

Sports

Kenyan marathon master Eliud Kipchoge smashes world record

Kenyan clocks two hours, one minute, 39 seconds

Berlin: Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge set a new marathon world record in Berlin yesterday, smashing the previous best as he clocked 2hr 1min 39sec. The 33-year-old Olympic champion, aided by a string of pacemakers through to 25km of the 42.195km race, took 1min 18sec off the previous best set four years ago by Dennis Kimetto. It was the largest single improvement on the marathon world record since Derek Clayton improved the mark by 2:23 in 1967. "My only words are 'Thank you!'" said Kipchoge, who sprinted into the lead after 100 metres and never let up.

"I was prepared to run my own race early so I wasn't surprised to be alone. I have trained so well for this race and have full trust in the programmes of my coach. I am just so incredibly happy to have finally run the world record as I never stopped having belief in myself." Acclaimed as the greatest marathon runner of the modern era, Kipchoge has dominated marathon racing since making his debut in Hamburg in 2013 after a successful track career that saw him win world gold and silver (2003, 2007) in the 5000m and Olympic silver and bronze (2008, 2004) over the same distance.

He has notched up 10 wins from the 11 marathons he has raced, winning three times not only in Berlin but also London, with victories in Rio for Olympic gold as well as in Hamburg, Rotterdam and Chicago. In the German capital on Sunday, Kipchoge had just a handful of pacemakers for company from the early stages of the race. The Kenyan passed through five kilometres in 14:24 and 10 kilometres in 29:21. But shortly after 15 kilometres, which was reached in 43:38, two of the three pacemakers were unable to continue and withdrew from the race. The final pacemaker, Josphat Boit,

led Kipchoge through the half-way point in 1:01:06 before dropping out at 25 kilometres, covered in 1:12:24.

SOLITARY FINAL 17KM

Running alone with 17 kilometres left, Kipchoge then sped up. He passed the 35-kilometre checkpoint just a shade outside 1:41:00, suggesting a finishing time inside 2:02 was possible. By 40 kilometres, reached in 1:55:32, a world record looked a certainty.

Kipchoge maintained his form well into the closing stages to smash compatriot Kimetto's previous best. "Yes, it was tough running alone, but I was confident," said Kipchoge, who finished well ahead of compatriots Amos Kipruto (2:06:23) in second and Wilson Kipsang (2:06:48) in third. "I'd said I was running my own race following my planning and I was confident." Kipchoge came agonisingly close to sporting immortality by nearly running the first sub-two-hour marathon last year. He missed the mythical mark by just 25 seconds.

But the race conditions at the Nike-sponsored event were so favourable-Kipchoge ran behind a six-man pacesetter team and was trailed by a time-keeping vehicle on a racing circuit in Monza, Italy-that the time was not recognised by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

There was a Kenyan double as Gladys Cheronu ran 2:18:11, a course record and world leading time, to win the women's race. Ethiopian Ruti Aga finished second in 2:18:34 and six-time Olympic and six-time world medalist Tirunesh Dibaba third (2:18:55), making more history as it was the first time three women have broken 2:19 in one race. — AFP



BERLIN: Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge crosses the finish line to win the Berlin Marathon setting a new world record yesterday in Berlin. —AFP

Shooting school tournament concludes



By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Tournament of the shooting school was concluded Saturday night by a ceremony attended by President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations, Chairman of Kuwait Shooting Sports Club Eng Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi, Secretary General Obaid Al-Osaimi, Assistant Treasurer Adnan Al-Ibrahim and Minister of Public Works, State Minister of Municipality Affairs, KSSC board member Eng Hussam Al-Roumi.

Eng Al-Otaibi said Kuwait Shooting Sport Club give special attention to the shooting school with the aim of discovering skilled shooters, especially youngsters as they are the future of the sport in the country.

Al-Otaibi who spoke to the press during the closing ceremony which was held at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting complex lauded the efforts and performance of the shooters who made good scores.

He said the club will give the outstanding shooters their own weapons and will receive all the necessary support to continue practicing the sport.

Al-Otaibi appreciated the support Kuwait shooting enjoys from the political leadership of the country which resulted in major achievements the latest of which in the Asian games in Indonesia and World Cup in South Korea.



Al-Otaibi said that as trap shooter Abdelrahman Al-Faihan already qualified for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, he will receive special attention and training to prepare him for the most important sports event in the world. Results of the tournament were as follows: In the 10m air rifle: Hussein Al-Roumi

10m air pistol: Ali Sabti
Frees shooting: Abdelrahman Al-Hamad
Meanwhile in the women's category:
10m air rifle: Moudhi Al-Marzouq
10m air pistol: Aseel Al-Mutoutah
Free shooting: Sundus Al-Hamad.
In the Olympic Archery, juniors:
Adel Al-Rasheedi.

French decathlete Mayer edges closer to world record

TALENCE: World champion Kevin Mayer remained well within range of a tilt at a new world record in the decathlon with just two disciplines left of the Decastar yesterday. The Frenchman cleared 5.45 metres in the pole vault to leave him on 7,503 points, 80 ahead of American Ashton Eaton when he set the current world record of 9,045pts.

"Now we can start talking about the world record," Mayer said after the pole vault. Mayer will now compete in the javelin and the 1500m in full knowledge that Eaton's record is there for the taking should he produce anything close to his personal bests. The 26-year-old missed out on adding the

European title to his world crown and Olympic silver medal when he failed to register a mark in the long jump in Berlin last month. But he put that disappointment well and truly behind him on the opening day on Saturday with personal bests of 7.80m in the long jump and 10.55sec in the 100m.

A shotput throw of 16m, then 2.05m on his third and last effort in the high jump and a 400m time of 48.42sec earned him a total of 4563 points at the midway stage. Mayer opened Sunday with 13.75sec in the 110m hurdles and threw a whopping 50.54m in the discus before excelling at the pole vault in front of a partisan crowd. — AFP



TALENCE: France's athlete Kevin Mayer reacts as he competes in the men's pole vault event during the IAAF 'Decastar' World Combined Events Challenge in Talence, south-western France yesterday. — AFP



Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network announces eighth edition of RunKuwait charity race

KUWAIT: Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network (FSHN), a non-profit multidisciplinary healthcare provider, is pleased to announce the return of its annual charity sporting event, RunKuwait, in its eighth edition. The event, which will be held on November 10th, invites interested participants and RunKuwait returning friends to register for the race and contribute to improving the lives of children with special needs.

RunKuwait is a charitable initiative aiming at raising awareness and funds towards the rehabilitative treatment of vulnerable children with special needs. Since 2013, all registration proceeds are channelled directly towards the non-profit Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC), founded by FSHN. Last year's event successfully contributed towards offering a total of 795 treatment sessions to children with special needs, which were offered at no cost.

Commenting on the 8th edition of the race, Dr Elham Al Hamdan, Medical Director at FSHN said: "Providing medical support to children with special needs is at the core of what we do and we are proud to announce the return of RunKuwait for the eighth consecutive year. Our journey is based on the enormous contributions we have been receiving from our partners and sponsors, who share our belief and act towards the cause supported by the race."

Every year we welcome new sponsors on board. This year we look forward to growing our family of generous supporters who will share our goal of successfully completing treatment courses and providing a better chance of living to the children treated at CERC. We look forward to seeing many of you at the race and supporting us throughout."

RunKuwait is a community based fun sporting event for all family members who can join a 5KM or 10KM run or walk



Dr Elham Al Hamdan

starting from The Scientific Center. The event's race village will host different warm-up exercises, activities for children and exciting activities for family members and friends who will join the event to cheer for the participants.

Continuous supporters of RunKuwait, interested athletes as well as sports enthusiasts can now register on runkuwait.org in order to receive their race kits and join the race. Early bird registration at a discounted fee is currently available until October 10th.

RunKuwait is supported by generous contributions from the following sponsors: Agility as a Founding Partner, INTERSPORT and ASAR Legal as Gold sponsors, and KDD and EQUATE as Silver sponsors. The media sponsors for the RunKuwait initiative this year are Al Anba newspaper, Kuwait Times newspaper, Bazaar Magazine, and 248am as social media sponsor.

Interested participants can register through the RunKuwait.org website. Additional information or queries about the race can be channelled through the RunKuwait official social media channels, @RunKuwait on Instagram and Facebook.