

# Iranian Skiers Bag 6 Medals in South Korea



TEHRAN (Fars) - Iranian ski mountaineers received six medals, including one gold, at the fourth edition of Gangwon Provincial Governor Cup Korea Ski Mountaineering Championship. Iran's Abdolrahman Ghazzagh

vied for the top honor in the men's junior individual race contests at High1 Ski Resort in South Korea's mountainous and forested Northeastern region of Gangwon, and stunned opponents to deservedly stand on the top position, presst

reported. Abolfazl Savehei in the men's individual race section could pick up a bronze medal for the Islamic Republic of Iran. Taraneh Rezaei also garnered a bronze medal for the Iranian

delegation in the women's individual division.

Earlier in the tournament, Iranian representative had managed to win one silver and two bronze medals in the vertical race competitions.

The fourth edition of Gangwon Provincial Governor Cup Korea Ski Mountaineering Championship opened in Gangwon, Northeastern South Korea, on March 11, and will wrap up on March 12, 2017.

The event has brought together dozens of male and female athletes from China, Iran, Japan, Russia and Turkey.

Ski mountaineering is a skiing discipline that involves climbing mountains either on skis or carrying them, depending on the steepness of the ascent, and then descending on skis. It is an activity that variously combines ski touring, Telemark, backcountry skiing, and mountaineering.

The three prestigious races in the field are the Italian Mezzalama Trophy, the Swiss Patrouille des Glaciers, and the French Pierra Menta.

## Molaei Claims Baku Grand Slam Silver



Iranian judoka Saeed Molaei clinched a silver medal at Baku Grand Slam 2017 in Baku, Azerbaijan

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iranian judoka Saeed Molaei has displayed remarkable athletic skills at Baku Grand Slam 2017 in Azerbaijan, and been awarded a silver medal at the prestigious sporting event.

On Saturday, Molaei prevailed over a representative from the host nation in his first minus 81-kilogram weight class contest at Haydar Aliyev Sport Hall in the Azerbaijani capital city of Baku.

He overwhelmed a French contestant in the next bout and progressed to the semi-final round. Molaei downed 29-year-old Mongolian competitor

Uuganbaataryn Otgonbaatar and found a place in the final showdown, where he fell to Rufat Ismayilov of Azerbaijan and won the silver medal.

Japanese Kenya Kohara and Mongolia's Otgonbaatar shared the bronze medal.

Baku Grand Slam 2017 started in the Azerbaijani capital on March 10, and will finish on March 12. The competitions have attracted 183 judo practitioners from 31 countries, including Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chinese Taipei, Georgia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

## National Volleyball Team to Play Poland, Slovenia

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iranian national volleyball team will play four away friendlies with Poland and Slovenia teams.

The matches will be held with the aim of preparation for FIVB Volleyball World League 2017.

Iran will take on Italy on the opening weekend of the competition scheduled for June 2-4.

The matches will be held at the Adriatic Arena in Pesaro, Italy.

Team Melli will face Brazil and



Poland respectively in the following days.

The 2017 FIVB Volleyball World League will be the 28th edition of the annual men's international volleyball tournament played by 36 teams between June 2 and July 2.

The 36 teams have been split into three groups of 12 teams and will play the Preliminary Round in a pool format over three weeks, before the best teams gather for the Finals in each Group.

## Chelsea Defeat 'Knocked' Manchester United's Confidence

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester United's confidence was "knocked" by October's 4-0 defeat to Chelsea, according to Chris Smalling.

The Blues produced a superb display to sweep their opponents aside as Jose Mourinho endured a miserable return to his former club.

Pedro, Gary Cahill, Eden Hazard and N'Golo Kante were all on target for the hosts, who moved five points clear of their rivals in the Premier League table.

Antonio Conte's side now boast a 17-point advantage over the Red Devils ahead of Monday's FA Cup quarter-final between the two sides and have been installed as favourites to progress.

But Smalling is adamant he and his teammates have recovered from their previous trip to Stamford Bridge and will give a better account of themselves

this time around.

"That game at Chelsea completely knocked us - it was definitely one of our worst performances of the season," he told United's official website.

"But from then on we have kicked on and done a lot better.

"I think we all learned a lot of things from that game and, not only do we have progress in this competition to play for, we also have our pride as well.

"The FA Cup is a tough trophy to defend and looking at previous records, not many people have been able to do it and I know United haven't.

"We are on a good run and we will give a much better account of ourselves than we did last time," added the centre back.

United will make the trip to west London without Zlatan Ibrahimovic,



The Blues produced a superb display to sweep their opponents aside as Jose Mourinho endured a miserable return to his former club.

who has been suspended for three games after accepting a charge of violent conduct.

Chelsea, meanwhile, have a fully fit squad to choose from as they attempt to plot a route into the last four.

## Spurs Roll to Victory Over Warriors



San Antonio Spurs guard Patty Mills, of Australia, celebrates a 3-point basket during the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Golden State Warriors, Saturday, March 11, 2017, in San Antonio. San Antonio won 107-85. (AP Photo/Darren Abate)

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Patty Mills had 21 points as the San Antonio Spurs rolled to a 107-85 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Saturday night in a game short on star power to pull within a half-game of the NBA's top record.

The big showdown between the league's top two teams turned into a huge letdown with both teams missing their star players.

Already without Kevin Durant due to a knee injury, Golden State opted to rest Stephen Curry, Klay

Thompson, Draymond Green and Andre Iguodala.

The Spurs were expecting to be without Kawhi Leonard, Tony Parker and Dejounte Murray due to injuries, but received a jolt when they were informed that LaMarcus Aldridge will be out indefinitely with a minor heart arrhythmia. Aldridge underwent tests Saturday and will have more Monday.

Ian Clark had 36 points to lead Golden State, which has dropped three in a row and five of seven.

## Iran Defeat Iraq 3-2 in Futsal Exhibition Game

SHIRAZ (Press TV) - Iran men's national futsal team have emerged with a narrow victory in a friendly match against Iraq in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz.

On Saturday evening, the hosts fell behind in the opening minutes of the fixture at Sadra Sports Hall of the Islamic Azad University as the Iraqi outfit got off to a sound start, and managed to take an early lead.

The Persians then vigorously pursued an equalizer, and Morteza Ezzati fired into the back of the net before the first period ended.

The Iranian futsal players maintained their pressure on the Iraqi team as they returned to action. They took the lead to go 2-1 ahead, when Shahab Talebi shot on a volley directed at Iraq's goalpost.

The visitors, however, did not capitulate and battled back to take a 2-2 draw.

Finally, Sajjad Bani Sa'di's goal tacked just before the end of regulation

time secured Iran's 3-2 victory over Iraq.

According to the latest monthly classification published by the Asociación Mundial de Futsal (AMF), which is the governing body of futsal, the Iranian squad has preserved its position as Asia's best and stayed put in the sixth place of the world's overall standings. Team Melli Futsal earned 1,608 points.

Kazakhstan maintained the 9th slot in the latest AMF rankings with 1,451 points. The Central Asians are followed by Thais and the Japanese, who have claimed the 15th and 16th places respectively with 1,360 and 1,359 points.

Brazil is the top-ranked futsal team in the world with 1,916 points. Spaniards notched up 1,889 points to sit in the second position, while third-placed Russians kept their position with 1,763 points. Argentina collected 1,706 points to stand fourth.

## Lewandowski Double Sends Bayern 10 Points Clear

BERLIN (Reuters) - Striker Robert Lewandowski has scored twice to help Bayern Munich beat Eintracht Frankfurt 3-0 open up a 10-point lead at the top of the Bundesliga.

Playing their fifth game in 16 days and four days after their 5-1 Champions League demolition of Arsenal, Bayern never hit top form but are cruising to a record-extending fifth straight league crown with second-placed RB Leipzig losing 1-0 to VfL Wolfsburg.

Unusually, Bayern had to strike against the run of play with Eintracht coming close on two occasions before Poland forward Lewandowski put them ahead after good work from Thomas Mueller in the 38th minute.

"It was a good day for us with good results in the other matches," Bayern coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "But the first half was difficult. To be honest Frankfurt did not deserve to be 2-0 down at halftime."

"Now we have a good advantage but need to stay focused. There are still a lot of games left."

Brazilian Douglas Costa doubled their lead three minutes later, finishing off a quick break and Lewandowski perfectly converted a sweet cross from Arjen Robben 10 minutes after the restart for his 21st league goal of the season.

The Bavarians, whose defender Jerome Boateng returned from injury after more than three months out, are now on 59 points.

Leipzig are second on 49 after Mario Gomez grabbed the winner for the visitors with his eighth goal of the season as the Wolves celebrated their first win under coach Andries Jonker in his second game in charge.

The win lifted Wolfsburg three points away from the relegation zone and into 14th.

Borussia Dortmund could not take advantage of Leipzig's rare slip-up, losing 2-1 at Hertha Berlin, who went ahead with Salomon Kalou's strike in the 11th minute.

Dortmund came agonisingly close to an equaliser through Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang right after the restart.