

Iran's Wheelchair Basketball Team Beats Iraq



TEHRAN – Iran's national wheelchair basketball team defeated Iraq 83-41 in the 2022 IWBF (International Wheelchair Basketball Federation) World Championships underway in Dubai, UAE on Wednesday.

Iran has already lost to two-time champion Britain 90-59 and the US 82-74 at the 2022 IWBF World Championships.

Iran, the UK, the USA, and Iraq are in Group D, while Group A consists of Australia, Italy, Brazil,

and the UAE.

Egypt, Germany, Canada, and Thailand are in Group B, while the Netherlands, Argentina, South Korea, and France are drawn in Group C.

The 2022 IWBF World Championships are being held in Dubai, UAE.

The competition was originally scheduled for November 16 to 27, 2022, but was postponed to June 9 to 20, 2023.

Iranian Water Polo Team Downs Peru at World U20 Championships



TEHRAN – Iran defeated Peru 12-6 in Group H of the 2023 World Aquatics Men's U20 Water Polo Championships on Tuesday.

The national Iranian water polo team started the campaign

with a 15-13 win over Argentina but lost to Australia 17-3.

Iran will play Brazil and South Africa, respectively.

The competition is being held in Bucharest/Otopeni, Romania from June 10 to 17.

Footballers Thrash Afghanistan in 2023 CAFA Nations Cup

TEHRAN – Iran started the 2023 CAFA Nations Cup on high note, defeating Afghanistan 6-1 in Group B on Tuesday.

Sardar Azmoun scored Iran's first goal in the 20th minute at the Dolon Omurzakov Stadium in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Mehdi Taremi scored twice in the 21st and 28th minutes and Alireza Jahanbakhsh made scoreboard 4-0 in the 45th minute.

Taremi scored his third goal in the 51st minute to complete his hat-trick.

Afghanistan player Farshad Noor pulled a goal back with a long-range shoot in the 57th

minute.

Reza Asadi scored Team Melli's sixth goal in the 67th minute.

Amir Ghalenoei's team will play host Kyrgyzstan on Friday.

Group A consists of host Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Oman.

Except for Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, the remaining teams are part of the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 cast.

The respective group winners will face off in the final while the runners-up will play for third place, with both matches scheduled for June 20.



Iran defeated Afghanistan 6-1 in their opening match in the 2023 CAFA Nations Cup on Tuesday. Sardar Azmoun scored his 42nd goal in his 69th appearance for Team Melli in the match.

Venus Loses to Swiss Teen on Return to Competition



ROSMALLEN, Netherlands (Reuters) - Venus Williams' re-

turn to action following a five-month injury layoff ended in defeat as the seven-times Grand Slam champion fell to Swiss teenager Celine Naef in three sets at the Libema Open grasscourt tournament in Rosmalen, Netherlands.

With sister Serena, who retired last year, watching on in the crowd, the 42-year-old Williams started brightly but lost the closely fought second in the

tiebreak before fading in the decider on Tuesday.

The former world number one, a five-time winner at Wimbledon, lost 3-6 7-6 (6-3) 6-2 to 17-year-old Naef in two hours and 18 minutes.

"I cannot believe I had the chance to play against Venus," Naef said after her first win on the WTA Tour. "She's an amazing player and really a role model for anyone."

Williams, who was handed a wildcard for the tournament, had been sidelined since January after sustaining a hamstring injury in Auckland that forced her to withdraw from the Australian Open.

She won her last major singles title at the grasscourt Grand Slam in 2008. This year's Wimbledon tournament begins on July 3.

Lewandowski Rules Out Move to Saudi Arabia

WARSAW (Reuters) - FC Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski ruled out moving to the Saudi Professional League this summer as "he has other priorities" and his contract with the Spanish champions is valid until 2026.

In his first season in the Spanish La Liga the Pole definitely met expectations as he led Xavi Hernandez' team to the league title and he was the best scorer of the competition with 23 goals.

According to some media, after a stunning season, Lewandowski's future was in question as his name has been put on the wishlists of several clubs. Sky Sports Deutschland journalist Florian Plettenberg shared reports the Pole was on the radar of clubs from Saudi Arabia.

However, the forward emphasized that he is fully focused on playing for Barcelona.

"I'm not considering any of-



Barcelona's Polish forward Robert Lewandowski kicks the ball during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Real Sociedad at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on May 20, 2023.

fers from Saudi Arabia because there is nothing to consider. I have a contract until 2026 with FC Barcelona. I'm aware of the situation in Saudi Arabia but I'm not worried about it. I have other priorities", Lewandowski told the Polish press on Tuesday.

"The first season in Barcelona was special for me. After a

good start, I knew a tough moment would come. The second part of the season was more difficult for us, but everything is back on track", the 34-year-old added.

On Friday Poland will face Germany in a friendly game in Warsaw. The captain of the hosts warned his teammates before the clash.

North Korea Register for Asian Games in China - Report

BEIJING (Reuters) - North Korea has registered to participate in this year's Asian Games in China, a move that could potentially mark the country's comeback to the international sports stage after the COVID-19 pandemic, Kyodo reported on Wednesday.

The Asian Games will take place in Hangzhou, China, from Sep. 23 to Oct. 8, a year after being

postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is not known if North Korea will ease its tight COVID-19 restrictions.

North Korea have self-imposed lockdowns aimed at preventing COVID-19 outbreaks and are under strict international sanctions over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

North Korea skipped the 2024 Olympic Games

qualifying weightlifting competition in Cuba earlier this month after registering 14 athletes for the tournament.

Kyodo reported that China's deputy sports minister Zhou Jinqiang said that this year's edition would be the "largest and highest-level international comprehensive sports event", with 45 Olympic Asian committees participating.