

Iranian Karateka Bags 2nd Gold at China Competitions



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Veteran karate practitioner Zabiollah Poorshab snatched the 2nd gold

medal for Iran at Karate1-Series A on Sunday, in China.

In men's -84kg category of

kumite, Poorshab defeated Igor Chikhmarev 2-0 in the final contest. In his route to final, he

overpowered Taipei's Hanhsien Chiu, Japan's Rikito Shimada, Egypt's Mohamed Ahmed Ramadan, China's Jinchao Chen, and Russia's Alexander Aliev.

The Egyptian Karateka and Italy's Michele Martina won the bronze medals of this category.

Earlier, Miad Yari and Amir Mehdizadeh bagged one gold and one bronze for Iran respectively.

Some 1170 karatekas from 80 different countries are participating in Karate1-Series A in China's Shanghai. The three-day event will wrap up today.

The WKF Karate 1-Series A is a world-class competition that provides karatekas around the world with more competitive opportunities to shine at the highest level. Presented in an open format thus allowing every athlete in the world to compete, the Karate 1-Series A is framed under the umbrella of the Karate 1 to bring together the best competitors in a series of open championships of unprecedented scale and quality.

Doncic Powers Mavericks Past Rockets



Dallas Mavericks forward Luka Doncic (77) shoots a 3-pointer over Houston Rockets center Clint Capela (15) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Dec 8, 2018, in Dallas.

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Luka Doncic and Wesley Matthews has scored 21 points apiece as the Dallas Mavericks overcame a 35-point night from James Harden to beat the Houston Rockets 107-104.

Slovenian rookie Doncic started slowly but caught fire late in the fourth, scoring 11 consecutive points to erase an eight-point Houston lead as the Mavericks recorded their ninth straight win at home.

Doncic, 19, made a floater to tie the contest 102-102 late in the fourth after Chris Paul had missed two free throws.

Harden then put up an air ball from beyond the arc and Doncic made the Rockets pay for their mistakes by draining a three-

pointer to give Dallas a three point lead, 105-102.

Eric Gordon then missed a potential tying three-pointer for Houston at the buzzer.

Harden, who overcame early foul trouble, led all scorers while Paul finished with 23 points and eight assists. However, the Rockets couldn't hold the lead less than two weeks after losing to Dallas by 20 points at home.

The Mavericks extended their longest home winning streak since winning nine straight in 2011, the year they won their only NBA championship.

Doncic finished seven of 17 from the field with seven rebounds. DeAndre Jordan finished with 12 points and 20 rebounds.

Chelsea End Man City's Unbeaten Run With 2-0 Win

LONDON (Reuters) - Chelsea have inflicted the first Premier League defeat of the season on champions Manchester City as goals from N'Golo Kante and David Luiz earned the home side an unlikely 2-0 victory.

Chelsea had been run ragged by a clearly superior City side until Luiz produced a pinpoint 50-metre pass to Pedro in the 44th minute. Pedro found Willian and the ball fell to Eden Hazard who sent it across goal where Kante thumped it into the back of the net.

It was the Frenchman's first goal



since the first game of the season and Chelsea's first shot on target.

Luiz headed home Chelsea's second in the 78th minute from a corner by Hazard, the ball looping into the net past the stranded Ederson to confirm City's first league defeat since April.

City arrived at Stamford Bridge after seeing their closest title rivals Liverpool leapfrog them with a thumping 4-0 win at Bournemouth. Chelsea climbed to third on goal difference with Tottenham Hotspur set to play Leicester City later on Saturday.

Top Swimmers Challenge FINA With Lawsuit

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Three world-class swimmers have filed a lawsuit in the United States, challenging what they allege is the monopoly world governing body FINA has over the control of international competitions.

The lawsuit, brought on behalf of three-times Olympic gold medalist Katinka Hosszu of Hungary and U.S. world champions Tom Shields and Michael Andrew, followed the

cancellation of a new professional swimming event scheduled for Dec. 20-21 in Turin.

"FINA's insistence that the world's best swimmers may compete only on FINA's terms and its efforts to enforce that rule are nakedly anti-competitive," said the lawsuit which the trio said was filed "on behalf of elite swimmers around the world".

The Italian federation said FINA had threatened sanctions against

those swimmers taking part in the event, which was put together by organizers of the International Swimming League (ISL).

The world governing body, in a statement, said it had taken note of the filings in California.

"As world and Olympic champions, the swimmers in question will understand that FINA's attention is focused on the 950 swimmers, including two of the athletes in question, from

180 member federations taking part in the 14th World Swimming Championships in Hangzhou," FINA said.

"FINA will nonetheless give the filings our full attention and mount a robust defense if required to do so. Meanwhile in Hangzhou, the FINA Athletes Committee will consult with aquatics athletes to continue its work of making sure athlete voices are clearly heard within FINA's decision-making bodies.

Lomachenko Beats Pedraza to Unify Lightweight Belts

NEW YORK (AFP) - Vasilij Lomachenko has added the World Boxing Organization lightweight world title to his World Boxing Association belt with a unanimous 12-round decision over Jose Pedraza.

Ukraine's Lomachenko, a three-weight world champion who had never before unified two titles in the same class, knocked down Pedraza twice in an explosive 11th round.

Two judges saw it 117-109 for Lomachenko while a third made it 119-107 for the 30-year-old who was fighting for the first time since having shoulder surgery in the wake of his 10th-round technical knockout of Jorge Linares on May 12.

That's to unify all of the major lightweight belts.

Garcia is the unbeaten World Boxing Council 135-pound champion.

Pedraza, making his first defense of the WBO title he won with a unanimous decision over Ray Beltran on August 25, was the first fighter to go the distance against Lomachenko since Suriya Tatakun in a featherweight world title bout in 2014.

Lomachenko had stopped eight fighters inside the distance since then.

On the undercard, Mexico's Emanuel Navarrete battered previously unbeaten Isaac Dogboe to seize Dogboe's World Boxing Organization super bantamweight world title.

Navarrete rocked Dogboe in the 10th round and dominated the rest of the way with two judges awarding him the fight by scores of 116-112 and a third making it 115-113.

Navarrete, an underdog against the London-based Ghanaian



Vasyl Lomachenko (left) knocked down Jose Pedraza twice in round 11

champion, made the most of his height and reach advantage.

Dogboe, his face bloodied and swollen, had to dig deep to avoid a knockout over the final two rounds.

He was making the second defense of the title he won with an 11th-round knockout of Jessie

Magdaleno on April 28. On August 25 in Arizona he stopped Japan's Hidenori Otake.

Navarrete, 23, improved to 26-1 with 22 knockouts.

He hasn't lost since dropping a four-round unanimous decision to Daniel Argueta in his fourth pro bout six years ago.

Messi Shines as Barca Thrash Espanyol in Derby



FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi (left) celebrates with teammate Ousmane Dembele during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Espanyol and FC Barcelona at RCDE stadium in Cornellà Llobregat, Spain, Dec 8, 2018.

MADRID (AP) — Lionel Messi capped a brilliant performance by following up a superb free-kick goal in the first half with another stunning set-piece goal in the second half.

The perfectly struck free kicks led Barcelona to a 4-0 rout of Espanyol in the Spanish league on Saturday, and allowed Messi to reach yet another career milestone — he had never scored two direct free kicks in a league game before.

"What can I say about Leo?" Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said. "He can break open any

game. We are so lucky to have him with us and to be able to watch him play."

Ousmane Dembele and Luis Suarez also scored in the Catalan derby for Barcelona, which opened a three-point lead over Sevilla and Atletico Madrid. Sevilla drew 1-1 at Valencia earlier Saturday, while Atletico defeated Alaves 3-0 at home.

Messi was at his best at RCDE Stadium in Barcelona, getting past defenders with ease and effortlessly putting his teammates in a position to score.