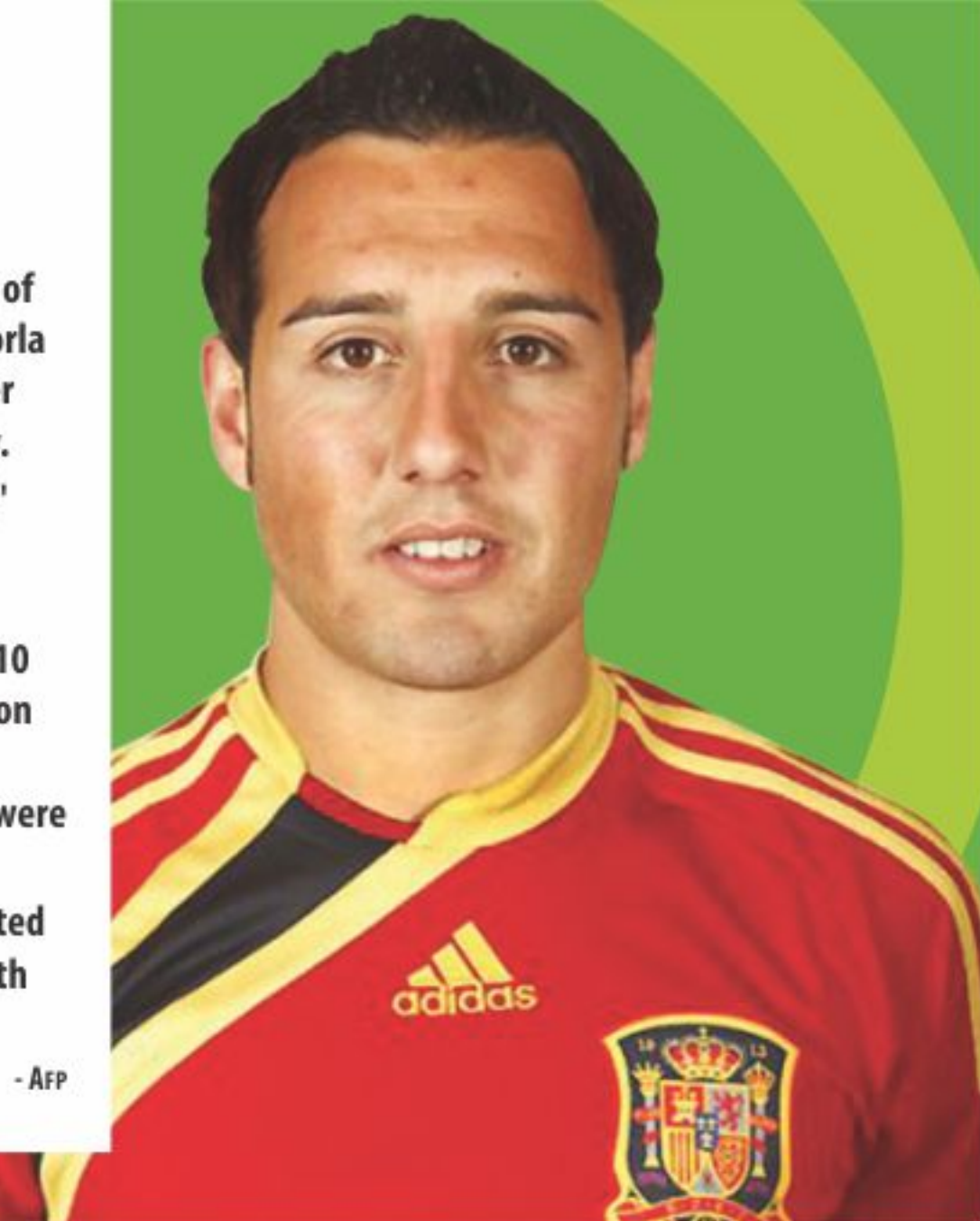


Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY AUGUST 4, 2012, E-MAIL: @thedailystar.net

Arsenal seal Cazorla deal

Arsenal have completed the signing of Spanish international Santiago Cazorla from Spanish side Malaga, the player said on his Twitter account Thursday. "I can say I am a new Arsenal player," said the 27-year-old midfielder. Cazorla, who has won 47 caps but missed the World Cup triumph in 2010 following a hernia, starred last season as Malaga reached the Champions League while former side Villarreal were relegated. He was on the Spain squad which lifted the European championships a month ago and also featured in the 2008 success in the same event.



Speed costs Pendleton

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM From London



"These things happen," said a weary looking Victoria Pendleton. She said it with purpose, her brilliant blue eyes looking straight at the journalist who had asked her the question. But even then you got the feeling that the only person she was trying to convince was herself.

"How could they do this to you Vicky?" was the question directed at Great Britain's glamour girl of these Olympics. It seemed, that even for the gathered press, it was too much to believe what had just happened.

To her credit, Pendleton managed to keep her composure. The tears had been flowing only seconds ago, but the petite brunette purposefully wiped them away before trudging off her bike and towards the gathered press at the mixed zone in the center of the stunning Velodrome at the Olympic Park.

Pendleton's first sprint run had seen her and teammate Jess Varnishcrack set the world record, albeit briefly. The Brits had started slowly in their first heat but once Pendleton stepped on the afterburners there was no stopping them. The riders, representing a futuristic brand of soldiers in their bodysuits and aerodynamic helmets whizzed around the

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PHOTO: AFP

US swimming legend Michael Phelps competes in the men's 200m individual medley final at the London Olympics on Thursday. Phelps won his 20th career medal and completed a historic third consecutive 200m IM victory at the Aquatics Centre.

BD U-19s thrash PNG

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19 team bounced back strongly from their 31-run loss against West Indies Under-19 by handing a massive 129-run defeat to Papua New Guinea in their second and final unofficial practice match at the Caloundra Cricket Club, Brisbane yesterday.

Bangladesh Under-19s posted 235 runs before getting dismissed in 49 overs, thanks to a 110-run ninth wicket partnership between Nurul Hasan and Nayeem Islam. Hasan made 50 off 70 balls that featured three boundaries while Nayeem hit unbeaten 60 off 86 balls that contained five fours and a six.

Opener Soumya Sarker was the other notable scorer with 30 and his opening partner Uttam Kumar Das added 22 runs.

Raymond Haoda and Charles Amini picked up two wickets each.

Papua New Guinea's reply was short as they were

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Phelps's magnum opus

AFP, London



Michael Phelps delivered one more history-making Olympic performance Thursday, winning the 200m medley to become the first

man to win the same individual swimming event at three straight Games.

Phelps, already denied trebles in London in the 400m medley and 200m butterfly, delivered a vintage performance to win in 1min 54.27sec and collect his 20th career Olympic medal -- and his 16th gold.

"The three-peat was hard," Phelps said. "I knew it would be a cool thing to do and add to the resume to be the first guy to do it, it hurt."

He subdued his great rival -- teammate Ryan Lochte -- who settled for silver in 1:54.90.

Hungarian Laszlo Cseh earned bronze in 1:56.22.

Although it was his first individual gold of the 2012 Games, there was no fist-pumping celebration from Phelps but instead a smile of quiet satisfaction as his mother and sister cheered from the stands.

On the podium, he accepted his medal with another smile, then heaved a huge sigh as the crowd roared. As the anthem played he pressed his lips together, trying to control his emotions.

"On the podium, I tried to compose myself as much as I could," said Phelps, who still had the semi-finals of the 100m fly coming up. "I was hurting too, I was in a lot of pain."

"My legs were hurting and I had to lean against something before they gave out."

Even so, Phelps was happy to find himself on the so-familiar top step of the podium.

"It is a relief to win an individual gold," he acknowledged. "I fell short in the first couple of events, it is cool to do something no other male swimmer has done."

In London, the 27-year-old American has been far from the dominant figure who captured an unprecedented eight gold medals in Beijing.

But his fourth and final Olympics has seen him further cement his legacy by seizing the record for most medals in a career and, now, becoming the first man to complete a golden swimming treble.

Australian icon Dawn Fraser and Hungarian Krisztina Egerszegi both accomplished the feat in women's events.

The 200m medley was among the six gold medals he won in Athens in 2004, and he gave himself a chance at another treble as he returned to post the fastest time in the 100m butterfly heats.

The medley defeat for Lochte was a bitter blow in an event in which he is the world record-holder and world champion. It came quickly on the heels of his bronze medal performance in the 200m backstroke, in which he was the defending Olympic champion.

American Tyler Clary, swimming in his first Olympics after failing to make the team in 2008, ran Lochte down in the

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Mohan to race today

SPORTS REPORTER from London

Bangladesh sprinter Mohan Khan will be participating in the first heat of the 100-meter preliminary round at the Olympic Stadium today. Athletics kicked-off yesterday and the first round of the blue riband 100-meter event will see Mohan up against a host of other unheralded sprinters in the 100-meter at 3pm Bangladesh time today.

"I will be participating in the heat tomorrow [Saturday]," said Mohan. "I am not really pitted against anyone that I know in any way. A lot of the participants are from nations that I have never even heard of," admitted Mohan.

Bangladesh's premier 100-meter sprinter has a personal best of 11.31 seconds. Even if he manages to post that time in London today, it will be a huge shock to see him advance beyond the preliminary round. The best two sprinters among

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BD A lose despite Gazi heroics

SPORTS REPORTER

Off-spinner Sohag Gazi returned with match figures of eleven wickets but his efforts failed to lift Bangladesh A as they went down to a five-wicket defeat against Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) Colts XI in the Safi Darashah (KSCA) Invitational Tournament in Bangalore yesterday.

Resuming the day on 12 for two, KSCA Colts XI lost three more wickets on the third day of the four-day match before reaching the target of 120.

Gazi, who claimed six wickets in the first innings, grabbed all five KSCA wickets to fall in the second innings.

Konain Abbas guided KSCA Colts XI to the victory with an unbeaten 54 which came in 103 deliveries and featured two boundaries.



PHOTO: AFP

Great Britain's Victoria Pendleton (L) is comforted by her coach after her disqualification in the women's team sprint heat of the London Olympics on Thursday.

Bolt, Isinbayeva's London bow

AFP, London



The cream of men's sprinting and Russian pole vaulting legend Yelena Isinbayeva will make their bow on the second day of

the athletics programme of the Olympics on Saturday.

Defending Olympic champion Usain Bolt and Jamaican teammates Yohan Blake and Asafa Powell will run heats and round one of the 100m alongside US rivals Tyson Gay and Justin Gatlin, with the semifinals and final scheduled for Sunday.

The 100m remains the premier track and field event, and arguably of the whole Olympics, with an especially thrilling final in prospect in London.

"Everyone's been waiting for this for four years. It's going to live up to expectations," said Blake, who edged Bolt in the Jamaican trials and has been tipped as a genuine title contender.

The women's 100m gold will also be decided following Friday's qualifying heats and a semifinal early in Saturday's evening session.

In the women's pole vault, double Olympic champion Isinbayeva will bid to safely negotiate qualifying for



USAIN BOLT

Monday's final.

The 30-year-old Russian world record holder has suffered rare but bitter defeats during the last three seasons.

Isinbayeva heads to London boosted by gold in the 2012 World Indoor Championships but with another failure to clear 4.70m in the Monaco Diamond League meet on July 20.

"I'm physically and mentally

ready for the Games, of course, but as a human, I'm worried like any other competitor," said Isinbayeva, who failed to record a height in a tear-stained 2009 world championships in Berlin and came just sixth in last year's worlds in Daegu, South Korea.

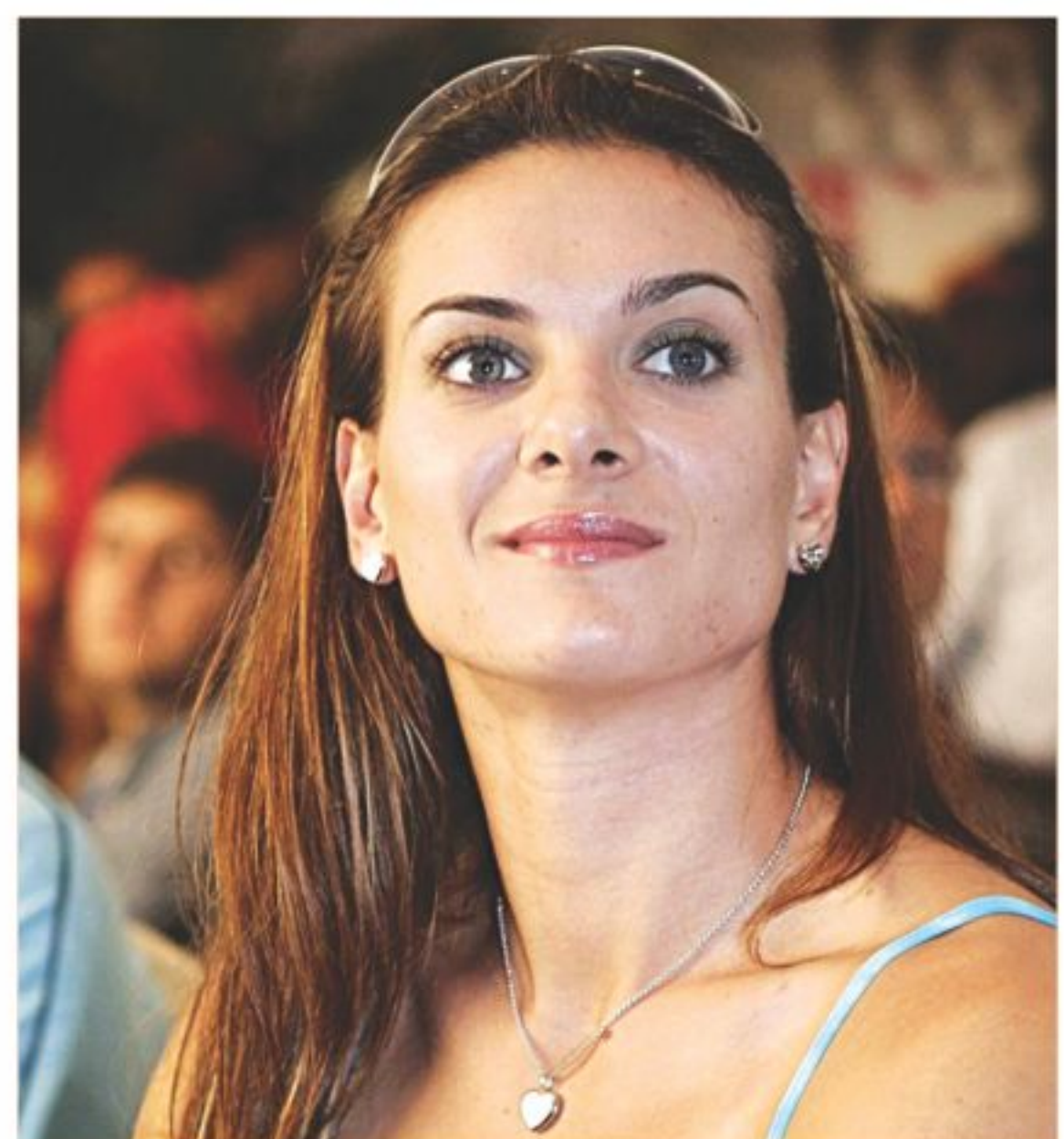
Home hopes will be riding with pin-up heptathlete Jessica Ennis, provided she safely negotiates Friday's opening day.

The heptathletes will take part in

the long jump and javelin in the morning session before completing the gruelling seven-discipline event with the 800m.

Another of Saturday's six finals will see Ethiopian running star Kenenisa Bekele in the men's 10,000m.

Bekele has not had an ideal run-in to the Games, and appears to have just the one medal chance in London, given he has been named as a replacement only for the 5,000m.



YELENA ISINBAYEVA

MEDALLIST

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
China	20	12	9
United States	18	9	10
Japan	2	8	11
Russia	3	9	8
Great Britain	6	6	7
Germany	5	8	6
France	7	5	6
South Korea	8	2	5
Australia	1	8	4
Italy	4	5	2
Canada	0	2	5
Netherlands	2	1	3
Ukraine	2	0	4
Romania	1	3	2
North Korea	4	0	1
New Zealand	3	0	2
Cuba	2	2	1
Hungary	2	1	2
Brazil	1	1	3
Kazakhstan	4	0	0
Belarus	1	1	2
Mexico	0	3	1
South Africa	3	0	0
Slovenia	1	0	2
Colombia	0	2	1
Denmark	0	1	2
Slovakia	0	0	3
Czech Republic	0	2	0
Sweden	0	2	0
Belgium	0	1	1
India	0	1	1
Indonesia	0	1	1
Mongolia	0	1	1
Norway	0	1	1
Poland	0	1	1
Spain	0	1	1
Georgia	1	0	0
Lithuania	1	0	0

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

LONDONdiary

3 August, 2012

SPORTS REPORTER from London

After we reported yesterday that luminaries as diverse and impressive as Dmitri Medvedev (RUS), Kobe Bryant (USA) and Prince Albert of Monaco had been among the glitterati gracing the stands at these games, the celeb-sightings poured in from other sports, determined not to be outdone.

One breathless snowboarding fan of our acquaintance reported that two-time snowboard halfpipe Olympic champion Shaun White (USA) was spotted at the Aquatics Centre, as well as Israeli swimsuit model Bar Refaeli.

"Mind you, we weren't that impressed," admitted one regular at the swimming events. "With the president of France, Francois Hollande, Michelle Obama, Mitt Romney, Her Majesty The Queen of Great Britain and the British prime minister David Cameron popping by in recent days, we didn't really pay attention to Leonard di Caprio's ex."

Canoe slalom fans at the Lee Valley White Water Centre were boasting about rubbing shoulders not only with the seemingly omnipresent LOCOG chair Seb Coe but also with former England rugby coach Sir Clive Woodward, the president of Slovakia and Prince Richard, the Duke of Gloucester.

The boxing has not exactly been jam-packed with the great and the good, but a man who might be distantly related to the Marquis of Queensberry himself showed up recently; none other than Prince Phillip, who joined Prince Edward (the Earl of Wessex) and his wife Sophie watching a bout between an Indian and Kazakh fighter.

Royal couple Kate and Wills were on the edge of

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