



Beach Soccer World Cup: Iran beats Argentina to clinch last-eight spot

Sports Desk

Six Iranians were on the scoresheet as the country defeated Argentina 6-3 in Group B of the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Dubai to secure a place in the quarterfinals with one game to spare in the group phase.

Mohammad Mokhtari bagged his fifth goal in two outings with goalkeeper Hamid Behzadpour and Reza Amiri adding a couple of wonder strikes to give the Asian champion a three-goal lead in the first period before Lucas Medero and Emiliano Holmedilla reduced the deficit to one.

Mohammad Moradi scored a superb team goal for Iran's fourth of the night in the third period, though Medero's free-kick kept the Albiceleste in the contest.

However, Movahed Mohammadpour restored the two-cushion with less than two minutes left on the clock and Ali Mirshekari rounded off his Player-of-the-Match performance with a goal to secure the maximum points for Ali Naderi's

men and send the Argentines packing.

"I'm so thrilled to progress to the next round. We had a tough group, but we did a great job [to finish in the top two]." Mirshekari said after the game, adding: "Our ultimate goal is to win the trophy. I am also grateful to the Iranian fans for the huge support tonight. It felt like we were playing at home."

The top spot of the group will be at stake when Iran and Tahiti square off at the Dubai Design District Stadium today – in a repeat of the 2017 semifinal in Bahamas, which the latter won in the shootout. Back-to-back runner-up in 2015 and 2017, Tahiti pulled off the joint-second-biggest comeback in the competition's history against Spain earlier on Saturday.

Trailing by three goals midway through the match, the Tahitians eventually won 5-3 to sit atop the group table with six points, with Iran, which came out victorious in the shootout against the Spaniards in the group opener, in second on four points.

Iran's Mahdi Shirmohammadi (L) hits an overhead kick during a 6-3 victory over Argentina in Group B of the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Dubai, UAE, on February 17, 2024.

● FFIRI

Asian Indoor Athletics Championships: Fasihi retains women's 60m crown

Sports Desk

The second day of the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Tehran saw Iranian girl Farzaneh Fasihi defend her 60m title in style.

Fasihi equaled the championship record of 7.20 seconds to cross the finish line ahead of Kazakhstan's Safronova Olga, who clocked 7.35 seconds for the silver, while Thai sprinter Supanich Poolkerd stood third on 7.38 seconds.

Sunday's final performance also saw Fasihi better the national record by 0.03 seconds. This was a fourth Asian indoor medal for the 31-year-old Iranian, who was part of the 4×400m silver-winning team in 2016 before grabbing the 60m bronze in Tehran two years later.

Fasihi's fellow-Iranian Hamideh Esmaeilnejad was left empty-handed after the 60m final, finishing fifth.

Elsewhere in the Aftab-e Enghelab Sports Complex, Iranians Nazanin Eidian and Kazhan Rostami won the silver and bronze medals of the women's 400m event.

Eidian registered 55.33 seconds to finish second to Japan's Nanako Matsumoto (55.14 seconds) with Rostami crossing the line in 55.35 seconds.

Elham Hashemi had opened the account for the Iranian women on Saturday, winning the shot put bronze with a best throw 14.27m.

China's Sun Yue (17.65m) and Nasriddinova Malika (15.42m) of Uzbekistan claimed the gold and silver of the contest.

In the men's competitions, meanwhile, Ali Amirian and Mahdi Saberi added a couple of bronze medals to Iran's medal haul.

Amirian stood behind Kirgizstan's Nursultan Keneshbekov and Abdirahman Saeed Hassan of Qatar in the 1500m contest, while a high throw of 18.74m sealed the third podium for Saberi in the shot put event.



● olympic.ir

Ice Climbing World Championships: Iran's Safdarian wins men's lead gold; Beheshti-Rad grabs bronze



● Mohammadreza Safdarian (L) and Mohsen Beheshti-Rad
● UIAA

Sports Desk

Iranian men stole the show on the second day of the UIAA Ice Climbing World Championships, snatching the speed gold and bronze in Edmonton, Canada, on Saturday. Mohammadreza Safdarian clocked 12.83 seconds to beat Mongolia's Kherlen Nyamdoo, who finished the final race in 15.03 seconds, and walk away with the ultimate prize.

This was a third major medal in a month for the 32-year-old Iranian, who also came

out on top against the Mongolian climber in the UIAA World Cup final in Cheongsong, South Korea, in mid-January before taking a bronze in the event in Saas-Fee, Switzerland, two weeks later.

Meanwhile, Mohsen Beheshti-Rad registered a best qualification time of 14.29 seconds but eventually settled for a third-spot finish, thanks to a victory over Andreas Gantner of Liechtenstein.

Beheshti-Rad also won his international medal of the year, having grabbed the speed silver in Saas-Fee.