

# Iranian Rowers Secure More Medals in Asian Championships



TEHRAN – Iranian rowing athletes have grabbed six medals in the 2024 Asian Rowing Championships held in Samarkand, Uzbeki-

stan. Iranian athletes won six medals in total at the 2024 Asian Rowing Championships, which took place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from October 10 to 14.

The medals included two gold, three silver, and one bronze.

Iranian female rower Zeinab Norouzi won a gold medal in the lightweight women's single-scull rowing event.

Zeinab Norouzi and Kimia Zarei also claimed a gold medal in the women's lightweight double-sculls event.

Additionally, Iran's Kimia Zarei, Fatemeh Mojallal, Mahsa Javar, and Zeinab Norouzi secured a silver medal in the women's quadruple sculls.

Fatemeh Mojallal won a silver medal in the heavyweight women's single-scull rowing event.

Amir-Hossein Mahmoudpour claimed a silver medal in the lightweight men's single-scull rowing event.

Finally, in the women's heavyweight double-sculls event, Kimia Zarei and Fatemeh Mojallal grabbed a bronze medal.

## Qatar, Iran Set Blockbuster Clash in WC Qualifier



TEHRAN – Iran and Qatar are set for a blockbuster clash when they meet in Group A of the AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to 26 on Tuesday.

Iran lead the standings together with Uzbekistan while a win for Qatar will see the two-time AFC Asian Cup champion drawing level with Tuesday's opponents.

Iran had to be satisfied with a draw against Uzbekistan on Thursday and will know that they can't afford to drop points against Qatar in Dubai's Rashid Stadium.

Particularly concerning for head coach Amir Ghalenoei will be the fact that goals

have been hard to come by, with Iran only having found the back of the net twice in three matches.

Thursday's 3-1 win against Kyrgyzstan was Qatar's first triumph of their campaign and head coach Marquez Lopez will be hoping the victory was the booster his side needed in their bid to qualify for the FIFA World Cup Finals on merit for the first time.

The Persian Gulf side will go into the tie with the psychological advantage of having defeated Iran 3-2 in thrilling AFC Asian Cup semifinal in February.

## England Get Back on Track With 3-1 Win Over Finland in Nations League

HELSINKI (Reuters) - England enjoyed a 3-1 victory over Finland thanks to goals from Jack Grealish, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Declan Rice at the Helsinki Olympic Stadium to get their Nations League campaign back on track after Thursday's humbling loss to Greece.

The win for England's under-scrutiny interim manager Lee Carsley left his side second in Group B2 with nine points after four games, level on points with leaders Greece who host Ireland later on Sunday, while Finland are bottom without a point.

"I think we could have had a few more (goals), especially towards the end as the game opened up," Grealish told ITV.

"It was difficult at times in



England's Jack Grealish (center) controls the ball followed by Matti Peltola of Finland during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Finland and England, at the Olympic Stadium in Helsinki, Finland, on Oct 13, 2024.

the first half, but we went in at halftime with a one-goal lead, and then I think we dominated

the game." Grealish opened the scoring in the 18th minute with his

fourth England goal when Angel Gomes spun and slipped a clever pass into the path of the winger, who slotted the ball into the far corner past goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky.

"The goal came from the manager letting us play with that freedom," said Grealish, who stuck a thumb in his mouth in celebration, saying it was for his daughter who was born last month.

Alexander-Arnold gave England some breathing space when he bent a free kick from 20 meters over the wall into the top corner in the 74th minute.

Rice tapped home substitute Ollie Watkins' cross 10 minutes later after making a bursting run upfield.

## FIFA to Open Dialogue on Transfer Rules After EU Verdict



BRUSSELS (AP) - FIFA will start negotiations with the sport's stakeholders on the transfer system after

the European Union ruled that some of its aspects were unlawful, the soccer governing body said on Monday.

"In the coming days, FIFA will formally invite stakeholders to comment on and propose ideas in relation to article 17 of the RSTP ("Consequences of terminating a contract without just cause") with a view to consolidating the proposals and identifying the best way forward," FIFA said in a statement.

FIFA's Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) say a player who terminates a contract before its term "without just cause" is liable to pay compensation to the club, and where the player joins a new club they will

be jointly liable for payment of compensation.

The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), ruling on a high-profile case linked to former France player Lassana Diarra, stated on Oct 4 these dispositions were unlawful, and the judgment is expected to prompt FIFA to revamp its transfer regulations.

"The rules in question are such as to impede the free movement of professional footballers wishing to develop their activity by going to work for a new club," the Luxembourg-based CJEU said.

## Nigeria Set to Boycott AFCON Qualifier in Libya

LONDON (Sky Sports) - Nigeria's players say they will boycott their 2025 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier in Libya on Tuesday after being stranded at an airport overnight.

The Super Eagles squad were due to land in Benghazi but their plane was instead diverted to Al Abraq, which is about 230km away from their intended destination.

A Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) official told media the travelling contingent were "completely abandoned" and then locked inside the airport building after making arrangements to leave.

"As the captain together with the team we have decided that we will not play this game," center-back William Troost-Ekong said in a post on X.

"At this point we have called for our Nigerian government to intervene and rescue us.

"I've experienced stuff before playing away in Africa but this is disgraceful behavior."

The Libyan Football Federation (LFF) said it was "deeply concerned" by reports about the situation experienced by the travelling side but denied suggestions of foul play.

"We have the utmost respect for our Nigerian counterparts and want to reassure them that the diversion of their flight was not intentional," it said.

The LFF added that disruptions can occur from routine air traffic protocols, security checks or other logistical challenges and said it hoped the misunderstanding "can be resolved with understanding



and goodwill".

The Confederation of African Football has been contacted for comment.

The situation follows Libya's complaints of alleged hostile treatment during their visit to Nigeria for the reverse fixture in Uyo last Friday.

Libyan officials claimed they were rerouted to Port Harcourt and also accused the Nigerians of not providing them a bus to cover the 130km journey to Uyo, leaving them stranded for hours.

Those claims were denied by the NFF.

## Kenya's Chepngetich Smashes Women's Marathon World Record



Ruth Chepngetich of Kenya poses with a clock after winning the 2024 Chicago Marathon professional women's division and setting a new world record with a time of 2:09:56 at Grant Park on Oct 13, 2024 in Chicago, Illinois.

CHICAGO (AFP) - Kenya's Ruth Chepngetich has put on a performance for the ages as she obliterated the women's marathon world record in Chicago, taking nearly two minutes off the previous best to win in an unofficial time of two hours, nine minutes and 56 seconds.

Chepngetich ditched the competition by the halfway mark and ran through a chorus of cheers through the final straight as she claimed her third title in Chicago and crushed Ethiopian Tigst Assefa's previous record of 2:11:53, set last year in Berlin.

Ethiopia's Suture Kebede crossed the line seven minutes and 36 seconds later while Kenyan Irine Cheptai (2:17:51) was third.

"This is my dream that has come true," said Chepngetich, whose time was originally recorded as 2:09:57 but was later

adjusted.

Her compatriot John Korir won on the men's side in 2:02:44.

Chepngetich set a blistering pace from the start, running the first five kilometers in 15 minutes flat and by the halfway mark she had built a 14-second cushion between herself and Kebede.

Television commentators were astonished as she grinded through the course, comparing her attempt at a sub-2:10 marathon to the moon landing, and she only seemed to gain momentum as she sprinted through the final two miles.

Chepngetich, the 2019 world champion, hunched over in utter exhaustion after breaking the tape and dedicated her performance to compatriot Kelvin Kiptum, who broke the men's world record a year ago in Chicago and died in a car crash four months later.