

# Iran Ups Medal Tally to 31 in Asia-Pacific Deaf Games



TAIPEI (MNA) – Hearing and speech impaired Iranian athletes won 7 more medals on the 4th day of the Asia Pacific Deaf Games in Taiwan, bringing the total number of medals to 31 so far.

Pacific Deaf Games that began in Taiwan on Oct. 3, Iranian male and female audibly-challenged athletes put spectacular performances on display and managed to grab 7 medals, including 1 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze, at the international event.

In 400-meter hurdles, Iranian male sprinter Moslem Shirzad reached the finishing line faster than athletes from Chinese Taipei and Japan to land in the first position and receive the gold medal.

Hadi Salehi claimed a silver medal

in long jump after the Japanese long jumper. Another Iranian long jumper Yashar Vaghar also grabbed the bronze medal.

In men's 200-meter race, Sajjad Mahpour received the bronze medal and in the women's competition, Maryam Abdi claimed the silver medal while Soghra Rabiei stood at fourth place.

Maryam Abdi also grabbed the bronze medal in women's 800-meter final.

The last medal on Tuesday was received by Iranian male sprinter Ahmad Ravayeh who managed to claim the bronze medal in men's 800-meter after representatives from Japan and Iraq.

Also on Tuesday, Iranian hearing-impaired futsal team defeated Emirates 21-2. The Iranian outfit will take on Japan as its second match on Wednesday.

The Iranian football team in its third match also managed to score a victory against Kazakhstan 11-1. The Iranian football players had defeated Australia 5-0 and Japan 4-0 in their two previous matches.

The 8th edition of the Asia Pacific Deaf Games opened in Taoyuan, Taiwan, on October 3 and will continue until October 11, 2015.

## First AFC Women's Elite Coaches' Forum Charts Success for Women's Football in Asia



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KUALA LUMPUR (AFC) – Asia's top women's football coaches gathered at the first AFC Women's Elite Coaches' Forum on Monday and Tuesday this week in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to map out a successful future for women's football on the continent.

Coaches from the top 18 FIFA-ranked AFC Member Associa-

tions were invited to the event to exchange views and make proposals to ensure women's football will continue on the right path in Asia.

AFC Acting General Secretary Dato' Windsor John said: "The AFC is fully committed to the women's game. Asian women's football teams are already competing for the top spots globally. In

addition to making sure that development continues we also need to focus on bridging the gaps between our Member Associations."

AFC Technical Director Andy Roxburgh said: "This elite group works like a think-tank. This forum is a first step towards holding a continent-wide AFC women's football conference in 2016, and establishing regular, high-profile events for women's football development in Asia."

Bridging the gaps between the different levels of the women's game in Asia was a central theme of discussion throughout the first AFC Women's Elite Coaches' Forum, with four groups of MAs identified: emerging countries, developing countries, challengers and FIFA World Cup finalists.

The two-day seminar was an important opportunity for the participants to reflect on the recent 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup in Cana-

da. The success of the Asian teams was highlighted, as four out of the five teams qualified to the knockout stage. Thailand was a newcomer in the tournament but missed out on a spot only on goal difference.

In addition to the World Cup review, the three other points on the agenda were an overview of the AFC women's competitions, tactics and technical topics and women's football development. Concrete issues and proposals were discussed, such as how to ensure regular, competitive football for women's youth teams, involving schools and how to provide women the same opportunities as men to be involved in the game.

The participants involved in the forum included Australia, Chinese Taipei, DPR Korea, Hong Kong, India, IR Iran, Japan, Korea Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.

## World Boxing Cup Inaugurates in Qatar

DOHA (MNA) – The 2015 World Boxing Championship was inaugurated yesterday, with a wonderful and pretty ceremony at the Ali Bin Hamad Al Attiyah Arena Stadium.

A large bucket between two quadrilaterals projected on stage the history of boxing from its very beginning and pictures of the different competitions of the International Association of the discipline (AIBA, for its acronym in English). Boxers performed distinctive movements of the sport, while emitting messages with different values representing boxing, including 'value', 'courage' and 'surrender'.

The participation will be provided by 260 boxers from 74 countries, who in addition to the titles of the 10 divisions, will seek for 23 tick-



ets for the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Latin America will provide 44 fighters, with the leader, Cuba, taking full team of 10 boxers and Europe is the continent with the most athletes, with a collective selection

of 94 boxers.

For its part, the host country will be represented by five boxers.

Until the quarterfinals, from October 10 onwards, there will be two quadrangles in the Ali Bin Hamad Al Attiyah Arena Stadium, which

## Iran Still Has Chance to Qualify for Olympics: Dirk Bauermann

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iranian national basketball team's coach Dirk Bauermann says they still have their chances to go to the 2016 Olympic Games.

Iran finished in third place in the 2015 FIBA Asia Championship and failed to advance to the Olympics. China advanced to the games as the winner.

Bauermann was signed to coach Iran for the FIBA Asia tourna-

Also," Bauermann told reporters in Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport on Tuesday.

"We lacked a little bit of luck in our efforts to score in the fourth quarter."

"Iran came third and failed to advance directly to the Olympics but we still have our chances to go to the Olympics. Our players fought well in the competition and we showed a good discipline



Dirk Bauermann

ment. His contract will be extended if Iran makes it all the way to the 2016 Rio Olympics.

"We came third but I am satisfied with the way we played. We could have defeated China in the semi-final but we have to accept it is a great team who was supported by his fans in its home.

in attack and defence," the German coach added.

Asked him if he wants to continue his job in Team Melli, Bauermann said, "It's an honor for me to stay here but the federation will make decision about my future. I will be happy if I can continue in the team."

## Argentina Begin Training With Various Missing Players

BUENOS AIRES (Xinhua) -- Argentina began training on Monday for the World Cup Russia 2018 qualifiers with the notable absence of their star player Lionel Messi, who is still injured.

The FC Barcelona midfielder and forward tore a ligament in his left knee a few days ago which means that he will miss Argentina's first two matches of the qualifiers against Ecuador and Paraguay on October 8 and 13 respectively.

"Playing without Messi has to be the team's main goal and not an excuse for playing badly," said FC Barcelona defender Javier Mascherano upon his arrival at Buenos Aires to join the team.

Apart from Messi, coach Gerardo Martino's side will also be missing midfielders Ever Banega (Sevilla FC, Spain) and Enzo

Perez (Valencia CF, Spain) who are injured.

Manchester United defender, Marcos Rojo, just pulled out of the upcoming match a few hours ago, adding to the list of injuries. Rojo decided not to travel to Argentina so that he could recover from an ailment that has been bothering him for some time.

Striker Gonzalo Higuain who was part of the World Cup Brazil 2014 runner-up team and the recent Copa America tournament in Chile, will be another important absence as he was not included in the current team due to footballing reasons.

Argentina will play Ecuador on Thursday at 21:00 local time (18:00 GMT) on home turf at the River Plate stadium while the following Tuesday they will travel to Asuncion to play Paraguay.

**Kayhan International**  
Advertising Dept.  
33110251-9  
Ext. 2336