

Yavi completes golden hat-trick

Bahrain star adds 5,000m crown as athletics campaign enters final day



Winfred Yavi proudly displays her gold medal

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Winfred Yavi completed a historic golden hat-trick at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya yesterday, adding the women's 5,000 metres title to her remarkable haul at Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium. A day after retaining her 3,000m steeplechase crown in record-breaking fashion, the reigning Olympic champion returned to the track and crossed the line in 15 minutes 10.18 seconds to claim her third gold medal of the Games. The feat made Yavi the first athlete in 40 years to win three individual athletics titles at a single Asian Games, following India's P. T. Usha, who completed a treble in Seoul in 1986. It was also the sixth Asian Games gold of Yavi's career, further adding to a haul that now spans three editions. Japan's Nozomi Tanaka took silver in 15:11.65, with India's Parul Chaudhary completing the podium in 15:14.61. Yavi's compatriot Ruth Jebet, the other Bahraini in the 12-runner final, finished ninth in 16:09.10. The race remained open deep into the contest, with Kazakh-



Action from the race

stan's Norah Jeruto Tanui leading at the 1,000m and 2,000m marks before Yavi moved to the front at 3,000m. Tanui was back ahead at 4,000m, but Yavi had the final say to beat Tanaka by 1.47 seconds. Yavi began her treble with victory in the 10,000m last Thursday before completing a third successive Asian Games steeplechase title on Sunday. Her latest success lifted Bahrain's overall haul to 14 medals, including nine gold, two silver and three bronze, placing the kingdom seventh in the overall

standings. Athletics has accounted for eight of those golds and 10 medals in total, with Bahrain sitting third in the sport's medal table behind China and Japan. Korir Through There was further progress for the Bahrainis as Nelly Korir booked her place in today's women's 800m final. Korir clocked 2:02.92 to finish second in the opening heat, just 0.11 seconds behind Japan's Ayano Shiomi. China's Wu Hongjiao was third in 2:03.37,

with the first three advancing automatically. The second heat was won by the Philippines' Victoria Bossoning in 2:02.34, ahead of China's Li Chunhui and Uzbekistan's Sabokhat Samijonova, while Japan's Rin Kubo and India's Pooja advanced as the two fastest remaining runners. Korir, whose personal best of 1:57.69 is the quickest among the eight finalists, will run from lane five at 7.50am Bahrain time. There was disappointment in the women's 4x100m relay final, however, as the quartet of

Asian Games Medal Tally				
#	Nation	G	S	B Total
1	China	132	53	45 230
2	Japan	41	68	63 172
3	South Korea	21	26	44 91
4	Uzbekistan	12	17	13 42
5	Kazakhstan	9	13	23 45
6	Thailand	9	8	12 29
7	Bahrain	9	2	3 14

Hajar Alkhalidi, Edidiong Odiong, Raihanah Garoubah and Salwa Naser failed to finish. China claimed gold in 42.96s, followed by Thailand in a season-best 43.51s and hosts Japan in 43.52s. Final Push Bahrain will have several more opportunities to add to their haul today as the athletics programme concludes. After the 800m final, Birhanu Balew and Abdikani Hamid will line up in the men's 5,000m at 2.15pm. Balew enters as the reigning Asian Games champion and Games record holder, while Hamid joins him in the 19-runner field. The nationals will then contest the mixed 4x100m relay final at 2.48pm before lining up in the women's 4x400m relay final at 3.05pm. Those events will bring Bahrain's athletics campaign in Aichi-Nagoya to a close.

Bahrain and Qatar meet again

Warriors see off Japan to keep Asiad gold dream alive



Bahrain players and staff celebrate reaching the Asian Games handball final

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Bahrain are one victory away from Asian Games handball glory after beating hosts Japan 35-31 in the semi-finals of the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya yesterday. The Warriors pulled away after a 16-16 first half at ENTRIO to reach the gold-medal match for a third successive Games, where a familiar opponent awaits. Qatar, who defeated South Korea 32-30 in the other semi-final, will face Bahrain at 1.30pm today in a repeat of the 2018 and 2022 finals. The Qataris won both of those encounters, leaving the kingdom with successive silver medals. Little separated Bahrain and Japan during the opening half yesterday. The Japanese established the first meaningful advantage at 9-6, but Robert Hedin's side gradually worked

their way back before captain Hussain Al Sayyad levelled at 11-11. Successive goals from Mohamed Habib Naser later put the Reds ahead for the first time at 14-13. Jasim Khamis and Ahmed Fadhul stretched the margin to two, only for the hosts to respond before the break. The contest remained tight early in the second half until the Bahrainis made their move, turning a 21-21 deadlock into a 24-21 lead between the 39th and 43rd minutes. Ahmed Kadhlem struck from the left wing, Naser followed with a breakthrough and Khamis scored from six metres to complete the three-goal burst. Bahrain never relinquished the lead from there and had stretched the gap to 32-27 by the 53rd minute. Al Sayyad later struck twice before Naser rounded off the scoring in the closing seconds.



Qataris mark their victory after booking a place in the gold-medal match

Naser led the way with eight goals from nine attempts, while Hasan Madan converted all seven of his shots. Khamis, Fadhul and Al Sayyad contributed five apiece as the team finished with 35 goals from 44 attempts. One More Step The victory extended their perfect run at the Games to six matches. Hedin's charges topped Group B with wins over Kazakhstan, Iran, South Korea and Kuwait before dispatching Hong Kong in the quarter-finals and overcoming Japan in the last four. Their first Asian Games final against Qatar came at Jakarta-Palembang 2018, when the sides could not be separated in regulation before Qatar pulled away in extra time for a 32-27 victory. They crossed paths at the same stage again at Hangzhou 2022, held in 2023, with Qatar

winning 32-25 as Bahrain settled for silver once more. Those two medals followed a bronze at Incheon 2014, leaving gold as the only colour missing from Bahrain's Asian Games handball collection. The latest opportunity comes after a run of major titles under Swedish coach Hedin. The squad won Islamic Solidarity Games gold in Riyadh last November before claiming their maiden Asian Men's Handball Championship crown in Kuwait in January. That breakthrough came with a 29-26 extra-time victory over Qatar in the final, ending their rivals' run of six successive Asian titles and providing another reminder of how closely fought the rivalry between the two sides has become. Bahrain then added GCC Games gold in Doha last May and will be hoping to crown a golden generation with another major triumph this afternoon.

Quinto draws blank in 95kg



Bahrain's Jokser Quinto attempts a 172kg snatch during the men's 95kg competition

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Bahrain's Jokser Quinto endured a difficult outing at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya yesterday, failing to register a successful lift in the men's 95kg weightlifting competition. The 22-year-old entered Group A at Nagoya City Trade and Industry Center with the second-highest entry total in the field, but was unable to convert any of his three attempts at 172kg in the snatch. That brought his competition to an early end without a total, meaning he did not progress to the clean and jerk. Iran's Ali Alipour claimed gold with a world-record total of 398kg, combining a 180kg snatch with a 218kg clean and jerk.

Kazakhstan's Nurgissa Adiletuly took silver with 394kg, while China's Tu Yi completed the podium on 384kg. Quinto was one of two lifters who did not finish, alongside South Korea's Won Jongbeom, who also failed to record a successful snatch. Bahrain will have two more opportunities to add to Ingrid Grueso's women's 69kg bronze when the weightlifting programme concludes today. Alina Marushchak is first up in the women's 86kg competition at 3.30am Bahrain time, entering an eight-lifter field with a nominated total of 260kg. Gor Minasyan then rounds off the kingdom's campaign in the men's +110kg event at 1.10pm. The Olympic bronze medallist carries the highest entry total in the five-man field at 460kg.