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review
the YOG
Youth Olympic Games



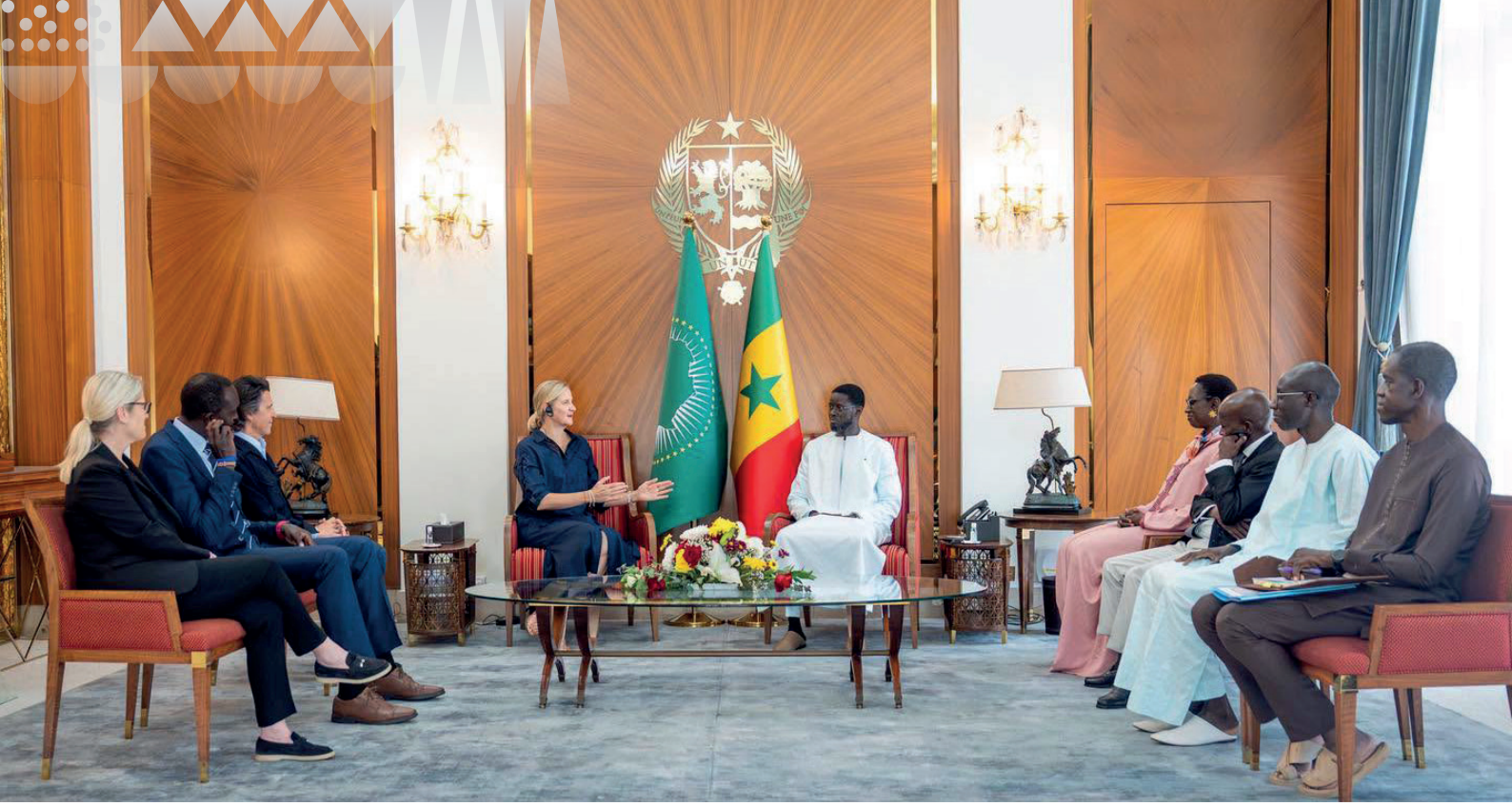
ACNOA - ANOCA

DAKAR 2026
YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

31 OCTOBER
13 NOVEMBER
2026

DAKAR 2026 YOG

THE IOC EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH THE CONDUCT OF THE GAMES





Midway through the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Dakar 2026, IOC President Kirsty COVENTRY, expressed her satisfaction with the conduct of the competition. Received in audience, on Friday, by the President of the Republic, H.E. Bassirou Diomaye FAYE, she commended the commitment of Senegalese authorities and the collaboration between the State and the Olympic Mo vement, while expressing the IOC's satisfaction with the organisation of the Games.

During the meeting, President COVENTRY gave a positive feedback of the first half of the Games, which kicked-off in Senegal on 31 October.

She also conveyed to President FAYE the positive comments from delegations from across 200 countries, while praising



the efforts of the Senegalese authorities and the personal involvement of Head of State in the final preparations for the event.

The IOC's satisfaction comes as Dakar hosts the first Olympic event ever held on African soil. The outstanding collaboration between the government and the Olympic Movement was also highlighted during the meeting.

For his part, President Bassirou Diomaye FAYE stressed the need to make YOG a tool for sustainable development in Senegal, underscoring in particular, built infrastructure, youth skills development, and prospects for growing the sports economy.

He further reaffirmed Senegal's commitment to seeing the organisation of the Games through to the end, while making the event a stepping stone for hosting other major global events.



Senegal

ONE MILLION STUDENTS REACHED THROUGH THE YOGS

The Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 offer Senegal a significant opportunity for development. Beyond the sporting competitions, the event carries wider implications for social inclusion, public policy and cooperation among territories.

Dakar 2026 brings together 2,700 young athletes across 25 sports and 153 medal events, spread across Dakar, Diamniadio and Saly. However, the Games' legacy is being shaped just as much beyond the competition venues. According to the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (YOGOC), the Olympic Values Education Programme has already reached more than one million students across 11,000 schools in Senegal. Meanwhile, the Youth in Action programme has enabled around 300,000 young people to take part in activities linked to the Games.

The organisation of the Games has brought together local authorities and institutional partners. In particular, cooperation between the Île-de-France region and the Rufisque Subdivision, located in the Dakar region in western Senegal, has helped develop initiatives promoting inclusive sport.

The project has reached more than 2,000 children through awareness-raising activities, trained 250 coaches and equipped four stadiums and two inclusive schools. These initiatives are part of broader efforts to expand access to sport, particularly for people with disabilities.

Human resource development is another key part of the legacy. More than 300 young professionals have received training through the Dakar 2026 Training Academy, with participants drawn from 21 African NOCs.

In terms of infrastructure, 11 sports facilities, including the Iba-Mar-Diop complex and the Tour de l'Œuf complex, have been renovated and upgraded. Their continued use after the Games will be crucial to ensuring sustained access to sports opportunities.



YOG Dakar 2026

EGYPTIAN SWIMMER ALI ZAIN MAKES HISTORY WITH THREE CONSECUTIVE BUTTERFLY TITLES

Three titles, three gold medals and a performance that will remain in the annals of Egyptian sport. In Dakar, Egyptian swimmer Ali Zain held sway over the butterfly events at the 2026 Youth Olympic Games, crowning his exceptional career with another victory in the 200 metres event on Friday, 6 November.



Egyptian swimmer Ali Zain cemented his dominance in the butterfly events by winning gold in the 200 metres race on Friday 6 November at the 2026 Youth Olympic Games. Already crowned champion in the 50 and 100 metres events, he bagged three gold medals in this discipline and delivered a historic performance for Egypt.

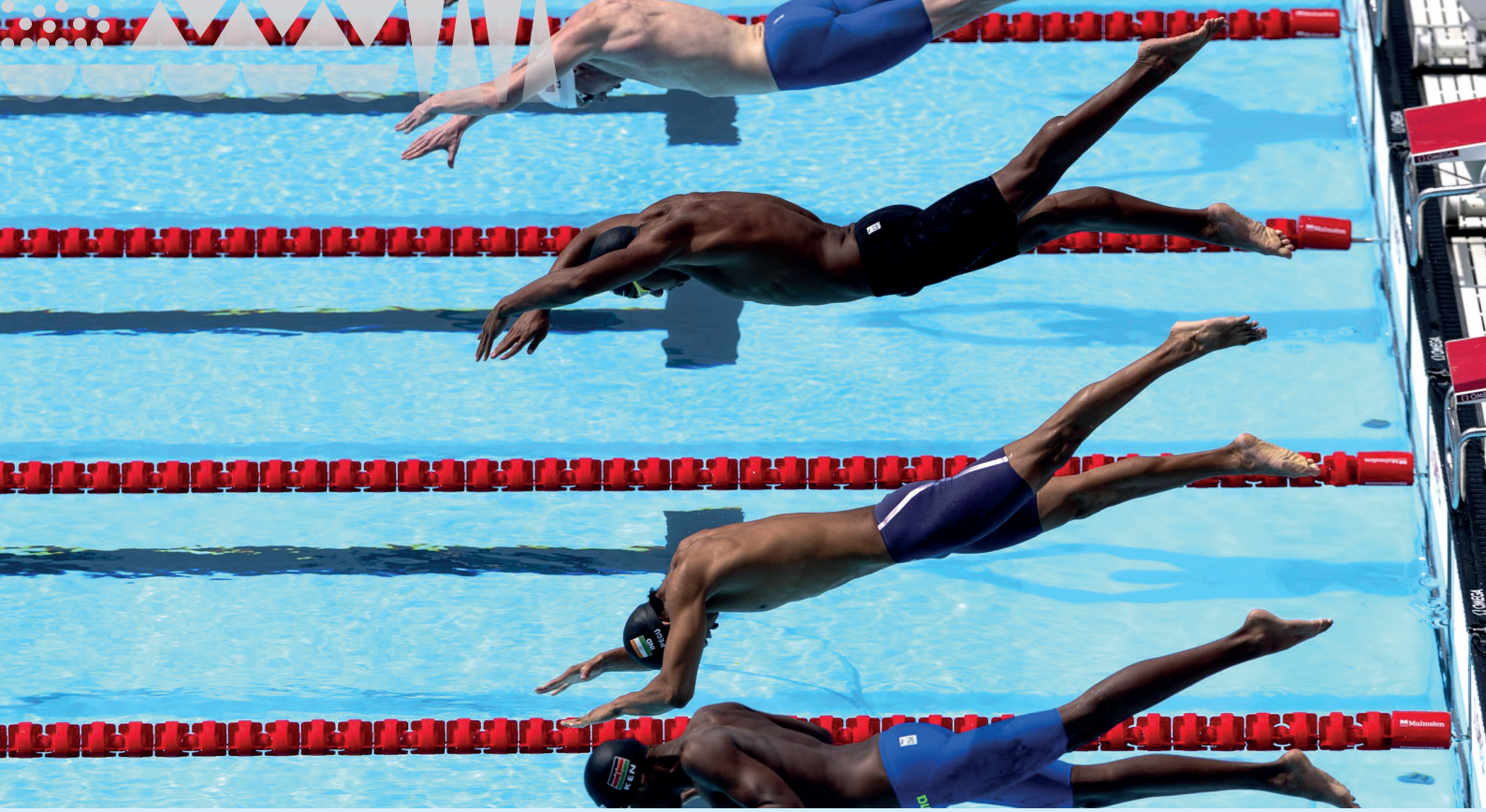
The 17-year-old Egyptian swimmer added a third gold medal to his tally in Dakar by winning the 200 metres butterfly final on Friday 6 November. This ultimate feat crowns his previous victories in the 50 metres and 100 metres butterfly events.

Zain Ali has thus achieved his goal of dominating all three butterfly events at this year's Youth Olympic Games, hosted by Senegal.

Following his third victory, Ali couldn't conceal his emotion: "***Honestly, I'm speechless. This is a big moment for me and for my country. It's incredible.*** "

He also explained how he started the competition without any pressure, focusing solely on his race and enjoying himself. When he was asked about the moment he realised he was going to win gold, he jokingly replied: "***When I was on the starting blocks!***"





100 METRES, HIS CHERISHED TITLE

Despite his three titles, he has a preference for one: the 100 metres butterfly event on Sunday, 1 November. "***Honestly, they're all incredible. My favourite event was the 100 metres. It was an extraordinary race,***" he said.

Ali also pointed out that this was a goal he set for himself right from the beginning of his preparation: "***That was absolutely my goal from the outset. That's why I trained. I drew up a plan to achieve all this and I was 100% confident right from the beginning.***"

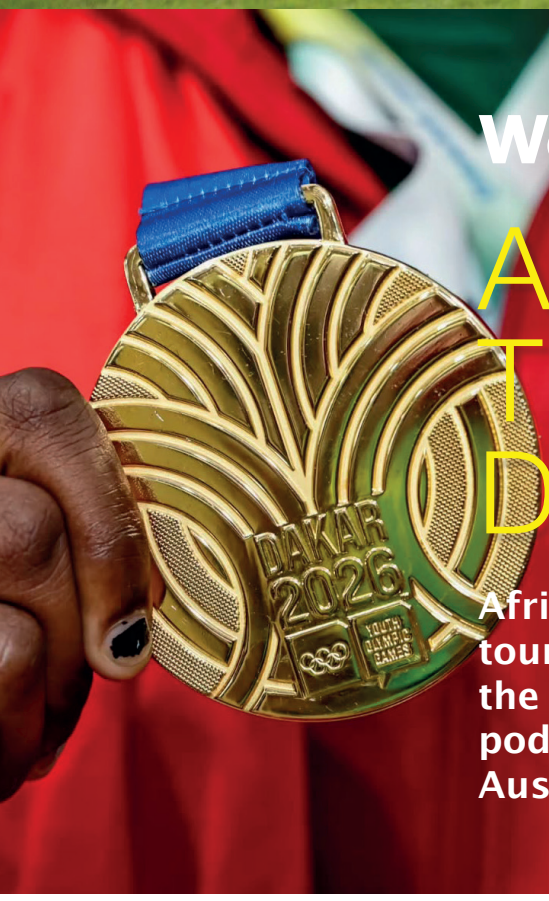
GOLDEN HAT-TRICK ON AFRICAN CONTINENT

The young swimmer finally spoke of the great significance of his three titles won on the African continent, hailing the atmosphere of the competition and the importance of this achievement.

"***It's an incredible feeling. I've never experienced anything like this before. I lack words! The atmosphere was completely different; everything was wonderful, he said, before adding: "It means the world to me. I'm very grateful for what I've just achieved.***"

With three gold medals in the 50, 100 and 200 metres butterfly events, Ali Zain has achieved one of the outstanding performances of the Egyptian delegation at Dakar 2026.





Women's rugby sevens

AFRICA TOPS THE GAME AT DAKAR 2026

Africa made history at the women's rugby sevens tournament during Dakar 2026. Kenya, winner of the golden medal, and Madagascar, third on the podium, raised high the flag for Africa, ahead of Australia, second.



The women's rugby sevens gave a wonderful tribute to African sport at the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026. The tournament concluded with Kenya earning a gold medal, while Madagascar took third place on the podium. Australia had to settle for a silver medal, taking second position between the two African teams.

Team Kenya confirmed its superiority by winning the final against Team Australia (17-12) after a tough game. With this victory, Kenya claimed the title, adding its name to the winners board of this edition of the Games.

The Malagasy team's journey also deserves special recognition. By defeating the Czech Republic (26-10) in the third-place play-off, players from the Big Island secured third place and made history. It was a landmark achievement for Madagascar, as they claimed the country's very first Olympic medal, across all sports.

Having two African nations on the podium sends a powerful message about the growth of women's rugby across the continent. It is a testament to the training efforts and progress made by two nations that have proven



their ability to compete with some of the most established teams on the international stage.

For host nation Senegal, the tournament ended with an eighth-place finish. It was a first experience at this level for the Lionesses, who got a taste of the challenge ahead against top-level opposition.

In Dakar, Kenya and Madagascar secured a historic double triumph for Africa. Beyond the medals, their performances have raised the profile of African women's rugby and fuelled ambitions for future international competitions.






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Dakar 2026

Les jeunes racontent les jeux

