

Iranian Athletes Secure More Medals at Asian Para Games



TEHRAN – Iranian athletes continue to win more medals at the Fourth Asian Para Games in the Chinese city of Hangzhou.

The Iranian sports para-athletes have so far grabbed 43 medals,

including 16 golds, 17 silvers, and 10 bronzes, in various sports categories.

Para shooters Faezeh Ahmadi and Sareh Javanmardi seized a gold and silver medal respectively

in the event on Tuesday.

Ahmadi won the gold medal with 236.2 points in the P2 - Women's 10m Air Pistol SH1.

Javanmardi came second with 233.0 points and the bronze medal went to Indian Rubina Francis with 211.0 points.

Ali Pirouj clinched a gold medal in the Men's Javelin F13 of the 2022 Asian Para Games with a 63.73-meter throw. Sajjad Nikparast grabbed a silver in the same contest with 62.92 meters throw.

Amir Khosravani of Iran's para-athletic team won a silver medal in the Men's T12 Long Jump, setting a record of 7.19 meters.

Para cyclist Muhammad Dalir bagged a bronze medal in Men's Class B of the Fourth Asian Para

Games.

Around 3,100 athletes from 44 countries and regions are competing in 22 sports and 564 events at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games in China from October 22 to 28.

A total of 128 male athletes represent Iran in 16 events and 82 female athletes compete in 11 events.

Iran's slogan in the 2022 Asian Para Games is "Faith, Iran, Honor" and the name of the delegation is "Children of Iran".

As the Asian Para Games returns to China for the second time following Guangzhou in 2010, nearly 3,100 athletes from 44 countries and regions are taking part across 22 sports and 564 events at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games, which runs through Oct 28.

Sepahan Defeat AGMK in AFC Champions League



TEHRAN – Iran's Sepahan football team picked up their first win in Group C of the AFC Champions League 2023-24 after a convincing 3-1 victory over Uzbekistan's AGMK FC at OKMK Sports Complex Monday night.

Ramin Rezaeian opened the scoring for Sepahan in the 32nd minute and Mirjakhon Mira-

khmadov saw the host equalize in the 36th minute.

Rezaeian put the visiting team in front early in the second half before Reza Asadi netted Sepahan's third and final goal as the hour approached to secure all three points.

The two sides will face off again in the return meeting in Isfahan on November 6.

Afghanistan Stun Pakistan in World Cup Thriller

CHENNAI, India (Reuters) - Afghanistan pulled off their second giant-killing act of the ongoing 50-over World Cup with a memorable eight-wicket victory against 1992 champions Pakistan on Monday.

Afghanistan's top three batters smashed fifties and skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi made an unbeaten 48 at number four in their successful pursuit of a 283-run victory target that they accomplished with one over to spare.

It was Afghanistan's first ODI victory against Pakistan in eight attempts and the outcome leaves defending champions England at the bottom of the points table.

It was a clinical chase by Shahidi's men, who had stunned England earlier in the tournament, after Pakistan posted



Afghanistan's captain Hashmatullah Shahidi (right) plays a shot during the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup one-day international (ODI) match between Pakistan and Afghanistan at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Oct 23, 2023.

282-7 riding on half-centuries by skipper Babar Azam and opener Abdullah Shafique.

"This win tastes nice," a beaming Shahidi said after their second victory in five matches.

"The way we chased today was very professional."

Babar won the toss and elected to bat against a spin-heavy Afghan attack, which kept things tight in the first 10 power play overs.

Afghanistan packed in four spinners in their playing XI but it was pacer Azmatullah Omarzai who drew first blood by dismissing Imam-ul-Haq for 17.

Teenage spinner Noor Ahmad (3-49) dismissed Abdullah Shafique (58) and Mohammad Rizwan (eight) in his successive overs in his memorable World Cup debut.

Babar (74) fell to Noor as well trying to accelerate the scoring, leaving it to Iftikhar Ahmed and Shadab Khan to provide the late flourish.

Tottenham Go Top With 2-0 Home Victory Over Fulham



Fulham's Raul Jimenez (left) challenges for the ball with Tottenham's Micky van de Ven during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Fulham at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London on Oct 23, 2023.

LONDON (Reuters) - Tottenham Hotspur's best start to a top-flight season for more than 60 years got even better as a 2-0 home win over Fulham sent them two points clear at the Premier League summit on Monday.

Captain Son Heung-min's seventh league goal of the campaign and James Maddison's first home strike for the club secured a seventh win in nine league games.

Son curled a right-foot effort into the top corner in the 36th minute - his 50th goal at Tottenham's new stadium since it opened in 2019 - and then set up playmaker Maddison to score with a cool finish early in the second half.

Unbeaten in the league under new manager Ange Postecoglou, Spurs have 23 points, two more than

champions Manchester City and local rivals Arsenal. They next travel to Crystal Palace on Friday with the chance to move five ahead.

Fulham, who were disappointing despite some late chances after Tottenham eased off, are 13th on 11 points.

Victory was especially sweet as the west London side knocked Tottenham out of the League Cup on penalties - the only hiccup so far in Postecoglou's impressive start in north London.

Postecoglou, prised from Celtic and tasked with rejuvenating the club's fortunes, has now enjoyed the best start by a new manager in the Premier League.

But despite another win, the Australian was not entirely happy with his team's performance.

World Rugby to Investigate Racial Slur Allegation



PARIS (Reuters) - World Rugby will review the allegation of racism levelled at South Africa hooker Bongi Mbonambi by England flanker Tom Curry during their World Cup semi-final in Paris, the governing body said in a statement on Monday.

Curry alleges that Mbonambi used a racial slur against him in the first half of the Springboks' 16-15 victory that has set up a final meeting against old foes New Zealand at the same venue on Saturday.

"World Rugby takes all allegations

of discriminatory behavior extremely seriously," the statement said.

"We can confirm that we are formally reviewing the allegation made by England's Tom Curry in relation to the use of discriminatory language during the England versus South Africa Rugby World Cup 2023 semi-final on Saturday.

South African Rugby said on Sunday they had launched their own internal investigation, and that they were "reviewing the available evidence".

Audio and video footage posted on social media show Curry complaining to referee Ben O'Keefe, although no action was taken and the alleged slur is not heard.

Curry confirmed an incident when questioned by reporters afterwards

but refused to say what had allegedly been said.

England coach Steve Borthwick also refused to comment on the allegation on Sunday.

If found guilty Mbonambi is likely to face a suspension, which would be a huge blow to the Boks ahead of the final.

He is their only specialist hooker in the squad after they replaced the injured Malcolm Marx with flyhalf Handre Pollard, who kicked the winning penalty against England.

Regular loose-forwards Deon Fourie and Marco van Staden are the other hooker options in the squad, but it would be a tall order to ask them to scrum for 80 minutes against a pack as accomplished as New Zealand's.

Halep Appeals to CAS Over Doping Ban

LONDON (Sky Sports) - Two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep has appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against her four-year doping ban.

An independent tribunal determined the Romanian, 32, had committed "intentional" anti-doping violations.

Halep said at the time she would "do everything in my power to clear my name of these false allegations".

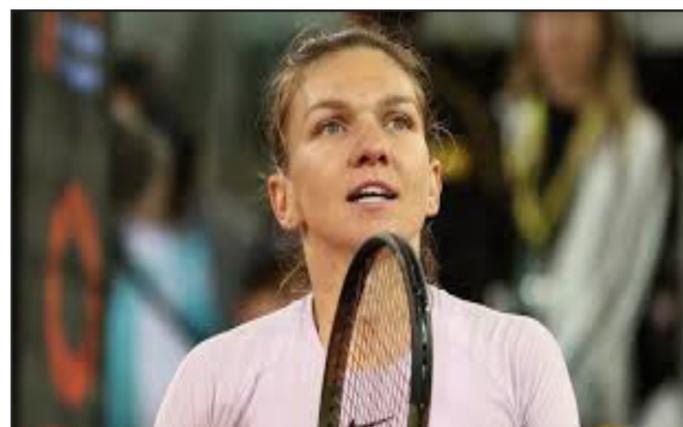
The former world number one has been suspended since 7 October 2022 after testing positive for Roxadustat.

"In her appeal to the CAS, the athlete requests that the challenged decision be set aside and that her sanction be reduced," a statement from the Swiss court read.

If her ban is upheld she will be able to play again on 7 October 2026, by which time she will be 35.

CAS, sport's highest court, said the matter will be decided by a panel of arbitrators after a hearing and it was not yet possible to indicate a time frame for the decision.

Former world number one Ha-



lep tested positive for the use of

Roxadustat at last year's U.S.

Open, and was also found guilty of using an unspecified prohibited substance or method in 2022 after irregularities were found in her biological passport.

The tribunal accepted Halep's argument she had taken a contaminated supplement, but decided that would not have resulted in the concentration of Roxadustat found in her urine sample.

Roxadustat is an anti-anaemia drug which stimulates the production of red blood cells in the body.

"I take the rules that govern our sport very seriously and take

pride in the fact I have never knowingly or intentionally used any prohibited substance," Halep said in September.

"I refused to accept their decision of a four-year ban."

Halep, who won the French Open in 2018 and Wimbledon the following year, is the highest-profile tennis player to fail a drugs test since Maria Sharapova in 2016.

She has won 24 WTA tour singles titles and earned £32.2mn in prize money and was ranked number one in the world in 2017 and 2018.