

Bahrain qualify for youth handball worlds

Bahrainis defeat Kuwait to take fifth place in ninth Asian Men's Youth (U19) Handball Championship, book tickets to 2023 Men's Youth World Handball Championship

● Bahrainis become fifth and final Asian team to qualify for youth handball worlds, to be held in Croatia in 2023

● Final between South Korea and Iran to be held tonight, with Japan playing Saudi Arabia for third place

TDT | Manama

Bahrain closed out their campaign in the ninth Asian Men's Youth (U19) Handball Championship last night in style.

The home team clinched fifth place overall on the tournament's final classification and thus also claimed the last continental berth for the 2023 Men's Youth World Handball Championship.

The Bahrainis secured their ranking after defeating Kuwait



Bahrain's Mohamed Ali tries to go for goal against Kuwait during their match last night

27-21 in the match for fifth place, which took place at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

Only the top five teams from this competition being hosted by the Kingdom book their

tickets to the worlds. The Bahrainis are joining fellow-Asian sides South Korea, Iran, Japan and Saudi Arabia at next year's global showcase.

Bahrain Olympic Committee vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa was on hand,

along with Bahrain Handball Association (BHA) president Ali Issa.

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Also yesterday, Qatar claimed seventh place on the competition's final ranking after edging past Uzbekistan 29-28 on penalty throws.

Today is the final day of the tournament, which was organised by the BHA in cooperation with the Asian Handball Federation.

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The gold and bronze medal games will be held this evening, beginning with the match for third place between Japan and Saudi Arabia at 4pm, to be followed by the final between South Korea and Iran at 6pm. All are welcome to attend. Entrance is free of charge.

In Bahrain's victory last night, the hosts pulled away from their rivals late in the first half, turning a slim 7-6 lead to a 14-10 advantage heading into the locker rooms. Jaffar Farsan was in impressive form in the opening period, already scoring seven of his team-high nine goals in the match.

After the break, Kuwait tried to get back into the contest but got no closer than three goals the rest of the way. An Alrashi Ebraheem goal got Kuwait to within 21-24 with just over five minutes to play, but that was the last time they would find the net and Bahrain fired in three unanswered goals in the closing moments.

Mohammed Abdulla chipped in with seven goals in the win, while Ali Mohamed scored four and Ahmed Fardan had three. For Kuwait, Almutawa Husain was their leading scorer with six goals, while Ebraheem and Abdullah Ahmad both contributed three goals.

Farsan was later named the player of the match.

In Qatar's win, they led 13-11 at the half but the Uzbeks were able to tie the match at 26-all at the end of regulation. The contest went directly into penalties and Qatar's Osama Mousa, Muhammad Raza and Malek Soussou were all on target, whereas Uzbekistan could only manage to score twice through Davron Bozorboev and Razhab Sharibov.

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The South Koreans previously won in 2005 and 2014, while the Iranians clinched their title in 2006.

Teasing Hamilton puts a cap on Alonso spat

Reuters | London

Lewis Hamilton literally put a cap on a verbal spat with Formula One rival Fernando Alonso in a teasing social media post on Tuesday.

Alonso, a former team mate and fellow world champion, had branded the Briton an idiot after a first-lap collision at last Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix. Mercedes' seven-times world champion Hamilton accepted blame for the incident that ended



his race but told reporters he would not talk to Alpine's Alonso after what the Spaniard had said about him.

Alonso had also declared over team radio, in a message broadcast to a worldwide television audience, that the winner of a record 103 races "only knows how to drive and start in first (place)". Hamilton posted in an Instagram story a clip of double world champion Alonso calling for respect for the "F1 family" and followed it up on Tuesday with a message to his 29 million followers.

"Even though the weekend didn't go the way we wanted,

after an amazing break it was so good to be back at work. I love my job, my team, and I loved the energy at Spa," he said on Instagram. "Thank you to the team for all the hard work and thank you to the fans that came out to show love, I appreciate you."

The words were accompanied by a photo of a signed cap with "To Fernando" on it.

Hamilton and Alonso were McLaren team mates in a stormy 2007 season, the Briton's debut year, where both ended up level on points and missed out on the title by a single point to Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen.

Hamilton then won his first title with McLaren in 2008, with Alonso back at Renault.

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Swiatek cruises into US Open second round

● Iga Swiatek won 6-3 and 6-0

● Swiatek will face either Belgium's Greet Minnen or 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens in the second round

New York

Iga Swiatek, the number one player in the world, had no trouble advancing to the second round of the US Open on Tuesday by cruising to a victory against Jasmine Paolini of Italy in straight sets.

The top-seeded Polish player, who has never advanced past the fourth round in New York, finished the match on the Louis Armstrong Stadium in 1 hour and 7 minutes, winning 6-3 and 6-0.

The defending champion of the French Open, Swiatek, will enter the second round against either

Greet Minnen of Belgium or Sloane Stephens of the United States, who won the US Open in 2017.

Swiatek assumed command of the match on Tuesday quite early in the opening set. He did this by securing service breaks in the third and fifth games, which allowed him to rush to a 4-1 lead.

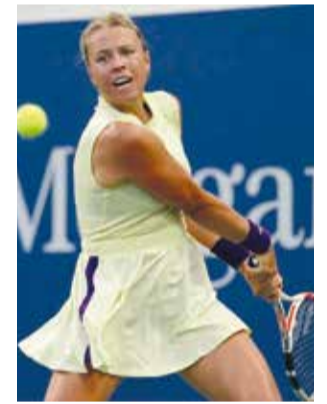
Despite Paolini's heroic comeback, in which he broke back to even the score at 4-2 against Swiatek's, the Italian was eventually defeated and fell behind 5-2.

When Swiatek was serving for the set, she went ahead and gave up another break, but she quickly recovered and won the first set with a score of 6-3.

Swiatek dominated her opponent in the second set, and the result was that she was able to score three breaks and win the match. Paolini was unable to maintain her fight.



Kontaveit can't wait for Serena showdown



Anett Kontaveit of Estonia
Reuters | New York

Anett Kontaveit is guaranteed a frenzied atmosphere in her next outing at Flushing Meadows against Serena Williams but rather than being nervous about it, the second-seeded Estonian said she cannot wait for the "unique experience".

With the 40-year-old Williams indicating the U.S. Open could be the final event of her storied career, the hardcourt Grand Slam set an all-time night-session attendance record on Monday with 29,402 flocking to the sprawling site.

The 23-time major winner ensured that the celebrations will continue at least for some more time, defeating Dank Kovinic 6-3 6-3 in front of a raucous Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd, teeming with celebrities and her fellow players.

Flushing Meadows is expected to be similarly boisterous today with the same level of energy in the stands when Williams meets Kontaveit.