

Munfaredi bags jiu-jitsu silver

Bahrain's sensational medal haul at Hangzhou Asian Games continues, rises to 18 medals from three sports

● **Ali Munfaredi wins Bahrain's first jiu-jitsu medal at this year's Hangzhou Asian Games**

● **Kingdom's delegation's medal count now boasts 10 gold, three silver and five bronze**

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Bahrain's Ali Munfaredi captured a men's jiu-jitsu silver medal yesterday at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

Munfaredi came away with his medal after losing by advantages to Boncheol Koo of South Korea in the gold medal contest of the men's under-77kg category.

Munfaredi clinched the Kingdom's third silver medal in Hangzhou and 18th overall. The Bahraini delegation now have 10 gold, three silver and five bronze medals from all sports, namely jiu-jitsu, athletics and handball.

The haul put them in ninth place on the medal table based on gold medals won and 15th based on total medals amongst the 41 nations to have stepped onto the podium to date. Bahrain are also the top-ranked Asian country on the medal count.

Munfaredi's silver also marked a special milestone. According to the Bahrain Olympic Committee, it was Bahrain's 100th medal in the history of the Asian Games.

The Kingdom's athletes first

stepped onto an Asiad podium in 1982 in New Delhi, when then-hurdler Ahmed Hamada captured a bronze medal.

This year's Asian Games are scheduled to come to a close tomorrow.

Earlier in his competition yesterday, Munfaredi kicked things off defeating Fahad Al-marri of Kuwait in the round of 16, and then moved on to take out Olzhas Nurtakanov of Kazakhstan in the quarter-finals.

Munfaredi then beat Pau Tian Zhi Lim of Singapore in the semi-finals, to set up his title-decider against Koo.

After claiming his silver medal, Munfaredi said:

"From the beginning of my preparations, I was focused on winning gold in the Asian Games, especially since it would have been the first for the Kingdom in the sport of jiu-jitsu.

"I am happy with the silver medal. It is certainly an important and special achievement, and I will continue to strive to do my best in this sport in order to raise the Bahrain flag at the highest levels of competition."

In the same weight class, Bahrain's Mahmood Alnajar bowed out in the round of 32 after losing his contest to Feruzbek Urokov.

Meanwhile, in wrestling yesterday, Bahrain's Alibeg Alibegov



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Ali Munfaredi



Ali Munfaredi in action yesterday in his jiu-jitsu competition

on to face Bajrang of India, to whom he lost.

Bahrain's wrestlers are back in action today. Magomedrasul Asluev will take on Parinya Channanjan of Thailand in the men's freestyle 74kg qualification round, Magomed Sharipov will face Deepak Punia

of India in the men's freestyle 86kg qualification round, and recently crowned world champion Akhmed Tazhudinov will take on Awusayiman Habila of China in the men's freestyle 97kg quarter-finals.

Also set to go for gold today is Bahrain's Gor Minasyan, who came away with a superb medal double at the World Weightlifting Championships 2023 held recently.

Minasyan is one of nine athletes set to compete in the men's over-109kg category in weightlifting. He will be going up against athletes from Iran, Nepal, Turkmenistan, Pakistan,

Kazakhstan, South Korea and Uzbekistan.

Bahrain's Hangzhou Asiad medallists so far

GOLD

Violah Jephumba	Women's 10,000m
Kemi Adekoya	Women's 400m
Kemi Adekoya	Women's 400m hurdles
Birhanu Balew	Men's 10,000m
Birhanu Balew	Men's 5,000m
Winfred Yavi	Women's 3,000m steeplechase
Winfred Yavi	Women's 1,500m
Musa Isah, Kemi Adekoya, Abbas Yusuf Abbas, Salwa Eid Naser	Mixed 4x400m relay
Muna Mubarak, Kemi Adekoya, Zenab Moussa, Salwa Eid Naser	Women's 4x400m relay
Eunice Chumba	Women's marathon

SILVER

Salwa Eid Naser	Women's 400m
Handball team	Men's tournament
Ali Munfaredi	Men's jiu-jitsu U-77kg

BRONZE

Abbas Yusuf Abbas	Men's 400m
Hajar Alkhalidi	Women's 100m
Marta Yota	Women's 1,500m
Edidiong Odiong	Women's 200m
Dawit Fikadu	Men's 5,000m



Bahrain's national athletics team, who won 16 medals at the Hangzhou Asian Games, including 10 gold, received a hero's welcome upon their return to the Kingdom of Bahrain. A reception was organised by the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) at Bahrain International Airport, attended by General Sports Authority CEO Dr Abdulrahman Askar, BOC board member Noman Al Hassan, Bahrain Athletics Association board member Khaled Al Doseri, and other officials. Above, Bahrain's star athletes and officials at their reception

Philippines break basketball drought as Japan defy crowd for gold

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The Philippines won their first Asian Games basketball gold since 1962 while Japan defied the Hangzhou crowd to thrash North Korea 4-1 and retain their women's football crown on Friday.

American-born Justin Brownlee was the star player for the basketball-mad Philippines, pouring in 20 points and grabbing 10 rebounds to help down Jordan 70-60.

Former Brooklyn Nets starter Rondae Hollis-Jefferson poured in a game-high 24 points but it was not enough to inspire Jordan

to a first Asian Games gold in history in basketball.

"Everyone came together and that was a great team effort," said Ivory Coast-born Angelo Kouame, who added 14 points for the Philippines.

"It means a lot after all these years, and that's bigger than all of us."

At Huanglong Sports Centre Stadium, holders Japan found it hard going in the first half against a determined North Korea in the women's football final.

The crowd of more than 35,000 gave the North Korean national

anthem a huge cheer and were overwhelmingly in favour of Japan's opponents.

The teams were deadlocked 1-1 at the break but Japan broke North Korea's resistance with three quickfire goals in the space of six second-half minutes to put the result beyond doubt.

Breakdancing made its Asian Games debut ahead of an even bigger landmark appearance at the Olympics next year.

Making its Asiad debut even more significant, qualification for the Paris Games is up for grabs along with medals in Hangzhou.

In more traditional sport, India thrashed holders Japan 5-1 to reclaim the men's hockey title they last held in 2014.

They also nabbed a spot for Paris.

"We have made the nation proud," said India's South African coach Craig Fulton.

India crushed Bangladesh by nine wickets to power into the gold medal match of the men's cricket and will face Afghanistan in Saturday's final.

India are enjoying their best Asian Games ever and are set to soar past 100 medals.



Philippines' Justin Brownlee (L) is challenged by Jordan's John Bohannon