

Iranian Judokas Bag Bronze Medals in Asian Championships



TEHRAN – Two Iranian Judo fighters have snatched bronze medals at the Asian Cadet and Junior Judo Championships Tashkent 2023.

Mohammad Hossein Yaghouti in the weight class of -100 kg received a bronze medal for Iran.

Other Iranian sportsman Amir Abbas Movahhed in the weight category of +100 kg got a bronze medal for the Islamic Republic.

As many as 172 athletes from 15 states competed at the sporting event.

The Asian event that kicked off on November 18 wrapped up on Sunday.

Iran, Uzbekistan Looking to Establish Early Advantage

TEHRAN – Iran will play Uzbekistan on Tuesday in a meeting between two sides looking to establish an early advantage in Group E of the Preliminary Joint Qualification - Round 2 for the FIFA World Cup 2026 and AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027.

Both opened their campaigns with resounding wins on Thursday while Hong Kong and Turkmenistan will square off needing the points.

Iran, seeking to qualify for a

fourth consecutive FIFA World Cup, was in a class of its own against Hong Kong at the Azadi Stadium on Matchday One.

Sardar Azmoun led the way with a brace as Iran staked an early claim on a spot in the next round.

Uzbekistan was equally impressive, defeating Central Asian rival Turkmenistan away as it started its campaign to make the third round after missing out on the same stage for the 2022 edition.

Australia Stun India to Win Sixth Cricket World Cup



Australia's Pat Cummins celebrates with the trophy and teammates after winning the ICC Cricket World Cup

AHMEDABAD, India (Reuters) - Australia once again showed their ability to produce their best on the grandest of occasions on Sunday when they toppled India to win the 50-overs World Cup title and cement their status as the most successful team in the tournament's history.

Australia opener Travis Head smashed a magnificent century to fashion their six-wicket victory against the tournament's form team who posted a below-par 240 all out and were reeled in with seven overs to spare.

Head hit a superb 137 off 120 balls to ease Australian nerves after a top-order wobble before they romped home in a contest that never reached great heights.

Australia entered the match as clear underdogs against an all-conquering India side, who had won 10 matches in a row to storm into the final.

The superb victory means Australia extend their record as the most successful side in 50-over World Cup history and now sit four titles clear of the rest of the pack.

It also caps a six-month period in which they beat India to win the World Test Championship and retained the Ashes in England.

India, meanwhile, were left crest-

fallen as their bid for a first white-ball title since 2011 - an achievement which looked unstoppable as they made rampant progress through the semi-final and group stage - fell at the final hurdle.

This was supposed to be India's day in front of an enormous home crowd with their prime minister Narendra Modi, who this stadium is named after, up in the stands.

Instead, it ended in crushing disappointment as Head produced one of the great World Cup knocks and Australia ran out surprise and comfortable winners.

By the time 29-year-old Head reached his century, some in the vast stands had already made their exit, while seamer Mohammed Siraj was in tears at the end.

Australia were contenders when this tournament began, without being tipped by many to go all of the way, just like when they won the 2021 T20 World Cup.

Their campaign hit serious jitters early on with defeats in their opening two games, first by India and then South Africa, but they have won the title with nine consecutive victories, beating every team in the tournament in a row.

At the end, their players, including England's old foes David Warner and Steve Smith, charged onto the field in celebration.

Thunder Roar as Wilting Warriors Slump to Sixth Straight Loss

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters)

— When Golden State's Andrew Wiggins hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with fewer than two seconds remaining in regulation, it seemed to be the difference that the Warriors had been searching for all game long.

Instead, the Thunder forced overtime with a frenzied sequence. As the final 1.6 seconds ticked down, Oklahoma City rookie Chet Holmgren grabbed the inbound pass and knocked down a game-tying shot from deep to beat the final buzzer.

"It felt like a movie in the moment," Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander said.

Gilgeous-Alexander had 40 points, six rebounds and six assists, and the Thunder sent the Warriors to



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (left) scores against Golden State Warriors guard Brandin Podziemski (middle) and forward Dario Saric during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco on Nov 18, 2023.

their sixth straight loss with a 130-123 overtime victory on Saturday night.

The Thunder outscored the Warriors 13-6 in the extra period to seal back-to-back wins at Chase Center and secure the season series, 2-1.

Holmgren scored a season-high 36 points and added 10

rebounds and five assists, and Jaylin Williams had 22 points and six rebounds.

Isaiah Joe's streak of consecutive made 3-pointers that began with his 7-for-7 showing on Thursday ended at eight in a row with a buzzer-beater to close out the first quarter. He finished

the night with 10 points.

The Warriors dominated through the first half and seemed on the verge of putting the game away midway through the third, when they led by 18 points. But the Thunder stepped up on defense and went on a 22-6 run to cut the deficit to two points entering the fourth.

Gilgeous-Alexander led the charge by scoring 32 points after the first half, including 10 in overtime.

Wiggins scored a season-high 31 points and was 12 of 19 with five 3s. Curry also knocked down five 3s and had 25 points as the Warriors fell to 1-6 on their home floor. It was the first time this season that Curry has appeared in a game and not led Golden State in scoring.

Djokovic Destroys Sinner to Win Record Seventh ATP Finals Title



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Italy's Jannik Sinner during their singles final tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Pala Alpitour, in Turin, Italy, on Nov 19, 2023.

TURIN - A ruthless Novak Djokovic destroyed home fa-

vorite Jannik Sinner to win the ATP Finals title for a re-

cord seventh time on Sunday - reaching yet another milestone in his incredible career.

The 36-year-old Serb lost to home favorite Sinner earlier in the week in the group stage, but exacted sweet revenge with a sublime display to claim a 6-3 6-3 victory.

A sell-out crowd in Turin's Pala Alpitour had hoped to cheer the 22-year-old Sinner to the biggest title of his career but Djokovic was simply in a different league.

The world number one dropped only two points on serve in a flawless opening set and once he had broken Sinner's serve in the fourth

game it was largely one-way traffic.

At one point Djokovic won 14 points in a row against a player ranked fourth in the world before Sinner briefly slowed the march of the 24-time Grand Slam champion.

Sinner avoided going a double break of serve down as Djokovic surprisingly failed to make a routine passing shot and Sinner then had points to break back in the sixth game but could not convert either of them.

Djokovic also failed to convert break points that would have given him a 5-2 lead as a few errors crept into his game.

Messi's 2022 World Cup Jerseys to Go Up for Auction

NEW YORK (AFP) – A set of six jerseys that Lionel Messi wore during Argentina's victorious 2022 World Cup run will be auctioned in December, Sotheby's announced Monday, estimating their value at \$10 million.

The football star donned these shirts during the first halves of the group-stage rounds against Saudi Arabia and Mexico, as well as later games against Australia, the Netherlands and

Croatia -- and the final against France.

Argentina's winning run in Qatar last year was the final feather in the forward's cap, having failed to secure the championship in four previous World Cups.

If the jerseys indeed fetch above \$10 million, that could make the sale the most valuable collection of sports memorabilia ever auctioned off, Sotheby's said.



Argentina's forward Lionel Messi gestures during the 2026 FIFA World Cup South American qualification football match between Argentina and Uruguay at La Bombonera stadium in Buenos Aires on November 16, 2023.

The most expensive individual jersey ever sold at auction was one that basketball legend Michael Jordan wore during his NBA finals run with the Chicago Bulls in 1998.

It sold for \$10.1 million last year.

Auction houses have increasingly taken note of sports memorabilia in recent years, considered a growing market.

The shirts are being

brought to auction by US tech startup AC Memento, which helps athletes manage memorabilia collections.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the UNICAS Project, an initiative with a Barcelona children's hospital that helps kids with rare diseases.

The jerseys will be available for free public viewing when they are up for auction, from November 30 to December 14.