

Iranian Taekwondokas Bag 3 Medals in Mexico



TEHRAN – Iran taekwondo athletes have claimed three medals in the 2022 World Taekwondo Championships in Mexico.

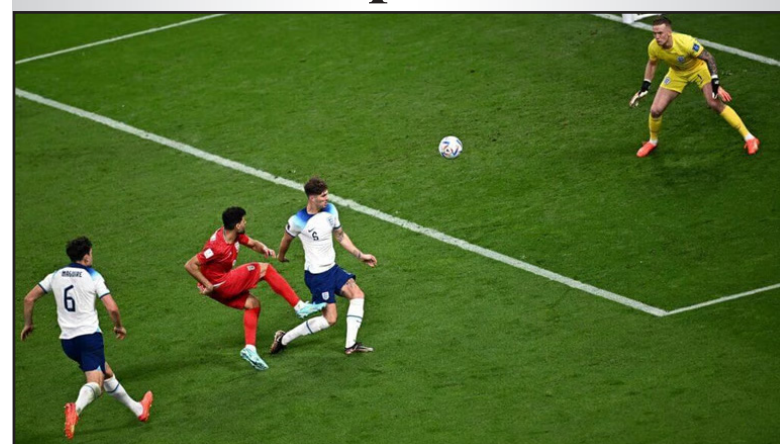
Reza Kalhor and Sajjad Mardani ranked third in the weight category of -68kg and +87kg, respectively.

Also, Mehran Barkhordari received a bronze medal in the weight category of +80 kg in the event.

In the tournament, 755 contenders from 120 countries competed for world titles.

The 25th edition of the World Taekwondo Championships was held in Guadalajara, Mexico from November 13 to 20.

Team Melli Begins 2022 World Cup With Loss



Mehdi Taremi scored Iran's opening goal of the 2022 World Cup when he fired past England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford to score a consolation on Monday.

TEHRAN – The Iranian national men's football team lost to England 6-2 in Group B in the second game of the Qatar World Cup on Monday.

At the end of the second game of Qatar World Cup game, the Iranian national team suffered a 6-2 defeat.

Iranian striker Mehdi Taremi who plays for FC Porto scored two goals for Iran in the minute of 67 and 100.

The Iranian goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand was seriously injured in the nose minutes after the game started and was replaced.

England first goal (35) got things under way for the Three Lions before strikes from Bukayo Saka (43) and Raheem Sterling (45+1) saw them race into a three-goal lead at the interval.

England added to their lead after the break as Saka added his second of the game (62) with another smart finish, but Southgate's side

were given a wake-up call when Mehdi Taremi pulled a goal back for Iran (65).

It proved to be just that for England as substitute Marcus Rashford added a fifth with just his third touch (71) after coming onto the pitch before another sub in Jack Grealish added England's sixth (90).

There was a minor blemish right at the death as referee Raphael Claus was asked to check the pitchside monitor by VAR after John Stones was adjudged to have tugged the shirt of Taremi. The penalty was awarded and Taremi kept his cool to send Jordan Pickford the wrong way.

Despite Iran's late goal it was the start Southgate, who had come in for some criticism after his side's poor run of form leading into the tournament, would have wanted from his side as they roared to the top of Group B.

Ronaldo Says Row With Man Utd 'Won't Shake' Portugal Team

DOHA (AFP) - Cristiano Ronaldo insisted Monday that his explosive row with Manchester United would not impact Portugal's chances at the World Cup as they prepare for their opening match in Qatar with Ghana.

Last week superstar Ronaldo lashed out at Premier League club United and the team's coach Erik ten Hag in a TV interview after being relegated to a peripheral role this season.

"I have no doubt that this recent episode, that interview, and other episodes with other players that happen sometimes, can sometimes shake the player but won't shake the team," Ronaldo said at a press conference at the Portugal camp.

Ronaldo, who is set to start his fifth and likely final World Cup, was suspended for the Premier League club's 1-1 draw at Chelsea after refusing to come on as



a substitute against Tottenham last month.

The 37-year-old claimed during the interview that he felt "provoked" into that reaction by Ten Hag and on Monday was unrepentant about giving the interview.

"I don't have to worry about what others think, I talk when I want to,"

he said.

"Everybody in the team knows who I am, what I believe in."

Ronaldo said frosty interaction with his team-mate for club and country Bruno Fernandes, along with images of him grabbing Manchester City's Joao Cancelo by the head, had been being overblown by

the media.

"In these final stages of competitions there's always those type of moments," said Ronaldo.

"We were just playing around, I have a great relationship with him. I was asking him, because his plane was late, I asked him if he came by boat.

"The same thing happened with Cancelo, he was a bit sad during training and I grabbed him by the neck and told him 'Come on, you've got this', that's what I said. And then it became another controversy at your end.

"The whole atmosphere is excellent, it's bulletproof and iron clad. The next player who comes here, you don't have to ask about that, don't talk about me, you don't have to talk about Cristiano Ronaldo... help them out, ask them about the World Cup."

Van Gaal Insists on Netherlands' Chance of Winning World Cup



Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal

DOHA (Reuters) -- Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal has sounded a battle cry on the eve of his side's debut in the 2022 World Cup finals, saying he believes his side can lift the title that has always eluded them.

The Dutch were runners-up to

Germany in 1974 and to Argentina in 1978. They were beaten by Andres Iniesta's injury time goal for Spain in South Africa in 2010.

Van Gaal led the Dutch to third place in the 2014 World Cup finals in Brazil, with a team that included players such as Arjen Rob-

ben, Robin van Persie and Wesley Sneijder, but in his press conference ahead of Monday's game against Senegal, the coach insisted his current side is better.

This Netherlands team is led by Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk and also includes FC Barcelona's Frenkie de Jong and Bayern Munich's Matthijs de Ligt.

"Van Dijk truly is an excellent captain and this group is keen to do the job. The 2014 group wanted to do it, but the average quality of this group is higher. In 2014, there were Van Persie, Robben and Sneijder but Sneijder had to serve the squad in a different position, as he was usually a No. 10," Van Gaal explained.

"I believe in this squad of players. In 2014, we came third with a lesser squad than this group," insisted the coach, who nevertheless

said winning the title depends on more than just talent.

"A bit of luck: can you score at the right time? Things like that. We could become world champions: there are squads that are at a higher level than my squad, but it is about how my squad deals with that," commented the man who is in his third spell as national team coach.

"I like to think I can affect this as I have a head start," he joked, adding that he would prefer not to discuss political issues. "I am focusing on this coming match and I put a full stop on all these issues after we invited the migrant workers to watch our practice session."

"I have requested all my players to stop doing that too, because I want them to focus on football and focus on the game against Senegal," commented Van Gaal.

Ecuador Can Get Better, Says Team Manager Alfaro

AL KHOR (Reuters) - Ecuador manager Gustavo Alfaro said he was happy but not "totally satisfied" with his team's 2-0 victory over hosts Qatar in their opening match of the 2022 FIFA World Cup on Sunday.

"The most important thing today was to win. I'm not totally satisfied because we know there are a lot of things we can improve, but we are all learning, including me," the Argentine coach told a post-match press conference at the Al Bayt Stadium.

"It's a great victory. All games in the World Cup are difficult but the opening match against the tournament hosts involves more tension.

Alfaro said his players needed

to raise their game to another level in their remaining group-stage matches against Senegal and the Netherlands.

"Today we took an important step but it's not decisive. There are teams that have won their first match of the World Cup and not advanced (to the knockout stage). But having said all of that, this victory is important and it will give us confidence.

Playing in their fourth World Cup, Ecuador's best ever finish in the tournament was a round of 16 appearance against England in 2006, which they lost after a trademark David Beckham free-kick.

"We have big hopes but it's hard to say how much we can advance in the tournament. It will depend



Ecuador's head coach Gustavo Alfaro (left) talks to Ecuador's Angelo Preciado during the World Cup, group A soccer match between Qatar and Ecuador at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Nov 20, 2022.

on how much we are able to improve and incorporate aspects to

our game that we need to get better," Alfaro added.

Sacramento Beat Detroit 137-129, Runs Win Streak to 6 Games



Detroit Pistons guard Alec Burks (5) is guarded by Sacramento Kings guard De'Aaron Fox during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — De'Aaron Fox had 33 points and seven assists and the Sacramento Kings extended their winning streak to six games with a 137-129 win over the Detroit Pistons on Sunday night.

Fox scored 10 points in the fourth quarter, including a pair of free throws with 22.6 seconds remaining that extended Sacramento's lead to six points. The Kings have won eight of their last 10 games after starting the season 0-4.

Harrison Barnes had a season-high

27 points with nine rebounds. He hit two free throws with 14.6 seconds left to help secure the victory.

Kevin Huerter hit four 3-pointers and finished with 24 points as all of the Kings' starters scored in double figures. Domantas Sabonis had 15 points and 13 rebounds.

Pistons rookie Jaden Ivey, the fifth overall pick in the 2022 NBA draft, had 24 points. Bojan Bogdanovic added 21 points for Detroit, which has lost seven consecutive games and 10 of its last 11.

Djokovic Beats Ruud to Equal Federer ATP Record

TURIN, Italy (Sky Sports) — Former world number one Novak Djokovic has beaten Casper Ruud for a record-equalling sixth ATP Finals title.

The 35-year-old Serbian overcame his Norwegian opponent 7-5 6-3 in Turin.

Victory for Djokovic in the season-ending event caps a year in which he was forced to miss two majors because of his reluctance to take a Covid-19 vaccination.

He last won an ATP Finals title in

2015 and has matched Roger Federer's mark.

Earlier, Britain's Joe Salisbury and American partner Rajeev Ram triumphed in the men's doubles event.

Salisbury became the first Briton to win the doubles title as he and Ram beat Croatian pair Nikola Pietrangeli and Mate Pavic 7-6 (7-4) 6-4.

Djokovic took the biggest pay cheque in tennis, worth \$4,740,300, for going through the tournament unbeaten.