

Gold rush continues for Bahrain in Konya

Bahraini elite athletes Winfred Yavi, Dawit Fikadu and Muna Mubarak each claim a gold medal to headline a four-medal haul on day three of track and field events in the fifth Islamic Solidarity Games in Turkey

● **Winfred Yavi wins gold in women's 3,000m steeplechase while Bahrain's Tigest Mekonin captures silver**

● **Dawit Fikadu clinches men's 10,000m gold while Muna Mubarak bags the gold medal in the women's 400m**

● **Sprinters Yaqoob Salem, Edidiong Odiong and Zenab Moussa Ali Mahamat all advance to respective semis rounds**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain enjoyed a superb four-medal haul that included three gold medals yesterday on the third day of the athletics competition at the fifth Islamic Solidarity Games, being held in Konya, Turkey.

Winfred Yavi, Dawit Fikadu and Muna Mubarak were all crowned champions in their respective track events.

Winfred claimed the gold medal in the women's 3,000m steeplechase, Fikadu won gold in the men's 10,000m, and Muna captured her gold in the women's 400m.

Bahrain's other medal yesterday was a silver taken by Tigest Mekonin in the same race as Winfred.

Their victories brought Bahrain's overall medal tally so far to 10 medals at the Games, including five gold, three silver and two bronze medals—all won in athletics.

The two other gold-medallists were Edidiong Odiong in the women's 100m and Birhanu Balew in the men's 5,000m. The other silver-medallists were Aminat Jamal in the women's 400m hurdles and Bontu Rebitu in the women's 10,000m; while the bronze medallists were Ruth Jebet in the same race as Bontu and Abdelrahman Mahmoud in the men's shot put.

Bahrain will be looking to add more medals today with several other athletes set to compete.

Yesterday, Winfred clinched first place with a dominant showing in the women's steeplechase to finish in nine minutes 34.57 seconds. Tigest followed in second place in 9:50.14, while Ikram Ouaziz of Morocco won bronze in 9:57.18.

Dawit Fikadu won the men's 10,000m gold in 28:31.14 following a tight finish.

Narrow miss

Bahrain's Albert Rop, competing in the same race, narrowly missed out on a medal, placing fifth in 28:45.66.

Abel Chebet of Uganda was a close runner-up in 28:31.39, while Bouh Guelleh Moumin



Bahrainis Winfred Yavi, centre, and Tigest Mekonin celebrate on the women's 3,000m steeplechase podium with their medals

of Djibouti came third in 28:33.01.

Muna Mubarak clinched her gold in the women's 400m in 52.97 seconds.

Elsewhere yesterday in athletics, Yaqoob Salem qualified for the men's 200m semi-finals after clocking a time of 20.92s in his heat.

Edidiong, fresh from taking the women's

Dawit Fikadu raises his arms in victory after crossing the finish line in first place to win the men's 10,000m final

100m gold the previous day, stayed in contention for a fantastic double after advancing to the women's 200m semi-finals, as did fellow-Bahraini Zenab Moussa Ali Mahamat. Edidiong clocked a mark of 23.23s in her heat, while Zenab had a time of 23.33s.

Bahrain's John Koech came close to a podium place in the men's 3,000m steeplechase final but came one position shy. He finished fourth in 9:19.64.

Musa Isah also came close to medalling, taking fourth place in the men's 400m final in 46.08s.



Muna Mubarak celebrates with the Bahrain flag after winning gold in the women's 400m

Bahrain's day-three winnings brought their overall medal tally so far at the Games to 10 medals, including five gold, three silver and two bronze medals—all won in athletics

Countryman Abbas Ali came seventh in the same race with a time of 46.60s.

Bahrain's top sportsmen and women are competing in six sports at this year's Games, including athletics, shooting, judo, cycling, wrestling and weightlifting.

The Bahrainis are looking to add to their impressive medal haul from past editions of the Games, when they had won 28 medals in the multi-sport event. Those included 14 gold medals, six silver and eight bronze medals in all.

Bahrain line up Egypt, Japan friendlies for Asian futsal preparations

● **Bahrainis set to compete in AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2022 in Kuwait from September 25 to October 20**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national futsal team have lined up three international friendly matches next month ahead of their participation in this year's AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2022.

The Bahrainis will first take on their counterparts from Egypt in two games in the Kingdom on September 1 and 3.

They will then lock horns with Asian giants Japan on September 23. That exhibition contest will take place in Kuwait, where the continental tournament will get underway a couple of days later on September 25.

The three friendlies were confirmed yesterday by the Bahrain Football Association as part of the national team's final preparations for the Asian Cup.

In the 16-nation tournament, Bahrain are in Group B for the preliminary round alongside



Bahrain's national futsal team celebrate after securing their qualification for the AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2022 in April (File photo)

Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

There are four groups in all for the competition's opening stage.

Group A features hosts Kuwait, Iraq, Thailand and Oman; Group C comprises Iran, Lebanon, Chinese Taipei and Indonesia; and Group D includes Japan, Vietnam, South Korea and Saudi Arabia.

Each of the top two teams from all four groups move through to the quarter-finals following a single round-robin.

The Bahrainis booked their tickets to this year's Asian Cup after finishing second in their

group in the West Zone qualifying tournament held last April in the UAE.

The nationals are coached by Brazilian Lino Gomes, who helped guide the men's team to the futsal bronze medal at the third GCC Games held in May.

This year's Asian Cup is the 17th edition of the tournament, which was previously known as the AFC Futsal Championship. It will be the third time Bahrain are participating. The nationals previously competed in 2002, when they could not make it past the first round, and then in 2018, when they advanced to the quarter-finals.

BRAVE CF becomes the most global promotion in MMA history

TDT | Manama

A brand synonymous with breaking records and barriers, BRAVE Combat Federation officially became the most global mixed martial arts organization in the history of the sport on August 6, when BRAVE CF 61 kicked off in Bonn, Germany. With the addition of Germany to the host countries list, BRAVE CF has now traveled to 28 countries in less than six years, surpassing second-place UFC, which has hosted shows in 27 nations overall.

Since September 23, 2016, with BRAVE CF 1, the fastest-growing MMA promotion in the world has gone around the globe, literally. In just its first full year of operations, events were hosted in Bahrain, Brazil, United Arab Emirates, India, Kazakhstan, and Mexico.

The number of countries was notably extended between 2017 and 2018, when BRAVE CF inaugurated its brand in Jordan, Indonesia, Northern Ireland, Morocco, and Colombia.

In its third year of operations, BRAVE CF rapidly picked up the pace, hosting shows in Pakistan, South Africa, Saudi Arabia,



From BRAVE CF 1 to BRAVE CF 61, it took the promotion 2144 days to reach that landmark. The accomplishment is all the more impressive given that the UFC needed 9452 days to get to 27 countries

Philippines, and England. After that, the organization added Romania, Kyrgyzstan, Slovenia, and Sweden to the list, eventually crossing the 20-country barrier with a series of four shows hosted in Stockholm, in mid-2020 during the height of the COVID 19 global pandemic.

In 2021, BRAVE CF went back on the road to help empower mixed martial arts in Europe, hosting events in Russia, Belarus, Italy, Poland, Serbia. And then BRAVE kicked off 2022 with shows in new territories such as South Korea and Uz-

bekistan.

Then on August 6th, BRAVE Combat Federation reached a monster milestone in its six-year history, and has become the most-traveled organization in MMA.

From BRAVE CF 1 to BRAVE CF 61, it took the promotion 2144 days to reach that landmark. The accomplishment is all the more impressive given that the UFC needed 9452 days to get to 27 countries. Aside from the record-breaking at BRAVE CF 61, other milestones by the promotion include BRAVE CF being the only international MMA organization to host an event in Africa, as well as putting together the first international MMA show in several other nations.