

Bahrain set for Asian Games track events

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will introduce 38 of its finest athletes starting today when they compete for glory at Gelora Bung Karno Stadium in Jakarta at the 18th Asian Games.

The athletics events commence this morning as Bahrain's athletes look to break the previous record set at the 2004 Incheon Asian Games when the nationals took 18 medals in total (9 gold, 6 silver, 3 bronze), which saw the kingdom finish in 12th position among 46 countries in Asia.

In the Jakarta athletics events, half of Bahrain's athletics team includes men's athletes, namely Andrew Fisher, Saeed Al Amiri (Men's 100m), Yaqoub Salem, Andrew Fisher (Men's 200m), Ali Khamis, Abbas Abu Baker (men's 400m), Al Siddiq Mikhoh, Mohammed Ayoub (men's 1,500m), John Keppit, Evans Rutho (men's 3000m), Perhanu Yamato, Albert Rop (men's 5,000m), Abraham Cheroben (men's 100x4), Ali Khamis, Abbas Abu Baker, Abraham Rotish, Yaqoub Salem (men's 400x4), Ali Khamis, Abbas Abu Baker, Saad Salem Mubarak, Abdulrahman Khamis (400x4 medley), Abdi Ibrahim, Al Hassan Al Ab-



Bahrain's Maytham Sabba during his jiu jitsu match against Uzbekistan's Khomidjon Muminov

38

athletes from Bahrain are participating in the athletics events in Asian Games this year

basi (men's marathon).

In the women's section, Hajar Al Amiri, Edidiong Odiong (Women's 100m, 200m),

Salwa Eid Nasser, Eman Issa (400m Women's Race), Marta Yota, Manal Al Bahrawi (800m Men's Race), Tigest Belay, Kalkidan Befkadu (Women's 1,500m), Motielli (3,000 women's contenders), Kalkidan Befkadu, Bontu Rebitu (women's 5,000m), Ionis Gumba, Shitay Ashti (10,000m women's race), Aminat Youssef, 400 meters hurdles), Rose Gillmo (women's marathon), Nora Jassem (discus throw), Salwa Eid, Aminat Youssef, Eman Issa, Edidiong Odiong (Women's 100x4 relay), Salwa Eid, Aminat Youssef, Edidiong (400x4 relay), Salwa

Eid, Kimi Adikoya, Eman Issa, Aminat Youssef (400x4 medley relay).

Today's action will see Bahrain in action in two finals – men's 42km marathon (Abdi Ebrahim and Al Hassan Al Abbasi), which gets underway at 2am (Bahrain time), and women's 10,000m final (Eunice Chumba and Shitaye Eshte) at 4am.

Ali Khamis and Abbas Abubaker will both compete later today in the men's 400m heat at 5am, while Hajar Al Amiri and Edidiong will enter the women's 100m heat, Andrew and Saeed the men's 100m heat, and Salwa and Iman in the women's 400m in the evening session.

In jiu jitsu, Maytham Sabba lost his 69kg opener 2-5 to Uzbekistan's Khomidjon Muminov in the opening fight to exit the competition. Bahrain hopefuls Abdulla Monfaridi (62kg) and Mohammed Ghareeb (94kg) will be in action today at 6am.

In cycling, Razan Sabooh achieved 12th position in anti-clockwise race, which was over 20km with 13 riders in the fray. This was Razan's second race at the games, after she was forced out in the previous race due to technical issues.

Karmakar leaves empty handed

AFP | Jakarta

India's star gymnast Dipa Karmakar left the Asian Games distraught on Friday, saying she had "a very bad feeling" as she departed Jakarta empty-handed.

The 25-year-old -- one of just a handful of athletes to have the infamous 'Vault of Death' in her repertoire -- was among the favourites to take home a medal at the regional Olympics.

But Karmakar failed on Friday to make it to the podium in the balance beam, finishing in fifth.

That came after she was forced to pull out of the team final through injury and floundered in her favourite apparatus, the vault, missing out on qualification behind two of her team-mates.

"I had a very bad feeling after the podium (for the vault)," she told AFP. "I didn't do my best."

She said the first of her two vaults had been poor, but added she had been unlucky not to make it through as neither of her team-mates put on their best show.

"I was very disappointed. They also did not do a good performance," she said.

Karmakar -- who last month bagged India's first-ever gold medal in a global gymnastic event -- lost out to China's Chen Yile, who won her third gold medal of the Games with a score of 14.600.

Behind her came North Korea's Kim Su Jong on 13.400 and China's Zhang Jin on 13.325.

Elsewhere, Hong Kong won its first gymnastics medal of the Asian Games when defending champion Shek Wai-hung bagged the gold on vault.

Shek -- nicknamed Stone --

said he had felt "big, big pressure" as victory was the only way to stop his gymnastics club being kicked out of their training hall in Hong Kong.

"Now I've got the medal I can stay," he said, adding that it had been very difficult to calm himself in the past few days.

The 26-year-old made his name at London 2012 after becoming the first male gymnast from Hong Kong to compete at an Olympic Games.

But he failed to progress beyond the first round and considered quitting the sport, saying at the time he had "wanted to die right there".

High-pitched squeals

Shek's score of 14.612 pushed South Korea's Kim Han-sung into second with 14.550, while Indonesia secured their first-ever gymnastics medal with Agus Prayoko on 14.125.

It was Kim's second medal in Jakarta after taking home the gold in the men's floor exercise on Thursday.

On the parallel bars, China's Zou Jingyuan scooped the gold in front of compatriot of Xiao Ruoteng.

High-pitched squeals from Japan fans were not enough to spur the country's new superstar Kakeru Tanigawa to victory -- and he finished down in fourth behind fellow Japanese Kenta Chiba.

In the women's floor, North Korea's Kim Su Jong triumphed ahead of Rifda Irfanaluthfi of Indonesia -- who landed their second medal of the night.

And in the final artistic gymnastics event of the Games, Taiwan's Tang Chia-Hung held off Chinese competition to win the men's horizontal bar.

Sun Wei swung into silver medal position, leaving Xiao Ruoteng to pick up bronze.

Indonesia rower dedicates gold to baby

Palembang, Indonesia

Host nation Indonesia took its first-ever Asian Games rowing gold yesterday with one team member dedicating the medal to his newborn baby that he has not yet been able to meet.

Victory in the lightweight men's eight was the country's ninth gold medal in the regional Olympics, bringing it only two short of its record set in 1962, the last time the nation hosted the event.

As they crossed the finish line, the team stood up in their boat, pumping their fists in the air while overjoyed supporters repeatedly chanted "Indonesia!"

One of the heroic eight, Tanzil Hadid, spoke of the personal sacrifice that he had made to get the gold round his neck.

"I dedicate this medal to my family -- especially my newborn



Rowers of Indonesia (back) react after winning next to rowers of Uzbekistan (middle) and Hong Kong (front) in the men's lightweight eight rowing final

baby whom I have never met," he told reporters.

Uzbekistan took the silver, while Hong Kong took the bronze as its second rowing medal of the day after bagging silver in the men's lightweight single sculls.

In the day's other six rowing races, China scooped up three

more golds, bringing the giant to an all-time Asian Games gold medal tally of 1,400.

Korea and Japan took one gold each and India came first in the men's quadruple sculls to win its second-ever rowing gold.

But the day saw an end to the

symbolic rowing hopes of Unified Korea, a team combining athletes from both the North and South of the divided peninsula.

Their women's lightweight double sculls team came in last, and the lightweight men's eight team finished fifth out of six.

Christie stuns Yuqi on day of badminton upsets

AFP | Jakarta

Indonesia's Jonatan Christie lay flat on the court with disbelief after his shock win over top-seeded Chinese Shi Yuqi in front of a raucous home crowd at the Asian Games badminton Friday.

Christie, 20, edged out world number two Yuqi 21-19, 19-21, 21-17 in an enthralling one-hour eight-minute battle in the first round of the regional Olympics in Jakarta.

Ranked 15th in the world, Christie matched his senior rival serve-to-serve and smash-to-smash as a partisan crowd erupted in deafening applause at each Indonesian point.



Indonesia's Jonatan Christie

"It's like Yuqi did not move fast enough. Maybe because he went after Anthony (Sinisuka Ginting) in the team event match. So the feet movement is



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a bit slower than before," Christie told reporters.

"The audience was amazing as they gave me the necessary boost to go harder in the match,"

he said, adding that it will be "step by step" for him.

Despite the difference in their world rankings, Christie now leads Yuqi 4-3 in head-to-head encounters.

Yuqi argued with the umpire on a couple of line decisions and his frustration was clearly visible.

Yuqi rallied to win the second game but Christie kept his calm to take the third game and set up a round-of-16 meeting with Thailand's Khosit Phetpradab.

"Both of us played well. I tried my best, could have played better had I committed fewer mistakes, but that's the way it stands now," said Yuqi.



India's Dipa Karmakar participates in the beam competition in the final at the artistic gymnastics event