

Iran's Women, Men Rank 2nd, 3rd at Asian Taekwondo Championships



BEIRUT – Iranian taekwondo team in women and men's divisions ranked 2nd and 3rd respectively at the end of the competitions of the Asian Championships in Beirut.

The 24th Asian Championships was held from June 16 to 18 in Beirut, Lebanon with the participation of 189 taekwondo fighters from 21 countries.

Iranian taekwondo team in women division ranked 2nd place at the competitions with gaining of one gold, one silver and four bronze medals.

Fereshteh Khazaei (Women's -46kg), Ghazal Soltani (Women's -53kg), Nahid Kiani (Women's -57kg), Parisa Javadi (Women's -62 kg), Zeinab Esmacili (Women's -73kg), Zahra Pouresmaeil (Women's +73kg) were in the women's team.

South Korea won the title in the women division with three gold, two silver and one bronze medals and Vietnam also ranked third with one gold and one silver medals.

The men's national team consisting of Armin Hadipour, Soroush Ahmadi, Mirhashem Hosseini, Amir Mohammad Bakhshi, Mehran Barkhordari and Sajjad Mardani participated in this event and won a gold, silver and bronze medal by Mardani, Bakhshi and Hadipour, respectively.

South Korea won the title with two gold, two silver and one bronze medals and Uzbekistan also came second with one gold, four bronze medals.

England Held by Scotland, Czech Republic Draw With Croatia



England's Declan Rice (2nd left) reacts after a missed chance to score during the Euro 2020 soccer championship Group D match between England and Scotland at Wembley stadium in London on June 18, 2021.

SEVILLE (Reuters) - England were held to a goalless 0-0 draw with their oldest rivals Scotland in the Euro 2020 second-round Group D match at Wembley on Friday.

England are level on points with the Czech Republic, who held World Cup runners-up Croatia 1-1 in the day's earlier match. Both the teams collected four points from the first two matches while Scotland and Croatia are equal on only one.

Croatia will need to beat Scotland in their final group match to keep their qualification hope alive, and England are to strive for the top spot of the group when hosting the Czechs in the last group action.

England and Scotland met for the 115th time since 1872 when there was the world's first international football fixture. Their previous meeting at a major tournament came in the group stage of Euro 1996, with England winning 2-0.

On the rain-soaked pitch at Wembley, the two teams fought hard in the middle field with England pressing to the front more frequently.

In the 11th minute, John Stones headed Mason Mount's corner to the post. Two minutes later, Mount missed the target by inches after receiving Raheem Sterling's smart low cross

in the box.

Scotland, which qualified for the finals of Euro for the first time in 25 years, missed their best chance in the first half as Jordan Pickford barred Stephen O'Donnell's volley with a single hand in the half-hour mark.

England looked dangerous at the beginning of the second half, but Scotland kept calm in defense.

Scotland captain Andy Robertson from Liverpool and Arsenal defender Kieran Tierney played toughly while their 36-year-old goalkeeper David Marshall also made a fine save.

Aston Villa playmaker Jack Grealish and Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford were sent onto the pitch by England manager Gareth Southgate, but the sparks they brought were not enough to break Scotland's defense.

Scotland kept their hopes of reaching the knockout stage alive with one point after two games, while England will face the Czech Republic in their last group match as both teams have four points in hand.

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Guido Rodriguez Fires Argentina to Win Over Uruguay

BRASILIA (Dispatches) - A first-half strike from Guido Rodriguez fired Argentina to a 1-0 victory over Uruguay in their Copa America Group B match here on Friday.

The Albiceleste went ahead in the 13th minute when the Real Betis midfielder headed in at the far post after Lionel Messi's mazy run and cross from the left side of the penalty box.

Uruguay had a greater share of possession and completed more passes than their opponents, who were content to



Argentina's Guido Rodriguez celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal against Uruguay during a Copa America soccer match at the National Stadium in Brasilia, Brazil, on June 18, 2021.

sit back after their early goal.

But despite dictating terms in midfield, Oscar Tabarez's men failed to have a single shot on target as Argentina's compact defense blunted the twin threat of Edinson Cavani and Luis Suarez.

The result leaves Argentina joint group leaders with Chile, with both teams securing four points from their first two matches of the tournament. Uruguay are fourth, having played only one match so far.

LA Clippers Secure Series Win Over Jazz to Reach First Final



Terance Mann (left) and Paul George played a key role as LA Clippers beat Utah Jazz in game six

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Los Angeles Clippers beat Utah Jazz 131-119 to secure a 4-2 series win and reach the NBA Western

Conference finals for the first time.

Terance Mann scored a career-high 39 points for the Clippers, who trailed by 25 points in the third quarter.

"Everybody was telling me to shoot the ball and that's what I did," said Mann, who hit 15 of 21 shots from the floor and drained seven of 10 three pointers.

The Clippers will play Phoenix Suns for a place in the NBA finals.

Paul George scored 28 points and added nine rebounds and seven assists for the Clippers, who were without their top player Kawhi Leonard through

injury.

In the Eastern Conference semi-finals Philadelphia 76ers earned a 104-99 win over Atlanta Hawks to level their best-of-seven series at 3-3.

Seth Curry and Tobias Harris scored 24 points apiece for the Sixers, while team-mate Joel Embiid registered 22 points and grabbed 13 rebounds.

Atlanta reduced the gap to 100-97 with 14 seconds to go but Harris sank a pair of free throws as the Sixers held on for the win. "You saw the fight and grit of a whole group," said Harris.

The 76ers will be at home for the deciding game on Sunday.

Mexico Fans Punished for Homophobic Chant



MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexico fans will be barred from attending their country's first two home 2022 World Cup qualifiers after making homophobic chants during two Olympic qualifying games on Friday.

FIFA's Disciplinary Committee also fined Mexico's Football Federation (FMF) 60,000 Swiss francs (\$65,118.30) for chants from supporters during games against the Dominican Republic on March 18 and the United States on March 24.

Mexico's games against Jamaica on Sept. 2 and Canada on Oct. 7 in the final round of CONCACAF World Cup qualifying will be played in empty stadiums as a result of the sanctions.

"I hope this is the first and last sanction that FIFA imposes," FMF president Yon de Luisa told a news conference.

FIFA has also launched a separate investigation against the FMF in relation to homophobic chants by Mexico fans during a friendly against Iceland in Arlington, Texas on May 29.

De Luisa said there is a risk to Mexico's involvement in the 2026 World Cup - which they are set to co-host with the United States and Canada - if fan behavior does not improve.

"How can we host a World Cup if we are going to have our stadiums empty? If we don't stop now, the consequences for Mexican football could be devastating," he added.

Verstappen Keeps Mercedes Behind in French GP Practice

PARIS (Dispatches) - Red Bull's Formula One world championship leader Max Verstappen has pushed Mercedes off the top of the timesheets in French Grand Prix practice with the battle between the teams looking as close as ever.

The 23-year-old Dutch driver lapped Le Castellet's Paul Ricard circuit in one minute 32.872 seconds in the afternoon, 0.008 quicker than Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas who led the first session with a lap of 1:33.448.

Bottas set his best lap on the slower medium tyres, however, rather than the softs used by Verstappen.

Seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton, four points be-



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands steers his car during the first free practice for the French Formula One Grand Prix at the Paul Ricard racetrack in Le Castellet, southern France, June 18, 2021.

swapped chassis since the last race in Azerbaijan.

After two tough street races, with no points in Baku two weeks ago, Mercedes are hoping for a return to winning ways at a southern circuit they have dominated since its return to the calendar in 2018.

Hamilton won from pole position in 2018 and 2019, and Mercedes had led every practice session since the return until Verstappen's effort.

The pace of the Red Bull indicated that this year could be a lot closer, although Verstappen's team mate Sergio Perez, winner in Baku after the Dutch driver crashed out with a tyre blowout, was 12th quickest.

hind Verstappen after six races, was third in the hour-long session

and also on the softs.

The two Mercedes drivers have