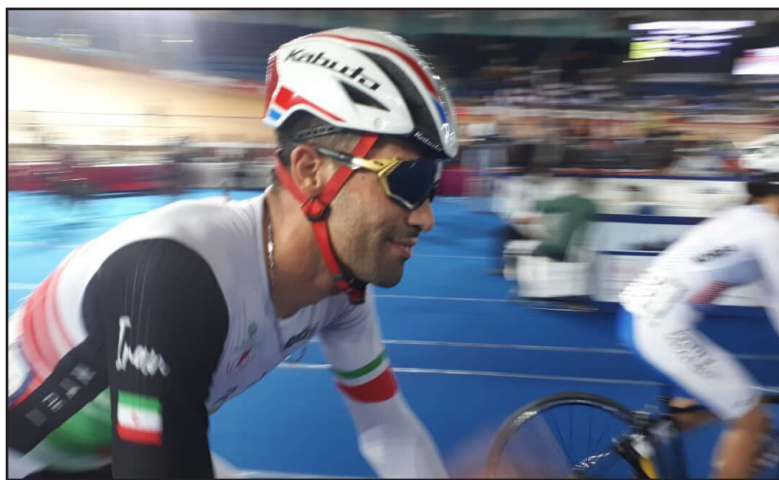


# Ganj Khanlou Bags Bronze in 2022 Asian Track Cycling Championships



TEHRAN – Iranian cyclist Muhammad Ganj Khanlou received a bronze medal in the scratch category of the 2022 Asian Track Cycling Championships in India.

Ganj Khanlou snatched his second medal and also the Iranian squad's sixth medal.

He had earlier ranked third in the omnium category.

The event is underway with participation of Iran, South Korea, Japan, India, Uzbekistan, UAE, Singapore, Kazakhstan, China, Nepal, Mongolia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkmenistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Thailand, and Laos.

## Iranian Legionnaires Among Top 10 Asian Soccer Players

TEHRAN – Two Iranian legionnaires Sardar Azmoun and Mahdi Taremi are among 10 best Asian players, FourFourTwo Magazine reported.

Commenting on Taremi's background, the Magazine said, "When the striker joined Iran's biggest club Persepolis in 2014, he had established himself as a hard-working forward but there was little sign that he was on his way to becoming one of Asia's top forwards."

"After joining Rio Ave in 2019, he scored 18 goals to earn a move to FC Porto where he has continued to score on a regular basis. Ready to lead Iran at the World Cup and enhance a burgeoning reputation," it added.

Meanwhile, elaborating on Azmoun's performance, it



said, "Probably spent too long in Russia, though starred for Zenit St. Petersburg, moving to Bayer Leverkusen only in January."

"The 27 year-old, who averages almost a goal every 1.5 games for Iran, has been slow to settle in

Germany but his undoubted class will surely shine soon. A striker's striker who is clinical in the area, Azmoun is approaching his peak and will relish the chance to face England, the United States and Wales."

The top 10 Asian football players named by FourFourTwo magazine are as follow:

1. Son Heung-min (Tottenham and South Korea)
2. Mehdi Taremi (FC Porto and Iran)
3. Sardar Azmoun (Bayer Leverkusen and Iran)
4. Salman Al-Dawsari (Al-Hilal and Saudi Arabia)
5. Akram Afif (Al-Sadd and Qatar)
6. Wataru Endo (Stuttgart and Japan)
7. Takehiro Tomiyasu (Arsenal and Japan)
8. Almoez Ali (Al-Duhail and Qatar)
9. Eldor Shomurodov (Roma and Uzbekistan)
10. Ali Mabkhout (Al-Jazira and the United Arab Emirates)

## Iran Fail to Beat Bulgaria at 2022 VNL



TEHRAN – Bulgaria defeated Iran 3-0 (25-19, 25-23, 26-24) in the second week of the men's Volleyball Nations League (VNL) Tuesday night.

Bulgaria's Aleksandar Nikolov earned 20 points, while Iran's Amin Esmailnezhad scored 17 points.

Behrouz Ataei's men will play the U.S., Brazil and Canada on

June 23, 24 and 25 respectively.

The 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men's Nations League is the fourth edition of the FIVB Volleyball Men's Nations League, an annual men's international volleyball tournament.

The preliminary round is currently held from 7 June to 10 July 2022, and the final round will be on 20 to 24 July 2022.

## Minister of Sport Off to Baku to Attend OIC Conference



Iranian Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Hamid Sajjadi

TEHRAN – The Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Hamid Sajjadi has left Iran for Azerbaijan to attend the upcoming meeting of the OIC Permanent Council of Conference of Ministers of Youth.

The Iranian minister is to take part in the latest meeting of the OIC Permanent Council of Con-

ference of Ministers of Youth.

During the two-day visit to Baku, he is to hold talks with the Azeri officials in charge of sports organizations.

The 1st meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Permanent Council of Conference of Ministers of Youth was held in Baku, 2017.

## Delayed Tokyo 2020 Olympics Cost Double Original Estimate



In this March 24, 2020 photo, a worker passes the logo of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games at a subway station in Tokyo.

TOKYO (AFP) - The final price tag for last year's Tokyo Olympics was more than double the city's original 2013 estimate after a one-year coronavirus postponement added to the already hefty bill.

The organizing committee said that the Games had cost 1.42 trillion yen, the equivalent of \$13 billion at the time. At today's rates, with the yen at a 24-year low against the dollar, the figure would

be \$10.4 billion.

Tokyo 2020 was held a year later than planned because of the pandemic -- the first Olympics postponed in peacetime -- and spectators were banned from nearly all events, which were held under strict COVID-19 countermeasures.

The Games cost twice the 734 billion yen that the Tokyo Games organizers had predicted in their bid to the International Olympic Committee in 2013, but less than the final pre-Games budget unveiled in December 2020.

Despite losing out on ticket sales, organizers saved some cash by simplifying events and avoiding the cost of hosting millions of fans.

The organizing committee, which disbanded at the end of June, said the event's final cost was 200 billion yen less than projected in its

pre-Games budget in 2020 and 29 billion yen less than the final slimmed-down costs prediction in December 2021.

"It's up to everyone involved in this event to pass on the legacy of the Tokyo Olympics to the next generation," said Tokyo 2020 chief Seiko Hashimoto.

Tokyo experienced a COVID-19 surge last year as the Olympics approached, fuelling fears the event could worsen outbreaks in Japan and possibly the world.

The northern Japanese city of Sapporo is bidding to host the Winter Olympics in 2030.

A March survey of Sapporo and the surrounding region showed that a majority of the public are in favor of holding the event.

Officials have ruled out holding a public referendum on the 2030 bid.

## Djokovic, Nadal Lead Title Chase at All-Change Wimbledon

LONDON (AFP) - Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal headline the title chase at Wimbledon where eight-time champion Roger Federer, the world's top two players and cherished ranking points will all be missing.

Djokovic is bidding for a seventh title at the All England Club to move level with US great Pete Sampras.

Nadal, fresh from a 14th French Open victory and a record-extending 22nd major, is halfway to the first men's calendar Grand Slam in more than half a century.

The season's third Slam tournament has already made political waves even before the first ball is served on Monday.

The decision to ban Russian and Belarusian players in the aftermath of the invasion of Ukraine means there is no place for world number one Daniil Medvedev or eighth-ranked Andrey Rublev.



Both the ATP and WTA, who control the men's and women's tours, retaliated by stripping ranking points from the tournament.

For the first time since his debut in 1999 -- notwithstanding the COVID-cancelled 2020 edition -- Federer will be a no-show

as the 40-year-old recovers from knee surgery.

Also missing is Germany's world number two Alexander Zverev, who suffered serious ankle ligament damage in a horrific injury in his French Open semi-final against Nadal.

However, Medvedev and

Zverev have never shone at Wimbledon with neither man making it past the fourth round.

Djokovic and Nadal, ranked three and four, are the top seeds meaning if they are to face each other for the 60th time, it can only be in the final.

Djokovic, the champion in 2011, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019 and 2021, could be playing in his final Slam of the year.

His refusal to be vaccinated is likely to rule him out of the US Open later this year.

A bruising quarter-final loss to Nadal at the French Open which saw him deposed as champion in Paris will also likely provide extra motivation.

Nadal won the last of his two Wimbledon titles in 2010 having captured his first with an epic triumph over Federer two years earlier.

## Red Bull Suspend Junior Driver Juri Vips Over Racial Slur



LONDON (Reuters) - Red Bull Racing have suspended Formula Two driver Juri Vips pending an investigation after the Estonian uttered a racial slur during a live stream, the team announced on Tuesday.

Vips, 21, uttered the racial slur on streaming platform Twitch and was suspended after the video appeared on social media. "Red Bull Racing has suspended junior driver Juri Vips from all team duties with immediate effect, pending a full investigation into the incident," it said.

"As an organization we con-

demn abuse of any kind and have a zero-tolerance policy to racist language or behavior within our organization."

Vips later apologized on Instagram and said he would fully cooperate with the investigation.

"I wish to unreservedly apologize for the offensive language used during a live gaming stream earlier today," he wrote.

"This language is entirely unacceptable and does not portray the values and principles that I hold. I deeply regret my actions and this is not the example I wish to set."