

Iranian Karateka Gets Gold in Legend International Karate Club Championship

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iranian karate fighter Mohammad Mahdi Ghorbanian has managed to grab a gold medal at the 5th edition of Legend International Karate Club Championship 2018 in Malaysia.

Ghorbanian emerged victorious over his Malaysian opponent Ilyas Ben Reeza Lim Si-Hien in the final contest of the Junior Individual Karate Male category at the Juara Stadium of the National Sports Complex in Bukit Kiara, and stood atop the podium.



Iranian karate athlete Mohammad Mehdi Qorbanian managed to grab a gold medal at the 5th edition of Legend International Karate Club Championship 2018 in Malaysia.

Indonesian contestant Rika Aldrich Alif and his compatriot Yudo Tri Kuncoro shared the bronze medal.

The 5th edition of Legend International Karate Club Championship 2018 started on April 7 and finished the following day.

The competitions reportedly brought together more than 900 karate practitioners from 13 countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Karate Federation dispatched a 38-strong delegation to the tournament.

Guardiola Blasts Referee as Salah Sends Liverpool Into Semi-Finals

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom) (AFP) - Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola blasted Spanish referee Antonio Mateu Lahoz and lamented decisions that cost his side dear after a 2-1 home defeat by Liverpool on Tuesday sealed a 5-1 aggregate Champions League quarter-final win for the five-time European champions.

Guardiola was forced to watch the second half from the stands after being sent off for his protestations at the break as free-spending City's dreams of conquering the Champions League for the

first time were dashed for another season.

City led 1-0 on the night at that stage after Gabriel Jesus's second-minute opener, but the hosts felt aggrieved after Leroy Sane had a second goal wrongly disallowed for offside just before half-time.

Mohamed Salah booked Liverpool's place in the last four for the first time in a decade when he coolly chipped home his 39th goal of the season 11 minutes into the second half before Roberto Firmino inflicted a third consecutive defeat on City for the first time



Mohamed Salah scored Liverpool's first goal at the Etihad Stadium as the five-time European champions reached the semi-finals for the first time in a decade

in Guardiola's near two-year reign.

Liverpool manager Jurgen

Klopp hailed the maturity of his side to see out a first-half onslaught.

Blatter Hits Out at FIFA's World Cup Bidding Process



Former FIFA President Sepp Blatter gestures during an interview with Reuters in Zurich, Switzerland April 10, 2018.

ZURICH (Reuters) - Former FIFA chief Sepp Blatter says he is shocked at a rule which has been inserted into the World

Cup bidding process that could allow a five-man task force to disqualify a candidate before a democratic vote is held.

In 2011 the FIFA Congress, where each of the global soccer body's 211 member associations hold one vote, was given the right to choose the World Cup hosts following a change proposed by Blatter while he was president.

The first hosting decision since then will be in June at the Congress in Moscow, where only two bids are in the running - a joint proposal from the United States/Canada/Mexico and one from Morocco.

However, the two bids must first pass a technical inspection from a five-man task force, which has the power to

disqualify a candidate whose proposal is seen as not up to scratch.

Blatter, who was banned for six years in 2015 for unethical conduct but has repeatedly denied wrongdoing and believes he can get the suspension reversed, told Reuters that both candidates should have the right to present their bids to Congress.

The Swiss said he was concerned "that there is a movement" where a "special task force" will be given power "to decide who will be a candidate or not". He added: "That is not possible."

Joshua Eager to Face Wilder in Heavyweight Unification Bout

LONDON (AFP) - Anthony Joshua wants to face fellow unbeaten world heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder next, rather than Alexander Povetkin, the British boxer has told the media.

Joshua unified the World Boxing Association, International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Organization heavyweight titles by outpointing New Zealand's Joseph Parker in Cardiff on March 31.

Immediately afterwards, he called out Wilder, the American who holds the World Boxing Council's heavyweight belt.

The winner of a Joshua-Wilder fight would be the first man to hold all four major heavyweight titles simultaneously.

But Povetkin is the WBA's mandatory challenger.

The Russian, whose only defeat in a 35-fight professional career came against Wladimir Klitschko in October 2013, demonstrated his punching power with a brutal knockout of Britain's David Price on the Joshua-Parker undercard.



Anthony Joshua is unbeaten in 21 professional fights

Heroic Roma Restore Italian Pride After World Cup Despair



Roma's players and fans joined in celebration after the Champions League victory over Barcelona

ROME (AFP) - Italy has spent five months grieving over the failure of the national team to take their customary place at the World Cup, but Roma have restored some pride with a heroic victory over Barcelona in the Champions League.

The Azzurri, four-time world champions, are not going to Russia, but after Roma won 3-0, to over-turn a 4-1 quarter-final deficit and eliminate mighty Barca on Tuesday night on away goals, the club from the Eternal City can dream of going to a final in Ukraine.

On a heady night at the Stadio Olimpico, Edin Dzeko set the ball rolling in the sixth minute, and after Daniele De Rossi converted a penalty 13 minutes into the second half to get the home fans believing, Kostas Manolas glanced home a brilliant header with eight minutes left to send the Roma supporters into rap-

tures and leave Barca wondering what had hit them.

The joyous celebration continued long after the final whistle and spread out of the stadium and across the Italian capital.

Car horns blaring, flags waving, fans singing in the streets and wild cheers pouring from every household, the Italian capital came alive.

The feel good factor was picked up on Wednesday by a jubilant Italian press.

The specialist sports newspapers played on the city's past.

Rome-based Corriere dello Sport used the headline "Mythic Rome" while Milan's Gazzetta dello Sport went with "Imperial".

Several newspapers picked up the pun "Romantada," a play on the "remontada", as Barcelona's comeback from a four-goal first-leg deficit against Paris Saint-Germain last year is known in Spain.

76ers Get Team-Record 15th Straight Win, 121-113 Over Hawks

ATLANTA (AP) - The Philadelphia 76ers have accomplished so much in this remarkable turnaround of a season.

Brett Brown doesn't want them letting up now.

The 76ers set a franchise record with their 15th consecutive victory and moved to the brink of clinching the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference, holding off the Atlanta Hawks 121-113 on Tuesday night.

JJ Redick scored 28 points and the 76ers got huge contributions off the bench from two former Atlanta players. Ersan Ilyasova scored 26 points and Marco Belinelli added 20.

How significant is a 15-game winning streak?

Just two years ago, the 76ers won 10 games all season.

The 76ers overcame a tough outing for rookie star Ben Simmons, who missed the morning shoot around after coming down with the stomach flu. He was feeling better by game time but still seemed

a bit out of sorts, finishing with 14 points, 10 rebounds and six assists before fouling out with 7 seconds remaining.

Simmons picked up a technical in the third quarter for arguing all the way down the court about a call that didn't go his way.

His teammates helped pick up the slack. Redick hit 6 of 9 from beyond the 3-point arc, while Ilyasova and Belinelli - who started the season in Atlanta but were dumped by the rebuilding Hawks - combined for nine 3-pointers.

Philadelphia went 17 of 37 beyond the arc.

Now, the 76ers can lock up the East's third seed with a home victory over Milwaukee in the regular-season finale Wednesday night.

The Hawks were long ago eliminated from playoff contention, closing out their worst season since 2005 with a record of 24-58.

They can only hope that a few painful seasons lead to the same outcome that occurred in Philadelphia.

Cameroon Athletes Go Missing From Commonwealth Games

GOLD COAST (Australia) (AFP) - Five athletes from conflict-hit Cameroon have gone missing from the Commonwealth Games in Australia, team officials said Wednesday.

Three weightlifters and two boxers have not been seen since Tuesday, triggering suspicion they had fled with no intention of returning home. The matter has been reported to Australian police.

Cameroon press attache Simon Molombe told AFP that he was shocked to learn weightlifters Olivier Matam Matam, Arcangeline Fouodji and Petit Minkoumba, along with boxers Christian Ndzie Tsoye and Simplicie Fotsala, had apparently fled.

"It came as a complete surprise," he said. "We have no idea where they are. There were no worries this kind of thing might happen."