

# Iran Bag Three Medals in Karate1 Premier League



TEHRAN – Iranian representatives to the Karate1 Premier League have finished the competition winning a gold medal, a silver, and a bronze one.

The three-day tournament, which is the most important league event in the world of Karate, ended in Paris, France, on Sunday.

On her way to the final game, Iran's Atousa Golshadnejad defeated all her rivals in the 61kg weight class. She also beat Anita Serogina, a powerful rival from Ukraine and the number two of the world ranking, in the final match to become Iran's only gold medalist of the tournament.

Mobina Heydari, another Iranian female karateka, lost 4-2 to her rival from France, to receive the silver medal of the 68kg weight class.

Iran's Ali Meskini defeated his Kuwaiti rival in the third-place game of the 60kg weight category of men to snatch the bronze medal.

## Kim Jong-hyeok to Officiate Iran Vs Syria in Asian Cup



TEHRAN – South Korean referee Kim Jong-hyeok was appointed to officiate the match between Iran and Syria.

Team Melli is scheduled to face Syria on Wednesday in the 2023 AFC Asian Cup knockout stage.

Kim, who became a FIFA referee in 2009, has refereed in 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 qualifiers and 2023-24 AFC Champions League.

## Jordan Beat Iraq 3-2, Reach Asian Cup Quarterfinals

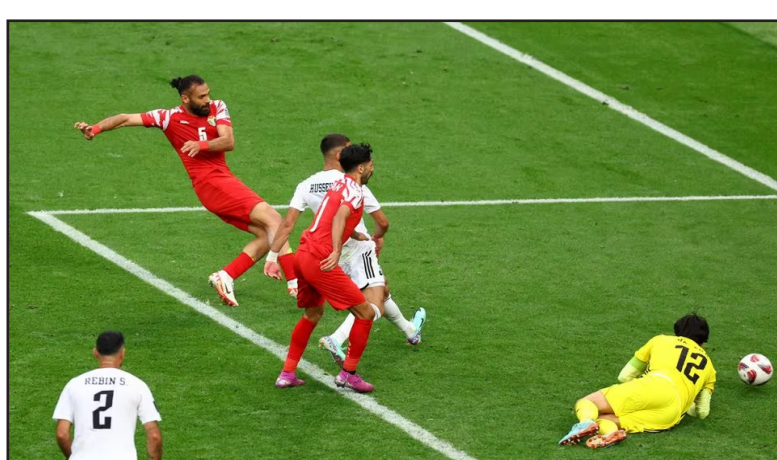
DOHA (Dispatches) - Jordan advanced to the Asian Cup quarterfinals after two stoppage-time goals secured a 3-2 win over Iraq, who had striker and tournament top scorer Ayman Hussein sent off late on for excessive goal celebrations on Monday.

With Iraq looking destined to move into the last eight when the clock struck 90 minutes, Jordan's Yazan Al-Arab equalized in the 95th before Nizar Al-Rashdan scored two minutes later with a glorious long-range effort to break Iraqi hearts.

Jordan went ahead on the stroke of halftime when Yazan Al-Naimat pounced on a sloppy pass and raced past the defense.

The 24-year-old chipped the ball over goalkeeper Jalal Hassan to score before celebrating with his team mates by sitting on the turf and pretending to eat a meal.

Iraq struck back in the 68th



Jordan's Yazan Al Arab scores their second goal

when Saad Natiq headed home from a corner before Hussein scored eight minutes later when he controlled a cross and fired into the bottom corner.

The joy of scoring his sixth goal of the tournament quickly turned to shock when the referee produced a

second yellow card for excessive celebrations after the striker mimicked Jordan's players and sat on the turf, pretending to eat by himself.

While Iraq fumed, Jordan took full advantage of the extra man and when Mousa Tamari's stoppage

time effort was parried by Hassan, Al-Arab was on hand to fire home the rebound.

The comeback was complete when midfielder Al-Rashdan was left unmarked outside the box and curled his shot past the keeper to set up a quarterfinal with tournament debutants Tajikistan.

### Tajikistan Stun UAE on Penalties

On Sunday, Asian Cup debutants Tajikistan upset the United Arab Emirates 5-3 in a penalty shootout to advance to the quarterfinals and keep their dream run alive after the game ended 1-1 after extra time at the Ahmed bin Ali Stadium.

Tajikistan took the lead through Vahdat Hanonov's first-half goal before Khalifa Al Hammadi forced extra time with a stoppage-time header.

## Milan Miss Two Penalties, 10-Man Juve Stalled by Empoli



ROME (Reuters) - AC Milan have missed two penalties and only settled for a 2-2 draw against Bologna in Se-

rie A, while 10-man Juventus were held by Empoli 1-1.

The Rossoneri entered San Siro

with four consecutive league victories but found themselves on the back foot in the 29th minute when Joshua Zirkzee placed a low strike from a tight angle.

The home side should have taken the lead in the 42nd minute when Simon Kjaer earned a penalty, but Olivier Giroud saw his weak attempt saved by goalkeeper Lukasz Skorupski.

But Milan still got back on level terms before the break when Davide Calabria rolled across, Ruben Loftus-Cheek tapped it in from a close range.

Milan had another spot-kick in the 75th minute but this time Theo

Hernandez hit the upright.

Loftus-Cheek helped Milan turn around the game in the 83rd minute as he redirected Alessandro Florenzi's pass into the net, but Bologna ruined it deep into stoppage time when Riccardo Orsolini stepped up to convert a penalty.

Elsewhere, Juve lost a player just 18 minutes into the game when Arkadiusz Milik was sent off for an awful tackle.

The Bianconeri went ahead straight after the break when Dusan Vlahovic swept it into the net, but Tommaso Baldanzi's blockbuster helped Empoli leave Allianz Stadium with one point.

## Magic Beat Suns 113-98 in NBA

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Paolo Banchero scored 26 points and the Orlando Magic beat the Phoenix Suns 113-98 on Sunday night, overcoming Devin Booker's 44-point effort two days after he had 62 in a loss at Indiana.

Phoenix went more than eight minutes between field goals in the fourth quarter and scored only four points in the last 10 minutes, losing its second straight after a seven-game winning streak.

The Magic's defensive shutdown was accomplished with a lineup that included the 6-10 Banchero, 6-10 Franz Wagner, 6-11 Moritz Wagner and 6-11 Jonathan Isaac.

Booker was 17 of 26 from the field and hit 9 of 11 free throws. But he had only two points in the fourth quarter.

The Suns shot 5 for 18 with seven turnovers in a 13-point

fourth quarter.

Moritz Wagner came off the bench with 16 points and 12 rebounds in 23 minutes.

"What Mo did was give us extra possessions on the offensive glass," Magic coach Jamahl Mosley said. "I don't think (people) realize how important that is in a game like this, against an elite scoring team, when you get extra possessions."

Kevin Durant, limited to 12 shots, had 15 points and seven of the Suns' 23 turnovers.

The Suns made 18 of their first 24 shots, including a long jumper by Durant that gave them a 13-point lead at the start of the second quarter.

Booker finished his 21-point third quarter by scoring the Suns' final seven points, but as he sat out the first four minutes of the fourth quarter, the Magic moved ahead.



Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker (1) shoots in front of Orlando Magic center Wendell Carter Jr. during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024, in Orlando, Fla.

A 3-pointer by Franz Wagner put the Magic up 97-92 just after Booker got back into the game, and another 3-pointer by Isaac made it 104-94 with 3:59 left.

The Suns shot 56% overall, but took only 14 threes, 18 be-

low their season average.

We forced the into the tough, contested twos with sometimes three hands on them," Mosley said.

Phoenix center Jusuf Nurkic sat out because of a sprained left thumb.

## DR Congo Beat Egypt on Penalties in Cup of Nations Last-16



DR Congo's Gedeon Kalulu celebrate with teammates after the match

SAN PEDRO, Ivory Coast

(Reuters) - Egypt goalkeeper Mohamed Abou Gabal missed his penalty in the shootout as the Democratic Republic of Congo claimed an epic 8-7 victory following a tense 1-1 draw in their Africa Cup of Nations last-16 clash in San Pedro.

Abou Gabal clipped the crossbar with his effort and then opposite number Lionel Mpsi scored against him as record seven-times winners Egypt bowed out at the Laurent Pokou Stadium, sparking jubilant scenes for the Congolese, who now play Guinea in the quarter-finals in Abidjan on Friday.

Meschack Elia gave DR Congo the lead in the game when he headed in virtually on the goal-line, but the advantage lasted nine minutes before Mostafa Mohamed scored his fourth goal of the tournament from the penalty spot on the stroke of halftime.

Egypt midfielder Mohamed Hamdy received a red card in extra time, after which The Pharaohs, without injured talisman Mohamed Salah, stopped attacking and held on as the game went to a shootout.

The last time DR Congo beat Egypt in a Cup of Nations clash was in the semi-finals 50 years ago when they went on to lift the trophy.

It was a fourth draw in a row for both sides in the Ivory Coast this year, while for Egypt it was a sixth in a row dating back to the last tournament in Cameroon and a fifth extra-time in succession in

knockout games.

That lack of a killer touch came back to haunt them as they could not finish the game in the 90 minutes, and once Hamdy received his marching orders it was always going to be a battle in the sweltering heat of San Pedro.

DR Congo took the lead on 37 minutes when Yoann Wissa's deflected cross from the left was headed over the line by Elia. The goal emanated from a quick throw-in that Egypt felt should have been theirs, and as such were slow to react when the Congolese re-started play.

But Egypt levelled in first-half injury-time when Congolese defender Dylan Batubinsika struck the face of Ahmed Hegazi with an extended arm during an aerial duel in the penalty-box, and a spot-kick was awarded after a VAR review.

In the absence of Salah, Mohamed stepped up to confidently convert and net his fourth goal of the tournament, though he would later miss in the shootout.

Mohamed became the first Egyptian player to score in their first four matches at a Cup of Nations finals, and the third to score in four matches overall after Ali Abo Gresha (1974) and Gedo (2010).

DR Congo striker Cedric Bakambu turned a cross wide of the post when well-placed early in the second half, and Chancel Mbemba headed over moments later as the game went to extra time and ultimately spot-kicks.