Bahrain's Mahmoud wins shot put silver in Portugal indoor meet

Bahraini Noora Salem Jasim narrowly misses out on podium in women's shot put

TDT | Manama

 ${f B}$ ahrain's elite athlete Abdelrahman Mahmoud claimed an impressive silver medal for the men's shot put at the Meeting Moniz Pereira in Pombal, Portugal.

Mahmoud claimed his runner-up finish after registering a throw of 20.26 metres.

It was not far behind the gold medal-winning mark of 20.40m by Roman Kokoshko from Ukraine. They were the



only two participants to throw Abdelrahman Mahmoud, right, with his silver medal at the meeting

Jose Lorenzo Hernandez of Spain won the bronze with a throw of 16.55.

Mahmoud's performance was his best for the year so far but it was not his personal best for the indoor shot put. That mark is 21.10m, which he set in 2021 as both a Bahrain record and an

Meanwhile, also in Pombal, Bahrain's Noora Salem Jasim narrowly missed out on a podium in the women's shot put.

She had a best mark of 13.89m. Winning gold was Jessica Inchude of Portugal with a 17.81m

Noora's effort was her first competition of the year. Her personal best for the indoor shot put is 17.45m, which she set in 2017 as a Bahrain record.

Bayern's Salihamidzic calls Gnabry 'amateurish' for Paris fashion 'frolic'

AFP | Munich

Bayern Munich sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic criticised forward Serge Gnabrv for his "amateurish" Paris Fashion Week visit, saying "the title is at stake".

Gnabry jetted to Paris after Bayern's 1-1 away draw with Leipzig on Friday, sharing pictures of the trip on social

Salihamidzic reacted after Bayern drew 1-1 at home the Germany forward was not against Cologne on Tuesday.

Gnabry was subbed off at fresh air.'

Salihamidzic later suggested



That's amateurish, that's exactly what Bayern Munich isn't, frolicking somewhere when you have a day off. A day off is to rest so that you can step on the accelerator in the next game

HASAN SALIHAMIDZIC



Serge Gnabry

fully focused.

"That's amateurish, that's halftime. Coach Julian Nagels- exactly what Bayern Munich mann said after the match he isn't, frolicking somewhere wanted to bring in "a breath of when you have a day off," the sporting director said, hinting that the former Arsenal forward may face consequences.

"A day off is to rest so that you can step on the accelerator in the next game.

"We will talk about that yesterday, for sure. Of course there is a need to talk about it."

The 27-year-old Gnabry had already been criticised in the German media.

Speaking on Monday, Nagelsmann said the striker had not broken any rules but needed to "give the right answer (to the criticism) on the pitch."

Tottenham sign winger Danjuma on loan from Villarreal

AFP | London

Tottenham nave made foundations their first signing of rest of the season. the January transfer win-

strugglers Everton.

dow as Netherlands winger swooped for Danjuma after another attacking option as Arnaut Danjuma joined on the 25-year-old had looked he looks to lift fifth-placed Nottenham have made loan from Villarreal for the set to join Premier League Tottenham back into the Premier League's top four Antonio Conte's side Danjuma will give Conte after their recent struggles. Serge Gnabry



Djokovic is no 'villain' - took me 10 years to get over cheat storm: **Azarenka**



Victoria Azarenka plays a backhand return to Jessica Pegula

AFP | Melbourne

7ictoria Azarenka said it took her 10 years to get over being accused of cheating when she last won the Australian Open, and defended Novak Djokovic who has been accused of dramatising his injury during this year's tournament.

The 33-year-old two-time champion rolled back the years at Melbourne Park on Tuesday night, dismissing Jessica Pegula 6-4, 6-1 to reach the semi-finals for the first time since 2013.

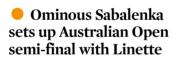
During her run to the second of her back-to-back Australian titles that year, Azarenka took a nine-minute medical timeout in the semi-final against Sloane Stephens after failing to convert five match points.

Azarenka went on to turn the match around and eventually lift the trophy, but she had to defend herself from accusations of gamesmanship and cheating.

The Belarusian revealed later she had suffered a panic attack on court and couldn't breathe, which caused the long delay.

Djokovic, Sabalenka roll into Australian Open semi-finals

Novak Djokovic crushes Andrey Rublev in style, romps on towards 10th Australian title



Paul downs Shelton in all-American clash to make semis

AFP | Melbourne

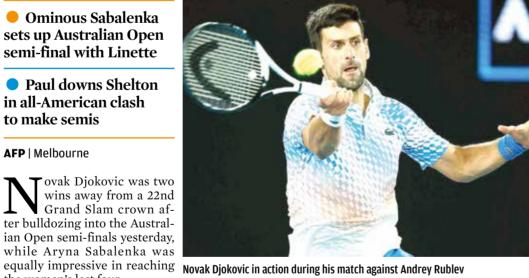
ovak Djokovic was two wins away from a 22nd Grand Slam crown after bulldozing into the Australian Open semi-finals yesterday, while Aryna Sabalenka was the women's last four.

Serbia's Djokovic delivered said a buoyant Djokovic. a masterclass to crush Russian and set up a meeting with Tom- nament progresses." my Paul for a place in Sunday's

with great rival Rafael Nadal on the gap on Roger Federer's all-practised together before. a leading 22 major titles carries time record of 46. an air of inevitability.

The 35-year-old struggled de Minaur and was equally clin- women's draws. ical against the outclassed Ru-

against two guys who were in semi-final. form and to beat them dominantly in three sets is something Djokovic, who can return to the with surprise-package Magda Linette for a place in Saturday's that I definitely want in this mo- top of the rankings if he wins Linette after once again displayment, something that sends a the Australian Open for a re- ing the kind of form and finesse her first major semi-final at the



"With this kind of game the fifth seed Andrey Rublev 6-1, confidence level rises, so I feel 6-2, 6-4 on Rod Laver Arena better on the court as the tour-

but was dominant during his tournament that has seen nufourth-round demolition of Alex merous shocks in the men's and

ican Ben Shelton 7-6 (8/6), 6-3, "Last two matches, playing 5-7, 6-4 to reach his first major

But former world number one message to all my opponents," cord-extending 10th time, will that have made her favourite for age of 30.

be a whole new prospect. Paul, ranked 35, and the Serb great have never played each other before.

"I saw him in the locker Victory for the red-hot favour- room after I finished my match. this year. ite propelled him into a 44th He said, 'congrats'," said the Djokovic's quest to go level Grand Slam semi-final to close 25-year-old, adding they had

"Obviously he's pretty com-Anything other than a ram- fortable here in Australia," the pant win for Djokovic against American added. "It's going to with a hamstring injury in the unseeded Paul would amount be a challenging match but I'm early rounds at Melbourne Park to a massive upset, albeit at a playing some of my best tennis, so it's a good time.'

> tween third seed Stefanos Tsitsi- easily out, to get out easily from Paul defeated his fellow Amer- pas and Russian 18th seed Karen those situations," she said. Khachanov.

Ominous Sabalenka

Sabalenka set up a semi-final

Last two matches. playing against two guvs who were in form and to beat them dominantly in three sets is something that I definitely want in this moment, something that sends a message to all my opponents

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

the women's title.

The Belarusian fifth seed defeated Croatia's Donna Vekic 6-3, 6-2 as she closes on a first Grand Slam title.

The match was closer than the score suggested, but Sabalenka is playing scintillating tennis -- she is yet to drop a set so far

It is a far cry from a year ago, when she struggled badly with her serve and was reduced to tears at an Australian Open warm-up tournament.

The 24-year-old is benefiting from a different approach when facing adversity on court.

"Before I was trying to go for The other semi-final is be- aces, go for crazy shots to get

> "Right now I keep saying: 'No, work for it, it's not going to be

Sabalenka will play unseeded final after the Pole marched into



Tommy Paul is only the third active American man to reach a Grand Slam semi-final, joining John Isner (2018 Wimbledon) and Frances Tiafoe (2022 **US Open) but will have** to register a seismic shock if he is to go any further

Linette stunned former world number one Karolina Pliskova 6-3, 7-5 to continue flying the flag for Poland after the shock exit of world number one Iga Swiatek.

"I'm so emotional, I can't really believe it," said Linette, ranked 45 in the world.

"It's a dream come true. I'm super grateful and happy. Thank you for cheering and supporting, I really needed this.

"So we keep going. I don't want to get too excited because we are still in the tournament," added the Pole.

Two-time Melbourne champion Victoria Azarenka, also from Belarus, will face Moscow-born Kazakh Elena Rybakina in the other semi-final.

Both women's semi-finals are today.