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Gabala (AZE), 11 June 2017

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Denmark, Austria and China win Gold on day 4
at the ISSF World Cup Stage 5 in Gabala

Gabala (AZE), 11 June 2017 - An action-packed competition day in Gabala (AZE) opened with Denmark's Torben Grimmel pocketing his fifth career World Cup Gold, as he equaled the World Record in the men's 50m Rifle Prone event.

The Danish 41-year-old sealed the top position with a couple of almost-perfect 10.7 in his final series, matching the 249.8 points scored by Japan's Yamashita Toshikazu at this year's first World Cup stage in New Delhi (IND).

Grimmel battled all along the match with Belarus' 32-year-old Yury Shcherbatsevich, a three-time Olympian whose only previous World Cup medal dates back to Bangkok (THA) in 2004. Today, Shcherbatsevich shot consistently for the whole final, matching Grimmel's score at the end of the eighth series, but failing to best him in the ninth and conclusive one. The Belarusian shooter finished with the score of 248.9 points and the Silver medal around his neck.

Belgium's Lionel Cox (35), took the third step of the podium with 227.9 points, securing his second career World Cup medal after the Bronze he won in Changwon (KOR) in 2013.

Firing a couple of disappointing 9.6 in his seventh series, Switzerland's first-time finalist Jan Lochbihler (25) slid out of the medal positions, landing in 4th place with 206.7 points, while Great Britain's Kenneth Parr finished 5th with 187.0.

The British shooter was followed by Russian Federation's Fedor Vlasov (33), who finished in 6th place with 187.0 points, and France's first-time finalist Alexis Raynaud (22), 7th with 144.3. The first athlete to be eliminated from the match was Austria's 27-year-old Thomas Mathis, Bronze medalist at last month's World Cup stage in Munich, who placed in 8th position with 121.9 points.

Two-days after qualifying for the final match of a World Cup event, Austria's Sylvia Steiner bested herself and the 4th place she nailed in the women's 25m Pistol.

In today's 10m Air Pistol Women, indeed, the 35-year-old Pistol shooter battled for the top positions all along the match, grabbing the lead when there were only two shots left to fire. There, she didn't let her emotions prevail, hitting a 10.0-10.6 combo that delivered her the Gold medal.

At the end of 8th series, the Austrian overtook Russian Federation's 20-year-old Vitalina Batsarashkina, currently 3rd in the World Ranking, who took Silver and finished with 236.1 points against Steiner's 237.5.

Mexico's Alejandra Zavala Vazquez, current holder of the ISSF World Cup Final title, completed the podium in 3rd place, claiming her fourth career World Cup medal with the score of 216.7 points.

People's Republic of China's Cai Xiaoxue (25) placed just outside of the medal positions despite hitting a 10.7 on her last shot. Making her first appearance in a final match, Cai took 4th place with 196.5 points.

The Chinese shooter was followed by Islamic Republic of Iran's Golnoush Sebghatollahi (26), who instead left the match after hitting a bad 7.8 on her 18th shot, sliding down three positions and finishing 5th with 175.6 points.

18-year-old Kim Bomi of the Republic of Korea made her international debut in Gabala, entering the final with the eighth best qualification score and concluding in 6th position with 156.0 points.

After shot number 12, the first athlete that had to leave the match was Beata Bartkow Kwiatkowska (35) of Poland, who entered her first final since 2011, placing 8th with 108.0 points. Two shots later she was followed by first-time finalist Olga Axenova (18) of Kazakhstan, who placed 7th with 134.1.

The third one's the good one for People's Republic of China's Pistol shooter Yang Wei, who nailed his best career placement in the men's 10m Air Pistol final in Gabala (AZE), after placing 5th and 54th in the two previous World Cup stages.

The Chinese 31-year-old dominated the second half of the match, building a comfortable lead with a strong 10.3-10.3 combo, and maintaining the top of the table until the final shot. He finished with 240.1 points, claiming the first World Cup medal of his career.

Currently ranked 3rd in the world in this event, Matsuda took Silver by scoring 237.9 points, pocketing his 6th career World Cup medal, and the third one in the 2017 ISSF World Cup Series after the Gold claimed in New Delhi (IND) and the Silver won in Munich (GER).

The podium was completed by Ukraine's 33-year-old Oleh Omelchuk, who claimed Bronze with 217.1 points and won his second medal in Gabala, after the Gold one he secured in the 50m Pistol Men event.

Despite entering the final with the best qualification score, Ukraine's Viktor Bankin missed the podium once again, after taking 8th place two days ago in the men's 50m Pistol final. Competing in his first 10m Air Pistol final match, the 26-year-old shooter placed 4th with 195.3 points, while Serbian 32-year-old Dimitrije Grgic took 5th place with 175.7.

Republic of Korea's So Seungseob failed to best the 4th place he nailed at last month's World Cup stage in Munich (GER), finishing in 6th position with 155.2 points.

The Korean was followed by Japan's 35-year-old Kojiro Horimizu, who placed 7th with 134.6 points, and People's Republic of China's second finalist, 24-year-old Wu Jianfeng, 8th with 115.2 points.

The ISSF World Cup Stage 5 in Gabala will conclude on Tuesday with the last two finals: the women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions, scheduled at 11:15 am (UTC+4:00), and the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions, scheduled at 3:00 pm.

The two final matches will be streamed live on the [ISSF website](#), on the Federation's Livestream channel and on its official [Facebook page](#). Live results of the competitions, news and updates will be available on www.issf-sports.org and on all ISSF social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Weibo](#) and [Youku](#).

Notes for the editors:

The International Shooting Sport Federation is the governing body of the Olympic Shooting events, and it has over 160 affiliated National Federations worldwide. Shooting is an Olympic sport since the very first edition of the modern Olympic Games, Athens 1896. Find out more about the International Shooting Sport Federation at www.issf-sports.org.

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