

Asian games comes to an end



Opening Ceremony



The 16th edition of the Asian Games concludes today in Guangzhou. As expected, the hosts, China, showed their supreme, bagging nearly 400 medals in total. (181 gold medals, 104 silver and 91 bronze medals by yesterday morning with still having more to go)

The East Asia region remained on top of the

Medals table (Top 10 as at November 26)

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China (CHN)	181	104	91	376
2	South Korea (KOR)	72	61	85	218
3	Japan (JPN)	39	68	86	193
4	Iran (IRI)	19	11	23	53
5	Kazakhstan (KAZ)	15	18	32	65
6	Chinese Taipei (TPE)	12	12	33	57
7	Uzbekistan (UZB)	10	17	20	47
8	India (IND)	10	14	29	53
9	Malaysia (MAS)	9	17	13	39
10	Thailand (THA)	9	7	31	47

table by yesterday with South Korea at the second slot, followed by Japan. India was the only South Asian Country among the top 10 performers.

The multi-sport event in Guangzhou, China that began on November 12 and finishes today, hosted a total of 476 events in 42 sports. Guangzhou is the second Chinese city to host

the Games, after Beijing in 1990. Guangzhou was awarded the right to host the Games on July 1, 2004, as the sole bidding city. This came after the withdrawal of several cities - Amman, Kuala Lumpur and Seoul.

The games were also co-hosted by Dongguan, Foshan and Shanwei - the three neighbouring cities.

Sri Lanka contingent at Doha and Guangzhou

Sri Lanka sent a large contingent to Guangzhou, comprising 104 athletes with the intention of reaping a better harvest but sadly it did not work out well.

By the time of going to press, Sri Lanka had lost all of their hopes with the women's 4x100m relay and men's 4x400m relay teams were due to hit the Guangzhou track yesterday evening.

The last hope before those two events, was also shattered when Sri Lanka lost the match for the Bronze Medal in cricket yesterday morning when they were beaten by Pakistan.

All in all, the Lankans were seen in action in 22 disciplines, but any of them did not succeed in delivering the expected type of results.

In comparison to the last Asian Games, which was held in Doha in 2006, this year's performances were 'Pathetic' according to most of the Sri Lankan sports enthusiasts.

Sri Lanka fielded 151 athletes at the previous version of the Asian Games and they brought home one silver and two bronze medals.

Sri Lankans have only won 39 medals at the history of Asian Games since their first appearance in 1951 Asian Games and that total comes in with 10 well deserved gold medals, 10 silver and 19 bronze medals.

Our neighbours - India

India on the other hand, were doing pretty well, being the only South Asian Nation to secure a spot in the top 10 slots.

In Doha, India only won a total of 53 medals with 10



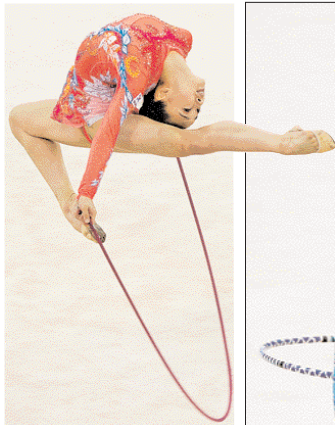
Yuki Ebihara



Sajad Moradi

gold medals, 17 silver and 26 bronze medals. But there is a clear progress shown by the Indians who were placed second at the Commonwealth Games in their own backyard last month. India had won 10 gold medals, 14 silver and

29 bronze medals at the time of going to press. India had more medals hopes in the events that were due to take place yesterday evening and hopefully they would have added some more medals to their total.



Son Yeon-Jae of South Korea performs during the rhythmic gymnastics individual all-around final at the 16th Asian Games on November 26, 2010. Kazakhstan won the gold medal, Uzbekistan got the silver and South Korea the bronze. AFP



Son Yeon-Jae of South Korea performs during the rhythmic gymnastics individual all-around final during the 16th Asian Games on November 26, 2010. Kazakhstan won the gold medal, Uzbekistan got the silver and South Korea the bronze. AFP



Nur Hidayah Abdul Wahid of Malaysia performs during the rhythmic gymnastics individual all-around final, during the 16th Asian Games on November 26, 2010. Anna Alyabyeva of Kazakhstan wins the gold, Ulyana Trofimova of Uzbekistan gets the silver and Son Yeon-Jae of South Korea gets the bronze medal. AFP



Ulyana Trofimova of Uzbekistan performs during the rhythmic gymnastics individual all-around final during the 16th Asian Games on November 26, 2010. Kazakhstan won the gold medal, Uzbekistan got the silver and South Korea the bronze. AFP

New record holders

These are the new record holders prior to the yesterday's events

Men's Records

50 km walk (road):	3:47:04	- Si Tianfeng of China
Discus throw:	67.99m	- Ehsan Hadadi of Iran
3000 m steeplechase:	8:25.89	- Fares Mubarak Taher of Bahrain
110 m hurdles:	13.09 seconds	- Liu Xiang of China
1500 m:	3:36.49	- Mohammed Shaween of Saudi Arabia
800 m:	1:45.45	- Sajad Moradi of Iran

Women's records

20 km walk:	1:30:06	- Liu Hong of China
Javelin throw:	61.56 m	- Yuki Ebihara of China
Discus throw:	66.18 m	- Li Yanfeng of China
3000 m steeplechase:	9:55.67	- Sudha Singh of India



Liu Xiang



Li Yanfeng

Dear Readers

For all those amazing events, parties get-togethers, AGMs of special occasions, pets, weird news that you just found out and you want to somehow get the world to read and see all about it - them mail them all along with your suggestions, queries and anything else that you think deserve attention to zestdn@gmail.com

AOD opens doors to public!

Academy of Design (AOD), South-Asia's celebrated design campus offering undergraduate education in fashion, graphic, interior along with National qualifications in jewellery design is to hold its annual Open Day today (Saturday November 27) from 10 am to 6 pm at the Academy of Design city campus - 2B, Lauries Road, Colombo 04. AOD is the only institution in Sri Lanka to offer

students a globally recognized degree in design. AOD's collaboration with Northumbria University of UK will see students graduate from Northumbria, while completing the entire course at the AOD campus in Colombo. The AOD Open Day will involve design industry professionals, creative students, persons looking for higher education options and school students.

The Open Day gives an opportunity for the public to witness the work of the students, meet the international faculty and get accurate first hand experience on the UK degrees offered at the campus.

The annual AOD Open Day, opens the doors of the campus to the public. AOD is the only institution in Sri Lanka to offer students a globally recognized degree in design.



A model showcasing one of the student's designs



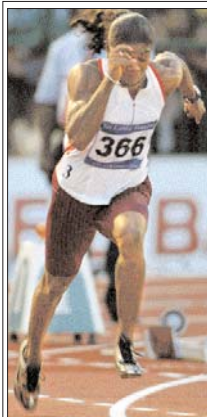
The AOD graduate fashion show



One of the stalls showing the designs of the students



The final walk of the night



Susanthika Jayasinghe



Damayanthi Dharsha

Susi, Dharsha still the best

A fact that every Sri Lankan can be proud of, is that Sri Lanka's sprint sensations - Susanthika Jayasinghe and Damayanthi Dharsha still hold the Asian Games records for the women's 100m, 200m and 400m events.

Without any argue-

ment, Susanthika is the best 100m woman sprinter Asia has ever produced and her record of 11.15 seconds is still announced at the beginning of every Asian Games 100m event. She renewed the record looks at the 2002 Asian Games held in Busan,

Korea. At the same year, Damayanthi Dharsha entered her name into the list of record holders with her 51.13 second run in the 400m event. Her record for the 200m, 22.48 seconds, also stands tall, even after 12 years.