

Iranian Women's Karate Team Crowned Asian Champions as Men Secure Silver



Iranian delegation poses for a team photo after finishing runner-up at the 2026 Asian Senior Karate Championships on June 21, 2026, in Bali, Indonesia.

TEHRAN – The Iranian women's kumite team captured the championship title at the 22nd Asian Karate Championships, while the men's team finished as runners-up to claim the silver medal.

The Iranian men's kumite team secured their silver medal following an impressive run to the finals, which included

dominant victories over Nepal, Vietnam, and Japan.

In the final showdown, Iran faced Jordan but ultimately lost the matchup 3-0. During the bouts, Saleh Abazari was defeated 3-0 by his Jordanian counterpart, Esmail Motamedi lost a closely contested match 5-3, and Mehdi Ashouri dropped

his bout 7-0.

The Iranian team's campaign in the 22nd edition of the Asian Championships concluded with a total haul of 3 gold medals, 1 silver medal, and 5 bronze medals, securing the overall title of Asian runners-up. With this result, the men's team brought home the Asian silver medal for the "Mar-

tyr Komeil Motie-Doost" delegation.

Meanwhile, the Iranian women's karate team enjoyed a highly triumphant campaign at the Asian Championships hosted in Bali, Indonesia. On their path to the finals, the national athletes showcased total dominance by defeating Chinese Taipei, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam one after another to punch their ticket to the final match.

In the critical final showdown, Iran faced powerhouse Japan and secured a decisive 2-0 victory to claim the Asian crown.

During the high-stakes matchups, Hananeh Salehi clinched her victory after a 2-2 draw. Following her, Fatemeh Zahra Saeidabadi secured a commanding 10-2 victory over her Japanese opponent. This stellar performance allowed the Iranian delegation to celebrate its third gold medal of the championships.

Gymnast Mehdi Olfati Claims Bronze in Vault



TEHRAN – Iranian gymnast Mehdi Olfati has claimed the bronze medal in the vault event at the Asian Artistic

Gymnastics Championships in China.

Olfati secured his podium finish in the vault final with scores of 14.8 in his first attempt and 13.8 in his second, earning an average of 14.1 to stand on the third step of the podium.

The gold and silver medals were claimed by Japan's Wataru Tanigawa and South Korea's Kim Jae-Ho, respectively.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, Mehdi Ahmad-Kohani claimed the bronze medal in the men's ring final.

This bronze medal highlights a strong performance for Olfati in the category.

In other results, Iran's junior representative, Pouria Amanifard, finished sixth in the junior rings final on Saturday. He is also set to compete in the junior vault final later today.

Iran Crowned Champions of Asian Beach Volleyball Tour in China



TEHRAN – The Yonyang Asian Beach Volleyball Open Tour kicked off on June 18 in China and concluded on Sunday, June 21, with Iran claiming the championship title.

The final match was scheduled to be held on Sunday between Iran and Australia, but the Australian side failed to appear on the court due to a player injury. Consequently, the Iranian squad, comprising Abolhassan Khakizadeh and Amir Ghalenoei, secured the gold medal.

During the preliminary stage, the Iranian team defeated Japan and Hong Kong to advance to the knockout phase as the group leader. In the following rounds, they overcame China, Iran's second team, and another Chinese squad to book their place in the final.

Rahman Raoufi and Abdolraouf Bestagani accompanied the team as coaches during the tournament, while Hassan Bazdarhava served as the designated Iranian referee at the Yonyang Asian Open Tour.

Sadra Ebrahimi Wins Bronze in Asia Triathlon Junior Cup



TEHRAN – Iran's Sadra Ebrahimi finished third and settled for a bronze medal in Asia Triathlon Junior Cup in Kazakhstan.

The competition held with the participation of 41 athletes from Asian and European countries, and Ebrahimi finished the sprint distance (750 meters swimming, 20 kilometers cycling and 5 kilometers running) in 59:33 and took the podium after athletes from Belarus and Russia.

Ebrahimi finished third

while he was behind with only 20 seconds difference from the first place, and he delivered a balanced and competitive performance in all three parts of the competition, recording a time of 10:24 in swimming, 31:11 in cycling, and 16:56 in running.

On June 21, 2026, the 2026 Asia Triathlon Junior Cup Astana hosted in Astana, Kazakhstan. Junior athletes competed over the Sprint distance, showcasing their endurance, speed, and technical skill.

Ghalenoei Accuses World Cup Managers of Silence Over Treatment

TEHRAN – Iran coach Amir Ghalenoei has claimed he has been shunned by the other 47 managers at the World Cup and said his squad had suffered further disruption after FIFA's attempts to fix their latest travel chaos failed.

Iran flew into Los Angeles on Saturday lunchtime local time before their second Group G game against Belgium at the SoFi Stadium on Sunday.

Ghalenoei – who said Iran felt "robbed" over their treatment by World Cup organizers – claimed none of his manage-

rial counterparts at the tournament have responded to his questions.

"We have many challenges, especially off the pitch," the Iran coach said. "I asked the 47 other coaches a question and none of them have responded to me."

Asked if felt the support of the other nations, Ghalenoei added: "No, I have not seen that. I have not had any reaction from anyone.

"Our grievances are to do with the way they World Cup organizers have behaved to-



Amir Ghalenoei, the Iran head coach, said he felt "robbed" by how his team have been treated.

wards us. I've not heard from other coaches, they are busy with their Ghalenoei also said

that FIFA had contacted them on Friday to ask whether they would be ready to fly to the

U.S. later that day only for the plan to come to nothing.

"FIFA phoned me and said: 'Are you ready if we get you a flight at 6pm?' I welcomed that but we sat and waited and waited," he said. "We waited until 7pm, nothing happened. 'OK, sorry, we weren't able to do that.' That's going to affect us mentally, especially me as a head coach ... I know FIFA is trying its best, I thank them for that but it doesn't mean they have succeeded."

Under FIFA rules, teams are only allowed to travel two

days before a game in "exceptional" circumstances. Belgium were granted permission to fly into Los Angeles from their Seattle training base on Friday.

"It appears they may allow us to go to Seattle earlier," said Ghalenoei, who claimed the disruption had forced him to cut a training session in half. "I wish they could have done it for the first two games, and allowed us to come two weeks before the first game, to arrive in optimal conditions. They robbed us of this opportunity."