

# Iran U-21 Sepak Takraw Teams Ranked 3rd in World



TEHRAN – Iran's U-21 men and women squads each have stood in the third rank at the 36th King Cup Sepak Takraw World Championship 2023.

Iranian U-21 men's Sepak Takraw team defeated Bangladesh and Sri Lanka but fell short against Japan to advance to the next stage as the second team of the group.

The men accepted defeat against Thailand in the semifinal to stand in third place at the 36th King Cup Sepak Takraw World Championship 2023.

Also, the Iranian U-21 women's Sepak Takraw team defeated Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka but accepted defeat against China to advance to the next stage as the second team of the group.

In the semifinal, Iranian girls fell short against Malaysia (21-19; 21-18) to receive the bronze medal at the sporting event.

The 36th King Cup Sepak Takraw World Championship 2023 kicked off on July 9 in Korat, Thailand, and will wrap up on 16.

## Khosravani Wins Silver at World Para Athletics Championships



TEHRAN – The Iranian long jumper Amir Khosravani won a silver medal at 2023 World Para Athletics Championships in France, securing a Paris 2024 Paralympic quota for Iran.

Khosravani won the medal at T-12 final with a jump of 7.26 meters.

Uzbekistan snatched the gold medal with a jump of

7.47 meters, and the Republic of Azerbaijan stood in third place with a jump of 7.11 meters.

Earlier on Tuesday, Rashid Masjedi snatched gold at F53 - men's shot put.

The 10th edition of the 2023 World Para Athletics Championships is underway in Paris, France on July 8-17.

## Deadly Djokovic Repels Rublev to Reach Wimbledon Semifinals

LONDON (Reuters) - Favorite Novak Djokovic found himself behind for the first time at this year's Wimbledon but responded in brutal fashion to beat Andrey Rublev 4-6 6-1 6-4 6-3 and reach the semifinals on Tuesday for the 12th time.

Inspired seventh seed Rublev snatched the opening set but it was akin to poking a sleeping grizzly bear as Djokovic exacted painful punishment to stay on track for a fifth straight title.

Rublev played brilliant tennis that would have accounted for pretty much any other player in the world.

But it was not enough to stop the 36-year-old Djokovic reaching his 46th Grand Slam semi-final,



Serbia's Novak Djokovic jumps to return the ball to Russia's Andrey Rublev during their men's singles quarter-finals tennis match on the ninth day of the 2023 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on July 11, 2023.

equalling the record of eight-time champion Roger Federer.

Second seed Djokovic will face Jannik Sinner next after the Italian also beat a Russian opponent in Roman Safiullin

earlier on Tuesday and he will need no reminding that he trailed Sinner by two sets in last year's quarterfinal.

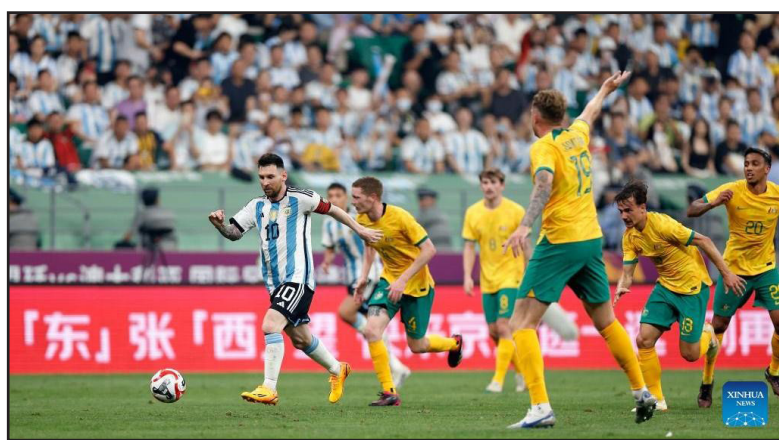
At an age when normal athletes are winding down, Djokovic's thirst for battle

remain unquenchable, as he demonstrated again by repelling a feisty Rublev in what was his 400th Grand Slam match - a milestone reached only by Federer and Serena Williams.

At the end of the third set, Centre Court became a cauldron of noise as the players slugged out some mind-boggling rallies, Rublev whipping up the crowd after one and Djokovic responding by cupping his ear to the crowd after another.

Asked afterwards how he copes with the pressure of being the player everyone wants to beat every time he steps on court, the Serbian said: "I love it, I'm serious. Pressure will never go away regardless of how many Grand Slams you win."

## Messi Says International Retirement Not Far Away



Lionel Messi (first left) of Argentina competes during an international football invitational between Argentina and Australia in Beijing, capital of China, June 15, 2023.

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - Lionel Messi said Tuesday that he does not know how much longer he will con-

tinue playing for Argentina's national team as he sets about enjoying the rest of his distinguished career.

The comments come as Messi prepares to make his debut for Inter Miami, whom he joined on a free transfer after parting ways with Paris Saint-Germain in June.

"Logically, because of my age, it (retirement) won't be far away," the 36-year-old said in an interview broadcast on Argentine television.

"I don't know exactly when that moment will be. I'm just taking things day by day and enjoying all of this that we are experiencing."

Messi admitted he had achieved everything he had hoped for in football after leading Argentina to World Cup glory in Qatar last December. The Albiceleste captain

scored two goals in the final and won the Golden Ball awarded to the tournament's best player.

"I think it will happen when it has to happen," Messi said of his retirement from international football. "After having achieved everything in recent times, the only thing left is to enjoy it."

Messi is expected to make his debut for Inter Miami in a Leagues Cup match against Mexico's Cruz Azul in Fort Lauderdale on July 21.

The Florida club currently occupies last place in Major League Soccer's 15-team Eastern Conference standings with 18 points from 21 games.

## Oldest Professional Player Miura Extends Contract Aged 56

LONDON (Reuters) - Japanese forward Kazuyoshi Miura may be the world's oldest professional football player but he is not ready to hang up his boots just yet and the 56-year-old, known as King Kazu, extended his loan deal with Portugal's second-tier club Oliveirense on Tuesday.

Former Japan international Miura, who earned nearly 90 caps between 1990-2000 scoring 55 goals, joined Oliveirense in January on loan from promoted Japanese J1 League side Yokohama.

"Miura Kazu continues at UD Oliveirense," the Liga Portugal 2 side said on Twitter on Tuesday,

without specifying the length of the new contract.

In November the owners of Yokohama, restaurant operator Onodera Group, became a majority shareholder of Oliveirense.

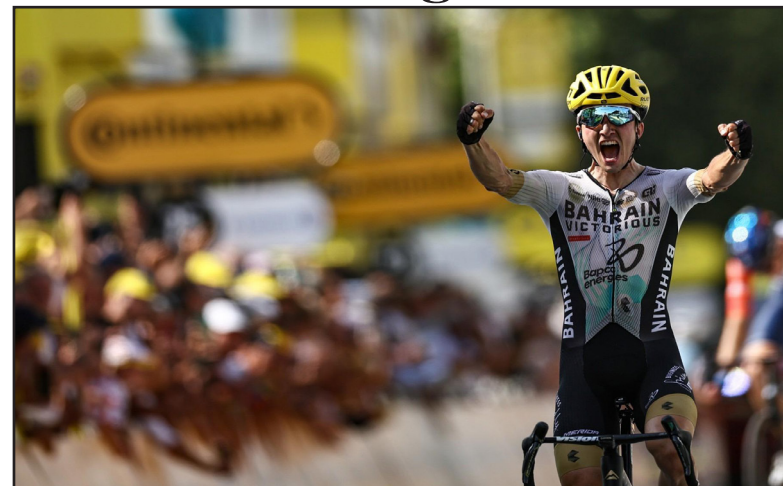
Miura, considered one of Japan's football greats, started his professional career in Brazil in the 1980s, where he played for Santos, Palmeiras and Coritiba, among others. He joined second-tier Yokohama in 2005 from Japanese top-tier side Vissel Kobe.

Miura also briefly represented Japan's futsal team in 2012, and was called up for the 2012 Futsal World Cup at the age of 45.



Japanese forward Kazuyoshi Miura

## Bilbao Claims Emotional Tour Stage Win



Bahrain-Victorious' Spanish rider Pello Bilbao cycles to the finish line to win the 10th stage of the 110th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, 167,5 km between Vulcania and Issoire, in the Massif Central highlands in central France, on July 11, 2023.

ISSOIRE, France (AFP) - Pello Bilbao has claimed a tear-jerking victory as he prevailed in the 10th stage of the Tour de France, less than a month after his Bahrain-Victorious team mate Gino Mader died following a crash in Switzerland.

Bilbao outsprinted breakaway companions Georg Zimmermann of Germany and Australian Ben O'Connor, who were second and third respectively.

Defending champion Jonas Vingegaard of Denmark retained the overall leader's jersey as Bilbao moved up to fifth overall from 11th, giving Spain their first stage win on the Tour since Omar Fraile in 2018.

The 33-year-old Basque rider, who will retire at the end of the season, is donating one euro (\$1.10) to an association helping replant on deforested land for every rider finishing a Tour stage behind him.

It follows an initiative by Mader, who died after crashing in a descent at the Tour de Suisse on June 16.

"It's an incredible feeling. The longer you wait for such

a moment the sweeter it is when it happens," said Bilbao.

"I had to win for Gino. I wanted to wait for the biggest moment to win for him. When I crossed the line it was an incredible explosion of feelings.

"It's such a special Tour for me with the race having started from home (in Bilbao)," the Guernica-born rider said. "Usually I'm quite cold blooded but today I was very distracted, there was so much at stake."

Teams had packed up to 180 water bottles as temperatures reached 38 degrees Celsius in Issoire.

The riders got off to an explosive start with Tadej Pogacar, closely followed by Vingegaard, on the attack as he kept his rival on his toes while the peloton blew up.

Pogacar's UAE Emirates team mate Adam Yates and his twin brother Simon, fifth and sixth overall respectively, were dropped, as well as fellow top-10 riders David Gaudu and Romain Bardet of France.