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Day 10: Four Golds Today

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Palembang—The national team in traditional boat racing made an emphatic statement Sunday and so did the baseball squad boosting the Philippines' penultimate day show in the 26th Southeast Asian Games.

Challenged to prove their worth by a raging controversy at home, the Filipino paddlers clocked 1:53.95 despite the heavy and shallow waters of the man-made lake to upend the monstrous crew of Myanmar than won silver with 1:54.12 in the 500m 20-man race at Cipule Lake in West Java. Thailand was third (1:56.21), Cambodia fourth (1:57.27) and Indonesia was fifth (1:57.64).

Not in any way overshadowed was Alfie Catalan's gold medal in the individual pursuit event of cycling which is his third gold medal in four stagings of the SEAG since 2005 and first of his team in this edition. Catalan's 4:53.103 beat the 4:56.103 of local boy Warseso Projo and 5:00.009 of compatriot John Renee Mier, who took the bronze.

Completing the afternoon delight for the Philippines was the baseball squad that, heavy rains and all, controlled Indonesia, 2-0 in a close gold-medal match.

Sweetest victory for the day came late at night as the men's basketball team formalized its claim to the gold medal with an 85-57 win over Thailand.

The day's output totalled four gold, five silver and five bronze medals.

"Salamat sa Diyos at sa prayers ng ating mga kababayan," said canoe/kayak federation secretary general Jonne Go feeling all vindicated after the controversy that ensued in the association's take-over of dragon boat affairs from the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation.

The PDBF team that represented the country in the 2007 Games in Thailand did not win a gold medal.

"Maraming masasakit na salitang tinanggap ang mga atleta natin noon, sana naman tapos na ngayon," she added.

Counting the silver in the 10-man 500m race and the two bronze medals in the 1,000m 20-man crew and 10-man crew, one of which returned without fanfare on Sunday after the jury of appeals upheld a Philippine protest, the team produced four medals. The team's final event is the 20-man, 2,000m race on Monday.

Filipino-Aussie Apryl Eppinger quietly collected her second silver medal in women's sprint races while the 4,000-meter team pursuit squad of Mier, Catalan, John Paul Morales and Arnold Marcelo added a bronze. The cyclists have still three events to complete Monday.

At sundown in Palembang, Olympian Hidilyn Diaz, the brightest hope of weightlifting, saved the silver with a combined snatch and clean and jerk total of 215 kgs, only eight kilos shy of Thailand's gold winner Rattikan Gulnoi.

Hours later in Jakarta Frederick Ong relinquished his overnight lead and settled for silver medal at the completion of the Masters event of bowling which was snatched by Malaysian Adrian Ang in the two-game finale.

Sam Noguist and Bambi Zoleta, paired for the mixed doubles, contributed a bronze in soft tennis.

As of 9 p.m. (10 p.m. Manila) Indonesia was merely applying the finishing touches to an eighth overall championship amassing a massive 149-124-115, gold-silver-bronze tally while Thailand appeared solid second on an 94-79-104 card and Vietnam was back in third after six days with 83-73-84.

Malaysia is not keen on looking back with 52-45-70 at fourth and Singapore is holding on to fifth like a leech with 41-43-71.

The Filipinos are at sixth after the three gold medals snared on Sunday with 27-48-68 although the official web site maintained by INASOC, or the organizing committee, has yet to correct the inaccurate figures as to gold, silver and bronze medals credited to the Philippines.

It is also presumed that other nations are affected by the inaccurate information, including schedules, medal tally, medal audit and names of competitors, on the web site that up to the eve of the closing ceremony remained unadjusted.

Myanmar, the next host of the Games in 2013, was at seventh (10-21-27), Laos 8th (3-11-20), Cambodia ninth (3-11-20) and Timor Leste, which captured its first gold medal this year on Saturday in Shorinji Kempo took 10th spot (1-1-4) while Brunei was at last place with two silver and seven bronze medals.

Wushu World Championships silver medallist Marianne Mariano was the first RP semi finalist to advance with a victory over Su Huilaing Oo of Myanmar although Rhea Mae Rifani was stalled to a bronze finish by Thi Bich Nguyen of Vietnam in the sanda event.

Late Sunday, three others—Edward Folayang, Mark Ediva and Benjie Rivera—also marched to the finals of sanda (formerly sansou). Dembert Arcita will get a bronze.

Filipino-Japanese female judoka Kyonomi Watanabe (70 kgs) managed a bronze, the team's sixth that went with one gold.

Catherine Perena settled for the bronze while GM Joey Antonio got fourth and Oliver Barbosa fifth in rapid chess.

Wesley So and Rulp Ylem Jose have the chance to grab at least the silver in the standard chess playoffs Monday, where So and fellow GM Mark Paragua and Beverly Mendoza and Jedara Docena vie in blitz.