

President Lauds Iranian Athletes' Victories in Asian Para Games



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani congratulated the country's athletes on their victories and accomplishments in the 2nd edition of the Asian Para Games held in Incheon, South Korea.

In a message issued on Friday, President Rouhani paid tribute to the efforts of Iran's athletes and medalists, who made the Iranian flag raised with their "spirit of sportsmanship and heroic behaviors".

"The successes achieved by the country's athletes, who collected more medals compared to previous edition of the games, are indicative of their faith, talents, and capabilities," he said in the message.

The Iranian president further prayed to God Almighty for health, glory, and continued accomplishments for all Iranian people, including champions and athletes.

Iran came fourth in the games with 120 medals, including 37 gold, 52 silver and 31 bronze medals. A total of 4,500 athletes competed in 23 sports. The 2nd Asian Para games opened on October 18 and closed on October 24 following 6 days of competition.

Lakers Guard Nash Ruled Out of New Season



Los Angeles Lakers guard Steve Nash drives around Portland Trail Blazers guard Mo Williams during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles.

WASHINGTON (Xinhua) -- Los Angeles Lakers guard Steve Nash has been sidelined with a recurring back problem and team doctor advised him to quit the upcoming season.

The 40-year-old Canadian would play his 19th NBA season and he has been strongly

tipped to retire after the 2014-15 campaign.

Nash has battled numerous injuries in 2012, appearing in just 65 of a possible 164 regular season games.

Nash ranks third in NBA history with 10,335 assists. His 90.4 percent free throw percentage is the best of all time.

Real Madrid to Sign Javier Hernandez on Permanent Deal

MADRID (FNA) - Real Madrid are looking to complete the permanent signing of Javier Hernandez from Manchester United, but want the Red Devils to lower their asking price.

The Mexico international linked up with the Spanish giants on a season-long loan as United put the final touches on a deal for Monaco's Radamel Falcao at the start of September, and has impressed with three goals in just four league outings, Daily Express reported.



Javier Hernandez

option allowing them to purchase Hernandez on a long-term deal at the end of the season, and Spanish outlets claim that Carlo Ancelotti has already decided to make the 26-year-old's stay permanent.

However, the former Chelsea boss is unwilling to pay the reported £17 million fee which had been agreed with United, instead looking to part with around £12 million for Hernandez's services.

The La Liga outfits are also interested in signing goalkeeper David de Gea.

Rio Ferdinand Retirement



Rio Ferdinand has said he wants to one day be England manager

LONDON (Independent) - Former England captain and QPR defender Rio Ferdinand plans to retire from football at the end of the season.

The 35-year-old told Jonathan Ross in an interview to be broadcast on Saturday evening that this season with Rangers will likely be his last.

"I probably think the end of this season," Ferdinand told The Jonathan Ross Show when asked about retirement.

"I'm not fearful of retirement, I'm looking forward to it, I can see some good stuff hopefully happening ahead.

"You get to a time where you start understanding your body and the strains playing football (is) putting your body through, going out and training every day."

The former West Ham, Leeds and Manchester United centre back, who has worked as a football pundit, expects to stay involved in football in some capacity and has begun his coaching badges.

"I've done it for so many years, it's what I love," he added.

"I will stay in football I'm sure in some capacity. I've signed to BT and stuff and I've done stuff with the BBC at the World Cup which I really enjoyed and it's something I'm sure I will take up and do a bit more (of).

"I'm doing my (coaching) badges as well and there are other bits and pieces outside of football."

Ferdinand was an unused substitute in last weekend's loss to Liverpool and could be confined to the bench again for Monday's match at home to Aston Villa.

Adel Taarabt could be offered the opportunity to prove himself to Harry Redknapp after the pair's public disagreement this week when the QPR boss accused the Morocco playmaker of being overweight.

Defender Nedum Onuoha hopes to shake off a hamstring problem sustained against Liverpool, midfielders Joey Barton and Jordan Mutch could be fit again after recent hamstring trouble, but Alejandro Faurin (knee) is a long-term injury absentee.

Rafael Nadal to Have Surgery and Is Out of ATP World Tour Finals



Rafael Nadal of Spain during his defeat to Borna Coric of Croatia at the Swiss Indoors in Basel.

LONDON (The Guardian) - Andy Murray's chances of qualifying for next month's ATP Tour Finals received a significant boost on Friday night when Rafael Nadal pulled out of the season-ending tournament. The British No1 had earlier strengthened his cause by beating Kevin Anderson to secure a place in the semi-finals of the Valencia Open.

Nadal announced he was to undergo appendix surgery on 3 November, six days before the start of the tournament in London for which eight players qualify. The Spaniard's withdrawal has in effect promoted Murray to the

No7 spot in that race.

"It's the day to say goodbye for the season," Nadal said after suffering a shock 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) defeat by the 17-year-old Croatian Borna Coric in the quarter-finals of the Swiss Indoors in Basel. "I'm not going to play Paris and London. I am not competitive enough to do that."

Nadal has struggled with appendicitis this month and had earlier announced he would not be playing at the Paris Masters.

His emphatic defeat by Coric provided more proof of the Croatian wunderkind's potential. The teenager, called "Baby Djokovic"

because of similarities with the world No1 Novak Djokovic, gave his off-color opponent a torrid time.

Nadal was unrecognizable in the first set as he offered no resistance. His timing improved marginally in the second but twice Coric served to stay in the set and held his nerve when a loose forehand from his opponent gave him two match points.

Coric needed only one of them, forcing a weary Nadal to send a defensive forehand wide.

Before undergoing surgery, Nadal will receive treatment for a back issue that has bothered him since the Australian Open in January, when he was severely compromised in his final defeat by Stan Wawrinka.

"I need to work on my back a lot," said Nadal. "Since Australia I'm not 100% recovered. That needs time and a period of five weeks to work hard again. I need to try to fix all the things that bother me. I'm going to work for one month in December and I will be back at the start of 2015."

It has been a season of highs and lows for Nadal, who won a ninth French Open title in June but was then forced to miss the US Open because of a wrist problem.

No sooner had he returned from that than the appendicitis struck,

and Nadal said: "Every day I felt a little bit more tired. I tried to practice to try to get fit but it was not possible. It's difficult to play and compete when you're not able to practice weeks in a row.

"I'm not a player who competes to try to be in quarter-finals. I try to compete with chances to win tournaments and today is not the day that I can work for that. It's been a very hard year for me mentally and physically, too."

Murray survived a test of his credentials to see off Anderson in three sets and will play David Ferrer in the last four. The Scot lost the opening set on a tie-break but fought back bravely to claim a 6-7, 6-4, 6-4 victory which kept the players on court for two hours and 43 minutes.

Murray was playing in his fifth successive tournament and tiredness appeared to be creeping up on him as he at times looked heavy-legged and reluctant to move around the court. But he found the energy to secure victory on his fourth match point thanks to Anderson's exhausted-looking forehand into the net.

Ferrer's win over Thomaz Belucci was the 600th of his career. He beat the Brazilian 6-1, 6-2 and joined Lleyton Hewitt, Nadal and Roger Federer as current players to have hit the 600 mark.