

Podium breakthrough

MMA duo win Bahrain’s first medals in Japan



Mukhammad Nabiev with his men's -77kg silver medal

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Diana Pogosian and Mukhammad Nabiev won Bahrain’s first medals of the 20th Asian Games yesterday after claiming silver in their respective mixed martial arts events in Aichi-Nagoya. Pogosian secured the kingdom’s first podium finish of the Games in the women’s modern -54kg division, losing to Thailand’s Kanjutha Phattaraboonsorn by unanimous decision in the final at the Nagoya City Inae Sports Center.

The Bahraini had earned her place in the title bout with a doctor-stoppage victory over South Korea’s Bomi Lee in the semi-finals, having earlier defeated Japan’s Tomoe Katayama by unanimous decision. Nabiev added a second silver shortly afterwards in the men’s traditional -77kg category, where Kazakhstan’s Yerkingali Burkutalin prevailed by unanimous decision in the gold-medal contest. His route to the final included a unanimous-decision



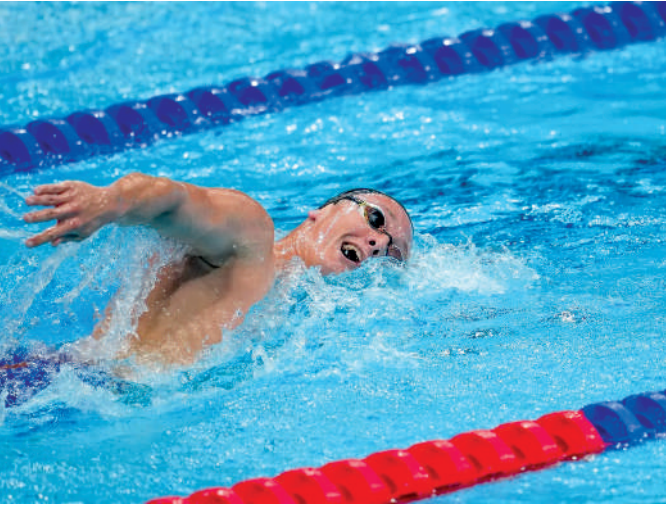
Diana Pogosian with her women's -54kg silver medal

Asian Games Medal Tally					
#	Nation	G	S	B	Total
1	China	32	13	8	53
2	Japan	11	16	19	46
3	South Korea	6	4	17	27
4	Kazakhstan	6	1	5	12
5	Thailand	4	1	1	6
19	Bahrain	0	2	0	2

victory over Vietnam’s Quang Van Minh before he overcame Kyrgyzstan’s Syimyk Zhanybek Uulu by the same method in the semi-finals. The double success opened

Bahrain’s medal account at their 14th Asian Games appearance and took their all-time haul at the continental showpiece to 106. Having entered Aichi-Nagoya with 104 medals from their previous campaigns, the Bahrainis now have 49 gold, 29 silver and 28 bronze. Their largest single-edition haul remains the 26 medals won at Jakarta-Palembang 2018, while the previous Games in Hangzhou brought 20 medals, including 12 gold, three silver and five bronze.

Bonsall leads Bahrain swimmers



Robert Bonsall competes in the men's 1500m freestyle

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Robert Bonsall finished 13th in the men’s 1500m freestyle as Bahrain continued their Asian Games swimming campaign at the Tokyo Aquatics Centre yesterday. The Bahraini completed the distance in 15 minutes 34.88 seconds, with China’s Zhang Zhanshuo taking gold in 14:42.42. Japan’s Kaito Tabuchi and Kazushi Imafuku claimed silver and bronze respectively.

1:01.22. The men’s 4x100m medley relay brought yesterday’s programme to a close for the nationals, with Stepan Goncharov, Abdulla Jamal, Mikhail Arkhangelskiy and Ahmed Helal disqualified in the heats. Focus now shifts to another busy morning in the pool, beginning with Asma in the women’s 100m butterfly at 4.03am, Bahrain time. Arkhangelskiy follows in the men’s 100m butterfly at 4.15am, entering his heat with the fastest listed time of 51.24 seconds.

Sana Le Falher was also among the kingdom’s leading performers, clocking 4:34.19 to place 15th in the women’s 400m freestyle heats. Over the shorter distance, Asma Le Falher finished 23rd in the women’s 100m freestyle heats in 1:00.17, while Amani Al Obaidli came home 25th in

The women’s 100m backstroke then sees Noor Taha and Al Obaidli take to the water at 4.21am and 4.27am, before Bahrain conclude their morning programme in the mixed 4x100m medley relay heats at 5.14am.

Paddlers exit team event

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Bahrain’s men’s team bowed out of the Asian Games table tennis competition yesterday following a 3-0 defeat to Kazakhstan in the knockout stage at Sky Hall Toyota. Rashid Sanad lost 11-3, 11-3, 11-6 to Alan Kurmangaliyev, before Mohammed Alaali went down 11-4, 11-9, 11-9 to Kirill Gerassimenko. Mohamed Saleh produced the kingdom’s strongest challenge, recovering from two games down against Sanzhar Zhubanov before narrowly losing the decider 18-16. The

Kazakh prevailed 11-2, 12-10, 8-11, 4-11, 18-16. The Bahrainis had reached the knockout stage as Group C runners-up after beating Nepal 3-0 in their final preliminary match. Attention now turns to the doubles and singles events. Alaali and Sayed Mahfoodh face Pakistan’s Taha Bilal and Abdal Khan at 5.25am, while Saleh and Sanad meet Kyrgyzstan’s Abai and Atai Kasyimov at the same time. Saleh and Sanad begin their men’s singles campaigns tomorrow at 5.20am, taking on Bangladesh’s Ramhimlian Bawm and Pakistan’s Bilal.

Alwatt shoots to top of skeet standings

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s Tammar Alwatt surged to the top of the men’s skeet standings yesterday after producing a perfect second day of qualification at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya. The 37-year-old hit all 50 targets across his two rounds at the Aichi Prefectural General Shooting Gallery, carding successive scores of 25 to climb from 23rd overnight to first after four rounds. Having opened his campaign with rounds of 24 and 22 on Monday, Alwatt now sits on 96 hits from a possible 100 heading into today’s final qualification round. India’s Anant Jeet Singh Naruka, Chinese Taipei’s Lee Meng-Yuan and China’s Lyu Jinlin are also on 96, with the Bahraini listed first in the official standings. Action resumes from 4am, Bahrain time, today as the field completes its fifth round. A



Tammar Alwatt takes aim at the Aichi Prefectural General Shooting Gallery

qualification shoot-off will follow if required, ahead of the men’s final at 10am. Alwatt will be aiming to secure his place in the medal round after his flawless showing

this 20th edition of Asia’s biggest sporting spectacle, with Smriti Mandhana the hero. Her whirlwind 79 helped them crush Sri Lanka by 147 runs and win a second consecutive women’s cricket title.

yesterday. In the women’s event, Maryam Hassani added rounds of 20 and 21 to her opening scores of 21 and 20, leaving her 20th on 82 after four rounds. Compatriot Maryam Alasam improved on her first-day scores of 17 and 18, recording rounds of 20 and 22 yesterday to move onto 77 in 25th place. China’s Che Yufei leads the standings on 97, one ahead of Kazakhstan’s Assem Orynbay and compatriot Jiang Yiting. Hassani and Alasam return for the fifth qualification round from 4am today, before the women’s final takes place at 8.30am. Attention then turns to the mixed-team event tomorrow, when Alwatt and Hassani join forces for Bahrain in skeet qualification from 4am.

India cricketers win in style as Afghan savours ‘special’ Games silver

AFP | Nagoya

India’s dominant women retained their Asian Games cricket crown in style yesterday as an Afghan cyclist who once disguised herself as a man won

a “special” silver. China were streaking away in the medals table ahead of hosts Japan towards the end of the third full day of action in Aichi-Nagoya. India won their first gold of

this 20th edition of Asia’s biggest sporting spectacle, with Smriti Mandhana the hero. Her whirlwind 79 helped them crush Sri Lanka by 147 runs and win a second consecutive women’s cricket title.

India smashed 216-3 off their 20 overs, the highest women’s total in Games history, with 18 fours and 13 sixes. Sri Lanka were never a threat as they were skittled for 69 in 15.4 overs and had to settle for silver.

Mbappe continues media push for Ballon d’Or recognition

AFP | Madrid

France and Real Madrid forward Kylian Mbappe continued his media push to win the Ballon d’Or by insisting yesterday that he feels confident he will claim the prestigious award. The 27-year-old was top scorer at the World Cup in the summer and both last season’s Champions League and La Liga. But he won nothing as France lost in the World Cup semi-finals and Real finished second in La Liga and were bundled out of the Champions League by Bayern Munich in the quarter-finals.



Kylian Mbappe

“They won’t announce a team in the envelope, they will announce a player,” Mbappe told RFI radio station. “The ability to perform individually and produce eye-catching moments, that’s what stands out to people for an award like this.”