

Ganjzadeh wins world karate bronze



● IKF

Sports Desk

Iran's Sajjad Ganjzadeh finished his campaign at the World Karate Championships in Budapest with a bronze medal.

Representing the country in the men's kumite +84kg contests, Ganjzadeh – an Olympic champion two years ago – bounced back from a last-four loss to Frenchman Mehdi Filali to beat Croatian Andelo Kvesic 1-0 in the third-place bout.

In a repeat of the final showdown at the Tokyo Olympics, Ganjzadeh had defeated Saudi karateka Tareq Hamedi before a quarterfinal triumph against Babacar Seck of Spain.

A winner of seven world medals prior to the event in Budapest, Ganjzadeh celebrated a third major medal in 2023, following the bronze in July's Asian Championships as well as the gold medal at the recently-finished Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

Ganjzadeh was also a part of the Iranian kumite team – a winner of three successive world golds between 2014 and 2018 – which was stunned by a 3-2 defeat against Azerbaijan in the last-eight round in Budapest.

Ganjzadeh's medal was the first at this year's event for Iran, which had to send a depleted squad to the Hungarian capital after the host country refused to issue entry visas for the male kata representative Ali Zand as well as the country's female kata trio and the whole para karate team.

Rostamian settles for Asian shooting silver



● FARS

Sports Desk

Haniyeh Rostamian got Iran off the mark at the Asian Shooting Championships Changwon, South Korea, grabbing the silver medal in the women's 25m pistol contests.

The Iranian finished behind Chinese shooter Liu Rui, with Zhao Nan, also from China, taking the bronze.

This was a second continental medal for the Iranian girl – a three-time world bronze medalist – in less than a month after she teamed up with Amir Joharikhov for a third-spot finish in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the Hangzhou Asian Games.

Asian Para Games: Iran bags 44 golds, pips Japan to runner-up spot



Iranian gold medalist Ahmad Aminzadeh (R) and silver winner Mahdi Sayyadi pose with their superheavyweight powerlifting medals at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, on October 28, 2023. ● IRNA

Sports Desk

The two-horse race for the runner-up place in the 4th Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, ended in Iran's favor as the country overtook Japan to finish behind China in the medals table.

Having spent the best part of the seven-day event in the second place, the Iranians had fallen behind the Japanese on Friday before the final-day heroics saw Iran ultimately collect 44 golds – two more than what the Japanese tallied. Iranian athletes also grabbed 46 silvers and 41

bronze medals while the host, as expected, dominated the Games with 521 medals – including an all-time record of 214 golds. Fatemeh Amirzadegani and Mehrdad Moradi brought the curtain down on a glittering athletics campaign for Iran in Hangzhou as the former was the first to cross the finish line in the women's 400m T12 final, with the latter walking away with the ultimate prize of the men's event. Zafar Zaker, meanwhile, registered a best attempt of 33.58m to take the silver in the men's javelin throw F55 contest.

In the chess competitions, Maliheh Safaei won the women's individual rapid gold in the VI-B1 RND7 class with the Iranian women also beating Indonesia to the top spot in the team event of the category. Abolfazl Kazemian (silver), Leila Zarezadeh (bronze), and Atefeh Naqavi (bronze) were also among the Iranian medalists on Saturday as the country notched up a total 15 chess medals – including four golds – in Hangzhou. Elsewhere on the final day, the Iranian powerlifters dominated the men's superheavyweight contest,



The Iranian chess squad bagged a remarkable 15 medals – including four golds – at the Asian Para Games. ● IRNA

while Nikoo Rouzbahani's 126kg lift sealed the women's +86kg bronze for her. Ahmad Aminzadeh bagged the men's +107kg gold, thanks to a third lift of 266kg. Aminzadeh's fellow Iranian Mahdi Sayyadi settled for the silver with 244kg – nine kilograms clear of Jordanian bronze winner Jamil Elshebli, who had won the gold at the Tokyo Paralympics two years ago. Aminzadeh went on to pay tribute to the late Iranian sensation Siamand Rahman, who passed away at the age of 31 in 2020 but

remains the world record holder of the men's superheavyweight class with 310kg, describing the two-time Paralympic champion as "an unrepeatable legend, whose absence will always be felt in the Iranian team." There were also medals for Iran in blind football – men's silver – as well as archery competitions – Mohammadreza Zandi's bronze in the men's individual W1 open event – as the country celebrated a best-ever finish in the medals table since the Asian Para Games were first introduced in 2010.

Female athletes took credit for 40 medals of Iran's haul – 12 of which were golds – with archers Zahra Nemati and Mohammadreza Arab teaming up for the sole Iranian mixed medal in Hangzhou – a team recurve open gold. The athletics competitions were the most prolific event for the Iranians, yielding 20 golds, coupled with 20 silvers and 10 bronzes. Iranian swimmer Sina Zeighaminejad also enjoyed a memorable run in this year's Games, collecting three gold medals and a silver.

Doncic's 49 points help Mavericks edge out Nets

BBC – Luka Doncic scored 49 points to help the Dallas Mavericks to a 125-120 win against the Brooklyn Nets in NBA.

The Slovenian hit four straight three-point shots in the final quarter while Kyrie Irving scored 17 in his first game against the Nets since being traded from Brooklyn in February. Victor Wembanyama secured his first NBA win as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Houston Rockets 126-122 in overtime.

The 19-year-old rookie, who is 7ft 4in, scored 21 points and 12 rebounds. Regarded as one of the game's biggest prospects, Wembanyama was the NBA's top draft pick this year.

The Rockets led by seven points after three quarters, but the French teenager levelled the score at 111 with 20 seconds of regular time remaining then added crucial baskets in overtime.

Elsewhere on Friday, Steph Curry's game-high 41 points inspired the Golden State Warriors to a 122-114 victory against the Sacramento Kings.



Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) shoots over Nets' Dorian Finney-Smith (28) during an NBA game at American Airlines Center, Dallas, TX, US, on October 27, 2023. ● ANDREW DIEB/USA TODAY SPORTS

Fellow guard De'Aaron Fox scored 39 points for the Kings in their first home game since losing 120-100 to the Warriors in Game 7

of their first-round play-off series last season. Nikola Jokic led NBA champions the Denver Nuggets to a 108-104

win on the road over the Memphis Grizzlies, contributing 22 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists. Julius Randle came close

to a triple-double with 17 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists as the New York Knicks held off the Atlanta Hawks to win

126-120. Meanwhile, all five of the Boston Celtics' starters scored at least 17 points as they beat Miami Heat in a rematch of the 2023 Eastern Conference finals. The Chicago Bulls edged the Toronto Raptors 104-103 in overtime, with Alex Caruso bucketing a three-pointer with two seconds remaining. Donovan Mitchell's game-high 43 points was not enough for the Cleveland Cavaliers to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder, who won 108-105. Detroit Pistons claimed their first victory under new coach Monty Williams as they triumphed 111-99 against hosts the Charlotte Hornets. German brothers Franz and Moritz Wagner scored 23 points and 17 points respectively to help Orlando Magic to a 102-97 win over the Portland Trail Blazers. Utah Jazz won 120-118 against the Los Angeles Clippers in Salt Lake City thanks to a game-winning three-pointer from Jordan Clarkson in the final 30 seconds.