

Asian U20 Wrestling Championships:

Iranians bag nine medals to clinch Greco-Roman title

Sports Desk

Iranian Greco-Roman team dominated the Asian U20 Wrestling Championships, notching up a remarkable nine medals – including four golds – across 10 weight classes to lift the team trophy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Thursday. The impressive medal haul saw Iran finish atop the team table with 185 points, with Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in the following spots, collecting 166 and 151 points, respectively. Mohammad-Hadi Seydi brought the curtain down on a glittering campaign for the Iranian boys by defeating South Korean Jaeno Choi in emphatic fashion (9-0) to walk away with the ultimate prize of the 97kg category. Seydi's triumph secured the sole gold medal for the country on Thursday, with Seyyed Iman Hosseini (60kg), Gholamreza Abdevali (67kg), and Amir-Mahdi Saeidinava (72kg) settling for a joint-bronze medal in their respective classes. Alireza Mohammad-Hosseini was the only Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler to leave Bishkek empty-handed, finishing fifth in the 82kg division. The preceding day in the Kyrgyz capital, however, proved much more prolific for the Iranian squad with triple gold medals and double bronzes.

Payam Ahmadi defeated opponents from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to progress to the final, before beating the host's Kutman Kalbaev 6-1 for the 55kg gold. Ahoura Bouveiri rounded off an emphatic run in the 77kg contests by outmuscling Omar Duisembek of Kazakhstan 15-6 in the final showpiece. Abolfazl Fat'hi, meanwhile, defended his superheavyweight title in style as the Iranian claimed back-to-back superiority wins without conceding a single point to reach the final before inflicting a pinfall defeat – while leading 2-1 – on Uzbekistan's Amirkhon Berdikulov to grab the 130kg gold. Mohammad-Javad Talebi (63kg) and Hamdirezha Keshtkar (87kg) bounced back from last-four defeats in their respective events to add a couple of bronzes to Iran's medal haul. The freestyle competitions kick off today in Bishkek, where Arshia Haddadi (57kg), Sajjad Pirdayeh (65kg), Ebrahim Elahi (70kg), Abolfazl Shamsipour (79kg), and Erfan Alizadeh (97kg) will be in action across different classes. Abolfazl Bakhshoudeh (61kg), Mohammad Mamivand (74kg), Asian senior champion Abolfazl Rahmani (86kg), Tohid Nouri (92kg), and Mohammadreza Lotfi (125kg) will get their campaigns underway on Sunday.



● IAWFIR

AFC Women's Asia Cup qualifiers:

Head coach Jafari hails Iran's 'commitment' in statement win



Iranian girls celebrate a goal during a 4-0 victory over Singapore at the AFC Women's Asia Cup qualifiers in Amman, Jordan, on July 10, 2025.

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Iranian head coach Marziyeh Jafari was pleased to see her team play with "high concentration and commitment" to get off to an emphatic start at the AFC Women's Asia Cup qualifiers. Iranian girls routed Singapore 4-0 in their Group A opener in Amman, Jordan, on Thursday to throw down the gauntlet to the host and other opponents in the five-team group. Iran started right on the front foot at the King Abdullah II Stadium, with Afshaneh Chatrenoor and Zahra Qanbari going close before Fatemeh Shaban broke the deadlock in the 18th minute with a left-footed effort from inside the box. Jafari's girls had to wait until the 47th minute to double their lead, when substitute Zahra Alizadeh evaded her marker on the edge of the area before teeing up Sara Didar to slot the ball into the roof of the net. Singaporean goalkeeper Izairida Shakira then had to be on her toes six

minutes later to keep out Negin Zandi's glancing header off Qanbari's set-piece but Iran's pressure was too much for the Southeast Asian side to handle as it conceded again in the 77th minute. Atefeh Imani played the ball into space for Zahra Sarbali, whose shot from an acute angle led to Singapore's Yasmine Zaharin turning the ball into her own net. Iran capped off its fine start in the 86th minute courtesy of Qanbari, who exchanged passes with Didar before storming into the box and executing a composed finish. Qanbari's goal celebration, however, led to a second booking for the Iranian captain, who will be ruled out of Sunday's massive game against Bhutan. Having had to cope with less than perfect preparations coming into the qualifiers, Jafari, who was appointed to the job in May, was pleased with the debut victory on Iran's bench. "We achieved the result we wanted," Jafari said after the game. "The first game always has its own special chal-

lenges – from weather issues to the team having to be in match conditions. "It should also be taken into account that we did not have a warm-up game but our players nevertheless played with high concentration and commitment. "The first game is always a bit difficult, because there is a need for more coordination, and we will certainly appear better and more coordinated in the future." The win took Iran into second place in the group table, three points adrift of Bhutan, which continued its perfect run with an impressive 2-1 victory over Lebanon later on Thursday. Jordan is third in the table after defeating Lebanon by four unanswered goals on the first day of the group fixtures and will fancy another comfortable win against Singapore on Sunday. Iran will then face Lebanon on Wednesday before squaring off against the host on Saturday. Only one team from the group will progress to the Asian Cup finals in Australia next March.

IOC chief Coventry offers sympathy with Iranians after 12-day war

Sports Desk

Kirsty Coventry, the president of the International Olympic Committee, offered her condolences to the Iranian people, who lost their loved ones during the 12-war with Israel. Nearly 700 civilians, including a number of Iranian athletes, were among the victims of Israel's unprovoked aggression against the country, which started on June 13, Iranian Health Ministry confirmed on Wednesday. "Please allow me to offer my sincerest condolences and thoughts for the innocent victims of this conflict and their families," Coventry wrote in response to a letter – dated June 23 – by Iranian National Olympic Committee chairman Mohammad-Hadi Khosravi-Vafa, in which he had urged the IOC to hand

Israeli athletes suspension from all international sporting events. "The IOC stands for peace, harmony and solidarity, and please be rest assured that, in the current international context more than ever, the IOC will continue to do its utmost at all levels to promote and safeguard the Fundamental Principles of Olympism and Olympic values, and particularly the unifying power of sport," the former Zimbabwean swimmer added. "Under these tragic circumstances, let me reiterate the IOC's full support and solidarity to your NOC and the Iranian Olympic community as a whole. "Thank you for valuable collaboration and continuous efforts to promote the Olympic values, and we remain fully at your disposal for any specific assistance you might need."



● IOC