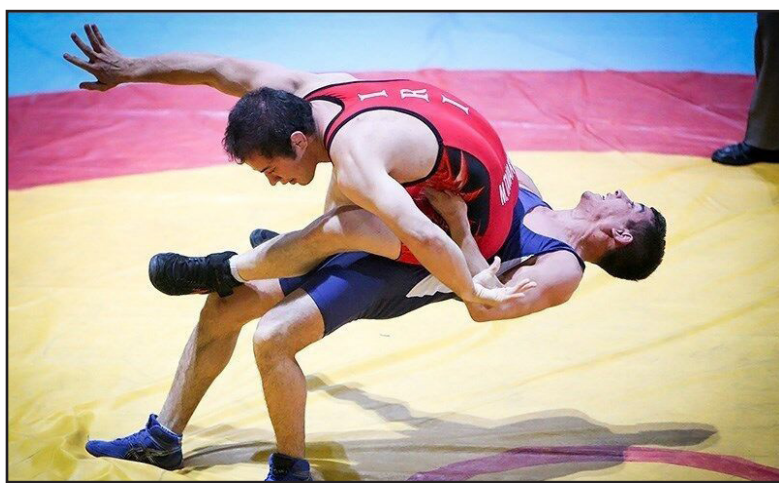


Greco-Roman Wrestlers Bag Four Medals at Asia-Pacific Championships



TEHRAN — Iran's national deaf wrestling team has succeeded in winning four different medals in the first day of the

2023 Deaf Greco-Roman Wrestling Asia-Pacific Championships.

The Iranian team could grasp two silver and two bronze medals in the first five weight categories in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, during the First Asia-Pacific Greco-Roman and Freestyle Wrestling Championships slated for March 8 to 11, 2023.

In Greco-Roman category, Iran's Ali Vatanparast, 55 kilograms, lost his first match to his Kyrgyz rival, but won the second Kyrgyz competitor; however, he could not overcome his Uzbek rival in the

final match and won a bronze medal.

Mehdi Sadri, 63 kilograms, overcame his Kyrgyz rival, but he lost to his Kazakh contestant and won a silver medal.

Ali Kariminia, 72 kilograms, lost to his Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Mongolian rivals.

Moslem Dehghani, 82 kilograms, overcame his Mongolian and Kyrgyz competitors, but he lost to his Kazakh contestant and won a silver medal.

Behnam Zaer-Gharaei, 97 kilograms, lost to his Kyrgyz and Kazakh rivals, but he won a bronze medal.

Man United Hit Back With Big Win Over Betis

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Marcus Rashford, Antony, Bruno Fernandes and Wout Weghorst scored to lift Manchester United to an emphatic 4-1 win over Real Betis in the first leg of their Europa League last-16 tie on Thursday, four days after their humbling loss to Liverpool.

Erik ten Hag's team, who capitulated 7-0 to their arch-rivals on Sunday, were desperate to bounce back quickly and Casemiro's fifth-minute effort was ruled out for offside.

Rashford soon scored his 25th goal of the season in all competitions, however, controlling a cross from Fernandes and smashing it into the top corner to the delight of Old Trafford fans who braved the chilly temperatures and blowing snow.

"It's a step back in the right

direction," Rashford said. "Obviously, we have to build on this now to gain momentum again. We can't put too much emphasis on Sunday, because it's gone, we can't change it."

Ayoze Perez, on loan from Leicester City, netted his first goal for Betis in the 32nd minute. There were questions about a handball in the buildup but VAR officials ruled otherwise.

The home team dominated the second half, and Brazilian winger Antony put United ahead in the 52nd minute, launching a blistering left-foot shot from just outside the box into the top corner.

Six minutes later, Fernandes shrugged off the scathing criticism he received as captain after Sunday's poor performance with a goal to head in a corner off the fingertips



Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes (center) scores his side's third goal during the Europa League round of 16 first leg soccer match between Manchester United and Real Betis at the Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, on March 9, 2023.

of Betis keeper Claudio Bravo.

Weghorst finally got his goal in the 82nd minute after missing nu-

merous chances, steering the ball into the net after a cutback from substitute Facundo Pellistri.

Murray, Raducanu Battle to Victory at Indian Wells



Andy Murray, of Britain, returns a shot to Tomas Etcheverry (not in photograph), of Argentina, at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament on March 9, 2023, in Indian Wells, California.

PARIS (AFP) - Murray dropped the tight first set and frustration with his play and some of the calls made by the electronic line calling system threatened to boil over.

But like he has so many times in his career, he roared back with help from his ferocious forehand in the second set to force a decider.

The match then hinged on a marathon game at 4-4 in the third where Murray executed a perfectly placed half volley winner that sent Etcheverry running off the court in pursuit.

Murray's sixth ace of the match sealed the win as he improved to 7-0 in deciding set matches this year.

Next up is a meeting with Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta in the second round on Saturday and three-time Grand Slam cham-

pion Murray said he is as hungry as ever.

"I still feel extremely motivated, I still enjoy the competition and all the work that goes into it," he said.

Earlier in the day, Murray's compatriot Raducanu battled back from a break down in both sets to beat Danka Kovinic 6-2 6-3 and get revenge on the Montenegrin who beat her at the 2022 Australian Open.

No one was quite sure what to expect from the 20-year-old Raducanu coming into the tournament in the Southern California desert, even whether she would actually take the court.

The wrist injury that forced her to shut down her season early last year has been flaring up again and after she withdrew from a pre-tournament exhibition event, it appeared she might not compete at all.

Iran Move Up at World Futsal Ranking



TEHRAN — Iran national futsal team moved up one place to sixth in the world futsal ranking released on Friday.

Team Melli is now sixth in the table with 1,569 points.

Brazil leads the table with 1,796 points.

Spain (1,772) and Portugal (1,753) sit in the second and

third places, respectively.

Russia (1,671) and Argentina (1,650) are fourth and fifth, respectively.

Iran recently claimed the title in an international tournament in Thailand.

Team Melli remains the best Asian team in the table, followed by Japan and Uzbekistan.

Canadian Women Soccer Players Testify to Distrust of Leaders

OTTAWA (Reuters) - Canadian women's soccer players testified during a government hearing on Thursday that they don't trust the sport's national governing body to negotiate a fair labor agreement, remarks made after management went public with proposals for equal pay and division of prize money.

"It is time to get a deal done," Canada Soccer general secretary Earl Cochrane said in a statement accompanying proposals the federation said were made to the women's and men's national teams last June. "We've been negotiating in good faith and want to get to a resolution with our national teams."

"In order to get there, we need both of our national teams to agree," he added. "Our women deserve to be paid equally and they deserve the financial certainty going into the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup."

Canada's women, the reigning Olympic soccer champions, have demanded equal pay, following the lead of their American counterparts who last year reached a landmark collective bargaining agreement with the U.S. Soccer Federation.

Janine Beckie, another of the four players at the hearing, said the team felt "quite disrespected" by Canada Soccer's announcement and claimed included terms not previously communicated to players.

The women's previous collective bargaining agreement expired at the end of 2021 and the men are seeking their first formal labor contract. Players from both teams have asked that Canada Soccer open its books and detail a marketing agreement with Canadian Soccer Business.

The men boycotted an exhibition match in June ahead of the team's first World Cup appearance in 36 years.

Decrying the lack of movement on an agreement, the women announced last month they planned to sit out the SheBelieves Cup in the United States, and Canada Soccer responded by saying the planned action amounted to an illegal strike.

The team went on to play under protest. Players wore T-shirts that said "Enough is Enough" during the national anthem. At the opening match against the U.S., both teams gathered in a circle on the field before kickoff in a show of solidarity.

Shiffrin Leads Giant Slalom With World Cup Record in Sight

ARE, Sweden (AP) — American skier Mikaela Shiffrin won her record-tying 86th World Cup race Friday with victory in a giant slalom.

Shiffrin's win matched the overall record set by Swedish giant Ingemar Stenmark 34 years ago.

The 27-year-old American protected her half-second lead from the first run and finished 0.64 seconds ahead of Federica Brignone.

Shiffrin crossed the finish line and put her hands to her helmet, then to her face and shook her head slowly while taking in the enormity of her achievement.

"This is just a spectacular day. Oh my goodness," she said in a course-side interview.

Stenmark said last month that Shiffrin is "much better than I was."

It was Shiffrin's fourth straight wire-to-wire win in World Cup giant slaloms since January. In that time, she also took gold in the event at last month's world championships in Meribel, France.

Shiffrin started cautiously in her second run under the floodlights in the fast-darkening afternoon, letting half of her 1.04-second first-run advantage over Brignone slip before picking up time on the bottom half.

Brignone made a theatrical bow toward Shiffrin in the post-race ceremony in the finish area.

Olympic champion Sara Hector of Sweden was third, 0.92 seconds behind Shiffrin.

Shiffrin also clinched the season-long World Cup giant slalom title to secure her 15th career crystal globe trophy. She already won her fifth overall World Cup

title and the slalom title this season.

Making more World Cup history on Friday, Shiffrin's 20th career victory in the giant slalom — six of them this season — matched the all-time women's mark held by Vreni Schneider.

Schneider got her wins between 1984 and 1992. The Swiss racer, like Shiffrin, also has Olympic and world championship gold medals in both giant slalom and slalom.

Shiffrin won her first World Cup race in Are, a slalom in December 2012, and then earned two gold medals at the 2019 worlds at the Swedish resort. It was also where she was due to race again in March 2020 after the death of her father the previous month, but the races were called off because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Grizzlies Rout Curry, Warriors 131-110

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Tyus Jones had 22 points and 11 assists, Jaren Jackson Jr. added 21 points and nine rebounds and the Memphis Grizzlies beat the Golden State Warriors 131-110 on Thursday night.

The Grizzlies played their third game without Ja Morant, the star guard who is away from the team after posting a video last weekend in which he appeared to be displaying a gun at a Denver-area strip club. The Grizzlies have announced Morant will miss at least the next three games.

Demond Bane also had 21 points for Memphis.

Stephen Curry had 29 points and seven rebounds for Golden State.



Memphis Grizzlies guard Tyus Jones (21) works between Golden State Warriors guard Ty Jerome, right, and forward JaMychal Green during the second half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, March 9, 2023, in Memphis, Tenn.

Jordan Poole had 22 points, Draymond Green added 16 points and seven assists and Klay Thompson had 14 points.

The teams met in Memphis for

the first time since their heated Western Conference postseason that Golden State won 4-2.