

Iran Greco-Roman Team Wins Veterans World Championships



Iranian veterans' Greco-Roman team crowned world champs in Serbia

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran Greco-Roman wrestling team claimed the title of the 2014 Veterans World Championships on Sunday.

Internationally, Veterans athletes were 35 years old and above, and competed in seven age divisions.

In the competition, which was completed after three days, Iran won 22 total medals at the Veterans Worlds, including nine golds, four silvers and 9 bronzes.

Russia and Germany came second and third respectively.

The Iranian freestyle wrestling team had already finished in the first place in the competition, which was held in Belgrade, Serbia.

In the 3rd World Veteran Wrestling Championship more than 700 athletes represented 50 countries, including Iran, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Japan, Cuba, Poland, Serbia, Hungary, Turkey, US, Croatia, Belarus, India, Georgia, Italy, France and Germany.

Muslim Players Refuses to Appear Holding Glass of Beer With Bayern Munich

MUNICH (IQNA) - Morocco's international player Mehdi Benatia, who has recently signed for German giant Bayern Munich, refused to hold a glass of beer during a collective picture with his team at the set of a beer advertising photo shoot.

Benatia was not the only Bayern Munich player to appear without the glass of beer.

In the photo shot, which was taken earlier on Sunday, French mid-fielder Frank Ribery and Swiss mid-fielder Xherdan Shaqiri, who are both Muslims, also appear without a glass of beer in their hands.

Manpreet Named Asia's Junior Player of the Year



Manpreet Singh

KUALA LUMPUR (The Hindu) - Rising Indian midfielder Manpreet Singh was named the 'Junior Player of the Year' by the Asian Hockey Federation in its Congress held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The 22-year-old has played 103 international matches and captained the junior men's team in the Hero FIH Hockey Junior Men's World Cup in New Delhi, and the third Sultan of Johor Cup in Johor Bahru last year.

Manpreet's best moment was to win the Sultan of Johor Cup under his leadership. In this prestigious tournament, India's junior team displayed their high-level hockey skills and defeated England, Argentina, Pakistan and South Korea. In the final match, India thrashed host Malaysia 3-0 and clinched the Gold Medal.

Manpreet made his international debut in 2011 and since then, he has been a regular member of the Indian team.

The Jalandhar-lad was also a part of the silver medal winning Indian team at the Commonwealth Games in Scotland and represented India at the FIH Men's World Cup (Netherlands), Hero FIH Hockey World League Final.

At present, Manpreet is a part of senior men's core probable team for the 2014 Asian Games.

On his special achievement, Hockey India, Secretary General Narinder Batra said, "I congratulate Manpreet for this special achievement, and this also shows the potential of young Indian hockey players. Manpreet works very hard and has proved himself at all age-groups and competitions.

"Apart from a skillful midfielder, he also has the leadership qualities to motivate other players to fight till the final whistle. This announcement is a great achievement for Indian hockey."

Zambia's Nanjing Olympic Gold Winner Targets 2020 Games

LUSAKA (Xinhua) -- Zambia's only gold winner at the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games has set his sights at winning the country more medals at the 2020 and 2024 Olympic Games, the Times of Zambia reported.

Sydney Siame won a gold medal in the 100m at the Youth Olympic Games last month. The other medal Zambia managed to grab was a bronze in judo.

The 16-year-old racing prodigy said he will stick to his development program of focusing on the future and ruled himself out from challenging for gold at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

"I am not looking at the 2016 Olympics. I am sticking to my



Siame during the medal presentation ceremony at Olympic Youth Sports Centre in Nanjing

development program which is the 2020 Olympics and also the 2024 Olympics. God has been kind to me and I pray he will con-

tinue to be so in my future," he was quoted as saying by the paper.

He said he still needed time to develop further in his career and would stick to his program of developing his career.

The young runner is one of the upcoming runners being groomed under a specially tailored program under the Zambia Amateur Athletics Association (ZAAA) as part of its talent identification plans.

Elias Mpondela, the president of the athletics' body said he was happy that all the junior runners who participated at the Nanjing Youth Olympics did well as they all reached the finals even they failed to finish in the top three.

Manchester City Line Up Falcao as Negredo Agrees Valencia Deal

TEHRAN (FNA) - Manchester City are working on a sensational late move for Radamel Falcao after agreeing a deal which could see Alvaro Negredo move to Valencia.

The Primera Division sides are understood to have had an offer to take Negredo on a season-long loan with a view to a permanent €28 million transfer accepted on Sunday, Goal reported.

And Manuel Pellegrini's teams are now keen to put in place a similar deal to sign Falcao from Monaco.

City's rivals, Manchester United, are also rumored to be in the running for the Colombia international

but the Premier League champions are hopeful of securing a deal.

Arsenals have also been linked to Falcao but Gunners boss Arsene Wenger has denied interest in the 28-year-old despite remaining active in the transfer market as the deadline approaches. Sevilla forward Carlos Bacca is his top target up front.

Negredo, meanwhile, is set for a swift return to Spain, having failed to displace Sergio Aguero and Edin Dzeko as the club's first-choice strikers.

Stevan Jovetic has also made a strong start to the season, while Negredo, who scored 23 goals in



Radamel Falcao all competitions, is yet to feature in the new campaign due to injury.

Roger Federer Survives Early Hiccup to Down Marcel Granollers

WASHINGTON (The Guardian) - Roger Federer recovered from dropping his first set of the tournament to race into the fourth round of the US Open. The second seed made a slow start in a match interrupted by a thunderstorm but was hugely impressive thereafter in beating Spain's Marcel Granollers 4-6, 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.

Federer came into this tournament in superb form and had not been tested in his opening two matches so it was a big surprise when he only won one point in the first three games.

At 5-2 to Granollers, the players were taken off because of the threat of lightning and a few minutes later a torrential downpour began. When they returned it was to the odd scene – certainly for Federer – of a virtually empty Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Tournament organizers had decided to start the night session prematurely, much to the annoyance of many day session ticket-holders, who were unable to watch the conclusion of the match.

Federer looked like he had repaired the damage when he retrieved the break but Granollers played a superb returning game to take the set.

The turning point came early in the second set when Federer saved a break point with an ace to avoid trailing 2-0. Granollers did not win another game until he was 3-0 down in the third set, Federer dominating from the back of the court and at the net. There was nothing the Spaniard, ranked 42, could do to turn things back in his favor and Federer clinched victory with his 57th winner after an hour and 58 minutes.

"I enjoyed it," said Federer. "I thought it was a good match and I'm happy I was able to come back and turn it around. Marcel started really on fire. The break helped me and I came out and played some great tennis."

Fourth seed David Ferrer became the first top-10 man to exit the tournament in a third-round loss to France's Gilles Simon. Ferrer, whose relentlessness is legendary, struggled in hot and humid conditions in New York and went down 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3. Having made 10 straight grand slam quarter-finals, the 32-year-old has now failed to get past the third round at the last two.

It was an overdue big win at a slam for the talented Simon, whose only previous appearance in the fourth

round at Flushing Meadows came in 2011, when he lost to John Isner.

Both men cited the conditions as having a big impact, with Simon saying: "It was really, really difficult to play. I feel it was one of the hardest days for me on the court because it was hot and it was so humid."

"I've never sweated like this in the last 10 years. To play David in these conditions is really demanding physically. At one point I was really tired. I felt it would be difficult. But then I had more energy. I felt he was in trouble, also. It's not very often that him and me are tired like this after two hours."

In the last 16, Simon will face 14th seed Marin Cilic, who won a big-hitting contest with Kevin Anderson 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. Also through



Roger Federer was forced off court by a thunderstorm at Flushing Meadows.

is sixth seed Tomas Berdych, a 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 winner over Russian Teymuraz Gabashvili. He next plays 20-year-old Austrian Dominic Thiem after he defeated Feliciano Lopez 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 to make the fourth round at a grand slam for the first time.