

1st Afro Asian Games, 2003



Closing of Afro-Asian Games

The first Afro-Asian Games came to a close with a glittering finale in Hyderabad . President APJ Abdul Kalam was the chief guest at the closing ceremony.

Three golds in tennis, two in boxing and a memorable win against Pakistan in hockey on Friday helped India finish second behind China. India ended the games with 19 gold, 31 silver and 21 bronze for a total of highest 71 medals by any country.

China finished on top with 25 gold, 11 silver and five bronze. Japan were at third place with 15 gold, six silver, two bronze. Nigeria finished fourth with 10 gold, 12 silver and 13 bronze while South Africa were just behind with an equal number of gold, 11 silver and 15 bronze.

The games, which featured eight sports of athletics, field hockey, swimming, weightlifting, shooting, boxing, football and tennis, brought together for the first time athletes from Africa and Asia. Some 3,000 athletes from 65 African and Asian countries took part in the games.

The games, which were originally scheduled in November, 2001 at the national capital were postponed after the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

