

# Yavi's Gold quest returns to Asian Games

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

Three-time Asian Games champion Winfred Yavi will lead Bahrain's 34-strong athletics team in Japan next month as the Kingdom goes after another big medal tally on the track. The 26-year-old heads a Bahrain Olympic

Committee list featuring 17 men and 17 women, with 400m ace Salwa Eid Naser, former steeplechase world champion Ruth Jebet, Birhanu Balew and Abbas Yusuf amongst the medal-proven names picked for Japan.

The 20th Asian Games run from September 19 to October 4 across Aichi and Nagoya, with Bahrain seeking another strong showing after a rich return in Hangzhou three years ago and Japan now the next frontier.

Yavi will be one of its biggest hopes.

She heads towards Japan in fine form after winning the women's 3,000m steeplechase at the Lausanne Diamond League on Friday in 9:00.04.

Her run broke the meeting record and put reigning world champion Faith

Cherotich of Kenya second in 9:01.90.

Yavi has already gone much quicker this year, clocking 8:51.54 in Xiamen in May. Her career best of 8:44.39, run in Rome in 2024, ranks her second on the all-time list.

Yavi was already looking beyond Olympic gold after Paris. In her first interview with The Daily Tribune after the win, she said her next aim was to break the world record at the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

The record did not fall, but Yavi still left Tokyo with world silver after running 8:56.46 behind Cherotich. Their battle has carried into this season, with the Bahraini beating the Kenyan in Lausanne.

Another big test comes before

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3,000m steeplechase at each of the past two editions, taking gold in Jakarta in 2018 in 9:36.52 before defending her crown at Hangzhou in 2023.

Hangzhou brought double gold. Yavi won the 1,500m in 4:11.65, then struck again in the steeplechase with a Games record of 9:18.28.

She now has three Asian Games gold medals and could chase a third straight steeplechase crown in Japan. Should Bahrain also enter her in the 1,500m, she would have the chance to defend both titles won in Hangzhou.

Bahrain finished ninth in the overall medal table at the 2023 Games and first among Arab countries, taking 20 medals, including 12 gold, three silver and five bronze.

Japan.

Yavi is due to race at the Diamond League Final in Brussels on September 4, where Cherotich and Uganda's Peruth Chemutai are also expected on the start line. Then comes a stage Yavi knows well.

She has won the Asian Games

## Pogacar storms to Vuelta a Espana stage four solo triumph

**An-dorra La Vella, An-dorra**

Cycling superstar Tadej Pogacar crushed his Vuelta a Espana rivals to clinch a sensational solo stage four victory on Tuesday and open up a commanding general classification lead.

The Slovenian, aiming to complete a Grand Tour

grand slam, attacked with just over 50 kilometres remaining in Andorra's mountains, and crossed the finish line with the chasing pack languishing.

Jarno Widar and Felix Gall completed the day's podium in second and third respectively, both coming in 2min 39sec behind Pogacar as they beat out four other riders in a sprint to the line.

Already wearing the red jersey after winning the individual time trial on the first stage, UAE Team Emirates-XRG rider Pogacar's bid to carve out a significant lead was foiled on Monday by inclement weather.

Riders had to take shelter from a dangerous hailstorm in

a nearby hotel in the Pyrenees and the third stage was abandoned.

So it was a day later than planned that five-time Tour de France winner Pogacar, hoping to become only the fourth rider to claim a Tour-Vuelta double in the same season, took full control.

Racing resumed on Tuesday with a short but tricky 104.8km course in the mountains with four categorised climbs.

Decathlon led onto the day's second climb, Collada de Beixalis, but Pogacar decided that was his moment to shine.

The 27-year-old, competing in the Vuelta for the first time since 2019, powered ahead,



UAE Team Emirates - XRG team's Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar celebrates on the podium

with Gall attempting to follow him.

Pogacar dropped the Austrian, who fell back to the chase group, and flew on ahead, creating a two minute gap.

The chase group expanded to nine riders, including Os-

car Onley and Primož Roglič, but Pogacar was three minutes ahead up the road at that point.

The unstoppable Slovenian pumped his fists then raised his arms aloft as he crossed the finish line.

Widar and Gall edged out four-time Vuelta winner Roglič, Onley, Enric Mas and Sepp Kuss in a sprint to the line, after they had dropped Richard Carapaz and Mattias Skjelmose in the final stages.

Wednesday's stage five takes place in Spain, running 173.3km from Falset -- south-west of Barcelona -- to Roquetes, and offers the chance for a sprint finish.

## Spurs splash out £75 million for Man City's Savinho

**AFP | London, United Kingdom**

Tottenham signed Brazilian winger Savinho from Manchester City on Tuesday for a reported initial fee of £75 million (\$102 million) to take their overall outlay in the transfer market beyond £300 million this window.

The 22-year-old failed to establish himself as a first-team regular during two seasons at City. But Spurs are hoping

he can add pace and creativity to their attack after narrowly escaping relegation from the Premier League last season.

"It's taken a while but I'm very happy to be here," Savinho said in a Tottenham statement.

Roberto De Zerbi's impact at the end of last season helped Spurs avoid dropping into the second tier of English football for the first time in 49 years.

But the Italian's big spending revolution of the Tottenham squad got off to a miserable start in a 3-0 defeat to Brentford on the opening weekend of the Premier League season.

Savinho adds to the expensive arrivals of Mateus Fernandes,

Sandro Tonali and Jan Paul van Hecke, while Marcos Senesi, Andy Robertson and Martin Dubravka have also joined on free transfers.

"Savio is a player who brings energy, imagination and quality in wide positions. He has the courage to attack defenders and the ability to change a game with his creativity," said De Zerbi.

City could reportedly receive up to an extra £10 million in add-ons. There is also likely to be further business between the two clubs with Egyptian forward Omar Marmoush also set to depart Manchester for north London before the end of the window next week. Savinho joined

from Troyes, one of a group of clubs controlled by City's owners, for £30 million in 2024.

He rose to prominence during a blistering loan spell at another City Football Group club Girona, but has failed to recreate that form so far in England.



Manchester City's Brazilian midfielder #26 Savinho