

Iran Earn 2nd Straight Victory in FIBA Women's Asia Cup



TEHRAN - The Iran women's national basketball team has scored a resounding win over Mongolia at the FIBA Women's Asia

Cup Division B 2023 in Thailand to maintain its formidable record in the international tournament.

On Monday, the Iranian sports-

men, who had started off their campaign at the event with a 65-59 victory over the Malaysian squad, gave their Mongolian counterparts a drubbing and eased past them 70-33 in their second Group A fixture staged at the Nimbutr Stadium in the Thai capital city of Bangkok.

Earlier on Sunday, Iran defeated Malaysia 65-59 in the event.

Three players recorded double-digit points for Iran; Masoumeh Soudjani (13 points, 7 rebounds), Negin Rasoulipour (11 points), and Sheida Shojaeikohnehsahri (10 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals).

For Malaysia, Fook Yee Yap added 9 rebounds on top of her

28 points in the entire game.

Iran was unable to claim a victory in 2021, its first appearance in a Women's Asia Cup since 1974.

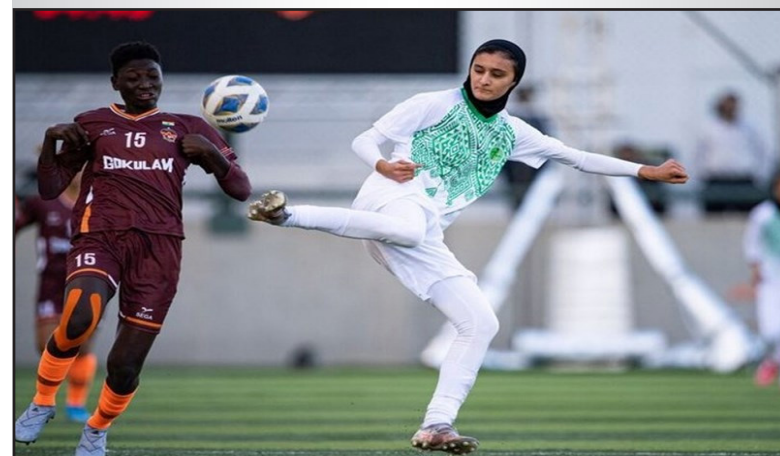
The Iranian women's national basketball team is scheduled to play against Indonesia in its third match on Tuesday.

The FIBA Women's Asia Cup Division B 2023 started in Thailand on August 13 and will wrap up on August 19.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been drawn into Group A along with Indonesia, Malaysia and Mongolia.

Kazakhstan, Jordan, Sri Lanka and Thailand are pitted against each other in Group B.

Shaikh Salman Announces Introduction of AFC Women's Champions League



TEHRAN - AFC President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa said that the confederation is going to launch the AFC Women's Champions League.

The AFC successfully organized two pilot AFC Women's Club Championship editions in 2021 and 2022 with the third edition scheduled to take place later this year.

Shahrdari Sirjan and Khatoon Bam represented Iran in the pilot editions.

The AFC Women's Champions

League will feature top-notch action with eligible clubs from all AFC MAs receiving an invitation to participate with a financial distribution model, which will be announced in due course, in place.

"Our club competitions are already amongst the best and most lucrative in Continental football, and today the AFC is embarking on a new and historic era with these forward-looking initiatives in both men's and women's Asian club football," Shaikh Salman said.

Mancini Departure Ends 'Significant Chapter' in Italy's History

ROME (Reuters) - Italy coach Roberto Mancini has resigned, ending a five-year spell in which they became European champions but missed out on the World Cup, the football federation (FIGC) said.

Mancini took charge of the four-time World Cup winners in 2018 after they failed to qualify for that year's global tournament in Russia, having previously not missed the finals of soccer's showpiece event since 1958.

The 58-year-old coach said resigning was a "personal choice".

"I thank all my players and fans who have accompanied me in these five years," Mancini wrote on Instagram.

"I will always carry the extraordinary victory of the



In this file photo dated July 5, 2021, then Italy's manager Roberto Mancini smiles during a training session at the Hive stadium in London, England.

2020 European Championship in my heart. It has been an honor."

Following the retirements of veterans Andrea Barzagli,

Daniele De Rossi and captain Gianluigi Buffon, Mancini guided an Italy side in transition to success at the European Championship in 2021.

His team also went on a run of 37 games without defeat between October 2018 and October 2021 - a record in men's international soccer.

Italy performed well at the Nations League under Mancini, finishing third in the 2020-21 and 2022-23 editions.

However, Mancini was unable to take Italy back to the World Cup, with the team again failing to qualify for last year's tournament in Qatar following a stunning 1-0 loss at home to North Macedonia in a playoff tie.

Following that failed World Cup qualifying campaign, Mancini came under intense pressure in the Italian media to resign but received backing from the national federation president to continue in the role.

Barcelona Held by Getafe in Feisty Clash With Three Red Cards



Barcelona's Gavi (left) and Getafe's Juan Iglesias challenge for the ball during the Spanish LaLiga soccer match between Getafe and FC Barcelona at the Coliseum Alfonso Perez stadium in Getafe, Spain, on Aug 13, 2023.

MADRID (Reuters) - Barcelona endured a frustrating evening in their LaLiga season opener with a 0-0 draw in a feisty affair at Getafe marked by several bookings and three red cards on Sunday, including the dismissal of visiting manager Xavi Hernandez.

Champions Barca were dominating the match early on under the scorching heat of south Madrid, with Brazil winger Raphinha the main threat to the home side's defence by running the right channel and creating several opportunities.

He almost helped the visitors open the scoring in the 36th minute when goalkeeper David Soria blocked his close-range strike back onto a team mate and the ball

bounced just wide.

But Raphinha lost his cool and was sent off in the 42nd minute for elbowing Gaston Alvarez in the head off the ball.

Getafe were then also reduced to 10 men in the 57th minute after Jaime Mata's fierce challenge on Ronald Araujo earned him a second yellow card leaving the match wide open.

Last season's LaLiga top scorer Robert Lewandowski came closest for Barcelona with a close-range header which Alvarez managed to clear off the line in the 63rd minute.

Barca manager Xavi was also shown a red card in the 71st minute after complaining about a decision.

Sinner Beat De Minaur to Win Canadian Open Title

TORONTO (AP) - Italian seventh seed Jannik Sinner has secured his first Masters 1000 title with a dominant 6-4 6-1 win over Australian Alex de Minaur in the Canadian Open final.

Sinner, appearing in his third Masters 1000 final after runner-up efforts at the Miami Open in 2021 and this year, broke De Minaur five times and saved two of four break points to lift the biggest title of his career.

The 21-year-old Italian, who enjoyed a run to the Wimbledon semifinals last month, felt his ability to deal with pressure-packed situations helped him to navigate past De Minaur.

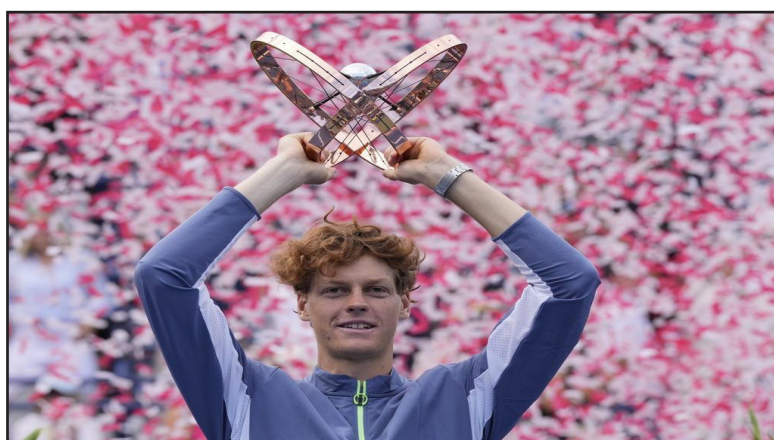
"I am getting used to difficult situations. I was a break up a

couple times and he broke back but I tried to stay calm mentally. I was prepared for a long battle," Sinner, the first Italian to win the event, said during his on-court interview.

Sinner played well from the start and showed few nerves as he flashed his weapons and took more risks than De Minaur, who struggled to come up with winners.

The two friends, who lost in the first round of the men's doubles here earlier this week, twice swapped breaks in a tight opening set before Sinner held and then closed out the frame with a break at love.

Sinner took control in the second set when he consolidated a



Jannik Sinner, of Italy, holds the trophy after defeating Alex de Minaur, of Australia, to win the men's final of the National Bank Open tennis tournament in Toronto on Aug 13, 2023.

break for the first time all match to move ahead 4-1 and then broke again before closing out

the 90-minute encounter on his serve to improve to 5-0 all-time against De Minaur.

Navarrete Dominates Valdez in 'Battle of Mexico'



Oscar Valdez (L) and Emanuel Navarrete went to war for 12 rounds Saturday in Glendale, Arizona. Navarrete won by unanimous decision.

ARIZONA (AFP) - Emanuel Navarrete didn't have the high profile that his opponent, Oscar Valdez, enjoyed heading into their bout for the WBO super featherweight title at Desert Diamond Arena in Glendale, Arizona.

He left with the belt, the biggest win of his career and a greatly enhanced reputation after pounding out a unanimous decision over Valdez, the former champion. Judges scored it 116-112, 118-110 and 119-109 for Navarrete, who won the fight by pouring on the pressure.

Even an injured, possibly broken, hand could not slow him. He landed 72 power punches total in the first seven rounds according to CompuBox, but connected on 104 in the last five.

He hurt Valdez and commanded his respect early on in the fight. Valdez was staggered several times in the early rounds and dug himself a hole. The fight was billed as the "Battle of Mexico," and Top Rank brought in legendary Hall of Famers Erik Morales and Marco Antonio Barrera to take part in the festivities. Julio Cesar Chavez Sr., the greatest Mexican-born boxer ever, was working a Spanish-language TV broadcast.

The fight didn't come close to matching the brilliance of the three Barrera-Morales fights, which remain among the greatest in this century. It was still,

though, a stirring and dramatic bout as each man poured his heart out and had to overcome serious adversity at some point.

"I want to thank everyone who was here watching because you were able to witness the next chapter in the great Mexican rivalries," Navarrete said in the ring afterward. "I want to thank Oscar, as well, because he came out and gave all his heart. We performed everything that we promised we would."

Valdez' right eye was a grotesque mess by the midpoint of the fight and it was so bad during the final three rounds one wondered why the referee didn't consider stopping the bout. Valdez was making Navarrete miss, but true to his style, Navarrete was simply a workhorse.

In a fight at this level, it's often the fighter with the higher connect percentage who wins, and Valdez connected on 32 percent of his blows compared to just 21 percent for Navarrete. But Navarrete threw an astounding 1,038 punches, 602 more than Valdez. He connected on 216 shots, 76 more than Valdez.

He did it mostly with the jab, sometimes out of plan and often by necessity. His jab tore Valdez apart and kept him in range for Navarrete to land his right hand. When the right was so painful that Navarrete went a round without using it, it was the jab that carried him.