

# Iranian Para-Shooters Grab Medals at WSPS World Cup



TEHRAN, May 30 (MNA) – Iranian para-shooters snatched a gold and a silver medal at the 2023 WSPS World Cup.

Competing at Mixed Air Rifle Prone SH2 primary level on the last day of the competitions, the three Iranian para-shooters Masoumeh Khodabakhshi, Zahra Gholamzadeh, and Mohammad Reza Amini failed to advance to finals.

The Iranian team ended the tournament by winning 2 medals (one gold, one silver).

As many as 226 shooters from 41 nations fought out for the top places and quotas in Changwon, South Korea.

The competition served as qualifiers for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

# Noshad Alamian Advances in World Table Tennis Ranking



TEHRAN – Iranian best table tennis player Noshad Alamian was able to advance ten places in the new ranking of the International Table Tennis Federation.

The International Table Tennis Federation announced the new ranking of players in May 2023, and according to the ranking, Noshad Alamian improved by ten places and

reached the 47th position in the world.

Amir Hussein Hodaei and Nima Alamian dropped five and four places respectively and attained the 130th and 190th positions in the world table tennis ranking.

Amin Ahmadian, another Iranian national table tennis player, improved by twenty places and reached the 230th position.

# Giroud Fires Milan Into Champions League

MILAN (Reuters) -Olivier Giroud secured Champions League qualification for AC Milan with the only goal in 1-0 win at troubled Juventus.

Giroud guided home a brilliant header from Davide Calabria's cross in the 40th minute to guarantee Milan at least fourth place and complete Italy's lineup in Europe's top club competition next season.

It was the one moment of quality in an otherwise drab match in Turin in which little of consequence happened apart from Giroud's 12th league goal of the season.

Stefano Pioli's side, who were knocked out of this year's Champions League in the semifinals by Inter Milan, joins local rival Lazio and champion Napoli on the continent's big stage.

Milan is six points ahead of

fifth-placed Atalanta with one match remaining of a season in which its title defense collapsed after the World Cup.

"This was the first time we truly tried to be competitive in two tournaments and we were lacking something," said Pioli.

"We can enjoy the win and qualification, but it was a strange season for many reasons."

Juve, meanwhile, stayed seventh and in the Europa Conference League spot after being deducted 10 points for illicit transfer activity by the Italian Football Federation last week.

Massimiliano Allegri's Juve side can still reach the Europa League spots as it is one point behind Roma in sixth, although the specter of more punishment for financial irregularities hangs over the Turin giant.

Lecce ensured Serie A survival



AC Milan's Olivier Giroud scores on a penalty kick his side's third goal during a Serie A soccer match between AC Milan and Sampdoria, at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, May 20, 2023.

after late penalty drama gave it a 1-0 win over Monza, while a crushing late draw with Empoli took Verona's survival battle to the final day.

Lorenzo Colombo rammed

home the spot-kick which maintained Lecce's Serie A status in the 11th minute of stoppage time after Christian Gytkjaer was penalized for handball following a VAR check.

# Iran to Host 2024 Men's West Asian Weightlifting Championships



TEHRAN – The eleventh edition of the Men's West Asian Weightlifting is to be held in Iran in 2024.

President of the West Asian Weightlifting Federation Mustafa Saleh Al-Mahdi, in a letter to Iran's federation, hailed the capacity and capability of the Islamic Reou-

blic of Iran in holding the big event.

The precise date of the sporting event will be announced later.

The previous edition of the Men's West Asian Weightlifting Championship was held in Qatar in the early January 2023.

# Miami Win Game 7 to Thwart Celtics' Comeback Bid



Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown (left) is challenged by Miami Heat guard Duncan Robinson during the Game 7 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals on May 29, 2023, in Boston.

BOSTON (Reuters) - The Miami Heat avoided becoming the first team to squander a 3-0 NBA playoff series lead after beating the Boston Celtics 103-84 in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference Finals.

After a dramatic defeat in the final seconds at home in Game 6 on Saturday, Miami got the win they needed at Boston's TD Garden to reach the NBA Finals against the Denver Nuggets, with that series set to begin on Thursday.

Miami's Jimmy Butler, named the Eastern Conference Finals MVP, struggled in Game 6 but was back to his best on Monday with a game-high 28 points.

"I have so much belief in myself, and

this group of guys I know how good of a team we are and we made it happen," said Butler after receiving the Larry Bird MVP trophy.

"We stayed together as a team, we are excited and happy, but we have four more (wins) to do"

Jaylen Brown had 19 points and Derrick White 18 for Boston, with the duo coming alive in the third quarter when it looked like the Celtics would come from behind once again.

Boston's Jayson Tatum was not fully fit and looked to be limping after twisting his ankle in the opening seconds.

Miami became just the second eighth-seeded team to reach the NBA Finals after the New York Knicks in 1999.

# Paris Olympics Torch Relay Will Involve 10,000 Runners

PARIS (AFP) - There will be 10,000 torchbearers to carry the Olympic flame as it passes through some 60 French departments ahead of the 2024 Games, Paris Olympic organizers announced on Tuesday.

After the flame is lit in the traditional ceremony in Olympia, Greece, it will arrive by sea in Marseille aboard the three-master Belem on May 8.

From there it will travel across France on its way to the Olympic opening ceremony in the capital on July 26.

There has been speculation that the Olympic flame will be placed on the Eiffel Tower, but the president of the organizing committee, Tony Estanguet, told a press conference the final destination had not been decided.

"The Eiffel Tower has not been decided as the lighting location for the cauldron," he said.

A novelty this time is "collective relays", which could be groups of up



to 24 people, with one carrying the torch.

There will be 3,000 collective and 7,000 individual torchbearers, including equal numbers of men and women aged 15 and over.

Each torchbearer will carry the flame for around 4 minutes over a distance of 200 meters.

A third of the torchbearers will be

selected by the organizing committee and the sports bodies, another third by relay sponsors Coca-Cola and French bank BPCE, another third by other Olympic partners, and the final 10 percent by the regions hosting the relay.

The International Olympic Committee forbids elected officials and religious figures carrying the flame.

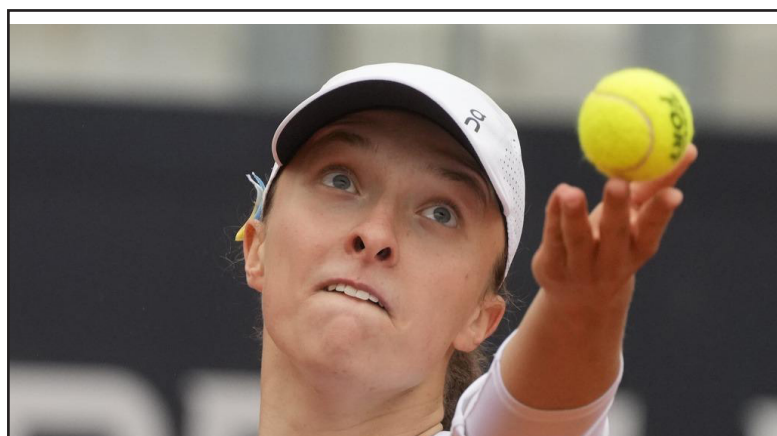
# Swiatek Begins French Open Defense With Successive Title Goal

PARIS (AFP) - Iga Swiatek has her sights set on back-to-back French Open crowns despite a recent thigh injury and the world number one remains optimistic of being fully fit for her opening round match on Tuesday.

Swiatek was forced to retire from her Italian Open quarter-final against eventual champion Elena Rybakina after suffering the injury, but said the extra days off could help her as she chases a third Roland Garros title in four years.

Having won the claycourt tournament in Stuttgart last month and finished runner-up to Aryna Sabalenka in Madrid, the Pole remains the favorite in Paris as she begins her 61st week at the top of the WTA rankings.

Swiatek, who turns 22 this week, will face Spain's Cris-



Poland's Iga Swiatek serves the ball to Croatia's Donna Vekic (not in photograph) during their match at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, on May 16, 2023.

tina Bucsa in the first round on Court Philippe-Chatrier while Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina takes on Czech qualifier Brenda Fruhvirtova.

Tunisian Ons Jabeur also

picked up an injury in the build-up to the French Open but said she has returned to full fitness after a calf problem prevented her from defending her Madrid title.