

Iran's Men Junior Handball Team Beats Turkey



TEHRAN – Iran's men's junior handball team emerged victorious against Turkey 25-20 in a friendly and preparatory match for the 18th Asian Men's Junior (U21) Handball Championship.

In the first friendly match, Iran beat Turkey with a score of 31-28.

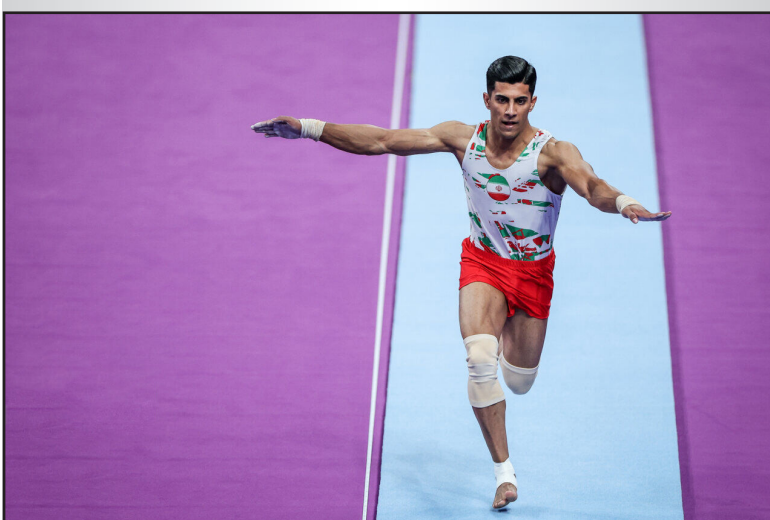
The Iranian team departed from Turkey to Oman on Wednesday to prepare for the 18th Asian Men's Junior (U-21) Handball Championship.

Iran will be competing in Group B alongside Kuwait and China in the upcoming tournament.

The 18th Asian Men's Junior (U-21) Handball Championship is scheduled to take place from 14 to 25 July 2024, at the Princess Sumaya Hall in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Furthermore, the championship will serve as a qualifying event for the 25th IHF Men's Junior (U-21) Handball World Championship in Poland, slated for June/July 2025. The top four teams from this competition will secure qualification spots for the World Championship.

Gymnastics Federation Wins Olfati's Olympic Case at CAS



TEHRAN – The Gymnastics Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced that Iranian national artistic gymnast Mehdi Olfati succeeded in winning the quota to attend the Paris 2024 Olympics.

President of the Gymnastics Federation of IR of Iran Zahra Incheh Dargahi said that an Australian gymnast sought to eliminate the Iranian Olympian, but the Iranian federation pursued the case at the Supreme Court of Sport (CAS), which led to the victory of Iran in this case.

Incheh Dargahi further said that the Australian gymnast filed a lawsuit against Olfati, calling on the International Gymnastics Federation to eliminate the Ira-

nian athlete from the Paris 2024 Olympics and his quota goes to the Australian rival.

"Therefore, they gave us a 24-hour deadline from May 13 to respond so that if we did not take action on time, a decision would be issued out of turn and in a special way," she said.

Efforts and consultations made by the Iranian officials led to the cementing of Olfati's quota at the Paris 2024 Olympics, she added.

However, Incheh Dargahi expressed regret that Ahmad Kohani, another gymnast, has faced a two-year ban, and lost the opportunity to compete at the Olympics due to hesitation in timely filling an anti-doping form.

France Crash Out of Euro 2024, Spain Go Through to Final

MUNICH (Reuters) - Spain struck twice in five minutes in a pulsating first half to secure a 2-1 comeback win over France as a record-breaking goal from teenager Lamine Yamal and a Dani Olmo effort propelled them into the Euro 2024 final.

The 16-year-old Yamal cancelled out Randal Kolo Muani's opener with a sublime shot in the 21st minute to become the youngest scorer in a Euro or World Cup before Olmo added another in the 25th for his third goal in the knockout stage.

The Spaniards, who have won every game of the tournament so far, confirmed their fa-



France's defender #05 Jules Kounde (up) fights for the ball with Spain's forward #19 Lamine Yamal during the UEFA Euro 2024 semifinal football match between Spain and France at the Munich Football Arena in Munich on July 9, 2024.

avorites tag with another display of attacking football, especially in the first half, that is a far cry

from the tiki-taka passing game that earned them world and European titles more than a decade

ago.

"I'm very happy to have made it to the final," said man-of-the-match Yamal. "Now the most important thing is to win it. We were in a difficult moment, you wouldn't expect a goal so soon."

"I wanted to put it in where it went in, and I'm very happy. I'm happy and content with the victory. I want to win, win and win," added the teenager.

They will now face the winners of Wednesday's match between England and Netherlands in the final in Berlin on Sunday as they hunt a record-breaking fourth European crown.

Messi Leads Argentina Into Copa America Final



Argentina's forward #10 Lionel Messi celebrates with teammates.

EAST RUTHERFORD (AFP) - Defending champions Argentina booked their place in the Copa

America final after goals from Julian Alvarez and Lionel Messi gave them a 2-0 win over Canada

in Tuesday's semifinal in New Jersey.

Argentina will face either Uruguay or Colombia in Sunday's final in Florida, a match that could represent the last shot at silverware for several senior squad members including Messi, Angel Di Maria and Nicolas Otamendi.

"Let's enjoy what we are experiencing as a national team, as a group. It is not easy to be in a final again, to compete again to be champions," Messi told TyC Sports.

"I'm living it as I have been living everything lately: enjoying it very much and being aware, as it

happens to Fideo (Di Maria) and Ota (Otamendi), that these are the last battles."

Argentina have won a joint-record 15 Copa titles and reached the final six times in the past eight editions but Canada caused them real problems in the opening 20 minutes, Jacob Shaffelburg twice shooting wide from promising positions.

After soaking up the early pressure, though, Argentina went ahead when Rodrigo De Paul played through Alvarez, who ghosted in between two defenders to score with a tidy finish in the 22nd minute.

Djokovic Into Wimbledon Semifinals as 'Devastated' De Minaur Pulls Out



LONDON (AFP) - Seven-time champion Novak Djokovic reached the Wimbledon semifinals on Wednesday when "devastated" Alex de Minaur withdrew from their last-eight clash with a hip injury.

Australian ninth seed De Minaur suffered the injury in his fourth-round win over Arthur Fils and admitted Wednesday: "I am devastated to pull out due to a hip injury."

"It's no secret that this would have been the biggest match of my career but it's a unique injury," said the 25-year-old.

"I woke up this morning wanting to feel some sort of miracle, but there was a high risk of making the injury worse if I stepped on court.

"One stretch, one slide could take this from a three to six weeks' injury to four months out. It's just too much to risk."

De Minaur suffered the injury in the closing stages of his four set win against Fils on Court 1 on Monday. He said he had felt a "loud crack".

As he sat down, he shook his head towards his box, where 2002 Wimbledon champion Lleyton Hewitt, a fellow Australian, and tennis-playing girlfriend Katie Boulter looked on with concern.

De Minaur defeated 24-time Grand Slam title winner Djokovic at the United Cup in Australia earlier this year.

He arrived at Wimbledon having made the quarterfinals at the French Open and with a grass-court title at 's-Hertogenbosh under his belt.

Djokovic becomes only the third man in the Open Era to reach the semi-finals at Wimbledon aged 37 or older after Ken Rosewall and Federer.

The Serb has also been under an injury cloud having undergone knee surgery after the French Open.

He has been playing at Wimbledon with protection on his right knee.

Philipsen Finally Bags Stage Win as Pogacar Stays in Control

PARIS (AFP) - Belgian Jasper Philipsen finally claimed victory in this year's Tour de France when he won the 10th stage with a textbook sprint on Tuesday.

Philipsen, who won four stages on the world's biggest race last year, benefited from a perfect lead-out by Alpecin-Deceuninck teammate and world champion Mathieu van der Poel to prevail after 187.3-km from Orleans.

Eritrean Biniam Girmay, who has already won two stages in this edition, took second place with German Pascal Ackermann coming home third.

Slovenian Tadej Pogacar retained the overall leader's

yellow jersey after an uneventful day.

The peloton stayed compact throughout the day through a few rain showers but everyone stayed quiet after Monday's rest day.

Agitation came in the final five kilometers with the sprinters' teams looking to get the best position and Alpecin-Deceuninck did the best job.

Van der Poel crushed the pedals with 300 meters to go, leaving Philipsen to finish it off comfortably for his seventh career win on the Tour.

It was a big relief for the 26 year-old, whose best result was a second place since the start in Florence.



Wanted team's Eritrean rider Biniam Girmay (right) wearing the sprinter's green jersey sprints the finish line to win ahead of second-placed Alpecin-Deceuninck team's Belgian rider Jasper Philipsen (second left).

The only bad news for Philipsen is that he did not regain much ground on Girmay

as his rival stayed firmly in control of the points classification.