

Iranian Asian Games Squad Off to Indonesia



TEHRAN (IRNA) – Several Iranian national sports teams have departed for Indonesia to attend Jakarta Palembang 2018 Asian Games.

The Iranian squad comprise 13 teams including wushu, taekwondo, fencing, swimming, gymnastics, paragliding, badminton, kabaddi, beach volleyball, tennis, sepak takraw, and sailing.

A medical team is also accompanying the Iranian squad.

The Iranian outfit at the 2018 Asian Games comprises 280 sportsmen and 98 sportswomen who will compete in 42 sports fields.

The 2018 Asian Games is slated to start on August 18 and will wrap up on September 2 in the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang.

Over 11,000 athletes from 45 Asian countries will attend the competition.

The 2018 Asian Games, officially known as the 18th Asian Games and also known as Jakarta Palembang 2018, is a pan-Asian multi-sport event scheduled to be held from August 18 to September 2, 2018 in the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang.

Wilimovsky Claims Third Pan Pacs Medal With 10km Gold



American Jordan Wilimovsky secured his third medal of the 2018 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships on Tuesday, with victory in the men's 10 kilometers open water event.

TOKYO (Reuters) - American Jordan Wilimovsky secured his third medal of the 2018 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships on Tuesday, with victory in the men's 10 kilometres open water event.

The 24-year-old open water specialist had won gold and silver medals in the pool over the weekend and came into Tuesday's event as favorite.

Compatriot Taylor Abbot held the lead through the first laps of the five-lap race held off Chiba's Hojo beach before Wilimovsky made his move.

The 2015 world champion finished in a time 1:58:50 to win with Eric Hedlin of Canada

over six seconds off the pace in second.

Australian Nicholas Sloman was third.

There was further success for the United States in the women's event, as Haley Anderson came from behind to win a dramatic race ahead of Australian Kareena Lee and Brazil's Ana Marcela Cunha.

Cunha came into the final lap with a lead of over two seconds but the patient Anderson had the stronger finish to claim gold.

The race concludes the 2018 Pan Pacs, with the United States comfortably topping the medal table with 20 golds.

Pouille Outlasts Murray in Cincinnati Opener

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Andy Murray's comeback following hip surgery has hit another roadblock after he was beaten 6-1 1-6 6-4 by France's Lucas Pouille in the first round of the Cincinnati Open.

The Scot went under the knife in January but has had a frustrating time since he came back to the ATP circuit in June.

The former world number one had hoped to build on the momentum that had carried him into the quarter-finals of the Citi Open before he pulled out of the Washington tournament citing fatigue.

But it was world number 17 Pouille who proved to be the more resourceful as he claimed his first win in five tries against Murray.

Murray, whose ranking plummeted into the 800s last month but has now risen to



Lucas Pouille of France returns a shot to Andy Murray of Britain in his opening match at the Cincinnati Masters.

375, has fallen at the first hurdle in two of the four tournaments he has contested this year.

"I only lost four more points in the match than him," said Murray, who won 82 points to Pouille's 86.

"It was tight. He's a top 20 player. If I can improve by 10, 15 percent, you turn a lot of those

matches around."

Pouille said he was pleased with how he fought against the former world number one.

"I'm very happy, especially with the way I fought until the end," he said.

"I tried to do my best in the third set and then until the end I played very aggressive and I'm very

pleased with that."

American Sam Querrey overcame 38 aces by ninth seed John Isner to send his friend and compatriot packing with a 6-4 6-7(5) 7-6(5) win.

The win was the first time Querrey has come out on top in a third set tiebreaker this year after losing seven in a row.

"I've lost a handful of tough matches this year but I feel like I'm starting to play better now, a little more consistent," the 30-year-old Californian said.

"Hopefully I can end the year on a strong note. Usually I feel like I play my better tennis at the beginning of the year so I'm going to try to flip it and play better at the end this year."

Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta, Britain's Kyle Edmund and Japan's Kei Nishikori also were first round winners.

Klopp Praises Deschamps, 'Boring' France



The Liverpool boss has conceded that Les Bleus did not always quicken the pulse at Russia 2018 but has hailed their coach for guiding them to glory

LONDON (Dispatches) - Didier Deschamps deserves praise for

masterminding France's route to World Cup glory, according to

Jurgen Klopp – even if his approach sometimes resulted in "boring" football.

Les Bleus won their second world title with a 4-2 win over Croatia in Moscow last month, with Antoine Griezmann, Paul Pogba and Kylian Mbappe all on target.

A 4-3 triumph against Argentina in the last 16 was viewed by many as the game of the tournament, but elsewhere Deschamps implemented a more prosaic style despite the attacking riches at his disposal.

Klopp, though, insists the coach deserves credit for sticking to an ultimately successful plan.

"France had the right players and the right tactics," the Liverpool boss

said in an interview with France Football.

"Didier Deschamps could have done something else with this team. Let them play, run, excite the whole planet to show how beautiful French football was.

"But he showed great maturity. He calmed and disciplined everyone, even making the games sometimes a bit boring.

"The job of a coach is to use the qualities of his team in the best way."

France are back in action when they travel to Munich to face Germany in their opening UEFA Nations League match on September 6.

Lorenzo Will 'Lose Out' at Honda, Says Ducati

ROME (Dispatches) - After a disappointing first season at Ducati last year and a similarly slow start to the 2018 campaign, the Italian manufacturer's bosses lost patience with Lorenzo and decided to replace him with Danilo Petrucci for 2019.

That choice opened the door for Honda to sign the Spaniard and pair him with Marc Marquez for next season.

Since Ducati made its decision, Lorenzo has won three races,

including the Austrian Grand Prix last weekend, and has become the top Ducati rider in the standings, lying third behind Marquez and Valentino Rossi.

Tardozi feels both sides made mistakes during contract negotiations and that Lorenzo will struggle at Honda, because Ducati was a team that gave him "what he wants".

"Marc certainly thinks he's gaining from this. Whether or not

he is right, I don't know," Tardozi told Italian newspaper La Gazzetta dello Sport.

"What I can say however is that Jorge will lose out for sure, because here he has found a family that follows him and a team that gives him what he wants.

"In Honda he will have to start all over again and adapt more quickly than he did with Ducati.

"We've all made mistakes and we'll all lose out. Who gains

something is Honda. For sure we will be keeping things in mind for the future, we are not stupid."

Tardozi also told Spanish radio station Cadena SER that it is a "great disappointment" to see Lorenzo hit such form knowing he will join Honda next year.

As reported by Motorsport.com, it was confirmed in Austria that Lorenzo will be allowed to test with Honda in the post-season Valencia and Jerez tests in November.

Nigeria, Ghana Could Face Bans Over Interference - FIFA

BERLIN (Reuters) - Nigeria and Ghana could face international football bans this month over political interference with their governing body FIFA said on Tuesday in a final warning to the two African nations.

FIFA said the Nigerian federation (NFF) must be led by its elected president, voted in back in 2014, and its executive committee amid domestic challenges to the federation leadership.

"The Bureau of the FIFA Council decided that if by Monday, 20 August 2018, at 12:00 (CET), the Nigeria Football Federation offices are not handed back to the legitimate NFF executive committee under President Amaju

Melvin Pinnick... the NFF will be suspended with immediate effect," FIFA said in a statement.

"The suspension would be lifted only once the NFF, under President Amaju Melvin Pinnick and General Secretary Mohammed Sanusi, confirms that it has been given back effective control of the NFF and its offices."

FIFA said any ban would not affect the Nigerian team currently competing in the women's Under-20 World Cup in France as the tournament was already under way. Nigeria also took part in the men's World Cup in Russia in June.

Ghana will also be banned this month if an order to liquidate its FA is not withdrawn.

AC Milan Sign Chelsea Midfielder Bakayoko on Loan



MILAN (Reuters) - AC Milan have signed midfielder Tiemoué Bakayoko from Chelsea on loan with the option to make the move permanent at the end of the season, the two clubs said on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old player has joined the Italian top-flight club for a reported loan fee of five million euros (4.5 million pounds), which will rise by 35

million euros if AC Milan decide to make his move permanent.

The Rennes youth product, capped once by France, moved to the English Premier League club last year from French side Monaco, which he joined in 2014.

Bakayoko made 29 league appearances last season, scoring two goals.