



World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

September 2024 | Issue #48

Paris 2024 - a big success in front of an amazing audience at an iconic venue



Historic first medals for 10 nations and Refugee Paralympic Team as Great Britain finish on top



An incredible contest of skill, strategy and grit is on the cards as 121 athletes from 52 nations, 2 refugee athletes and 2 AIN will compete in 10 medal events at Grand Palais in Paris

Historic firsts, iconic venue, amazing crowd in front of whom our champions were crowned. The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games were a big hit and these Games will be etched in the memories of the fans, athletes and the entire globe.

This was also the first time that the Para Taekwondo stars showed their explosivity at this biggest stage in front of a crowd, after audience-less Tokyo 2020.

In Tokyo 2020, only 69 (35 men and 34 women) from 37 nations took part in six medal events and 17 nations won medals. A number that should have been higher if not for COVID.

Paris definitely exceeded our expectations as **23+2** (NPA+RPT) won at least one medal - out of which 10 NPCs + 1 Refugee Paralympic Team athlete won medals for the first time ever that include - **Azerbaijan, Chinese Taipei, France, Georgia, Greece, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Mongolia, Nepal, and Refugee Para Athlete.**

Six nations claimed the historic first gold medals at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

For more: [read here](#)

New champions were crowned

The iconic Grand Palais dazzled with the deafening roar of the crowd as three gold medals were awarded on the opening day of the Para Taekwondo competitions at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Two nations - **Israel and Mongolia** - picked up their first Paralympic gold medals while Peru kept her title from Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

For more: [read here](#)

The Highs and Lows

Day Two of the Para Taekwondo competitions at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games marked by several highs and lows as new champions emerged, including first by nations, even as former stars stamped their dominance at the iconic Grand Palais.

Four gold medals were decided on August 30, with **Turkiye, Azerbaijan and China** winning their first ever gold medals in Para Taekwondo.

For **Azerbaijan** in fact it was the first-ever Para Taekwondo medal at a Paralympic Games.

For more: [read here](#)

Ecstasy and Thrill

The final day of the Para Taekwondo competition at Paris 2024 Paralympics was about thrill, ecstasy and a few heartbreaks.

It raised the expectations - exciting fights under way with the very best leading the show at the Grand Palais on August 31.

While several nations won their first medals, **Great Britain** led the evening proceedings winning two out of the three gold medals at stake.

This was also Great Britain first ever Paralympic gold medals in the sport.

For more: [read here](#)







'Paralympic medal is for all women in Afghanistan and all the refugees'



Three years after leaving her home and family behind in Afghanistan, Zakia Khudadadi finally found solace as she claimed the first ever Paralympic medal for the Refugee

Paralympic Team at the Paris 2024 Games.

Khudadadi couldn't have won the historic medal in a better venue: Paris - her new home ever since she fled from Afghanistan in 2021. The 25-year-old from Herat also made a special mention about her coach Haby Niare with whom she has been training for the past three years.

"After three years of working hard every day with the French national team, we wished for this medal together."

"I am so, so happy, because this medal is my dream, and today I made the dream come true. The bronze medal means a lot. I will continue for Los Angeles (2028 Paralympic Games), but right now I'm just so excited for this medal," said Khudadadi after winning the Women K44 -47kg bronze medal winning the repechage round at the iconic Grand Palais.

The refugee athlete, who is also the reigning European champion, devoted her medal to "all the women in Afghanistan and all the refugees".

"We are not giving up on equality and freedom in my country."

"One day, we will win for peace and freedom. This medal for the women in my country (Afghanistan). Together, we will win one day, I'm sure. I will continue competing for the women in my country."

To read the story: [click here](#)



Nepal gives hero's welcome to Goverdhan



Nepal gave a hero's welcome to its first ever Olympic or Paralympic medallist Palesha Goverdhan as she returned home from the Paris 2024 Games.

Goverdhan, who won bronze in the women's K44 -57kg Para Taekwondo category

after beating Serbia's Marija Micev 15-8, was welcomed by loud cheers, traditional music and a performance by army band creating a festive like atmosphere at the Kathmandu airport. Goverdhan, draped in the national flag and adorned with marigold garlands, was greeted by an enthusiastic crowd that included many young Taekwondo athletes.

"I am filled with immense pride for having achieved this victory for our beloved nation," Goverdhan said on social media ahead of her return to Nepal. "The countless hours of hard work and dedication have truly paid off, and the feeling is simply overwhelming."

Currently studying Bachelors in architectural engineering in China, Goverdhan has already achieved success in several international before the Paralympic success. Her achievements include a bronze medal at the 2022 Asian Para Games after her gold at the 2021 Asian Youth Para Games. She also won bronze at the 2018 Asian Para Taekwondo Championship in Vietnam.

"I have learnt a lot an better than the Tokyo 2020 Games. In Tokyo, I lost in the first match. I have reached the quarter-final here - I feel I am lot stronger now in my game," the 21-year-old told **World Taekwondo**.

Goverdhan's recent success in Paris made her a pioneering figure in Nepali sports history, and the promising star wants to continue working to fulfill her dream of winning a Paralympic gold.

"I will keep fighting. I will stay focus, be confident and keep up my consistency."



WT team to attend IPC Regional sports programme

A World Taekwondo team of educators will attend the IPC Regional Sports Programme set to be held in Tokyo from October 18 to 20.

The team will hold classifiers and coaches courses to the participating nations that are part of the three-day programme.

The world body has been prioritising educating its classifiers and coaches in order to have healthy competitions, get more athletes classified and coached and in a way help the Paralympic Movement further grow.

Apart from in-person courses, there has been various online courses that World Taekwondo has been emphasising on over the years, and this new

initiatives will help knowledge sharing and enhance the capabilities of coaches and classifiers across various continents.

Calendar



2024

UPDATES COMING SOON

Around the World

Warm reception for Uzbek stars Asadbek, Naimova and Isakova



Uzbekistan welcomed its Paralympic heroes with warm reception which was graced by their President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** on the Para athletes' homecoming from Paris 2024 Games.

Among the Uzbek stars who were honoured at the occasion were Paralympic medallists in Para Taekwondo **Asadbek Toshtemirov** (Men K44 -80kg), **Naimova Guljonoy** (Women K44 +65kg), **Ziyodakhon Isakova** (Women K44 -47kg).

Toshtemirov, the reigning world champion, won his and Uzbekistan's first Paralympic gold in men's Para Taekwondo, defeating Mexican **Luis Mario Najera** in the Men K44 -80kg final.

Paris 2024 medallists awarded by Mongolian President

Mongolia's athletes were given a hero's welcome on their return having won country's first ever medals in the sport. They were honoured by the country's President **Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh**.



Surenjav Ulambayar, who claimed Mongolia's first Paralympic gold in the sport defeating a spirited **Zahra**

Rahimi from Iran 5-2 in Women K44 -52kg, was feted with the title of Labor Hero. Meanwhile, silver medallist in Paris 2024 **Bolor-Erdene Ganbat** was also awarded.

Honorary coach titles went to Para Taekwondo national team coach **Naranchimegiin Erdenebaatar** and **Dorjjantsangin Batnasan**.

Khalilov, Zeynalov honoured by sports minister



Azerbaijan Minister of Youth and Sports **Farid Gayibov** met with the athletes and coaches of the national team returning from the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Minister **Gayibov** greeted the athletes and congratulated them on their achievements at the Paris 2024.

Among the Para athletes honoured were Paralympic medallists **Imamaddin Khalilov** and **Sabir Zeynalov**.

For details: [click here](#)

Bozteke among few honoured by Istanbul Mayor

The Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Sports Club took the opportunity to honour its Paris 2024 return athletes, who brought pride honour to the club. Ekrem İmamođlu, Mayor of Istanbul and President of Turkish Municipalities Union, met with the athletes and congratulated them.



Among the ones who were invited and felicitated were Paris 2024 champion in Para Taekwondo Mahmut Bozteke along with other para athletes Sadik Savař, Nazmiye Muratlı, Nazan Akın Güneř, Ecem Tařın avdar, Cahide Eke among others.

"The athletes of our IBB Sports Club have achieved great successes at the Paralympic Olympics. Our full support to all of them, I hope that in 2036 we will create an environment together in which the Paralympic Games will be held in Istanbul," said İmamođlu, President of Turkish Municipalities Union.

For details: [click here](#)

Paraiba Governor honours Brazilian stars



The Brazilian state of Paraiba organised a gathering to honour its returning heroes from Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

"Today was a special day, receiving tribute from state Governor **João Azevedo**, Sports Secretary **Lindolfo Pires** and other authorities," said

Silvana Mayara Cardoso Fernandes, who took her second bronze at Paralympics (after Tokyo) in Women K44 -57kg.

For details: [click here](#)

Greek history-maker players get hero's welcome

Greek Para Taekwondo athletes - Christina Gkentzou and Eleni Papastamatopoulou - returned home to a tumultuous welcome.

A lot of people including friends and family, carrying Greece flag, gathered at the airport to welcome the athletes who won the first ever Paralympic medals in the sport. While Gkentzou, a wild card



entrant, settled for the bronze in Women K44 -65kg, Papastamatopoulou too claimed the third place in Women K44 +65kg events.

The athletes have attended various events after their arrival from Paris. Gentzou graced the 11th Panhellenic School Sports Day, accompanied by her coach, Evangelia Vangeloglou.

[Sign up for the World Para Taekwondo Newsletter](#)

World Taekwondo | worldtaekwondo.org | para@worldtaekwondo.org



World Taekwondo | 10th Floor, Booyoung Taepyeong , 55, Sejong-daero, Jung-gu, Seoul, South Korea Avenue de Rhodanie 54 | Lausanne, 3114 CH

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!