

Parisa Arab Wins Gold at 5th West Asian Athletics Championships



TEHRAN – Iranian women's marathon runner Parisa Arab won the gold medal at the fifth Asian Athletic Championships held in Basra, Iraq.

Iran's Arab athlete achieved an impressive victory in the 5000m Women's Final at the sports event, completing the race in a remarkable time of 16:37.84.

Her opponents from Iraq secured second and third places.

Earlier in the tournament, she also won a gold medal in the 10000m event.

Alongside the host country, Iraq, thirteen other countries—Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, the UAE, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, and Iran—participated in 48 competitions over the course of the four-day event.

The fifth West Asian Athletics Championship for men and women commenced at Sports City in Basra, Iraq on May 29, 2024.

Ronaldo in Tears as Al-Nassr Lose King's Cup Final

RIYADH (Reuters) - Cristiano Ronaldo was reduced to tears after his Al-Nassr side lost the King's Cup final to rivals Al-Hilal on Friday night in a game with three red cards.

Saudi Pro League champions Al-Hilal battled past Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr 5-4 in a penalty shootout on Friday to win the Saudi Cup and claim the domestic double, leaving the Portuguese forward in tears at the end of the drama.

Al-Hilal's Aleksandar Mitrovic scored in the shootout, as did Ronaldo, but goalkeeper Yassine Bounou was the hero as he saved Al-Nassr's final two penalties to secure the trophy after three players were sent off before the game went to extra time.

The two teams, who



Cristiano Ronaldo joined Al-Nassr in December 2022

dominated the Saudi league campaign before Jorge Jesus's side won the title for the 19th time, were locked at 1-1 after 90 minutes when a last-gasp equalizer from Ayman Yahya forced the extra period but there were no goals.

Mitrovic had put Al-Hilal ahead after seven minutes when he headed home Malcom's cross in the presence

of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at King Abdullah Sports City.

Ronaldo fired a spectacular bicycle kick against the post after the break but he was in any case offside.

Al-Nassr were then reduced to 10 men when goalkeeper David Ospina used his hand to prevent Malcom getting past him outside the box in the 56th minute.

Coach Luis Castro replaced forward Sadio Mane with substitute keeper Walid Abdullah and, despite being a man down, Al-Nassr still pushed for an equaliser, with Ronaldo's long-range free kick saved by Bounou.

With the clock running down Al Hilal's Ali Al-Bulayhi received two yellow cards within 10 seconds for violent conduct in the 87th minute and after he was dismissed Ayman Yahya equalized for Al-Nassr.

Al-Hilal were then reduced to nine men when defender Kalidou Koulibaly received his second booking but they managed to hold on in extra time to force a shootout and emerged triumphant.

At the end Ronaldo broke down in tears and is still searching for his first title in Saudi Arabia.

Protester Chains Himself to Goalposts at Scotland vs Israel Match



LONDON (Dispatches) - A protester chained himself to the goalposts before Scotland's Women's Euro 2025 qualifier against Israel at Glasgow's Hampden stadium.

The match, which was being played behind closed doors, was delayed after the man used a heavy duty lock to secure himself to the posts in protest at Israel's military operation in Gaza.

The game eventually kicked off 45 minutes later than planned, with Scotland running out 4-1 winners.

Several hundred people, some carrying small coffins and Palestinian flags, had gathered outside the doors of the main stand.

He was cut free from the posts and led from the pitch by police.

Players were seen discussing a second warm-up and whether it was safe to return to the pitch

shortly before the match got under way.

The match kicked off to the sound of demonstrators outside booing, blowing whistles and setting off fireworks.

A handful of counter-protesters also demonstrated before the group B2 game.

Public demonstrations against Israel's military operation in Gaza have been happening regularly across the UK.

One group - the Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee - arranged a protest before the game at Hampden and called for the matches to be cancelled.

Police Scotland said: "Appropriate policing plans are in place to maintain public safety and minimize any disruption to the community."

Tuesday's return game between Scotland and Israel in Budapest will also be played behind closed doors.

Martin on Pole for Mugello MotoGP



Ducati Spanish rider Jorge Martin took pole for the Italian MotoGP at Mugello

SCARPERIA E SAN PIERO, Italy (AFP) - Spain's Jorge Martin of Ducati-Pramac claimed pole position for the Italian Moto Grand Prix at the Mugello circuit on Saturday.

The world championship leader Martin broke the lap record at the Tuscan circuit and finished just ahead of reigning double world champion Francesco Bagnaia of Ducati.

"We worked hard Friday evening to find the right settings for these qualifications and we achieved an exceptional time," said Martin, second at Catalunya last week.

"We will be in a strong position on Sunday for the race, but today (Saturday) in the sprint this will be a very difficult sprint," said the daredevil rider from Madrid. Martin leads the standings on

155pts, 39pts ahead of Bagnaia, with Marc Marquez in third on 114.

Bagnaia has been relegated back three places on the GP starting grid on Sunday after being penalized on Friday for hindering Alex Marquez of Ducati-Gresini during qualifying practice.

But he starts second in the sprint on Saturday.

The Spaniard Maverick Vinales of Aprilia was third and his compatriot Marc Marquez, now with Ducati-Gresini, was fourth.

The Italians Enea Bastianini of Ducati and Franco Morbidelli of Ducati-Pramac came in fifth and sixth.

The KTMs missed out on their qualifications with the South African Brad Binder and the Australian Jack Miller starting 13th and 19th, respectively.

Sabalenka Powers Past Badosa in Paris



Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina celebrates winning her third round match of the French Open tennis tournament against Belgium's Elise Mertens at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Saturday, June 1, 2024.

PARIS (AFP) - Aryna Sabalenka continued her quest for a first French Open title by fighting past best friend Paula Badosa to reach the fourth round.

Belarusian Sabalenka, who reached the semifinals last year, won 7-5 6-1 against the Spanish former world number two.

A competitive and entertaining first set, where both players demonstrated their power from the baseline, saw seven breaks of serve before second seed Sabalenka closed it out.

The second set was one-sided as 139th-ranked Badosa's level dropped.

Badosa, who has fallen down the rankings after a stress fracture in

her back, saved three match points before putting a backhand long on the fourth.

"I just tried to play my best and fight for every point. I know the conditions were tough and the serve wasn't an advantage," said 26-year-old Sabalenka, who won 10 of the final 11 games.

Two-time major champion Sabalenka will play either American 14th seed Madison Keys or her compatriot Emma Navarro, seeded 22nd, next.

Rain once again delayed play on the outside courts in Paris on Saturday, but Sabalenka and fourth seed Elena Rybakina advanced under the roof on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Tyson's Ulcer Flare-Up Forces Paul Fight Postponement

LONDON (Reuters) - Mike Tyson and Jake Paul's hotly-anticipated fight is being pushed back from its July 20 date due to the former heavyweight champion's recent ulcer flare up, promoters said on Friday.

Medical professionals recommended Tyson, 57, does minimal light training over the next few weeks as he recovers before returning to full training with no limita-

tions, Paul's Most Valuable Promotions said in a statement.

The fight between the Americans will be rescheduled for later this year at the same venue, the 80,000-seat AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, home of the Dallas Cowboys.

"I want to thank my fans around the world for their support and understanding during this time," Tyson said

in a statement.

"Unfortunately, due to my ulcer flare-up, I have been advised by my doctor to lighten my training for a few weeks to rest and recover.

"My body is in better overall shape than it has been since the 1990s and I will be back to my full training schedule soon.

"Jake Paul, this may have bought you some time, but in the end you will still be

knocked out and out of boxing for good. I appreciate everyone's patience and can't wait to deliver an unforgettable performance later this year."

'Iron Mike', who has a 50-6 record with 44 knockouts, was one of the most feared heavyweights in history but has not fought a professional fight since 2005.

Youtuber-turned-boxer Paul, 30 years his junior, has a boxing record of 9-1.