Islamic Games: Iranian Athletes Add to Medal Tally

Taekwondoka Saina Karimi Snatches Gold Medal



TEHRAN – Iranian female taekwondoka Saina Karimi has received a gold medal at the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games which is underway in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The first day of the taekwondo competitions at the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games brought home one gold and two bronze medals for Iranian taekwondo fighters.

In the men's -54 kg category, Amir Muhammad Nasir Ahmadi was defeated by his Saudi opponent.

However, Nasir Ahmadi advanced to the repechage round but was overpowered by his Turkish rival and eliminated from the competition.

In the men's -74 kg category, Ali Khoshroo first defeated Mohammed Al-Houti from Bahrain but then lost to Najmiddin Kosimkhojiev, the world champion from Uzbekistan.

He competed against Javad Aghayev from Azerbaijan and earned the bronze medal.

In the women's -57 kg category, Hasti Muhammadi won her first match against a competitor from Kyrgyzstan but then lost to Hatice Kubra Ilgun from Turkey.

She also defeated an opponent from Uzbekistan, achieving a valuable victory to claim the bronze medal.

In the women's -46 kg category, Saina Karimi secured wins over competitors from Kazakhstan, Turkey, and Niger, advancing to the fi-

In the gold medal match, she faced Minaya Akbarova from Azerbaijan and won in two straight rounds, sequencing the first gold medal for the

Iranian taekwondo team in Riyadh.

Men's Handball Team Downs Maldives

 The national men's handball team of Iran defeated Maldives 57-14 at the 2025
 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Sunday.

Iran, who had lost to Qatar 39-23 in Group A, will play the UAE on Tuesday. Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia



are in Group B.

The Iranian women's national handball team also secured their advancement to the semifinals after claiming their second victory of the tournament. The team defeated Guinea with a final score of 23-21, confirming their place in the final four of the competition.

The 6th Islamic Solidarity Games, known as Riyadh 2025, are an inter-continental multi-sport event organized by the Islamic Solidarity Sports Association (ISSA), held from November 7 to 21 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The event has brought together more than 3,000 athletes from 57 nations, competing across 25 sports in pursuit of glory at one of the Islamic world's premier multi-sport events.

Wushu Athletes Advance to Semifinals

- Iran's Wushu athletes delivered a

clean sweep in their Sanda (fighting) bouts, with all three male representatives advancing to the quarterfinals



by winning their respective matches 2-0.

In the 60kg weight class, Amirhussein Hemmati defeated Berkay Ozan of Turkey.

Erfan Moharrami secured his quarterfinal spot in the 70kg category by overcoming Marwan Mohamed Kandil of Egypt.

Finally, Farbud Taleshi advanced in the 85kg division after defeating Ayit Khanov Ibrahim from Uzbekistan.

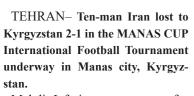
Rezaei Ranks Fourth in **Duathlon Event**



-In the Men's Duathlon event (5km run, 20km cycle, 2.5km run), Iranian athletes narrowly missed the podium.

Muhammad Amir Rezaei finished his race in fourth place, just shy of a medal. Muhammad Sadr Amin finished closely behind him in fifth place, while Farid Hadipour finished tenth

Basketball Federation Rejects Rumors of Kapogianni's Resignation



Mehdi Jafari was on target for Iran in the 57th minute but Muhammad Javad Husseinnejhad was sent off in the 76th minute.

Iran suffered two goals in the added time.

The event has brought Kyrgyzstan, Bahrain, Iran, and Russia at the Kurmanbek Stadium together.

Iran, who lost to Russia 2-0 in its opening match, will play Bahrain on Tuesday.

All participants in the games prepare for the 2026 AFC U-23 Asian Cup final tournament, which will be held in Saudi Arabia in January.



U-23 Footballers Suffer Late Loss

Against Kyrgyzstan at MANAS Cup



TEHRAN – Iran's Basketball Federation dismissed speculation regarding the departure of women head coach Eleni Kapogianni.

The Greek coach recently expressed her best wishes for the Iranian women's team in an Instagram post.

post.

Mohsen Moezzi, the secretary of the Basketball Federation, stated, "This is not true. Negotiations with

Kapogianni are ongoing. We are

not chasing rumors; we will continue discussions until we reach an agreement."

He added, "Eleni has performed well with the Iran women's national basketball team, and we have had no issues with her, nor she with us. We would like to continue our collaboration, but there are no imminent events at this time. We officially state that the outcome will be determined in due course."

Bam Khatoon to Meet East Bengal at AFC Champions League



TEHRAN – The race for quarterfinal berths begins in Group B of the AFC Women's Champions League 2025-26 in Wuhan on Monday.

Defending champion Wuhan Jiangda Women's FC of China, India's East Bengal FC, Iran's Bam Khatoon FC and Uzbekistan's PFC Nasaf will all be aiming to start strongly with only the top two guaranteed progression to the knockout stage.

Bam Khatoon will face East Bengal FC at the Hankou Culture Sports Centre in Wuhan.

Bam Khatoon enters the competition with valuable experience, having reached the quarter-finals last season before losing 1-0 to Korea Republic's Incheon Hyundai Steel Red Angels.

Head coach Marziyeh Jafari will want her side to set the tone early with forward Melika Motevalli and captain Fatemeh Geraeli expected to drive the team's attacking rhythm.

The Iranian champion, known for its defensive organization and combative midfield, will look to assert control from the start against East Bengal.

East Bengal will be determined to make a strong impression on their AFC Women's Champions LeagueTM debut under head coach Anthony Andrews.

The Indian side progressed unbeaten from the Preliminary Stage, topping Group E with a win and a draw and Andrews will look to build on that momentum in the Group Stage.

Spearheading the attack for East Bengal is Fazila Ikwaput, who raked in 37 goals from 22 appearances for Gokulam Kerala last season, while Sangita Basfore provides tenacity in midfield.

Women's Kabaddi Drawn in Group B at World Cup



TEHRAN – Iran learned its opponents at the 2025 Women's Kabaddi World Cup.

Team Melli Banovan has been drawn in Group B along with Chinese Taipei, Nepal, Poland and Kenya.

Group A consists of defending champion India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Uganda and

desh, Thailand, Uganda and Germany. The 2025 World Cup will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh,

from November 17 to 24.

This year's tournament holds special significance as it will be hosted outside India for the first time ever.

The International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) had originally announced that the tournament would be held in Rajgir, Bihar (India) from June 1 to 10, 2025. However, due to unforeseen administrative reasons, the Bihar government withdrew from hosting responsibilities.