



Bangladeshis bow out

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladeshi athletes as expected bowed out after one shot in the XX Commonwealth Games that commenced in Glasgow yesterday.

Swimmer Mahfuza Khatun finished 26th out of 35 swimmers in the 50m breaststroke with a time of 35.88 seconds, 2.60 seconds more than N Robinson who qualified for the semifinal as the 16th and last swimmer at the Tollcross International Sports Centre.

Of the 28 cyclists, Bangladesh's Tarikul Islam and Iftekhar Alam Refeat came first and second from the bottom in men's team spirit event at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome. Tarikul clocked 14.199 minutes while Refeat timed 14.156 minutes.

In table tennis at Scotstoun Sports Campus, the Bangladesh pair -- Javed Ahmed and Mahbub Billah -- suffered a 3-0 defeat to their Nigerian counterparts while Mahbub and Manosh Chowdhury also conceded identical 3-0 defeats to Storiola and Q Aruna respectively in the individual games.

Taffarel joins Dunga revolution

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Former goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel joined the coaching staff of fellow 1994 World Cup winner Dunga at the helm of the new-look Brazil squad on Wednesday.

The 48-year-old Taffarel played in the same team as Dunga which won a fourth world title in the United States in 1994 and will be responsible for goalkeeper coaching.

Another World Cup winner from 1994, Mauro Silva, will serve as assistant coach when Brazil face Colombia and Ecuador on September 5 and 8 in friendly internationals.



Flag bearer Iqbal Islam (L) leads the Bangladesh delegation during the opening ceremony of the 2014 Commonwealth Games at Celtic Park in Glasgow on Wednesday. (Above) Malaysia's flag flew at half-mast in memory of the victims of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 disaster. PHOTOS: AFP/REUTERS

And the Games begin

AFP, Glasgow



Queen Elizabeth II officially opened the 20th Commonwealth Games at Celtic Park on Wednesday after a moving and colourful ceremony in front of a 40,000 capacity crowd.

The Games will feature 17 sports across 11 days of competition with more than 4,500 athletes from 71 nations competing, making the event the biggest Scotland has ever hosted.

The Queen called on those present to "unite" in difficult times as a minute's silence was observed for the victims of the Malaysian Airlines MH17 flight disaster.

Eighty-two of the 298 people who died last week when the plane came down over eastern Ukraine were from Commonwealth nations.

The Malaysian team also entered the stadium with their flag at half-mast and wore black armbands.

"To you, the Commonwealth athletes, I send my good wishes for success in your endeavours. Your accomplishments over the coming days will encourage us all to strengthen the bonds that unite us," said the Queen.

"You remind us that young people,

those under 25 years of age, make up half of our Commonwealth citizens; and it is to you that we entrust our values and our future.

"I offer my sincere thanks to the many organisations and volunteers who have worked diligently to bring these Games to fruition, and indeed to the spectators here in the stadium and to the millions watching on television.

"Together, you all play a part in strengthening our friendships in this modern and vibrant association of nations.

"It now gives me the greatest pleasure to declare the 20th Commonwealth Games open."

A colourful, nearly three-hour long ceremony began with an exuberant sequence depicting the history of Scotland was followed by live performances from world-renowned Scottish singers Rod Stewart and Susan Boyle.

The Queen then made her entrance, accompanied by Prince Philip, whilst the RAF Red Arrows performed a colourful flyover past the stadium.

Teams from all 71 nations were then paraded, starting with 2010 hosts India and ending with Scotland.

Six-time Olympic gold medallist Chris Hoy carried the Queen's baton on the final leg of its 100,000 mile journey

through all of the Commonwealth nations over the past nine months.

There was a brief moment of farce when the President of the Commonwealth Games Federation Prince Tunku Imran couldn't remove the Queen's message from the baton.

However, once the message was finally removed, the Queen hailed Glasgow's suitability for a competition often known as the "friendly games."

"Over the past 288 days the baton has visited all the nations and territories of the Commonwealth, crossing every continent in a journey of more than 100,000 miles.

"The baton relay represents a calling together of people from every part of the Commonwealth and serves as a reminder of our shared ideals and ambitions as a diverse, resourceful and cohesive family.

"And now, that baton has arrived here in Glasgow, a city renowned for its dynamic cultural and sporting achievements, for the warmth of its people, for this opening ceremony of the friendly games."

Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond also welcomed the team athletes and officials to what he described as "Scotland's scene for 11 days of sport and culture."

"Welcome to the Commonwealth of nations, welcome to Scotland," he

Games lose Mo shine

AFP, Glasgow

The Commonwealth Games were dealt a huge blow Thursday when England's double Olympic and world champion Mo Farah announced he was withdrawing due to fitness concerns.

Farah, alongside Jamaican sprint star Usain Bolt, is one of the most recognisable faces of track and field, and his absence will be sorely missed.

"There's no question that we're disappointed," admitted David Grevenberg, the chief executive of Glasgow 2014.

Farah, the 5,000 and 10,000 metres Olympic and world champion, was recently laid low by illness and has decided to pull out of the Commonwealths to work on his fitness ahead of next month's European Championships in Zurich.

"I have taken the tough decision to withdraw from the Commonwealth Games," Farah, 31, said in a statement.

Roma edge Liverpool

AFP, Boston



A 90th-minute own goal Wednesday cost Liverpool a 1-0 loss to AS Roma but an early spill left striker Fabio Borini with a much more worrisome right shoulder injury.

The 23-year-old Italian striker, a former Roma standout before coming to Liverpool, fell on an early tackle and came up holding his shoulder.

Liverpool said during the match that Borini's shoulder was not dislocated but further examination was needed in a tough setback during the opening minutes of the English Premier League side's pre-season US tour.

The only goal of the match came in the dying seconds of regular time when Roma's Marco Borriello bent his right leg and redirected a corner kick off Danish Liverpool defender Daniel Agger and into the net.

In other North American pre-season friendlies involving English clubs and Major League Soccer clubs Wednesday, Tottenham edged host Toronto 3-2, Aston Villa blanked Dallas 2-0, Manchester City beat Sporting Kansas City 4-1 and Manchester United thumped the Los Angeles Galaxy 7-0 at the Rose Bowl.

Liverpool's Steven Gerrard played his first match since announcing Monday he was retiring from international play for England after serving as English captain at the World Cup last month.

At Toronto, Tottenham took a 2-0 half-time edge on goals by Erik Lamela in the 16th and 40th minutes.

Andrew Wiedeman put Toronto on the board in the 65th minute and 18-year-old Jordan Hamilton netted the equalizer in the 72nd minute, only to see Andros Townsend put the winner in the upper right corner the for Spurs in the 85th minute.

At Dallas, Villa led 1-0 at half-time on Austrian Andreas Weimann's goal in the 44th minute and French midfielder Charles N'Zogbia added an insurance goal on a free kick in the 49th minute.

At Kansas City, Man City's Bruno Zuculini -- a 21-year-old Argentine midfielder -- opened the scoring with a right-footed blast off the inside edge of the right post in the third minute.

C.J. Sapong equalized for the hosts in the 30th minute but Belgian Dedryck Boyata nodded in a free kick in the 45th minute to put Manchester City ahead 2-1 at half-time.

Serbian defender Aleksander Kolarov added a goal off a penalty kick in the 72nd minute and 17-year-old Nigerian Kelechi Iheanacho finished the scoring in the 88th minute.

RESULTS

Roma 1 (Agger 90-og) **Liverpool 0**
Tottenham 3 (Lamela 16, 40, Townsend 85) **Toronto 2** (Wiedeman 64, Hamilton 72)
Aston Villa 2 (Weimann 44, N'Zogbia 49) **Dallas 0**
Manchester City 4 (Zuculini 3, Boyata 45, Kolarov 72-pen, Iheanacho 88) **Sporting Kansas City 1** (Sapong 30)
AS Monaco 4 (Martial 5, Berbatov 16, Fabinho 38, Carrasco (90+1) **Nacional de Medellin 2** (Trellez 63, Perez 87)
Manchester United 7 (Welbeck 13th, Rooney 43-pen, 45, James 62, 84,

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