



Jamaican sprint legend Usain Bolt (C) performs next to mascot Borobi during the closing ceremony of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games at the Carrara Stadium yesterday.

FINAL MEDALS TALLY

| Country | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Australia | 80 | 59 | 59 | 198 |
| England | 45 | 45 | 46 | 136 |
| India | 26 | 20 | 20 | 66 |
| Canada | 15 | 40 | 27 | 82 |
| New Zealand | 15 | 16 | 15 | 46 |
| South Africa | 13 | 11 | 13 | 37 |
| Wales | 10 | 12 | 14 | 36 |
| Scotland | 9 | 13 | 22 | 44 |
| Nigeria | 9 | 9 | 6 | 24 |
| Cyprus | 8 | 1 | 5 | 14 |
| Jamaica | 7 | 9 | 11 | 27 |
| Malaysia | 7 | 5 | 12 | 24 |
| Singapore | 5 | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| Kenya | 4 | 7 | 6 | 17 |
| Uganda | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| Botswana | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Samoa | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Namibia | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Northern Ireland | 1 | 7 | 4 | 12 |
| The Bahamas | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Papua New Guinea | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Fiji | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Pakistan | 1 | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| Grenada | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Bermuda | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Guyana | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| British Virgin Is. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Saint Lucia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Bangladesh | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Sri Lanka | 0 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Cameroon | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Dominica | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Isle of Man | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Mauritius | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Nauru | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Malta | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Vanuatu | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Cook Islands | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Ghana | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Norfolk Island | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Seychelles | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Solomon Islands | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

PHOTO: AFP

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Bolt show brings down curtains

AFP, Gold Coast

Usain Bolt took a turn as DJ as the Gold Coast said goodbye to the Commonwealth Games on Sunday after an 11-day tournament where Australia topped the medals table by a distance.

Bolt made a surprise appearance on the decks as the Games closed in a colourful ceremony with references to Aboriginal culture -- although indigenous protests continued outside.

Australia finished with 80 golds, way ahead of England's 45 and India's 26, in a tally that integrated para sports and was equally split between men and women for the first time.

"For those who delivered this event I say, 'You beauty! You did us proud,'" said Queensland premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, as the Commonwealth flag was handed to 2022 hosts Birmingham.

Australia dominated in the swimming pool and in track cycling, while Jamaica felt the absence of the retired Bolt as they struggled in the sprint events.

The Games also featured their first transgender athlete, and gay English diver Tom Daley caused a stir when he urged the 37 Commonwealth countries that outlaw homosexuality to change their laws.

Zero failed drug tests were reported during the event, although India twice fouled of the Games' 'no needle policy' and had two athletes ordered home.

However, the Games also saw several protests from indigenous activists who dubbed them the "Stolenwealth Games", a reference to Britain's colonisation of Australia.

On Sunday about 100 protesters were blocked from marching to the stadium by a heavy police presence, preventing a repeat of the tense confrontation before

the opening ceremony.

Earlier, organisers were criticised for their medical response after marathon runner Callum Hawkins collapsed only two kilometres (just over a mile) from victory and lay prone for some time before help arrived.

Officials in turn lashed out at spectators who took pictures of Hawkins as he lay in distress. Australia's Michael Shelley ran past the Scot on his way to victory.

Marathon world record-holder Paula Radcliffe tweeted that there were "big questions" for the organising committee and medical staff.

"That should never happen," she said.

BANGLADESH'S SUCCESS

Bangladesh enjoyed their most memorable Commonwealth Games campaign in recent times by winning two silver medals at the Gold Coast Games, which concluded yesterday.

The two medals came in shooting, the only discipline which has produced Bangladesh's success in previous editions. Abdullahel Baki defended his silver medal in 10m air rifle from the previous games while Shakil Ahmed won a silver in 50m air pistol event, with the latter narrowly missing out on a gold medal.

There were other encouraging performances, such as Zakia Sultana Tumpa's fourth-place finish in women's 10m air rifle, fourth-place finish for wrestler Sherin Sultana in women's 68kg category and sixth-place finish for Mabia Akter Simanta in women's 63kg weight of weightlifting. There were disappointing efforts, too, mainly in sprint and swimming.

These feats came after Bangladesh's participation started in the worst possible fashion as the boxing team's coach-cum-manager failed to attend the managers' meeting, rendering the two Bangladeshi boxers ineligible for the games.

'Tushar knows the four-day pattern'



Mominul Haque, who missed the fourth round of the BCL, prepares himself in the nets for the fifth round at the BCB Academy ground in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SPORTS REPORTER

There was no official training session for Islami Bank East Zone for their upcoming Bangladesh Cricket League fifth-round match against BCB North Zone, but batsman Mominul Haque was seen preparing himself in the nets at the Academy ground in Mirpur yesterday.

The left-hander, who missed the fourth round of the BCL to perform Umrah, immediately got back to business after returning to the country on Saturday and seems intent on being fully primed for the match against North Zone starting in Mirpur from tomorrow.

Mominul was BCL's highest run-scorer after the first three rounds with 382 runs and his two hundreds included the mammoth 258 against South Zone. Tushar Imran, who struck twin hundreds in the fourth round for South Zone, now leads the list with 558 runs with four hundreds in four games and a staggering average of 111.60.

When asked about the recent form and permanent class of Tushar -- who also became the first Bangladeshi to score 10,000 runs in first-class cricket during the third round -- Mominul pointed at the ability of the experienced campaigner to adapt to the pattern of the longer-version game as one of the main reasons he can score big on a regular basis.

"When I played against him I noticed that he [Tushar Imran] has a few specific reasons for the success, and the main reason is that he understands the pattern of four-day games. He knows very well when to attack the bowler and when to defend and the biggest thing is he plays session by session. That's the reason he has been playing well in the four-day games. He has adapted to longer-version cricket, so he is scoring runs heavily," Mominul told reporters yesterday.

The remaining two rounds of the BCL are perhaps the last opportunity for national team cricketers to prepare ahead of the West Indies tour where Bangladesh will play two Test matches in the Caribbean followed by limited over series. Mominul said he was looking forward to utilising the opportunity.

The 26-year-old, who has a calm and composed nature, however is only focusing on the BCL where his side East Zone are in second place in the table with 39 points, two behind North Zone.

"I don't think that way [about becoming the highest run scorer] and when you think of becoming the highest run-getter you will play for yourself and not for the team. I used to think that way previously but it was wrong, which I realise now. When a team becomes champions you will notice that many of the players from that team are among the top run-getters," he said.

According to the stylish left-hander, who has been labelled as a Test specialist in the Bangladesh side, the remaining two rounds of the BCL will be more competitive as most of the national cricketers will be available for the rest of the league.

Commentary job for Smith?

STAR SPORT DESK

Luck may be changing for disgraced former Australia captain Steve Smith, who is currently serving out a one-year ban for his role in the ball-tampering scandal during Australia's tour of South Africa last month.

According to a Daily Telegraph report, Smith may be in line for a job with Foxtel, the company that recently inked a broadcast rights deal with Cricket Australia.

The report states that Foxtel is planning to give the ex-captain a spot in their new look broadcast team.

The details of his role are as yet unclear, but it's likely that Smith will be given a part in Fox Sports' magazine shows and potentially even a seat in the commentary box next summer.

"I was as hurt as any Australian when it [ball-tampering] happened," said Fox Sports Australia CEO Patrick Delaney. "We all had a piece of our heart broken. But Steve... showed true remorse and topped it with the penalties."

"Australia is a place where we accept people make mistakes and we also give them a second chance," Delaney added.

Smith is currently in New York and was spotted unwinding in a bar in the city's Chinatown precinct happily socialising with friends.

Reports also emerged yesterday that in the aftermath of losing multiple sponsors, Smith had put one of his luxury properties in Sydney up for rent. In that light, the Foxtel news must be especially pleasing for the embattled cricketer.

Contrasting Saturdays

STAR SPORT DESK

The scorecards in the Indian Premier League show that both Bangladeshis in the league, Shakib Al Hasan and Mustafizur Rahman, are performing well but the former will have a smile much broader than his junior national colleague after both played telling hands in their most recent matches on Saturday.

Both players have new franchises this year, with Shakib making the move from Kolkata Knight Riders to Sunrisers Hyderabad, the team that Mustafizur used to play for before moving to defending champions Mumbai Indians. Their additions seem to have had wildly divergent results -- Sunrisers have won all three of their matches and Shakib bowled economically and incisively in two of those matches, while Mumbai are dead last after losing all their three matches.

Shakib bowled beautifully to help restrict his former franchise Kolkata to 138 for eight. His figures of two for 21 are excellent in the T20 format, but it was the one-handed, diving return catch off Chris Lynn that he snaffled centimetres from the turf that will stick in the mind from a match that featured superb fielding from Hyderabad. He then hit a 21-ball 27 during the successful chase, completing an all-round effort that could have netted him the player-of-the-match award that



Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan dazzled with both bat and ball for Sunrisers Hyderabad against his former team Kolkata Knight Riders in their IPL fixture at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Billy Stanlake, who had an identical bowling analysis, ended up getting perhaps because of the fear he instilled in the opposition with his pace.

Mustafizur, meanwhile, had figures of one for 25 from four overs against Delhi Daredevils -- also excellent, especially in a match where both sides scored 190-plus. However, in contrast to Shakib and Hyderabad, perceptions of Mustafizur's performance took a deep dive as he, at a crucial juncture of Delhi's chase of 194, dropped Shreyas Iyer twice in the same over from Jasprit Bumrah. It

was the second drop at short third man, when the ball had travelled straight to Mustafizur, that badly exposed the 21-year-old's still underdeveloped fielding skills.

However, his bowling in his first three overs was just another example of why he is such a hot commodity in the IPL -- conceding just 14 runs with Jason Roy going hammer and tongs. But Mustafizur became the face of an unexpected loss as Roy, needing 11 to win in the last over, hit the Fizz for a four and six in the first two balls. Mustafizur showed courage under fire with three dot balls but could not manage a fourth.