

## Iran to compete at FIBA U-18 Women's Asia Cup Division B



● TASNIM

Iran's basketball team will travel to China on Friday to compete at the FIBA U-18 Women's Asia Cup 2024 Division B.

The competition will be held in Shenzhen from June 24 to 30, reported Mehr News Agency.

Iran, headed by Eleni Kapogianni, is scheduled to play Hong Kong in its opening match slated for June 24 (Monday).

The Persians will also play Kyrgyzstan and Samoa in their following matches.

The Philippines, Hong Kong, China, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Samoa, and Syria are the teams that will be competing in the event for a chance to secure promotion to Division A.

## Chamanian named Iran U17 football team coach

Abbas Chamanian was named as head coach of Iran's U17 football team.

He will lead Iran at the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2025 qualifiers, where the Persians have been drawn in Group A along with Jordan, Syria, Hong Kong, China and DPR Korea, according to Mehr News Agency.

The 61-year-old coach has previously worked as head coach of Iran U17 and U20 teams.

"First, we have to prepare for the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2025 qualifiers because I think that Iran have been drawn in a tough group," Chamanian said.

"We have to pave the way for our young talented players to join the national team, that's why I am here. I think the Asian tournament like this provides an excellent opportunity for the players to show their capabilities," he added.

# Persepolis keeper Beiranvand cancels deal: IPL

Persepolis football team goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand canceled his contract with the club on Tuesday over financial irregularities and unpaid salary.

The 32-year-old keeper had terminated his deal with Persepolis last season but signed a new contract with the Reds, reported Tasnim News Agency.

Beiranvand helped Persepolis win the Iran Professional League (IPL) for a second successive year.

He has been linked with the Tractor football team.

Meanwhile, former Poland football team head coach Czesław Michniewicz has reportedly been shortlisted to lead Persepolis.

Brazilian coach Osmar Loss

Vieira parted company with the Iranian team last week. He led Persepolis to the title in the 2023-24 Iran Professional League (IPL) but did not agree to extend his deal due to family problems.

The 49-year-old coach had been appointed as Persepolis coach in January as a replacement for Yahya Golmohammadi.

Former Iran football team head coach Dragan Skocic, Croatia's Petar Segrt and Montenegro coach Nebojsa Jovic are also among the candidates to lead Persepolis.

Michniewicz, 54, has most recently worked as head coach of Saudi Arabian football club Abha Football Club.



● TASNIM

## Portugal scrape Euro 2024 opening win, Turkey beat Georgia

Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal beat the Czech Republic 2-1 to claim a Euro 2024 debut victory on Tuesday but they needed to come from behind with a 92nd-minute winner from youngster Francisco Conceicao.

Earlier in the section's other clash, Turkey bested Georgia 3-1 in a pulsating match in Dortmund, reported Reuters.

Roberto Martinez's Portugal qualified at a canter with a 100 percent record, but only just scraped victory in Leipzig in their first match, under driving rain. Ronaldo played at a record-extending sixth European Championship and 41-year-old defender Pepe became the tournament's oldest ever player for the Selecao.

The Czechs went ahead against the run of play through Lukas Provod's fine strike from the edge of the box after the hour mark, but Robin Hranac's own goal soon pulled Portugal level before Conceicao's winner.

"We want to do more, but there was also a lot of emotion, a lot of desire and

sometimes we failed to pull off the strategic plan," said Portugal midfielder Vitinha, awarded player of the match.

"We wanted to come out strong, show our strength and unfortunately we conceded the goal first, on the Czech Republic's first opportunity.

ited his "Suuuui" celebration shout as they marched to the game waving flags and in high spirits despite a brief but intense thunderstorm.

Around 8,000 fans attended Portugal's open training session on Saturday, many of whom were just hoping for a glimpse of the

the match but were unable to watch the all-time record Euros goalscorer find the net on a frustrating night against a solid Czech side. Ronaldo was thrice denied by goalkeeper Jindrich Stanek on a record Euros appearance and headed against the post, but was offside.

Ronaldo's infringement.

It did not matter for Portugal in the end as 21-year-old Porto winger Conceicao, son of former Portugal international Sergio Conceicao, struck from close range.

"Francisco is the ultimate example of earning it, he deserves to be here and showed he is ready to help the group," Martinez told reporters.

The former Wigan and Everton coach defended his team's performance.

"Today we won, because the group is united, it's a very resilient group, we became resilient over the past few days," he said.

"(After conceding) it would have been very easy to blame each other but we didn't do that. We were a team."

The Czechs were left agonising after battling so hard and almost claiming a point.

"It hurts terribly when you work like this for 90 minutes, you give everything and you lose in the end," said Czech goalscorer Provod.

"Our defenders played an incredible game. We just needed a bit more luck."

### Turkey turn-out

A well-supported Turkey started the Euros in entertaining fashion with an end-to-end win over debutants Georgia.

Real Madrid playmaker Arda Guler scored a brilliant goal, along with strikes by Mert Muldur and Kerem Akturkoglu, to delight the masses of Turkish supporters.

Georgia were dangerous after Georges Mikautadze levelled Muldur's superbly hit opener, and struck the woodwork.

Napoli star Khvicha Kvaratskhelia was below his best but despite defeat his team offered enough to give themselves hope for the matches ahead, against the Czech Republic and then Portugal.

"It was a match worthy of the Euros, we had great support even in difficult moments. This win is also for them and the party that they'll have," Turkey coach Vincenzo Montella told reporters.

"It's my 50th birthday today so it was perfect day of sport and the victory was the best present that the boys could have given me."



● REUTERS

"We showed all our coolness and resilience."

Portugal supporters chanted Ronaldo's name and im-

39-year-old former Real Madrid striker.

Thousands of fans sported replica Ronaldo shirts at

Diogo Jota put the rebound into the net but the goal was disallowed after VAR highlighted Al Nassr striker

## New report warns of heat danger at Paris Olympics

A new report backed by climate scientists and athletes warned about the dangers posed by extreme high temperatures at this year's Paris Olympics.

The "Rings of Fire" report - a collaboration between non-profit Climate Central, academics at Britain's University of Portsmouth and 11 Olympians - said conditions in Paris could be worse than the last Games in Tokyo in 2021, AFP reported.

It warned that "intense heat at the Paris Olympics in July-August 2024 could lead to competitors collapsing and in worst case scenarios dying during the Games."

The study adds to a growing number of calls from sports people to adjust schedules

and the timing of events to take into account the physical strain of competing in higher temperatures caused by global warming.

"Rings of Fire" urges organisers of competitions typically held at the height of the northern hemisphere summer -- such as the Olympics or the football World Cup -- to re-think their scheduling.

They should also provide improved rehydration and cooling plans for athletes and fans to avoid the risk of heat stroke, the study argued.

The Paris Olympics, which run from July 26-August 11, are set to take place in what are usually the warmest months in the French capital which

has been struck by a series of record heatwaves in recent years.

More than 5,000 people died in France as a result of searing summer heat last year when new local highs above 40 degrees Centigrade (104 Fahrenheit) were recorded around the country, according to public health data.

A study in the Lancet Planet Health journal last May found that Paris had the highest heat-related death rates of 854 European towns and cities, partly due to its lack of green space and dense population.

### Rainy conditions

Rather than high temperatures, incessant rain is currently the

bigger weather-related concern for Paris 2024 organisers, with regular downpours in May and June leading to unusually strong currents in the river Seine and poor water quality.

The Seine is set to host a boat parade during the unprecedented opening ceremony being planned for July 26, as well as the triathlon swimming and marathon swimming events - pollution permitting.

Organisers of Paris 2024 say they have built flexibility into their schedules, enabling them to shift around some events such as the marathon or triathlon to avoid the peaks of midday heat.

But much of the Games is set to take place in temporary



● AFP

stands that lack shade, while the athletes' village has been built without air conditioning to reduce the Games' carbon footprint.

"Sleep disruption due to heat has been cited in the build-up to the 2024 Games as a major concern by athletes, especially

given the lack of air conditioning in the Olympic Village," the report said.

Olympic teams have been offered the possibility of installing portable air-conditioning units in their accommodation, however, which many have opted to include.