



GREATEST SIGNS OFF WITH GOLD

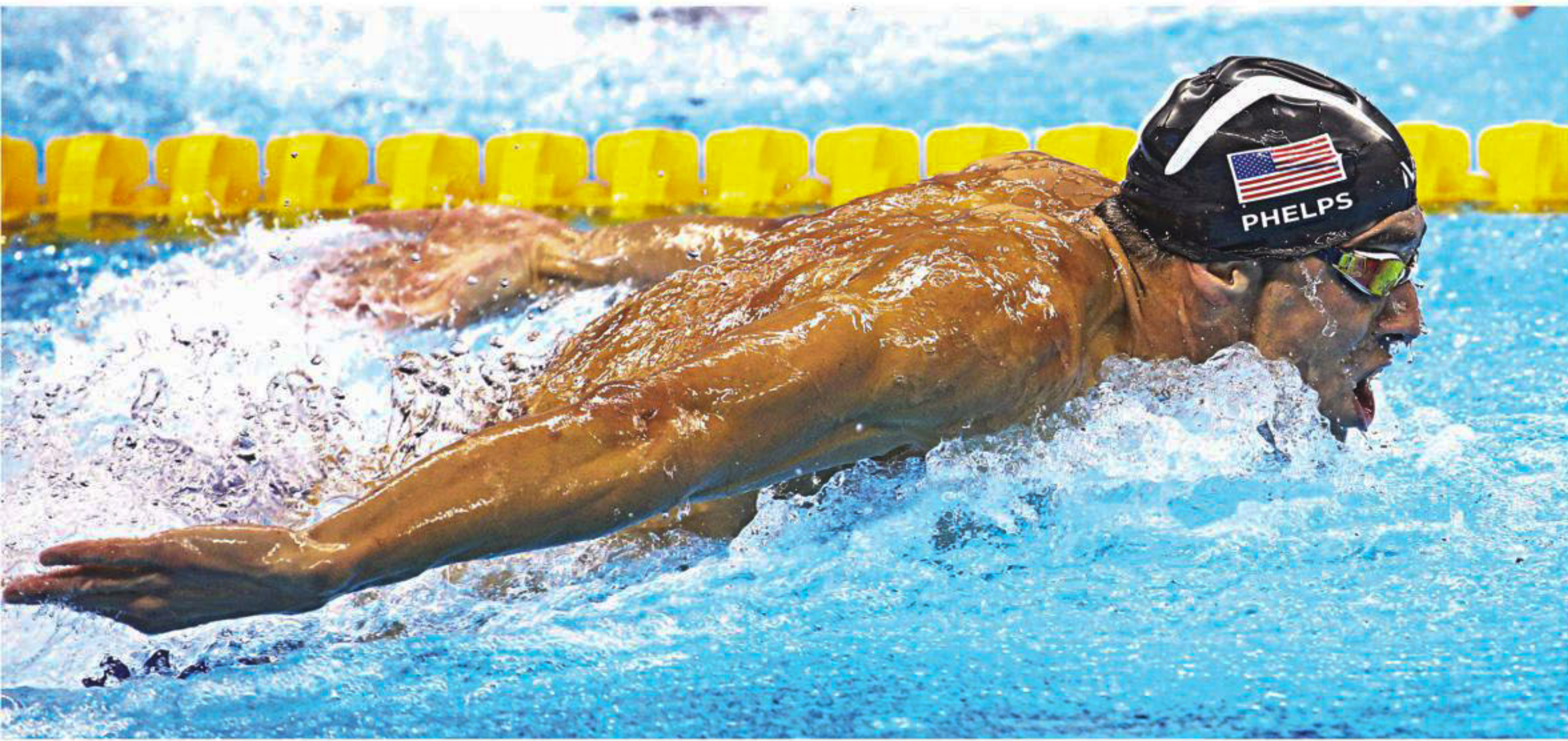


PHOTO: REUTERS

GOLDEN GOODBYE: Saturday was the last time Michael Phelps took to the pool and fittingly, the legend left with a gold in

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Michael Phelps brought the curtain down on one of sport's most storied careers with a dynamite relay swim to give himself 23 Olympic gold medals and declared it a perfect finale.

The American, far and away the most decorated athlete in Olympic history, finished with five gold and a silver in Rio after signing off in dramatic style, coming to the rescue in the 4x100m medley final.

Turning back the clock in his fifth and final Games, Phelps produced a blistering third leg of butterfly to restore his team's lead and tee up victory after Britain's Adam Peaty had threatened to gatecrash his party.

"Getting off the bus and walking to the pool tonight, I pretty much felt myself starting to crack," confessed Phelps.

"Last warm-up, last time putting on a suit, last time walking out in front of people, representing my country -- it's insane, a lot better than it was four years ago," added the 31-year-old, who retired after the 2012 London Games before returning.

"This is how I wanted to finish my career. I've lived a

dream come true. Being able to cap it off with these Games is just the perfect way to finish."

Phelps coach Bob Bowman believes we will never see his likes again.

"Absolutely not, I'm not even looking," Bowman said after Saturday's final swimming. "He's too special. It's not even once in a generation -- it may be once in 10 generations that someone like Michael comes along."

"He just had so many things going for him: he had the

physical skills, the mental outlook, the family that supported swimming. He has an emotional ability to get up for big races and actually perform better under pressure.

"I don't think you're going to see another Michael," added Bowman, terming him "motivation machine".

He, however, said each one of those golds was the product of sweat and stress.

"Every one of those was hard. Maybe the very first one was the easiest one. After that they've all been super-hard", said Bowman, who first detected Phelps as an 11-year-old swimmer.

Phelps, watched by fiancée Nicole and baby son Boomer in Rio Games, however declined to reveal where he kept all his medals but said he might let Boomer take a medal to school one day to show his buddies.

"I might let him take one for 'show and tell'," he laughed. "I'm sure he'll eventually take them over when I pass but that's a long time. I'd probably give him one to take to show and tell -- I might have to go with him and take every step with him when he goes and shows it."

Phelps added: "The other night when I was on Face Time, I was kind of moving the medal around and his eyes just

PHELPS'S RECORD TIMELINE

EVENT	RIO 2016	LONDON 2012	BEIJING 2008	ATHENS 2004
100M BUTTERFLY	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
200M BUTTERFLY	Gold	Silver	Gold	Gold
200M MEDLEY	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
400M MEDLEY			Gold	Gold
4X100M FREESTYLE	Gold	Silver	Gold	Gold
4X200M FREESTYLE	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
4X100M MEDLEY	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
200M FREESTYLE			Gold	Gold

WHAT THEY SAY



In London I spent the final night of racing watching Michael Phelps swim his "last race". Today, I did the exact same in Rio. What an honour.

-Cameron Mcevoy

It's not even once in a generation -- it may be once in 10 generations that someone like Michael comes along.

-Bob Bowman, Phelps' Coach

I imagine Phelps now walking along Ipanema beach, taking one last look, and then diving in and swimming home.

-Rohan Joshi

Sad to see Phelps forced into retirement by repetitive stress injury from bending down to have medals placed on his neck.

-Jesse Spector

You have given America four incredible Olympic games, Michael Phelps. You do whatever you want to with your life now. It's your



বাংলাদেশের #1 পেস্ট ব্র্যান্ড
সর্বাধিক বিক্রিত

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বাহারের সর্বোত্তম ইলেক্ট্রোলস

MEDALS TALLY

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
United States	24	18	18
China	13	11	17
Great Britain	10	13	7
Germany	8	5	3
Japan	7	3	14
Russian Federation	6	9	8
Australia	6	7	9
Italy	6	7	5
Republic of Korea	6	3	4
France	5	8	5
Hungary	5	3	3
Netherlands	3	2	3
Spain	3	0	2
New Zealand	2	6	0
Canada	2	2	8
Kazakhstan	2	2	3
Belgium	2	1	1
Thailand	2	1	1
Croatia	2	1	0
Switzerland	2	0	1
Iran	2	0	0

(The medals tally was updated at 10:00pm Bangladesh time)

Siddikur caps BD's sorry campaign

ATIQUE ANAM from Rio de Janeiro

Bangladesh's participation at the Rio Olympic Games came to a sorry end on Sunday after golfer Siddikur Rahman finished 59th out of 60 participants in the individual strokeplay event.

The flagbearer of Bangladesh at these Games, Siddikur exchanged seven bogeys for three birdies in the fourth round at the Olympic Golf Course for an aggregate score of 11-over (295). Having become the first Bangladeshi to qualify for the Olympics, Siddikur's lowly finish will have disappointed a lot of his fans back home.

The 31-year-old said that the golf course here is quite different from those he usually plays on in Asia, where the courses are short and with fewer hazards. This type of golf course, he said, are the ones that get one prepared for the best tournaments like the PGA Tour events.

Siddikur was part of a seven-athlete team from Bangladesh, with the six others being archer Shyamoly Roy, shooter Abdullah Hel Baki, sprinters Mezbah Ahmed and Shirin Akter, swimmers Mahfizur Rahman Sagar and Sonia Akter Tumpa.

Being the most populous nation never to have won an Olympic medal, there was not much expectation in the country's ninth appearance in the world's biggest sports extravaganza. However, there was some hope against hope that there might be a surprise result or two, especially in golf and shooting. But that was not to be; shooter Baki finished 25th among 50 competitors in 10m air rifle event while Siddikur hardly did justice to his reputation.

The Games started with Shyamoly losing her round-of-32 match (opening round) in 3-0 sets while both the sprinters failed to even get close to their official best times. The swimmers, though, were the only positives from this campaign as both of them bettered their previous bests.

Even though their engagement in these Games are over, the Bangladeshi athletes, except for Siddikur, will stay on in Rio and return a couple of days after the closing ceremony takes place at the Maracana on August 21.

Tennis has a new star

ATIQUE ANAM from Rio de Janeiro

At 5ft 7in, Monica Puig does not look like the strongest female tennis player on the court. But when she hits the ball, she hits it with real power. On Saturday night at the centre court of the Rio Olympic Tennis Centre, this unheralded Puerto Rican brought down the odds-on favourite and world no. 2 Angelique Kerber with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 win to take the women's singles gold medal.

Representing a country with little tennis pedigree and only two silver medals to show for from the Olympics thus far, the 22-year-old was a long shot to even reach the final of the event. So far in her career, she has won only one WTA title alongside five ITF titles. But this tournament has seen a different Puig as she lost only a single set in the whole tournament and knocked out players like French Open champion Garbine Muguza before the final heroics.

The 22-year-old was always the dominant force in the match, and despite losing the second set, she always looked like she was in command. Puig unleashed her full repertoire of strokes in the third and despite Kerber mounting a challenge late in the final set, Puig closed off the contest to become the first female athlete from her country to win an Olympic medal.

As soon as she won the final point, Puig threw her racket to the ground, buried her face in her hands

and started crying tears of joy, shouting: "Oh my God".

"I got better as the tournament went on, got stronger and faster. The crowd kept telling me, 'yes, you can', 'yes, you can' and I told myself 'yes, I can', 'yes, I can'," Puig later told reporters. "I can't

Puerto Rican flag on her twitter account with the caption: "Ever since I was a little girl, I dreamed about this moment and it's finally here."

Then on the eve of the final, she posted: "Never wake me up from

IN MEN'S FINAL

In the men's final on Sunday, defending champion Andy Murray will take on back-in-form Juan Martin del Potro after the two players had contrasting semifinal victories on Saturday.

Del Potro put paid to former champion Rafael Nadal's hopes of a double gold, winning in three sets while Murray cruised to a comfortable victory over Kei Nishikori.

The 2009 US Open champion lost the first set 7-5, but broke Nadal early in the second set before taking it 6-4. The Argentine then broke the Spaniard to go 5-4 up in the third set, but Nadal roared back in the next game as the crowd erupted. The match went into a tie-break where the Argentine sealed victory 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5).

"I can't believe I'm in the final, especially when the draw came out and I had Novak Djokovic [in the first round]," Del Potro later said at the mixed zone. "It's a triumph of those helping me when my arms can't stand it anymore. They help me go for another ball."

Murray, however, had a much easier time dispatching Nishikori 6-1, 6-4 in just one and a half hours. After having battled through three-sets in the previous two rounds, the three-time Grand Slam champion showed his best form against the Japanese and was already looking for a repeat of his London 2012 triumph, a win that will make him the only tennis



Puerto Rico's Monica Puig won gold by beating Germany's Angelique Kerber in the Olympic women's singles tennis. REUTERS

believe what I have achieved. It's one of my biggest dreams."

The morning before her opening round match, the little-known 34th-ranked Puerto Rican posted a picture of herself wrapped in a

this dream I'm living."

Now after her emphatic display over the favourite, it seems like she is going to live this dream over and over again through her career.

MURRAY MEETS DEL POTRO

BCB sets Kalpage ultimatum

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh assistant coach Ruwan Kalpage, who had signed a new contract with the Tigers in July, has been served a notice by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to arrive in Bangladesh by August 16. According to BCB officials, the Sri Lankan's contract shall be terminated if he fails to do so.

BCB director Jalal Yunus confirmed the board's decision. "He received a new contract in July this year along with the other members of the team management. But if he fails to come here on time, then his contract will be terminated," Yunus told The Daily Star yesterday.

While the rest of the foreign coaches of

the national team have already joined the ongoing national camp at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Kalpage is yet to arrive in the country.

The reason behind Kalpage's delay is still not confirmed, but it was learnt that he still had concerns and was observing the security situation in the country.

On another note, BCB director Akram Khan has revealed that the board is completely satisfied with Taskin Ahmed's bowling action and is ready to allow him to take an official test in an ICC-accredited centre in the first week of next month.

The same however, cannot be said with regards to Arafat Sunny. The off-spinner went through a test yesterday and whether or not he will be sent along with Taskin will depend upon his latest bowling report.

Solid reply from Aus

AFP, Colombo

Half-centuries from skipper Steven Smith and Shaun Marsh kept Australia in the hunt after Dinesh Chandimal's ton for Sri Lanka dominated Sunday's play in the third and final Test.

Australia, who lost opener David Warner early, were 141 for one at stumps on the second day and trailing the hosts by 214 in the first innings.

SCORES IN BRIEF
SRI LANKA: First innings 355 (Chandimal 132, De Silva 129, Starc 5-63)
AUSTRALIA: First innings 141 for 1 (Marsh 64 not out, Smith 61 not out)

Ctg Abahani thrash Baridhara

ANISUR RAHMAN from Mymensingh



Title contenders Chittagong Abahani fired on all cylinders to roar

to a massive 6-1 win over newly promoted Uttar Baridhara Club in their JB Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh yesterday.

Mohammad Ibrahim struck a brace while Haitian Leonel Saint Preux, Zahid Hossain, Shakil Ahmed and Raihan Hasan struck one goal each to take Chittagong Abahani to the solo lead with 11 points from five outings. Khalekuzzaman Sabuj struck the consolation goal for Uttar Baridhara, who suffered their fourth straight defeat since their memorable 1-0 win over Sheikh Russel KC.

Having played four big matches against Abahani, Mohammedan SC, Sheikh Russel KC and Sheikh Jamal DC, Chittagong Abahani excelled in all departments against the weaker Uttar Baridhara, who also conceded five goals against Sheikh Jamal in Chittagong.

Although it was a team performance for the Independence Cup champions, there were a few noteworthy individual performers -- Zahid, Preux and Ibrahim -- as they put up perhaps their best performance in the league so far.

Zahid was excellent after finding a place in the starting eleven for the second time and the winger put Chittagong Abahani ahead with the fastest goal of the ongoing league as he headed home a cross from Ibrahim 30 seconds into the match.

Baridhara provided a semblance of

resistance after equalising in the fifth minute through Sabuj but since then the promoted outfit were unable to foil the wave of attacks from Chittagong Abahani, who restored the lead in the 26th minute through an angular shot from Preux that beat goalkeeper Mohammad Razib.

Then Ibrahim struck two successive goals within a span of seven minutes, fed by Zahid and Preux from the flanks in front of an open net in the 39th minute and the stoppage time respectively.

After resumption, Slovakian coach Jozef Pavik brought a few changes in place of Zahid, Preux and defender Sohel Rana, but there was no shortage of attacks from Chittagong Abahani with substitute winger Shakil and substitute defender Raihan striking in the 86th minute and in the stoppage