

Teargas used to disperse rioters after Eredivisie game abandoned



Police officers use teargas to disperse football fans rioting Johan Cruyff Arena in Amsterdam, Netherlands, on September 24, 2023.

● REUTERS

REUTERS – Ajax Amsterdam's home Eredivisie game against defending champions Feyenoord was abandoned on Sunday as fans threw flares onto the pitch, and mounted police used tear gas to disperse rioting fans outside the stadium.

A group of angry Ajax fans tried to force their way into the stadium after the game was halted leading the police to disperse them with tear gas, Amsterdam police wrote on social media platform X. "After the stopped game supporters broke into the main (stadium) entrance. Order has since been restored," the police said.

"It is a jet black day, this makes it even worse," Ajax coach Maurice Steijn told broadcaster NOS.

Ajax were 3-0 down in the second half when the game was first suspended in the 56th minute.

Ajax, who have had a poor start to the season with just one win, sit 13th in the 18-team league and they conceded all three goals in the first half.

When flares were thrown onto the pitch for a second time, with many landing near the goal, the referee stopped the match and directed the players down the tunnel.

Fans paid no heed as the club displayed the message "Lighting of fireworks is prohibited" on the big screen at the Johan Cruyff Arena.

"De Klassieker has been permanently suspended after repeated fireworks on the field," Eredivisie said in a statement.

"More information on playing out this game will follow later."

Feyenoord manager Arne Slot said it was "especially annoying" that his side were not able to finish what had been a superb performance.

"In this way the chance for something very beautiful is taken away from us," he said on the club website.

"We understand the decision that has been taken, but we do not feel a sense of victory... And so we certainly won't get on the bus satisfied."

Ajax finished third last season and failed to qualify for the Champions League for the first time in 13 seasons. They had finished champions seven times and runners-up another five over the previous 12 seasons.

Hangzhou Asian Games:

Second rowing silver for Iranian women; cyclist Parto-Azar wins historic bronze

Sports Desk

The second day of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, saw Iranian women claim a second silver in the rowing contests, while Faranak Parto-Azar grabbed a historic bronze in the women's mountain bike cycling event.

Iran is yet to win a gold in the Games but still enjoyed a successful run on Monday by collecting double silvers and four bronzes.

Rowing

The Iranian team of Fatemeh Mojallal, Nazanin Malaei, Mahsa Javer, and Zeinab Norouzi clocked 6:51.82 minutes to finish behind the Chinese team in the women's quadruple sculls final, with Vietnam taking the bronze.

This was a second rowing silver at the Fuyang Water Sports Centre for Javer and Norouzi, who had teamed up for a runner-up spot in the double sculls event on Sunday.

● Faranak Parto-Azar
● hangzhou2022.cn



● The Iranian team celebrates after winning the women's quadruple sculls silver at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, on September 25, 2023.
● hangzhou2022.cn

Mountain cycling

Parto-Azar captured a first-ever international medal for Iranian women in the history of the sport after crossing the finish line of the cross country Olympic race in 1:42:44 hours – standing behind gold medalist Li Hongfeng (1:30:59) and her fellow Chinese Ma Caixia (1:42:44).

Taekwondo

Iranian Mahdi Hajimousaei overcame opponents from Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and the

host country to reach the men's -58kg showdown, only to settle for the silver after a 2-0 defeat against South Korea's Jang Jun.

Mobina Ne'matzadeh, meanwhile, won a fifth medal for Iranian women in Hangzhou, a -49kg bronze courtesy of a last-four setback in straight rounds against home-favorite Guo Qing.

Table tennis

Having made history on the preceding night by defeating Japan for a place in the men's team

semifinals, the Iranian three-man side fell to a 3-0 loss to South Korea to take a precious bronze medal.

Nima Alamian was beaten 3-2 by Lim Jong-hoon before his elder brother Noshad also came short in five games against Jang Woo-jin.

Mirhossein Hodaei's straight-game loss at the hands Park Gangh-yeon sealed the victory for South Korea.

Fencing

Iranian fencer Mohammad Rah-

bari was in an impressive form heading into the men's saber semifinal against South Korea's Oh Sang-uk – an Olympic team gold medalist in Tokyo and a world champion in 2019.

However, the Iranian finished his individual campaign in Hangzhou with a bronze following a 15-11 defeat against the high-profile South Korean – taking his personal tally in the history of the Games to three medals, including back-to-back team silvers in 2014 and 2018.

Wrestling World Championships:

Iran makes clean sweep of men's team runner-up finishes

Sports Desk

A total of five medals – including one gold – across 10 weight classes saw Iran stand second in the Greco-Roman competitions of the Wrestling World Championships in Belgrade.

Azerbaijan was crowned the champion, capturing double golds and three silvers to collect 120 points – 18 clear of Iran – with Turkey in third on 93 points.

The runner-up spot came after Iran's freestyle squad had also finished on the second podium earlier in the Serbian capital with four medals.

On Sunday, reigning Olympic champion Mohammadreza Geraei brought the curtain down on a mediocre campaign for Iran by grabbing a consolation bronze in the 67kg contest.

Also a world gold medalist in 2021, Geraei bounced back from a technical-fall loss against Azerbaijan's Hasrat Jafarov to edge out Hungarian Istvan Vancza 6-5 before outmuscling Armenia's Slavik Galstyan 8-0 for a joint-third place alongside the host's Mate Nemes, who had beaten the Iranian in last year's final.

This was a third Greco-Roman bronze for Iran at the event, following Pouya Dadmarz (55kg) and



● Iran's Mohammadreza Geraei (red) is seen in action during a victory over Armenian Slavik Galstyan in the third-place bout of the Greco-Roman 67kg contests at the Wrestling World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia, on September 24, 2023.
● UWW

Mohammad-Hadi Saravi (97kg). Amin Mirzazadeh celebrated a first victory in three meetings with Turkish great Riza Kayaalp to take the 130kg gold, while Alireza Mohmadi fell to a 2-1 defeat against Rafiq Huseynov of Azerbaijan in the 82kg final.

The two team runner-up finishes might go down as a decent out-

come for the country but some of the results and performances would surely raise the alarm for Alireza Dabir, the chairman of the Iranian Wrestling Federation, as well as head coaches Pejman Dorostkar and Hassan Rangraz ahead of next year's Paris Olympics.

Geraei was clearly far from his

best, in part owing to a last-gasp weight loss before his first bout, as he ran away with shaky victories against minnow opponents before the last-eight humiliation against Jafarov.

The Iranian will be facing a daunting task in defending his Olympic crown in Paris as Cuban Luis Orta – a 60kg gold medalist

in Tokyo – has emerged as the favorite to win the 67kg title after a statement world gold in a new weight category.

In the freestyle contests, meanwhile, Hassan Yazdani won a national-high ninth major medal – an 86kg silver – but again proved to be the second best against American David Taylor, suffering a fifth defeat in the sixth match-up with his familiar foe.

Numerous wrestling pundits have suggested that the Iranian sensation will have to come up with new tactics against Taylor if he fancies a second Olympic gold.

Rahman Amouzad also had a below-par run in Belgrade.

Ruthless Rahman stepped into the event as the defending champion but could only manage a berth for Paris after finishing fifth in the 65kg class, though he was the only Iranian wrestler to win a bout in eight freestyle encounters for the country against either an American or Russian opposition.

For the meantime, Dabir and his coaches will be looking to build on gold-winning performances from Mirzazadeh and Amirhossein Zare', who will head to Paris as the frontrunners for the superheavyweight top podiums.