

Iran's Kish Island to Host 3rd World Taekwondo Cup



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Taekwondo practitioners from 21 countries will take part in 3rd World Taekwondo President's Cup Asian Region which is going to be held in Kish, Iran.

According to Iran Taekwondo Federation, athletes from the U.S., South Korea, Jordan, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tunisia, China, Russia, Azerbaijan, Syria, Sweden,

Iraq, Oman, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Lebanon, Poland, and India have expressed readiness to participate in the event.

3rd WT President's Cup will kick off on February 28 and goes through March 3 at Kish Olympic Sports Complex in the southern Iranian island.

Men and women taekwondokas will compete in senior and junior categories of Kyorugi, Para-Taekwondo.

This is a G2 event where first to third athletes will add 20, 12, and 7.2 points to their Olympics ranking.

And also, Iran's female kata team will compete with Italy at the final competition of the 2019 Karate1-Premier League to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on February 17.

UAE is hosting 2019 Karate1-Premier League on February 15-17. The competitions are the most important event in the karate world in which 837 karatekas from 86 world countries have participated.

Iranian men and women have taken part in two sections of kata and kumite.

The more the karatekas earn points at the UAE world karate championships, the more qualified they will be for the Olympic.

Kuzma's MVP Day Lifts USA Over Team World



Kyle Kuzma led Team USA in scoring and also picked up the most valuable player award at the 2019 NBA Rising Stars Game.

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Slam dunks and three pointers were the order of the day and defense disappeared completely as Team USA outgunned Team World 161-144 in the NBA Rising Stars game on Friday night.

Los Angeles Lakers player Kyle Kuzma scored a game-high 35 points and was named MVP of the contest which features the league's top first and second-year players and opens the NBA all-star festivities in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Kuzma went 15-of-27 from the field and also had six rebounds, while Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum added 30 points for Team USA.

The teams combined for 37 three-pointers, 55 dunks and shot a total of just 12 free throws. "Last year, the World team kicked our butts," Kuzma said. "They came in here and beat us by 30. A lot of us kind of remembered that."

Atlanta's Trae Young finished

with 25 points and 10 assists, Sacramento's De'Aaron Fox had 15 assists and Utah's Donovan Mitchell added 20 points and nine assists.

Ben Simmons, of the Philadelphia 76ers, led the World team with 28 points. Chicago's Lauri Markkanen had 21 points and Dallas's Luka Doncic had 13 points and nine assists for the World Team, whose players came from 10 different nations.

"As you can see, not much defense. Guys just want to get up and play," World guard Simmons said.

"It's good to get out there and just get up and down with guys you don't normally go up and down with."

Rookie guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, of Canada, scored 15 points.

This was the fifth year of the Americans against World format and the World now leads the all-time series 3-2.

Juventus Beat Frosinone 3-0 to Go 14 Points Clear

TURIN (AP) - Juventus warmed up for the Champions League round of 16 in the best possible way on Friday, easing to a 3-0 win over Frosinone to move 14 points clear at the top of Serie A.

The result was decided early after goals from Paulo Dybala and Leonardo Bonucci in the first 16 minutes. Cristiano Ronaldo then added his league-best 19th goal as Juventus continued their seemingly unstoppable march to a record-extending eighth successive Serie A title.

"The team is growing from a physical point of view," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said. "We struggled a bit after the winter break but now we're ready to face this important period of the season, both in the league and in the Champions League."

Second-place Napoli hosts Torino on Sunday.

Frosinone remained next to last in the standings, but only two points from safety in a tight bottom half of the table.

Juventus doubled their lead 10 minutes later when Bonucci bundled home the rebound after Frosinone goalkeeper Marco Sportiello made a great save of Mario Mandzukic's diving header.

Juventus then sat back and took until the 63 minute to extend their advantage as Mandzukic cut the ball back and Ronaldo fired it into the bottom right corner.

Ronaldo is Serie A's top scorer with 19 goals, three more than Atalanta's Duvan Zapata and Sampdoria's Fabio Quagliarella.



Juventus's Leonardo Bonucci, second left, scores during the Serie A soccer match between Juventus and Frosinone at the Allianz Stadium in Turin, Italy, Feb 15, 2019.

Record-Breaking Mare Winx Wins 30th Straight Race



Winx, the world's top-rated turf horse, has won 30 consecutive races in a streak stretching back almost four years

SYDNEY (AFP) - Superstar mare Winx easily won her 30th consecutive race Saturday as she began what is expected to be a farewell autumn campaign before drawing a close on her incredible career.

The Chris Waller-trained champion galloper was odds on favourite at the 1400m Apollo Stakes at Sydney's Royal Randwick Racecourse and she didn't disappoint in her first outing of the year.

With long-time jockey Hugh Bowman in the saddle, the seven-

year-old bided her time before taking the lead with 200m to go and effortlessly romped to victory by two lengths ahead of Happy Clapper and Egg Tart.

It extended the world's top-rated turf horse's win streak to 30, stretching back almost four years.

She smashed legendary sprinter Black Caviar's Australian win record last August when making it 26 in a row and subsequently cemented her place in horse racing history by winning a record fourth Cox Plate in Melbourne.

Swiss Holdener Leading Women's Slalom



Alpine Skiing - FIS Alpine World Ski Championships - Women's Slalom - Are, Sweden - February 16, 2019 - Switzerland's Wendy Holdener in action.

ARE, Sweden (Reuters) - Swiss Wendy Holdener was the halfway leader in the women's slalom at the Alpine skiing world championships on Saturday with favorite Mikaela Shiffrin in third spot.

Holdener, enjoying a superb championships with golds in the combined and team events, negotiated the 70 gates in 57.08 seconds, 0.11 quicker than home favorite Anna Swenn Larsson.

Olympic champion Shiffrin was

0.15 down as the American targets a fourth consecutive world gold in the slalom.

Once again the mild weather conditions caused problems with rain restricting visibility and making the piste slushy.

It meant that few of the later starters were able to make much impression on the leaderboard.

Austria's Katharina Liensberger was fourth quickest as the powerhouse Alpine nation still awaits a first gold at the championships in the Swedish resort.

The top six, which also included giant slalom winner Petra Vlhova of Slovakia, were separated by 0.56 seconds.

Wawrinka Advances to Semis in Rotterdam

ROTTERDAM (Reuters) - Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland has held off 10th-seeded Canadian Denis Shapovalov to win 6-4, 7-6 (4) and advance to the semifinals of the ABN Amro World Tennis Tournament.

Wawrinka, who won the tournament in Rotterdam, Netherlands, in 2015, will face top-seeded Japan's Kei Nishikori, a winner over Marton Fucsovics of Hungary 6-3, 6-2.

The other semifinal on Saturday will pit No. 5 seed Daniil Medvedev of Russia against Frenchman Gael Monfils.

Medvedev topped Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France 6-4, 6-2. Monfils

defeated Bosnia's Damir Dzumhur 6-1, 6-2.

Dominic Thiem continued his winning streak in Buenos Aires with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 win over Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay.

Austria's Thiem, the No. 1 seed, is seeking his third win in the tournament. He has won 11 straight matches there.

In the semifinals, he will face the fourth-seeded Diego Schwartzman, who defeated Spain's Albert Ramos-Vinolas.

In other quarterfinal action, Italian Marco Cecchinato, the No. 3 seed, beat Spain's Roberto Carballes Baena in straight sets, 7-6 (3), 6-4.



Jungels Takes Lead With Win on Tour Colombia 4th Stage

MEDELLIN, Colombia (AFP) - Luxembourg's Bob Jungels has broken the locals' hegemony on the Tour Colombia on Friday, securing

the overall lead after winning the 144km fourth stage around Medellin.

The 26-year-old Deceuninck-Quick Step rider simply rode away

from a reduced peloton in the final kilometer to win by two seconds ahead of Estonia's Mihkel Raim and Julian Alaphilippe of France.

He became the first foreigner both to win a stage at this year's race, and to wear the leader's orange jersey.

His victory margin and time

bonuses allowed him to relieve Wednesday's stage winner Rigoberto Uran of the overall lead.