

Choopan Crowned Champion of 2024 Arnold Classic UK



TEHRAN – Iran's Hadi Choopan was crowned champion of the 2024 Arnold Classic UK Men's Open champion.

The competition was held on the weekend of March 15-16 at the NEC in Birmingham, England.

Choopan beat six other Men's Open competitors to win the title, including runner-up and home country favorite Samson Dauda and bronze medalist Akim Williams of the U.S., to clinch the \$130,000 prize and trophy from promoter Arnold Schwarzenegger.

ger.

The 'Persian Wolf' was announced the winner and presented the trophy by Arnold Schwarzenegger and eight-time Mr. Olympia Ronnie Coleman. Schwarzenegger told the champion he looked even better in Birmingham than in Columbus.

Choopan is set to compete at the 60th edition of the Mr. Olympia contest in Las Vegas, NV, on the weekend of October 10-13, 2024, where he hopes to reclaim that title from 2023 champion Derek Lunsford.

Real Madrid Claim 4-2 Win at Osasuna

PAMPLONA (Reuters) - Run-away LaLiga leaders Real Madrid continued their march towards the title with an easy 4-2 victory away at Osasuna on Saturday, with Vinicius Jr scoring a brace.

Real are alone at the league summit with 72 points, 10 ahead of second-placed Girona who face Getafe away later on Saturday. Osasuna are 10th with 36 points.

The win extended Real's unbeaten streak to 23 matches.

"Great game, from the beginning to the end, with good commitment, good attitude; it was an important game to get ahead of and we made the most of it," manager Carlo Ancelotti told Real

Madrid TV.

Vinicius put the visitors ahead after four minutes but Osasuna's Ante Budimir leveled the score three minutes later by slotting in a close-range shot following a corner.

Dani Carvajal restored Real's lead after 18 minutes, using the outside of his foot to steer a curving shot into the far corner.

Brahim Diaz scored the third goal for the visitors in the 61st minute, before Vinicius got his second three minutes later with a low finish from a tight angle inside the box.

"Today he (Vinicius Jr) could (have scored) four goals without



a problem; he has been extraordinary in all the situations he has had, correct, cold in front of the goal. We need a player like that," Ancelotti added.

In stoppage time, Osasuna got their second goal when Iker Munoz received a cutback inside the box and sent a powerful shot into the net.

Freestyle Wrestlers Runners-Up in Armenia Competitions



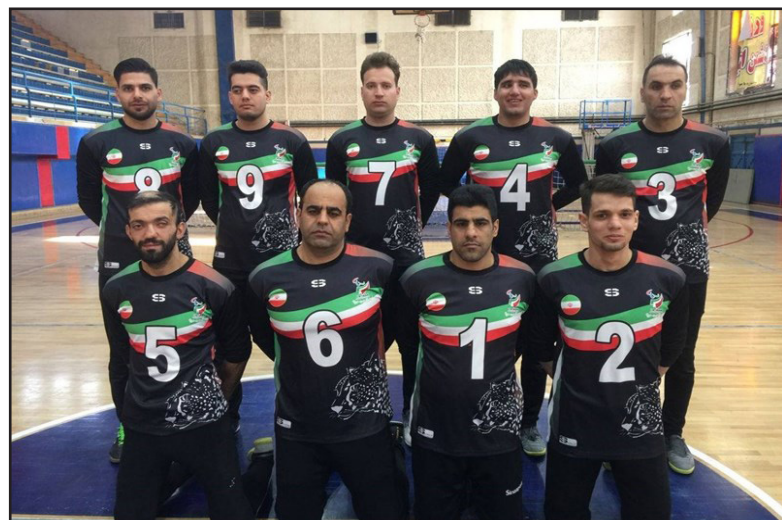
TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestlers finished second in 2024 Vardanyan's Freestyle Wrestling Tournament in Yerevan, Armenia after winning 2 gold and 5 bronze medals.

An international freestyle wrestling competition under the name of Vardanyan Cup was held between March 15th and the 17th of March in Yerevan. At the end of the tournament, the Iranian freestyle team won 2 gold medals and 5 bronze medals to finish runner-up.

Ebrahim Elahi and Abolfazl Husseini clinched the gold medals for Iran in 70 and 74 kg weights. Meanwhile, Hussein Sarlak in 65 kg weight, Aria Moghadasi in 74 kg weight, Iman Babaei in 86 kg category, Amir Azizpour in 92 kg and Amir Bahador Khormi in 97 kg were the five bronze medal winners for Iran.

The host Armenia became the champion, Iran became the runner-up, and Belarus took the third place.

Iran Defeat Sweden at Goalball Nations Cup Opener



TEHRAN – Iran's men's goalball team defeated Sweden 12-2 in the Goalball Nations Cup 2024 on Saturday.

IRAN has lost to Brazil and Japan in its previous matches.

Mostafa Shahbazi, Hassan Jafari, Mahdi Abbasi, Mohammad Mahdi Zarei, Khalil Shah-

riarnasab, Milad Soori, and Nematollah Sarafriz represent Iran at the event under the leadership of head coach Bahman Dousti Vala.

The 7th Edition of Goalball Nations Cup 2024 is being held in Berlin, Germany, from March 15 to 17.

Alcaraz Rallies to Beat Sinner, Reaches Indian Wells Final



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, returns to Jannik Sinner, of Italy, during a semifinal match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, on March 16, 2024, in Indian Wells, California.

CALIFORNIA (Reuters) - Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz came from behind to beat Jannik Sinner 1-6 6-3 6-2 to reach the Indian Wells final and end the Italian's winning streak this sea-

son at 16 matches.

Australian Open champion Sinner has been the hottest player on tour this year and looked poised to run away with the match when the Spaniard's forehand went long to end the 34-minute opening set, which was halted by a three-hour rain delay.

Alcaraz would finally break serve with a powerful forehand that set up a put-away volley for a 3-1 second set lead and hit a drop shot even the speedy Sinner did not try to race down to force a decider between the young rivals.

With Sinner serving in the third set, the Italian dove to keep a ball in play on break point near the net, his hands scraping along the gritty Indian Wells hard court.

Alcaraz' athletic volley secured the break and Sinner appeared to be bothered by his left hand after the exchange.

Alcaraz went up a double break and 4-1 on a forehand wide by a suddenly error-prone Sinner and sealed the win with a crosscourt forehand winner to keep Sinner from taking his world number two ranking and denying him a 20th consecutive win going back to last year.

Man City Go Into FA Cup Semis After 2-0 Win Over Newcastle

MANCHESTER (AFP) - Holders Manchester City cruised into the semi-finals of the FA Cup thanks to two deflected strikes from Bernardo Silva that gave them a 2-0 win over a lackluster Newcastle United at the Etihad Stadium.

City made five changes from the side that started last weekend's 1-1 Premier League draw with Liverpool and still managed to make the semi-finals of the competition for the sixth season in a row as Newcastle provided little resistance.

City took the lead in the 13th minute when a Silva shot took a wicked deflection off Newcastle defender Dan Burn, wrong-footing keeper Martin Dubravka and sending the ball looping into the net.

The home side went 2-0 up in the 31st minute and again it was Portuguese playmaker Silva cutting in from the right and shooting, with Sven Botman's head helping to steer the ball past Dubravka this time.

Alexander Isak almost pulled a goal



Manchester City's Belgian midfielder #11 Jeremy Doku has a shot saved by Newcastle United's Slovakian goalkeeper #01 Martin Dubravka

back in the 36th minute but Stefan Ortega got down brilliantly to his left to keep the Swedish striker's bouncing shot out. It proved to be Newcastle's only effort on goal in the game.

Just after the hour mark, Eddie Howe

lost patience with his stuttering side and made four substitutions and though the introduction of Miguel Almiron gave the visitors a much-needed injection of creativity in their attack, the home side quickly re-adjusted.

Kane Scores to Set Record in Bayern's 5-2 Win at Darmstadt

DARMSTADT (AFP) - Bayern Munich striker Harry Kane bagged a record-breaking 31st league goal and Jamal Musiala added two more in the side's 5-2 demolition of hosts Darmstadt 98 on Saturday that moved the champions to within seven points of leaders Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga.

Kane put Bayern, who face Arsenal in the Champions League quarter-finals next month, 2-1 up in first-half stoppage time to take his league tally to 31, more than any player has scored in their first Bundesliga season.

It is also a personal league best for the England captain - the Bundesliga's most expensive transfer at 100 million euros - who scored between Musiala's two goals.

But he was taken off injured in the 81st after sliding into the post, getting tangled in the sidenetting



Bayern's Harry Kane (left) scores his side's second goal during a German Bundesliga soccer match between SV Darmstadt 98 and Bayern Munich in Darmstadt, Germany, on March 16, 2024.

and twisting his ankle.

"He stumbled and fell in the net and twisted his ankle," Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel said. "He is cooling it now with ice. There is no diagnosis yet. We have to wait and

see and hope it is just a scary moment."

England, preparing for Euro 2024 in Germany in June, play Brazil on March 23 and Belgium three days later.