



# POC Online

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## Day 9: Softball and Boxing Deliver Four Golds for RP

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Palembang—Softball's timely twin strikes and the one-sided victories of two female boxers crafted what could be a gold medal-studded finish for Team Philippines with only two days of competition left in the 26th Southeast Asian Games.

The RP Blu-Girls were simply too much for Thailand, 6-0 while the men's squad rode on accurate hitting to in the last two innings to overcome a two-run deficit and win 7-3 for the back-to-back triumphs that merely reiterated the country's dominance in the region.

Team member Anna Maria Santiago said that softball association President Jean Henry Lhullier was quick to congratulate the squad via long distance call from Manila.

In all the seven times softball was played in the SEAG the Blu-Girls won all the championships while the men's team is six of seven, its only loss handed by Indonesia in 1997.

Indonesia (138-110-102) is virtual overall champion with only 123 gold medals while attention shifted to the scintillating race for second between Thailand (83-76-92) that overtook Vietnam (79-75-77) Saturday. Malaysia (47-43-64) is becoming more comfortable at fourth.

Singapore, still threatened by the Philippines, claimed four gold medals from sailing and upped its fifth-running tally to 39-41-70 against the Filipinos' 23-42-59.

Lao-PDR is at seventh (8-6-27), Myanmar 8th (7-19-25), Cambodia 9th (3-10-14), Brunei (0-2-7) and Timor Leste with only three bronze medals are at the tail end.

Alice Kate Appari (light fly) pummelled Thet Htar San of Myanmar 20-4, and Josie Gabuco (pinweight) did the same number on Trinh Thi Diem Kie of Vietnam, 18-5 but Nesty Petecio (light bantam) lost out to Peam Wlia Laoteam of Thailand, 10-16 and settled for silver in the all women finale of boxing.

Silver medals were also won thanks to the equestrian show jumping team of Michelle Barrera, Toni Leviste, Diego Lorenzo and Joker Arroyo, international 470 class sailing twosome of Rommel Chavez and Ridgely Balladares and sprint cyclist Filipina-Aussie Apryl Eppinger in the 500m race.

One more is in the bag and it can still turn to gold depending on the Monday final show of Alfie Catalan in the individual pursuit event of cycling.

In taolu events of wushu, Daniel Parantac, bronze medallist in the world championships, chipped in a silver medal from taijijian and taijiquan as the whole army of sanda fighters—Mark Ediva, Edward Folayang, Rhea Mae Rifani, Benjie Rivera, Marianne Mariano and world champion Dembert Arcita—enter the semi final round on Sunday.

The other wushu athletes, John Keithley Chan, was fifth in changquan, and Thornton Sayan fourth in nandao and nanquan.

Sadly, this edition of the SEAG saw the end of the long time reign in judo of Games' legend John Baylon where he had ruled a total 17 straight seasons in the 81 kg. class.

Nearly 50, Baylon lost out to a much younger Putu Wiradamungga of Indonesia via ippon while Gilbert Ramirez saved the contingent from a shutout for the day with a bronze in the 73 kgs division beating Thura Zaw of Myanmar.

RP also took the shorter end of the stick in dragon boat racing, questionably disqualified by an official from the International Dragon Boat Federation in the men's 10 plus one event where the Filipinos undoubtedly finished third.

Heated arguments determined that the chief arbiter took the bronze away because of alleged use of ineligible players. In the subsequent exchange, RP was able to prove that the boat control committee of the event had permitted the RP substitution of players who were in the original line up submitted to the organizers. No final decision was given although the medal was not awarded.

It was the second disqualification for the Philippines which also saw Fil-Am riders Daniel Patrick Manabat and Alexis Mendoza Vergara prevented from racing in the BMX races due to nationality. Both have dual citizenship and carry Philippine passports

Other bronze medallists for the day are Geylord Coveta in the mistral racing of sailing, the men's 20-man plus one crew in traditional boat racing, and billiards' Django Bustamante, soft netter Joseph Arcilla and SEA Games rookie John Paul Morales who bagged the bronze in the 10-kilometer

scratch race behind Malaysian champion Mohammad Sharif Saleh and Thai runner-up Satjiakul Sanglam.

Bronze also came from weightlifting courtesy of Richard Pep Agosto in the above 105 kg. class and Christopher Bureros in the below 94 with combined lifts of 330 and 288 kg. in the snatch and clean and jerk.




After eight games in the masters event of bowling Frederick Ong looked very much like the singles champion as he led with a 222.40 average and Biboy Rivera made it look even better occupying second with 218.30. The third entry Raoul Miranda was sixth with 210.

The highest placed female entry in the masters is Marianne Posadas at 11th and Alexis Sy is 15th after eight games.

In standard chess women division bet Rulp Ylem Jose settled for draw but kept the lead with 2.5 points after three rounds and GM Wesley So lost the lead to fellow GM Susanto Megaranto.

Oliver Barbosa and Joey Antonio are at joint fourth with 4.0 points in rapid chess while Catherine Perena has 4.5 for third in the distaff side and behind her is teammate Cherry Ann Mejia with 3.5.

## Medal Tally for 26th SEA Games November 19, 2011

	 <b>Gold</b>	 <b>Silver</b>	 <b>Bronze</b>	<b>Overall Medal</b>
Indonesia	138	110	102	350
Thailand	82	76	91	249
Vietnam	78	74	77	229
Malaysia	47	43	64	154
Singapore	39	41	70	150
Philippines	24	41	59	124
Lao PDR	8	6	26	40
Myanmar	7	19	25	51
Cambodia	3	10	14	27
Brunei Darussalam	0	2	7	9
Timor Leste	0	0	3	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>1386</b>