

Star SPORT

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Giiggs oldest goalscorer

Hosts Britain took a big step towards the quarterfinals when goals from skipper Ryan Giiggs and substitutes Daniel Sturridge and Scott Sinclair secured a deserved 3-1 win over the United Arab Emirates at Wembley on Sunday. Giiggs, at 38 years and 243 days, became the oldest man to appear in the Olympic soccer competition and then became the oldest scorer when he headed Britain in front after 16 minutes. The result, Britain's first win in the Olympics since they beat Taiwan 3-2 in the Rome Games in September 1960, put them top of Group A with four points.

- REUTERS



Emdadul bows out

SPORTS REPORTER from London

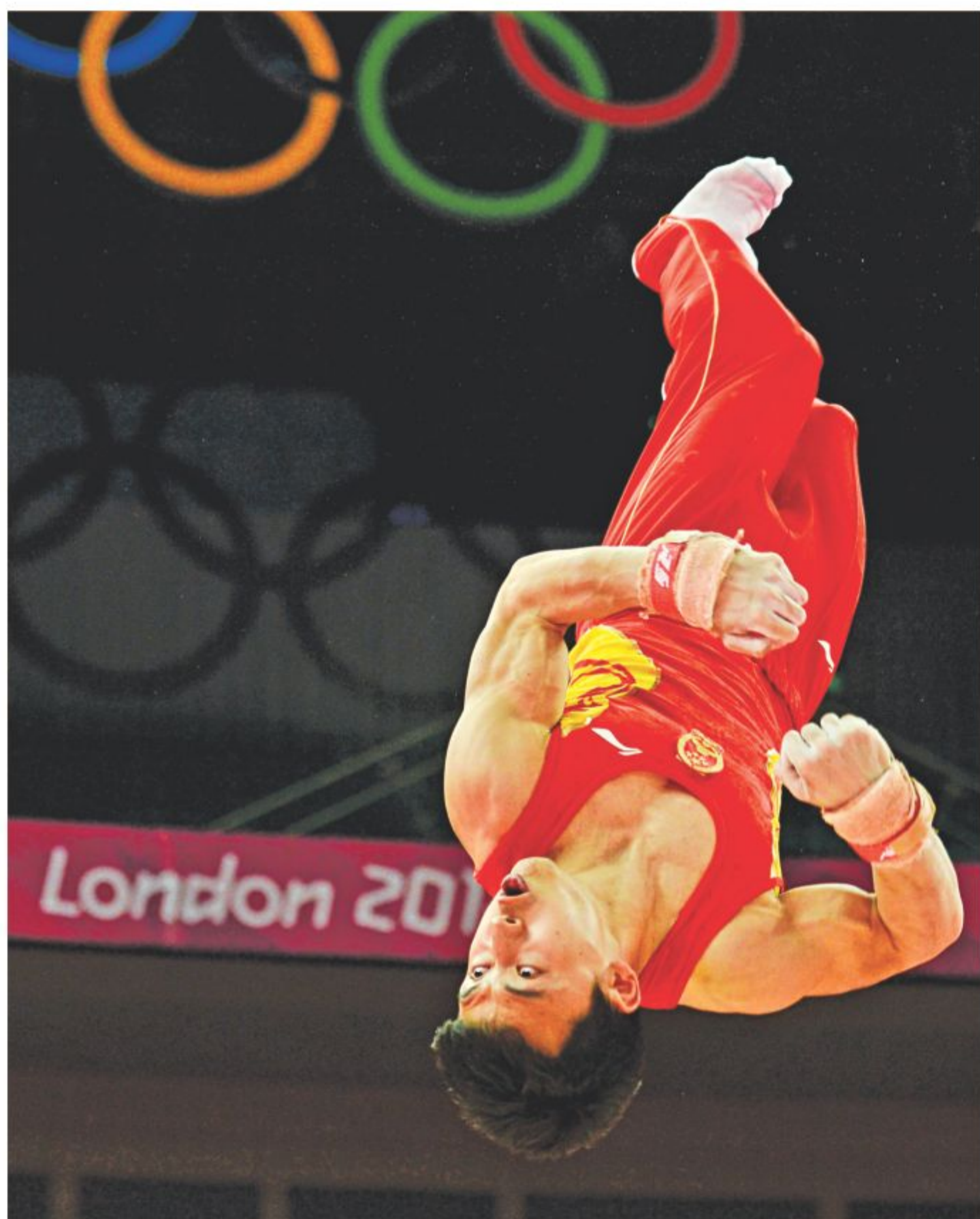
Another Bangladesh athlete made a first round exit from the London 2012 Olympics Games. This time it was archer Emdadul Haque Milon, who succumbed to a 6-0 defeat against Great Britain's Larry Godfrey in the first elimination round of the archery competition at the Lord's Cricket Ground yesterday.

Milon lost all three sets, scoring a total of 63 against Godfrey's 84. He could only manage one perfect ten shot in windy conditions, which the inexperienced archer later said was particularly tough to deal with.

"A strong wind was blowing, and I had never faced such conditions before. It affected my performance," said Milon after the defeat.

Milon was watched by fellow countrymen and

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Feng Zhe of China dismounts after competing in the rings during men's artistic gymnastics team final of the London 2012 Olympic Games at the North Greenwich Arena yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

MEDALLIST

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
China	7	4	2
United States	3	5	5
Italy	2	4	2
Japan	1	3	3
France	2	1	3
South Korea	2	1	2
Russia	2	0	3
North Korea	2	0	1
Romania	1	2	0
Australia	1	1	1
Brazil	1	1	1
Hungary	1	1	1
Kazakhstan	2	0	0
Netherlands	1	1	0
Great Britain	0	1	1
Georgia	1	0	0
South Africa	1	0	0
Taiwan	0	1	0
Colombia	0	1	0
Cuba	0	1	0
Mexico	0	1	0
Poland	0	1	0
Azerbaijan	0	0	1
Belgium	0	0	1
Canada	0	0	1
India	0	0	1
Mongolia	0	0	1
Norway	0	0	1
Moldova	0	0	1
Serbia	0	0	1
Slovakia	0	0	1
Slovenia	0	0	1

(The medal list was updated at 10:00pm Bangladesh time)

'More positives than negatives'

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

There are positives to be taken out of Bangladesh's just-concluded tour to Europe, believes batsman Tamim Iqbal, despite the two losses to Scotland and the Netherlands.

The left-hander was the only player to score more than 200 runs, including two half centuries, in the six Twenty20 internationals held earlier this month. But more than the runs or the fifties, Tamim was happy to see progress on an individual and collective level.

"The tour had more positives than negatives," said Tamim. "We won the first game against Ireland easily but in the next two we fought back from dire situations. I think the game in which [Mahmudullah] Riyad bhai

bowled well in the last over was a difficult win. We never thought we were in it but we fought till the end."

"Leaving aside the Scotland game, I thought we showed a lot of positive signs. We wanted to get into the habit of winning, so I think the tour has given us that. All in all, there were improvements but there's still a long way to go," he added.

Bangladesh won the series against Ireland 3-0, but it wasn't that emphatic. The wake-up calls came to a dangerous conclusion when little-known Scot batsman Richard Berrington hammered a 57-ball century as the Tigers lost by 34 runs.

Tamim's unbeaten 69 in the next game, against the Dutch, helped them to an easy win but the tour ended on a sour note after

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Dancing into people's hearts

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM from London



Akram Khan looks sheepish. The question that he has been asked is one to which he feels he must say yes, but he is not sure yet how best to express himself. He thinks for a moment, and then does an excellent job.

So, is performing in the opening ceremony the biggest honour in his life so far?

"It's too early to say," Akram tells The Daily Star Sport in an exclusive interview. "All I know is that I've never felt that way before. I felt awe; it was really overwhelming and emotional. Working with Danny (Boyle) and his team on the opening ceremony has been an exciting and humbling experience."

It might have been a humbling moment for Akram, born in London to Bangladeshi parents, but it was a dramatic one for the 80,000 people inside the stadium lucky enough to witness it. Akram's breathtaking dance routine accompanied by Emelie Sande's haunting score of "Abide With Me" was one of the show-stopping highlights of Friday's opening ceremony. No wonder then, that it was met with rapturous applause and critical acclaim.

Akram spoke of how Danny Boyle had been inspired to include him in the opening ceremony after watching a performance of the dancer's Vertical Road. And Boyle's brief to Akram was just one single word.

"Mortality," says Akram. "I thought he was joking. Mortality at the Olympic Games? I thought it would be a downer."

But after mulling the idea over with his producer Farooq Chaudhry, they got hooked. "The idea of mortality is great because it represents a lot of the vision of the ceremony itself. We are all normal people and whether we're superstar

athletes or the guy next door, we're all going to die and leave something behind. That concept is very powerful and very compelling for the audience."

Akram's section featured 50 specially-selected professional dancers, a 9-year-old boy and Akram himself. Set to the voice of Sande, the piece was 'a moment of reflection and contemplation following the vibrant and astonishing, high-tempo proceedings', says Chaudhry. Boyle was responsible for choosing Abide With Me, the popular British hymn.

The most difficult part of the ceremony, recalls Akram, was choreographing 50 dancers to do a 360-degree show in front of 80,000 people.

"We are used to doing shows for 3,000 people. We do two-hour long shows as well. Condensing everything to just five minutes was a big challenge," admits Akram.

But challenges are Akram's by-word. He began dancing at seven and studied with the renowned kathak dancer and teacher Sri Pratap Pawar. He began presenting solo performances of his work in the late 1990s, maintaining his commitment to classical kathak as well as developing

modern work.

So does Akram think that the London 2012 opening was the best in recent memory? Akram shrugs off the question. "Each ceremony is beautiful in its own way. Beijing for me was majestic, Athens was poetic and London; for me, London was human."

In his final word, Akram raised the possibility of future collaboration with sporting events.

"It seems almost natural for arts and sports to sit side by side," says Akram.

"In both we desire to test the very limits of what we're capable of doing. In sports, human endurance, in arts, human imagination."



British-born Bangladeshi dancer Akram Khan (L) and his troupe perform during the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Dominant MSC keep winning

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Title contenders Mohammedan SC extended their winning run to 12 in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League when they came from behind to thrash Sonali Bank 11-2 in their Super League encounter at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Their twelfth straight victory put the Black and Whites in pole position with 36 points, six ahead of second-placed Usha KC who will play their 12th match against Shadharan Bima today.

Sonali Bank stunned their mighty opponents, striking twice within the first six minutes when Mohammedan were barely out of the blocks. Two brilliant flicks from striker Mohammad Rubel gave the impression that Sonali Bank were en route to exacting revenge for their 7-0 defeat to Mohammedan in their first-leg match.

But Sonali Bank were probably not ready to handle the offensive force of Mohammedan, who just toyed with their opponents despite the two-goal deficit.

Mohammedan scored their first goal just three minutes after conceding the second goal as Mamunur Rahman Chayan converted a penalty corner, before Sheikh Mohammad Nannu levelled the score in the 17th minute with a fine combination between Tajuddin and Rasel Mahmud Jimmy.

Chayan then converted two more penalty corners in the 29th and 35th minutes while Pakistani Tareq Aziz struck the fifth goal in between Chayan's brace to guide Mohammedan to a comfortable 6-2 lead at the end of the first half.

After resumption, joint champions Mohammedan dominated throughout the second half, adding five more goals with Jimmy and Istiaque Ahmed of Hong Kong netting two

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