tennis.

Guo won the gold medal in the women's 3-metre springboard, with a total of 415.35 points.

In synchronised diving, the defending champions Guo, and Wu Minxia, who won the event in the 2004 Athens Olympics and three World Championships, had the lead the entire competition in Beijing, winning the gold medal.

Diving was developed in Europe in the 17th century when gymnasts practised acrobatics over water. It was introduced to the 1904 Games as "Fancy Diving".



"In middle school I had an English teacher who said that I would never be successful. I think back on little things like that. It's funny." Olympics' biggest star Michael Phelps proves what children around the world already know -- teachers can be wrong.

"This year, I have confronted a lot of adversity and endured a lot of pressure. However, the gold medal has confirmed the fact that I am an outstanding sportsman." Bad boy badminton star Lin Dan says it how he sees it.

"The only way I could win here is if the judges got knocked out." Irish boxer Paddy Barnes ponders.

"This rare night in Beijing will become an important page in the history of world civilisation." China's People's Daily on the impact of the opening ceremony.

"I just feel so sorry. Because there were so many people supporting me, I told myself I had to run, but I just couldn't do it." A devastated Liu Xiang.

"Give your mother a hug and tell her the President sent it." US President George W. Bush's instructs superstar swimmer Michael Phelps.



Kosuke Kitajima

Otherwise known as the breaststroke king, Japan's Kosuke Kitajima won both the 100m (on August 11 with a world record time) and 200m breaststroke (on August 14) events in the Beijing 2008 Olympics Games. This was preceded by his efforts in the 2004 Athens Games where he also won both the events in question.

Kitajima, who is also the Tokyo 2016 Athlete Ambassador, won his third medal on August 17 in the men's 4x100m medley relay of the Games, when his team ranked third.