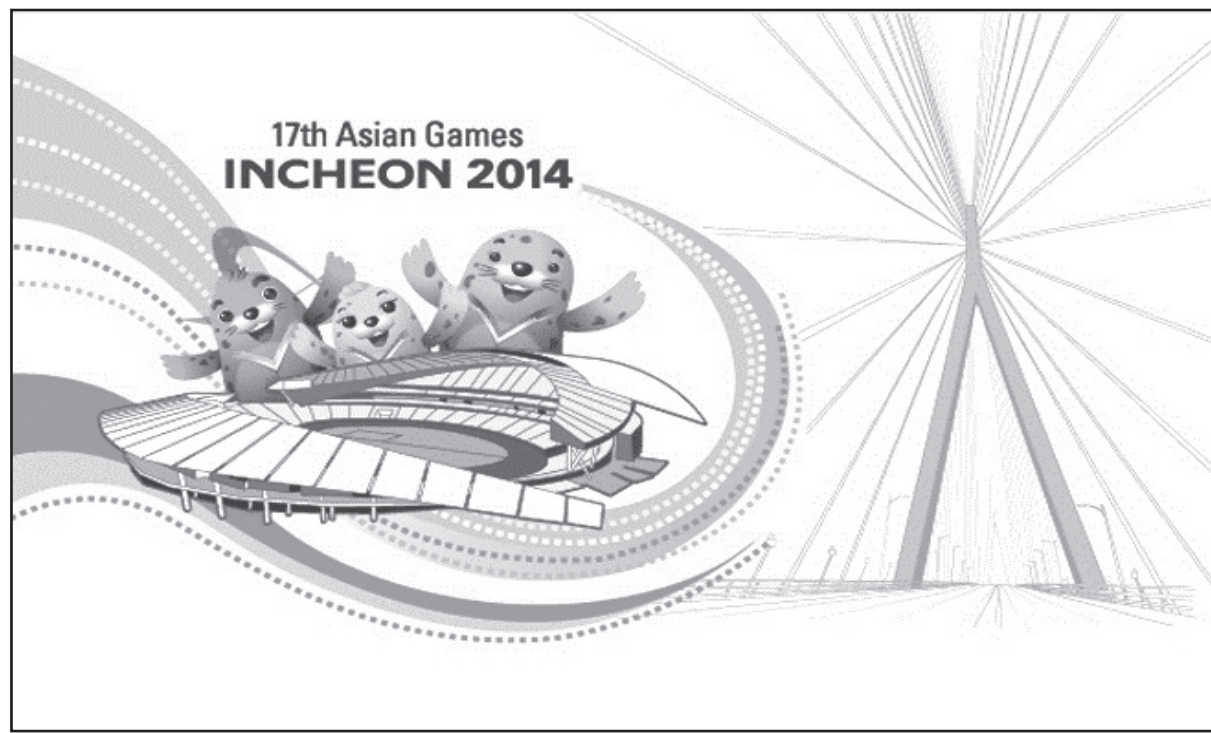


Asian Games: Iran Handball Team Sweeps Hong Kong



17th Asian Games poster

INCHEON (Tasnim) – Iran handball team made a winning start in the ongoing 17th Asian Games in Incheon, in South Korea on Sunday.

The Iranian team beat Hong Kong 41-10 at the Seonhak Handball Gymnasium in preliminary round in Group B.

“We wanted to beat Hong Kong with a better goal difference since Kuwait had defeated the team 40-20. We are going to advance to the next stages,” Iran coach Borut Maček said.

The team has been scheduled to face Asian powerhouse Kuwait on Monday.

Some 9,500 athletes from 45 countries are competing at the Games, the world’s second-biggest multi-sport event after the summer Olympics, with 439 gold medals in 36 sports up for grabs.

Iran has participated in the games with 276 athletes in 22 sports.

150 Coins for Gold Medalists in 2014 Asian Games



TEHRAN (IRNA) – The deputy minister of sports and youth said that gold medal winners in 2014 Incheon Asian Games will receive as many as 150 gold coins.

Referring to the bylaw on paying bonuses for medalists in international competitions, Nasrollah Sajjadi added that based on

the bylaw, gold medalists will be awarded 150, silver medalists 70 and bronze medalists 40 gold coins.

Medalists of team sports will also receive lower bonuses, he said, noting that the bonus of the coaches and technical cadre has been envisaged in the bylaw.

Real Madrid Over €600 Million in Debt

MADRID (FNA) – Real Madrid’s debt has grown to €602 million, according to figures released to club members.

The amount that the European champions owe to banks, creditors the Spanish government and others has grown 11.3 per cent, from €541mln, in the past

year, Goal reported.

The largest chunk of their gross debt is made up by payments which must be fulfilled within 12 months (€267mln), but long-term debt still makes up a large chunk of the total (€241mln).

In the 12 months leading up to June 30, 2014, Real Madrid’s

income did rise, albeit only by 5%, to €550mln. This included a €60mln jackpot for winning the Champions League.

Since the cutoff date for the latest figures, the Blancos splashed an estimated total of €115mln on Toni Kroos, James Rodriguez and Keylor Navas before sell-

ing midfield pair Xabi Alonso and Angel Di Maria for around €85mln.

The president of Valores del Madridismo, which is made up of club members which aim to preserve the values of Real Madrid, fears that the Blancos’ spiralling debt will eventually backfire.

IOC Chief Demands ‘Sustainable’ Games

INCHEON (Arab News) – Olympic boss Thomas Bach said future Games hosts would have to prove their “sustainability” and that there would be a shake-up of the bidding criteria.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) president made the comments to Olympic Council of Asia delegates in Incheon, which has gone into debt to host the ongoing Asian Games.

The German official said the IOC has to “act now” to preserve its “relevance,” suggesting cities who pitch for international sports events need to think about the long-term impact.

“There is broad agreement that we need changes in the bidding and candidature procedure for the Olympic Games,” Bach told the OCA general assembly.

“We need to address the fact that in today’s world the Games need to make a greater contribution to sustainability.”

“We have to encourage and motivate the candidate cities to take sustainability into account from the very beginning of the bidding procedure,” he added.

“So, in the future we want to invite potential bidding cities to tell us how they see the Olympic Games fitting into their social, economical, ecological and sports environment.” Bach’s address came on the sidelines of the 17th Asian Games, which have cost nearly \$2 billion and made Incheon South Korea’s most indebted city.

Vietnam withdrew from holding

the next Asian Games because of the cost. China’s Guangzhou was reportedly left with heavy debts after it staged the Games four years ago.

Bach said recent Asian and Olympic Games have been successful, but warned national Olympic committees against complacency.

“If you don’t change at the moment when you are successful the day will come when you will face problems or a crisis,” he said.

“Sport has become too important in society to isolate itself from the society around sport. We are too important to ignore what is happening in society.”

“If the world around you is making progress and going forward you can’t just stand still. If you stand still you lose relevance... we have to act now.” Bach — who has just completed a year as IOC president — also said the Olympics “can enjoy a greater diversity” of disciplines than they do now.

“We have to become more flexible when it comes to the composition of the Olympic program,” he said, adding that the body must try to “react faster” to sporting trends amongst youngsters.

The comments will give hope to fans of softball and baseball, which was last played at the Games in 2008. They have been replaced by golf and rugby sevens for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Pressure is growing for the IOC to reinstate baseball at the 2020 Tokyo Games due to its popularity in Japan.

Yaya Toure: I Want to Beat Rivals to Champions League Glory

LONDON (express) – MANCHESTER CITY midfielder Yaya Toure fired back at his critics after a turbulent summer by insisting last night that he is committed to the Premier League champions.

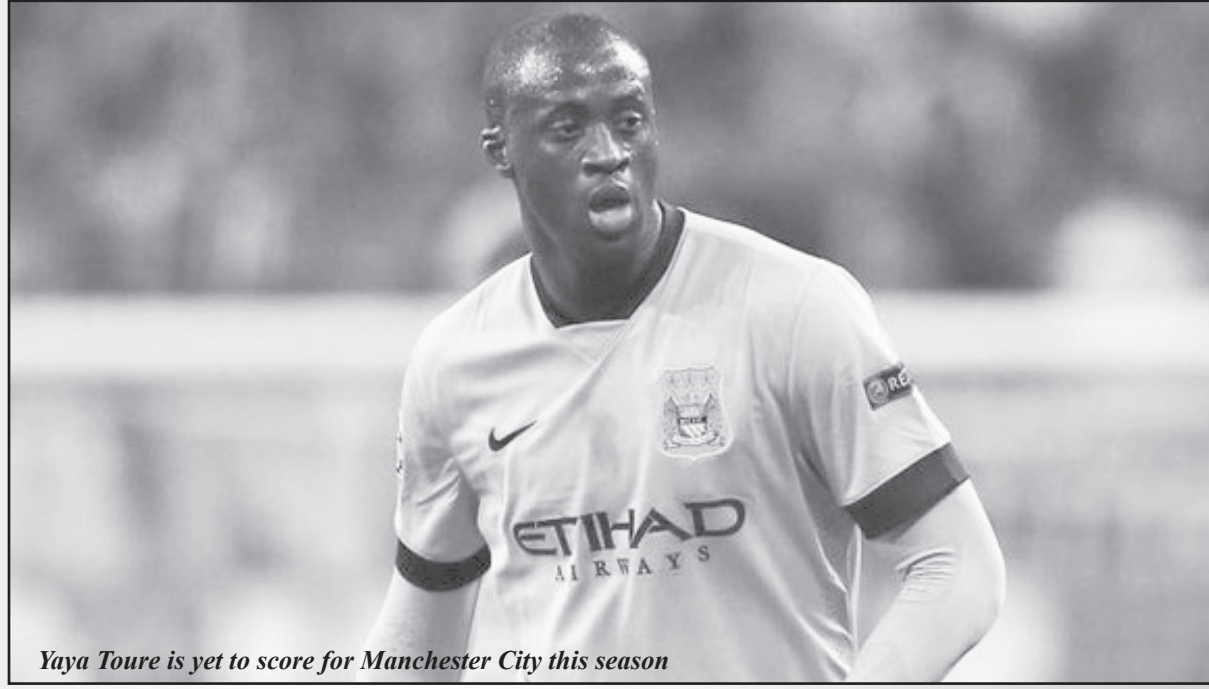
Toure has yet to score for Man City this season and was heavily criticised for an abject display in their Champions League defeat against Bayern Munich on Wednesday, which prompted City boss Manuel Pellegrini to suggest his form could be suffering as he comes to terms with the death of his younger brother Ibrahim, who passed away in June.

But Toure said: “People always criticise me. First of all, it was about the money, then it was about different things. For me, my commitment will always be high with this club.”

Toure’s agent Dimitry Seluk suggested in May that his client could move on after claiming that City did not make him feel valued, especially on his 31st birthday.

Toure admits he was disappointed by the reaction to those comments and the summer speculation.

“I will definitely stay with City,” he



Yaya Toure is yet to score for Manchester City this season

said. “There was a lot of speculation about birthday cakes and rubbish like that. It’s quite disappointing for me and for the fans because a little joke has become so serious.”

“I was quite surprised about why people reacted about that, how serious they took it.”

Toure now insists he wants to lead the club to Champions League glory.

He said: “I know all the fans love me because the fans have always been good with me and my family. My target now is the Champions League; I want to make it for them.”

Palestine’s Participation in 2014 Asian



The Palestine contingent in the Games’ opening ceremony at Incheon

INCHEON (Indian Express) – The head of the Palestinian Olympic Committee said that the “battle” to get to the Asian Games just weeks after a brutal 50-day war in Gaza.

Jibril Al Rajoub said that 37 sports officials and journalists had died in the beleaguered strip during the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Al Rajoub told AFP that three of

the dead were sportsmen in Gaza.

“Our participation in Incheon is a national and political battle,” he said.

“Even although the Palestinian people are living in circumstances that limit their movement inside Palestine and outside also, and financial difficulties we are facing, we were able to take part in this Asian Games with 80 sportsmen, including seven women, in 12 disciplines,” the official said.

He praised the men’s football side which has won its first two games and sits top of its group.

The Palestinians have defeated Tajikistan and Oman, 2-1 and 2-0 respectively.

“Our football team is almost through to the second round,” al Rajoub enthused. “This is a big

achievement for Palestinian sports and an excellent sign of our participation.”

“All our players are under 22 with no one from the first team, which has already qualified for the Asian Cup in Australia,” in January, he added.

“But I’m sure that after the good performance here, some of the players will join the Asian finals.”

“I feel that we have a good improvement in football and this comes after our achievement in the AFC Challenge Cup,” which the Palestinian side won, qualifying for the Asian Cup.

The Israeli-Hamas war ended with a truce on August 26. More than 2,140 Palestinians, most of them civilians, and 73 Israelis, mostly soldiers, were killed.

N. Korean Weightlifter Kim Un-Guk Wins Gold in Record-Breaking Style



Kim Un-guk

INCHEON (Yonhap) -- North Korean weightlifter Kim Un-guk broke two world records to win the gold medal in the men’s 62-kilogram event at the Asian Games on

Sunday. Kim lifted a total of 332kg to break his own previous world record by 5kg, giving North Korea its second gold at the Asiad.