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Malaysia scoops Gold & Silver in Men's and Malta creates CTBC history with a Gold/Bronze result in the Women's Singles at VII CTBC in Johannesburg

Secretary General:
Lynne M. Clay

Postal Address:
P.O. Box 280
Church Point
NSW 2105
Australia

Email address:
lynne.clay@outlook.com

Telephone:
+61 2 9999 2210

Mobile Tel:
+61 419 444 280

A slow start in Game 1 of the Men's Singles didn't deter Malaysia's Muhd Nur Aiman who then blitzed the lanes with lines of 266, 248, 235, 268 and 258 and a stunning 241.3 average at Northcliff Bowl this morning to convincingly secure the first Gold medal at the VII Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championship now underway in Johannesburg.

Teammate Timmy Tan shot 200+ scores in all six games to claim Silver with a 226 average, while India's Akaash Kumar posted a 219.2 average and finished a single pin ahead of Bermuda's David Maycock to win Bronze.

For 30 year-old Kumar from Bangalore, the result was unexpected. "When I played my last shot I was a little disappointed, but then all of a sudden everyone pounced saying 'you've won the medal!', he said afterwards. "The goal that Dhruv (Sarda) and I set was to finish in the top 6 in each event, so we've achieved our first target and our friends from Malaysia, Timmy and Aiman – they're gifted!" he stated admiringly.

Robert Bruce from Wales and India's Dhruv Sarda tied for fifth with a 216 average, with Sarda earning the event and High Game honours for the day with a near-perfect 279 in Game 2. South Africa's Quinton Haywood finished close behind in seventh place with a 215 average.

Adding to the excitement for Team Malaysia, left-hander Aiman's stellar performance today was witnessed by South Africa's High Commissioner for Malaysia, Dato Badruddin AB Rahman and senior officials from the High Commission in Pretoria who had come to the Northcliff Centre to see the Championship underway.

In the Ladies Singles event this afternoon Malta was on track to repeat the Gold/Silver result until 29 year-old Tiziana Carannante from Swieqi also overcame a slow first game and stormed home with a 246 final game. Going into Game 6, compatriot Sue Abela's lead looked unassailable but Carannante's strong finish clinched Gold with a 220.8 average.

Australia's Bec Whiting shot a 228 in the sixth to grab Silver with a 214.2 average, finishing just 6 pins ahead of Abela's 1279 total, and relegating the St. Julian's player to a Bronze medal, despite Abela's event High Game of 269 in the third.

"I know you shouldn't score-watch, but I was counting it up in my head, and went from there," Whiting said. "It's going to be pretty exciting tomorrow (for the Doubles) and hopefully we'll bring home some more medals," she added with a smile. Malaysia's Siti Amirah was 12 pins further back with a 211.2 average and Louise Roberts from Wales finished in fifth place with a 210.2 average.

The Gold/Bronze result is a historic benchmark for Team Malta which has competed in every CTBF Championship. "I'm on another planet!" exclaimed a thrilled Carannante who was competing for only the second time in a CTBF Championship since her first appearance at the V CTBC in Malaysia.

Full scores are available online via the official Championship website – www.ctbc2016.org.

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For further information and pics, please contact CTBF Secretary-General, Lynne Clay via email lynne.clay@outlook.com