

Iranians eyeing Olympic berths in World Taekwondo GS

Sports Desk

A couple of quotas for next year's Paris Olympics will be up for grabs when the Iranians participate at the World Taekwondo Grand Slam Champions Series – starting December 13 in Wuxi, China. Iranian hopefuls Mahdi Hajimousaei and Mehran Barkhordari had the opportunity to punch their tickets for the French capital through the final series of the World Grand Prix in Manchester, only to miss out on the event after being denied entry visas by the UK Embassy in Ankara.

On Monday, the international governing body of the sport released the Olympic Kyorugi Rankings, in which Hajimousaei moved up by three spots to stand eighth in the men's -58kg weight class, with Barkhordari retaining the 10th place in the -80kg category.

The latest rankings mean that three victory and a fifth-place finish in Man-

chester would have secured the Olympic slot for Hajimousaei, while Barkhordari would have also qualified with a bronze.

"It's a pity that our athletes missed a big chance [to qualify for the Olympics] due to the Britons' foot-dragging," Hadi Saei, the chairman of the Iranian federation, told Fars News Agency, adding: "The British Embassy eventually issued the visas for them on Saturday, but it turned out to be too late as three of the Iranian contestants were to be in action on the first day of the event."

"When you look at the results of the -58kg contests, you realize what an opportunity it was for us to guarantee the Paris berths as all the medal winners in Manchester had been beaten by the Iranian opponents in the previous series this year," added the two-time Olympic gold winner in 2004 and 2008.

A runner-up in the first series of the World GP in

Rome, Hajimousaei pulled off a major upset in September's Series 2 in Paris by defeating reigning Olympic champion Vito Dell'Aquila of Italy – gold medalist in Manchester – on his way to the ultimate prize.

Barkhordari also enjoyed an impressive run in this year's Grand Prix, taking the silver in Rome before grabbing the gold in Paris.

The World champion and a winner of double GP silvers in 2023, Iranian girl Nahid Kiani edged ever closer to the Paris ticket after moving up to fourth in the women's -57kg Olympic ranking. Controversial visa denials have kept the Iranian athletes from taking part at several international events over the past months – most recently in mid-November's World Wushu Championships in Fort Worth, Texas.

The country also had to send a depleted squad to Anaheim, California, for the final week of the preliminary round in the Volley-



ball Nations League in July, while the Iranian freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling

teams were ruled out of October's U23 World Championships in Tirana, Albania.

Iran's Mahdi Hajimousaei (blue) is seen in action during a victory over Olympic champion Vito Dell'Aquila of Italy in September's World Taekwondo Grand Prix Series 2 in Paris.
● WORLD TAEKWONDO

Nadal lowering expectations in 'unexplored terrain' for return

AP – Rafael Nadal has lower expectations for when he returns to the tour in January after a year out.

Nadal announced on Friday he will play at the Brisbane International in Australia in January. The 37-year-old Spaniard has not appeared on tour since last January, when he hurt his hip flexor during a loss in the second round of the Australian Open. He wound up having arthroscopic surgery in June in Barcelona.

Nadal said on Monday in a video on social media that he hopes to again "feel those nerves, that illusion, those fears, those doubts" on the court.

"I have been afraid to announce things because in the end it's a year without competing and it's a hip operation. But what worries me the most is not the hip, it's everything else," he said. "I think I'm ready and I trust and hope that things go well and that it gives me the opportunity to enjoy myself on the court."

Nadal said he knows things may be different after so much time without competing.

"I expect from myself not to expect anything. This is the truth. To have the ability not to demand myself what I have demanded myself throughout my career," he said. "I believe I'm in a different moment, in a different situation and in an unexplored terrain."

"I have internalized what I have had throughout my life, which is to demand myself the maximum, and right now what I really hope is to be able not to do that, not to demand the maximum, to accept that things are going to be very difficult at the beginning and to give myself the necessary time and forgive myself if things go wrong at the beginning, which is a very big possibility."

Last May, a little more than a week before the French Open, Nadal announced he was missing the tournament that has earned him 14 of his 22 Grand Slam tournaments. He said then that he hoped to compete in 2024, which he expected to be his final season.

Nadal finished his message on Monday saying that things could change for the best in a "not-too-distant future" if "I keep the illusion and the spirit of work" and if his "physique responds" well.



● AFP



Second Announcement

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0140011

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	CASING 13-3/8 IN. API GRADE P-110 HC (HIGH COLLAPSE), SEAMLESS "N.VAM", THREAD, RANGE 3 (MAX LEN: 40.5 FT), PSL 3, 72 PPF, DRIFT: 12.250 IN".	6,500 LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 320,057/34 EURO or 127,700,000,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials through technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment

Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab.
ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN
PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644
Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

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Second Announcement

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-38-9540004

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	SLICKLINE, SPOOLED ON IRON REEL SIZE 0.082 IN. X 18,000 FEET	22 RL

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The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 30,510/04 EURO or 12,480,133,162 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials through technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment

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