



Bahrain cyclist Ahmed Madan finished 11th yesterday in the men's individual time trial at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. Madan completed the event's 39.6-kilometre distance in 53 minutes 39.58 seconds—more than five-and-a-half minutes behind gold medal winner Alexey Lutsenko of Kazakhstan. Madan will be back in action tomorrow when he joins Bahrain teammates Sayed Ahmed Alawi, Jawad Mansoor and Ahmed Naser in the men's road race. Above, Madan in action during yesterday's time trial

Man City head to Leipzig craving 'beautiful' Champions League repeat

AFP | London

Manchester City defender Ruben Dias said yesterday his treble-winning side are hungry for a "beautiful" repeat of last season's achievements ahead of their clash with RB Leipzig on Wednesday.

"More beautiful than winning one Champions League is to win two in a row, the same goes for the FA Cup," Dias said, explaining City's "motivation could not be any higher".

City coach Pep Guardiola said midfielder Bernardo Silva was in line for a return from injury and would take the flight to Germany, along with defender John Stones.

"They feel better, Bernardo better than John," Guardiola said.

"They're back, which is good

news for us."

City's flight was delayed due to weather conditions, but the English champions are still expected to arrive a day before the game.

Guardiola said defender Josko Gvardiol, who moved from Leipzig to City in the summer, was "settling in well" and had already shown his "tremendous quality".

The last time the two teams met, City thrashed Leipzig 7-0 in the second leg of their last 16 tie, but RB coach Marco Rose said the thrashing was "history".

City's rampant victory in their home leg of last season's clash, with Erling Haaland scoring five goals inside an hour, helped propel them towards a first Champions League title.

Alcaraz exits China Open as Sinner reaches final

● Daniil Medvedev eased into the final with a win over Alexander Zverev

● Aryna Sabalenka, Coco Gauff, and Iga Swiatek all progressed in the women's draw

AFP | Beijing

World number two Carlos Alcaraz slumped out of the China Open yesterday, collapsing in the second set to hand Italy's Jannik Sinner a place in the men's final against Daniil Medvedev in Beijing.

Both players traded several breaks of serve in a breathless first set that tipped Sinner's way when he cracked a blistering return off the Spaniard's second serve to take the all-important tie-break.

But Alcaraz -- the tournament favourite in Novak Djokovic's absence -- then fell apart, gifting Sinner three service games before crowning an error-laden second set with a tame backhand into the net to give the world number seven a 7-6 (7/4), 6-1 victory.

Sinner and Medvedev will go toe-to-toe for the trophy on Wednesday.

Earlier, Medvedev hailed his "perfect" serve as he eased into the men's final with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Alexander Zverev.

The semi-final got off to a close-fought start but Medvedev then notched a crucial break of



Italy's Jannik Sinner hits a return to Spain's Carlos Alcaraz

serve and managed to see out the first set.

It was a similar story in the second set, with the Russian breaking for 5-3 and serving out the match with a pair of fierce aces.

"Today was a perfect service match. I don't think there was one bad thing I can say about my serve," Medvedev said at a post-match news conference.

"I think the fact that the play was faster -- the faster the court is, the easier you can hit aces... (and) the easier you feel when stepping into the serve," the 27-year-old said.

"Today I was going faster and I was really not thinking much about anything, just serving."

The top-ranked women's player Aryna Sabalenka said her performances in "key moments" were crucial to surviving a major scare in the second round, after she defeated unseeded Katie Boulter 7-5, 7-6 (7/2) in Beijing.

Sabalenka saved seven break points at 5-5 and then forced the

stubborn Briton, ranked 56th in the world, into a rare backhand error to clinch the opening set.

The Belarusian notched another must-win break in the second set to again draw level at 5-5 before triumphing in a tie-break by slamming down an unreturned serve.

She will battle Italy's Jasmine Paolini in the next round for a place in the quarter-finals.

"I think what made the difference was that in the key moments I played a little bit better than her," Sabalenka said at a post-match news conference.

"I think it was all about those last games in each set. She had the opportunity and I'm super glad that I didn't give her those sets easily."

"I kept fighting, kept trying, and that's what made the difference," she said.

US Open champion Coco Gauff also had to dig deep to get the better of Croatia's Petra Martic in a rollercoaster tie that lasted three hours.

Martic was serving for the

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DANIIL MEDVEDEV

match against Gauff but the world number three fought back to take the game and went on to dominate the ensuing tie-break, winning 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 (7/2).

"Today was a mental victory. I was happy I was able to get through it," said Gauff, who will face Russia's Veronika Kudermetova in her next match.

"I was just telling myself to keep suffering, it will be over in a couple of seconds," the 19-year-old said.

"I knew I could outlast her. I just had to be consistent, but also aggressive."

World number two Iga Swiatek shook off a rain delay to glide past France's Varvara Gracheva 6-4, 6-1 to set up a date with fellow Pole Magda Linette.

"I didn't want to rush. I just wanted to be patient and really consistent with my tactics. I'm happy that I did that," Swiatek said.

BIC offers back-to-back thrills this weekend

● First Orange Media Open Track and Track Experiences of new season set to take place this Friday and Saturday

TDT | Manama

The motorsport thrills continue to roll in at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) this weekend, and race fans will be able to enjoy a fantastic double-header on back-to-back days for the first time this season.

BIC is set to host on Friday the first Orange Media Open Track of the 2023/2024 calendar, and then on Saturday follow it up with the inaugural Track Experiences.

Both activities are amongst the most popular at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" and they are only the first of many occasions where speed enthusiasts get to satisfy their craving for an adrenaline-pumping adventure.

For more information or to book a slot in the Orange Media Open Track or Track Experiences, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Orange Media Open Track gives participants the chance to



Bikers take part in an Orange Media Open Track event last season

take their very own cars or motorbikes out for a spin along the world-renowned Sakhr circuit, while pushing them to their limits within a safe and controlled environment.

Friday's event will take place from 11am to 8pm. The cost to take part, when booked in advance, is BD82,500 for the full day, BD55 for the half day and BD22 for a single session. Prices for booking on the day itself are BD93,500 for the full day, BD66 for the half day and BD27,500 for a single session.

Instructor sessions are also available at an extra cost, while additional drivers and passengers can also participate for a fee.

Driver etiquette is of ultimate importance in every Orange Media Open Track activity, so there is no close or aggressive overtaking permitted. Overtaking is by invitation between corners and driving is monitored, with poor or dangerous driving being dealt with swiftly by officials.

Meanwhile, Track Experiences offers a series of exciting drives and passenger rides in three ultra-quick cars, including the Renault Clio Cup and the Radical SR1 and SR3.

Fans can get an awesome introduction to the high-octane world of motorsports in the Clio Cup Experiences, where they can step into a 1.6 litre, Turbocharged Renault Clio Cup

sportscar either for a drive or a passenger ride.

The driving experience takes the participant onto the track behind a professional instructor in a lead-follow manner, while the passenger experience requires those taking part to simply buckle up and enjoy the rush!

Supreme thrills can also be enjoyed in the Radical SR1 Driving Experience, which is ideal for amateurs and racers alike as the car's 185bhp engine roars like no other. Interested participants are required to complete a Clio Cup Drive in order to take part in this activity.

In the Radical SR3 Passenger Experience, fans will be taken from zero to 100kph in about 3.4 seconds, making for a memorable number of laps around the circuit.

The cost to get behind the wheel for the Clio Cup Driver Experience is BD121, while the Clio Cup Passenger Experience is BD27,500. For the Radical SR1 Driver Experience, the cost is BD132 while the Radical SR3 Passenger Experience is BD38,500.

For more information on the Orange Media Open Track, Track Experiences, or other events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline.

Japan survive China fightback to set up North Korea football final



Japan celebrate scoring against China

AFP | Hangzhou

Japan held off a furious second-half fightback from hosts China in the Asian Games women's football semi-finals yesterday to win 4-3 and set up a gold-medal showdown with North Korea.

China were looking to win the title for the first time since 1998 but four first-half goals from defending champions Japan gave them a mountain to climb in Hangzhou.

Two quickfire replies after the break reduced the deficit to one but the host nation were unable to find another goal to keep their hopes alive.

North Korea thrashed Uzbekistan 8-0 in the day's other

semi-final to set up a repeat of the 2014 final.

China had their strongest women's football squad at the Asian Games and all but one of their starting line-up appeared at this summer's World Cup.

Japan fielded an inexperienced line-up but it didn't stop them from taking the lead in the 12th minute.

Yuzuki Yamamoto cut through the Chinese defence on the right and squared the ball for Yoshino Nakashima to meet with a sliding finish.

China equalised less than 10 minutes later when Wang Linlin scored from a rebound after the ball had rattled Japan's crossbar.