

Youth Karate Athletes Secure Two Golds, One Silver at Asian Championships in China



TEHRAN - Iranian athletes claimed two gold medals and one silver on the opening day of the Asian Youth Karate Championships, marking a strong start for the national team in Shaoguan, southern China.

Satayesh Qanaei delivered Iran's first gold after winning the girls' under-54kg category. She defeated Kazakhstan's Ontalab 2-1 in her opening bout, overcame China's Lin 5-0 in the semi-final, and secured the title

with a decisive win over Malaysia's Ravindran in the final.

Shortly after, teammate Satayesh Afshar added Iran's second gold in the under-61kg class. Afshar beat Kazakhstan's Norlan 1-0,

Japan's Hayashi 3-1, and Uzbekistan's Almashova in the semifinal, before defeating Thailand's Nisangat 4-2 to clinch victory.

In the boys' under-63kg division, Arshia Moallemi earned silver after advancing to the final with wins over rivals from Palestine, Kyrgyzstan, and Thailand. He lost the gold medal match to China's Shi.

Iran also secured four bronze medals through its boys' and girls' kata teams.

Despite several early exits by other competitors, the team concluded day one with a tally of two golds, one silver, and four bronzes.

The championships feature athletes from 30 countries across Asia.

Iran Top Group B in CAFA Nations Cup



TEHRAN - Iran finished top of Group B after being held to a 2-2 draw by Tajikistan, to book their place in the final against Uzbekistan of the CAFA Nations Cup 2025 on Thursday.

The last match of CAFA Nations Cup 2025's Group B ended in a thrilling 2-2 draw between Tajikistan and Iran at the Hisor Central Stadium in Hisor, Tajikistan on Thursday.

Muhammad Mohebi scored twice for Iran (38', 47'), putting his team ahead, while Shahrom Samiev (58') and Zoir Dzhuraboev (78') brought Tajikistan back with second-half goals.

Despite this, the hosts could not secure a spot in the third-place match, as Khalid Jamil's India advanced on the basis of head-to-head record. Iran, meanwhile, qualified for the final.

Qatar, Iran Handball Federations Sign MoU



TEHRAN - Head of Iran handball federation Alireza Pakdel and head of the Qatar Handball Federation Ahmad Al-Shaabi have signed a co-operation agreement to develop on cooperation between the handball federations of the two countries in various fields.

Pakdel met with Ahmad Al-Shaabi, head of the Qatar Handball Federation, and discussed and explored ways to enhance relation in handball both in the two countries and at the Asian level.

In the meeting, Al-Shaabi praised Pakdel's activities in recent years, which have led to the growth and

progress of Iranian handball, and praised relations between the two federations in recent years.

He touted Iran's federation role in Asia and praised the progress in the women's, men's and beach handball sections in Iran.

The head of the Qatar Handball Federation also referred to the formation of the country's women's national handball team and called Pakdel to provide Qatar with the experiences of the Iranian Handball Federation in this field, to which the head of the Iranian Federation promised cooperation in this field.

U-23 Footballers Down Hong Kong at Asian Cup Qualification

TEHRAN - Iran have defeated Hong Kong 4-0 in their AFC U-23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026 Qualifiers Group I match.

Mehdi Jafari opened the scoring for Iran in the 70th minute at the Al Nahyan Stadium in Abu Dhabi, the UAE. Amir Muhammad Razzaghinia doubled the scoreboard three minutes

later.



Two late goals from Kasra

Taheri sealed a 4-0 win for

Iran in its opening match.

Iran are scheduled to meet Guam and the UAE on September 6 and 9, respectively.

The 44 teams were divided into eleven groups of four teams. In each group, teams played each other once at a centralized venue.

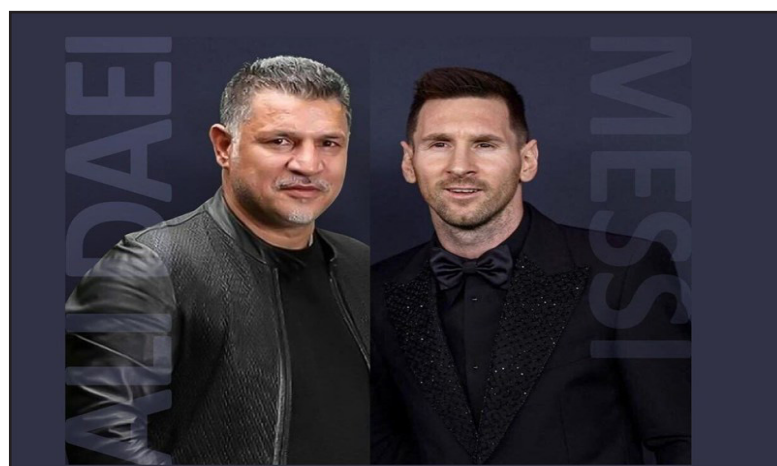
The eleven group winners and the four best runners-up will qualify for the final tournament in Saudi Arabia.

Lionel Messi Surpasses Ali Daei's World Cup Qualifying Record

TEHRAN - Lionel Messi became the second player in history to score goals for a national team in 20 consecutive years (since 2006), after Cristiano Ronaldo (22 years in a row, 2004 to 2025).

Messi, with a brace in presumably last home qualifying match in his career, equaled Cristiano Ronaldo as the 2nd highest scorer in World Cup qualifying history (36 goals both). He surpassed Ali Daei (35). The record belongs to Guatemala's Carlos Ruiz (39).

These goals are the first Messi's for Argentina in 2025.



The next in this ranking are Robbie Keane, scoring for Republic of Ireland during 19 successive years (1998 to 2016),

Edin Džeko, scoring for Bosnia and Herzegovina dur-

ing the same period (2007 to 2025).

Messi equaled Ecuador's Iván Hurtado as the player with most appearances (72) in the history of South American Qualifiers.

Bani Talebi Wins Brone Medal in World Wushu Championship

TEHRAN - Shahin Bani Talebi from Iran has bagged a bronze medal in 17th World Wushu Championship in Brasilia, Brazil.

Bani Talebi performed in the talu field and finished in third place in the competition with a score of 9.733. Hong Kong athletes won the gold and silver medals with a score of 9.763 and 9.740, respectively.

Mustafa Hassanzadeh ranked in fifth place in this form with a score of 9.726. Banitalebi's bronze medal is the first medal for Iran's Wushu delegation to



the 17th World Championships.

Also, in the Sanda division, Shoja Panahi defeated "Avozbek Mohammadjanov" from Uzbekistan

in two rounds in the 65 kg weight category and advanced to the quarterfinals. Earlier, He had won against "Surya Singh" from India.