

Iranian Karate Team Wins Int'l Competitions in Orumieh



Iranian National Karate Team won the international karate competitions at different levels

ORUMIEH (IRNA) – Iranian National Karate Team won the international karate competitions at different levels.

The Iranian karate athletes won 15 gold medals, 17 silver medals and 19 silver medals in the competitions.

The 11th International peace and friendship karate competitions started in Orumieh on August 20.

A sum of 300 athletes and 200 staff workers from France, Azerbaijan Republic, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, France and Iran attended the competitions.

National Taekwondo Team on Camping

TEHRAN (MNA) – The training sessions of Iran's national taekwondo team started this morning at the Taekwondo Federation Training Center.

The second round of qualifier competitions for 2016 Olympic Games will be hosted by the Sampson city of Turkey and Iran's national Taekwondo team started its training sessions today morning to prepare for these competitions.

At the opening stage of the 2015 World Taekwondo Grand Prix Series last week, Iran's team consisting of four fighters won a gold medal and a bronze obtained



National Taekwondo team on camping

by Abolfazl Yaghoubi and Farzan Ashourzadeh respectively. Now, after a short break, they are taking up their morning and afternoon training sessions under the supervision of Bijan Moghanloo (head coach) and Mehdi Bibak and Mehrdad Yousefi (coaches).

Iran's couch has announced that, Mohammad Kazemi, Armin Hadipour, Farzan Ashourzadeh, Abolfazl Yaghoubi, Behnam Asbaghi, Alireza Nasrazadani, Farzad Zolghadri, Masoud Hajizavareh, Mehdi Khodabakhshi, Omid Amidi and Sajjad Mardani are the selected Taekwondo athletes present in Iran's national team camp.

Ghotbi Accepts Position as Curacao National Team Assistant



Afshin Ghotbi

TOKYO (Persian League) - Former Shimizu S-Pulse manager Afshin Ghotbi on Friday revealed he will work as an assistant to Curacao national team coach Patrick Kluivert for the team's upcoming third-round qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup.

The 51-year-old Ghotbi, who parted company with S-Pulse, last July, said he had responded to a request from former Netherlands

striker Kluivert and agreed on a contract for just the two CONCACAF home and away qualifiers against El Salvador next month.

"He (Kluivert) is a fantastic guy and a global star, upcoming young coach. I will do my best to support him. Nobody expects this team to do well, so it would be a Cinderella story," Ghotbi told Kyodo News.

"Most players are from Europe, and the quality of the players are higher than most people expect. I think Curacao has a bigger chance than most people think. The federation wanted to bring in more experience and professionalism to elevate the players' confidence.

"For me, it was the first time coming back to the CONCACAF area, so that was a motivation too," added Ghotbi, who formerly managed the Iranian national team and is an American citizen.

Rasoul Khatibi Quits Siahjamegan Job



Rasoul Khatibi

TEHRAN (Persian League) - Former tractor coach Rasoul Khatibi has left the Siahjamegan bench after just four weeks in charge due to personal issues on Friday.

"After the game against Naft, Khatibi told me that he can't continue as the head coach due to family issues but I told him I want him to stay until the end of the season. He refused to stay and finally quit," Siahjamegan president Mohammad Reza Abbasi told ISNA.

"The team will continue under our Sporting Director Saeed Ramezani who also has an AFC A License.

After week 5 of the Iran Pro League we will have an international break which we have enough time to choose our new head coach," Abbasi added.

Under the tutelage of Rasoul Khatibi Siahjamegan earned just one win out of four games. Their only win was at home against Naft in week 3.

Dutch Squad to Face Turkey Includes Van Persie, Sneijder

ANKARA (Hurriyet Daily) - The Netherlands national football team squad for the UEFA Euro 2016 qualifiers against Iceland and Turkey in September was announced by the team's newly appointed manager Danny Blind on Aug. 21.

Blind has called on Galatasaray attacking midfielder Wesley Sneijder and Fenerbahçe's new signing from Manchester United, forward Robin van Persie.

Ajax defender Jairo Riedewald and right-back Kenny Tete are set to make their debuts for the Netherlands.

The Netherlands will host Iceland at Amsterdam Arena on Sept. 3 and play away against Turkey in the central province of Konya on Sept. 6.

They are in third place with 10 points in the Euro 2016 qualifying Group A. They won three matches, lost two and drew one match out of six.

Turkey are in the fourth spot with 8 points as they won two games, drew two and lost two matches.

Netherlands provisional squad is

as follows:
Goalkeepers: Jasper Cillessen (Ajax), Jeroen Zoet (PSV), Tim Krul (Newcastle United) and Kenneth Vermeer (Feyenoord)

Defenders: Daley Blind (Manchester United), Virgil van Dijk (Celtic), Jeffrey Bruma (PSV), Joel Veltman, Jairo Riedewald, Kenny Tete (Ajax), Terence Kongolo (Feyenoord), Bruno Martins Indi (Porto), Paul Verhaegh (Augsburg), Gregory van der Wiel (Paris Saint-Germain), Stefan de Vrij (Lazio)

Midfielders: Ibrahim Afellay,

Marco van Ginkel (Stoke City), Georginio Wijnaldum, Vurnon Anita (Newcastle United), Nigel de Jong (AC Milan), Davy Klaassen (Ajax), Wesley Sneijder (Galatasaray)

Forwards: Memphis Depay (Manchester United), Bas Dost (Wolfsburg), Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (Schalke 04), Arjen Robben (Bayern Munich), Quincy Promes (Spartak Moscow), Jeremain Lens (Sunderland), Luuk de Jong, Luciano Narsingh (PSV), Robin van Persie (Fenerbahçe)

World Athletics Championships Open in Beijing

BEIJING (Xinhua) -- The 15th World Athletics Championships opened on Saturday with around 2,000 athletes from around the world taking part in.

Chinese President Xi Jinping declared the worlds open at a ceremony held in Beijing's iconic "Bird's Nest" National Stadium.

Among those present at the ceremony are International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach and outgoing International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) President Lamine Diack.

"During the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the Chinese people felt the

charm of athletics. In the next few days, Beijing will come to the spotlight and the elite event will help demonstrate the Chinese people's love for athletics once again," said Beijing Mayor Wang Anshun, also chairman of the organizing committee.

After the flags parade of the IAAF member associations, there was a brief but intriguing art performance at the ceremony, a brilliant combination of music, dance and cultural extravaganza.

The show reached the climax when all the performers shouted "Welcome to Beijing, my dear

friends!"
The world championships are the first world-class event held in Beijing after the Chinese capital won the right to host the 2022 Winter Olympics with adjacent Zhangjiakou of Hebei Province.

Beijing hopes to impress the world again with successful hosting of the athletics worlds which will run through to Aug. 30.

China sent a 81-strong team to the championships and will compete in 34 out of 47 events.

The Chinese athletes are expecting medals from the race walking and the women's throwing events

and also looking forward to breakthroughs in the men's high jump and long jump.

In a speech at the opening ceremony, IAAF President Diack said he believes China has what it takes to become an athletics powerhouse.

Earlier on Saturday, Ghirmay Ghebreselassie from Eritrea stunned a strong field of East African stars to win the men's marathon gold.

It was Eritrea's first-ever world championships gold and the 19-year-old Ghebreselassie became the youngest ever world marathon champion.

Mexico Children Baseball Team Participates in Little League World Series

MEXICO CITY (Xinhua) -- IMSS Mexicali children baseball team, who represents Mexico, played its first game at the 2015 Little League Baseball World Series, an annual baseball tournament for children aged 11 to 13 years old, currently held in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, United States, local media reported Friday.

The Mexican team defeated 1-0 Canada's White Rock South Surrey in the game played on Friday afternoon at Volunteer Stadium.

This is the fourth time IMSS Mexicali team represents Mexico in Little League World Series.

The team from Mexico's northwestern city of Mexicali participated in the 2005, 2007 and 2011 editions. Also, the team has won four times Mexico's national series and has been runner-up in the Latin American Championship.

The team is led by Joel "Bimbo" Armenta, Javier Mendez and Gil Lopez. They expect to reach finals of International Group, such as it did in 2011.

On Thursday, the opening ceremony of the tournament was canceled due to the heavy rains, as well as the first scheduled games, which were held on Friday.

Mexico's next rival will be the winner of the game between Asia-Pacific and Japan. The game will be held next Sunday.

The international teams participating in Little Leagues World Series include one team each from Asia-Pacific, Canada, Europe-Africa, Latin America, Australia, Caribbean, Japan and Mexico.