

# Iranian Athletes Win 5 More Medals in World Para Athletics Championships

WORLD  
Para Athletics  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
LONDON  
2017™



TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iranian sportsmen have picked up more honor at the ongoing 2017 World Para Athletics Championships in England, and collected five more medals in the multinational and multi-sport event,

and raised the Islamic Republic's medal tally to twelve.

On Thursday evening, Iran's Paralympian athlete Hamed Amiri competed in the men's shot put F55 category contests at Olympic Stadium

in London, and recorded a throw of 11.17 meters to get the bronze medal.

Bulgaria's 26-year-old Ruzhdi Ruzhdi featured an inspiring display of athletic skills and might, and threw the shot 12.47 meters to snatch gold. Lech Stoltman from Poland came second with a throw of 11.37 meters.

In the men's javelin throw F12/F13 division, Iranian pitcher Sajad Nikparast earned the silver medal with her best effort of 61.88 meters on Wednesday evening.

Aleksandr Svechnikov, a representative from Uzbekistan, won the gold medal with a throw of 71.01 meters. Spaniard Hector Cabrera Llacer struck the bronze with 61.53 meters.

On Tuesday evening, Iranians made a clean sweep of all the available medals in the men's javelin throw F57 final.

Amanollah Papi snatched the snatch gold with 44.87 meters, and Mohammad Khalvandi recorded 42.18 meters to pocket the silver. Abdollah Heidari Til got the bronze medal, having thrown the javelin 41.83 meters.

The 2017 World Para Athletics Championships started in London on July 14, and will conclude on July 23.

It is the 8th edition of the event, which was formerly known as the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athletics World Championship prior to 2017, and features 213 medal events.

## Froome Takes Big Step to Towards Tour Victory

LONDON (Dispatches) - Britain's Chris Froome has taken a big step towards winning a fourth Tour de France - and third in succession - as French rider Warren Barguil won stage 18.

Froome reached the Col d'Izoard summit in fourth, just behind Romain Bardet, who is now 23 seconds adrift of the Team Sky man in second place overall.

Barguil, who will finish the race as King of the Mountains, pulled away from Darwin Atapuma to win his second stage.

Britain's Simon Yates still leads the best young rider classification.

Colombia's Rigoberto Uran lost two seconds on the line and is now third overall, six seconds adrift of Bardet.

There are just three stages remaining - two flat routes and Saturday's time trial in Marseille, where Froome is expected to extend his advantage.



The final day in the mountains represented the last realistic opportunity for Bardet, who rides for AG2R La Mondiale, and Cannondale-Drapac's Uran to prevent defending champion Froome claiming his fourth title.

The Briton's struggles on the steep finale in Peyragudes on stage 12 may have given them hope they

could inflict similar damage on the punishing Izoard, but Froome's impressive form since that wobble held.

AG2R tried to weaken the group of favorites by taking over from Sky at the front of the peloton over the penultimate climb of the day - the category one Col de Vars - but their tactic only resulted in a stale-

mate.

The French team drove again on the 14.1km-long climb of the Izoard, putting several Sky riders into difficulty, only for the imperious Michal Kwiatkowski to bury himself in support of Froome and set up Mikel Landa to attack.

Froome refused to chase his Spanish team-mate, who overtook a struggling Fabio Aru to go fourth overall, forcing Bardet to respond, before bridging to the Frenchman and launching an attack of his own.

A burst from Uran towed Bardet back up to Froome but by then the contenders had run out of road to take both the yellow jersey and the buffer they needed for Saturday's time trial.

Froome may be wary of Uran - a solid time trialist who looks stronger as the race goes on - and will not be complacent in negotiating the last three stages, but a fourth Tour title beckons.

## Iran Beat China in 2017 International Men's Basketball Challenge

BEIJING (Dispatches) - The national Iranian men's basketball A team has defeated China in the preliminary round of the 2017 International Basketball Challenge, also known as the 2017 Atlas Challenge, in China.

On Thursday, the Iranians sealed a 94-87 victory over the Chinese team in a match played at the Suzhou Sports Center in Suzhou.

The Iranian sportsmen had defeated Belarus 84-73 in their previous match on Wednesday.

The Iranian team overcame Ukraine 78-68 in its opening game on July 18.

The 2017 International Men's Basketball Challenge started in Suzhou on July 18 and will run through July 23.

Basketball teams from eight countries, namely Australia, Belarus, China, Iran, Jordan, Lithuania, Ukraine and the

United States, have participated in the tournament. They will compete in 20 matches. International Basketball Culture Week will also be held during the period.

On June 19, 2016, the national Iranian men's basketball team defeated the Lithuanian side 85-70 in the last encounter of the 2016 International Basketball Challenge, and was crowned as the champion of the six-day international sporting event.

The 2016 International Basketball Challenge started in Suzhou on June 14 and finished on June 19.

The tournament served as a warm-up exercise for Iran before the 2016 FIBA World Olympic Qualifying Tournament, which was held between July 4 and July 9 at the multi-purpose Pala Alpitour indoor sports arena in Turin, Italy.

## Wimbledon & French Open Matches to Be Investigated

LONDON (Dispatches) - Matches at this year's Wimbledon and French Open will be investigated by the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) for potential match-fixing.

One match at Roland Garros and three at Wimbledon, two of them in the qualifying tournament and one in the main draw, triggered alerts for unusual betting patterns.

The TIU says it received 53 alerts for the period April to June 2017.

Three of those were on the ATP Tour and one on the WTA Tour.

There were 20 each on the lower-level men's ATP Challenger and ITF Futures circuits and five on the ITF women's circuit.

The TIU says an alert on its own is "not evidence of match-fixing" and can be due to a number of other factors, including conditions and player fitness.

There have been 83 alerts in the first six months of 2017, down 38 on the same period in 2016.

## Leicester Reject Roma Bid for Mahrez



Riyad Mahrez scored 10 goals and provided seven assists for Leicester last season

LEICESTER (Dispatches) - Leicester City have rejected a bid from Roma for winger Riyad Mahrez, manager Craig Shakespeare has confirmed.

The 26-year-old, who joined the Foxes from French club Le Havre in 2014, announced in May that he wanted to leave the club.

"The bid was politely declined because it was a low offer," said Shakespeare. "I don't know what it was and I don't get involved."

Mahrez, PFA player of the year in 2016, has reportedly been valued at £50m.

Shakespeare, who is with the Foxes in Hong Kong for a pre-season tournament, had said earlier this week there had been no bids for Mahrez.

The Algeria player made 48 ap-

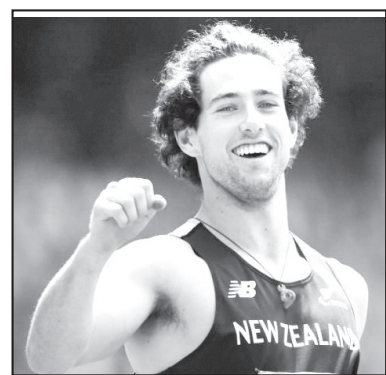
pearances for Leicester last season.

He scored 10 goals and provided seven assists as Leicester recovered from a poor start to finish 12th in the Premier League and reach the Champions League quarter-finals.

There was talk 10 days ago that Roma had tabled a £20m bid and I'm not surprised it was rejected. Mahrez is box office and, in the current market, he's worth double that.

The Algerian is on a long-term contract and, although I'm sure he goes, it will not be until the price is right.

Leicester have been exemplary in their handling of the situation so far and the aces are all in the hands of senior management at the King Power Stadium.



Double amputee Liam Malone plans to use advanced technology to go faster than Usain Bolt over 100 meters.

LONDON (Dispatches) - Two-time Paralympic gold medallist Liam Malone has vowed to run the 100 meters faster than Usain Bolt in the next three years.

Bolt smashed the world record to win World Championship gold in style in 2009 and his time of 9.58 seconds in Berlin has not been bettered.

The winner of eight Olympic gold medals, Bolt will retire this year and double-leg amputee Malone plans to use advancing technology to go quicker than

the Jamaican in the near future.

New Zealander Malone, who won T44 200m and 400m gold in Rio last year, told media: "I'm aiming for 9.4 seconds."

"In the next three years I'll run faster than Usain Bolt over 100m."

"It won't be done in the Paralympics, and I've no intention of ever racing Usain Bolt or able-bodied people, it's about racing against their time outside of the rules and regulations that limit technology."



Thanks to an early goal from Rodolfo Pizarro (15), Mexico beat Honduras to reach the Gold Cup semifinals.

his finish and was closed down.

And from there, Honduras — which has won just one of its last 11 games on the field — threatened the tournament favorites with their

swift counterattacks.

In the 50th minute, meanwhile, Romell Quioto smashed in a low free kick that troubled goalkeeper Jose Corona but didn't beat him.

## Mexico Eke Past Honduras 1-0 to Reach Gold Cup Semifinals

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Going into Thursday's Gold Cup quarterfinal between Mexico and Honduras, the 1-0 victory by the defending champions might have felt inevitable.

After all, Mexico had not conceded a goal in this tournament since the 10th minute of its first game, which it would go on to win 3-1 over El Salvador. And Honduras, remarkably, had not scored yet in this off-year edition of the regional championship. Well, actually, that's not entirely true. The Catrachos were awarded three goals in the automatic 3-0 forfeit they were handed against French Guiana, which knowingly fielded an ineligible player. The actual game had finished 0-0.

Thursday was a low-scoring affair, punctuated by very few true scor-

ing chances. Yet the match outside of Phoenix, Ariz. that would send Mexico to the semifinal and keep it on track for a fourth CONCACAF title five editions of the Gold Cup, was gripping nonetheless.

From the start, an energetic and pacy tone was set, interspersed with a raft of hard fouls.

The only goal came early on. In just the fourth minute, Jesus Duenas hit a low ball to the far post. Elias Hernandez missed it but Rodolfo Pizarro bundled it just past the outstretched Luis Lopez to give El Tri the only goal they would need.

The rest of the first half was deadlocked, with only Jesus Molina getting a look for Mexico. He rammed his shot over though.

Early on in the second half, Mexico's lovely counter set up Hernandez with a look, but he dallied on