

wednesday — (all times are Kuwait local)

08:00 tennis ..... bein sports 9hd  
 09:45 soccer ..... bein sports 3hd  
 10:50 water polo ..... bein sports 10hd  
 11:28 handball ..... bein sports 1hd  
 13:10 cycling ..... bein sports 1hd  
 13:50 swimming ..... bein sports 10hd  
 14:30 tennis ..... bein sports 9hd  
 19:00 baseball ..... bein sports 12hd

# Sports

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## More podium controversy as Sun wins 200 free via disqualification



Swimmers start in the women's 1,500m freestyle final at the World Swimming Championships in Gwangju, South Korea on July 23. (AP)



Left: Gold medalist United States' Lilly King poses with her medal following the women's 100m breaststroke final. (Right): South Africa's Chad le Clos swims in his men's 200m butterfly semifinal at the World Swimming Championships in Gwangju, South Korea on July 23. (AP)



Left: Gold medalist United States' Lilly King poses with her medal following the women's 100m breaststroke final. (Right): South Africa's Chad le Clos swims in his men's 200m butterfly semifinal at the World Swimming Championships in Gwangju, South Korea on July 23. (AP)

### King pips Efimova

**GWANGJU, South Korea, July 23, (AP): Sun Yang was in the middle of controversy at the World Swimming Championships again. Only this time, it wasn't his doing.**

The Chinese star still got shunned on the medals podium again. Sun won the 200-meter freestyle on Tuesday night after Danas Rapsys of Lithuania finished first and got disqualified for an apparent false start.

Sun touched second, but got elevated after Rapsys had already celebrated in the pool.

Sun appeared surprised, clapping his hands to his face, but quickly sat on the lane rope and raised both arms in the air as a mix of cheers and boos rang out.

Katsuhiko Matsumoto of Japan took silver. Martin Maljutin of Russia and Duncan Scott of Britain tied for bronze.

On the podium, Scott wanted no part of sharing the moment with Sun.

Scott kept his hands clasped behind his back and refused to shake Sun's hand, standing off on his own while the other medalists joined Sun to pose for photographers.

Sun, who served a three-month doping ban in 2014, is being allowed by FINA to compete in Gwangju ahead of a Court of Arbitration in Sport hearing in September that threatens Sun's career.

After Sun won the 400 free, silver medalist Mack Horton of Australia refused to step on the podium or acknowledge Sun during the medals ceremony.

FINA, swimming's governing body, sent warning letters to Swimming Australia and Horton for his actions.

"FINA has currently done more to reprimand Mack Horton than they have done to reprimand Sun Yang," said American Lilly King, who won the women's 100 breaststroke.

Sun has been accused of smashing vials of his blood with a hammer during a clash last year with testers, and faces a lifetime ban if found guilty.

"He does quite a good job of making sure everyone continues to know about it," Scott said, referring to Sun's pending doping case. "So I guess that's all I've got to say about that."

Sun spread his arms apart and looked at Scott as the Brit turned to

### SWIMMING

come off the podium. Sun and the other two medalists stopped for photographers on the pool deck, but Scott kept on walking.

"The athletes are starting to stand up for themselves and stand up for what they believe in so, I commend them," King said. "That's incredibly brave."

There were more boos — and cheers from Chinese fans — in the crowd at Nambu University Municipal Aquatics Center.

"If people are booing him it's for a reason," British swimmer Adam Peaty said of Sun. "He should be asking himself now should he really be in a sport when people are booing him?"

Peaty said Scott's action was "completely right."

"The most important thing as a

## 'Tokyo preparations on track one year out from Games'

**TOKYO, July 23, (Agencies):** Tokyo is fully on track to deliver the "compact" 2020 Olympics it promised when it was awarded the rights to the event six years ago, the International Olympic Committee's Coordination Commission chief said on Tuesday.

Wednesday marks one year until the opening ceremony in the almost-completed National Stadium, and organisers believe they are on schedule to deliver the Games.

"We're very pleased that the delivery of the games remains firmly on track," said John Coates, in Tokyo reviewing the preparations amid several one-year-to-go events.

"All of the excitement is growing here. You've seen the unprecedented interest in ticket sales," he told reporters.

Around 3.22 million tickets were sold during the first domestic sales phase last month, surprising organisers so much that their sales policy had to be amended.

Over 200,000 people in Japan and abroad have also applied to be volunteers at the Games in a further indication of the excitement building in the country.

By contrast, in Rio de Janeiro three years ago, the Olympics were met with widespread criticism over the use of public funds.

Local sponsorship revenue has passed \$3 billion, more than any other Games, which is necessary as Tokyo

sports person is you have a right to a voice," Peaty said. "Duncan shared his voice and so did the crowd, so it's completely fair."

Sun, the current Olympic champion in the 200 free, earned his third straight medal in the event at worlds and second gold in a row.

He was timed in 1 minute, 44.93 seconds.

King and Russia's Yulia Efimova kept all the drama in the pool in the 100 breaststroke.

They were neck-and-neck down the stretch before King got her hand on the wall first, touching in 1:04.93.

Efimova was second in 1:05.49. Martina Carraro of Italy took bronze.

King is an outspoken doping critic who is upset that Sun is competing in Gwangju.

Efimova served a 16-month doping ban in 2013 and failed a drug test in 2016, but wasn't punished. King called out Efimova at the Rio Olympics, saying she wasn't a fan.

However, the intensity between them has clearly dissipated.

### Unprecedented interest in ticket sales



A man walks past the Olympic rings on July 23 in Tokyo as Japan marks a year to go until hosting the summer games with Olympic medals being unveiled Wednesday as part of daylong ceremonies around the Japanese capital. The Summer Olympics will return to Tokyo next year for the first time since 1964. (AP)

2020 organisers battle rising costs.

Budget figures released in December 2018 put total costs at \$12.6 billion, well above their original estimate at under \$7 billion.

With all the newly-built and refurbished venues on track to be completed on schedule, organisers are heading into the final straight with few major headaches.

King and Efimova clasped hands over the lane rope. Later, Efimova clasped as King took the top spot on the podium and they embraced and kissed after the ceremony.

Without three-time defending champion Katie Ledecky in the field, Simona Quadarella of Italy won the 1,500 freestyle in 15:40.89 — well off Ledecky's world record of 15:20.48.

Earlier Tuesday, the American star withdrew from the final because of unspecified illness. Ledecky also dropped out of the 200 freestyle heats.

Sarah Kohler of Germany earned silver and Wang Jianjiahe of China took bronze.

Olympic and defending world champion Ryan Murphy was upset in the men's 100 backstroke.

Xu Jiayu of China won in 52.43 seconds.

Evgeny Rylov of Russia took silver and Mitch Larkin of Australia got bronze.

Murphy, who was under his own world-record pace at the turn, faded to fourth. Fellow American Matt Grevers was fifth.

Tokyo may be for athletes and spectators. A record heat wave in July 2018 killed over a dozen people in Tokyo, with monthly average temperatures reaching more than 30 degrees for the first time since 1998.

### Also:

**BRISBANE, Australia:** Australia has moved closer to launching a bid for the 2032 Olympics and Paralympic Games after the Queensland state government announced it would help fund a study into how much the events would cost taxpayers.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk on Tuesday said she would chair a taskforce which will assess venues, trans-

### OLYMPICS

port infrastructure and economic viability.

Australia last hosted the Summer Olympics in Sydney in 2000, which was the first time since Melbourne was the host city in 1956.

The International Olympic Committee last month announced radical changes to how and when Olympic hosts are picked. The IOC wants to avoid negative headlines and angering local taxpayers following referendum losses on bids and excessive spending on white-elephant venues.

## 'Bale will not leave Real on loan'

**LONDON, July 23, (RTS):** Gareth Bale's agent has ruled out any loan deal for the Real Madrid forward as the Spanish side seek to offload the Wales international.

The 30-year-old is out of favour with Real and manager Zinedine Zidane has said the club are "working on his departure".

"There will be no makeshift deals to get him out of the club,"

### SOCCER

agent Jonathan Barnett told Sky Sports television on Tuesday.

"Gareth is one of the best players on the planet. I can guarantee you he will not be going on loan to any club."

Bale has won four Champions

League titles since joining Madrid from Tottenham Hotspur in 2013 for a then world record transfer fee of 100 million euros (\$111.79 million) but struggled to hold down a starting spot last season.

The interest of European clubs in a permanent deal for Bale is likely to depend on his willingness to accept a salary cut.

Chinese Super League clubs Jiangsu Suning and Beijing Guoan have been linked to the player in media reports.

"Gareth is a Real Madrid player and for now he's staying as a Real Madrid player," said Barnett.

"If something comes along that suits us then things could change and he could be gone in a day or a week. Or he could still be a Real player in three years when his contract ends."