

# Iranian Runners Secure More Medals at Asian Indoor Athletic Championships



TEHRAN – Iranian runners have won more medals in the 11th edition of the Asian Indoor Athletic Championships underway in Tehran on Monday. In 4x400 relay and pole vaulter, Mahsa Mirzatabibi won a silver and a bronze medal respectively on

Monday. Kazhan Rostami, Shahla Mahmoudi, Nazanin Fatemeh Eidian and Maryam Mohebi seized the silver with a time of 3:41.72 minutes. The gold medal went to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan claimed the

bronze medal. Mirzatabibi also won a bronze in Pole Vault with 4.10 meters. Almost 400 athletes from 26 nations are competing in the event. Sajjad Aghaei grabbed the gold medal in the men's 400 meters.

Aghaei finished the race at 47.95 seconds and stood in the first place of the sporting event.

Runners from Bangladesh and Iraq stood in second and third places respectively.

In the women's 800 meters, Toktam Dastarbandan and Negin Azari Edalat won a gold and a silver medal respectively.

Dastarbandan finished in first place with a time of 2:09.17 minutes.

Azari Edalat also clocked 2:11.43 minutes to come second.

On Sunday, in the women's 400 meters, Nazanin Fatemeh Eidian and Kazhan Rostami of Iran won a silver and a bronze medal.

Eidian snatched a silver medal with 55.33 seconds, while Rostami won a bronze with 55.35.

Japanese runner Nanako Matsuoto claimed the gold medal with 55.14 seconds.

Almost 400 athletes from 26 nations are competing in the event.

The 2024 Asian Indoor Athletic Championships are being held from February 17 to 19 in Tehran, the capital of Iran.

## Vahid Nouri Wins Gold at IBSA Grand Prix Germany



TEHRAN – Iran's Vahid Nouri won a gold medal at the 2024 IBSA Grand Prix Germany Sunday night.

He defeated Turkish judo athlete Ibrahim Bolukbasi in the final match of the J2 +90kg.

Jack Hodgson of Britain and Kazakhstan's Zhurkamyrza Shukurbekov won the bronze medals.

Iran's Meysam Banitaba had won a gold medal in the J1 -60kg on Saturday.

Earlier on Saturday, Meysam Banitaba won a gold medal at the event.

He beat his Brazilian opponent Elielton De Oliveira in the final match of the J1 -60kg.

The bronze medals went to Shiwen Zhu from China and Uruguayan judoka Henry Borges.

Almost 250 judokas from 47 nations are in the city of Heidelberg, Germany, for the first Paralympic qualifier of 2024.

The tournament is being held from February 14 to 19.

Germany hosts the first tournament of three that holds the final list of athletes qualified for Paris 2024.

## Italy's Sinner Wins Rotterdam Title After Australian Open

THE HAGUE (Reuters) - Italy's Jannik Sinner won the 51st edition of the ABN Amro Open ATP tournament in Rotterdam on Sunday, beating Australia's Alex De Minaur 7-5, 6-4 in a thrilling final.

After having won the Australian Open, his first Grand

Slam victory, in January, 22-year-old Sinner came to Rotterdam with a lot of confidence and was favorite to win the tournament. In Saturday's semifinal, he beat local favorite Tallon Griekspoor 6-2, 6-4.

The final against De Minaur, ranked 11th in the ATP world

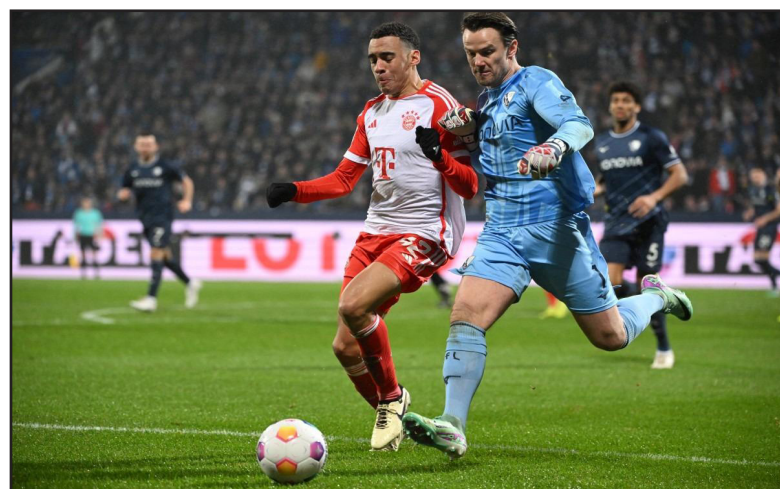
rankings, was a fascinating match full of lengthy rallies. De Minaur made it 5-5 with a break after four missed set points for Sinner, but a game later, the Australian was broken again.

In the second set, De Minaur lost his service game at 3-3

and Sinner went on to win the duel.

It was the 15th consecutive victory for Sinner, who will jump from fourth to third in the rankings on Monday. Last year, Sinner had lost the final in Rotterdam to Daniil Medvedev of Russia.

## Bochum Stun Bayern Munich 3-2 in Third Straight Loss



Bayern Munich's German midfielder #42 Jamal Musiala (left) and Bochum's German goalkeeper #01 Manuel Riemann vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match between VfL Bochum and FC Bayern Munich in Bochum, western Germany on Feb 18, 2024.

BOCHUM (Reuters) - Champions Bayern Munich crashed to a 3-2 loss at VfL Bochum on Sunday for a third straight defeat in all competitions, dropping eight points behind league leaders Bayer Leverkusen.

The Bavarians, who had Dayot Upamecano sent off for the second consecutive match after his dismissal in Wednesday's Champions League loss to Lazio, showed no real game plan with coach Thomas Tuchel now facing mounting pressure.

His team had lost last week's big league match against Leverkusen and suffered a 1-0 defeat to Italy's Lazio in their round-of-16 first leg.

"Now (the title) does not look very realistic," Tuchel said. "But last season we believed until the end and we were rewarded. So we will keep working at it."

Referring to the pressure on him following his team's third loss, he added: "That happens after every defeat.

"The 'how' we played is key. The 'how' was good today and that's why today's 90 minutes are very different from the second half at Lazio or the game at Leverkusen."

Bayern were desperate to bounce back and did get a 13th-minute lead

when Jamal Musiala drilled in from a tight angle as early pressure paid off.

Bundesliga top scorer Harry Kane should have made it 2-0 but he missed a sitter in front of goal in the 19th, firing wildly over the bar before the game was interrupted.

Fans started throwing tennis balls on to the pitch in protest at a planned foreign investment in the Bundesliga.

Such protests have increased on recent matchdays with almost every league game on Saturday and Sunday having been briefly interrupted.

The 15-minute stop in play did wonders for Bochum's game, with Takuma Asano completing a quick break to stun Bayern with a 38th-minute equalizer.

They completed their comeback before the break when Keven Schlotterbeck headed in a corner in the 44th.

Kevin Stoeger's 78th-minute penalty put the game to bed after Upamecano was sent off for elbowing an opponent in the box, with a second booking.

Kane tapped in his 25th league goal in the 87th but it did little more than inject some late drama, with Bochum holding on to the three points.

## Real Madrid Drop Points; Barca, Atletico Win



Real Madrid's Luka Modric (center) challenges for the ball with Rayo's Alvaro Garcia during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Rayo Vallecano and Real Madrid at the Vallecas stadium in Madrid, Spain, on Feb 18, 2024.

MADRID (Reuters) - Real Madrid dropped two points in the race for the La Liga title on Sunday, being held to a 1-1 draw away to Rayo Vallecano.

The draw lifts Carlo Ancelotti's team six points clear of second-placed Girona, who have a difficult game away to Athletic Bilbao on Monday night, but means they miss the chance to go eight clear and increase the pressure on their nearest rivals in the title race.

Real Madrid got off to a perfect start when Mato Joselu slid them ahead from a low Fede Valverde cross after just two minutes.

Inigo Perez was making his debut as Rayo coach, and his players responded with an impressive display, getting their reward in the 27th minute when Eduardo Camavinga was penalized for handball and Raul de Tomas leveled from the spot.

In injury time, Madrid right-back Dani Carvajal was sent off after receiving two yellow cards in two minutes, and he will miss next weekend's home game against Sevilla.

On Saturday, Robert Lewandowski scored a twice-taken 97th-minute penalty to give FC Barcelona a 2-1 win over Celta Vigo.

## Damian Lillard Sweeps All-Star Weekend by Adding MVP Award to 3-Point Title

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Milwaukee Bucks guard Damian Lillard came to Indianapolis with one purpose — to win.

On Sunday, the first-time All-Star starter headed home with a rare All-Star weekend sweep.

Lillard earned MVP honors by scoring 39 points, making 11 3-pointers and finishing with six assists, three rebounds and one steal, in the East's record-breaking 211-186 win over the West one day after earning his second straight 3-point contest. He's the first player since Michael Jordan in 1988 to earn two titles on back-to-back nights.

"I just know you've got to keep shooting the ball and I think in a game like this, it's going to be pretty loose and you're going to get your opportunities," Lillard said. "I just told myself I'm going to be aggressive and I'm going to keep firing. I saw a

couple go in and after that it was just like I'm going after it."

At times it seemed he couldn't miss and nothing was out of his shooting range.

The eight-time All-Star's first 3 came from the NBA logo. In the third quarter, he hit a pull-up 3 from half-court before capping the night with a second half-court 3 late in the game.

Lillard finished his first appearance with the East by going 14 of 26 from the field and 11 of 23 on 3s for a team that broke the All-Star Game records for total points and 3s with 42.

His performance was every bit as impressive to his Bucks teammate, two-time league MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo, as it was to Kevin Durant, a two-time NBA champion and two-time All-Star MVP.

"It's hard to play defense when somebody's shooting 30, 40



Milwaukee Bucks guard Damian Lillard (0) lifts the MVP trophy after the East defeated the West 211-186 in the NBA All-Star basketball game in Indianapolis, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024.

footers over you," Durant said. "It was a great display of shooting tonight."

Lillard was one of eight players for the East who scored in double figures, one of three to top the 30-point mark. Boston

guard Jaylen Brown had 36 after competing in Saturday's Slam Dunk contest and Indiana guard Tyrese Haliburton added 32 points and 10 3s after competing in two contests Saturday night.