

Iran bags three medals in Karate1 Premier League



● MEHR

Iranian representatives to the Karate1 Premier League have finished the competition winning a gold medal, a silver, and a bronze one.

The three-day tournament, which is the most important league event in the world of Karate, ended in Paris, France, on Sunday, reported Mehr News Agency.

On her way to the final game, Iran's Atousa Golshadnejad defeated all her rivals in the 61kg weight class. She also beat Anita Serogina, a powerful rival from Ukraine and the number two of the world ranking, in the final match to become Iran's only gold medalist of the tournament.

Mobina Heydari, another Iranian female karateka, lost 4-2 to her rival from France, to receive the silver medal of the 68kg weight class.

Iran's Ali Meskini defeated his Kuwaiti rival in the third-place game of the 60kg weight category of men to snatch the bronze medal.

Iran's Azimi wins silver at Grand Prix Ivan Yarygin

Iranian freestyle wrestler Mohammad-Mobin Azimi claimed a silver medal in the 2024 Golden Grand Prix Ivan Yarygin held in Krasnoyarsk, Russia.

He lost to Magomed Kurbanov 7-2 in the final as Iran had sent eight freestyle wrestlers to the competition, reported Mehr News Agency.

Iran's Azimi emerged victorious against his rivals from Russia Arsen Ali Musalaliev 7-4, Nazhmudinov 4-0 to reach the quarterfinal.

In the quarterfinal, Azimi defeated Azamat Zakuev from Russia 8-6 to qualify for the semifinal.

In the semifinal, the Iranian freestyle wrestler beat another Russian opponent Shamil-Imam Gadzhialiev 9-0 to reach the final.

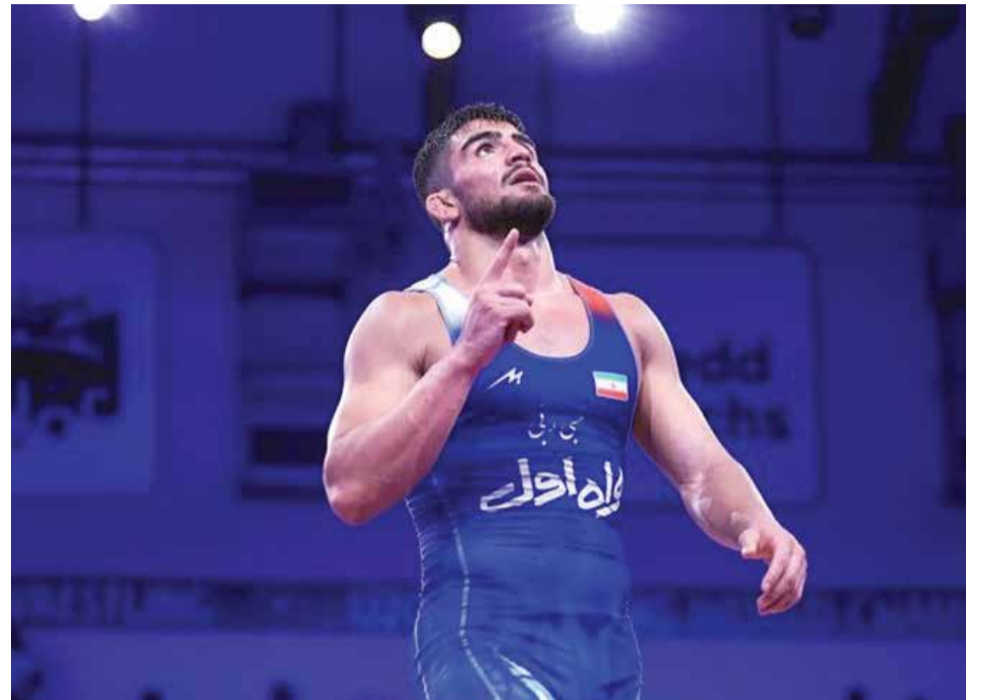
The preliminary stage of the sporting event was held on Sunday in 74, 86, 92, and 97 weight categories.

Iran's national wrestling squad comprised Adel Panahian (74kg), Ali Savadkoudi (86kg), Mohammad-Mobin Azimi (92kg) and Abolfazl Babalou (97kg) competed with rivals on the first day of the tournament.

All Iranian freestyle wrestlers were eliminated from the tournament except Azimi.

The 2024 Yarygin wrestling tournament was held in Krasnoyarsk, Russia on January 25-28.

This Grand Prix is held in honor of two-time Olympic Champion Ivan Yarygin.



● MEHR

Tajikistan stun UAE on penalties to move into Asian Cup quarter-finals



Tajikistan players celebrate with coach Petar Segrt after they won the UAE in Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, Al Rayyan, Qatar on January 28, 2024.

● REUTERS



Asian Cup debutants Tajikistan booked their place in the quarter-finals with a dramatic 5-3 penalty shootout win over the United Arab Emirates after a 1-1 draw on Sunday.

The United Arab Emirates and Tajikistan went head-to-head in the last 16 of the Asian Cup in Doha on Sunday. Asian Cup debutants Tajikistan booked their place in the quarter-finals with a dramatic 5-3 penalty shootout win over the United Arab Emirates after a 1-1 draw on Sunday, reported Mehr News Agency.

Alisher Shukurov buried the final spot-kick in Doha to send the Central Asians - ranked 106th in the world - into a showdown with either Jordan or the 2007 champions Iraq.

Tajikistan goalkeeper Rustam Yatimov saved from Caio Canedo with the UAE's second penalty of the shootout.

Tajikistan looked set for a famous victory when Vakhdat Khanonov scored with a 30th-minute header, only for Khalifa Al-Hammadi to equalise in the 95th minute and send the game into extra-time.

The UAE reached the semi-finals at the last two Asian Cups but Paulo Bento's side bow out to a Tajikistan side ranked more than 40 places lower than them.

Led by charismatic Croat Petar Segrt, Tajikistan drew with China and beat Lebanon in the first round. In another game held earlier on Sunday, Australia defeated Indonesia 4-0 to advance to the quarterfinals of the Asian Cup.

Two goals in the first half put the 2015 continental champion in control in the second-round clash at the

Jassim bin Hamad Stadium with Martin Boyle's header adding to an early own goal from Elkan Baggott.

Late strikes from Craig Goodwin and Harry Souttar scuppered any hopes that Indonesia, playing its first game at the knockout stage, may have had of getting back into the match.

"We knew they would come out here with nothing to lose today, we knew they would come and fight and run," said Australian forward Jackson Irvine, who had a hand in two goals. "In the first half they caused us some problems with their energy and intensity but our experience and professionalism shone through in the second half and I think we had too much for them on the day."

The Socceroos were 2-0 ahead at the break despite having just one attempt on target. The opener came in the 12 minute as Irvine's cross from the right took a deflection off defender Baggott, who plays for Ipswich Town in England's second tier, into the net.

Indonesia had chances, coming close after just six minutes but Rafael Struick fired over from close range. With half-time looming, Yakob Sayuri fired wide while unmarked on the left side of the area.

There was still time for Australia to extend its lead on the stroke of half-time. Gethin Jones swept in a curling low cross from the right and Boyle's diving header at the far post extended the lead.

Australia took greater control in the second half and, as Indonesia tired, Goodwin headed home a rebound after Ernando Ari had saved Irvine's header in the 89th minute. Goodwin then provided the cross for Leicester City defender Souttar to head his 11th international goal from close range.

"I am very proud of my team," said Indonesia captain Jordi Amat. "We knew from the start it would be a tough game. They were more clinical in the first half. We had our chances but couldn't score. We need to work and come back stronger."

Australia will face the winner of Tuesday's tie between South Korea and Saudi Arabia.

Tennis needs the next generation, says Grand Slam champion Sinner

Jannik Sinner was not about to announce the end of the "Big Three" after his breakthrough Grand Slam triumph at the Australian Open but the 22-year-old Italian does believe tennis needs a fresh generation of champions.

His five-set victory over Daniil Medvedev on Sunday made him the first Melbourne Park winner in 10 years not named Novak Djokovic, Rafa Nadal or Roger Federer - the trio of multiple champions who have dominated tennis for two decades, Reuters reported. Djokovic's incredible success into his mid-thirties has delayed the decline of the "Big Three" but with Federer now retired and Nadal looking set to join him this year, a huge gap is opening up at the top of the game. With his Melbourne triumph, Sinner has joined 20-year-old Carlos Alcaraz in the Grand Slam winners' club, spearheading a clutch of players of a similar age coming through.

"It's quite unpredictable what's coming in the future but still it's nice to be part of this generation," Sinner said as he was photographed with his trophy in Melbourne's Botanical Gardens on Monday.

"I think the next generation is something that this sport needs and it's also a little bit of a game-changer."

Sinner was the youngest Australian Open men's

champion since Djokovic won the first of his 10 Melbourne Park titles in 2008 and even though he beat the 24-times Grand Slam champion in the semi-finals, the Italian was not inviting comparisons.

"He is a different league," he said. "I'm just happy I have this trophy for this year and then we see what's coming. There is still a lot of work to do but I will enjoy my process and then we see what I can achieve in the future."

As impressive as the clean hitting that has taken Sinner into the elite of men's tennis was his cool demeanour on court on Sunday as he withstood an early barrage from Medvedev before rallying from two sets down to clinch the title.

Although he fell to the Rod Laver Arena court after converting championship point, there was no huge outpouring of emotions as Sinner celebrated the biggest victory of his career.

"There were so many emotions in my head and the hard work and the sacrifices I've done throughout my career," he explained.

"Sharing this moment with my team was maybe the best feeling I've had until now.

"It's great emotions, I was just happy, yesterday I still maybe couldn't believe and now I'm starting to realise it, so it's a great feeling."

Sinner said he celebrated his dream start to the new season in understated fashion - a meal with his close-knit team in the early hours of Monday morning - but said it would be straight back to work as he looked to build on his breakthrough.

"Obviously winning the tournament is something unbelievable," he said. "I'm really happy how I performed here and let's see what's coming in the future."



● REUTERS