

Iran Wheelchair Basketball Team Ranks Third in World Championships



TEHRAN - The national Iranian men's wheelchair basketball team has put a highly commendable end to its

campaign at the 2022 International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) World Championships and

ranked third at the end of the high-status international event.

On Tuesday, the final day of the tournament at Dubai World Trade Centre, the Iranian team defeated the Dutch squad 72-54 in the third-place play-off.

The national wheelchair basketball team lost to the British side 59-90 in its opening match on June 10, before being beaten 74-82 by the U.S. outfit in the second fixture.

The physically-challenged athletes routed their Iraqi and French counterparts 83-41 and 89-79 respectively in the next ties on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Iranian sportsmen took on Germany in the next match on June 16, and overcame the European team 70-

68 to advance to the semi-finals and win the ticket for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, as the contests served as an Olympic qualification event.

The team slumped to the British squad 64-44 in its semi-final encounter on Sunday and had to face the Netherlands in the bronze medal game.

The 2022 IWBF Wheelchair Basketball World Championships took place in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, between June 9 and 20, 2023.

Originally scheduled to be held in November 2022, it was postponed to June 2023 in order not to clash with the 2022 FIFA World Cup being held in Qatar, but the name of the event was not changed.

Volleyballers Edge Germany at VNL



TEHRAN - Iran defeated Germany 3-0 (25-23, 26-24, 25-16) in its opening match of the 2023 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) Week 2 on Tuesday.

Iran's Amin Esmailnezhad scored 16 points and Moritz Reichert earned 11 points for Germany in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Iran will meet Italy on Wednesday.

Behrouz Ataei's men will face

the U.S. and the Netherlands on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

The Preliminary Phase campaign started on June 6 and includes matches in Nagoya (Japan), Rotterdam (the Netherlands) and Anaheim (USA).

If Iran qualifies for the VNL Finals as one of top eight teams, it will travel to Gdansk, Poland for the event from July 19 through 23.

Romania Stun Swiss in Thrilling Draw in Euro 2024 Group I

LUCERNE, Switzerland (Reuters) - Romania forward Valentin Mihailescu struck a late double in three minutes to earn his side a 2-2 draw with Switzerland in their Euro 2024 Group I qualifier on Monday as the visitors snatched a point having been second best for most of the game.

Two goals from red-hot striker Zeki Amdouni looked to have won the day for the Swiss, who should have been out of sight by halftime having created loads of chances, but Mihailescu's unlikely brace will provide more frustration for home coach Murat Yakin.

He had been critical of his side after their lacklustre 2-1 victo-



Switzerland's forward Zeki Amdouni (center) scores his team's first goal during the UEFA Euro 2024 group I qualifying round football match between Switzerland and Romania in Lucerne, on June 19, 2023.

ry in Andorra on Friday, but must have thought they would make it four wins from four in the qualifiers as they led Romania going into the final minute of the 90.

Switzerland still top the group with 10 points as they bid for a place at next year's finals in Germany, while Romania are second with eight points, also from four matches.

The hosts were left to wonder how they failed to win, having been put in the driving seat by Amdouni's double and after creating numerous other opportunities through the guile of playmakers Xherdan Shaqiri and Ruben Vargas.

Iran's Sabre Team Runner-Up in Asian Fencing Championships



TEHRAN - The national Iranian sabre fencing team lost to South Korea to finish in second place in the 2023 Asian Fencing Championships.

Iranian sabre fencing team faced the South Korean team in the final match at the Asian Fencing Championship on Tuesday and were defeated by the East Asian team 28 to 45 to become vice-champions.

The national sabre fencing team advanced to the semi-final stage after holding only one match and moved forward to the final match by defeating the

team of Japan.

The Iranian team have not become champions in the Asian sabre fencing competitions yet while the team have silver and bronze medals in their record.

In the individual division of the Asian Fencing Championship in the sabre category, Ali Pakdaman from Iran became the champion and Mohammad Dari got the bronze medal.

The 2023 Asian Fencing Championships were held in Wuxi, China from 17 to 22 June 2023 at the Taihu International Expo Center.

Police Raid Paris 2024 Olympics Organizers' Office

PARIS (AFP) - Police raided the headquarters of the Paris 2024 Olympics just over a year before the opening ceremony of the quadrennial sporting showpiece.

Raids were carried out at the headquarters of the committee, which is known as Cojo, and at the offices of Solideo, the body in charge of the Olympic construction sites.

Prosecutors (PNF) confirmed to AFP that they had authorized the raids in connection to two separate ongoing investigations.

A spokesman for prosecutors said the probes concerned "illegal conflict of interest, misuse of public funds and favoritism".

The first investigation was launched in 2017 involving the anti-corruption and financial crime investigators concerning a series of contracts signed off

by "several powerful decision makers linked to the Games, notably the Cojo and their predecessors GIP 2024 (the bidding committee)," said the prosecutors.

The second investigation was opened in 2022 and allocated to the BRDE, the financial brigade of the Parisian police.

They are looking into suspicions of conflict of interest and favoritism.

The PNF acted after the French Anti-Corruption Agency (AFA) raised red flags over several deals signed off by Cojo and Solideo.

According to a source close to the case it involves "consultancy contracts" on "different topics."

Another source told AFP that one of the two investigations surrounded Edouard Donnelly, executive director of operations for Cojo who is also a service provider for the Games via his

company RNK.

Cojo and Solideo said they were "co-operating fully with the investigators in order to facilitate their investigation."

The IOC said they had taken note of the raids.

"We have been informed by Paris 2024, that they are cooperating fully with the authorities in this matter," a spokesperson said.

The French sports ministry declined to comment.

This is the first such raid on the organizing committee's headquarters.

Two reports by AFA in 2021 highlighted "risks affecting probity" and "conflicts of interests" which it warned could impinge on the "whiter than white" image of the Games that the head of the organizing committee, Tony Estanguet, wished for.

AFA inspectors said the procedure for purchases was "imprecise and incomplete" and emphasized that there "exists sometimes potential situations of conflicts of interests which are not overseen correctly."

The inspectors drew attention to criminal cases involving the past two Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo.

They remarked that the "risks to probity being observed are plentiful in the context of major sporting events."

David Roizen, a French expert in public policy and sport, told AFP the raids would harm the Paris organizers' image.

"In the eyes of the general public, these raids are catastrophic. (The organizers) have lost their credibility, especially in their duty to set a good example," he said.

Mbappe Scores as France Maintain Perfect Record

PARIS (AFP) - France striker Kylian Mbappe scored to set another milestone as his side maintained their perfect record in Euro 2024 qualifying Group B with a 1-0 home victory against Greece who finished with 10 men after a late sending off.

Mbappe netted a second-half penalty to become the all-time leading French scorer over a season with 54 goals for club and country, beating the mark set by Just Fontaine in 1957-58.

It also helped the Paris St Germain forward to move level with Manchester City striker Erling Haaland, who has the chance to finish as top scorer among those playing in the five main European leagues when Norway face Cyprus on Tuesday.

The result left France top with 12 points, six ahead of second-placed Greece, who had Konstantinos Mavropanos sent off in the 69th minute after Mbappe's 55th minute spot kick.



France's Kylian Mbappe (center) challenges for the ball during the Euro 2024 group B qualifying soccer match between France and Greece at the Stade de France, outside Paris, on June 19, 2023.

"It was a long season for the players," said France coach Didier Deschamps. "We did what we had to do to win this game even if we can regret we did not score another because you never know what can happen

late in the game.

"We wanted to follow up on our win against Gibraltar, in front of our crowd," said midfielder Eduardo Camavinga, referring to France's 3-0 win on Friday.

Argentina Cap Asian Tour With 2-0 Win Over Indonesia

JAKARTA (Reuters) - A long-range thunderbolt from Leandro Paredes and a second-half headed goal from Cristian Romero earned Argentina a 2-0 victory in a friendly against Indonesia, making it two wins from two for the world champions on their short tour of Asia.

The South Americans dominated an at-times scrappy match against a spirited Indonesia team who were energized by a rapturous crowd of 56,000 which cheered every pass, throw and foray into the Argentine half.

The visitors had the best of the early action, with Nahuel Molina and Nicolas Gonzalez both denied and Facundo Buonanotte squandering a chance after skipping around the advancing keep-



er.

They finally made their breakthrough in the 38th minute when Paredes found space and blasted into the top corner from 30 metres.

Argentina doubled their lead 10 minutes after the break when an unmarked Romero converted

with ease from a Giovanni Lo Celso corner.

There was no hiding the disappointment in Indonesia over Lionel Messi's absence, despite his part in Argentina's 2-0 win over Australia in Beijing on Thursday, when he netted in 79 seconds, his fastest international goal.