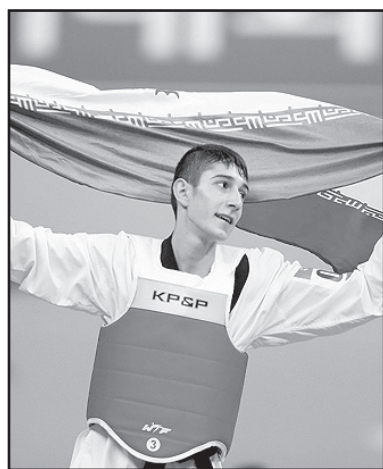


Iranian Athletes Win Golds in Dutch Open Taekwondo C'ship



Farzan Asourzadeh

AMSTEDAM (Tasnim) – Farzan Asourzadeh and Mahdi Khodabakhshi claimed two gold medals in the 42nd Lotto Dutch Open Taekwondo Championships 2015 on Saturday.

Asourzadeh won the gold medal, defeating the athletes from Germany, Serbia, England, and Thailand in the Seniors Male -58kg weight category.

In the Seniors Male -87kg, Khodabakhshi seized the gold medal by beating participants from France,

Turkey, and the Netherlands.

He had to face his countryman Omid Amidi in the final match but Amidi withdrew due to injury. Amidi won the silver medal.

Kimia Alizadeh also snatched a silver medal in the Seniors Female -57kg.

The Iranian athlete defeated taekwondo players from Italy, Portugal, Serbia, Spain and Russia but he lost to the 2012 London Olympic gold medalist Jade Jones in the final match.



KHODABAKHSHI, Mehdi

Man Utd Open Talks With Cristiano Ronaldo's Agent over £71.1mln Transfer

LONDON (FNA)- Manchester United opened talks with Cristiano Ronaldo's agent over a shock deal to sign the Real Madrid ace.

Ronaldo's future has been subject of intense speculation

in the last few weeks, with fresh rumours that he's unhappy with life in Madrid, Metro reported.

The news has apparently alerted United, and now reports in

Spain say they've contacted Ronaldo's agent Jorge Mendes to discuss a return to Old Trafford.

United hope to get Ronaldo for around €100 euros, which

works out as £71.1 million pounds.

It's not clear whether the Portuguese would consider returning to United, but he has often spoken of his love for the club.

Shaikh Salman: AFC and Olympic Council of Asia United for the Good of Asian Sport

MANAMA(AFC) - Asian Football Confederation President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa met with Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and President of the Association of National Olympic Committees in Manama on Saturday.

The AFC President praised the efforts of Sheikh Ahmad in supporting the international Olympic movement and raising the standard of sport throughout Asia.

Shaikh Salman also noted that the AFC is looking to strengthen



Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa

its relationship with the OCA, saying the two entities are both working towards improving

sporting standards and reinforcing Asian football's position on the international stage.

Shaikh Salman hailed the OCA's role in developing sport throughout Asia under the leadership of Sheikh Ahmad, highlighting the OCA's excellent organization of the Asian Games.

Sheikh Ahmad also congratulated Shaikh Salman ahead of his new term as AFC President and his new role as FIFA Vice President, adding that such developments underline the trust Asia's footballing family has in Shaikh Salman who has stabilized the confederation and achieved great success during the two years he has been in office.

Hamilton Wins Australian Grand Prix

MELBOURNE (Anadolu Agency) - Reigning Formula 1 champion, British driver Lewis Hamilton, won the first Grand Prix of the season held in Melbourne, Australia on Sunday.

Mercedes made a flying start to the season as Lewis Hamilton won the Australian Grand Prix and his teammate, Nico Rosberg, came second in Melbourne.

Williams driver Valtteri Bottas was unable to join the race since he had back problems. McLaren-Honda's Kevin Magnussen and Red Bull driver Daniel Kvyat withdrew from race due to technical problems with their vehicles.

Ferrari driver Kimi Raikkonen, Lotus' Pastor Maldonado and Romain Grosjean and Toro Rosso driver Max Verstappen could not complete the Australian Grand Prix either, also due to technical problems during the race.

Mercedes' Hamilton was crowned as the Australian Grand Prix winner (1:31:54.067)

whilst his German teammate Nico Rosberg was the runner-up. Rosberg completed the race 1.36 seconds behind Hamilton.

Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel came in third, finishing the race in Melbourne 34.523 seconds behind the winner.

The next Grand Prix will be held in Malaysia on March 29.

Top ten drivers in Australian Grand Prix:

1. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)
2. Nico Rosberg (Mercedes)
3. Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari)
4. Felipe Massa (Williams)
5. Felipe Nasr (Sauber)
6. Daniel Ricciardo (Red Bull Racing)
7. Nico Hulkenberg (Force India)
8. Marcus Ericsson (Sauber)
9. Carlos Sainz (Toro Rosso)
10. Sergio Perez (Force India)

Driver and Constructor standings after Australian Grand Prix:

- Driver Standings
1. Lewis Hamilton (Great Britain) 25 pts



Defending Formula 1 champion Lewis Hamilton wins first Grand Prix of season in Australia

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2. Nico Rosberg (Germany) 18 pts | 10. Sergio Perez (Mexico) 1 pt |
| 3. Sebastian Vettel (Germany) 15 pts | 11. Jenson Button (Great Britain) 0 pt |
| 4. Felipe Massa (Brazil) 12 pts | |
| 5. Felipe Nasr (Brazil) 10 pts | |
| 6. Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) 8 pts | |
| 7. Nico Hulkenberg (Germany) 6 pts | |
| 8. Marcus Ericsson (Sweden) 4 pts | |
| 9. Carlos Sainz (Spain) 2 pts | |

Constructor Standings

1. Mercedes 43 pts
2. Ferrari 15 pts
3. Sauber 14 pts
4. Williams 12 pts
5. Red Bull Racing 8 pts
6. Force India 7 pts
7. Toro Rosso 2 pts
8. McLaren 0 pt

Carlos Queiroz Announces Iran Squad for Chile, Sweden Friendlies

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran football coach Carlos Queiroz announced his 24-man squad for Chile and Sweden friendlies.

Iran is scheduled to face Chile in a friendly in St. Pölten, Austria on March 26th.

Team Melli will then face Sweden in Stockholm's Friends Arena on March 31.

Alireza Jahanbakhsh and Sardar Azmoun were already invited to the Iran Olympic team but it seems the Portuguese coach is not going to allow them to play in the AFC U-23 Championship 2016.

Goalkeepers:

Alireza Haghighi (Penafiel, POR)
Alireza Beiranvand (Naft Tehran)
Sosha Makani (Persepolis)

Defenders:

Khosro Heydari (Esteghlal)
Vouria Ghafouri (Sepahan)
Ramin Rezaeian (Rah Ahan)
Jalal Hosseini (Al Ahli, QAT)

Amir Hossein Sadeghi (Esteghlal)
Morteza Pouraliganji (Tianjin Teda)

Hashem Beikzadeh (Esteghlal)
Habib Gordani (Tractor Sazi)
Pejman Montazeri (Umm Salal SC, QAT)

Midfielders:

Javad Nekounam (Osasuna, ESP)
Andranik Teymourian (Tractor Sazi)
Omid Ebrahimi (Esteghlal)
Vahid Amiri (Naft Tehran)
Ehsan Hajsafi (Sepahan)
Masoud Shojaei (Al Shahaniya, QAT)

Strikers:

Alireza Jahanbakhsh (NEC Nijmegen, HOL)
Ashkan Dejagah (Al Arabi, QAT)
Sardar Azmoun (Rubin Kazan, RUS)
Reza Ghoochannejhad (Kuwait SC, KUW)
Karim Ansarifard (Osasuna, ESP)
Masoud Hassanzadeh (Zob Ahan)

German Soccer Player Says Islam Changed His Life for Better



German footballer Danny Blum

BERLIN (IRNA) - German footballer Danny Blum who has recently announced his reversion to Islam says the religion has changed his life for the better.

Before his conversion, he was not happy with his life.

A few weeks ago, he took the decision to revert to Islam, joining the world's fastest growing religion, IINA reported.

"Living in the lap of luxury every weekend make alarm. No responsibility for anything. And what actu-

ally comes after retirement?" the questions came to Blum as he sat at home.

"I learned about Islam via my friends and later studied books about the religion and did some online research. Ultimately, I came to the conclusion that this is what I have been looking for," he stated.

"I accepted Islam as my faith and I am certain that it is the best way of life," the FC Nürnberg player stressed.

Blum further described Islam as a religion of hope and strength, saying "Islam gave me strength. Pray calms my soul."

Blum joined FC Nürnberg in Bavaria last July. The team plays in the he Second Division of professional football in Germany, the Bundesliga.

Ever since, he prays five times a day and eat halal food. Informing his parents with his decision, the 24-year-old player said they were scared at first.

"They are devout Christians. But soon they said that I have to go that route if I believe that it is right," he said.

Bolt Cruises to Win in 400 Meters Race

KINGSTON(Reuters) - Jamaican Olympic sprint champion Usain Bolt cruised to victory in his first individual race of the season, clocking 46.37 seconds over 400 meters at the GC Foster Classic in Kingston on Saturday.

Bolt, the world record holder at 100 and 200 meters, used the race as part of his build-up for the upcoming season, where he plans to defend his sprint titles at the IAAF world championships in Beijing in August.

"Give thanks for an injury free 400m run," Bolt, who was slowed by injuries last year, said on his Twitter account.

The six-time Olympic gold medalist came off the final curve comfortably ahead of the field and his time was slightly faster than his last effort at the distance, 46.44 seconds in 2013, but more than a second slower



Jamaica's Usain Bolt smiles shortly after crossing the finish line first, in his first race of the season during the Gibson Relays in Kingston

than his personal best of 45.28 in 2007.

In his only other race of the year, Bolt's Racers Lions 4x100 meters relay team wound up second in the Gibson McCook Relays on Feb.