Afghan Para Taekwondo players achieve three Bronze medals

The caravan of Afghanistan national Para Taekwondo Team, hoisted the national flag in para Olympic competitiions that was hosted by Jordon.

Zubair Haidary, Mateen Hotak and Ms, Zakya Khodaidadi managed to achieve three Bronze medals among the participating athletes of 20 countries and presented it to Afghans sport community.

Talking on this issue, director of Paralympic Publication department Kabir Khoshbeen said, first of all congratulates big victory to the Pan Afghan people particularly disabled community. Despite of slight resources and sustaining plenty of efforts our para taekwondo athletes managed to gain share of Paralympic games, Tokyo, Japan.

Khoshbeen added, presence of these athletes, representing millions disabled people, sent message of peace, sincerity congratulate and peaceful life void of war and violence to the world people. This achievement has special big and spiritual value.

Talking on this big achievement, Director of Afghanistan Paralympic Committee Abdul Hussein Hesari said, I sincerely congratulate this success to every body and request NOC to pave the better way for further growth of disabled para tackwondo.

National Paralympic Committee with its transparent management invited attention to the health of athletes and prioritized it and for three months quarantined all Paralympic athletics at home and forbidden all their contacts to prevent outbreak of COVID-19.

It should be clarified that no financial assistance has been provided to disabled athletes by no source.

Nangylay Oslami

Mayweather vs Logan Paul: Can Floyd Mayweather call himself the best boxer in history?

Mayweather dominated the sport for decades while compiling a perfect 50-fight record that included victories over stellar rivals in five weight classes.

Max stake varies. See bet slip for details.

Odds subject to fluctuation. Further T&Cs apply. 18+

Floyd Mayweather and Logan Paul face off ahead of their clash live on Sky Sports Box Office on Sunday night.

The crowd may want to see someone get knocked out, but he has perfected that style like a fine art. He is one of the few fighters in the modern generation that really appreciate the sweet science and still manage to gain the massive financial rewards.

His style is not crash, bang wallop, so how has he managed to create such a vast fortune and attention? Technically he is supreme. You go there to watch him win or lose. He's either the villain or your hero.

I think he's the best of his generation. How do you compare guys in the past to now? You can only be the best of your era. Look at Sugar Ray Robinson. You cannot match what he achieved in the sport.

But Floyd has shown longevity and the fact he's undefeated as well. I think you can only ever be the best of your generation and you have to say, without a doubt, he has been that.

He is the best of a generation, but I'm not sure if he's the best of all time. I actually thought he lost in that first fight against Jose Luis Castillo.

But his résumé is amazing. He fought Zab Judah at his best, Miguel Cotto, he beat Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez. You cannot give him stick for his résumé. He fought everyone, didn't he.

Mayweather makes you fight his fight. You cannot do that unless you've got the speed and the ability that he has.

Epsom Oaks day: Hollie Doyle at the double with Corazon Espinado and Mehmento

Hollie Doyle rode a double at Epsom on Cazoo Oaks day with victory on board Corazon Espinado and Mehmento.

Trained locally by Simon Dow, 12-1 shot Corazon Espinado got Doyle off to a flyer, taking the Coral 'Beaten By A Length' Free Bet Handicap, pulling three and a half lengths clear of Hortzadar.

Doyle, a Sky Sports Racing ambassador, followed up with a Listed win on board Mehmento in the Surrey Stakes for trainer Archie Watson.

On Corazon Espinado's victory, Dow said: "His stable is just across the road - he's incredible.

"He loves Lingfield and he loves Epsom. It's a tremendous achievement for the little horse to win on Oaks day twice.

"The draw and the easing ground was against us, so we were a little cautious - but he goes round there like he's on rails.

"There aren't enough superlatives for Hollie - it's always a privilege to have her."

Doyle said: "Everything went to plan, though he was over-racing early on. Franny (Norton, on Overwrite) and I had it pretty easy on the front end.

"He's such a course specialist I just let go of his head coming down Tattenham Corner and he took me into the race beautifully."

Dropping back to Listed level after finishing down the field in the French 2,000 Guineas last time, Mehmento made short work of three rivals in a race that also had three non runners.

Legal Attack briefly looked like making a fight of it, but Mehmento found an extra gear with a furlong to run, winning readily as the 11-8 favourite.

It was not to be for Doyle on her first Classic ride in the Oaks as she finished ninth, in amongst the main pack, which had been left well behind clear winner Snowfall.

Lewis Hamilton says Mercedes left 'scratching heads' about Azerbaijan GP practice struggle

Mercedes say they have an "awful lot" of performance to find around the Baku City Circuit after enduring their "worst Friday by some margin" in Friday practice at the Azerbaijan GP.

Finishing outside the top 10 with both Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas on an opening day that title rivals Red Bull set an impressive pace, F1's seven-time champions conceded they had a lot of work ahead of them at the track and back at their factory in the UK ahead of Saturday's running

Lewis Hamilton lapped one second off the afternoon pace and although happy with how he had driven in Friday's two sessions, admitted that the W12 was "just slow".

"In general, I feel like I'm driving well, and the car felt better in P1. In this one there was no more time in it," said Hamilton after finishing 11th fastest in Practice Two.

"We are definitely quite a chunk down and everyone will be scratching their heads and looking into the data trying to figure out how we can improve."

Team-mate Bottas, a further second off the pace in 16th place, put it bluntly: "I think there's something fundamentally wrong and we need to figure out what."

'Figuring out' that day-one struggle is now Mercedes' crucial focus ahead of final practice at 10am on Saturday.

Hoping for a more competitive showing this week after a difficult Monaco, when they lost the leaderships of both championship races to Red Bull, Mercedes had nonetheless stressed that the streets of Baku were unlikely to play to their strengths either.

But the scale of Friday's struggle still represented a significant surprise.

"Today was our worst Friday by some margin," conceded Andrew Shovlin, the team's trackside engineering director.

"Our biggest issue seemed to be the single lap; we're a long way from our normal positions so clearly we need to find something very significant there.

African journalists slam UAE 'manipulation' over Qatar World Cup

The Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) has condemned what it calls attempts by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to "manipulate" African journalists into speaking out against the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

In a resolution released on Wednesday, the FAJ expressed "dismay" over efforts by the UAE to "manipulate journalists' organisations in Africa to issue public statements or campaign against the 2022 FIFA World Cup".

The resolution, adopted at the African Journalists Leaders' Conference held this week in the Ghanaian capital Accra, also called on football's world governing body, FIFA, as well as the regional body, the Confederation of African Football, to investigate and sanction those responsible.

FAJ President Sadiq Ibrahim Ahmed told Al Jazeera that at least eight African journalist associations had been contacted by people they believe are connected to high-ranking UAE officials, who pressured them to hold news conferences and speak out against Qatar hosting the World Cup and to encourage African teams to boycott the tournament.

He said the approaches to the associations were all made within the last three months, with the most recent reported about two weeks ago, and that they were political demands "under the pretext of 'labour rights violations' in Qatar".

"FAJ and its affiliated unions cannot allow African journalists to be used as if Africans are cheap people that can be manipulated and used to settle political scores," Ahmed said.

"We are not interested in political disputes in the Gulf. Our main mandate is to defend journalists and their interests as well as media freedom."

The resolution also cited concerns that the "unprecedented interference" could compromise reporting by African journalists on the tournament.

Qatar will be the first country in the Middle East to stage football's biggest competition. The event kicks off in November next year.

The UAE's foreign ministry did not respond to a request for comment at the time of publication.

The UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, along with Egypt, severed economic and diplomatic ties with Qatar in June 2017 and imposed a land, sea and air blockade, accusing it of supporting "terrorism".

Qatar repeatedly denied the claims.

In January, Saudi Arabia announced a deal to end the dispute. But diplomats and regional sources have reportedly said Saudi Arabia and Egypt have been moving faster than the UAE and Bahrain to repair ties with Doha.

Affail Monney, president of the Ghana Journalist Association and executive board member of the FAJ, told Al Jazeera he wants African journalists to be free to do their jobs without political interference.

"Journalists in particular should not be drawn into issues outside their interests, scope and mandate," he said.

"We reject any attempt at manipulation to use us or to set us on a collision course with Qatar."

In its resolution, the FAJ also noted the "unparalleled progress" made by Qatar in improving workers' rights.

Qatar's treatment of migrant workers and its human rights record have been under scrutiny since it was awarded the rights to host the tournament in 2010.

A media report published in March alleged that 6,500 migrant workers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka had died in Qatar since then.

Qatar responded by saying that "the mortality rate among these communities is within the expected range for the size and demographics of the population".

aljazeera

French Open: Serena Williams sails through at Roland Garros after straight-sets win over Danielle Collins

Serena Williams was close to her best as she swatted aside the threat of fellow American Danielle Collins to reach the fourth-round of the French Open.

Williams, chasing a fourth Roland Garros title and record-equalling 24th Grand Slam, staged a second-set recovery to beat Collins 6-4 6-4.

He is the best of a generation, but I'm not sure if he's the best of all time. I actually thought he lost in that first fight against Jose Luis Castillo.

But his résumé is amazing. He fought Zab Judah at his best, Miguel Cotto, he beat Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez. You cannot give him stick for his résumé. He fought everyone, didn't he.

Mayweather makes you fight his fight. You cannot do that unless you've got the speed and the ability that he has.

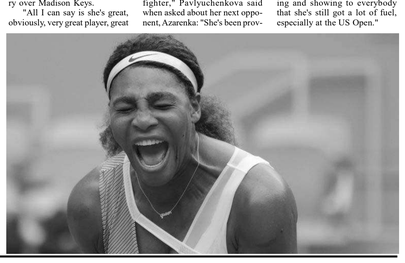
The only wobble came early in the second set when Williams lost four games in a row but, after urging her feet to start moving again, she reeled off five straight games to clinch victory.

Williams will take on Elena Rybakina, the 21st seed, next after she ended Elena Vesnina's comeback Grand Slam with a 6-1 6-4 victory. Vesnina was playing her first major since giving birth to her daughter in 2018.

Williams will not get ahead of herself, saying: "There's still a lot of matches, a lot of great players, as we can see. There's so much depth in this game now, it doesn't matter if you're playing in the first round or not, you really have to fight for every match and nothing comes easy. "I just needed a win. I needed to win tough matches. I needed to win sets. I needed to win being down. I needed to find me, know who I am. Nobody else is Serena out here. It's me. It's pretty cool." Aryna Sabalenka's error-strewn exit to Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova has left the Grand Slam without its top three women's seeds inside the first week.

World No 1 Ashleigh Barty was forced to retire through injury during her second-round match, which followed the much-publicised withdrawal of Naomi Osaka. Sabalenka has been one of the most in-form players of the last few months and won the biggest title of her career in Madrid last month but she has yet to make a real impression at a Grand Slam, failing to go beyond the fourth round. That has clearly become a psychological hurdle and, having fought back from a set down against experienced Russian Pavlyuchenkova, Sabalenka struggled to keep the ball in the court, making 39 unforced errors in total in a 6-4 2-6 6-0 defeat.

Two-time Grand Slam champion Victoria Azarenka looked in impressive form during her victory over American Madison Keys

Pavlyuchenkova will next take on Victoria Azarenka, who reached the fourth round at Roland Garros for the first time since 2013 with an impressive 6-2 6-2 victory over Madison Keys.

"All I can say is she's great, obviously, very great player, great fighter," Pavlyuchenkova said when asked about her next opponent, Azarenka: "She's been proving and showing to everybody that she's still got a lot of fuel, especially at the US Open."