

Sogand Shiri Wins Gold at World Junior Taekwondo Championship



TEHRAN – Sogand Shiri of Iran claimed a gold medal at the 2022 World Junior Taekwondo Championship Tuesday night.

Shiri defeated Turkey's Hayrunnisa Gurbuz in the final match of the women's -42kg. The first round ended 7-7 but Shiri was awarded the round due to the manner of the points she landed.

In the second round, the score tied at 11-11 with just 45 seconds remaining. However, Shiri proved too strong and won the round and the match.

Iran's Parnia Salmani also claimed a silver medal in the women's -44kg. She lost to Natkamon Wassana from Thailand in the final match.

More than 1,250 athletes from 90 countries plus a refugee team will compete in Sofia, Bulgaria during the World Championships.

Iran Men's Chess Team Wins in 5th Round of World Chess Olympiad

TEHRAN – Iranian men's chess team on the 5th round of the Turkey 2022 World Chess Olympiad faced the home team, Turkey, which they beat 3-1.

On Table No. 1, Grand Master Parham Maqsdulu ended the game equal with Grand Master Mustafa Ilmaz.

On Table No. 2, Grand Master Mohammad-Amin Tabatabai ended the game equal with a Turkish grand master.

On Table No. 3, Grand Master Puya Idini beat Grand Master

Wahhap Senal.

And finally, on Table No. 4, International Master Bardia Daneshvar gained a sweet victory versus Grand Master Jamil Khan Ali Marandi, so that the Iranian chess team will win the day's match 3-1 versus Turkey.

That is while the Iranian women's chess team faced the strong Bulgaria and lost the match 3-1.

Iran's only winner in women's team was Mitra Asghar-Zadeh, who beat Bulgarian Grand Master Victoria Radiova on Table No. 4.

Djokovic Likely to Miss U.S. Open Over COVID-19 Vaccine Status



Serbia's Novak Djokovic serves to Italy's Lorenzo Musetti during a match of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Feb 21, 2022.

LONDON (Reuters) -There is a petition circulating to allow Novak Djokovic to play at the U.S. Open but the Serbian appears likely to miss the entire North American hardcourt swing barring a sudden change in COVID-19 protocols in the United States and Canada.

Djokovic has refused to take the COVID-19 vaccine yet the 21-times Grand Slam winner remains on the entry lists for the ATP 1000 events in Montreal and Cincinnati that serve as tune-ups for the Aug 29-Sept 11 U.S. Open in New York.

In the case of the U.S. Open, which does not have a vaccine mandate, organizers previously said that per the Grand Slam Rule Book, all eligible players are entered into the main draw based on their ranking 42 days prior to the first Monday of the event.

U.S. Open organizers also said that while they do not have a

vaccination mandate in place for players, they will respect the US government's position regarding travel into the country for unvaccinated non-U.S. citizens.

Former world number one Djokovic, whose website shows no upcoming events, said last week he was preparing for the U.S. Open as if he will be allowed to compete in the year's final Grand Slam despite not being vaccinated.

Djokovic's camp and organizers of the three North American hardcourt events did not immediately respond when asked by Reuters on Tuesday for comment.

The hashtag #LetNovakPlay was circulating on social media as a slew of Djokovic supporters voiced their support for a player who moved to within one of Spaniard Rafa Nadal's record of 22 Grand Slam titles after his Wimbledon triumph last month.

Tebogo Draws Bolt Comparisons After Breaking Junior Record

BOGOTA (Reuters) - Teenager Letsile Tebogo has attracted comparisons to Usain Bolt after showboating his way to the under-20 100 meters world title in a record time with a scorching run in Colombia on Tuesday.

The 19-year-old Botswanan clocked 9.91 seconds to improve the junior world record of 9.94 he set in the heats of the senior world championships last month, but clearly could have gone even faster.

Tebogo made a blistering start at Cali's Pascual Guerrero Stadium and coasted through the final 20 meters, turning to gesticulate at silver medalist Bouwahjigie Nkrumie with a huge smile on his face as he cruised to the line.



Botswana's Letsile Tebogo celebrates after winning the 100m men's final during the U20 World Athletics Championships at the Kasarani Stadium in Nairobi on Aug 19, 2021.

The early celebrations were a deliberate echo of Bolt's when the Jamaican great won the first of his eight Olympic sprint gold medals in a world record time of

9.69 at the 2008 Beijing Games.

"If somebody took it as disrespect, I'm really sorry," Tebogo told the website of World Athletics.

"(It was so) everybody watching at home can enjoy the race – to remind them a little bit about what Usain Bolt did back in the day. He's my idol - the person I look up to."

Comparisons with Bolt immediately flooded onto social media and the run attracted the attention of the man himself, who retweeted the result.

Tebogo said he thought could have run as fast as 9.80 had he not coasted through the end of the race.

"We have more races to come, we didn't want to go that far," Tebogo said.

"But this is my year as a junior, we have to leave (the record) here for the next generation to come and break it."

Suarez Makes Nacional Return in Loss to Goianiense

MONTEVIDEO (Xinhua) -- Luis Suarez made his eagerly awaited return to South American club football on Tuesday as his team Nacional suffered a 1-0 home defeat to Atletico Goianiense in their Copa Sudamericana quarter-final first leg.

Luiz Fernando put the Bra-

zilian side ahead against the run of play with a 23rd-minute header after being set up by Leo Pereira.

Nacional controlled more than two-thirds of possession but lacked a cutting edge until Suarez was introduced as a 74th-minute replacement for Franco Fagundez.

The former Liverpool, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid forward made an immediate impact in his first appearance since rejoining his boyhood club on a free transfer last week.

The 35-year-old quickly dismissed concerns about his lack of recent matches with

some impressive touches and clever runs behind Goianiense's defense.

He almost put the hosts on level terms in the 90th minute when he sent a perfectly weighted pass into the path of Juan Ignacio Ramirez, whose subsequent shot rebounded off the woodwork.

Osaka Makes Triumphant Return, Will Face Gauff in San Jose

TOKYO (Reuters) - Four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka made a triumphant return from a two-month layoff by defeating Chinese teen Zheng Qinwen on Tuesday at the WTA San Jose hardcourt tournament.

The 24-year-old Japanese star outlasted the gritty 19-year-old 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 in a first-round match at the U.S. Open tune-up tournament.

Osaka had not played a competitive match since losing in the first round of the French Open due to a left Achilles tendon injury.

"It's really cool to be back playing," Osaka said after the victory. "I haven't played since May. I didn't know that. Somebody told me that. It's really good to be back."

Former world number one Osaka, whose ranking has slid to 41st, will play for a quarter-final berth against 18-year-old American sixth seed Coco Gauff, this year's French Open runner-up.

Gauff routed Ukraine's Anhelina Kalinina 6-1, 6-0 in 54 minutes.

Osaka's match marked the return of her father, Leonard Francois, as her coach. Osaka had been working with Wim Fissette for the past two years.

"It's good for him to be back because he always makes me smile," Osaka said. "It's just good to be back so I'm really happy."

In the first set of her return match, Osaka broke Zheng for a 2-1 lead, saved a break point

to hold in the fourth game and held from there to capture the first set after 45 minutes with a service winner.

World number 51 Zheng broke for a 5-3 edge in the second set and held at love on a service winner to force a third set.

Osaka broke twice for a 4-0 lead in the final set, denied Zheng's fightback bid with a second-serve ace on a break point and held for a 5-0 lead.

After Zheng held, Osaka did the same to capture the match on a service winner after two hours and two minutes.

Reigning Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan lost Monday in her first match since capturing her first major title, falling to 12th-ranked Daria Kasatkina.

Premier League Teams to Limit 'Taking the Knee' to Significant Games



LONDON (AFP) - English Premier League football players said Wednesday they will no longer take the knee before every match in the upcoming season, confining the anti-racism gesture to selected games.

"We have decided to select significant moments to take the knee during the season to highlight our unity against all forms of racism, and in so doing we continue to show solidarity for

a common cause," club captains said in a Premier League statement.

The league said it supported the captains' decision, and would elevate anti-racism messaging as part of its "No Room for Racism" campaign -- words that already feature on players' sleeves.

Premier League players began taking the knee at the start of every game in June 2020, when

the season resumed following a COVID shutdown, a month after the killing in the United States of George Floyd.

Ex-NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick started kneeling to protest against racial injustice in 2016, and the gesture has become a familiar sight across a range of sports since Floyd's murder by a U.S. police officer.

But several Premier League players have said the gesture was losing its impact -- and some right-wing politicians in Britain have criticized its identification with the Black Lives Matter protest movement.

Wilfried Zaha, a black striker for Crystal Palace, was an early dissident, labelling the gesture "degrading" and opting to stand instead.

Last season, Chelsea's white defender Marcos Alonso decided to stand and point instead to the anti-racism badge on his shirt sleeve.