

Iran U21 dominates Asian Karate Championships



● IKF

Sports Desk

Iranian under-21 karatekas dominated the Asian Championships in Manila, Philippines, notching up a remarkable 11 medals, including six golds. The medal haul saw Iran top the age-group table, with Kazakhstan in second, thanks to double golds and a silver, while Japan bagged a gold and two bronzes for the third place. Having claimed the runner-up spot in the cadet and junior categories, Iran finished second to Japan in the overall standings with a total 10 golds, four silvers, and nine bronze medals. On Sunday, Iranian boys stole the show in the un-

der-21 kumite contests as Mohammad-Hossein Shirsefat (-55kg), Hossein Alinejad (-60kg), Amir-Reza Borzooei (-67kg), and Mohammad-Erfan Askaripour (-75kg) walked away with the ultimate prize in their respective weight classes. Ali Tavakkoli's bronze in the men's +84kg contests rounded off Iran's medal-laden campaign across the three age groups in the Filipino capital. There was further under-21 glory for the country in the women's draw. Fatemeh Zahra Saied-Abadi outpowered Tien Hsin-erh of the Chinese Taipei 9-0 in the -55kg final, while Hannaneh Salehi defeated Kazakhstan's

Assylay Savidova 6-2 for the +68kg gold. Yalda Naghi-Beiranvand, meanwhile, had to settle for the -50kg silver after a loss to Japanese Mizuki Ishihara. Elsewhere on the final day, Iranian girls Melika Ezzati (kata), Mehrnegar Ahmadi (-61kg), Fatemeh Bodagh (-68kg) finished their campaigns with three bronze medals. Despite a below-par run in the under-21 contests, Japan still managed to finish atop the table with 16 golds, one bronze, and eight bronzes, with Kazakhstan following Iran courtesy of four golds and bronzes apiece, as well as six silver medals.

Wrestling U17 World Championships:

Iran wins three final-day medals but misses out on FS team crown

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The final day of the U17 World Championships saw Iranian wrestlers collect three more medals though it still was not enough for the country to defend its freestyle title Amman, Jordan. Team USA was crowned the champion – a second freestyle trophy for the Americans in three years – with 152 points, 20 clear of second-place Iran, with Kyrgyzstan in third on 104 points. Abolfazl Shamsipour bagged a second freestyle gold for Iran, courtesy of a victory against

Germany's Manuel Wagen in the 71kg final.

There was little to separate the two wrestlers as the showdown was decided when Shamsipour was awarded a point for the German's passivity in the second period, giving the Iranian a 1-1 criteria lead and the scoreline remained unchanged until the end.

Earlier in the day, Iranian Amirabbas Ramezani had to settle for a silver medal in the 45kg contests after he relinquished a five-point lead to suffer a 9-5 loss to

American Samuel Sanchez in the final.

Amirreza Alipour grabbed a sixth freestyle medal for Iran in the Jordanian capital, outmuscling Canadian Michaeljeet Singh Grewal for the 92kg bronze.

Sunday's results came after Reza Afshar had grabbed the 80kg gold on the preceding night, thanks to a 1-1 win against Georgian Nikoloz Maisuradze, while Amirabbas Alizadeh took the silver in the 48kg event following a technical-superiority defeat against Ulugbek Rashidov of Uzbekistan.

Abolfazl Mohammadnejad, meanwhile, finished his campaign with a consolation bronze in the 110kg class when he defeated India's Singh Jaspooran 2-1.

Earlier in the competitions, the Iranian Greco-Roman squad had lifted a third successive team trophy with three golds and bronzes apiece across 10 weight classes.

Armin Shamsipour dominated the 48kg contests, outscoring his opponents 37-1 in four bouts – including a 10-1 triumph over Uzbekistan's Khusnidin Abdulkarimov in the final. Amir-Mahdi Saeidinava clinched a second Greco-Roman gold for Iran, beating Ukrainian Vladyslav Pokotylo 6-2 in the 65kg showdown, while Danial Izadi defeated German Ole Ayke Sterning 4-0 for the 92kg title.

Abolfazl Karami (51kg), Emadreza Mohsennejad (80kg), and Ali-Asghar Dadbakhsh were the Iranian bronze medalist in the Greco-Roman competitions.



Abolfazl Shamsipour celebrates with the Iranian flag after winning the freestyle 71kg gold at the Wrestling U17 World Championships in Amman, Jordan, on Aug. 25, 2024. ● UWW



Khatoon Bam off to flyer in AWCL preliminary stage

Sports Desk

Iran's Khatoon Bam got off to a winning start in the preliminary stage of the AFC Women's Champions League, defeating Bhutanese host Royal Thimphu College FC 2-1 in Thimphu on Sunday. The 10-time Iranian champion started on the front foot at the Changlimithang Stadium and was unlucky to see Mona Hamoudi's rasping drive from outside the box bounce off the woodwork in the 14th minute.

The home side took the lead against the run of play in the 27th minute as Ritu Porna Chakma's goal-bound effort from 30 yards out went in off goalkeeper Mahdiyeh Molaei's hands.

Hamoudi drew the visitors level seven minutes later when her sublime side-footed volley on Samaneh Chahkandi's cross found the back of the net.

Molaei made up for her first-half blunder eight minutes after the break as she produced

a brilliant save to deny Monika Chakma from close range. A final twist to the game came in the 75th minute, with influential Zahra Ghanbari floating a free-kick into the box before Shahnaz Ja'fari nodded home the winner.

Sitting atop the three-team table, Khatoon will have the opportunity to see Kitchee FC in action against the host on Wednesday ahead of Saturday's showdown with the Hong Kong league champion. The winner of the group will

join Melbourne City, Filipino club Kaya, and Thailand's College of Asian Scholars in Group B of the inaugural Asian elite clubs' competition – set to be staged in a single round-robin format in Thailand in October.

Khatoon Bam players celebrate their winner in a 2-1 victory over Royal Thimphu College in the preliminary stage of the AFC Women's Champions League in Thimphu, Bhutan, on Aug. 25, 2024. ● AFC

Duplantis breaks own pole vault world record at Silesia Diamond League

REUTERS – Sweden's Mondo Duplantis broke his own pole vault world record when he cleared 6.26 metres at the second attempt at the Silesia Diamond League meeting on Sunday. Duplantis broke the world record for the 10th time, beating the 6.25 metres he cleared after retaining his Olympic gold medal in Paris earlier this month. In Poland, he raised the bar to 6.26, having already clinched victory at 6.00 metres. The 24-year-old had brought the Stade de France crowd to their feet at the Paris Olympics when he broke the world record for a ninth time, and there was always the feeling that Duplantis

was not done yet. "This year I focused on the Olympics, the record just came naturally because I was in good shape," Duplantis said. "So I am not surprised with the record today but I am thankful." On Wednesday, Duplantis cleared 6.15 to win in Lausanne but at the Silesia Stadium in Chorzow he had the bar raised to the world-record height and the Polish crowd waited with bated breath. His first effort was a poor one, perhaps lowering expectations, but then the Swede soared over to huge cheers from the spectators before racing to the track and fall-

ing to the ground. "It almost feels weird and unnatural to get so much love and support from the crowds when I compete. I see that especially in Poland," Duplantis said. "The energy in this stadium just keeps getting better every year. My first world record also came in Poland, indoors in Torun (in 2020), so I have great memories from here." The crowd had already witnessed Norwegian Jakob Ingebrigtsen shatter the long-standing 3,000 metres world record with a time of seven minutes 17.55 seconds to beat the record set by Kenya's Daniel Komen in 1996 when he ran 7:20.67.



Armand Duplantis breaks the pole vault world record by clearing 6.26m in Chorzow, Poland, on Aug. 25, 2024. ● ALEKSANDRA SZMIGIEL/ REUTERS