

# Winfred bags gold for Bahrain

Kingdom's elite athletes win two more medals on day three of athletics events at 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China

● Winfred Yavi to go for golden double today in 3,000m steeplechase final

● Salwa Eid Naser, Edidiong Odiong, Saeed Alkhalidi advance to medal races

● Abdelrahman Mahmoud, Zouhair Aouad narrowly miss out on podiums



HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa with the women's 1,500m podium placers

## Bahrain's Hangzhou Asiad medallists so far

Gold	
Violah Jephumba	Women's 10,000m
Kemi Adekoya	Women's 400m
Birhanu Balew	Men's 10,000m
Winfred Yavi	Women's 1,500m
Silver	
Salwa Eid Naser	Women's 400m
Bronze	
Abbas Yusuf Abbas	Men's 400m
Hajar Alkhalidi	Women's 100m
Marta Yota	Women's 1,500m



Bahrain's Saeed Alkhalidi competes in his men's 200m semi-final yesterday



Bahrain's Winfred Yavi continued her sensational 2023 athletics season by winning the second Asian Games gold medal of her career yesterday in the women's 1,500m. She triumphed just weeks after claiming her maiden world title and first-ever Diamond League champion's trophy in the 3,000m steeplechase

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Winfred Yavi added another major achievement yesterday to her already spectacular outdoor athletics season.

Winfred bagged the gold medal in the women's 1,500 metres at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, adding to her maiden world title and first-ever Diamond League champion's trophy—both in the women's 3,000m steeplechase—won just several weeks prior.

Her triumph earned the Kingdom's delegation their

fourth gold so far at the Hangzhou Asiad.

Fellow-Bahraini Marta Yota came away with the bronze medal from the same race. Their podium appearances brought Bahrain's medal tally to eight yesterday, all of which have been won after only three days of competition and four still to go in track and field.

Awarding Winfred and Marta their medals in their podium ceremony yesterday was the Kingdom's delegation head in Hangzhou and Bahrain Olympic Committee vice-president His

Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali

Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Along with the four gold, Bahrain's total haul to date includes one silver and three bronze. Bahrain are now ranked 11th on the official medal standings based on gold, and are 18th based on total.

The athletics events continue today at Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium, with the national team's elite athletes vying for up to six gold medals.

In yesterday's women's 1,500m final, Winfred was the pre-race favourite, despite it not being her primary event. The 23-year-old showed why she is dubbed as one of global athletics' brightest stars, leading from early on in the 17-runner race and never wavering.

She led a trio of Marta and Harmilan Bains from India at the bell, with Bains putting in a tense challenge over the last lap. But Winfred maintained her strong pace throughout and finished with a comfortable gap ahead of Bains, who was able to overtake Marta along the inside straight.

Winfred captured her gold medal with a finishing time of four minutes 11.65 seconds, while Bains followed as the silver-medallist in 4:12.74. Marta took her bronze in 4:15.97.

With the result, Winfred secured the second Asian Games gold medal of her career. She had previously won the 3,000m

steeplechase title at the previous Asiad in 2018 in Jakarta. Winfred will be aiming to repeat that success and complete a golden double when she races in her main discipline's today.

The women's 3,000m steeplechase final is scheduled for a 2.20pm start, Bahrain time, and Winfred will be competing alongside fellow-Bahraini Tigest Mekonen.

### Coming up short

Also yesterday, Bahrain's Abdelrahman Mahmoud came narrowly short from stepping onto the podium in the men's shot put. He was classified fourth overall from 13 contestants, finishing with a best throw of 19.74 metres.

His top mark came on the sixth and final attempt, with his other efforts being 19.67m, 19.28m, 19.70m and 19.58m. His fifth was not counted.

Tajinderpal Singh Toor of India won gold in 20.36m, while Mohammed Tolo of Saudi Arabia claimed silver at 20.18m. Yang Liu finished just ahead of Mahmoud for bronze at 19.97m.

Another Bahraini to come close to medalling was Zouhair Aouad, who was leading at the start of the final lap in the men's 1,500m final but was unable to maintain his pace to the finish.

Aouad was classified fifth overall in 3:40.69. Mohamad Algarni of Qatar won in 3:38.36, followed by the Indian pair of

Ajay Kumar Saroj in 3:38.94 and Jinson Johnson in 3:39.74.

In yesterday's men's 3,000m steeplechase final, Bahrain's John Koech finished 10th from 13 runners in 9:03.75.

Also in action were sprinters Salwa Eid Naser, Edidiong Odiong and Saeed Alkhalidi, who each made it through to their respective medal rounds.

Salwa and Edidiong both advanced to the women's 200m final, to be held today at 2.45pm, Bahrain time.

Salwa qualified after winning yesterday's second of three first-round heats in 23.74 seconds. Edidiong followed suit, taking second place in heat three with a season's best time of 23.35s.

Salwa was

the seventh-fastest in the opening stage while Edidiong was second from top.

Alkhalidi advanced to the men's 200m final, also happening today at 2.55pm, Bahrain time. He finished second in the first of two semi-final races yesterday, clocking a personal best time of 20.61s. Earlier in the day, he was third in his first-round heat.

The other Bahrainis hoping to medal in today's athletics events are Fatima Mubarak in the women's long jump final starting at 2.10pm,

Marwan Medany in the men's discus throw final starting at 2.40pm, and the 4x400m mixed relay team starting their final at 3.40pm, all Bahrain time.

Bahrainis Kemi Adekoya and Aminat Jamal will also be in action in the women's 400m hurdles heats.



Winfred Yavi and Marta Yota lead the field



Winfred Yavi celebrates with her gold medal

# Bahrainis stay unbeaten in Asiad handball

● Kingdom's senior men defeat Kuwait to claim top spot in Group One

● Nationals to play Japan in semi-final tomorrow at 11am, Bahrain time

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Bahrain outclassed Kuwait 34-25 yesterday to maintain their undefeated record as they march into the semi-finals of the men's handball tournament at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

The Kingdom's senior men's national team finished as Group One winners with their third straight victory in the competition's main round. They also kept their perfect record after five games overall.

The Bahrainis are now set to take on Group Two runners-up Japan in their final four assignment tomorrow, scheduled for an 11am start, Bahrain time.

The Japanese bowed to defending champions Qatar 29-32 in their divisional clash yesterday, thus setting up the semis match-ups. Kuwait and Qatar face off in tomorrow's other fixture in the last four.

The winners will move on to the gold medal contest on Thursday, while the losers will lock

## GROUP ONE STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Bahrain	3	3	0	0	21	6
Kuwait	3	2	0	1	-6	4
South Korea	3	1	0	2	-3	2
Iran	3	0	0	3	-12	0

horns for the bronze medals.

Bahrain are aiming for their first-ever Asiad gold in men's handball and third medals overall. They had previously won bronze at the 2014 edition in Incheon, South Korea, before clinching silver in 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The Bahrainis faced Qatar in the final in the previous Asian Games, where they lost 27-32 in overtime.

In their victory over Kuwait

yesterday, the nationals fell behind 2-5 early on but then scored seven unanswered goals, sparked and capped by six-metre efforts from Mohammed Habib Nasser, for a 9-5 advantage. They continued to stretch their lead and an Ahmed Fadhel goal on a fast-break gave them a double-digit advantage, 21-11, heading into the half.

They never looked back from there, powering ahead by as many as 15, 28-13, en route to the final whistle.

Nasser finished as Bahrain's leading scorer with eight points, while Ali Mirza added five and Ali Eid had four. Three players finished with three goals each in the game, including skipper Hussain Al Sayyad, Mohammed

Habib Ahmed and Mohammed Rabea, while Fadhel, Qassim Qambar and Hassan Mirza had two goals apiece. Hassan Al Sama-heeji and Mahdi Saad rounded out the Bahraini scorers with a conversion each.

Abdulaziz Alshammari and Mishaal Alharbi finished with seven goals apiece to pace Kuwait.

In yesterday's other Group One fixture, South Korea edged past Iran 25-24.



Bahrain's Ali Mirza and Qassim Qambar look to defend against Kuwait's Abdulaziz Salmeen