

Shahbazi, Rahimi Win Gold Medals at Asian Wushu Junior Championships



TEHRAN— Iranian women Wushu fighters Narges Shahbazi and Diana Rahimi grabbed gold medals at the

2023 SJM 11th Asian Junior Wushu Championships underway in Macao. On the third day of the competi-

tion on Saturday, Diana Rahimi faced an opponent from Macao in the final match of the 60-kg of Sanda, during which she managed to knock the opponent and snatched the gold medal of the tournament.

Rahimi had defeated opponents from India and Palestine before advancing to the final match.

Rahimi was recently announced by the International Wushu Federation as the Rising Star of the Year 2022 in the Sanda division. Last year, she also won gold in the Indonesian World Championship.

Earlier on Friday and the second day of the tournament, Narges Shahbazi vied for the top podium in the girl's Changquan form of the

Taolu competitions and registered a dazzling record to clinch the gold medal.

Athletes from Japan and Macao were awarded the silver and bronze medals respectively.

Changquan refers to a family of external martial arts styles from northern China. The forms of the Long Fist style emphasize fully extended kicks and striking techniques, and by appearance would be considered a long-range fighting system.

Earlier, Samyar Sadeghi took part in the boy's Jianshu form of Talou category on Thursday and stood behind a representative from China to clinch the silver medal.

Iranian Women Basketball Team Finishes Runner-Up at Asia



TEHRAN – Iranian women's basketball team lost to Indonesia in the final match of the Women's Asia Cup 2023 Division B in Thailand.

By scoring 54 scores against their Indonesian rivals' 55 scores, the Iranian team failed to advance to the A level. On Friday, Iranian women's

basketball players defeated Jordan 72-54 and advanced to the semi-final.

In their previous match against Indonesia, Iranian girls were defeated 56-65.

Women's Asia Cup 2023 Division B was held in Bangkok, Thailand at the Nimibutr Stadium from August 13 to 19.

Iran to Play Angola in Friendly Match

TEHRAN – Iran national football team will play Angola in a friendly match in Tehran on September 12.

The match has been scheduled for September 12 at the Azadi Stadium of Tehran.

Iran was originally scheduled to face Cabo Verde but the match was called off after the African

team announced that it will have to play Togo two days earlier.

Team Melli will play Bulgaria at the Hristo Botev Stadium in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, five days earlier as part of preparation for the 2023 AFC Asian Cup.

Iran is drawn along the UAE, Hong Kong and Palestine in Group C.



Poor Water Quality Halts Paris Olympics Swimming Test Event in the Seine

PARIS (Reuters) - The World Triathlon Para Cup in Paris had the swimming stage cancelled on Saturday due to poor water quality in the River Seine as organizers said they could not risk the health and safety of athletes.

Earlier this month, organizers also cancelled the Open Water Swimming World Cup in Paris after heavy rainfall caused the water quality in the river to dip below minimum health standards.

Water quality tests were conducted early on Saturday, after which organizers took the call to switch the Para triathlon competition to a duathlon format.

"We have observed a significant discrepancy on the data between the results of the latest water quality

tests provided by the laboratory and the high frequency sample analyzers," World Triathlon said in a statement.

"Considering this discrepancy, and not to put the health and safety of the athletes at risk, the decision has been made to cancel all the swim activities planned for today."

The city has been working on clean-up efforts to make the Seine swimmable again, as it was during the 1900 Paris Olympics more than a century ago.

But heavy rain causes the Parisian sewage system to overflow and be discharged into the river.

Triathlon fan Vincent Corla was hopeful the Games events would go ahead as planned next summer.

Clinical Sweden Beat Australia to Clinch Third Place at World Cup



Sweden gesture to supporters as they celebrate with their bronze medals after defeating Australia in the Women's World Cup third place playoff soccer match in Brisbane, Australia, Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023

BRISBANE (Reuters) - Sweden picked up their fourth Women's World Cup bronze medal on Saturday after goals from Fridolina Rolfo and Kosovare Asllani gave them a 2-0 win over co-hosts Australia in the third-place playoff match at Lang Park in Brisbane.

The Swedes, ranked third in the world, were awarded a penalty in the 28th minute after a VAR review showed Australia defender Clare Hunt clipped Stina Blackstenius' heels, and forward Rolfo

slotted home the resulting spot kick.

Sweden captain Asllani doubled their lead just after the hour mark, rifling a sweet strike from the edge of the penalty area beyond goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold following another quick counter-attack.

While disappointed to sign off at the World Cup with another defeat, the Matildas still achieved their best result at the tournament after a stellar run, having never previously gone beyond the quar-

ter-final stage.

"We wanted to bring home a medal for this team, for the fans, for family and friends, for this country," Australia coach Tony Gustavsson said. "We're hurt ... I'm so sorry we couldn't give everyone this bronze medal."

Both teams were unchanged from the sides that started the semifinals, where Australia were beaten 3-1 by England and Sweden lost 2-1 to Spain.

England play Spain in the final in Sydney on Sunday.

Sweden started brightly and could have made a dream start when Blackstenius fired a low drive across goal in the opening minute, but the attempt was palmed away by Arnold and cleared by defender Ellie Carpenter.

The Matildas soon found their passing rhythm, tearing forward on the counter through Hayley Raso but the winger's effort was blocked. Raso was denied again midway through the half, with Sweden goalkeeper Zecira Musovic making a fine save.

Rolfo headed against the bar from Asllani's wonderful cross shortly before Sweden were given a penalty, the decision loudly jeered by the capacity crowd of 49,461.

With the pace of the game picking up, Arnold made a magnificent low save to keep out Rolfo's free kick in the closing minutes of the half.

Moments after Gustavsson made his first substitutions, the Matildas fell further behind, Asllani finishing off an incisive break before being mobbed by her delighted team mates.

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Spanish Walker Martin Wins First Gold of Budapest World Championships

BUDAPEST (AFP) - Spain's Alvaro Martin won the men's 20km race walk to claim the first gold of the World Athletics Championships in Budapest on Saturday as a host of hot favourites negotiated their qualifying rounds.

The two-time European champion clocked 1hr 17min 32sec for the victory on the streets of the Hungarian capital in a fast race that saw five of the first six finishers break national records.

"I was fourth at the last Olympic Games, I missed the bronze which motivated me to work hard," Martin said.

"In Tokyo, I felt when I was in the fourth position that I could



Spain's Alvaro Martin

win a medal. Unfortunately, it did not happen and that is why

this gold medal is next step towards the next Olympic Games"

in Paris next year.

The race walk was delayed for two hours because of a heavy storm and the opening day's action at the National Athletics Centre was put back an hour.

Sifan Hassan kicked off her audacious bid for a world treble by safely negotiating the opening round of the 1500m.

The Dutch runner completed an unprecedented triple at the Tokyo Olympics by winning gold medals in both the 5,000m and 10,000m and a bronze in the 1500m.

She is down to race all three once again in Budapest and will be back in action in the final of the 10,000m later Saturday.

Bagnaia Wins Austrian MotoGP Sprint, Extends Lead



Ducati Lenovo Team's Francesco Bagnaia acknowledges the fans after finishing the race in second place REUTERS/Andrew Boyers/File photo Acquire Licensing Rights

VIENNA (Reuters) - World champion Francesco Bagnaia dominated the sprint race at the Austrian MotoGP on Saturday to increase his lead in the world championship.

Brad Binder (KTM) came in second with Jorge Martin (Ducati-Pramac) completing the podium at Spielberg's Red Bull Ring circuit.

Bagnaia's fourth sprint win of the season lifted him 46 points clear of Martin ahead of Sunday's main event, the 10th round of the 20-race season.

"The plan was to push hard from the start.

"It was tough but we managed to be in front in the first lap. I'm very happy but tomorrow is another story," said the Ducati factory rider.

Bagnaia set off from pole, with Maverick Vinales and Binder for company on the front row for the 14-lap dash.

Bagnaia led into turn one as Vi-

nales got a terrible start, plummeting down the pack and triggering a multi-rider smash at the rear with Marco Bezzecchi forced to drop out.

Up front Bagnaia and Binder had opened up a gap from the chasing pack led by Jack Miller.

MotoGP legend Valentino Rossi had his head in his hands as he watched both the riders of his VR46 Ducati-satellite team crash out - Luca Marini following Bezzecchi retiring to the pits after a touch with Martin's Ducati-Pramac at the halfway stage.

Bagnaia was bossing affairs up front, opening a near two second cushion to Binder with five laps to go.

And he held on comfortably to deny South African Binder a win at his Austrian team's home event.

Martin, involved in the first turn mayhem and Marini's fall, reflected: "It was an emotional race, a lot of things happening."