



বাংলাদেশের #1 পেইন্ট ব্র্যান্ড

BERGER Robbitalac

বাংলা ও বিশ্বের ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল

### FINAL MEDALS TALLY

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
United States	46	37	38
Great Britain	27	23	17
China	26	18	26
Russian Federation	19	18	19
Germany	17	10	15
Japan	12	8	21
France	10	18	14
Republic of Korea	9	3	9
Italy	8	12	8
Australia	8	11	10
Netherlands	8	7	4
Hungary	8	3	4
Brazil	7	6	6
Spain	7	4	6
Kenya	6	6	1
Jamaica	6	3	2
Croatia	5	3	2
Cuba	5	2	4
New Zealand	4	9	5
Canada	4	3	15
Uzbekistan	4	2	7
Kazakhstan	3	5	9
Colombia	3	2	3
Switzerland	3	2	2
Iran	3	1	4
Greece	3	1	2
Argentina	3	1	0
Denmark	2	6	7
Sweden	2	6	3
South Africa	2	6	2
Ukraine	2	5	4
Serbia	2	4	2
Poland	2	3	6
DPR Korea	2	3	2
Belgium	2	2	2
Thailand	2	2	2
Slovakia	2	2	0
Georgia	2	1	4
Azerbaijan	1	7	10
Belarus	1	4	4
Turkey	1	3	4
Armenia	1	3	0
Czech Republic	1	2	7
Ethiopia	1	2	5
Slovenia	1	2	1
Indonesia	1	2	0
Romania	1	1	3
Bahrain	1	1	0
Vietnam	1	1	0
Taipei (Chinese)	1	0	2
Bahamas	1	0	1
Côte d'Ivoire	1	0	1
IOA	1	0	1
Fiji	1	0	0
Jordan	1	0	0
Kosovo	1	0	0
Puerto Rico	1	0	0
Singapore	1	0	0
Tajikistan	1	0	0

(28 more countries put their names in the medals tally)



A Brazilian samba dancer performs during the colourful closing ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Maracana Stadium on Sunday. PHOTO: MONIRUL BHUIYAN

## Multi-colour curtain falls on Rio

AGENCIES, Rio de Janeiro

The curtain descended on two weeks of high drama at the Rio Games, marked by the heroics of Olympics legends Usain Bolt and Michael Phelps as Tokyo took up the baton and promised to go one better in 2020.

As Brazil shrugs off a post-Olympic hangover to face a deepening political and economic crisis, memories of Jamaican Bolt and Phelps will linger after they set the 2016 Olympics alight.

Swimming legend Phelps, Bolt, and an array of others helped the Games rise above the taint of scandal following the exposure of state-sponsored doping in Russia.

And security scares, off-field scandals and organisational gaffes were overshadowed as 16 days of competition ended in a blaze of colour late Sunday with an exuberant closing ceremony.

Smiling and waving athletes danced into the Maracana stadium to launch an all-night party after the Rio Games were described by Olympics chief Thomas Bach as "marvellous."

Joy did come for many Brazilians on the final day and fittingly in football. The home men's national team earned its greatest Olympic mem-

ory by winning the men's gold medal.

The country celebrated long and loud when Neymar won a gold-medal penalty shoot-out against Germany to erase memories of their 7-1 World Cup semifinal humiliation in 2014.

In the pool, Michael Phelps swam into retirement, the US great adding five golds to a tally

Then came Rio standout Katie Ledecky. At the age of 19 she obliterated her own world record in winning the 800m freestyle, uniting the 200m, 400m and 800m titles for the first time since 1968. The American added the 4x200m relay gold as a bonus.

Another 19-year-old newcomer, Simone Biles, dominated the gymnastics arena with her record-equalling four women's gold medals and a bronze at her first Games.

Andy Murray also wrote some history, becoming the first tennis player to defend Olympic gold in singles.

The athletics programme produced three world records, including stunning runs in the 400m by South Africa's Wayde van Niekerk and women's 10,000m by Almaz Ayana that both erased marks set last century.

Elaine Thompson pulled off a brilliant 100m-200m double as Jamaica again dominated the sprints, while Briton Mo Farah became the second man to retain the 10,000m and 5,000m titles.

But one man bestrode the whole event, Usain Bolt signing off his extraordinary Olympic career with an unprecedented treble-treble: gold in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay for the third time in successive Games.



that now stands at 23, among a total of 28 medals. He bowed out with one last 4x100m relay victory that brought tears to his eyes.

But he was also beatable, as Singapore's Joseph Schooling showed in touching out the legend who had inspired him with a historic victory in the 100m butterfly. Phelps finished in a three-way tie for silver.

## 'Missing Eng series is hard'

### Fizz returns; will begin rehab in four weeks

SPORTS REPORTER

For the second time in two months, a group of journalists waited for Mustafizur Rahman in the VIP area of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

In June this year, the pacer was given what was probably his biggest ever reception in an airport with ministers, his family members and the media converging on him upon his return to Dhaka following the Indian Premier League. Garlanded with flowers, a smiling Mustafizur was brimming with confidence as he spoke to the media.

Two months on, the setting was a lot different. Under heavy security, Mustafizur arrived with his arm in a cast to a bouquet of flowers from the Bangladesh Cricket Board. He is not going through the best of times at the moment, but he still managed a smile.

Longing to go back home after such a long time abroad, he was understandably in a hurry. However, he had just enough time to spend a couple of minutes with the media.

"Alhamdulillah, I am doing well now. After the operation, the doctor showed me a few short exercises to do and also [BCB sports physician] Debashish [Chowdhury] da has received instructions from the doctor with regards to the rehab. I will begin rehab in four weeks' time," he added.

The pacer, who is expected to be out of cricket for nearly four months, will miss England's tour of Bangladesh due to begin in October this year. If he is lucky and recovers in time, he might just make it for Bangladesh's tour of New Zealand, which is set to begin on December 26. It's a situation that he would rather not be in.

"Till now I have been to England twice and got injured on both occasions. Once, during an under-19 tour, and the second time while playing with Sussex. Hopefully, the future will be better.

"Since I am not fit enough to play, I will obviously miss the England series and yes, that does feel bad," he said.

"With all your prayers, I will hopefully be able to get back to the game soon," he added.



Mustafizur Rahman leaves the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport after returning from London yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## U-16s gearing up for the next step

SPORTS REPORTER

Having lifted back-to-back AFC U-14 Women's Regional Championship titles, Bangladesh now have the ambition of qualifying for the finals of next year's AFC U-16 Women's Championship by emerging champions in their Group C.

Qualifiers beginning at Bangabandhu National Stadium from Saturday.

Bangladesh, who were placed in Group C along with Iran, Chinese Taipei, Singapore, Kyrgyzstan and UAE, do not want to give their opponents any quarters, although Iran and Chinese Taipei are considered the group favourites.

"It is tough to secure the first place in Group, but it is not impossible if you look at our performances at international level in the last two years. Considering that, we are also a strong team as we beat Iran in the AFC U-14 tournament in Nepal. We will certainly give them a tough fight on the pitch," said coach Golam Rabbani Choton -- who guided Bangladesh U-14 women's team to the championship twice -- at a press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

In the last edition of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers in Dhaka, Bangladesh beat Jordan 1-0 and UAE 6-0 but went down by identical 2-1 margins against India and eventual group champions Iran despite taking the lead against both teams.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday announced a 23-member final squad, which contains 12 players from the U-14 women's team while 11 players have the experience of playing for the senior women's national team.

Under the guidance of Choton, the girls had nearly two-and-a-half months of training and played three practice matches against the senior women's team, winning all three by convincing margins of 9-1, 6-1 and 6-0.

Captain-cum-striker Krishna Rani is seemingly confident of carrying the performance of the U-14 women's team into the U-16 Qualifying round.

"Our main strength is that we have been together for a long time, so we have a good understanding. Besides, we worked hard in the last two months in training to get better results," said Krishna, who captained the U-14 women's team to the championship in Nepal last year.

"We beat Iran U-14 team in the AFC Regional championship in Nepal. We are now in the U-16 team, so we can expect something good in the Qualifiers," said Krishna, who represented Bangladesh national women's team in the SA Games in India earlier this year.

## Faltering Sk Russel seek AFC Cup tonic

SPORTS REPORTER

A struggling Sheikh Russel KC will be hoping to move past their dismal domestic performance when they take on Tatung FC of Chinese Taipei in their opening Group C match of the AFC Cup Play-Off Qualifiers at Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan today.

The match will start at 6:00pm (Bangladesh Standard Time).

Sheikh Russel have been going through a bad patch in the ongoing JB Bangladesh Premier League, having lost five out of six matches, and the confidence of last edition's runners-up is definitely at a low ebb and it will be a tough task for the charges of Maruful Haque to bounce back at international level.

However, Maruful's boys can be bolstered by the inclusion of four guest players from Chittagong Abahani and Sheikh Jamal DC, who have been in top form.

Sheikh Russel's defence is considered very vulnerable -- they conceded 10 goals in six league matches -- and the inclusion of Nasir Chowdhury and Yeasin Khan will certainly strengthen the backline while winger Mohammad Ibrahim and Rubel Mia of Ctg Abahani will definitely create some scoring opportunity for Sheikh Russel forwards against Tatung FC, who had played out a goalless draw with Tertons FC of hosts Bhutan on Sunday.

## Kashipur rejoices in Margarita's triumph

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

An individual all-round rhythmic gymnastics gold for Russia in the just-concluded Rio Olympics has brought untold joy in Bangladesh because the gold medalist, Margarita Mamun, is the daughter of Abdullah AL Mamun, a Bangladesh-born engineer settled in Russia.

Nowhere is that joy more pronounced, however, than in Kashipur village in Rajshahi, Mamun's birthplace.

Over the last two days following her triumph, members of Mamun's household were showing fellow villagers who had flocked to their home Margarita's performance on tablets and smartphones.

His sister Dina Jahura, a resident of Kashipur, informed that Rita -- as Margarita is known in the village -- had visited the village with her father thrice, the most recent being eight years ago, when the Olympic champion would have been 12 years old.

Mamun built a one-storied house in Kashipur for use when he visits with his family. According to Jahura, Anna and Margarita were not used to the spicy Bangladeshi food, so they would eat boiled shrimp and meat.

The Olympian spent most of her time playing with children of the village and sitting by the homestead pond. Jahura said Mamun would often remind his daughter that this is their home and that she should visit whenever she has time.

Jahura also related the sad news that Mamun is now bed-ridden in Russia, fighting with cancer.

Mamun, a marine engineer was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College after achieving his SSC from Durgapur High School and HSC from Rajshahi Government College.

"He lost his interest in medical education after seeing the morgue," said Jahura. Later in 1983, he went to Russia on an education scholarship and married a Russian rhythmic gymnast named Anna, with whom he has a son Philip AL Mamun along with daughter Margarita.

"She was so small when she visited the village. She has now won gold in the Olympics. She has brought honour for us," said villager Mujibor Rahman.

"We stayed up at night to watch her play in the Olympics. I am so happy for her triumph that I cannot find the words to express it," a beaming village girl named Rawshan Ara added.



Rajshahi-born Abdullah Al Mamun is seen in an old family picture with his daughter Margarita Mamun, who went on to win all-around rhythmic gymnastics gold for Russia in the Rio Olympics.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Pakistan take top Test spot

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan supplanted arch rivals India to become the world's number one Test side on Monday for the first time since the International Cricket Council (ICC) introduced the rankings system in 2003.

A waterlogged outfield in Trinidad forced a draw in the fourth and final Test between the West Indies and India, a match the tourists had to win to hold onto top spot.

Pakistan, who play their home games in the United Arab Emirates, won the fourth and final Test of their recent series in England to seal a 2-2 draw.

Pakistan are only the fifth team after Australia, England, India and South Africa to top the rankings. The top ranking is also a personal achievement for 42-year-old Pakistan captain Misbahul Haq.

"There is no greater feeling than to achieve the number-one ranking in the most traditional and purest format of the sport. This is what cricketers play for and want to achieve in their careers," Misbah said.

Pakistan will be presented with the ICC Test Championship mace in the next few days.

## 'We need the best teachers'

SPORTS REPORTER

Englishman Paul Smalley, the new technical and strategic director of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), put the coaches' development at the top of his priority list after signing a two-year deal with the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

"My first priority would be to develop Bangladeshi coaches because if you are going to develop, we need the best teachers. So my early priority is to look at the infrastructures here.

"If you look at eight divisions, I certainly have some ideas and I need to take some guidance but we need to develop a league scene where we can work closely throughout the country with some of the best coaches," said Smalley during his and Belgian coach Tom Saintfiet's introduction to the media at the BFF House yesterday.

Smalley also believes if Bangladesh can produce the best teachers for the coaches, then those coaches will have a great influence in the development of players in Bangladesh.

"We are going to work with new things in which FIFA will provide us financial assistance. To conduct and develop football across the country, we have appointed a technical and strategic director," said BFF vice-president Kazi Nabil Ahmed, adding that he expects Smalley to come up with a plan within two-three months.

It has also been learnt that the game's governing body would have to bear US 20,000 dollar per month for Paul Smalley and Tom Saintfiet.