

# Aussies dominate Day 1

AFP, New Delhi

The Commonwealth Games got underway on Monday with Australia dominating the first day of action, but sparse crowds caused another headache for under-pressure organisers.

As the focus shifted to sport after a nightmarish run-up damaged India's reputation, the Aussies clinched four gold medals, including the men's team gymnastics title ahead of England and Canada. In the pool, they added

About two million tickets were made available for the multi-sport Games, but rumours have long circulated in the capital that the response has been lacklustre amid delays in finalising the sales network.

There was also farcical scenes at the official boxing

weigh-in, which was abandoned after faulty scales showed most of the fighters were too heavy.

Irate coaches demanded the scales be checked after some boxers tried to sweat off weight by using saunas or going for runs only to return and weigh more than before.

Competition manager Lenni Gama initially tried to brush the issue under the carpet, saying: "The scales are perfect".

But Gama eventually relented with the weigh-in now set for Tuesday morning, just ahead of the opening bouts.

It was the latest crisis at the troubled 11-day Games, which have been dogged by worries over threats of terror attacks, corruption, construction delays, and dengue fever.

The host nation finally found something to cheer about with an epic opening ceremony on Sunday evening, which celebrated the country's long history as well as its emergence as a powerful global player.

Importantly, it went off without any major glitches.

"Finally, Delhi Dazzles," screamed the broadsheet Times of India on its front page, while the tabloid Mail Today simply said "Indiaaah!"

But not everyone was happy, with spectators complaining about long queues to get inside the main Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and a lack of food and water available once there.

At the Dr. S.P. Mukherjee Aquatics Complex, Palmer upstaged Wales' Jaz Carlin and England's Rebecca Adlington to claim the 200m freestyle title in 1:57.50.

"I am speechless," she said. "I really have nothing to say. It is an awesome feeling. You can't get any better than winning a gold medal."

Her teammate Coutts came home in the 200m individual medley ahead of fellow Australian Emily Seebohm and Canada's Julia Wilkinson to win in 2:09.70.

Canada's Cochrane grabbed gold in the men's 400m freestyle, but was pushed all the way in his 3:48.48 win by Australia's Ryan Napoleon, who picked up silver, and defending champion Dave Carry from Scotland, in bronze.

Le Clos, meanwhile, got South Africa's first Delhi gold in the men's 200m butterfly in a time of 1:56.48, holding off England's Michael Rock and Canada's Stefan Hirniak.



Kylie Palmer of Australia celebrates winning the women's 200m freestyle swimming gold in the Commonwealth Games at the SP Mukherjee Stadium in New Delhi yesterday.



Nigeria's Augustina Nkem Nwaokolo completes a lift on way to winning the women's 48kg weightlifting gold in the Commonwealth Games at the Jawaharlal Nehru Sports Complex in New Delhi yesterday. This was the first gold medal of the XIX Commonwealth Games.

MEDALS TABLE			
Country	G	S	B Total
Australia	2	2	0 4
Canada	1	0	2 3
Nigeria	1	0	0 1
South Africa	1	0	0 1
England	0	1	1 2
India	0	1	1 2
Wales	0	1	0 1
Scotland	0	0	1 1

three more with Kylie Palmer powering her way to victory in the 200m freestyle, Alicia Coutts taking the 200m individual medley crown and their men edging England in the 4x100m freestyle relay.

Canada's Ryan Cochrane grabbed gold in the men's 400m freestyle and South Africa's Chad Le Clos won the men's 200m butterfly.

The first gold of the Games belonged to Nigeria's Augustina Nwaokolo, who stunned India's Soniya Chanu to win the women's weightlifting 48kg title.

Nwaokolo, 17, set a new Commonwealth record of 175kg after a snatch lift of 77kg and clean and jerk attempt of 98kg, with Chanu taking silver ahead of compatriot Sandhya Rani.

"I'm the happiest person in the world, I'm very proud," said the teenager. "My next step is the Olympics, to win gold."

While sport took a front seat after a shambolic build-up, the Games' problems refused to go away with glaringly empty stadiums at the swimming heats, netball, tennis and hockey.

## DELHI DIARY

FROM PAGE 17 Games record eclipsing the previous record of Indian's gold medalist Kurjajrani Devi.

**INSECT ATTACK** The Bangladesh weightlifters had experienced bug problems in the Commonwealth Games after checking in at the games village last week, claimed a weightlifter.

On the first day after entering the apartments situated at the banks of River Jamuna, the weightlifters had kept open the windows and the doors for a while and saw different types of insects entering the rooms.

Later they kept the all doors and windows closed to avoid insects.

"It is problem for the weightlifters to stay inside the air-conditioned rooms all the time and we are now opening the windows in daylight to make us fit for the competition," said Fahima Akhter Moina at the Jawaharlal Nehru Complex yesterday.

**FRESH WATER** Hosts India has set up free water services around the competition venues so that the spectators can easily quench their thirst amid the tight security around the venues.

It was seen that a number of water dispensers have been kept in every stall along with disposable glasses. Security guards, pedestrians, volunteers and spectators were all gathered at the water service center to escape the scorching heat at the capital.

**METRO SUFFERINGS** While the gala opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games lifted Delhi's mood and won praise internationally, there were plenty of sufferings for spectators who had started arriving at the new-look Jawaharlal Nehru stadium almost five hours in advance.

They had to bear with glitches in the newly opened Metro line, and stand in 2km-long queues to get inside the stadium while also being sent on wild goose hunts by volunteers who had no idea about the seating arrangements, said the Times of India.

Warned against coming to the show in their vehicles, most spectators took the Sarita Vihar-Central Secretariat line which opened for commuters on Sunday to coincide with the opening ceremony.

But the Metro line ran into serious operational problems, leaving commuters stranded for up to an hour on the 15km route as some trains stopped on the tracks and others rolled past platforms without halting.

**'NOT BAD'** While the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games got high praise from international media, the officials of Bangladesh Olympic Association termed the splendid ceremonies as 'not bad'.

## Tigers seek to right wrongs

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"I want the middle order to perform this time with Shakib (Al Hasan), Mushfiq (Mushfiqur Rahim) and Rokibul (Hasan) needing to step up and discipline their game," said Siddons while speaking at an official press conference on the eve of the first ODI.

The Australian however said that he was looking to see improvement in his team with the World Cup knocking at the door.

"We have two new coaches and we have more space, but the training needs to go on for longer to give the coaches more time with the players. I expect to see improvement but you must remember one of the coaches has been here for three weeks and the other for four weeks with breaks in between."

"The training has not been as hard as I would have liked. I wouldn't expect to see drastic

improvement in areas but we are stepping up steadily and I expect to continue that trend," he added.

Siddons however said that every player in the squad is keen for success in the series.

"I expect the body language to be positive from every one. Tamim's injury gives the opportunity to some one else. Shahriar Nafees has stepped in obviously but Rokibul (Hasan) has got one match after six months and he will be happy to be playing. So every one is keen for this series and everyone wants to play good cricket and we want to win some matches also," he opined.

Captain Mashrafe was confident that it's possible to beat New Zealand if they can play to their best.

"We have had hard training for the last one and a half months. Now we need to have a good start in the series and

that's why the first match is very much important for us. I think it's possible to beat New Zealand if we can play to our potential," said Mashrafe, who is going to lead the team for the first time at home.

"It's a great opportunity for us to gain confidence ahead of the World Cup. I believe everybody will take the opportunity with both hands. We will definitely miss the services of Tamim but hopefully Nafees (Shahriar) can play to his potential," hoped Mashrafe.

The Bangladesh captain has pinned his hopes on his spin bowlers. "Our spinners will play a big role in the series but again everybody has to play their role well if want to win the match," he said, adding that the toss will not be a major factor.

## Danone Nations Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Young champions of Khulna and Tangail have kept their up-and-down performances in the Danone Nations Cup in Pretoria, South Africa.

On the first day when Khulna won one of their games and lost the other three while Tangail lost all four of their matches. Since then Khulna have played four more and lost three of them and won one. Tangail though fared better as they won two and lost two of their games since.

## Vettori

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his role. I think Nathan McCullum has a lot of power in his batting and we are hoping Nathan can take the role that Jacob takes," he said.

"People get opportunities all the time. There are always injuries in world cricket and you always have guys who get the chance and make the most of it. All you want is a big squad and people can compensate."

"There are opportunities for a couple of guys who are in the team and will play tomorrow and we are going to see how they react to conditions in the sub-continent which is the most important thing keeping the World Cup in mind. But that won't take away anything from winning tomorrow," he responded when asked about the absence of Scott Styris and Oram.



The players of Barisal celebrate the fall of Chittagong batsman Gazi Salahuddin (L) on the opening day of their four-day National Cricket League match at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

## League may have 3-day gap

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons expressed his desire for a three-day gap in between matches of the Premier Division Cricket League to make sure of uninterrupted preparation for next year's World Cup.

The Australian gave his opinion when Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal met with the members of the national team, selectors and technical committee members yesterday.

"Siddons expressed his desire for a three-day gap and the president was very much keen to follow his prescription with an eye on the World Cup. The World Cup is most important issue for us, so we are ready to sacrifice anything for that," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus, who is also a member of the technical committee.

"But in that case it would not be possible to complete the Super League before the World Cup. So we have to take a decision of either playing a single league or arranging the Super League after the World Cup. The president gave the responsibility to CDDM (Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan) to talk with the clubs regarding this issue," he added.

The most coveted domestic competition was scheduled to start from December 2 while the opening ceremony of the World Cup will be held on February 17, 2011 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Bangladesh has been awarded eight matches including two quarter-finals.

"The main problem is that most of the clubs have already made the players payment but BCB is ready to compensate for that because we want to give our full support to the World Cup preparation," said Yunus.

Yunus also informed that the board has decided to take stern action against the players and officials who breached the code of conduct.

"What we had experienced recently is that many players and officials talked to the media by breaching the code of conduct. Several times we verbally warned them but next time we will take stern action if anyone does anything like that," he said.

## Ash ton, Nazim 91 kicks off NCL

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Two national team discards lit up the 4-day version of the 12th National Cricket League as the cricketing season kicked off in three different venues around the country.

The diminutive Dhaka batsman scored 113 runs off 143 balls that featured 17 boundaries to help his side reach a commendable position on 377 for five at the stumps on day one in their match against Khulna at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi yesterday.

Having lost two openers cheaply, Ashrafal and another right-hander Shamsur Rahman steadied the innings with a mixture of aggression and caution. Ashrafal picked up his fifty in just 53 balls and weathered the fall of Shamsur for 48 and Mehrab Hossain for naught. The diminutive batsman got to his hundred in 129 balls and blasted a few more boundaries before holding out to Nazimuddin for 113 off the bowling of Nazmus Sadat who

had earlier got rid of Shamsur. The following two batsmen, Shuvogata Chowdhury (81 not out) and Anamul Haque (82 not out) ensured Dhaka ended the day on a position of strength.

Another national discard team Nazimuddin, who like Ashrafal features in the stand-by list for the current ODI series against New Zealand, missed a ton by 9 runs as his side Chittagong got bundled out for 202 in 56.3 overs against Barisal at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Nazimuddin's 91-run knock came off 128 balls and featured 10 boundaries and a six. Closing on a well-deserved hundred, Nazimuddin fell to Barisal fastman Arfat Salauddin, caught by Shafaq Al Jabir. Nazimuddin's knock deserves some special praise since he almost single-handedly fought against his opponents. The next best score of 30 came from another dashing batsman Aftab Ahmed.

Shafaq was the most successful batsman with four 50s while Salauddin's three wickets cost him 43 runs.

In reply, Barisal reached 55 losing both openers as the stumps were drawn for the first day.

The other match of the day between champions Rajshahi and dark horse Sylhet at the S Huda Stadium in Jessore was marred wet outfield. Rajshahi scored 24 for no loss in fifteen overs that was played on the day.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
Dhaka v Khulna  
DHAKA: 1st innings 377 for 5 (Shamsur 48, Ashrafal 113, Shuvogata 81 not out, Anamul 82 not out; nazmus 2-68)  
Chittagong v Barisal  
CHITTAGONG: 1st innings 202 all out (Nazimuddin 91, Aftab 31; Shafaq 4-49, Arafat 3-43)  
BARISAL: 55 for 2 (Fazle Rabb 27, Nazmul Islam 1-5)  
Rajshahi v Sylhet  
RAJSHAH: 1st innings 24 for no loss (Masud 8 not out, Mizanur 8 not out)

## Women's

FROM PAGE 17 In the other match, Khulna got a 34-run victory over Dhaka. Batting first Khulna put on 99 for 6 in their allotted 20 overs. Salma Khatun top-scored with 35 from 45 balls. Shailla Sharmin's five wickets helped them get Dhaka all out in 18.4 overs for 65.

## Archers' good start

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Bangladesh are expected to clinch at least a medal from the event, in which they never won a medal in the Games. Bangladesh shooters won gold in the Commonwealth Games in individual 10m air rifle event and pistol event.

Bangladesh's medal hope depends on the performance of Asif, who won a silver medal in the individual 10m event in Melbourne after winning the gold medal in the same event at the age of 15 in 2002.

"Competitors from India, Australia and England are more matured than us, but despite that we are hoping big as every day is a different day in the shooting range and the performance mostly depends on the player's mental condition on the respective day," said shooting team manager Imran Chowdhury.

Asif and Abdullah Hel Baki, who together shot silver medal in the 10m air rifle team in the South Asian Games back at home early this year, have been scoring 595 on average in the practice, informed Imran.

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

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**CRYPTOQUIP**

CE HVZ'JW XWBXCMP OTVMW  
JWNW OXCVM YB EYJ YFYH  
YB YEJCN Y, DCPTX HVZ YBR  
"RWMHY TWYJ DW MVF?"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THE NOBLEMAN IS STANDING INSIDE AN EGYPTIAN TOMB, I'D CALL HIM A PEER AMID A PYRAMID.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals R

**ACROSS**

1 Talon  
5 Calendar  
8 Movie  
12 Gaucho's  
13 Judge  
14 Eye  
15 Gilbert's  
17 Guys'  
18 "CSI"  
19 Bite  
21 Stream-lined  
24 Confla-  
25 Home  
26 "Midnight  
33 Points of  
35 Newman  
36 Responsibility  
37 Blender  
38 Palin  
41 Melody  
42 Works  
43 Germane  
48 Shrek  
49 Sphere  
50 Great  
51 Piano  
52 Vast  
53 Holler

**DOWN**

1 Couric's  
2 Gehrig or  
3 Every  
4 Thoreau's  
5 Prima  
6 Greek  
7 Plots  
8 London  
9 Speedy  
10 Chelsea's  
11 Being, to  
16 Squid  
20 Persia,  
21 Czech or  
22 Volcano  
23 Actor Mc-  
24 Most  
26 Giant  
27 In the  
28 Malaria  
29 Golf goal  
31 File  
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35 Supply  
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38 Uncon-  
39 Theater  
40 All  
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45 Exist  
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**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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S	E	A	S	T	S	L	I	M	S
L	O	R	E	E	A	R	O	M	I
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S	T	R	O	L	L	T	A	M	
U	R	I	E	A	S	T	R	I	D
R	E	V	U	T	I	L	E	O	
E	Y	E	P	O	R	E	H	E	X