

Iran's Mixed Team Earns Silver at Asian Shotgun Championships



TEHRAN – Iran's Muhammad Beyranvand and Marzieh Parvarehshnia claimed a silver medal in the trap mixed team of the Asia Olympic Qualification Shotgun.

The Iranian duo registered 137 points.

Alisher Aisabayev and Mariya Dmitriyenko from Kazakhstan won the gold medal with a score of 140 points.

China's Yuhao Guo and Xiaojing Wang came third with 136 points.

The 2024 Asian Shotgun Championships is the 11th Asian Shotgun Championships taking place from 14 to 21 January in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

It's the last Asian qualifying shooting tournament for the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.

Wheelchair Basketballers Down Japan at IWBF AOZ

TEHRAN – Iran's men's wheelchair basketball team has defeated Japan 74-65 in the 2024 IWBF Asia Oceania Zone (AOZ) Championships.

Team Melli had previously defeated South Korea 67-48 and Thailand 86-51.

In latest development on Tuesday, men's wheelchair basketball team lost to Australia 69-60 in the 2024 IWBF Asia Oceania Championships.

Team Iran was recently award-

ed the title of the "2023 Best Asian Team Performance" by the Asian Paralympic Committee (AsPC).

The competition serves as a qualification for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games and the winner will qualify for the Paralympics.

The 2024 IWBF Asia Oceania Championships in men's and women's division are being held in Bangkok, Thailand from January 12 to 20.

Roma Sack Manager Mourinho Following Poor Run



AS Roma's head coach Jose Mourinho shouts during the Europa League final soccer match between Roma and Sevilla at the Puskas Arena stadium in Budapest, Hungary, on May 31, 2023.

ROME (Reuters) - AS Roma parted ways with manager Jose Mourinho on Tuesday, with the Serie A club's owners saying the decision was made with the "best interests" of the team in mind.

Roma are ninth in the league after Sunday's 3-1 loss to AC Milan, and have struggled to overcome the loss of key players due to injury, including striker Paulo Dybala.

They are 22 points behind league leaders Inter Milan.

"AS Roma can confirm that Jose Mourinho and his coaching staff will leave the club with immediate effect," the club said in a statement.

"Further updates on the new first team coaching staff will follow imminently."

Roma have taken just four points from their last five league matches, and were eliminated from the Coppa Italia last week in a 1-0 defeat to rivals Lazio.

Following that defeat, Mourinho had likened himself to fictional wizard Harry Potter, saying his position at the club was raising fans' expectations for success.

He also hit back at critics, labeling himself as the perfect example of professionalism despite his team suffering recent poor results.

"We would like to thank Jose on behalf of all of us at AS Roma for his passion and efforts since his arrival at the club," club owners Dan and Ryan Friedkin said in a statement.

"We will always have great memories of his tenure at Roma, but we believe that an immediate change is in the best interests of the club.

"We wish Jose and his assistants all the best in their future endeavours."

Mourinho, who has coached a host of top European clubs including Porto, Chelsea, Inter Milan, Real Madrid and Manchester United, was appointed coach of Roma in 2021.

Under the Portuguese manager, Roma won the third-tier Europa Conference League in 2022. He also led them to the Europa League final in 2023, where they were beaten on penalties by Sevilla.

Jordan, Iraq Claim Opening Wins at Asian Cup

DOHA (Reuters) - Jordan crushed Malaysia 4-0 in the Asian Cup while Iraq cruised to a 3-1 win over Indonesia as the west Asian sides flexed their muscles in their respective group openers.

On a day where each match featured four goals, Jordan's thumping victory moved them to the top of Group E - above South Korea who beat Bahrain 3-1 earlier on Monday.

Jordan's Mahmoud Al-Mardi put his hand up for an early contender for goal of the tournament when the winger gave his side the lead with a shot from outside the box that floated over the keeper and into the top corner at the far post.

Musa Al-Taamari doubled their lead from the spot after a penalty



was awarded for a foul on Yazan Al-Naimat following a VAR review while Al-Mardi made it 3-0 when he scored his second from a tap-in after being set up by Yazan Al-Naimat.

Al-Taamari grabbed his second when he lobbed the keeper in the

85th minute to complete the rout. Like Malaysia, Indonesia were also making their return to the Asian Cup for the first time since 2007 and though the south-east Asian side were able to hold their own against Iraq for 45 minutes, they ran out of gas in the second

half.

Substitute Aymen Hussein then won a header in the 75th minute and volleyed home from the edge of the six-yard box to make it 3-1.

Iraq are second in Group D behind four-times champions Japan, who beat Vietnam 4-2 on Sunday.

within FIFA, there would have been some form of statement addressing the ongoing events."

Despite being scheduled as a home game for Palestine, the World Cup 2026 qualifier against Australia has been relocated to Kuwait following Israel's recent attacks on Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

Alcaraz Destroys Gasquet to Reach Australian Open Second Round



Carlos Alcaraz of Spain plays a backhand return to Richard Gasquet of France during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championships at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024.

MELBOURNE (AFP) – Carlos Alcaraz produced a ominous show of strength in his first match at the Australian Open on Tuesday, demolishing French veteran Richard Gasquet 7-6 (7/5), 6-1, 6-2.

The second seed, gunning to unseat 10-time champion Novak Djokovic from the world number one spot, was tested in a tight first set but then moved through the

gears.

Alcaraz said it was good to be back in Melbourne, where he has not been beyond the third round in his previous two visits.

"In the first set I struggled a little with his game," he said. "He was playing great but I played better and better and at the end I reached quite a good level."

The Spaniard admitted he some-

times tries to play "impossible shots", including volleys and dropshots, to please his fans.

Clad in a sleeveless yellow T-shirt, the two-time Grand Slam winner squandered nine break point opportunities in the first set but was rarely in trouble on his own serve.

The tie-break was a tight affair but Alcaraz, playing his first match of the season, capitalized on his first set point, hitting a forehand winner at the net.

The Wimbledon champion, who missed last year's Australian Open through injury, raced through the second set in 30 minutes, breaking Gasquet's serve twice and showing his full range of shot-making.

It was a similar story in the third set -- 37-year-old Gasquet offered occasional glimpses of his rare talent but was given the run-around by a man 17 years his junior.

Alcaraz was briefly held up

when serving the match but sealed victory with an ace before thanking the packed crowd at a rapt Rod Laver Arena.

Messi Named FIFA Player of 2023, Bonmati Wins Women's Award

LONDON (Reuters) - Argentine Lionel Messi retained the FIFA men's player of the year trophy on Monday, beating Manchester City's treble-winning Norwegian striker Erling Haaland and France's Paris St Germain forward Kylian Mbappe to the award.

Spain's 2023 World Cup winner Aitana Bonmati was voted the best women's player of the year.

Messi, who also secured the men's award in 2022 after guiding Argentina to World Cup victory, clinched the Ligue 1 title with PSG alongside Mbappe following that success, before moving to Major League Soccer team Inter Miami.

The 36-year-old, voted the best player by national teams coaches, captains, journalists and fans, helped Inter Miami win the 2023 Leagues Cup - a competition between MLS and Mexico's Liga MX sides - scoring 10 goals.

Messi was not present to collect the trophy.



The award period for the men's prize ran from Dec 19, 2022 to Aug 20, 2023, and started the day after the World Cup final in Qatar.

Haaland, who helped City clinch a treble of Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League titles by scoring 52 goals in 53 matches across all competitions in the 2022-23 season, finished second in the voting.

Sarina Wiegman claimed the Best Women's coach prize after leading England to the World Cup final where they lost 1-0 to Spain.

Seven of her Lionesses were included in the Women's World XI, including Mary Earps, who also took the Best Women's Goalkeeper Award.

Brazil's Manchester City keeper Eder-son won the men's award.