



PHOTO: COURTESY

Cyclists compete in the time trial event of the 34th NCC Bank National Cycling Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Games end

FROM PAGE 17
Guangzhou was handing over the Asian Games torch to the South Korean city of Incheon, which will host the four-yearly multi-sports event in 2014.

While the November 12 opening ceremony showcased the local Lingnan culture, Saturday's extravaganza on Haikunsha Island celebrated Asia's diverse cultures, with music and dance from India, Lebanon, Japan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia.

With the multi-coloured television tower peering over and a smattering of skyscrapers as a backdrop, a People's Liberation Army band and a 1,000-strong choir belted out the Chinese national anthem to a packed grandstand.

In front of the crowd opened up a stage with eight huge screens shaped like the sails of a ship, as boats decked out in bright lights and with the names of each of the 45 competing nations or territories drifted up and down the river.

Piercing green lasers and roving white beams of light shot up into the night sky as four months of rehearsals and years of planning sprang into action.

Much like for the opening ceremony, police undertook a massive security operation that saw roads closed and some shops and businesses shuttered.

City chiefs said the outside venue made it more tricky to secure than if it was inside a stadium.

Guangzhou, which has a population of over 10 million people, hopes the Games -- the biggest Asiad ever -- will put it on the international map, after the Olympics in Beijing two years ago and World Expo in Shanghai this year.

Cup facts

FROM PAGE 17
Kapil Dev's once-in-a-lifetime innings of 175 not out against Zimbabwe at Tunbridge Wells was the highest score of the tournament, and the highest in limited-overs cricket until Richards broke the record in the next edition.

India's Roger Binny was the highest wicket-taker of the tournament with 18 wickets, including one 4-wicket haul.

West Indian fast bowler Winston Davis's figures of seven for 41 against India in the group game at Leeds on June 11 was the best bowling analysis in the tournament, and a world record at the time.

Windies glove man Jeff Dujon was the most successful keeper of the tournament with 16 dismissals (15 catches, 1 stumping).

Prize money for champions India was £20,000, while runners-up West Indies pocketed £8,000. The losing semi-finalists, England and Pakistan, each won £4,000.

There were also awards of £1,000 to the group winners, plus man-of-the-match awards (£200 for the group matches, £400 for the semi-finals and £600 for the final).

The aggregate attendance for the 1983 World Cup was 232,081, compared with 160,000 in 1975 and 132,000 in 1979.

Brad passes tough test



AFP, Brisbane

Australia's Brad Haddin rated the England bowling as the toughest he had faced in Test cricket after he and Mike Hussey put their side into a strong position in the Ashes opener on Saturday.

Hussey registered his highest Test score of 195 and Haddin contributed 136 in a Gabba record stand of 307 runs to take Australia to a 221-run innings lead on the third day.

By the close England had reduced the deficit to 202, finishing on 19 without loss at stumps.

The Australian pair had to negotiate a testing period in the morning before coming through to build their match-turning sixth-wicket stand.

"The first hour and a half was probably the hardest Test bowling I've ever had to face," said Haddin, playing in his 28th Test match.

"It was a pretty conscious effort to make sure we got through that unscathed and hopefully at the back end of that we might be able to get on top of the bowling and bat with a bit more freedom."

"But that first period was the toughest Test cricket you can get with [James] Anderson and [Stuart] Broad bowling."

"The pleasing thing is that we came through the other side and put the result on the board that we did."

The pair's 398-minute partnership trumped the previous Gabba record of 276 between Don Bradman and Lindsay Hassett for the third wicket against England in 1946-47.

Hs put Aussies on top

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The runs began flowing after an excruciating morning for the batsmen in which Hussey had an lbw dismissal against him overruled by referral as England made use of the second new ball.

Hussey referred to the third umpire after he was given out lbw on 82 to Anderson in the third over of the second new ball.

Replays showed the delivery was pitching just outside leg-stump and umpire Aleem Dar's decision was overruled.

Hussey had another "life" on 85 when an Anderson delivery appeared to hit his pads in front, but England had no referrals left to challenge, much to skipper Strauss's disappointment.

Finn, the giant 21-year-old Middlesex pacer, cleaned up the Australian tail to finish with Test best figures of 6-125 off 33.4 overs.

Finn bowled Mitchell Johnson for a duck, had Peter Siddle caught by Swann for six and debutant Xavier Doherty caught in the deep for 16.

"We have to push forward and obviously if those decisions had gone our way then we would be in a different position now," Finn said.

"It's a nice batting track and it's something we're going to dig our heels in and take each hour by hour tomorrow and hopefully put partnerships on the board."

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First innings 260 (Bell 76, Cook 67; Siddle 6-54)
AUSTRALIA: First innings 481 (Hussey 195, Haddin 136, Katich 50; Finn 6-125, Anderson 2 for 99, Swann 2 for 128)
ENGLAND: Second innings 19 without loss (Straus 11 not out, Cook 6 not out)

'Zim should feel scared'

FROM PAGE 17

"We are going to respect them but we are also here to prove that we are getting better and we deserve to get back into the Test arena," said the former Zimbabwe captain.

Streak, who played 189 one-dayers in an illustrious international career that spanned 12 years, was confident that the likes of Tatenda Taibu, Brendan Taylor and Chigumbura were in good touch.

"Of course we have [Elton] Chigumbura and [Tatenda] Taibu and [Brendan] Taylor who are all in really good form. We also have some good spinners so they will also plan to see how they play our spinners better," added Streak.

Chigumbura, who took over the captaincy in May this year after Prosper Uteya resigned, is one of the stars of the current Zimbabwe side and the big-hitting right-hander was hopeful that he could bank on the experience of playing Bangladesh 34 times so far.

"I don't think the conditions have changed much here as I have been here plenty of times. I just need to use the experience I have gathered and use it properly," said Chigumbura.

He was also of the impression that they were not the team under pressure. "Bangladesh played well against a better team recently, so they are expected to win. So we are not under pressure," said Chigumbura.

Although he has done well against the Tigers in the past, the tall all-rounder believes that Bangladesh are the team in form. "Most of the players are playing well for Bangladesh, especially Shakib [Al Hasan] as he is the main guy for Bangladesh. For us if we play our best cricket we will get good results," said Chigumbura.

When asked about being named as the team's best player by the opposition captain, Shakib simply said: "I just heard this from you guys but it doesn't change anything in me."

But there was no such target for Bangladesh as Fountain said that none of the Zimbabwe cricketers hold any fear for the Tigers.

"To be honest, I haven't really done much research on them. I really don't think we are looking at them as though they are dangerous," he said.

'Cos bosses are away

FROM PAGE 17

Manzur Ahmed, BCB's chief executive officer.

"We are trying to complete the formalities through a teleconference," he added.

Manzur also informed that the names of captain and vice-captain, the other issue for what the board has already come under huge criticism, would also be announced on Sunday.

Question was raised whether there has been a lack of confidence in the selectors. Because otherwise it's simply a formality to approve the team after the selection panel had chosen the players well in advance. This dilly-dallying with the announcement of the team, and particularly the captain, has hardly reflected professionalism in the board itself.

The inclusions of Shahrir Nafees, as captain of the BCB XI, Jahurul Islam and Syed Rasel however made it almost clear that the trio is unlikely for the main team.

It's all but confirmed that Shahrir, who made an impressive return to international cricket during the home series against New Zealand, would be making way for Tamim Iqbal, who missed the New

Zealand series due to operation on his left wrist. Former national skipper Mohammad Ashraf also impressed the selectors by his performance in the domestic competition to make his return to the national side while Junaed Siddiqui could retain his place despite poor form.

The probable 15-member team comprises Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim, Imrul Kayes, Junaed, Rokibul Hasan, Ashraf, Mahmudullah Riyad, Naeem Islam, Mushfiqur Rahim, Sohrwardi Shuvo, Abdur Razzak, Nazmul Hossain, Shafiqul Islam and Rubel Hossain.

Mashrafe is going to lead the team in the series and most likely Shakib will be his deputy.

BCB XI SQUAD
Shahrir Nafees (captain), Syed Rasel (vice-captain), Jahurul Islam, Asif Ahmed, Alok Kapali, Farhad Hossain, Mahmudul Hasan, Marshal Ayub, Sahagir Hossain (wicketkeeper), Kamrul Islam, Fazole Mahmud, Robiul Islam, Alauddin Babu and Nur Hossain.
Reserve: Shuvashish Roy, Farhad Raza, Anamul Hoque and Al-Amin.

**China dominate track
Liu exorcises demons**

AFP, Guangzhou



Liu Xiang was the focal point for the Asian Games athletics and the Chinese star lived up to the soaring expectations of a demanding nation by winning a third successive 110m hurdles crown.

His gold helped propel China to the top of the medals table, with a total of 36 (13 gold, 15 silver, eight bronze) from 47 events.

The host nation's position was cemented after it swept all three walking titles, and claimed six gold in the 16 field events.

Sprinter Lao Yi also won the coveted 100m crown and anchored his country's 4x100m relay team home for a first gold since 1990.

But the Asiad's track and field hype was built up around one man: Liu Xiang.

The 27-year-old became China's first track gold medalist at the 2004 Athens Games and went on to be crowned world champion in 2007, but an achilles tendon injury put paid to his attempt to defend his Olympic title on home soil.

Instead the 110m hurdler withdrew from his heat at the Beijing Games

injured, and promptly headed to the United States for surgery and rehabilitation, the hopes of an ever-optimistic nation dashed.

But he stormed to victory here in an impressive 13.09sec and immediately admitted to having conquered the demons he said haunted him after his disastrous outing in 2008.

"I used to be unwilling to mention what happened (in Beijing) because it would take me into a depression," said Liu, the former world record holder.

"But that shadow isn't following me around anymore. I think about the demons facing me now when I race. I know that I can conquer them if I face them head on."

"I always used to finish inside 13.10sec before the injury, but I didn't expect I would be able to achieve that again right now," he said.

"After the Beijing Games, I thought it would be difficult for me to run near 13sec again, but now I know anything's possible."

On the track, Japan's Chisato Fukushima and Qatar's Nigerian-born Femi Ogunode both claimed memorable doubles, the latter providing the Gulf state's sole track gold.

In the absence of injured teammate Samuel Francis, the 100m Asian record holder, the 19-year-old Ogunode tri-

umphed in the men's 200 and 400m, the first such Asiad double since Indian Milkha Singh in 1958.

Fukushima won 100 and 200m golds, becoming the third female athlete to claim such a double after Esther Rot of Israel in 1974 and Filipino Mona Solaiman in 1962.

Bahrain claimed five golds to nil to win their traditional face-off with Qatar over middle- and long-distance events, as the men's 5000 and 10,000m podiums were made up solely of athletes born in Africa.

World 1500m champion Maryam Jamal, the Ethiopian-born athlete now running for Bahrain, won the event here with ease, but failed to repeat her 2006 double when she tied up in the 800m.

Teammate Youssef Saad Kamel, the men's world champion in the 1500m, cited injury for his disastrous showing, even accusing the Bahrain athletics association (BAA) of forcing him to race even though they knew he was injured, a claim they denied.

The third world champion on show, China's Bai Xue (marathon), could only manage fifth in the women's 10,000m.

India finished second behind China in the medals table, buoyed by a double in the 400m hurdles (Joseph Ganapathiplakkal, Ashwini Akkunji) and the fine showing by Preeja Sreedharan (10,000m gold, 5000 silver).

Tame draw in Colombo



AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's spinners, led by Rangana Herath, put in an impressive performance as the second Test against the West Indies ended in a draw on the fifth and final day on Saturday.

Left-armed Herath removed Dwayne Bravo, Suliaman Benn and Carlton Baugh as the West Indies were bowled out for 243 in their first innings just before tea in reply to Sri Lanka's 387-9 declared.

Sri Lanka declared in their second innings on 57-1, with Tharanga Paranavithana scoring 20 not out and skipper Kumar Sangakkara one not out.

Opener Tillakaratne Dilshan (26) was the lone batsman to be dismissed, caught behind off Bravo.

The West Indies, set an improbable 202-run target off 21 overs, lost openers Chris Gayle (three) and Adrian Barath (eight) before reaching 12-2 in their second innings when play was called off due to bad light.

Spinner Ajantha Mendis trapped Barath leg-before and part-time spinner Dilshan had Gayle caught by former captain Mahela Jayawardene at first slip.

The three-Test series is tied 0-0 after the drawn matches in Galle and Colombo. The final Test starts in Palallekele on Wednesday.

West Indies wicketkeeper Baugh earlier hit six fours in his second Test half-century to help his team avoid the follow-on.

"If we look at the series it is still 0-0, so we have everything to play for [in the next Test]," said West Indies captain Darren Sammy.

"Darren Bravo, Kemar Roach [both in the first innings] and Baugh all played well. It's been a long time we are going into the final Test 0-0 and the players are looking forward to it."

The tourists, resuming at 16:55 after rain washed out the morn-

ing session, slipped from 205-5 to 209-8 in the afternoon, with Herath taking two wickets and debutant pacer Suranga Lakmal one.

"We didn't have enough time to do anything on the final day. It'd have been a good Test match if we had play for at least four days," said Sangakkara, named man of the match for his brilliant 150 in the first innings.

"It was a tough hundred as playing strokes was a bit difficult and I am pretty satisfied."

The West Indies started the day needing 23 runs with five wickets in hand to make Sri Lanka bat again and made them comfortably as Bravo (20) and Baugh played cautiously in the early stages.

Bravo later executed some handsome shots, lofting Lakmal

over mid-on for a four and then hitting Herath for a four and a six in the same over.

Herath got his first wicket of the innings when he had Bravo stumped in his next over after the batsman had added 44 runs for the sixth wicket with Baugh.

Sammy, out for a duck in his only innings in Galle, failed again, contributing just two runs before being caught by Angelo Mathews at square-leg while pulling Lakmal.

Benn fell for nought, caught by Paranavithana at forward short-leg off Herath.

Baugh was on four when given out leg-before off Mendis's first delivery by umpire Richard Kettleborough, but asked for review of the decision and was then ruled not out.

He survived again when he asked for another review after being given out leg-before off Herath when on 21.

SCORES IN BRIEF
SRI LANKA: First innings 387 for 9 declared (Sangakkara 150, Samaraweera 80, P Jayawardene 34; Roach 5-100, Sammy 2-80)
WEST INDIES: First innings 243 (Darren Bravo 80, Baugh 50, Gayle 30; Herath 3-76, Dilshan 2-4, Mendis 2-56, Lakmal 2-84)
SRI LANKA: Second innings 57 for 1 declared (Dilshan 26, Paranavithana 20 not out; Dwayne Bravo 1-8)
WEST INDIES: Second innings 12 for 2 (Barath 8, Gayle 3, Chandereepaul 0 not out; Mendis 1-1, Dilshan 1-4)
Result: Match drawn.
Man-of-the-match: Kumar Sangakkara.

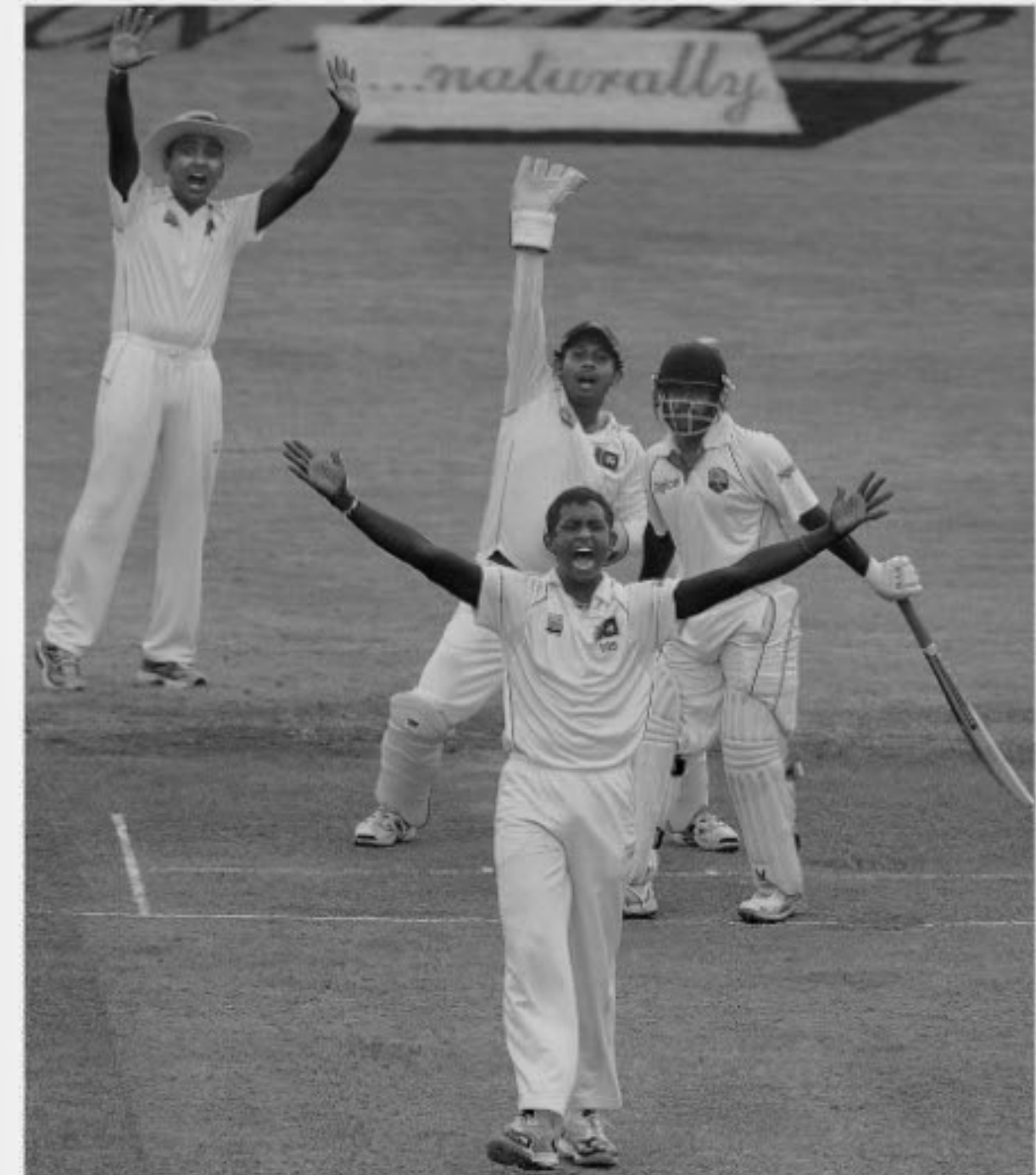


PHOTO: AFP

Ajantha Mendis leads the Sri Lankan chorus of appeal against Adrian Barath during the fifth and final day of the second Test against West Indies at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

Gautam sides with Yuvraj

PTI, Guwahati

Pleading with the media to be lenient on Yuvraj Singh, India captain Gautam Gambhir on Saturday strongly stood behind the stylish Punjab batsman who has been under constant scrutiny and immense pressure.

Terming Yuvraj as one of the best match-winners India has produced, Gambhir said, "We are just making too much of Yuvraj Singh. We are trying to scrutinise him too much -- what he is doing and not doing. Give him some time, let him be what he is. He is such a great player. Be a little lenient on him and don't try to scrutinise him too much."

Yuvraj's poor form also saw him demoted to Grade B in the annual contract list this year but Gambhir said that "he is a quality player".

"He has played a lot of international cricket and he knows what he has to do."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Honest politician
4 Spring
8 Unrivaled
12 Water barrier
13 Frizzy coiffure
14 State with certainty
15 Sapporo sash
16 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical
18 John's 2008 running mate
20 Vast expanse
21 Salon request
24 Wept
28 Accesses to greens
32 Busy with
33 Curved path
34 Struck, old-style
36 Pool stick
37 Maintain
39 Don't cheat
41 Simplifies
43 "So-pranos" actress de Matteo

DOWN
3 Eastern potentate
5 "Cinderella", e.g.
9 Kidney-shaped nuts
5 Frequently
6 Playwright Levin
7 Many
8 Jungle trek
9 Eggs
10 Mainlander's memento
11 Mess up
17 Common Mkt.
19 Taxpayer's mo.
22 Freeway access

1 Kentucky Home
25 Erstwhile Peruvian
26 Needle case
27 Active one
28 Counterfeit
29 Vicinity
30 Summer desserts
31 Celeb
35 Holes for shoelaces
38 Fuel for a Bentley
40 Actress Wray
42 Sauce source
45 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
47 Press
48 Baseball team
49 Suitable
50 Watch chain
51 Carte lead-in
52 Midafternoon, on a sundial
53 Piercing tool
54 Cover

Solution time: 21 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

XYUVRWY AJSWY CYSCGY VZY
VA V JVN VHHVQ XSNGHQK
VGGYL, UVQ LSR WVL AJYL'ZY
ZSGGHQK HQ AJY HWGY?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AN INCOMPETENT SLEUTH FAILED TO SOLVE MOST OF HIS CASES. I SUPPOSE HE'S A DEFECTIVE DETECTIVE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals R