



## Zhang bags China's first gold in Rio

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Zhang Mengxue got China off the gold medal mark and gave her mum the perfect birthday present at the Rio Games on Sunday, the Olympic debutant winning the women's 10m air pistol title.

After an assured display of precision shooting at the Deodoro range, the 25-year-old beamed: "It happened to be my mother's birthday yesterday [Saturday] so this will be the best gift for her."

The woman from Jinan produced a perfect 10.9 on her 17th shot to hold off Russia's Vitalina Batsarashkina.

"I am so excited," said Zhang, who only made her international debut last year.

"I am still feeling the competition, I am still in that mood, and winning at the Olympic Games was my goal since I was young. Now I have the medal."

Saving her best till last after scraping into the eighth-shooter final in seventh place she reported: "I was pretty calm for the final actually, because the qualification was a bit tough for me."



Katinka Hosszu of Hungary powers her way to win the women's 400m individual medley gold. She shattered the world record by more than two seconds. Hosszu clocked 4 minutes 26.36 seconds.

PHOTO: AFP

## QUOTES OF THE DAY

It was the hardest day I've ever had in my life on a bike. It was a brutal, brutal, strange old race.

Ireland's Dan Martin after finishing 13th in a crash-filled men's cycling road race

People thought I would break under the pressure ... but it was definitely just fun.

Hungary's Katinka Hosszu after winning gold in the 400 metres individual medley and breaking a world record as well.

Definitely my favorite race ever, in an Olympic final with my sister and two girls I have known since I was 12, 13 years old and a gold and a world record.

Australia's Cate Campbell after securing gold from the 4x100m freestyle gold in 3min 30.65sec, the fastest time in history.

# Hosszu's redemption

## Hagino arrives with 2012 encore in mind

ATIQUÉ ANAM from Rio de Janeiro

Kosuke Hagino was just 17 when he beat both Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte, two of the world's all-time best swimmers, to win the bronze medal in the 400m individual medley of the 2012 London Olympic Games. Over the last four years, the young Japanese swimmer has only grown from strength to strength.

In the meantime he racked up seven medals including four gold medals at the Incheon Asian Games and a few more from the Pan Pacific Games later that year. Now at 21, Hagino is tipped by many to be the next big thing in all-around swimming. On Saturday night at the Olympic Aquatic Centre in Rio, Hagino proved why he is regarded so highly.

Hagino grabbed the gold in 400m individual medley clocking 4min 6.05seconds, beating USA's Kalisz Chazé by 0.70 seconds and ending USA's dominance in the event which dated back to 1996. "I'm thrilled to be honest. But I've got a few races left so I want to stay focused," the baby-faced swimmer said at the press conference later, admitting that he is relieved to have knocked down his first target. "A lot has happened in the last four years. It wasn't all

smooth sailing."

Having already got one over Phelps four years ago, the young Japanese swimmer will have his chance to beat his idol yet again when they meet in the 200m medley on Wednesday.



"I grew up watching those two [Phelps and Lochte] compete. I wanted to become a swimmer like them. In the 200 metres individual medley I have an opportunity to race against them and I'm looking forward to it," said Hagino, who set the fastest time by a non-American swimmer in the 400m medley.

While Hagino announced himself as a future star of swimming, veteran Kantika Hosszu of Hungary redeemed herself in emphatic fashion by smashing the women's 400m world record and grabbing the gold which took four editions in coming. Dubbed the 'Iron Lady', Hosszu has five world championship titles to her name, yet she had to go home from the last three Olympic Games without a single medal.

On Saturday night, however, she was bent on breaking that drought. The 27-year-old powered her way through to the end as her competitors kept falling behind, with the Hungarian eventually winning by more than 4.79 seconds and breaking the world record by 2.07 seconds.

"I've been chasing that world record for some time now," Hosszu later told reporters after having wrapped up her muted celebration with just a puff of the cheeks and hands raised skywards. "It's been over seven years that I have been thinking about it. I feel like I proved myself, not just to other people but to myself. A lot of people thought I would break under the pressure but it was just fun."

If the Hungarian can keep having fun like this, it won't be a surprise if she smashes four more world records at the Olympic Aquatics Centre in Rio.

## Halsall hopeful of England's visit

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh fielding coach Richard Halsall, who returned to Dhaka from England on Friday, has said yesterday that he is hopeful of the England tour taking place this September. He also felt that the situation in Bangladesh at the moment is safe for conducting international tours.

England are scheduled to arrive on September 30 to play two Tests and three ODIs. However, following the terror attack in Gulshan on July 1, England ODI skipper Eoin Morgan had said that he and his team were concerned about the Bangladesh tour. Halsall however reckons that the tour should go on as planned.

Referring to the Gulshan attack, the Englishman said: "It is not an incident, it is an atrocity. But they happen all over the world -- in Belgium, France, Germany. I happened to be in London when it was under attack. I was in India when the Taj was attacked. The world we live in, nowadays, these things do happen. And it is tragic for people involved. So my thoughts are with those people who have been murdered."

"I am hopeful that the tour will take place. England are, I think, committed to play cricket all over the world. It is my job to coach, and for England to assess whether it is safe here for their players. I think it is safe to be here. But it is up to them to decide whether it is safe for the team to come. Obviously it is a different situation for a team. But I really hope that they do come. We need to play some international cricket," added Halsall while speaking to reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

While there was talk about the possibility of the foreign coaches rethinking their plans with the BCB following the Gulshan attack, Halsall said that he was always planning on returning.

"It was always my intention to come back. I am a professional, and my job is to coach. BCB has been very kind to me. The sensible thing to do after the attack was to let everything calm down. We didn't have any international cricket at the time. I think things probably calmed down but it doesn't mean things aren't going to happen but that's the same in England, America, Australia, France, Germany," he said.

## BJMC thwart Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER from Mymensingh



Faltering giants Mohammedan SC surrendered a lead to be held to a 1-1 draw by Team BJMC in their JB Bangladesh Premier League encounter at Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh yesterday.

Mokhlesur Rahman cancelled out a first-half strike from Towhidul Alam Sabuj in the 73rd minute to deliver BJMC's third draw in four matches. Both teams have three points from four matches but BJMC is ahead of Mohammedan by virtue of better goal difference.

With their previous match ending in a goalless draw with Feni Soccer Club, Mohammedan were aiming to record their first win in their fourth match but they had to settle for another stalemate as BJMC gave the superior side a run for their money.

Nigerian midfielder Samson Iliasu created a wonderful opportunity for BJMC in the ninth minute with a cutback from the right flank to Sohail Rana, but the former Sheikh Jamal striker wasted the chance. Mohammedan wasted one of their own when in the 21st minute Masuk Mia Jonny taking too much time and allowing defender Baybeck Esaie to clear from inside the box.

In the stoppage time of first half, Sabuj finally broke the deadlock with a nice curving from shot outside the box that gave BJMC goalkeeper Arifuzzaman Himel no chance and Mohammedan went to the break with a 1-0 lead.

After resumption, BJMC regrouped to press for the equaliser and succeeded when Mokhlesur Rahman nodded in a header off substitute Abdullah Parvez to equalise the margin.

## Sk Russel's season of broken promises

SPORTS REPORTER



Before this football season began, Sheikh Russel KC had announced their intention of sweeping all the season's trophies. However, on the back of failures in the Independence Cup and the Federation Cup, even a solitary trophy is now out of their reach following their fourth defeat in as many matches in the season-ending Bangladesh Premier League.

Under the guidance of successful domestic coach Maruful Haque, Sheikh Russel have so far played 14 matches for only five wins, two draws and seven losses including five in a row dating back to the Federation Cup semifinal.

Maruful's admission of the race being over has highlighted the flaws of the big-spending Sheikh Russel, a rare treble winner in 2012-13 season.

"The players make the same mistakes and it happens because of their lack of confidence. It is not possible to win matches if the players make same mistakes regularly. I will say the players are not serious," a frustrated Maruful said.

Losing to minnows Uttar Baridhara Club in the opening match was thought to be a fluke but they suffered further defeats against minnows Rahmatganj MFS and Feni Soccer Club. Sheikh Russel did create a lot of scoring chances in the last two matches but did not get the deserved goal while their defenders fumbled in the last moments to concede the defeats.

"I did not get the players I wanted before the start of the season, I was forced to take this group of players, who mostly sat idle on the bench in the last season," Maruful said, adding: "The players and I are responsible for this failure."

During the transfer window, Sheikh Russel signed up some vital players, but most of them -- like Abdul Baten Komol, Zahid Hasan Emily, Mithun Chowdhury -- are still nursing injuries while Atiqur Rahman Meshu, Nasirul Islam and Shakhawat Hossain Rony have started playing after recovering from their injuries.

The recent performances of Fikru Teferra is also under the scanner but the Ethiopian striker had scored five goals in six matches in the Independence Cup before being suspended following his scuffle with Paul Emile.

There have been whispers of over-payment for some players and that a few club officials earned a lot of money as 'commission' to rope in injured players.

"I know one incident that one player was given Tk 15 lakh more than the amount Abahani Ltd offered to him while a few poor quality players were signed up for high price," said a former club official, who was initially involved with recruitment, on condition of anonymity.

## England take 2-1 lead

AFP, Birmingham



Moeen Ali starred with both bat and ball as England beat Pakistan by 141 runs to win the third Test at Edgbaston on Sunday.

Victory left England 2-1 up in the four-match series ahead of next week's concluding Test at The Oval.

It also meant England had become the first team in 114 years of Test cricket at Edgbaston to win after conceding a lead of more than 100 runs batting first.

Pakistan, set a huge target of 343 for victory after England declared on 445 for six early on Sunday's final day, were dismissed for 201.

Off-spinner Ali, who earlier in the day struck a quickfire 86 not out, sealed England's win when he caught and bowled tailender Sohail Khan.

Pakistan suffered a middle-order collapse shortly before tea as they lost four wickets for just one run in 23 balls.

At tea, Pakistan were 148 for seven, with Yasir Shah seven not out and Mohammad Amir 15 not out.

With all their specialist batsmen dismissed, the question for Pakistan was could their tailenders somehow survive the remaining 28 overs to hold out for a draw.

### SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First Innings 297				
PAKISTAN: First Innings 400				
ENGLAND: Second Innings 445 for 6 dec.				
PAKISTAN: Second Innings				
Hafeez c Woakes b Broad	2			
Aslam b Finn	70			
Azhar c Cook b Ali	38			
Younis c Bairstow b Anderson	4			
Misbah c Bairstow b Finn	10			
Shafiq lbw b Woakes	0			
Sarfraz c Root b Woakes	0			
Shah c Hales b Anderson	7			
Amir c Woakes b Broad	16			
Sohail not out	36			
Rahat not out	15			
Extras: (lb-2, nb-1)	3			
Total: (All out in 70.5 overs)	201			
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-79, 3-92, 4-124, 5-125, 6-125, 7-125, 8-149, 9-151, 10-201.				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Anderson	13	3	31	2
Broad	15	7	24	2
Woakes	11	2	53	2
Finn	13	5	38	2
Ali	17.5	4	49	2



England pacer Chris Woakes continued his red-hot form, picking up the fifth day of Asad Shafiq and Sarfraz Ahmed to rush Pakistan towards a defeat on the fifth day of the third Test at Edgbaston yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

বাংলাদেশের #1 স্পোর্টস ব্র্যান্ড

BERGER Robbialac

বাজার জীবন ইকোবন্ড

### MEDALS TALLY

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Australia	2	0	1
Hungary	2	0	0
United States	1	4	0
China	1	2	3
Republic of Korea	1	1	0
Russian Federation	1	1	0
Japan	1	0	4
Argentina	1	0	0
Belgium	1	0	0
Thailand	1	0	0
Vietnam	1	0	0
Italy	0	1	1
Kazakhstan	0	1	1
Brazil	0	1	0
Denmark	0	1	0
Indonesia	0	1	0
Canada	0	0	1
Spain	0	0	1
Greece	0	0	1
Poland	0	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	0	1

(The medals tally was updated at 12:30am Bangladesh time)