Iranian, Uzbek sports ministers discuss sports cooperation

Sports Desk

Iranian Sports Minister Hamid Sajjadi and his Uzbek counterpart Adkham Ikramov agreed to hold joint sports camps.

The agreement was made on the sidelines of the 7th International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VII) in Baku, Azerbaijan, reported Mehr News Agency.

Referring to the commonalities of the two countries of Iran and Uzbekistan in different sectors, the Iranian minister appreciated Uzbekistan's hosting of the Iranian national football team in the 2023 CAFA Nations Cup.

Expressing happiness over the recent visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Iran, Sajjadi said, "We can deepen these interactions in common areas."

According to the Iranian minister, Iran and Uzbekistan can expand their relations to water sports, boxing, shooting, wushu, weightlifting and football.

Pointing to the Islamic Republic of Iran's plan to develop women's sports, Sajjadi added, "Over the past years, many programs have been carried out to expand women's sports in Iran, so that Iranian women can show their abilities to the world while observing religious and Islamic values."

Ikramov, for his part, expressed hope to cooperate and interact with Iran at higher levels such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in common fields.

"Iran and Uzbekistan can expand sports relations and interactions in the form of a joint memorandum of understanding, and we fully welcome this issue," he pointed out.

According to the Uzbek minister, Tashkent can establish more connections with Iran in the field of handball, volleyball and basketball.

MEHR

He also expressed readiness to share facilities and experiences with Iran in judo, boxing and taekwondo.

World's largest Olympic flag hoisted in Iran

The largest International Olympic Committee (IOC)'s flag has been hoisted at Iran's National Olympic Committee (NOC) headquarters. The 200 square meters five rings flag has been installed on the world's largest flagpole in Tehran, the capital of Iran, ISNA reported.

ISNA

Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa and Manaf Hashemi, President and Secretary General of Iran's NOC, attended the ceremony.

Olympics shooting champion Javad Foroughi, weightlifting champion Hossein Tavakoli as well as woman Olympics sprinter Farzaneh Fasihi, weightlifter Elham Hosseini, shooter Hanieh Rostamian and fencer Ali Pakdaman also took part in the flag-raising ceremony.

Olympic Day was introduced in 1948 to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic Games on 23 June 1894 at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Discrimination 'widespread' in English, Welsh cricket

Racism, sexism, classism and elitism are "widespread" in English and Welsh cricket, according to a long-awaited independent report.

The Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket (ICEC) has delivered its findings from a two-year investigation, BBC wrote on Tuesday.

The ICEC has made 44 recommendations, including that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) makes an unreserved public apology for its failings.

ECB chair Richard Thompson said: "We will use this moment to reset cricket."

The ICEC was announced by the ECB in March 2021 in the wake of global movements such as Black Lives Matter and Me Too.

It opened an online call for evidence in November of that year, receiving 4,156 responses. In March 2022, a call for written evidence resulted in more than 150 responses.

Among those to give evidence include England men's Test captain Ben Stokes, women's captain Heather Knight, former men's captain Joe Root, World Cup-winning skipper Eoin Morgan, and Azeem Rafiq - the former Yorkshire player and racism whistleblower.

In a damning 317-page report called Holding Up A Mirror To Cricket, the ICEC concluded that:

"Structural and institutional racism" continues to exist within the game.

Women are treated as "subordinate" to men at all levels of the sport.

There is a prevalence of "elitism and class-based discrimination" in cricket.

Black cricket has been failed and the ECB must develop a plan to revive it.

Many who experience discrimination do not report it because of a distrust in the authorities.

Umpires regularly ignore abuse and dismiss complaints in both the professional and recreational games.

"There remains a stark reality that cricket is not a 'game for everyone' and it is absolutely essential that the work required to achieve that ambition must begin immediately," wrote ICEC chair Cindy Butts.

"Be in no doubt, what is needed now is leadership. I very much hope that the recommendations we make in this report will be adopted and driven forward by the ECB and all others in leadership positions."

The report praised the ECB for being "brave" enough to open itself to independent scrutiny.

Thompson, who became ECB chair last September, offered an "unreserved" apology.

"Cricket should be a game for everyone, and we know that this has not always been the case," he said.

"Powerful conclusions within the report also highlight that for too long women and black people were neglected. We are truly sorry for this.

"This report makes clear that historic structures and systems have failed to prevent discrimination, and highlights the pain and exclusion this has caused.

"I am determined that this wake-up call for cricket in England and Wales should not be wasted. We will use this moment to demonstrate that it is a game for all and we have a duty to put this right for current and future generations."

The recommendations also include the equalisation of match fees between the England women's and men's teams with immediate effect, that the ECB reports on the state of equity in cricket every three years and the removal of annual fixtures between Eton and Harrow schools and Oxford and Cambridge universities from Lord's.

GETTY IMAGES

Iran beats Chinese Taipei in Asian Kabaddi C'ship

IRNA

Iran defeated Chinese Taipei in the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023 underway in Busan, South Korea on Tuesday.

Iran's national Kabaddi squad beat Chinese Taipei 52-28 in its first match of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023, IRNA wrote.

Iran will compete with Hong Kong on Wednesday.

The tournament began on 24th June and will wrap up on 1st July 2023.

West Ham reject Manchester City's £90m bid for captain

Last season Rice became the first West Ham captain since Bobby Moore to lead the club to European success.

YONG KIM/ PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

West Ham rejected a bid of £90m from Treble winners Manchester City for captain Declan Rice.

City's offer was thought to have included an £80m initial payment but is short of the £100m the Hammers want, according to Reuters.

Arsenal are expected to make a third bid for the 24-year-old England midfielder.

The Gunners' second proposal of an initial £75m in four payments, plus £15m in add-ons, was turned down by West Ham last week.

Rice's contract with the Hammers expires in 2024, although it has the option for a one-year extension until the summer of 2025.

Following the club's Europa Conference League victory over Fiorentina earlier this month, chairman David Sullivan said he was "99%" sure Rice would leave West Ham this summer.

Although they have lined up Chelsea's Mateo Kovacic in a £25m deal, the loss of Ilkay Gundogan to Barcelona means City manager Pep Guardiola is keen to bolster his midfield options, with Rice viewed as the ideal candidate.