

Iran's Women Runners-Up in Asian Kurash Championship



TEHRAN – The Iranian national women's Kurash team finished runner-up in the Asian Kurash Championship held in Tehran, Iran.

The Iranian national women's Kurash team won 8 colorful medals, including 2 gold, 3 silver, and 3 bronze.

Iran secured second place in the women's division, earning the title of Asian vice-champion, coming in after Uzbekistan who won 3 gold and 4 silver medals.

Chinese Taipei secured third place with 2 gold and 3 bronze medals.

The national Iranian men's Kurash team will begin their competitions on Sunday.

The 13th Kurash Asian Championship competition is being held in Tehran, Iran on June 6-10, 2024.

Volleyballers Fail to Advance to 2024 Olympics



TEHRAN – Iran's national volleyball team moved down to 17th place in the FIVB World Ranking and has no chance of qualifying for the 2024 Olympic Games.

Iran lost to Turkey 3-1 (22-25, 25-23, 25-23, 27-25) in Fukuoka, Japan on Saturday.

Kaan Gurbuz led Turkey with 34 points and Iran's Amin Esmaeilnezhad scored 18 points.

The team, headed by Peyman

Akbari, had previously suffered seven losses under the leadership of Mauricio Motta Paes.

The VNL Preliminary Phase features three competition weeks per gender, with each of the 16 teams playing 12 matches.

The seven best-ranked national teams in the Preliminary Phase will join hosts Poland for the Finals, which will be held in Lodz from June 27 to 30.

Croatia Win 2-1 to Clinch First Ever Victory Over Portugal

LISBON (Reuters) - Goals in each half by Luka Modric and Ante Budimir got Croatia a historic first win over Portugal in eight matches when they beat the hosts 2-1 in an international friendly on Saturday, as Cristiano Ronaldo remained on the bench.

Vitinha brought down Mateo Kovacic in the box soon after kick-off, resulting in a penalty. Portugal keeper Diogo Costa rightly guessed where Modric would aim, but his dive to the right fell just short as the Real Madrid midfielder scored his 25th goal for Croatia.

But half-time substitute



Croatia's Luka Modric (left) challenges for the ball with Portugal's Bruno Fernandes during an international friendly soccer match between Portugal and Croatia at the National Stadium in Oeiras, outside Lisbon, June 8, 2024.

Diogo Jota brought Portugal level three minutes after coming on, when fellow substitute

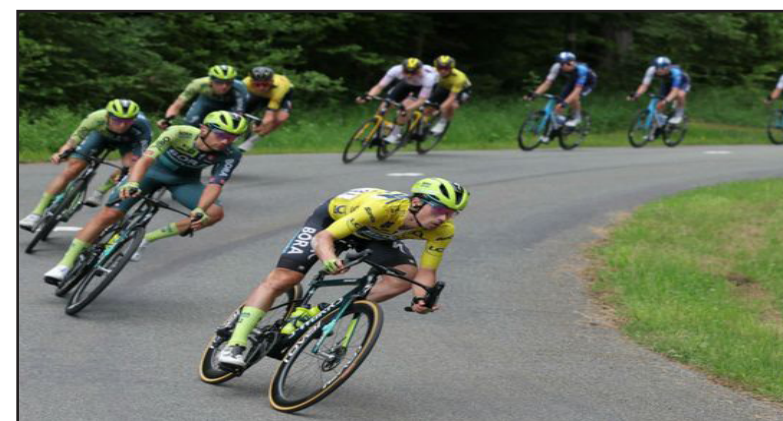
Nelson Semedo found him inside the six-yard box with a short cross from the right. The

Liverpool forward made no mistake with the close-range finish.

But Croatia restored their lead eight minutes later, despite Costa's best efforts as he did well to deflect Budimir's attempt to the crossbar. The rebound went right back to Budimir who headed it into the net with ease.

Portugal, who won six of their previous seven matches against Croatia, begin their Euro 2024 Group F campaign against Czech Republic on June 18. Croatia face Spain in their first Group B fixture next Saturday.

Roglic Holds On to Win Second Criterium du Dauphine



Team Bora's Slovenian rider Primož Roglič wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey cycles with the pack of riders during the eighth and last stage of the 76th edition of the Criterium du Dauphine cycling race on Sunday.

PLATEAU DES GLIÈRES (AFP) – Slovenia's Primož Roglič held off a late surge by American Matteo Jorgenson to win his second Criterium du Dauphine by just eight seconds on Sunday in an eventful 160-kilometre mountainous run from Thones to Plateau des Glières.

Roglič, who rides for Bora-Hansgrohe, went into the last day of the pre-Tour de France race with a 1 minute 2 second lead on Jorgenson but the American put in a fine performance to come second in the eighth and final stage, just behind stage winner Carlos Rodriguez of Spain.

"It's crazy to be able to win the Dauphine after everything that happened, the crash (on Thursday) and everything that came in between. It's incredible," said Roglič. "I was hearing all the gaps all the time. It was close but finally I'm satisfied for the team. It's definitely something we needed with the team to be able to win the Dauphine."

"I first want to be happy because you don't win a race like this every day," he added. The 34-year-old Slovenian came in sixth on the day after forcing his way up the final ascent just in time to ensure he added a second Dauphine victory to his win in 2022.

After being caught up in the mass fall in Thursday's stage, Roglič showed no signs of hurt as he won back-to-back stages on Friday and Saturday to stake his claim on the race lead going into the final stage.

After having previously lost the race on the last day in 2020, Roglič looked comfortable as the riders set off from Thones but began to falter in the final climb before recovering to fight hard in the last 500 meters to maintain his grip on the yellow jersey.

Jorgenson, 24, of Visma just failed to add a Criterium win to his Paris-Nice title this year as he ended up second in the overall classification.

Derek Gee was dropped by the leading group of Jorgenson and Rodriguez shortly before the finish line but rolled through in third place for the stage to finish 36sec behind Roglič and become the first Canadian to ever to make the overall podium in the Criterium.

Ineos' Rodriguez claimed a career-first Criterium stage win on Sunday to jump to fourth in the overall ranking.

Italian Lorenzo Fortunato clinched the polka dot jersey from Roglič on the final day as the race's best climber with 40 points overall.

Belgian Remco Evenepoel, who also crashed on Thursday in his first race back after breaking his collarbone in the Tour of the Basque Country in March, suffered a disappointing last three days in the Dauphine and finished seventh overall.

But he will have his eye on the Tour de France, which starts on June 29, where he will again be among the favorites alongside his rivals Tadej Pogacar and Roglič.

Russell Takes Canadian Pole With Same Time as Verstappen



Mercedes driver George Russell of Britain celebrates after winning the pole position for the Sunday race in the qualifying session for the Formula 1 Canadian Grand Prix auto race, June 8, 2024, in Montreal.

MONTREAL (Reuters) - Verstappen. George Russell put Mercedes on pole position for the Canadian Grand Prix by the blink of an eye on Saturday after setting exactly the same time as Red Bull's Max

Verstappen. Triple Formula One world champion Verstappen missed out on pole because he set his time of one minute 12.000 seconds after his British rival in a drama-filled

qualifying session at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve.

Mercedes signaled they were going to be a threat for pole earlier on Saturday when Lewis Hamilton, a seven-times winner in Canada, posted the top time in final practice with Russell close behind in third.

Rain, which had disrupted both practices on Friday, returned for the first two phases of qualifying but the skies cleared and the sun began to appear in time for the last-10 shootout that ended in a dead heat.

Russell will start on pole for the first time since Brazil 2022, joined on the front row by Verstappen who is chasing a Canadian Grand Prix hat-trick.

"I've missed this feeling," Russell said. "Excited for tomorrow, first step done but now obviously we've got our eyes on that win."

"The car has been feeling amazing since we brought some upgrades to Monaco, we have really been in that fight now. So we're going for it tomorrow."

Russell's pole provided yet another sign that Red Bull's domination is waning.

After Verstappen's run of eight consecutive poles extending back to last season, three different drivers have started from the front in the last three races.

If Russell can follow up his pole with a victory on Sunday he would also become the fourth different winner in the last four.

Jacobs Sees Room for Improvement After Retaining European Title

ROME (Reuters) - Olympic sprint champion Lamont Marcell Jacobs said he is aiming to improve his time and technique ahead of the Paris Games after electrifying the home crowd in Rome by retaining the men's 100m title at the European Athletics Championships on Saturday.

The Italian, who claimed two gold medals at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics (100m and 4x100m relay), had a slow start but showcased his signature strength in the final third of the race to clock a season-best 10.02 and clinch gold.

The 29-year-old has failed to dip under the 10-second mark in nearly two years and endured a series of injury is-

sues since his Tokyo Games triumph in 2021.

Jacobs also split with long-time coach Paolo Camossi in 2023 and is now training under U.S. coach Rana Reider in Jacksonville.

"I thought I could run 9.95. I didn't manage it but the important thing was to win," Jacobs said after the race on Saturday.

"I made a big bet on myself because I came to Rome not in the best shape, but it was one of my goals of the season to win. I am the European Champion again. It is really incredible the people here scream my name every second."

"I'm really happy about that (but) not really happy about



Italy's Lamont Marcell Jacobs celebrates winning the men's 100m final.

the time. But here in this competition what counts is the medals. Now we can work, work, work more to improve the time and the technique for

the Olympics of course."

The athletics competition at the Paris Olympics will take place from Aug. 1-11 at the Stade de France.