

Iran to Host U13 West Asian Tennis Tournament



Iran is going to host the next edition of U13 West Asian Tennis Tournament in Kish Island in the Persian Gulf.

TEHRAN (Press TV) - A high-ranking Iranian sports official says the Islamic Republic is going to host the next edition of U13 West Asian Tennis Tournament in Kish Island in

the Persian Gulf early next month. President of the Tennis Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TFIRI), Majid Shayesteh, said the competitions will kick off on

December 9, and will last for two weeks in separate sections for boys and girls.

He added that the TFIRI has already sent out invitations to tennis federations in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, and is waiting for them to submit player lists.

Shayesteh noted that each participating country can attend the tournament with four representatives. However, the number of Iranian players taking part in the sports event will be eight.

On November 9, 2016, Iran's female tennis player Meshkat al-Zahra Saafi managed to win a bronze medal at U13 West Asian Tennis Tournament in Jordan.

Iran's junior tennis players demonstrated impressive displays at the second round of the 2015 U13 West Asian Tennis Tournament in Lebanon, and finished runner-up in the tournament.

On October 22, 2015, the host nation landed in the first position of chart with 1,090 points at the end of the competitions at the ATCL (Automobile et Touring Club du Liban) in the coastal city of Jounieh, located about 16 kilometers (10 miles) north of the capital, Beirut.

Iranians ended their campaign with 895 points and finished in the second place.

The Persians were followed by representatives from Syria and Jordan, who occupied the 3rd and 4th spots respectively with 860 and 740 points.

Faghani to Officiate at 2018 FIFA World Cup



Iranian international referee Alireza Faghani

ZURICH (Dispatches) - Iranian international referee Alireza Faghani has been selected to officiate at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

He is among the six Asian referees, who have been chosen to officiate at the 2018 World Cup.

The 39-year-old referee officiated the FIFA Confederations Cup Russia 2017 semi-final clash between Portugal and Chile along with his Iranian assistant referees Reza Sokhandan and Mohammadreza Mansouri.

Faghani made history in 2016 by becoming the first Asian referee

to officiate the final of the Men's Olympic Football Tournament between Brazil and Germany in Rio de Janeiro.

In 2015, Faghani officiated the FIFA Club World Cup final between Barcelona and River Plate in Tokyo. He was also assigned to the final match between Korea Republic and host nation Australia during the hugely successful 2015 AFC Asian Cup.

Faghani has also officiated AFC President's Cup final (2009), AFC Challenge Cup final (2010) and AFC Champions League final (2014).

Pogba's Return Sparks Man United to Victory

LONDON (Dispatches) - Paul Pogba was labelled "different class" by Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho after returning from injury with a goal and an assist.

Pogba set up Anthony Martial for the equalizer and scored the third goal as the hosts came from behind to beat Newcastle United 4-1 at Old Trafford.

The France midfielder had missed

the past 12 league and cup games with a hamstring injury.

"It was a great performance from him," said Mourinho.

The Red Devils had failed to win three of their previous seven league games without Pogba as he recovered from injury.

However, the 24-year-old produced a man-of-the-match performance as his side set a club record of 38

games unbeaten at Old Trafford to beat the Magpies and stay in touch with leaders Manchester City.

"Paul Pogba is different class - Paul and Nemanja Matic grew up together at the start of the season and are the engine of the team," added Mourinho, who replaced Pogba after 70 minutes with Marouane Fellaini.

"It was in Paul's hands, how many minutes to play until he began to

feel fatigued."

On a positive day for Manchester United, striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic also returned to action with a 14-minute appearance as a substitute.

Former Sweden international Ibrahimovic, 36, was making his first appearance since suffering a cruciate knee ligament injury on 20 April.

Curry Leads Warriors Fightback After Sixers Blitz



Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors scored 35 points, 20 in the third quarter alone, as the Warriors roared back after half-time to beat the Philadelphia 76ers 124-116

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Stephen Curry scored 35 points as the Golden State Warriors

bounced back from a disastrous first half performance to overpower the Philadelphia

76ers 124-116 on Saturday.

Curry erupted in a one-sided third quarter for the Warriors after the Sixers had stunned the reigning NBA champions with an astonishing 47-point first quarter display at Philadelphia's Wells Fargo Center.

The points haul was the most the Warriors have conceded in a single quarter since giving up 48 points in the fourth quarter of a game against Portland in November 1992.

The Sixers led 47-28 after the first period and extended their lead to 74-52 at the break, leaving the Warriors staring at a potential blowout loss.

However Steve Kerr's men came roaring back after half-time, and with Curry and Kevin Durant to the fore, put up their own 47-point quarter in the third.

Curry rattled in 20 points alone in the third quarter as the Warriors erased a 22-point Sixers lead and quickly accelerated clear of their

rivals.

By the end of the third, the Warriors had raced into a 99-89 lead, a comfortable buffer they never looked like relinquishing throughout the fourth.

Curry finished with 35 points, five rebounds and five assists, while Durant weighed in with 27 points five rebounds and three assists.

Klay Thompson (17), Zaza Pachulia (10) and David West (14) also chipped in with double-figure tallies.

Warriors power forward Draymond Green praised the way his team responded to the early onslaught.

Ben Simmons led the scoring for the Sixers with 23 points while Joel Embiid had 21 points. Four other Sixers players -- Dario Saric, Robert Covington, J.J. Redick and Timothe Luwawu-Cabarrot made double figures. The Warriors improved to 12-4 with the win while the Sixers fell to 8-7.

Andy Murray Doesn't Need New Coach: Henman



Andy Murray (left) won three Grand Slam titles and two Olympic titles whilst working with Ivan Lendl

LONDON (AFP) - Andy Murray doesn't need to hire a new coach following his latest split with Ivan Lendl, according to former British number one Tim Henman.

Murray announced he was parting company with Lendl again on Friday after two spells

together which yielded three Grand Slam titles and two Olympic singles golds.

But Henman, a close friend of Murray's, believes Jamie Delgado is more than capable of filling in, having served as a long-term member of the Scot's coaching team.

Henman paid tribute to the role Lendl played in boosting Murray's career, which has been on hold since the former world number one's Wimbledon quarter-final defeat to Sam Querrey due to a hip injury.

Murray's enforced period of inactivity has seen him drop to 16th in the world rankings, but he remains focused on returning at the Australian Open in January.

British Sailor Dies in Round-the-World Yacht Race

LONDON (AP) -- Organizers of an international yacht race say a British sailor has died after he was swept overboard in rough seas.

Simon Speirs, a 60-year-old retired lawyer, was sailing for Great Britain in the Clipper Round the World Race. The fleet was sailing from South Africa to Australia on Saturday when Speirs was washed overboard into the Southern Ocean during gale force winds.

The race organizers said in a statement that Speirs fell overboard despite being clipped on to the 70-foot (21-meter) yacht with his safety tether. Fellow crew members pulled him back on the boat in 36 minutes and tried but failed to revive him. The cause of death was believed to be drowning. Organizers said Speirs was given a sea burial Sunday.

Pavlichenko Wins World Cup Men's Luge Opener



Semen Pavlichenko

IGLS, Austria (AP) - Russia's Semen Pavlichenko handled snowy conditions to win the World Cup men's luge season opener Sunday, his fourth career singles victory.

Austria's Wolfgang Kindl was second on his home track, and Germany's two-time Olympic champion Felix Loch was third.

The medalists Sunday were the

three most recent world champions - Pavlichenko won in 2015, Loch in 2016 and Kindl took the title last season.

Pavlichenko was fifth after the first run. The four sliders ahead of him were greeted by a heavy snow squall for their second run, and their times plummeted. Dominik Fischnaller of Italy, Andi Langenhan of Germany, Julian Von Schleinitz of Germany and Stepan Fedorov of Russia held the top four spots going into the second heat, but none medaled.

Tucker West was the top American, finishing 16th.

Loch got his second medal of the day in the team relay, helping Germany to a victory. Loch teamed with Natalie Geisenberger and the doubles team of Toni Eggert and Sascha Benecken to prevail in 2:10.667. Geisenberger and the team of Eggert-Benecken both went double-gold on the weekend after winning their races Saturday as well.

Canada was second in the team relay, Russia took third and the U.S. got fourth.

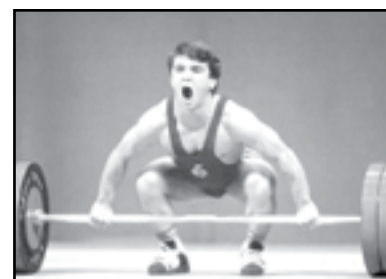
Naim Suleymanoglu, Weightlifter Known as 'Pocket Hercules,' Dies at 50

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Naim Suleymanoglu, a Turkish weightlifter who won three Olympic gold medals and was known as "Pocket Hercules," died Saturday at an Istanbul hospital. He was 50.

The cause was cirrhosis of the liver. He had received a liver transplant in October, according to Turkey's official Anadolu news agency.

Mr. Suleymanoglu was considered one of weightlifting's greatest athletes and earned his nickname for his strength and diminutive size. He won three straight Olympic gold medals for Turkey between 1988 and 1996.

Standing 4 feet 10 inches tall and weighing about 135 pounds, the Bulgarian-born strongman



Suleymanoglu at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

could lift three times his weight.

He came out of retirement to try for a fourth gold at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 but missed all three of his lifts.

"I know only gold," Mr. Suleymanoglu had said as he returned to competition. "I do not know about silver or bronze."

He also won seven world and six European championships.