

## **Thirty-six Asian boxers are in the quarter-finals at the AIBA World Boxing Championships**

The final part of the preliminaries was held in the eighth competition day at the AIBA World Boxing Championships in Belgrade, Serbia today. Altogether 36 Asian boxers from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India, Thailand Boxing Federation, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Iran and Jordan advanced to the quarter-finals.

The round of 16 contests were held at the flyweight (51kg), featherweight (57kg), light welterweight (63.5kg), welterweight (67kg), middleweight (75kg) and light heavyweight (80kg) at the AIBA World Boxing Championships today. The medal phase, the decisive quarter-finals will be held in Belgrade on Tuesday which could be one of the most anticipated parts of the event.

The following 20 Asian nations are attending in the AIBA World Boxing Championships in Belgrade: Fair Chance Team, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, South Korea, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Boxing Federation, Tajikistan, Chinese Taipei, and Uzbekistan.

### **Serik Temirzhanov won a key Asian battle at the featherweight**

Kazakhstan's Serik Temirzhanov claimed gold medal at the 2016 ASBC Asian Youth Boxing Championships in his home city in Pavlodar. He needed three and half years of hard work to reach the top elite national team and compete in major elite championships. The 23-year-old Kazakh is in his best ever shape and bowed out of his way the third boxer in Belgrade, India's Rohit Mor. The Indian was taller, had the longer hands but Temirzhanov reduced the fighting distance successfully in the first and second rounds. The Kazakh hope was able to keep fuel for the quarter-finals where he can expect a hard battle.

### **Rujakran Juntrong is Thailand's second quarter-finalist**

Thailand Boxing Federation's Rujakran Juntrong bagged bronze medal at the Jakarta 2018 Asian Games but he had a few weight problems following that result. The 25-year-old Thai moved down to the featherweight (57kg) and impressed in Belgrade with his developments in

terms of defensive skills and tactic. Juntrong kept the best fighting distance against Kyrgyzstan's ASBC Asian Boxing Championships bronze medallist Akylbek Esenbek Uulu. The Thai worked through hard all of the three rounds and advanced to the quarter-finals as second from his nation.

### **Japan's Sewon Okazawa eliminated an Uzbek favourite**

Japan's Sewon Okazawa claimed silver medal at the Bangkok 2019 ASBC Asian Elite Boxing Championships and following his big events, he arrived to Belgrade with strong mental condition. Okazawa had a powerful opponent, Uzbekistan's 20-year-old Asadkhudja Muydinkhudjayev who started the bout also strongly as the Japanese. The Japanese boxer did not make any risks in this bout and worked from longer distance based on his world class footwork to land single counter-shots today. Okazawa kept his Uzbek opponent on long in most of their contest and won a fantastic bout in Serbia's capital delivering his best performance this year.

### **Zhussupov dominated his today's contest**

Kazakhstan's Ablaihan Zhussupov achieved silver and bronze medals in the recent editions of the ASBC Asian Boxing Championships, two bronze in the AIBA World Boxing Championships therefore his mission is the gold in Belgrade. The Kazakh boxer knew Poland's Damian Durkacz and he had the strong strategy against the European opponent today. The 24-year-old Kazakh managed to win the important first round and he kept continue this performance until the last gong. Zhussupov won the bout by unanimous decision but he saved a lot of power for tomorrow's quarter-final.

### **Mongolia's Chinzorig Baatarsukh won his key contest on Day8**

Mongolia's Chinzorig Baatarsukh is the defending ASBC Asian Champion from this year but he represents his nation in the new welterweight (67kg) this time. The 30-year-old boxer met with Mexico's Marco Hernandez who won two contests in Belgrade as a debutant. The Mongolian was patient in their contest, moved a lot and attacked from his back feet to land

the best punches in time. The Mexican was not able to catch the quick Mongolian and Chinzorig proved that he is better in all aspects of boxing. The Mongolian veteran needs also one further step to get a medal in the AIBA World Boxing Championships.

### **Kazakhstan's next quarter-finalist is Nurkanat Raiys**

Kazakhstan's Nurkanat Raiys is a newcomer in the elite national team who is only 21 but developed rapidly in the recent two years. He represented Kazakhstan in several international tournaments and progressed step by step on these competitions. He never competed any of the youth or elite championships yet but he was highly confident against all of his opponents in Belgrade. Raiys maintained the best fighting distance well enough in the first round against Fair Chance Team's Suliman Aslami and took the advantage after three minutes. His opponent was not able to change his rhythm in this contest therefore Nurkanat Raiys is Kazakhstan's next boxer in the Top8.

### **Jafarov and Jongjoho overwhelmed their middleweight rivals**

Uzbekistan's 22-year-old Saidjamshid Jafarov is the defending ASBC Asian Champion at the middleweight (75kg) who proved his next strong performance in the AIBA World Boxing Championships. Jafarov was highly confident against Azerbaijan's Mirsharif Kazimzade and demonstrated his power from the first seconds. The Uzbek boxer knew the best weapons against his Caucasian rival and advanced to the quarter-finals of this strong category. Another Asian boxer, Weerapon Jongjoho from the Thailand Boxing Federation, used also the right tactic against a European opponent, Ukraine's Ivan Papakin today. The 20-year-old ASBC Asian Youth Champion overcame the Ukrainian in the attacks and he was simply quicker than Papakin in their round of 16 contest.

### **Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossynov eliminated his second favourite rival**

Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossynov achieved bronze medal at the 2019 AIBA World Boxing Championships therefore his target is the title at the flyweight (51kg) in Belgrade. He opened with a final-level bout and eliminated Uzbekistan's star Hasanboy Dusmatov in the round of

32. The 24-year-old Kazakh had to continue his campaign against India's ASBC Asian Boxing Championships silver medallist Deepak in another top contest. Bibossynov anticipated to a hard fight and he used his 100% concentration in the bout to beat the quick Indian in all tactical levels.

### **Thailand's teenage talent Thanarat Saengpeth is quarter-finalist**

Thailand Boxing Federation's flyweight (51kg) hope, Thanarat Saengpeth won several junior and youth national events and games in his homeland but the young boxer celebrated his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday only in August. The AIBA World Boxing Championships is his first international competition but the Thai talent amazed in this bout once again. Saengpeth worked from longer range against Venezuela's Miguel Ramos and he landed several combinations to the head and his victory was not in danger despite of his lack of experiences. His teammate, Somchay Wongsuwan amazed once again and eliminated Tajikistan's ASBC Asian Champion Bakhodur Usmonov at the light welterweight (63.5kg).

### **T means success – Tursunov, Thapa and Toltayev are one step forward to the medal**

Family name starting with T alphabet meant success at the light welterweight (63.5kg) in the eighth competition day at the AIBA World Boxing Championships. Uzbekistan's Mujibullo Tursunov had an amazing battle against Chinese Taipei's Lai Chu En in this weight class and he needed to do his very best in the final round to win the bout. India's most experienced boxer Shiva Thapa regained his place in the national team and he had a tactical success over France's Lounes Hamraoui. Kazakhstan's 22-year-old Sanatali Toltayev worked hard also for his success against Ukraine's Denys Pesotsky but he has done more than enough.

### **Nurbek Oralbay and Omurbek Bekzhigit Uulu impressed at the light heavyweight**

Kazakhstan's AIBA Youth World Champion Nurbek Oralbay met with a Hungarian opponent in the round of 16 at the light heavyweight (80kg) and he opened their battle with strong shots. Pal Kovacs was more competitive in the second round but Oralbay proved his best once again in the third against the tiring Hungarian. Kyrgyzstan's Omurbek Bekzhigit Uulu is a strong

puncher who moved up to this weight class in the recent months only but his progressed skills decided the bout against Ukraine's 20-year-old Bohdan Tolmachov.

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