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## Regional Games

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### PANARAB GAMES

King Hassan II of Morocco pronounced the VIth PanArab Games officially open during a spectacular ceremony on 2nd August which featured 11,000 young gymnasts. For two weeks, until the 16th, some 3,500 athletes from twenty countries (ALG, SAU, BRN, DJI, IRQ, JOR, KUW, LIB, LBA, MAR, MTN, OMA, QAT, SOM, SYR, TUN, UAE, YAR, YMD and Palestine) competed in eighteen sports. This edition of the Games, the first held since 1976, also saw the first involvement of women on a large scale. Almost seven hundred female athletes participated in athletics, gymnastics, swimming, tennis, table tennis, basketball, volleyball and handball.

The PanArab Games, established by decree in 1951 by the Arab League, were first held in 1953 and every four years afterwards through 1965. The fifth edition didn't take place until eleven years later. Members of the Council of Arabian Ministers of Youth and Sports, under whose 'jurisdiction the Games lie, have vowed unanimously to make certain that they are held at regular four-year intervals. The next PanArab Games, in 1989, will be organised in Baghdad (IRQ).