

# maiden medal

Ayalew came close to podium finish, but failed in the last challenge.

Al Khaldi (11.75) and Essa (11.78) both were fifth and sixth, respectively in the women's 100m final, while Kiplagat (13:35.53) and Ayalew (13:36.31) could only finish in seventh and eighth places in the men's 5,000m final.

Yesterday's action got underway with Bahrain men's shooting trio of Hassan Mohammed, Nasser Khalaf and Tammam Al Watt spearheading Bahrain at the men's skeet qualifying round at Baku Shooting Centre.

The trio, coached by Australian tactician Valeriy Timokhin, were unable to reach the final round of the competition and out of the gold medal race.

Action in the games continues today with Bahrain looking to build on their medal tally through Manal El Bahraoui and Marta Hirpato, who will both race in the women's

800m final. Bahrain will also have high hopes for their short and middle distance runner Adekoya Oluwakemi, who is racing in the women's 400m final later today.

Ali Khamis and Abbas Abubaker are both with a chance to add to Bahrain's overall medal tally in the men's 400m final. Other athletes in action today include Andrew Fisher and Yaqoub Salem (men's 200m heats), Salwa Eid and Edidiong Ofonime (women's 200m heats) and Noora Jassim (shot put final).

The games continue until May 22 and will also see Bahrain compete in wrestling through Adam Batirov. Turkey leads the medal table with 43, followed by Azerbaijan (30), Iran (9), Indonesia and Uzbekistan (6 each). More than 3,000 athletes from 54 countries, nearly 2,000 representatives of teams and technical staff are participating in the Games.

Competitions are held in Azerbaijan's capital on 16 sports grounds in 20 sports, three of which are non olympic events with 269 sets of medals up for grabs.



Ali Khamis storms into the men's 400m final



Andrew Fisher sprints in the men's 100m final



Hajer Al Amiri, right, performs in the women's 100m final

**Baku** Maksym Shemberev helped Azerbaijan move up to second place in the swimming medal table as he claimed his third and fourth golds of the 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games on the penultimate day in the pool.

Elsewhere, Turkey's gold rush continued unabated as they claimed victory in six of nine finals on a busy Tuesday at the Baku Aquatics Centre.

Ukrainian-born Shemberev displayed his class once again to win the men's 200m butterfly

and 800m freestyle. While his margin of victory in the former race was just two seconds, the 23-year-old was irresistible in the latter, surging clear to finish 21 seconds ahead of silver medallist Aflah Prawira of Indonesia.

Shemberev thus added to his previous titles in the 1500m freestyle and 400m individual medley as Azerbaijan - who also grabbed bronze in the women's 4x100m freestyle relay - moved up to second in the swimming medal table with four golds. In the other men's finals, Turkey's Demir Atasoy and Indonesia's

Gede I Sudartawa both claimed their second golds of the Games.

Atasoy, who also retained his 50m breaststroke crown on Saturday, once again held off teammate Huseyin Emre Sakci - 10 years his junior - to win in a new national record of 1:01.39.

While Turkey are now sitting pretty atop the swimming medal table with 20 golds, wins have

## Turkey dominate the pool

proven rather more elusive for Indonesia, who secured just their third gold as Sudartawa added the 50m backstroke title to his 100m crown.

## Egypt boost medal hopes

**Baku** Egypt boosted their hopes of increasing a disappointing medal tally at the fourth Islamic Solidarity Games as two of their boxers reached the semi-finals yesterday.

Eslem Mohamed and Abdelrahman Abdelgawwad both overcame Algerian opposition to guarantee themselves at least a bronze medal in the light-welterweight (64kg) and light-heavyweight (81kg) categories respectively.

Egypt have so far claimed just four gold medals in Baku, a far

cry from the 26 they picked up at the 2013 Solidarity Games in Indonesia.

Mohamed cut a much more imposing figure than Chemseddine Kramou in their 64kg quarter-final, but the Algerian belied appearances with a spirited performance.

The Egyptian was always on top, however, and progressed on a split decision.

It was a similar story in the last fight of the day, which saw Abdelgawwad triumph in the 81kg class at the expense of another Algerian, Mimouh Khelifa, once again on a split decision.

## Magnificent seven for Iran

**Baku** Iran claimed its seventh gold medal of the Islamic Solidarity Games in Baku when Pourya Norouzyan dominated the men's 50-metre rifle 3 positions final on Tuesday. The 25-year-old sharpshooter took the lead in the first round and did not look under threat as fellow Iranian Hossein Bagheri trailed by 3.5 points.

Oman's Hamed Said Alkhatri got bronze a further 0.1 point behind after a strong finish.

## Azeri men grab team title

**Baku** Azerbaijan secured yet another gold medal on the third and final day of judo action as they beat Algeria in the men's team final in Baku.

The men's team gold capped off a hugely successful three days of judo action for the host nation at the Heydar Aliyev Arena, but the Azeri women were unable to land the big one in their team final as they were beaten to gold by Turkey. Azerbaijan secured crushing wins over

Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan to set up a gold-medal contest with Algeria, who saw off Kazakhstan to make it to the final.

The host nation finish the judo with 26 medals, including 11 golds - half the gold medals on offer - which is well ahead of second-placed Turkey, who notched up four golds and a total of 14 medals on the mat. Uzbekistan finished the judo with more than one gold, took third place in the table with three golds and an overall haul of 10.

## Uzbekistan boxers impress

**Baku** Uzbekistan boosted their hopes of golden glory at the Islamic Solidarity Games in Baku as five of their boxers reached the semi-finals.

Abrorjon Kodirov (52 kg) joined Mironshokh Ibragimov (49kg), Abdulkhay Sharakhmatov (56kg), Aliyor Noraliev (64 kg) and Bobo-Usmon Baturov (69kg) in the

final four of five different categories.

Kodirov overcame home hope Masud Yusufzoda to guarantee himself at least a bronze medal in the flyweight division and he next locks horns with Morocco's Abdelali Daraa. Uzbekistan have so far claimed six gold medals overall in Baku for their debut at the Islamic Solidarity Games.