



## QUOTES OF THE DAY

I'm not the next Usain Bolt or Michael Phelps, I'm the first Simone Biles.

- America's new gymnastics star is not keen on being compared to other athletes

When you are the first to do something no one can take that away from you.

- Golfer Justin Rose after scoring the first hole-in-one in Olympic history

Some people may go to work now but I don't think they will be very productive.

- Fiji Rugby Union chief executive on the wild celebrations that greeted Fiji's men's rugby win, their first ever Olympic medal

They are very shiny and attractive and people like looking at them. That's why I wear them.

- China's Lin Dan on the gold shoes he hopes will carry him to a repeat badminton title



**THAT'S FOUR:** USA swimmer Michael Phelps holds up four fingers after he won his fourth gold medal at the Rio Olympics in the 200 metres individual medley on Thursday to take his overall tally to a mind-boggling 22 gold medals.

PHOTO: AFP

## We can beat Eng: Shakib

SPORTS REPORTER



ACE all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has said that he wants Bangladesh to win both the ODI and Test series against England this October.

The left-armed returned to the country yesterday morning after winning the Caribbean Premier League with the Jamaica Tallawahs.

Speaking to reporters at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, he said: "I definitely think that we can win the one-day series. We also have the ability to win in Test cricket. Basically, I want to win both the Test and the one-day series and I know that the entire team wants the same."

In 13 CPL matches, Shakib scored a total of 160 runs at an average of 22.85. With the ball he scalped 12 wickets at a miserly economy rate of 6.94. He said that he was happy with the way he played in the West Indies.

"I think I performed well. I didn't get a chance to bat where I normally bat in T20s. But I performed whenever the team needed me and that's why I am happy," he said.

Following the CPL Shakib overtook Sunil Narine in the wickets tally and with 242 wickets has the highest number of wickets in T20s amongst spinners. He ranks seventh overall.

The left-armed though played down the achievement. "The others are great bowlers as well. I guess I was a little lucky as well. But yes I will definitely try to hold on to this form for a long time."

It is still uncertain whether Shakib will join the ongoing national camp at Mirpur. "Let's see. I might spend some time outside cricket and then get back in full rhythm. I will have to talk and discuss the matter with our coach," he said.

## Can't stop, won't stop A pioneer in dire straits

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Michael Phelps of the United States won the Olympic 200 metres individual medley on Thursday to capture the 22nd gold medal of his career and become the first swimmer to win the same event at four consecutive Games.

Japan's 400 IM champion Kosuke Hagino won silver and Wang Shun of China took bronze, both moving dramatically through the field on the final length after turning in fifth and seventh place.

It was yet another extraordinary swim for Phelps, 31, who has now won two individual and two relay golds at his fifth Olympics, two years after coming out of retirement.

His medal haul has now risen to 26, including two silvers and two bronzes, with the 100 butterfly final still to come. Thirteen of his golds have come in individual races, the rest in relays.

"Right now I don't know how to wrap my head around that. I don't know what to say. It's been a hell of a career," Phelps told reporters, while acknowledging the strain on his 31-year-old body.

"That hurt a lot ... my body is in pain, my legs are hurting, I'm tired."

Despite winning four golds in

London in 2012, Phelps said he was dissatisfied with his preparation and results there and wants to bow out on his own terms.

"The biggest thing for me through the meet so far is I've been able to kind of finish how I wanted to. I've been able to come back and I've been able to accomplish things that I just dreamt of," he said.

finals of the 100m butterfly, which he also has the chance to win for a fourth successive Games.

He finished second in his semi-final to qualify fifth fastest for Friday's final.

In the medley, Brazil's Thiago Pereira went off fastest, leading from Phelps after the butterfly leg, with Ryan Lochte of the United States and Hagino neck-and-neck just behind.

With the Rio crowd's excitement mounting, the three turned almost together after the backstroke, with Lochte just 0.01 seconds ahead.

Phelps led from Pereira and Lochte at the final turn and powered on as they faded, opening the way for Hagino and Wang to grab the other medals.

Phelps clocked one minute, 54.66 for a winning margin of 1.95 seconds. Japan's Hiromasa Fujimori was fourth and Lochte fifth in the last individual race of his long career.

Phelps' four consecutive golds in the same event are unique for a swimmer, and place him in the same Olympic pantheon as fellow-Americans Al Oerter in the discus and Carl Lewis in the long jump.



He was lauded by the Rio crowd, with one banner proclaiming "Phelps Greatest Olympian Ever". At the medal ceremony he swayed slightly and breathed deeply, his eyes moist, as he listened to the U.S. anthem.

Phelps then raised his arms to salute the crowd as fiancée Nicole cradled their baby son Boomer in the stands.

There was little time to savour the moment, however, as he raced back off the pool deck to get ready for the semi-

SPORTS REPORTER



REZA-E-KARIM, a dedicated cricket organiser in the formative years of the country's cricket, has been suffering from multiple diseases. His medical expenses are crippling his family's finances.

"My father (Reza-E-Karim) has multiple problems. We need to spend a huge amount of money for his kidney dialysis every month. We spent around Tk 45 lakh for his cancer treatment in Singapore and borrowed a huge amount for his treatment. We are really struggling to maintain his treatment," said Nazmul Karim, the only son of the 76-year old Reza.

"In January this year Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) gave us Tk 6 lakh for his treatment and we are grateful to the board. But his cancer treatment in Singapore in April this year made things difficult for us and that's why some time in June we wrote to the BCB for their help. We are yet to get any response," he added.

Reza-E-Karim was a secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (as BCB was then called) during its formative years and he successfully ran the show year after year with great success. It was he who had drafted the board's first constitution. Karim had worked hard to convince Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) to visit to Bangladesh in 1976, which eventually earned the country the ICC Associate membership the following year on the basis of the MCC's recommendations.

## One more day for Fizz

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman spent an extra day at the BUPA Cromwell Hospital in London yesterday.

He was supposed to be released yesterday, but his surgeon Andrew Wallace advised him to stay an extra day since the left-armed had complained of some discomfort.

"There was a little bit of pain and he was a little uncomfortable, so we decided to let him spend another day in the hospital," BCB director Jalal Yunus told The Daily Star yesterday.

"He will be out of the hospital on Saturday morning. The doctor will have a check on him again after a week. In the meantime he will also discuss the rehab procedure with our sports physician Debashish Chowdhury. It seems Mustafizur won't return home before August 20," added Yunus.

The pacer had already started a series of ROM (range of motion) exercises, wherein he is required to move his hand a little bit. The logic behind starting the ROM so early, according to Debashish, is so that he feels less pain in the future.

## Misfiring Sk Russel score first point

SPORTS REPORTER from Mymensingh

Big-spending Sheikh Russel KC earned their first point in the ongoing JB Bangladesh Premier League when they surrendered a lead to play out a 1-1 draw with Team BJMC at the Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh yesterday.

Local boy Jakir Hossain Ziku cancelled out a 25-minute header from Jean Jules Ikanga five minutes into the second half to provide the fourth draw in five matches to BJMC while bottom-placed Sheikh Russel walked away with their first draw after four losses on the trot.

Coach Maruful Haque brought four changes to Sheikh Russel's playing eleven that lost to Feni Soccer 0-2 in the previous match and the changes seemed to be working in the first half but they then faced a stiff challenge from BJMC, who came back into the match in the second half following a couple of changes up front and were unlucky not to secure all three points against the superior side.

Sheikh Russel took a lead through Cameroonian Ikanga, who headed a Monaem Khan Raju free kick home in front of approximately 80,000-strong holiday crowd. But since then, Sheikh Russel forwards kept misfiring like in previous matches and could well have conceded a fifth straight defeat had it not been for some brilliant saves by goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman who thwarted at least three good chances from BJMC boots.

BJMC bit back soon after the break as substitute Abdullah Parvez and Mehdi Hasan Tapu threatened to pull back the lead, with the latter eventually making the play for the equaliser. Nigerian Samson Iliasu nicely released a ball for Tapu, who placed a forward-pass in first touch for Ziku and the local boy from Gafargaon levelled the margin from an angular shot five minutes into the second half.

The match could then have gone either way as Sheikh Russel forwards Shakhawat Hossain Rony and Mithun Chowdhury squandered a total of four scoring chances while BJMC's Samson and Tapu missed the open net twice.

## A home away from home

ATIQUE ANAM from Rio de Janeiro

There is Michael Phelps. There is Usain Bolt. Kohei Uchimura. Katinka Hosszu. Katie Ledecky... And then there is Yusra Mardini and Rami Anis.

Mardini or Anis might not quite fit into the category of the formers as far as sporting excellence is concerned, but that does not stop them from being some of the most sought-after personalities of the Rio Olympics. They are in the limelight because they come with a back story that is uplifting and worth being told again and again. That story goes right along the lines of the spirit of the Olympics and fits with those of Phelps and Bolt and the like.

Mardini's story starts in war-torn Damascus where she used to be a top swimmer and a sure bet for the Syrian

Olympic team this year. But the war forced her to flee the country along with her sister one night a year ago. The two crossed over to Turkey and boarded a dinghy in the dead of night with 18 other people and set off for the Greek Island of Lesbos.

But they had hardly gone a few hundred metres before the motor of the boat stopped and the boat threatened to capsize. Mardini, her sister and two other people who knew how to swim, got into water and pushed it all the way to the shore. From there they crossed boundaries before finally arriving in Berlin.

In Berlin Yusra found a coach who was willing to give everything to make her dream come true. She trained painstakingly under the coach, and

now she is part of the 10-man Refugees Olympic Team, formed by the International Olympic Committee for the first time this year.

Rami Anis, from Aleppo, has a similar story of a treacherous journey to Turkey before getting to Belgium.

Anis and Mardini are not alone in this. There are hundreds of thousands like them all over the world who have fled persecution, war and hunger in search of a safe and secured life, each carrying a unique and compelling story. 10 of these refugees have been selected by the International Olympic Committee to represent a Refugees Olympic Team.

None of those 10 have set the Games on fire with either their skill or timing, but they have been welcomed wholeheartedly by all and sundry. They were received with raucous applause by the crowd in the Games' opening march-past. And they are being cheered in whichever event they are taking part.

Mardini, now far away from the horrors of war, says the whole experience has been surreal. "There are a lot of people from other countries who are not even refugees. They tell me that I have a reason after I saw your story and the other refugees' stories to continue and to help my mum or something. This was really amazing; this is what keeps motivating me now," the 18-year-old swimmer told media on Friday.

Anis summed up what participation in the Olympics means to them and the many like them who have found something to cling to. "It will give hope to millions of refugees. It will also give a message to all refugees not to disappear."



**The first of the refugees in action,** 18-year-old Syrian swimmer Yusra Mardini, competed in the 100-metre butterfly heat. Upon her return to the competitive circuit after two years, she finished 45th out of 48 swimmers. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Double gold brings double delight



**Canadian swimmer Penny Oleksiak and USA's Simone Manuel (L) celebrate after tying for gold.** PHOTO: REUTERS

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Canadian Penny Oleksiak and Simone Manuel of the United States were inseparable at the finish and even more united in joy after a stunning 100 metres freestyle dead-heat rewarded both with Olympic gold on Thursday.

Both women, one 16 and the other 20, touched the wall in 52.70 seconds as the crowd gasped at the times flashing up on the scoreboard.

It was the second time the women's 100 freestyle had ended in such a fashion -- the 1984 Los Angeles Games saw a tie between Americans Nancy Hogshead and Carrie Steinseifer in 55.92.

That was the first double gold in Olympic swimming and it came after the timing was reduced from a thousandth of a second to a hundredth following a controversial dead-heat in the 1972 men's 400 individual medley.

"It's amazing to tie for gold. I never thought I'd win. She deserves it as much as me," said Oleksiak. "I'm only 16 so it's pretty insane to win a gold medal in your first Olympics."

Oleksiak has now collected four medals from Rio -- the most by a Canadian at a summer Games. Manuel's first gold also comes at her first Olympics where she, as an African-American swimmer, also had a particular resonance.