

## Girls cruise to golds as Iran grabs six Asian canoe medals



● IRNA

### Sports Desk

Iranian girls claimed double golds on Saturday as the country notched up six medals at the 2024 Asian Canoe Sprint Junior & U23 Championships in Pattaya, Thailand.

Elnaz Shafieian clocked 04:09.940 minutes in the final race to walk away with the ultimate prize in the under-23 1000m K1 event, while Arshin Rezanejad

crossed the finish line in 04:16.635 minutes for the top spot in the discipline's juniors final.

Elsewhere, Iranian duo Mohammad Abbasi and Shayan Hosseini teamed up for a silver in the men's U23 1000m C2 contest, courtesy of a 03:36.117-minute finish in the final, standing second to Mukhammadali Mirismanov and Shokhjakhon Mukhammadiev of Uzbekistan.

This was a second medal for Hosseini on Saturday following a bronze-winning campaign in the 1000m C1 final.

Amirreza Oladian and Abolfazl Jannati won a bronze in the men's junior 1000m K2 final with a third-best time of 03:31.255 minutes, while Mehrab Asayesh Khorshid took the category's singles bronze with 03:46.302 minutes.

## Germany's new generation give hope to a nation



↑ Jamal Musiala (10) fires home Germany's second goal in a 5-1 victory over Scotland in the Euro 2024 opener in Munich, Germany, on June 14, 2024.

● SERGEI GRITS/AP

**REUTERS** - Germany's young attackers sent a clear message that they are ready to lead the team into a new era, with 21-year-olds Florian Wirtz and Jamal Musiala putting on a sparkling display in their country's opening 5-1 Euro 2024 win over Scotland on Friday.

The two wingers scored the opening goals in the Group A victory, while Kai Havertz, 25, converted a penalty and substitutes Niclas Füllkrug and Emre Can scored in the second half against the reeling 10-man Scots. But it was Wirtz and Musiala who drew the eyes of the expectant, yet anxious, home fans who had been chastened by Germany's underperformance in the past decade - with the team going out of successive World Cups (2018, 2022) in the group stage and losing in the last 16 at Euro 2020.

Wirtz underlined his status as one of European football's most exciting young talents with his goal, having already tested goalkeeper Angus Gunn in the opening minutes of the match.

His 10th-minute strike was a perfect example of his play this past year, with 11 goals and 12 assists for Bundesliga champions Bayer Leverkusen, ghosting in at the edge of the area to power the ball home, despite Gunn getting a hand on it.

It meant Wirtz became the youngest scorer for Germany at a Euros at 21 years and 42 days old, beating the previous record of Havertz who was 22 when he scored at Euro 2020. Musiala, who grew up in England and played for their youth team but then opted to represent the nation of his birth, got a much cleaner strike when he smashed the ball high into the net nine minutes later having been teed up by Havertz in the box. The forward, given the prestigious No. 10 shirt by Julian Nagelsmann, is only 67 days older than Wirtz and ran Scotland's defence ragged with his deft technique while travelling with the ball, which has earned him the nickname "Bambi".

While stalwarts like keeper Manuel Neuer, 38, and captain Ilkay Gundog-

an, 33, are still in the starting lineup, there is a sense of a passing of the torch, particularly in the attacking area of the pitch where Germany have struggled in recent years.

They are ably helped by the precision passing of 34-year-old Toni Kroos. The midfield maestro, who will retire from playing after the tournament, had a 99% passing accuracy rate during his 80 minutes - though tougher opponents will come.

He has won a glut of titles at club level with Bayern Munich and Real Madrid and was part of the Germany team that won the World Cup in 2014. But helping to win their first Euro title in almost 30 years at home would be a perfect climax to his career.

Nagelsmann, who made history on Friday as the youngest coach at a Euros aged 36 years and 327 days, eclipsing Slovenia's Srečko Katanec, could have found the perfect balance between youth and experience to take his country to glory.

## Persepolis eyes Italian Mazzarri for managerial role: Report

### Sports Desk

Italian head coach Walter Mazzarri is among the candidates to take over at the Iranian club Persepolis, according to Football 360.

A former manager in a number of Seire A clubs, as well as Premier League side Watford, Mazzarri, 62, has been without a job since being sacked by Napoli in February - in the aftermath a disappointing run of four wins in 17 outings across all competitions.

Mazzarri's longest and most successful spell as a head coach also came with Napoli in the early 2010s, when he led his team to the 2011/12 Coppa Italia title before a runner-up spot in the league the following season.

The newly-crowned Persian Gulf Pro League champion is searching for a new manager after Brazilian interim coach Osmar Loss Vieira announced on Thursday that he would not extend his journey in the Iranian

top flight as he wishes to stay close to his family in his home country.

A number two to his predecessor Yahya Golmohammadi, Osmar was promoted to the top job following the Iranian's departure in January - much to the irritation of the Reds supporters, who were eager to welcome back their legendary coach Branko Ivankovic in pursuit of a seventh league crown in eight seasons. Osmar eventually won the fans over thanks to a remarkable run of 12 wins in 15 league matches - suffering a single defeat in the process - which saw the Reds pip archrival Esteghlal to the title by one point.

A former coach of Iranian top-flight sides Malavan, Foolad, and San'at Naft, Dragan Skocic, who steered Iran to the 2022 World Cup before being replaced by Portuguese Carlos Queiroz for the finals in Qatar, emerged as the frontrunner

for the Persepolis job last week but the negotiations have reportedly collapsed over the Croatian's wage demand.



## Shot put gold for Saberi at Asian throwing event



● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA

### Sports Desk

Iran's Mahdi Saberi clinched a second gold medal for the country at the Asian Throwing Championships in South Korea.

A day after Asian Games gold medalist Hossein Rasouli had won the discus throw event, Saberi walked away with the ultimate prize of the men's shot put contest, thanks to a best throw of 19.27m.

His record was below his best attempt (19.41m) in last year's Asian Games in Hangzhou, where Saberi settled for a fifth-place finish, but was still enough for him to edge out opponents from China and the Philippines, who ended their campaigns with 19.26m and 19.22m respectively.

## Mavericks beat Celtics to keep Finals series alive

**BBC** - The Dallas Mavericks kept their NBA Finals hopes alive with a 122-84 victory to deny the Boston Celtics a clean sweep in the best-of-seven championship series.

Luka Doncic top-scored with 29 points while Kyrie Irving added 21 as the Mavericks ended their opponents' 10-game play-off winning streak and claimed the third-largest win in Finals history. But they still have a mountain to climb as they try to become the first team to come from 3-0 down and win an NBA play-off series, with game five to come in Boston on Tuesday.

Doncic and Irving helped their side go 34-21 up after the first quarter, and they dominated defensively after that to lead 61-35 at the break. The Mavs were up 92-57 when the pair left the game with one minute and 29 seconds left in the third quarter.

Tim Hardaway Jr added 15 points off the bench for Dallas and 20-year-old rookie Dereck Lively II added 11.

Boston coach Joe Mazzulla also took his starters out in the third period



as they looked towards game five, which will be their next chance to clinch an 18th NBA crown and break clear of a tie with the Los Angeles Lakers for the most titles.

Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown managed only 15 and 10 points respectively for the Celtics as they suffered their worst loss in Finals history.

↑ Mavericks' Luka Doncic (77) drives toward the rim in Game 4 of the NBA Finals against the Celtics in Dallas, TX, US, on June 14, 2024.

● CFP