

Sports



Commonwealth Games President Martin hands flag to next hosts

Australia beat Canada in men's basketball final

GOLD COAST: Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) President Louise Martin thanks the organisers, volunteers, various levels of government, athletes and sponsors for their input on the Games before handing the flag over to the next hosts. English city Birmingham were awarded the next Games in 2022 after original hosts Durban were stripped of the multi-sport event for failing to meet CGF deadlines. "Congratulations Gold Coast, congratulations Queensland and congratulations Australia," Martin said before the flag lowering ceremony. "You have truly delivered a golden Games for the Commonwealth."

"Athletes, 11 days ago I asked you to grasp this opportunity and create your own history and fulfil your dreams. I thank you. "What a Games these have been. You have written a new chapter in Commonwealth history. "On behalf of the Commonwealth Games family, thank you Gold Coast, thank you athletes and thank you all."

NZ MEN MATCH WOMEN WITH RUGBY SEVENS GOLD

New Zealand rugby sevens captain Tim Mikkelsen said watching the women's team beat Australia in the final had inspired the men to a 14-0 victory against Fiji. "It's pretty satisfying. We watched the women go into overtime and their win at the end really inspired us to get the double," Mikkelsen said. "Not many guys in this team would know the feeling of a gold medal. I got one in Delhi (2010 Commonwealth Games) and was part of the team that lost in Glasgow (2014), so to get this win is amazing," he added.

AUSTRALIA CLAIM SQUASH DOUBLES CROWN

Australia's David Palmer and Zac Alexander beat England's Daryl Selby and Adrian Waller 11-9 3-11 11-6 in 57 minutes to win gold in the men's doubles squash event. Palmer, 41, came out of retirement for a second time to defend the gold he won at Glasgow 2014 with Cameron Pilley. "I'm really happy I could pick up my game in the third, get on a roll and get the crowd behind us. There can't be any better way for me to finish," Palmer said.

ENGLAND STUN AUSTRALIA IN NETBALL FINAL

England shocked favourites Australia 52-51 in the netball final. With the scores level at 51-51, England clinched the gold with a decisive penalty shot on the siren. They became the first team apart from Australia and New Zealand to win netball gold.

SINGAPORE TABLE TENNIS

PLAYER GAO WINS GOLD

Singapore's Gao Ning, who suffered shattering defeats in the 2010 and 2014 Commonwealth Games, beat Nigeria's Quadri Aruna 11-7 11-8 5-11 3-11 11-9 11-5 in the men's singles final to collect his second table tennis gold of the day. "It was one of those matches where sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. It could have gone either way. Today I felt very calm," Gao said. "Twice I've been the runner up, now the winner but at the Commonwealth Games I've won men's team and men's doubles gold medals... I'm happy to win. I just did my best." Gao and his team mate Yu Mengyu claimed the mixed doubles gold earlier in the day.

ENGLAND SQUASH PLAYER WILLSTROP REFLECTS ON TOUGH WEEK

England's James Willstrop and Declan James beat Scotland's Alan Clyne and Greg Lobban to win the men's doubles bronze. The English pair had lost to compatriots Daryl Selby and Adrian Waller in the semi-finals on Saturday. "If anyone finds me on a doubles court again, shoot me. The emotions have been ridiculous this week," Willstrop said. "It's an incredibly intense game, it's a brain ache. I'm so pleased to win bronze and it's a huge accomplishment for Declan and I."

AUSTRALIA BEAT CANADA IN MEN'S BASKETBALL FINAL

Chris Goulding, Nicholas Kay and Nathan Sobey all tallied double figures as Australia won the gold medal in basketball with a 87-47 victory over Canada. Australia are the only nation to win Commonwealth Games basketball gold after claiming top spot in both the men's and women's tournaments in Melbourne 2006 and at the Gold Coast.

NZ WOMEN BEAT INDIA IN SQUASH DOUBLES FINAL

New Zealand's Joelle King and Amanda Landers-Murphy beat India's Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal Karthik 11-9 11-8 to claim the gold medal in the squash women's doubles.

NAMIBIA'S JOHANNES WINS WOMEN'S MARATHON

Helalia Johannes of Namibia won the women's marathon in two hours, 32.40 minutes, crossing the line 43 seconds ahead of Australian Lisa Weightman. Weightman's compatriot Jessica Trengrove took bronze for the second Games in a row to add yet another medal to the host nation's already impressive tally.—Reuters



GOLD COAST: The President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, Louise Martin, looks on as Chairman of Commonwealth Games England Ian Metcalfe (C) presents the Commonwealth Games flag to the mayor of Birmingham, Anne Underwood (R) during the closing ceremony of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games at the Carrara Stadium on the Gold Coast yesterday. — AFP

COMMONWEALTH/MEDALS

GOLD COAST, Australia: Final medals table at the conclusion of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games yesterday:

Rank	Country	G	S	B	Total
1	Australia	80	59	59	198
2	England	45	45	46	136
3	India	26	20	20	66
4	Canada	15	40	27	82
5	New Zealand	15	16	15	46
6	South Africa	13	11	13	37
7	Wales	10	12	14	36
8	Scotland	9	13	22	44
9	Nigeria	9	9	6	24
10	Cyprus	8	1	5	14
11	Jamaica	7	9	11	27
12	Malaysia	7	5	12	24
13	Singapore	5	2	2	9
14	Kenya	4	7	6	17
15	Uganda	3	1	2	6
16	Botswana	3	1	1	5
17	Samoa	2	3	0	5
18	Trinidad	2	1	0	3
19	Namibia	2	0	0	2
20	Northern Ireland	1	7	4	12
21	The Bahamas	1	3	0	4
22	Papua New Guinea	1	2	0	3
23	Fiji	1	1	2	4
24	Pakistan	1	0	4	5
25	Grenada	1	0	1	2
26	Bermuda	1	0	0	1
26	Guyana	1	0	0	1
26	British Virgin Is.	1	0	0	1
26	Saint Lucia	1	0	0	1
30	Bangladesh	0	2	0	2
31	Sri Lanka	0	1	5	6
32	Cameroon	0	1	2	3
33	Dominica	0	1	1	2
34	Isle of Man	0	1	0	1
34	Mauritius	0	1	0	1
34	Nauru	0	1	0	1
37	Malta	0	0	2	2
37	Vanuatu	0	0	2	2
39	Cook Islands	0	0	1	1
39	Ghana	0	0	1	1
39	Norfolk Island	0	0	1	1
39	Seychelles	0	0	1	1
39	Solomon Islands	0	0	1	1
Total		275	276	289	840

(G = Gold; S = Silver; B = Bronze)

Last-gasp Donnarumma holds Napoli

MILAN: A dramatic last-gasp save from AC Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma further dented Napoli's Serie A title ambitions with a goalless draw at the San Siro yesterday.

The 19-year-old Italian—who became the youngest player to reach 100 Serie A appearances on Sunday—dived to keep out Arkadiusz Milik's goal-bound effort two minutes into added-on time as Napoli lost further ground on champions Juventus.

Napoli-bidding for an elusive third title after those won in 1987 and 1990 — now have 78 points from 32 games. Six-time consecutive champions Juventus, on 81, can pull six points clear with a win against Sampdoria later Sunday.

"It's useless to think about Juventus or we won't win," said Napoli midfielder Jer Jorginho. "I'm sorry for the draw, we had our chances but we did not manage to score, but let's look ahead because there are still other matches." In an intense game at a sold-out San Siro, AC Milan overcame the absences of captain Leonardo Bonucci (suspended) and centre-back Alessio Romagnoli (injured) to peg the visitors back.

Napoli goalkeeper Pepe Reina-heading for AC Milan on a free transfer next June—was tested early by his future teammates, diving low to clear Giacomo Bonaventura's effort. Milan midfielder Suso threatened after 11 minutes with a cross that towering defender Kalidou Koulibaly deflected the ball away to bounce off Nikola Kalinic's head.

Milan defender Mateo Musacchio thought he had



MILAN: Napoli's Italian defender Christian Maggio kicks the ball during the Italian Serie A football match AC Milan vs Napoli at the San Siro stadium in Milan yesterday. — AFP

scored six minutes before the break firing in a rebound after Reina had blocked a Hakan Calhanoglu shot, but was ruled offside.

After the interval Napoli captain Marek Hamsik was at the centre of the action, setting up Lorenzo Insigne on the left and launching himself into the area but to no avail. And Milik finally looked set to break the deadlock in stoppages when he picked up a cross, controlled and fired towards goal but Donnarumma raced forward and got low to tip wide.

It condemned Napoli to a third draw in their past five games. AC Milan remain sixth and within the

Europa League places but too far behind for the Champions League with six games to play. Inter Milan missed the chance to get back into the Champions League contention with a goalless draw at Atalanta on Saturday. Juventus and Napoli looked locked into the first two Champions League spots with three teams fighting for the two remaining with Inter, Roma and Lazio now all on 60 points.

Meanwhile, rock bottom Benevento grabbed a 2-2 draw at Sassuolo, thanks to a double from Malian striker Cheick Diabate, to bring his tally to seven goal in six matches. — AFP

Valgren drops Sagan, Valverde to win Amstel Gold Race

VALKENBURG: Denmark's Michael Valgren of Astana won the Amstel Gold Race yesterday, beating Roman Kreuziger in a cat-and-mouse finale after a rolling 263km race from Maastricht. Italy's Enrico Gasparotto

was third by a few seconds while pre-race favourites Peter Sagan and Alejandro Valverde came fourth and fifth after being dropped by a lightning break around 1km from the finish. "The team was counting on me," said Valgren, who underlined his classics form with a fourth-place finish at the recent Tour of Flanders. "In the escape I had the help of Jakob Fuglsang who was so strong and after all his efforts I had to win."

A minute's silence was observed at the start in memory of Belgian Michael Goolaerts, who died after suffering heart failure during the Paris-Roubaix last Sunday. The only one of the 'Ardennes Classics' to be run on Dutch soil featured 34 small climbs over constantly rolling terrain on narrow country roads. As expected, an early breakaway formed and the nine frontrunners went on to build a lead of over 15 minutes.

A route change made a long-range victory bid more likely on Sunday, the race being stripped of its summit finish. It took the efforts of Valverde's Movistar team to reel in the earlier escapees, and that set the stage for a war of nerves between the key remaining contenders.

Valgren, who was second here in 2016, took a back seat while Danish compatriot Fuglsang kept Valverde, Sagan, France's Julian Alaphilippe and Belgian Tim Wellens on tenterhooks with a series of false breaks. When Valgren suddenly accelerated, a tired-looking bunch looked to Sagan to close the gap. But the world champion, crowned king of Paris-Roubaix last week, refused the challenge.

Kreuziger (Mitchelton-Scott) set off in pursuit of Valgren and the pair opened a gap that proved, for the Dane, to be the platform for a clever victory. — AFP

Nadal returns to old claycourt hunting ground

LONDON: Rafael Nadal's build-up to what he hopes will be another French Open triumph begins in earnest this week when the Spaniard returns to one of his favourite old haunts, Monte Carlo.

The Mallorcan world number one has been off the Tour since injuring himself at the Australian Open but looks to have recovered just in time for the European claycourt swing he has dominated throughout his career.

Nowhere more so than Monte Carlo where last year he became the first player to win the same ATP tournament 10 times. Twelve months ago he went on to win a 10th Barcelona title and then completed La Decima at Roland Garros.

The 31-year-old world number one begins his claycourt title-hunting season with few matches in the legs this year though, having taken an extended rest after suffering a hip injury in Melbourne against Croatia's Marin Cilic who will be seeded two at the Monte Carlo Country Club overlooking the ocean. Any doubts about Nadal's physical condition were cast aside, however, when he won both his matches for Spain in last weekend's Davis Cup quarter-final against Germany.

His display against world number four Alexander Zverev was particularly impressive, winning 6-1 6-4 6-4. "I feel that I'm playing well. I had some good days of practice here, playing some good sets," Nadal said.

"That helps me. I love this event. I always feel comfortable here. I'm enjoying being here in Monte Carlo in an event that always brings me to the best feelings possible. "It's hopefully going to be my first event of the year that I can finish. And I'm excited about that."

Nadal will be chiefly concerned with arriving in Paris in tip-top shape but also in the back of his mind is the fact that his number one ranking is hanging by a thread.

Unless Nadal wins an 11th Monte Carlo title Roger Federer, who is skipping the claycourt season as he did last year, will return to the top spot without hitting a ball. Federer is not the only big name missing from the Monte Carlo draw, with Andy Murray and Stan Wawrinka also absent as they recover from injuries.—Reuters