

# Mostly great, a bit of the bad & ugly

AFP, London

Usain Bolt, Michael Phelps and Mo Farah delivered the signature performances of the Olympics as Great Britain shrugged off its grim economic worries to stage a memorable, record-breaking showpiece.

As the curtain came down on the 16-day spectacular at an Olympic Park built on a toxic, east London industrial wasteland, the hosts basked in plaudits.

"The country that invented modern sport has helped give new life to the spirit of fair play and competition," said International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge.

"For two weeks, London became the beating heart of the world."

There was a glittering collection of memories from events played in and around some of the city's iconic sites.

Horse Guards Parade, in the shadow of Buckingham Palace and Whitehall, the heart of British political power, hosted beach volleyball.

Tennis was at Wimbledon, archery went to Lord's, the nerve-centre of cricket, while equestrian enjoyed the spectacular backdrop of Greenwich.

At check points, battle-hardened soldiers, fresh from tours of Afghanistan, donned high-visibility jackets instead of bullet-proof vests to patiently screen long lines of athletes and media.

On the track, it was Jamaican superstar Bolt who was sprinting into the record books, his double-triple of 100m, 200m and a world-record setting 4x100m relay exhausting superlatives.

"I'm now a legend, I'm the greatest athlete to live," said Bolt.

On the same night, Britain hailed Mo Farah's 5,000m-10,000m double, an emotional achievement for a man brought up in war-torn Somalia.

David Rudisha of Kenya set a world record in the 800m while the United States, who were to finish top of the medals table, shattered the 27-year-old record in the 4x100m women's relay.

There was no gold, but there was a slice of Olympic history for Oscar Pistorius on the Olympic track as the double-amputee who races on carbon-fibre blades competed against able-bodied runners in the 400m and 4x400m relay.

Phelps brought the curtain down on his career with four gold medals and two silvers, shattering the record for total medals in a career.

In fact, his 18 golds ended up matching the previous record for total medals amassed by Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina -- he was to finish with 22 altogether.

"Everything had to fall into place at the right time and everything had to be perfect. And it was," said Phelps.

As Phelps bowed out, a quartet of teenagers ensured there will be no lack of storylines when Rio 2016 rolls around.

America's Missy Franklin and surprise 800m free winner Katie Ledecky, Lithuanian Ruta Meilutyte and China's Ye Shiwen were among the breakout stars poised to carry the sport forward.

Ye's tremendous finish in her world record-breaking 400m medley victory, however, prompted whispering in the Western press that provoked the ire of the Chinese team.

Australia -- including swaggering world 100m champion James Magnussen -- were the biggest losers.

With one gold medal, six silver and three bronze, it was their lowest tally since Barcelona in 1992.

Britain, who enjoyed their best Games for a century and finished third in the medals table, celebrated the middle Saturday with poster girl Jessica Ennis taking the heptathlon and Farah lighting up the track in the 5,000m.

The sweltering Velodrome rocked most nights, none more so than when Chris Hoy cycled to a sixth career gold to become Britain's most successful Olympian.

Out on the road, Bradley Wiggins added time-trial gold to his Tour de France triumph.

Andy Murray stunned Roger Federer at a heavily-rebranded Wimbledon to take the men's tennis title with Serena Williams collecting the women's title in a spectacular demolition of Maria Sharapova.

On the debit side, North Korea delivered the Games' first political punch, two days before the opening ceremony, when they refused to start their game against Colombia in Glasgow after flags of bitter rivals South Korea were shown next to photos of their players.

Eight badminton players were disqualified for not trying in a brazen attempt to engineer more comfortable paths to the women's doubles final.

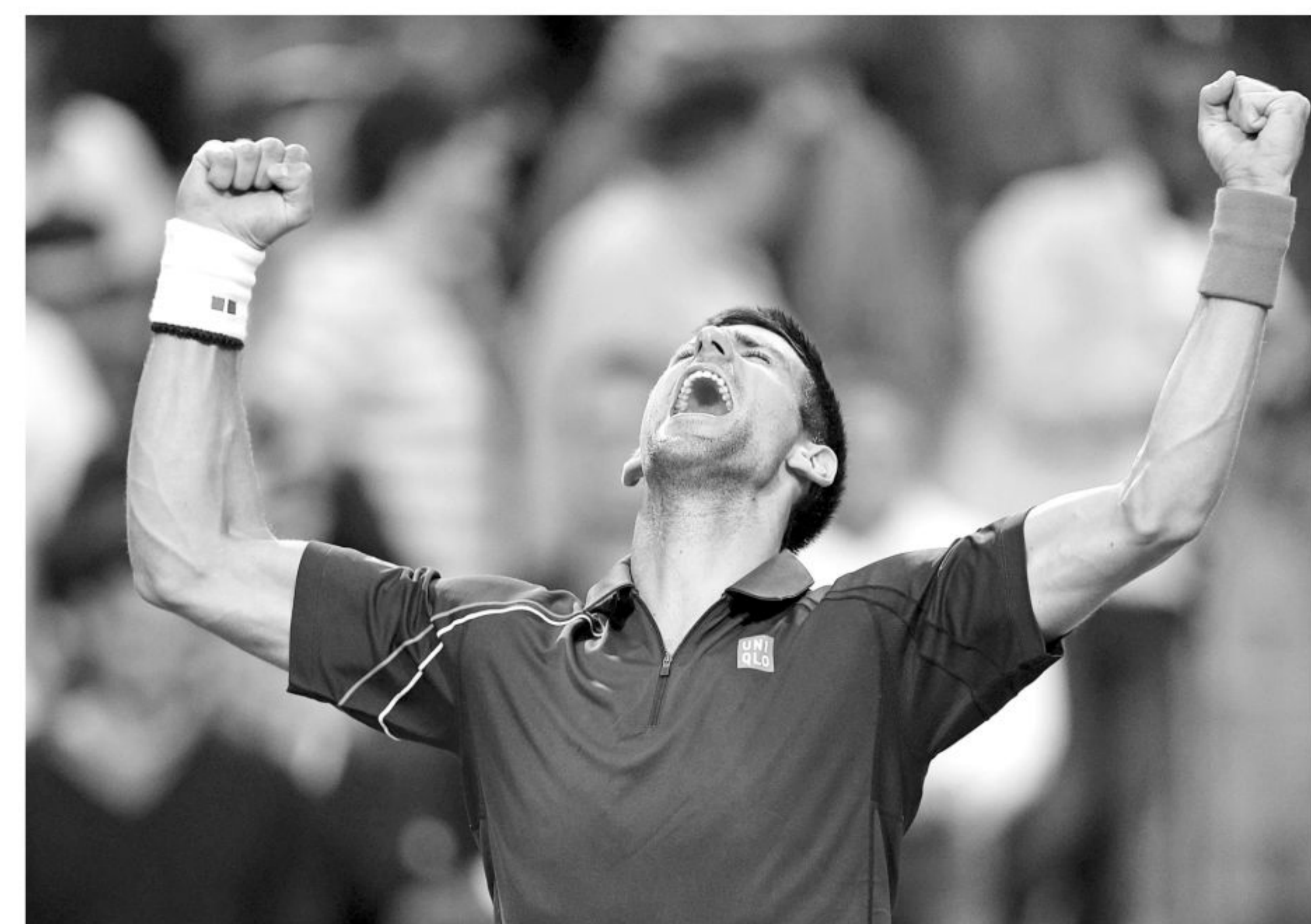
There were plenty of tears too.

South Korean fencer Shin A-Lam was so distraught at a defeat that she staged a tearful, one-hour long sit-down protest.

Felix Sanchez also blubbed, this time on the podium after his 400m hurdles victory achieved against all the odds.

There were heroic performances.

Liu Xiang, China's track and field poster boy, suffered another Olympic Games which were over virtually before they had begun.



Serbia's world No 2 Novak Djokovic lets out a war cry after defeating Richard Gasquet of France in the Rogers Cup final at the Rexall Centre of York University in Toronto on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Big Bash Bolt?

AFP, Melbourne

Negotiations are underway for cricket-mad sprint king Usain Bolt to play in Australia's domestic Twenty20 Big Bash League, with Shane Warne leading the campaign to bring him to Melbourne.

Bolt, hailed by International Olympic Committee chief Jacques Rogge as the greatest sprinter of all time after three gold medals in London, played junior cricket before turning to the track and has long voiced a love for the game.

He said he wanted to play and had spoken to the Australian former Test leg-spinner.

"He (Warne) contacted me and asked me about if I am serious and if I really want to do it, then he can put in a few words that should get it done," Bolt told Australia's Channel Nine television late Sunday.

"So we will see if I get the time off. I will try."

Cricketer is hugely popular in the West Indies with Bolt's Jamaica one of its strongest teams, producing greats such as Frank Worrell, Michael Holding, Courtney Walsh and Chris Gayle.

Bolt, 25, said he particularly like the fast-paced Twenty20 concept, where each side tries to blast as many runs as possible in a maximum of 20 overs.

The format has spread around the world since it was introduced nearly a decade ago as a more exciting alternative to longer versions of the game and it is now part of virtually all international cricket tours.

"Twenty20, I love it," said the sprinter, who describes himself as an all-rounder and told Australian media during the Olympics he planned to holiday Down Under in September.

# Hattrick for Novak

AFP, Toronto

Novak Djokovic completed a trophy hattrick in Canada as he won the ATP Masters 1000 event here with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Frenchman Richard Gasquet on Sunday.

The title was the first for the world number two since Miami more than four months ago and marked the third of a subdued season for the former number one Australian Open champion.

Djokovic and Gasquet went on court in the evening so as not to conflict with the London Olympic closing ceremonies.

"This match was exceptional today, it's been a long week, a tough week," said Djokovic, "Especially for players coming from the Olympics. But I'm glad I came here."

"I knew it would be almost impossible to repeat my 2011 season (70-11 record), it would be a huge challenge, but I know that I'm playing well. I trust in my abilities and in my game."

"There will always be ups and downs but I'm playing with confidence right now."

The win was the seventh of eight for the Serb over Gasquet, who lost the 2006 final at the tournament to Roger Federer in Toronto.

Djokovic has now won 31 career titles from 48 finals and has won a dozen of those at the elite Masters 1000 level.

He also won the Canadian event in 2007 and 2011 when it was played in Montreal in an alternating arrangement.

The win tightens the race for the world number one ranking as Djokovic tries to claim the honour back from Roger Federer.

"I'm only thinking about winning this event now, I also want to do well next week (Cincinnati Masters) and hopefully win the US open again," said Djokovic, who saved three break points in the opening game but was never again threatened in his 61-minute victory.

## Brazil-Sweden friendly on Maasranga

SPORTS REPORTER

Five-time football world champions Brazil and Sweden will play in an international friendly in Stockholm on Wednesday and Maasranga Television, a private satellite channel, will carry a delayed telecast the next day.

The delayed telecast will begin at 2:30pm on Thursday, said a press release yesterday.

## FIFA provides gear for women booters

SPORTS REPORTER

FIFA will provide sports gear worth Tk 40 lakh for Bangladesh's women footballer, said BFF official Sirajul Islam Bachchu yesterday.

"As per last year's commitment, FIFA is providing the gear which includes jerseys, football, boots, bags, etc. It is expected that the shipment will arrive here before Eid-ul-Fitr," said Bachchu, who is also chairman of the women's football committee.

## Saqlain arrives

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The 35-year-old Saqlain served as the spin specialist for New Zealand for 12 months since August 2009 and worked with Australian spinners during the Ashes earlier in the same year.

Bangladesh have long been searching for a quality right-arm off-spinner, and it is hoped that Saqlain's appointment will help in that regard.



**STAR Cricket**  
ICC U-19 World Cup  
Australia v Nepal  
Live from 5:30am  
**ESPN**  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News

# British press ecstatic

AFP, London

The success of London 2012 has proved to the world, and more importantly to Britain, that the country still has a role on the world stage but its new-found confidence must be harnessed, newspapers said Monday.

The record-breaking display by the host athletes, the boundless enthusiasm shown by the public and volunteers and the slick running of the Games has changed the way Britain views itself, but only time will tell if it is a lasting legacy, said the country's media.

"Thanks, it's been a blast," said the Daily Telegraph's front page, while the Guardian bade "Goodbye to the Glorious Games".

Popular tabloid The Sun splashed "DREAM GB, We're world beaters" across its front page.

"Britain has shown the world a happy and united face, with Team GB's multicultural mix holding a mirror to a nation finding its own new voice and identity," suggested its editorial.

"So let's be proud today. To be British is to be a winner again," it concluded.

The Times praised a Games which were "almost dreamlike in their seamlessness and drama."

"They have occasioned so much breathless British patriotism that the world may wonder if we were ever serious about self-deprecation, but the point is, we were."

"No one is as surprised as the hosts that this fraught and complex festival of striving should have gone so well," it added, calling the Games a "great exhibition of competence, creativity, athleticism and sportsmanship."

The Games ended on Sunday with a camp closing ceremony which celebrated Britain's pop music history.

"What a finale!" enthused the popular Daily Mail, saying it was the night Britain "won a gold for eccentricity".

But as the fireworks died down, thoughts already turned towards the deeper impact of the Games on the national psyche, and whether it would be possible to capitalise upon the outpouring of good will inside and outside of the sporting arena.

"If only a fraction of the trouble and ingenuity that went into putting on these Olympics can be applied to give kids the opportunity and encouragement to do sport, then an important step will have been taken," said the Guardian's Richard Williams.

"In the sort of graceful gesture that has confounded pessimists by turning out to be characteristic of London 2012, as the end approached this week the organisers presented each of the games makers (volunteers) with a specially engraved aluminium relay baton as a keepsake."

## Ostapchuk stripped of gold

AFP, Paris

Belarus' Nadezhda Ostapchuk has been stripped of the women's Olympic shot put title after failing a drugs test, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said in a statement on Monday.

The 31-year-old, who provided two urine samples which contained the banned anabolic agent metenolone, becomes the first medalist of the London Games to test positive for a banned substance.

An IOC statement said: "The International Olympic Committee (IOC) today announced that it has disqualified, withdrawn the medal from, and excluded Belarus's Nadzeya Ostapchuk (athletics, women's shot put) from the Games of the XXX Olympiad in London."

"The athlete was first requested to provide a urine sample for a doping control on 5 August. She competed the next day in the women's shot put event, where she placed first, and was asked to provide a sample straight after her competition."

"Both samples indicated the presence of metenolone, which is classified as anabolic agent under the 2012 Prohibited List."

## Shakib, Nasir

FROM PAGE 16

career scoring 419 runs at an average of 41.90.

Bangladesh left-arm spinner Elias Sunny also made the long-list for the ICC Men's T20I performance of the year for his figures of five for 13 from four overs in the first match of the recently concluded T20 series against Ireland in July.

## End of a

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every single visitor, media personnel or athlete who might have run into any difficulty. The Gamesmakers really did what their name said they would -- they made these Games.

In the end, it was all so picture perfect, that even the weather decided it would cooperate.

# City open season with Com Shield

REUTERS, London

Manchester City's failure to find a big-name signing appeared to matter little as they began the new season with a 3-2 win over 10-man Chelsea in the Community Shield on Sunday.

Chelsea have spent more than 60 million pounds (\$94.15 million) over the close season while City's only major deal has been signing of Everton's Jack Rodwell which was announced earlier on Sunday, pending a medical.

However, goals from Yaya Toure, Carlos Tevez and Samir Nasri in a 12-minute second half spell showed that the Premier League champions may have enough firepower as it is.

With Wembley in use for the Olympic Games, Birmingham's Villa Park hosted the traditional curtain-raiser to the English season a week before the start of the Premier League.

City were helped by the first-half dismissal of Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic for a reckless challenge on Aleksandar Kolarov.

City, employing a new 3-4-3 formation, started the brightest but European Champions and FA Cup holders Chelsea opened the scoring five minutes before halftime when Fernando Torres scored with the outside of his foot after a jinking run by Ramires.

# Bayern lift Super Cup

AFP, Munich

Two early goals gifted Bayern Munich the German Super Cup on Sunday as they defeated Bundesliga champions Borussia Dortmund with Mario Mandzukic and Thomas Mueller netting in the opening 11 minutes.

Although Robert Lewandowski 75 pulled one back in the 75th minute - he scored a hattrick in the German Cup final win over Bayern which completed the double for Dortmund - but the champions were unable to turn things around as Bayern earned a psychological boost ahead of the new season.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Birthright barterer

5 Shade provider

8 Agree

12 Money

13 "The Raven" writer

14 Quite some time

15 Desire for success

17 Break suddenly

18 Actors' lines

19 Patterned cotton fabric

21 Corn spike

22 Skirt feature

23 Klutzy sort

26 Light touch

28 Insinuating

31 Old Italian bread

33 Kitten's comment

35 Quite some time

36 Intoxicated

38 Pitching stat

40 Siesta

41 Mid-month date

43 Conclusion

45 Electricity problem

47 Begins

51 Not "fer"

52 Document with many signatures, maybe

54 Coin aperture

55 Ailing

56 Beige

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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T	E	E	A	S	S	F	I	L	E	T
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J	A	N	U	S	B	O	R	R	O	W
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L	O	K	I	M	A	J	O	R	I	T
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N	O	S	Y	P	A	N	M	I	T	E

**DOWN**

1 "Zounds!"

2 Football fill

3 Goya's "Duchess of --"

4 Functional

5 Pithy piece of wit

6 Privy

7 Repairs

8 Flower used to flavor tea

9 Car starter

10 Throb

11 Catch sight of

16 Frog's cousin

20 They (Fr.)

23 Anti-quoted

24 Football fill

25 Realization of --

27 Spelling contest

29 "CSI" evidence

30 Kreskin's skill

32 Slowish in music

34 Emulate Gorgeous George

37 Small barrel

39 Con

42 Bygone photo hue

44 Goes out with

45 Brewery kiln

46 Unslightly

48 Puerto --

49 Ripped

50 Tightly fitting

53 Right angle

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57					58			59			

## CRYPTOQUIP

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X B E E Z Q W H V D J L Q E F , Q

J W W B L D Q R U N B G H X D A J M Q E F

V J X X Q R D Z D L N M D L D E R .

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I PREFER INCOMPLETE SETS OF DENTURES TO FULL ONES, SO YOU COULD SAY I'M PARTIAL TO PARTIALS.**

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals E