



Roksana Sultana of Bangladesh Ansar won the 69kg weight gold on the final day of the Bangladesh Games at the NSC Gymnasium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

The Games conclude

SPORTS REPORTER

The nine-day Bangladesh Games came to an end yesterday at the

Bangabandhu National Stadium through a simple ceremony where chairman of the Organising Committee and Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith declared the official close after expressing sympathy for the people who lost their lives or were injured in the Savar tragedy.

One minute's silence was observed in the memory of the deceased soon after the arrival of the chief guest and then the highlights of the games were demonstrated on giant screen. A small number of athletes took part in the march past after the mascot entered the venue and the flame of torch was dimmed soon after the departure of the mascot.

Bangladesh Ansar retained their title of the best team in the Bangladesh Games with 111 gold, 72 silver and 65 bronze medals. This was the fourth straight time that Bangladesh Ansar finished top of the medals tally. They had bagged highest 50 gold, 49 silver and 36 bronze in the previous

Bangladesh Games held in 2002.

Bangladesh Army became runners-up with 67 gold, 39 silver and 37 bronze medals while Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) finished third with 33 gold, 47 silver and 27 bronze medals.

Bangladesh Navy Olympian swimmer Mahfizur Rahman Sagar and his teammate Sonia Akter Tumpa were the best athletes as they grabbed seven and five gold medals respectively in the Games.

Approximately 7000 athletes from 196 teams fought for 346 gold medals in 31 disciplines and 116 teams returned home with at least one medal while 37 teams won at least one gold medal.

Seven medals were decided on the last day of the Games.

KHO KHO

Dhaka DSA emerged champions in kho kho event after an intense win (28-27) win over Quantum Foundation of Bandarban in a 'farce' final at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

The players, coach and manager of Quantum Foundation, even general spectators alleged that the umpires played a partial role to help Dhaka win the game. The Quantum Foundation, comprising ten national

players, complained about the umpires before the start of the game but the technical committee did not take the protest into consideration.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Bangladesh Ansar dominated the last day of weightlifting, grabbing three gold out of four gold decided at the National Sports Council Gymnasium yesterday.

Firoz Mahmud, Firoza Parvin and Rokeya Sultana Sathi of Bangladesh Ansar won gold medals in 105kg, 69kg and 69kg categories while Farhad Ali of Bangladesh Army won gold in the 105kg category.

Bangladesh Weightlifting Federation informed that a total of 13 records in snatch, clean & jerk and overall were set in the three-day competition.

CYCLING

Bangladesh Ansar won both gold medals in cycling decided on the concluding day at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Tariqul Islam and Akashi Sultana won gold medal in men's 1000m sprint and women's 1000m sprint respectively to help Ansar finish on 12 gold, four silver and seven bronze medals. BJMC finished second with six gold and 14 silver and seven bronze.

Rise of the new

FROM PAGE 16

Olympian swimmer Sagar was extraordinary as he bagged seven gold medals while setting four new national records.

The onus is now on the respective federations and the Bangladesh Olympic Association to groom up the newcomers and maintain the performances of the veterans.

Bangladesh Games was also a stage for the fall of international gold medalist shooters Sharmin Akter Ratna and Asif Hossain Khan, archer Emdadul Haque Milon, boxers Jewel Ahmed and Abdur Rahim and karateka Jo U Pru Marma as their performances disappointed all.

Meanwhile, three shameful incidents in kabaddi and judo courts have tarnished the image of the Games where Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Ansar, Bangladesh Police, Border Guard Bangladesh and BJMC got involved in scuffles and those incidents should be an eye-opener for the organisers to improve the standard of umpiring and refereeing to avoid such incidents in future.

The Games also saw teams like Bangladesh Ansar, Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy, BJMC extend their wings to more disciplines and thus athletes got some temporary contracts from those teams to earn some money and many believe that if the Bangladesh Games takes place regularly, many athletes will be encouraged into participating in these sports.

DD ride on Warner

AGENCIES, Chennai

A blazing half-century by David Warner led the Delhi Daredevils to a 15-run victory over the Pune Warriors at the

International Stadium in Raipur yesterday. Batting first the Daredevils posted a modest total of 164. In reply the Warriors were restricted to 149 for 4.

The Daredevils, after a normal-paced beginning, upped their run-rate towards the second half. At the halfway mark they were poised at 68 for 2. The arrival of Warner, however, changed the flow of the game. He scored a 25-ball 51, an innings which included four sixes and four fours.

The Warriors began their chase on a positive note after openers Robin Uthappa and Aaron Finch shared a 76-run stand. However, they lost wickets at crucial moments of the game and ended up requiring an improbable 28 from the last over. Steven Smith smacked a six and a four but it was not enough to avoid a defeat.

Earlier, another Australian batsman Michael Hussey smashed a stroke-filled 95 and effected a crucial run out as Chennai Super Kings survived a scare before eking out a 14-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders in a high-scoring match at the MA Chidambaram Stadium.

Left-handed Hussey was in terrific touch as he batted with ease, taking just 59 balls for knock which was studded with 13 boundaries and led the hosts to a formidable 200 for three after invited to bat.

The Australian along with new opening partner Wriddhiman Saha (39) rattled up 103 in 10 overs and later added 55 for the second wicket with Suresh Raina, who chipped in with a quick-fire 25-ball 44.

The Knight Riders refused to be intimidated by the big target and put up a spirited fight but eventually fell short as the hosts had too many runs to defend.

Manvinder Bisla batted brilliantly from one end but his efforts could only reduce the defeat margin. Bisla scored 92 off 61 balls with 14 fours and two sixes as Kolkata managed 186 for four.

Hussey sent back Bisla with a direct hit at crucial juncture as the Indian in com-

pany of Eoin Morgan (32 not out) had almost pulled off a great win for his side.

Bisla was run out in the penultimate over when his side needed 23 from 10 balls and that had a bearing on the outcome.

Kolkata began their chase in right earnest, scoring at a good pace with Bisla yet again doing a great job for his side.

Chris Morris was singled out for special treatment by Bisla as he hit the paceman for four boundaries in the fifth over.

But not keeping wickets in hand hurt their chances.

Skipper Gautam Gambhir (14) frittered away a good start and comeback-man Brendon McCullum (6) could not make any impact.

Gambhir was bowled by Morris while McCullum dragged one back onto his stumps off Mohit Sharma. Chennai spinners created some good chances and Jacques Kallis got two lives when Raina put him down in the deep off Ashwin and Dhoni missed a stumping off Ravindra Jadeja.

However, the South African could not cash in on and departed after making a 19-run contribution when his scoop off Dwayne Bravo landed in hands of Dirk Nannes.

Even as Bisla and Morgan did their best, they had too big a task at hand.

Earlier, Hussey smashed a quick-fire 95 to help Chennai Super Kings post a formidable total. Hussey continued his rich form and scored his 95 off just 59 balls during which he struck as many as 11 boundaries and two sixes.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 200 for 3 in 20 overs (Saha 39, Hussey 95, Raina 44, Dhoni 18 not out; Bhatia 1-31)

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 186 for 4 in 20 overs (Bisla 92, Gambhir 14, Kallis 19, Morgan 32 not out; Sharma 1-23)

Result: Chennai Super Kings won by 14 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Mike Hussey.

DELHI DAREDEVILS: 164 for 5 in 20 overs (Warner 51; Dinda 3-31)

PUNE WARRIORS: 149 for 4 in 20 overs (Uthappa 37, Finch 37; Yadav 2-24)

Result: Daredevils won by 15 runs.

Player-of-the-match: David Warner.

Rosol lifts maiden title

APP, Bucharest

Lukas Rosol of the Czech Republic claimed his first ATP title in Bucharest on Sunday with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Spain's Guillermo Garcia-Lopez.

The 27-year-old Rosol, who knocked out Rafael Nadal in the second round at Wimbledon last year, required just over an hour to overcome Garcia-Lopez, the world number 87.

Rosol turned up in Bucharest in good form after steering defending champions Czech Republic into the Davis Cup semi-finals with victory over Kazakhstan's Evgeny Korolev at the start of the month.

Tigers smell

FROM PAGE 16

Cremer for a towering six over long off. That shot brought up his 50, scored off 97 balls. From that point Nasir started playing some adventurous shots and missed most of them, as the Zimbabwe fast bowlers tried

banging it in short. Shingi soon picked up a much-needed fourth wicket, that of Sajidul Islam, and Robiul came in swinging. An edged four over the slips took the lead to 400. Two balls later, Robiul was clanged on the arm by a full toss as he charged down the track, and perhaps the blow to his main strike weapon perhaps

persuaded the captain that he had had enough, and he waved the players in, signaling the declaration.

Taylor's wicket

FROM PAGE 16

in the form of Elton Chigumbura, the hard-hitting all-rounder who top-scored with 86 in Zimbabwe's first innings. He was not sent in to bat at his usual number six position, Shingi Masakadza joining his brother during the late stages of the day instead. If the two Masakadzas deny the Tigers bowlers in the morning today, Chigumbura's threat may be a source of worry for Bangladesh.

"Elton is someone who plays his shots and that was not what we needed at that point," explained Zimbabwe batting coach Grant Flower. "Bangladesh will be under a lot of pressure from fans back home to win this Test, and we are hoping to use that tomorrow," the former Zimbabwe batting star said.

Gambhir was bowled by Morris while McCullum dragged one back onto his stumps off Mohit Sharma. Chennai spinners created some good chances and Jacques Kallis got two lives when Raina put him down in the deep off Ashwin and Dhoni missed a stumping off Ravindra Jadeja.

However, the South African could not cash in on and departed after making a 19-run contribution when his scoop off Dwayne Bravo landed in hands of Dirk Nannes.

Even as Bisla and Morgan did their best, they had too big a task at hand.

Earlier, Hussey smashed a quick-fire 95 to help Chennai Super Kings post a formidable total. Hussey continued his rich form and scored his 95 off just 59 balls during which he struck as many as 11 boundaries and two sixes.

Result: Chennai Super Kings won by 14 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Mike Hussey.

DELHI DAREDEVILS: 164 for 5 in 20 overs (Warner 51; Dinda 3-31)

PUNE WARRIORS: 149 for 4 in 20 overs (Uthappa 37, Finch 37; Yadav 2-24)

Result: Daredevils won by 15 runs.

Player-of-the-match: David Warner.

Sharapova's clay season on

APP, Stuttgart

Defending French Open champion Maria Sharapova claimed the Stuttgart WTA title on Sunday, beating China's Li Na 6-4, 6-3 in just over 90 minutes to get her clay-court season off to a winning start.

Having been taken to three-set in all of her previous three matches here en route to the final, Sharapova saved her best tennis until last to defeat the Chinese in straight sets.

She broke Li twice in the first, but the Chinese managed to reply with a break of her own before Sharapova used the first of her three set points to take the first set.

The 26-year-old world number two then turned up the heat in the second set, breaking Li twice, while holding her own serve without due concern and her aggressive style paid off as she wrapped up victory in an hour and a half.

"I knew this was going to be the toughest match of the week, so I am really pleased with the way things worked out," said Sharapova, who had lost the previous meeting to Li in the semi-final of January's Australian Open.

"She has played good tennis all week and I am really happy to have won here again."

Having beaten Lucie Safarova, Ana Ivanovic and Angelique Kerber on the way to the final, Sharapova is now undefeated at Stuttgart on her second appearance at the clay-court tournament.

After seeing off Victoria Azarenka in last year's final, Sharapova then went on to win her fourth Grand Slam title at Roland Garros and she said she is happy to have got her clay-court season off to another good start.

"It definitely helped last year on the way to the French Open, it's good to bring back the same confidence on clay as last year," said Sharapova.



Li had won all her three matches in straight sets, seeing off qualifier Mirjana Lucic-Baroni, fifth-seed Petra Kvitova then qualifier Bethanie Mattek-Sands on her way to the final.

"Of course, it's always disappointing to lose in the final," said the 31-year-old Chinese.

"But it's my first clay-court tournament, so that's a good start to the season and I am looking forward to the rest of it."

"I was feeling a bit of pressure on her returns, which could use as she's playing very aggressively."

"I'll take some rest now before Madrid and work on a few things in Munich."

Li's defeat managed to avoid an unusual problem both for her and the tournament sponsors, Porsche.

Sharapova drove off in the brand-new sports car, which was court-side the whole week waiting for the winner, but with Li sponsored by Mercedes, her contract would have forbidden her taking part in the presentation had she won.

"I couldn't have driven the car," she said before quipping that was the true reason she had lost the final.

Nadal's eighth

APP, Barcelona

Rafael Nadal extended his record number of Barcelona titles to eight as he brushed off a slow start to beat Spanish compatriot Nicolas Almagro 6-4, 6-3 on Sunday.

Last weekend's Monte Carlo runner-up regained his accustomed position on an ATP winner's podium with his fourth title of 2013 and his third on clay for the year.

He rallied from two breaks down on a day of drizzle and heavy conditions, beating Almagro for the tenth time without defeat.

"I'm very happy," said Nadal. "This has been an important week for me. To win here again is a great joy after everything I've been through."

"It was a fantastic match for me," he told a crowd which had huddled under umbrellas for the duration of the contest. "Thanks to the people who watched us."

The world number five has made a storming comeback to tennis after missing seven months from last summer with knee injuries. Since his February return, he has played finals in all six events he has entered.