



Aynaz Nasiri celebrates with the Iranian flag after winning the women's -59kg gold at the World Taekwondo Championships in Chuncheon, South Korea, on Oct. 1, 2024.

● WORLD TAEKWONDO

World Taekwondo Championships: Iran grabs 11 medals, beats South Korea to team titles

Sports Desk

A remarkable haul of 11 medals, including seven golds, saw Iran steal the show at the World Taekwondo Championships in Chuncheon, South Korea, beating the host to the men's and women's team titles.

Iranian boys collected three golds, one silver, and double bronze medals to finish above South Korea and Uzbekistan.

This was a third men's title for Iran, which is the only country other than South Korea to lift the team trophy over 14 editions of the competition. Meanwhile, four gold medals and a silver helped Iranian girls claim the title, with South Korea and Croatia in the following spots.

This was only a second women's crown for the country.

Iran's sensational campaign began with a couple of girls' golds on the first day of the competitions, when Parnian Nouri defeated China's Yinuo Xu in an intriguing -52kg final, while Aynaz Nasiri came out on top against Kazakhstan's Nuray Kaznabek in the -59kg showdown.

Ghazal Houshmand bagged a third gold medal for Iranian girls on the penultimate day of the event, thanks to a straight-round triumph over Yang Xiruo of China in the -42kg final. Hana Zarrinkamar also finished on a high note, winning the -68kg final against the host's Lim Yerim.

Saghar Moradi, meanwhile, made it to the final showpiece in the -63kg weight class, only to settle for a silver medal after a loss to Tunisian girl Masghouni Wafa.

In the men's draw, Amirmohammad Ashrafi opened the gold account for

Iran at the expense of Australian Aiden Stilley in the +78kg final.

Sina Mohtarami doubled Iranian boys' gold count with a three-round win against Nurali Makhmut of Kazakhstan in a thrilling -55kg final, before Mahdi Razmian walked away with the ultimate prize in the -48kg class, courtesy of a victory over Spain's Agenjo Trigos.

Elsewhere, Ali-Akbar Ebrahimi suffered a final defeat against South Korea's Park Jae-won to take the silver in the -73kg contests.

Amin Ahmadvand (-78kg) and Amirmohammad Nasirahmadi (-51kg) finished their campaigns with a couple of bronze medals.

The juniors' success came less than two months after Arian Salimi notched up a gold, with Mehran Barkhordari and Nahid Kiani collecting double silvers, while Mobina Ne'matzadeh won a bronze as Iranians made a clean sweep of four medals at the Paris Olympics.

Iran's Sina Mohtarami celebrates after winning the men's -55kg gold at the World Taekwondo Championships in Chuncheon, South Korea, on Oct. 3, 2024.

● WORLD TAEKWONDO

Persian Gulf Pro League:

Gvelesiani nets last-gasp winner as Persepolis edges out Chadormalou

Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League champion Persepolis needed a 95th-minute strike from Georgian center-back Giorgi Gvelesiani to beat newly-promoted Chadormalou 1-0 at home on Saturday.

There was little to separate the two sides in a game of few chances at Tehran's Takhti Stadium, before Juan Carlos Garrido's men managed to pull off a late surge to secure a fourth successive win in the new campaign. The Reds' luck seemed to be running out when substitute Lucas João and Milad Mohammadi hit the woodwork in stoppage time, but Gvelesiani, who bagged the title-winning strike against Mes Rafsanjan on the final day of the previous campaign, was alert to tap in on the rebound after Ayoub El Amloud's effort was cleared off the line by the visiting defender.

Elsewhere, summer-signing

Mahdi Limouchi got off the mark in the Sepahan shirt late in the first half as Jose Morais's side walked away with a 1-0 away win against Esteghlal Khuzestan.

Kaveh Rezaei missed the opportunity to double Sepahan's lead deep into stoppage time as he was denied from the spot by former Persepolis keeper Ahmad Gohari, though the scoreline was still enough to secure a first win in three league games for the Isfahan-based club.

In Tehran's Shahr-e Qods Stadium, first-half goals by Brazilian defender Raphael Silva and Mehrdad Mohammadi saw Esteghlal beat Havadar 2-1 in a first game under interim coach Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh, who replaced Javad Nekounam last week.

Mahdi Goodarzi pulled one back for Havadar from the spot in the fifth minute of added time but it proved too little too late for Mahdi Rahmati's side, which is yet to

win a game this season, sitting rock bottom in the table with three points.

Saturday's results came a day after Iralco thrashed Zob Ahan 4-0 in Isfahan, with Behrouz Norouzifard, Amin Kazemian, Taleb Rikani, and Aref Haji Eidi on the score-sheet for the visitors.

Kheybar and Golgozar played to a goalless stalemate in Khorramabad, while Ali Azadmanesh's second-half penalty helped Shams Azar beat Mes Rafsanjan 1-0 – a first win of the campaign for Saeid Daqiqi's men.

In Qaemshahr, Malavan's Omid Nourafkan scored with 20 minutes left on the clock to cancel out Hamed Pakdel's first-half opener for Nassaji as it finished 1-1 at the Shahid Vatani Stadium.

Persepolis players celebrate their late winner in a 1-0 victory over Chadormalou in the Persian Gulf Pro League at the Takhti Stadium, Tehran, Iran, on October 5, 2024.

● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA



UAE Pro League:

Qoddous off the mark in Kalba colors

Sports Desk

Iranian internationals Saman Qoddous and Mahdi Qayedi combined for a couple of goals as Ittihad Kalba secured a 3-0 home victory over Al Bataeh in the UAE's ADNOC Pro League.

Making his first appearance for the club since joining as a free transfer from Brentford in September, Qoddous found Qayedi on the edge of the box, before the wizard winger

went past a defender and slotted home with a powerful left-footed effort midway through the first half – the Iranian's third goal in four league outings this season.

Qayedi repaid his international teammate's favor minutes later, as Qoddous collected his pass behind the box and fired a sublime strike into the bottom corner to open his Kalba account right before halftime. Leandro Spadacio Leite's side-footed effort from inside the box in the ad-

ditional time secured a second victory of the league campaign for the home side.

The result saw Ittihad move up to sixth in the table with seven points.

Saman Qoddous (L) and his Iranian international teammate Mahdi Qayedi celebrate during Ittihad Kalba's 3-0 victory over Al Bataeh in the UAE's ADNOC Pro League in Kalba, Sharjah, UAE, on October 5, 2024.

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