

Iranians win double Asian junior taekwondo golds



● taekwondo.ir

Sports Desk

Iranian girls captured three medals – including double golds – at the Asian Junior Taekwondo Championships, taking the country's medal count to 10 in Beirut, Lebanon.

Sogand Shiri came out on top in straight rounds against Patcharakan Poolkerd of Thailand for the ultimate prize of the -44kg contests, while Fereshteh Fat'hi bounced back from a first-round defeat to beat China's Chengyi Wang in the -68kg final.

Rojan Goodarzi, meanwhile, had to settle for the -49kg silver after suffering a final loss to Thai contestant Natkamon Wassana – a reigning world junior champion.

Ghazal Houshmand, Niush Shadlou had bagged a couple of women's golds for Iran earlier in the competitions, with Amirmohammad Rahmani-Rad and Mohammad-Matin Hosseini also finishing on the top podium in the men's event.

IWF World Championships: Iranians eyeing Paris berths in Riyadh



Mirmostafa Javadi will represent Iran in the men's 89kg contests at the IWF World Championships in Riyadh.
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Iranian weightlifters will be looking to take a major step toward securing a berth in next year's Paris Olympics when taking part at the IWF World Championships in Riyadh in the coming days.

The Asian powerhouse is represented by a 10-man squad as well as four female athletes in the Saudi capital.

The competition serves a

mandatory event to qualify for the Games in Paris, which will be held across five men's and women's categories apiece in August next year.

Replacing high-profile countryman Kianoush

Rostami, Mirmostafa Javadi will be the Iranian contestant in the men's 89kg class – starting Sept. 11. Javadi, a double world silver winner in 2021, will be hoping to build on the clean & jerk and total Asian

bronzes he won in a new weight class in May in pursuit of the Olympic berth. Reza Dehdar will be joined by fellow Iranian Rasoul Mo'tamedi in the 102kg event – also an Olympic category – with the former among the favorites for a podium finish in Riyadh, having four world medals – including two golds – under his belt.

With Georgian sensation Lasha Talakhadze as well as Armenia's Varazdat Lalayan and Gor Minasyan of Bahrain all present in the Saudi capital, the +109kg event will be the one to watch.

Ali Davoudi and Ayat Sharifi are the two Iranian superheavyweights at the competitions, with both fancying their chances for glory, though Talakhadze will likely make a clean sweep of triple golds for a sixth year running to add to his double Olympic triumphs.

Having finished second to the Georgian in Tokyo two years ago, Davoudi will be aiming at a second Olympic medal in Paris.

More than 700 weightlifters will competing at the World Championships until September 17.

Sancho says he is 'a scapegoat' after being dropped against Arsenal

BBC – Jadon Sancho says he has been “a scapegoat for a long time” after Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag said he was dropped for Sunday's game at Arsenal because of poor training performance.

The England forward did not travel to Emirates Stadium for the game, which United lost 3-1.

Ten Hag said Sancho had not reached the “level” required to be included.

“Please don't believe everything you read,” Sancho wrote on social media.

“I will not allow people saying things that is completely untrue, I have conducted myself very well in training this week.

“I believe there are other reasons for this matter that I won't go into, I've been a scapegoat for a long time which isn't fair!”

Sancho, 23, moved to Old Trafford from Borussia Dortmund for £73m in 2021.

However, he has struggled for consistent form and has scored nine league goals and provided just six assists in his 58 appearances.

Explaining his decision not to pick Sancho for his squad to travel to Arsenal, Ten Hag said: “Jadon, on his performances in training we did not select him.

“You have to reach a level every day at Manchester United and we can make choices in the front line. So for this game he was not selected.”

Sancho insisted he would continue to fight for his place at the club, adding: “All I want to do is play football with a smile on my face and contribute to my team.

“I respect all decisions that are made by the coaching staff, I play with fantastic players and grateful to do so, which I know every week is a challenge.

“I will continue to fight for this badge no matter what.”

In February, Ten Hag spoke of his pride in “magnificent” Sancho after the winger made a goalscoring return to the Premier League.

He had spent three months battling physical and mental issues, with Ten Hag at one point saying the England international was not fit enough to play.

FIBA Basketball World Cup: Defending champions Spain knocked out by Canada

REUTERS – Canada eliminated defending champions Spain 88-85 in a thriller in Jakarta on Sunday to book their place in the FIBA Basketball World Cup quarter-finals in Jakarta, while the United States were beaten by Lithuania in their final preliminary game.

The final day of preliminary games in Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines offered surprising results as the quarter-final line-up was completed.

Lithuania, ranked eighth in the world, will face Serbia while the U.S. will play Italy in the last eight.

Germany will meet Latvia and Canada will lock horns with Slovenia.

Canada's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, an NBA All-Star with the Oklahoma City Thunder, scored a game-high 30 points, the most for a Canadian player since 1994.

“We're willing to do whatever it took and we ended up getting it done,” said Gilgeous-Alexander, who scored Canada's last eight points including six clutch free throws to complete a comeback win.

Canada beat Spain for just the second time in the tournament's history, snapping a 49-year winless streak against the top-ranked European powerhouse.

Spain's Alex Abrines missed a potential game-tying three-pointer at the buzzer. Spain, missing 2019 World Cup's most valuable player



● FIBA

Ricky Rubio who stepped away from the sport to focus on his mental health, suffered their first back-to-back tournament defeats since 1990.

Canada also qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics, their first since 2000.

In Manila, Team USA lost to Lithuania 110-104 in a quarter-final seeding game.

Lithuania led throughout, building a 54-37 advantage by halftime through three-pointers, second-chance points, and buckets from Team USA turnovers.

“They tried to be aggressive against us but we stayed calm and we take the win,” Lithuania's Donatas Motiejunas, who scored nine points, told reporters.

Seven Lithuanians scored in double-digits, led by Vaidas Karinauskas' 15 points. Anthony Edwards of the NBA's Minneso-

ta Timberwolves led the scoring for the U.S. with 35 points. Team USA narrowed the gap to four points with 30 seconds to go in the third quarter, and Edwards tried to lead a comeback in the final frame.

“Lithuania obviously just came out of the gates on fire,” Team USA head coach Steve Kerr said. “We are fortunate that the loss doesn't hurt us in terms of our goal which is to win the gold medal.”

In other games with quarter-finals implications, Serbia routed the Dominican Republic 112-79 in Manila, and Italy defeated Puerto Rico 73-57 for a return to the quarter-finals after 25 years. Germany outlasted Slovenia 100-71 in Okinawa while Latvia won against Brazil 104-84.

FIBA's flagship event, co-hosted by the Philippines, Japan, and Indonesia, will run until Sept. 10.

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