

SA celebrates Cameron's gold

AFP, Johannesburg

Newspapers celebrated South Africa's first Olympics gold medal since 2004 by giving 100m breaststroke champion Cameron van der Burgh front-page splash treatment Monday.

"Golden joy for SA" was the main headline in the Johannesburg Star, "SA gets first gold" said the Sowetan and "Van der Burgh sets new world record, wins first gold medal for SA" declared Business Day.

Other dailies missed out as the final in London was staged after their deadlines, as did the main evening television news bulletins of public broadcaster SABC and independent e.tv.

There was immense pressure on Van der Burgh, wrote The Star, as the country looked for redemption of sorts from the nadir of the 2008 Beijing Games when they returned with just one silver medal.

The Sowetan said he torpedoed a field that was the who's who of breaststroke swimming -- his victims included Australia's Brenton Rickard, the previous world record holder, and 2004 and 2008 Olympic champion Kosuke Kitajima of Japan.

Van der Burgh, a 24-year-old finance student from Pretoria University, led from start to finish to win the final in 58.46 seconds and smash the world record for the second time in as many days.

South African Olympic chief Gideon Sam has promised the country 12 medals from the 2012 Games -- a wildly optimistic boast according to leading sports writers.

Matsumoto ends drought

AFP, London

Kaori Matsumoto of Japan won the women's under-57kg category at the Olympic judo event on Monday after Romania's Corina Caprioriu was disqualified in the final.

Caprioriu made an illegal attack from behind, earning an automatic disqualification during a sudden death golden score period in an otherwise tight final.

By winning gold Matsumoto ended the Japanese women's judo medal drought at the Games.

American Marti Malloy beat Beijing champion Giulia Quintavalle of Italy with a brilliant foot sweep (kouchi-gari) to claim bronze.

The other bronze medal went to Autonne Pavia under the watchful gaze of French president Francois Hollande.

SPORTS POLL

WEEKLY QUESTION

Which country will win the highest number of medals in the London Olympics?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

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What to WATCH

ESPN & STAR Sports

London Olympic Games


Day Four

Live from 1:00pm

TEN Cricket

Sri Lanka v India

Fourth ODI



DAY'S EVENT

Premier Div Hockey Super League

Usha v S Bima

Time: 3:00pm

Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey



PHOTO: AFP

US swimmer Dana Vollmer is ecstatic after breaking the world record in the women's 100m butterfly final in London on Sunday.

France stun USA

AFP, London



France engineered an epic upset in the men's 4x100m freestyle relay Sunday, one of two French golds on a pulsating night of action in the Olympic pool where two world records fell.

Yannick Agnel powered past American star Ryan Lochte on the final 50m of the closing relay leg as France won the coveted 4x100m relay gold for the first time in 3min 09.93sec.

The Americans' second-placed finish gave Michael Phelps a first career silver medal to go with his 14 gold and two bronze.

Russia took bronze over a stunned Australia, whose vaunted James "The Missile" Magnussen and James "The Rocket" Roberts failed to fire.

The victory was redemption of a sort for France, who went into the same race as favourites in Beijing four years ago only to see veteran Jason Lezak's miraculous final-leg swim deliver victory to the United States and keep Phelps' bid for eight gold medals alive.

The win was also part of a French festival at the Aquatics Centre, where Camille Muffat won the women's 400m freestyle in an Olym-

pic record of 4:01.45.

American Allison Schmitt was second in 4:01.77 and 2008 Olympic champion Rebecca Adlington of Britain stormed home in lane eight for bronze in 4:03.01 to the deafening cheers of the home crowd.

American Dana Vollmer opened the action with a 100m butterfly triumph in a world record of 55.98sec, becoming the first woman to dip under 56 seconds in the event.

Cameron van der Burgh followed with an emotional world record-setting triumph in the 100m breaststroke, which he dedicated to late training partner Alexander Dale Oen of Norway.

Van der Burgh led from start to finish, winning in 58.46sec to improve on the previous world mark of 58.58sec held by Australian Brenton Rickard.

Japanese breaststroke king Kosuke Kitajima's bid to become the first man to win the same Olympic swimming event at three straight games evaporated in the blistering pace set by van der Burgh.

South Africa's only other men's swimming gold came in the 2004 4x100m freestyle relay, making them part of the exclusive club of nations to beat the United States in the event along with Australia and, now, France.

Beaten judo champ bitten

AFP, Athens

Greek judo champion Ioulietta Boukouvala claims she was bitten by her Cuban opponent after losing in the first round of the London Olympic Games on Monday.

The 29-year-old was quoted on Greek sports websites as saying Yurileidys Lupetey Cobas, who went on to win the contest, bit her on the hand and that she should have been penalised.

"Responsible for judging are the officials and the technical team of the Games. They must decide if she should have been penalised or disqualified from the match because she bit me," Boukouvala told Greek reporters at the Games.

One of Greece's leading hopes for London glory, gold medal winner in the World Grand Prix event in Amsterdam this year, Boukouvala showed reporters the hand she said was bitten by Cobas.

Golden Moldoveanu

AFP, London



Romanian crack shot Alin Moldoveanu took gold in the Olympic men's 10m air rifle Monday as India made a rare podium appearance despite seeing their defending champion crash out in qualifying.

The bespectacled Moldoveanu did not know he had won the competition at London's Royal Artillery Barracks after edging world champion Niccolo Campriani into silver medal position, with India's Gagan Narang taking bronze.

Narang's compatriot, the defending Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra -- India's first ever individual gold medallist -- was knocked out in the earlier qualifying round.

Moldoveanu, who qualified for the final with an Olympic-record-equaling score of 599, held his nerve during a contest that saw constant flux at the top of the leader board to finish strongly and deny Campriani.

He notched a total of 702.1 points, taking advantage of a couple of slips from the Italian (701.5) on shots eight and nine.

Ranked a lowly 34th in the world, the 29-year-old eased the pain of Beijing in 2008, where he finished fourth.

China cash in on error

AFP, London

China's Cao Yuan and Zhang Yanquan won 10m platform diving gold Monday after Britain's Tom Daley and Pete Waterfield fell from top spot and out of the medals following a botched dive.

The Chinese teenagers tallied 486.78 points from their six dives to win the event from Mexico's Ivan Navarro and German Sanchez, who took silver, and American bronze-medallists David Boudia and Nicholas McCrory.

Cao, 17, and Zhang, 18, who won both the Beijing and Moscow legs of the 2012 world series and also triumphed in February's test event, claimed gold on their Olympic debuts.

It leaves China with two golds from the opening two competitions after diving diva Wu Minxia claimed her third synchronised 3m springboard Olympic victory along-side partner Hi Ze on Sunday.

A mistake on their fourth dive cost British pin-up Daley and his partner dearly as they surrendered their lead to finish the round, and ultimately the competition, in fourth.

"I'm overwhelmed. I cannot describe it in words. It's crazy," said the delighted winner, adding that he believed it was the Italian coach who first told him he had won.

"It doesn't matter how you are in the world ranking, it's just the day that matters."

Campriani, 24, was chasing a golden treble in London. The world number one in the 10m air rifle is also entered in the 50m rifle three positions, in which he is also the world number one, and the 50m rifle prone.

But Campriani said the top ranking was no guarantee of success.

"If it would be that easy then, as number one in the world ranking, I would wait for the medal back home," he said.

"We have still to shoot the match and we have still to deal with all this pressure in a sport like that where the adrenaline is not your friend."

Narang, 29, whose bronze marked a rare individual medal for India, said: "It's amazing. I think I missed in Beijing by a whisker and I feel quite nice that I have won the bronze." He was ninth in 2008.

Bindra, who has slipped to number 20 in the world, fell away towards the end of the qualifying session, admitting: "It didn't go well in my last 10 shots."

Spain crash out

AFP, London



Spain's bid to add Olympic gold to their world and European titles ended in failure on Sunday with a shock 1-0 loss to Honduras.

Jerry Bengtson's seventh-minute header at St. James' Park, the striker's third goal in two games, condemned Spain to an early exit following their opening defeat by Group D leaders Japan.

In a fractious match featuring 13 bookings, Spain's Iker Muniain hit the post and Rodrigo the bar, and a host of Spanish players converged upon referee Juan Soto Arevalo after the Venezuelan denied them a late penalty.

Bengtson scored when he rose high to power in Roger Espinoza's driven cross past Manchester United goalkeeper David de Gea.

"We played so well to beat Spain,"

said Bengtson. "It's very nice that we heard the crowd supporting us and shouting 'Honduras, Honduras'."

Gold-medal favourites Brazil came from a goal behind to beat Belarus 3-1 with Neymar turning on the style at a

RESULTS
Senegal 2 Uruguay 0
Great Britain 3 United Arab Emirates 1
Mexico 2 Gabon 0
South Korea 2 Switzerland 1
Egypt 1 New Zealand 1
Brazil 3 Belarus 1
Japan 1 Morocco 0

packed Old Trafford on Sunday.

Meanwhile Great Britain enjoyed their first Olympic win since 1960 with a 3-1 defeat of the United Arab Emirates at Wembley.

After Manchester United veteran

Ryan Giggs had become the oldest goalscorer in Olympic history at the age of 38, Rashed Eisa equalised for the UAE.

But goals from Scott Sinclair and Daniel Sturridge eased the hosts' nerves.

"Ryan brings respect," said Great Britain manager Stuart Pearce, whose side could only manage a 1-1 draw with Senegal first time out.

"That's a word that's used cheaply nowadays, but the way he handles himself on and off the pitch is outstanding and we were delighted he got a goal this evening."

Meanwhile 10-man Senegal opened up Group A with a shock 2-0 win over Uruguay, teenager Moussa Konate scoring twice either side of Abdoulaye Ba's first-half dismissal for a foul on Luis Suarez.

Japan qualified for the quarterfinals with a 1-0 Group D win over Morocco secured by Kensuke Nagai's 84th minute goal.



Honduras striker Jerry Bengtson (2nd from L) runs off to celebrate his all-important goal against Spain during their men's football match of the Olympics at St James's Park on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Police lose Wembley keys

AFP, London

Police guarding Wembley Stadium where Olympic football matches are being played revealed Monday that they have lost a set of keys to the venue.

Officers searching the stadium in London ahead of the start of the Games misplaced the keys, prompting an investigation by Scotland Yard, but organisers insisted that security has not been compromised.

Organisers stressed that the keys were for internal doors and the relevant locks have now been changed.

Scotland Yard is not treating the incident as a criminal matter.

A Metropolitan Police spokeswoman said: "On the morning of Tuesday 24 July officers on Olympic police operations at Wembley stadium reported that internal security keys, being used by them as part of searches, were missing."

She said officers searched the stadium but could not find the keys.

"Detectives also attended to ascertain if there was any evidence of criminal offences," the spokeswoman said. "There's none at this time."

She added: "There is absolutely no security concern in relation to the stadium as measures were taken immediately to secure all key areas of the venue."

A spokesman for London 2012 dismissed fears that security had been breached.

OLYMPICS IN BRIEF

Judoka breaks his medal

AGENCIES, Undated

A Brazilian judoka accidentally broke his Olympic bronze medal when he brought it into the shower. Now he's fighting to have it replaced.

Felipe Kitadai said he was carrying the medal everywhere. He took it with him to the shower as a joke, then dropped it while trying to keep it from getting wet.

Kitadai told Brazil's GloboEsporte.com that the part holding the medal's string broke, and now he can't wear it around his neck. He said there's also a small dent on it.

Kitadai won the bronze in the men's 60-kilogram division Saturday.

The Brazilian Olympic Committee says it will request a new medal even though it knows the International Olympic Committee has no obligation to give Kitadai another one.

Cauldron lit again

The elaborate cauldron at the Olympics opening ceremony, which had been extinguished while it was relocated to another part of the stadium on Sunday, was relit at 7am (0600 GMT) on Monday.

The Olympic cauldron -- which traditionally burns for the entirety of each Games -- was seen unlit within the Olympic Stadium at 11.14pm (2214 GMT) late Sunday.

Jackie Brock-Doyle, director of communications for the London Olympics organisers confirmed to AFP the cauldron had been put out in order to allow it to be moved to a different part of the venue.

"The cauldron has been put out while we move it to another part of the stadium," Brock-Doyle told AFP.

The Olympic flame was kept burning in a lantern used during the torch relay, she added.

The cauldron was positioned in the centre of the Olympic Stadium before being lit by seven young athletes in the climax to last Friday's opening ceremony.

The position of the cauldron -- and the fact that the flame will not be visible from outside the stadium even after it is repositioned -- has attracted criticism.

At most past Olympics, the burning cauldron has been clearly visible from the outside of the main