

Iran Wrestlers Bag 2 Gold Medals on 1st Day of Asian Games

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iranian freestyle wrestlers have grabbed two gold medals in the first official day of the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia.

In the freestyle wrestling 86 kg category, Hassan Yazdani defeated all his opponents by technical superiority.

Yazdani beat wrestlers from Indonesia, India and Mongolia to reach the final match. In the final, the Iranian athlete overpowered his Lebanese opponent 10-0 to wrap up the victory in just 1 minute and 29 seconds.

Elsewhere in the 97kg category, Alireza Karimi also won a gold medal with a 6-0 victory over his opponent from Kyrgyzstan. Karimi defeated wrestlers from Japan and Uzbekistan in the earlier rounds.

In another development, Parviz Hadi, Iran's representative at freestyle wrestling 125kg, defeated his mighty rival from Uzbekistan 11-8 to advance to the finals of



Iranian freestyle wrestlers Hassan Yazdani won gold medals in 86kg category of the tournament.

2018 Asian Games.

On his way to the semi-final game, Hadi defeated rivals from

India and Kazakhstan both 10-0.

Hadi will play the final game against Chinese representative.

Reza Atri, another Iranian representative in 57 kg class won the bronze medal.

Real Madrid Wins Spanish League Opener Without Ronaldo

MADRID (Dispatches) — Gareth Bale is doing his part to help Real Madrid get over Cristiano Ronaldo's departure.

Bale scored in Madrid's Spanish league opener and ahs set up the other goal in a 2-0 win over Getafe in Madrid derby.

Dani Carvajal also scored for Madrid, which for the first time in nearly a decade started its league campaign without Ronaldo, the club's greatest goal-scorer.

Bale, who hadn't played much while Ronaldo was still on the team before he moved to Juventus in the offseason, scored in the 51st minute with a shot from inside the area after a well-placed cross by Marco Asensio.

"I feel good," said Bale, who has scored in Madrid's league



Real Madrid's Gareth Bale, center, celebrates with teammates Marcelo, right, and Nacho after scoring their side's second goal against Getafe during a Spanish La Liga soccer match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Aug 19, 2018.

opener in three straight years. "We are very upbeat with our chances this season."

Bale had already struck the crossbar with a 16th-minute header, and a few minutes later he provided the cross that led to Carvajal's goal after Getafe goalkeeper David Soria failed to fully clear the ball.

Bale didn't have many chances as a starter under coach Zinedine Zidane, but is likely to gain a bigger role as new manager Julen Lopetegui deals with Ronaldo's absence and the lack of major signings by the club.

Bale received a loud ovation by the crowd at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium when he was substituted by Lucas Vazquez in the 77th minute.

Farah Bids for Record Ahead of Chicago Marathon



British athletics legend Mo Farah

LONDON (AFP) - British athletics legend Mo Farah is hoping to win a record fifth Great North Run when he competes in the half marathon event in

Newcastle on September 9.

The 35-year-old Somalia-born quadruple Olympic gold medalist -- who retired from championship

track running after last year's world championships in London -- is also using it as a prep race ahead of October's Chicago Marathon.

Farah is targeting taking possession of the Great North Run record which he presently shares with Kenya's Benson Masaya, who won the last of his quartet in 1996.

The race has grown in importance since the inaugural one was won in 1981 by Britain's Mike McLeod -- the women's race going to fellow Briton Karen Goldhawk. It draws legends of track and field such as Paul Tergat and Haile Gebrselassie, emerging triumphant in 2001 and 2010 respectively.

"I can't wait to come back to Newcastle and race again," said Farah, who also won six outdoor world titles.

"It's something I look forward to every year, the crowds are always unbelievable and it's a good course for racing.

"To be the best in the world you have to beat the best and it's going to be no different here. I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Kenya's 2016 Olympic and 2009 World champion in the 5000 meters Vivian Cheruiyot bids to make it two victories in three years and give herself an early birthday present as she turns 35 two days after this year's edition.

She won on her debut over the distance in 2016, and finished second to compatriot Mary Keitany last year.

"It was a magnificent race when I won here for the first time in 2016 and I want to be on top of that podium again next month," said Cheruiyot.

Djokovic Wins Cincy Title to Complete Masters Matched Set



Novak Djokovic of Serbia (right) holds the Rookwood Cup after defeating Roger Federer of Switzerland during the finals at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Aug 19, 2018, in Mason, Ohio.

CINCINNATI (AFP) - Novak Djokovic has ended a career-long jinx, lifting the trophy in Cincinnati at last to complete a matched set of Masters 1000 titles.

Djokovic, who came up empty in five prior Cincinnati finals, defeated seven-time winner Roger Federer 6-4, 6-4 in the final.

The former world number one became the first man to win all nine of the ATP's Masters 1000 events in the elite series' current configuration.

Federer, meanwhile, lost a final in the hardcourt U.S. Open tuneup for the first time.

"This is a dream come true," Djokovic said. "I finally won Cincinnati after six finals, some against the greatest ever, Roger."

Federer, a 20-time Grand Slam winner, said his game wasn't sharp -- but he didn't want to take anything away from Djokovic's achievement.

"Novak is a great champion," Federer said. "This is about him making history."

Federer's streak of 100 straight

unbroken service games in Cincinnati was ended by Djokovic in the seventh game of the first set.

The 37-year-old Swiss had been aiming for a 99th career trophy, but was unable to get over the line due in part to four double-faults at the most inopportune of times, but he said his return game was also lacking.

"It was definitely not my best day on the return - it was just awful," Federer said. "Missing every second serve on the forehand side, I don't know what that was about.

"But I don't even want to look for reasons why it happened," he added. "Novak totally deserved to win today. This (effort) was not good enough.

"Good week, but I'm happy it's over and I need to rest," added Federer, his eye on the US Open starting in New York in eight days.

Djokovic claimed the opening set in 37 minutes and came back from an early break in the second to overhaul his longtime rival as they played for the 46th time.

Ronaldo, Modric, Salah on UEFA Best Player Award Shortlist



Lionel Messi will miss out on UEFA's Player of the Year award, which will go to Luka Modric, Cristiano Ronaldo or Mohamed Salah.

NYON, Switzerland (AP) - Cristiano Ronaldo is on a three-man shortlist to be named the best player in Europe for last season.

Ronaldo will be up against Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric and Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah for the award next week at the Champions League draw ceremony in Monaco.

The award typically rewards Champions League performances, but voters can take the World Cup

into account. Modric won the Golden Ball for captaining Croatia to the final, where his team lost to France.

UEFA says voting by Champions League coaches and invited journalists across Europe placed three Frenchmen in the top 10. Antoine Griezmann of Atletico Madrid was fourth, Kylian Mbappe of Paris Saint-Germain was sixth and Raphael Varane of Real Madrid was eighth.

Biles Wins Fifth All-Around Title at U.S. Champs

BOSTON (Reuters) - Olympic champion Simone Biles has won her fifth all-around title at the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Championships in Boston.

Biles's total of 119.850 gave her a 6.55-point margin of victory over nearest challenger and reigning world champion Morgan Hurd (113.300). Riley McCusker (112.750), Grace McCallum (111.650) and Shilse Jones (109.850) rounded out the top five.



The stellar showing from Biles, who won four gold medals at the Rio Games, comes less than a month into her return to competition after an almost two-year break.

The 21-year-old is among more than 100 gymnasts who say they were abused by former Gymnastics USA team doctor Larry Nassar. Nassar received a prison sentence of up to 175 years after pleading guilty to criminal sexual conduct.