

# Iran Finish Runner-Up in Asian Wushu Championships

SEOUL (Dispatches) – The Iranian sports delegation has commendably ended its campaign at the ninth edition of Asian Junior Wushu Championships in South Korea, and managed to finish in the second place overall at the continental event.

Having won four gold and two silver medals, the Islamic Republic of Iran stood behind China, with five gold and two medals at the conclusion of Sanda competitions.

India collected two gold, two silver and three bronze medals to secure the third place.

Sanda, sometimes called Sanshou or Lei tai, has all the combat aspects of wushu, but includes many more grappling techniques.

On Wednesday, Iranian sportsman Hassan Khademi defeated a representative from India in the last contest of the men's minus 80-kilogram category of the Sanda (sparring) discipline in Park Chung Hee Gymnasium in Gumi City, and received the gold medal.

Ahmad Vahedi also triumphed over his Malaysian opponent in the men's minus 75-kilogram class, and



Young Iranian male and female wushu practitioners pose for a photograph during the ninth edition of Asian Junior Wushu Championships in Gumi City, South Korea, on September 20, 2017.

struck another gold for Iran.

In the men's minus 65-kilogram category, Ali Mohammadi prevailed over his Vietnamese rival and got the gold medal.

Iran's wushu artist Alireza Rigi beat a Chinese athlete in the men's minus 60-kilogram category and was awarded the gold medal.

Fatemeh Vaisi and Shaghayegh Pashaei collected two silver med-

als for Iran in the women's minus 52-kilogram and minus 60-kilogram categories respectively.

Earlier in the day, Zahra Kiani could get 9.51 points in the final competition of Chiangshu form in the girls' 15-18-year-old section, and snatched the gold medal.

A Vietnamese contestant managed to accumulate 9.44 points and stood second. A competitor from Japan

racked up 9.42 points to occupy the third place.

Additionally, Mina Panahi tallied 9.44 points to claim the silver medal in the Nandao form of Taolu competitions in the girls' 12-15-year-old category.

A contestant from Hong Kong notched up 9.49 points to collect the gold. A representative from Indonesia settled for the bronze medal with 9.41 points.

Nandao is a kind of sword that is used mostly in contemporary Chinese wushu exercises and forms.

Nandao is mostly used two-handed due to its larger amount of weight as compared to the "northern broadsword," or Beidao. It also has a large metal cross guard useful in deflecting blows and hooking the opponent's weapon.

Meanwhile, the Iranian women's duelin Taolu team recorded convincing victories on Wednesday, and picked up the gold medal with a total score of 9.46 points. It was followed by Hong Kong squad with 9.34 points. South Korea bagged 9.35 points and stood third.

## Iran's Medal Haul at Asian Martial Arts Games Reaches 26

ASHGABAT (Dispatches) – Iranian sportsmen and women have continued to put in outstanding performances at the 5th edition of Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games, and grabbed fourteen more medals to lift the country's medal count to 26 in the multinational and multi-sport event.

On Tuesday, Iranian belt wrestlers Zahra Yazdanicherati recorded satisfactory displays of grappling skills in the women's freestyle minus 55-kilogram competitions, and scooped a silver medal.

Zahra Majidi and Saeideh Rahimi got two bronze medals in the women's freestyle minus 70-kilogram and over 70-kilogram divisions.

Yaser Mohammadiroostam and Davood Avazzadeh also pock-

eted two bronze medals in the Men's Freestyle minus 80-kilogram and minus 90-kilogram sections.

Iranian jujitsu practitioner Soudeh Kamandani also prevailed over her Pakistani opponent Iram Kanwal 2-0 in the Women's Ne-waza over 70-kilogram, and earned the bronze medal.

In the men's 3,000-meter race contests, Iranian sprinter Hossein Keyhani earned a bronze medal for the Islamic Republic by registering 8:07.09 minutes.

Saudi athlete Tariq Ahmed al-Amri set the time of 8:03.98 minutes and earned a silver medal in the final contest.

Lakshmanan Govindan from India snatched the gold medal of the heat with 8:02.30 minutes.

Furthermore, Iranian taekwon-

do practitioners Soroush Ahmadi and Saeid Rajabi struck two gold medals in the men's minus 63-kilogram and minus 87-kilogram classes.

Mahdi Eshaghi and Mahdi Jalali also claimed the top spots in the men's minus 54-kilogram and minus 74-kilogram categories respectively, and were awarded two gold medals.

Additionally, Hassan Taftian won the title in the men's 60-meter running contests. The 24-year-old Iranian sprinter clocked 6.55 seconds at the men's final and stood on top of the podium.

Philippine sprint athlete Eric Shauwn Cray and Reza Ghaseemi from the Islamic Republic of Iran registered 6.63 and 6.64 seconds respectively to land in

the second and third places.

The 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, which is the 5th edition of the continental tournament, opened in the Turkmen capital city of Ashgabat on September 17, and will finish on September 27.

Turkmenistan is on the top of the medal count table with 91 medals (43 gold, 28 silvers and 20 bronzes).

The Islamic Republic of Iran has claimed the second spot with 26 medals (seven gold, four silvers, 15 bronzes), while Kazakhstan is on the third with a total of 22 medals (six gold, six silvers and 10 bronzes).

The United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Mongolia have earned the 4th to 7th places respectively.

## Leicester City See Liverpool Off 2-0



Okazaki has now scored four goals in his past seven appearances for Leicester

LONDON (BBC Sports) – Islam Slimani's superb strike helped Leicester see off a wasteful Liverpool at the King Power Stadium to reach the fourth round of the Carabao Cup.

The Algeria striker's left-footed shot found the top corner after substitute Shinji Okazaki had put the Foxes ahead.

That came after Liverpool had dominated a first half in which Philippe Coutinho impressed before being replaced.

Okazaki's arrival sparked the Foxes into life and he latched on to Vicente Iborra's knockdown for the opener.

Summer signings Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Dominic Solanke

both missed good opportunities for the visitors, who named a much-changed side.

Elsewhere, Roy Hodgson got his first win as Crystal Palace boss at home to Huddersfield and Bristol City shocked Premier League Stoke.

It took Tottenham 65 minutes to break down a resolute Barnsley at Wembley, while Leeds beat Burnley on penalties at Turf Moor.

Coutinho, having returned to the Liverpool side for the 1-1 draw with Burnley on Saturday, was by far the best player on the pitch in the first half as he sauntered between the lines to dictate the tempo of the Reds' attacks.

The tricky Brazilian combined well with Andy Robertson as the former Hull left-back, another summer arrival, put in several crosses that should have been converted.

Oxlade-Chamberlain, making his first start since a £35m move from Arsenal, had a shot blocked from a smart Robertson cut-back before Solanke headed off target from another pin-point ball.

But Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp opted to replace Coutinho with Ben Woodburn at the break and, despite some impressive running from the 17-year-old Wales international, the team lost their flow.

Klopp said it "was always the plan" to give Coutinho 45 minutes, but his departure was countered with the arrival of Okazaki for the Foxes, the Japan striker adding pace and intensity.

He reacted first to fire low into the corner for the opener with 25 minutes remaining, then teed up Slimani for a fantastic solo effort that put the game beyond the visitors.

Liverpool had 35 shots on goal when they were held by Burnley at the weekend. It was a case of déjà vu for travelling Reds supporters on Wednesday.

Despite making eight changes, Klopp's team mustered 21 shots at

the King Power Stadium on top of 70% possession, but to no avail.

A long-range Demarai Gray effort came from one of Leicester's rare first-half forays, but when the winger dragged wide after the interval it was the first sign of a shift in momentum.

Okazaki's breakthrough came after Liverpool failed to clear a corner - a problem that has haunted them this season, with Klopp admitting afterwards he was "sick" of conceding such goals.

"That we concede like this, that makes me really, really sick," said Klopp. "You cannot play football and do that."

"The story of this game is really easy to tell: we were the much better team in the first half, we played good football, we didn't score, that's sometimes part of football."

"But as long as we concede goals like we conceded today, then it is quite difficult."

Gray could have added gloss to the scoreline as Liverpool looked for a way back into the game late on, only for goalkeeper Danny Ward to turn his strike wide of the post.

It meant a fourth game without a win for Liverpool, whose last victory came against Arsenal in August.

## Alipour Crowned at Asian Rock Climbing Competition



Iranian speed climber Reza Alipour Shenazandifard

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iranian speed climber Reza Alipour Shenazandifard has been crowned as the champion of the 25th edition of the Asian Rock Climbing Competition.

The Iranian sportsman, nicknamed "Vertical World's Fastest Man", featured remarkable displays in the men's speed competitions at Mega Pars Complex in the Iranian capital city of Tehran, and clocked 5.62 seconds to stand on top of the podium, the Islamic Republic of Iran Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation website reported.

A Chinese climber claimed the second position of the chart. A representative from Indonesia got the bronze medal of the division.

In the women's speed contests, an Indonesian climber struck the yellow metal. A contestant from China received the silver medal, and a competitor from Indonesia had to settle for the bronze.

The 25th edition of the Asian Rock Climbing Competition kicked off on September 18 and will run through September 21,

2017.

The tournament is being held in women's lead, women's bouldering, women's speed, men's lead, men's bouldering and men's speed sections.

Speed climbing is a race in its purest form. Two contestants face each other while moving up the ice in this discipline, and the faster climber wins.

Bouldering is a form of rock climbing that is performed without the use of ropes or harnesses. Most climbers, however, use climbing shoes to help secure footholds, chalk to keep their hands dry, and mats to prevent injuries from falls.

Lead climbing, on the other hand, emphasizes on strength and techniques. Climbers go up the ice alone and try to reach a specific end point within a given amount of time.

To practice the sport at the highest level of competition, it takes athletes with strategic insight, power, precision and full commitment.

## Rossi to Try to Race in Spain With Broken Leg

LONDON (Reuters) – Yamaha's Valentino Rossi will try to make a race return in Spain this weekend, three weeks after breaking his leg in an off-road training accident, if MotoGP doctors give him the green light.

The 38-year-old Italian great was back on track in testing on Monday, 18 days after suffering a double fracture, and did another 20 laps on a road bike at Italy's Misano circuit on Tuesday.

He underwent a medical in Italy on Wednesday and decided that while his leg had not fully healed, the result was 'positive'.

"At the end I decided I will leave for Aragon and will try to ride my M1 this

weekend," he said in a Yamaha statement. "If I will be declared fit to ride, I'll have the real answer after FP1 (first free practice on Friday), because riding the M1 will be a much bigger challenge. We'll see."

The Italian will have to pass a mandatory physical check by the chief medical officer at MotorLand Aragon, a circuit near Alcaniz in northern Spain, before he can participate.

Rossi, who missed the San Marino Grand Prix at Misano, is fourth in the championship, 42 points behind joint leaders Marc Marquez of Spain and Italy's Andrea Dovizioso with five races remaining.

## After Mexico Quake World Para Swimming, Powerlifting Events Postponed

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) – The world para swimming and powerlifting championships to be held in Mexico City later this month have been postponed following the devastating earthquake this week, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) said on Wednesday.

Tuesday's magnitude 7.1 shock killed at least 226 people, nearly half of them in the capital and among them at least 22 school children, less than two weeks after a powerful tremor killed nearly 100 people in the south of the country.

The IPC said that this was the first time it had been forced to postpone a major championship. Both events were due to start on Sept. 30, with 1,400 athletes, officials and staff involved.

"As a result of this tragedy, we are in full agreement that the immediate focus of the Mexican authorities should be on prioritizing recovery and rebuilding for the Mexican people and not organising two major international sport events," IPC President Andrew Parsons said in a statement.

"I know the postponement of both championships will be disappointing news to all the athletes who were set to take part, however these are unique circumstances and quite simply this is the right thing to do at the moment."

Parsons said arrangements were being made for a safe departure of delegations that had already arrived in the capital.