

# President Highlights Iran's Graceful Behavior in Wrestling World Cup



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Saturday praised people of the western province of Kermanshah for warmly receiving U.S. wres-

tlers in the World Cup games recently held there, saying the hospitality Iran offered to the Americans was a testimony of its greatness and dignified behavior.

In an address to a gathering of Iranian athletes and medal winners in Tehran, President Rouhani said granting the American wrestlers visas for the World

Cup games in Kermanshah in spite of an executive order by the US president banning Iranians from entering the U.S. "embarrassed the U.S. government."

Giving visas to the American wrestlers and the warm hospitality provided by spectators in Kermanshah made the world admit how great Iran is, he said.

The president then underlined the far-reaching impacts of sports in various fields, including constructive interaction with the world, economy, tourism, and cultural interaction.

Following the Freestyle Wrestling World Cup in February, the U.S. wrestling federation thanked Iranian fans who supported American wrestlers during the games.

"Thank you to the wonderful fans in Iran for cheering on our guys throughout the tournament and being spectacular hosts," the U.S. wrestling federation said in a Twitter message.

## Iran Beach V-Ballers Finish 4th in Asian U21 Games

TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iran's national B under-21 beach volleyball team has put an acceptable end to its campaign at the second edition of Asian U21 Beach Volleyball Championship in Thailand, and finished fourth at the end of the continental sporting event.

On Saturday, the Iranian pair of Javad Firouzpour and Alireza Aghajani lost their last fixture at the Nongyama Municipal School in Thailand's northeastern city of Roi Et, in two straight sets (19-21 and 22-24) to Thailand's national

C under-21 beach volleyball outfit.

Earlier, Iran's national B under-21 beach volleyball team had secured its place at the forthcoming Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) Beach Volleyball U21 World Championships 2017, which will be held between June 13 and 18 in the eastern-central Chinese city of Nanjing.

The second edition of Asian U21 Beach Volleyball Championship opened in Roi Et, Thailand, on March 2 and finished on March 4, 2017.

## Mancini Reveals He Wants to Coach Italy

ROME (Omni sport) - Roberto Mancini has stated his ambition to coach Italy and hit out at the new owners of Inter for bringing his time at the club to an end.

The 52-year-old left Inter by mutual agreement in August 2016 after less than two years in charge, with the club's incoming Chinese owners opting to appoint Frank de Boer for a short-lived stint.

Mancini has been out of work since leaving the club, but expressed his desire to succeed Gian Piero Ventura as manager of the Azzurri and nurture the country's new crop of talented players.

He told Corriere dello Sport: "Romanically, for many reasons, I would love to be the coach of the nazionale."

"There are many talented young Italian players coming through and I think in a couple of years we could see a really good Azzurri side."

"Domenico Berardi is very strong, then there's Federico Bernardeschi, Federico Chiesa, Gianluigi Donnarumma, Manuel Locatelli and Roberto Gagliardini of Inter."

Mancini had taken Inter to the top of Serie A in the previous season before securing a fourth-place finish, but the former Manchester City coach said the takeover by Suning Commerce Group spoiled his plans for the club.



Former Inter coach Roberto Mancini predicted a strong future for the Italian national team and expressed his desire to coach the Azzurri.

He reflected on his time at San Siro, saying: "It was still a good experience. I worked a year-and-a-half, we built a good team and then we broke up because I think the conditions to work well and to work together were no longer there."

"The owners came from another continent and they do not know so much about Italian football. It became a bit difficult to work and to understand that another season Inter could fight for the top."

"Maybe it's better for everyone that we separated."

## Wrestlers Bag Five Medals in Ukrainian Tournament

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers have exhibited satisfactory displays of physical might and prowess at the 21st edition of Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial, and received five medals.

On Friday and the opening day of the international sporting event at the Palace of Sports in the Ukrainian capital city of Kiev, Iranian free-style wrestler Reza Atari overcame his Azerbaijani opponent Mirjalal Hasanzadeh 5-2 in the repêchage round of the 57-kilogram weight category, and received the bronze medal.

Reza Afzali outmuscled a contestant from Belarus 8-0 in the final bout of the 74-kilogram weight division, and snatched the yellow metal.

Additionally, Hossein Shahbazi



Iranian wrestlers secured five medals on the first day of an international Greco-Roman, free style and female wrestling tournament underway in Ukraine.

defeated his German rival 4-3 in the third-place encounter of the 97-kilogram weight category, and picked

up the bronze medal.

Later in the event, Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers won two medals,

including one gold.

Shirzad Beheshti pocketed a silver medal for the Islamic Republic in the 59-kilogram class.

Farshad Belfakkeh was awarded the gold medal in the 71-kilogram section, and clinched the title.

The 21st edition of Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial began in Kiev, Ukraine on March 2, and will finish on March 4, 2017.

The tournament has brought together dozens of freestyle and Greco-roman wrestlers from various countries, namely Algeria, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, China, the Czech Republic, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Japan, Mongolia, Romania, South Korea, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey and the United States.

## Hirscher's Slovenia Win Brings Record Sixth Overall Globe



A fifth race win of the season saw Marcel Hirscher write his place FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup history with a sixth overall globe.

KRANJSKA GORA, Slovenia (Dispatches) - Marcel Hirscher became the greatest male skier of all time in Kranjska Gora on Saturday as his giant slalom victory ensured a record sixth FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup overall title.

The Austrian has dominated the World Cup program over the last five years, winning the overall title on each occasion to move level with Marc Girardelli.

His 0.46-second victory in Slovenia sees him go clear of Girardelli with an unprecedented sixth globe, the 28-year-old helped by his rivals' failure to handle the

conditions.

Hirscher went into the race knowing he could be crowned champion should his overall lead be more than 500 at the conclusion, with Henrik Kristoffersen and Alexis Pinturault the men who could delay his coronation.

As Hirscher set the fastest time of the opening run in one minute, 11.63 seconds, Kristoffersen was 0.96secs back, while Pinturault failed to finish.

Foggy conditions delayed the fastest runners ahead of the second run and while it affected Kristoffersen's chances - he had to settle for 11th - Hirscher was not to be denied.

He may not have set the fastest time but it was more than enough to see him top the rankings by nearly half a second from Leif Kristian Haugen, with Matts Olsson completing the top three.

Kristoffersen's lowly finish only brought him 24 points, meaning he remains 508 back from Hirscher, while Kjetil Jansrud - who does not race giant slalom - is 504 adrift with five races remaining.

Those margins mean Hirscher cannot be caught, claiming his sixth overall globe in a row, while also wrapping up a third successive title in the discipline as well.

## Leipzig Slip Off German Title Pace After Draw

AUGSBURG, Germany (AFP) - RB Leipzig have suffered a German title setback when they were held to a 2-2 draw at Augsburg, handing champions Bayern Munich the chance to go seven points clear by the end of the weekend.

The result kept Leipzig in second spot on 49 points but Bayern can go to 56 points if they defeat seventh-placed Cologne on Saturday.

Augsburg, in 13th, have one of the worst home records this season with just three wins and 10 goals scored before Friday's clash.



Leipzig's Timo Werner (L) and Augsburg's Raul Bobadilla vie for the ball during their Bundesliga match in Augsburg, southern Germany, on March 3, 2017.

But Kostas Stafylidis gave them the lead after just 19 minutes before the advantage was wiped out six minutes later when Timo Werner levelled.

Werner, who will turn 21 on Monday, now has 14 goals for the season.

Leipzig edged ahead after 52 minutes when centre-half Marvin Comper headed in a corner taken by Swedish star Emil Forsberg.

The visitors had chances to see off the game and make the three points safe but were pegged back on the hour when Martin Hinteregger equalised for Augsburg.

## Luis Enrique Says Goodbye to Barcelona



Barcelona coach Luis Enrique

BARCELONA (euronews) - The signs were there at the Camp Nou last weekend after an uninspiring draw which had half the stadium calling for him to go.

That followed a disastrous Champion's league clash Barca lost to PSG, after which there was reportedly a blazing dressing room row.

Now Barcelona manager Luis Enrique says enough's enough, and he's leaving the club he has spent most of his life with at the end of the season. In three years in charge he has won everything, as much as his illustrious and adored predecessor Pepe Guardiola, but his players have reportedly lost confidence in him.

"Like a Barcelona fan, like sup-

porters, like he's... I am sorry, the club of my heart, so I am so sad because we are going to miss the perfect trainer for Barcelona for his personality, character, for his three years, two years and now three, he play, played, unbelievable football with unbelievable players," said Guardiola when asked for his reaction.

Star player Lionel Messi may have been one of the major reasons why Enrique is fed up of the pressure, and the Argentine may get the final say in the choice of new manager, which may be between Sevilla's Jorge Sampaoli and Athletic Bilbao's Ernesto Valverde. Any manager should be warned, this is Messi's team as much as anyone's.