

Iran to Expand Cooperation With World Chess Federation



MOSCOW (IRNA) – Iran's Ambassador to Russia and the President of World Chess Federation (FIDE) in a meeting here on Sunday discussed issues of mutual interest.

In the meeting Mehdi Sanaei and Kirsan Ilyumzhinov underlined expansion of bilateral cooperation.

The meeting was held on the eve of Ilyumzhinov's visit to Iran and the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest.

The two sides agreed that the preliminary round of world chess competitions would be held in Tehran this year.

Ilyumzhinov, who is currently advisor to Russian President Vladimir Putin, also underlined common grounds for cooperation with Iran.

Sanaei, for his part, wished him success in his post as President of World Chess Federation.

Mahdavikia Set to Appoint as Hamburg SV U-14 Coach



Former Hamburg player Mehdi Mahdavikia has agreed to take charge of the German club's U-14 coaching role.

HAMBURG (Persian League)- Former Hamburg player Mehdi Mahdavikia has agreed to take charge of the German club's U-14 coaching role days after his U-11 team finished in second place in the 2015 Cordial Cup.

"I had a meeting with Hamburg SV officials and I accepted their offer to coach the club's U-14 team. They have hired former Hoffenheim general manager who is a specialist in youth ranks and I will gain a lot of good experience during this new challenge," Mahdavikia told reporters in a press conference.

Mahdavikia who is a co-founder of KIA Football Academy led his U-11 team to Cordial Cup second place.

In May 2015, the club under-11 side was invited as a guest team to the Cordial Cup in Austria, one

of the premier youth competitions in Europe. The little-known team defeated SpVgg EGC Wirges (4-0), SpVgg Unterhaching (2-0), FC Bayern Munich (3-0), Bezirksauswahl Kitzbühel (3-1) and drew in a goalless draw with Finnish side KaPa United.

The team progressed to the next stage to defeat Hungarian champions Videoton FC (4-0) and German sides VfB Stuttgart (1-0) and Bayer 04 Leverkusen (3-1) before progressing to the final. In the final the team lost against TSV 1860 München 7-6 on penalties, and finished runners-up on their debut at an international tournament.

KIA Football Academy striker Yadegar Rostami was awarded the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award and was top goalscorer in the competition.

Slobodan Kovac: We Will Try To Be Better

WASHINGTON (Tasnim) - Iranian national volleyball team head coach Slobodan Kovac said his men will try tomorrow to be better against USA.

Iran was defeated against USA 3-1 (25-19, 25-22, 23-25, 25-23) at the Galen Center in Los Angeles on Sunday.

"Congratulations to the USA team because they surprised us. I don't know why they didn't play (Murphy) Troy



Slobodan Kovac

and they played (Aaron) Russell and he played very well," Kovac said.

"In the first two sets we didn't know him because he hasn't played against us before. This is a new player and he did his job very well."

"We will try tomorrow to be better but it's not easy because this is one of the best teams in the world," the Serbian coach added.

FC Barcelona Wins 27th Copa Del Rey Against Athletic Bilbao

BARCELONA (Xinhua) -- FC Barcelona won its 27th Copa del Rey after defeating Athletic Bilbao 3-1 at FC Barcelona's stadium Camp Nou on Saturday.

At the beginning of the first part, Athletic dominated the match but soon FC Barcelona came into the game and Leo Messi scored the first goal after 20 minutes. Athletic goalkeeper Herrerin made several saves before the goal.

Ten minutes into the match,

Brazilian Neymar had scored the first goal that was cancelled by the referee Velasco Carballo. However, Neymar netted home the second following some good combination with Messi and Luis Suarez who made the assist.

After the interval, Athletic played eagerly to score but Messi scored the third goal for Barcelona.

Athletic had its opportunity when Williams scored the first

and only goal for the team after an hour and half of game but Barcelona ended up hoisting the trophy.

FC Barcelona had won Copa del Rey 26 times before the match, while Athletic won 23.

Spanish King Felipe VI attended the match along with Barcelona's mayor Xavier Trias, the president of Catalonia, Artur Mas, among other political figures.

Also, important figures from

the football world attended the match, such as Spain's national team coach Vicente del Bosque.

Fans from the two teams took the streets since early in the morning, but especially those from Athletic de Bilbao, who gathered in different places showing their support to their team.

Local media reported that around 50,000 fans from Athletic arrived in Barcelona on Saturday to watch the match at Camp Nou.

Japan International Yoshinori Muto Signs for Mainz

TOKYO (AFC) - Japanese international striker Yoshinori Muto has signed a four-year deal with Mainz from FC Tokyo, the German Bundesliga club confirmed on Saturday.

The 22-year-old, who has appeared 11 times for his country, scored 13 goals in 33 matches for FC Tokyo in his first J-League campaign to equal a newcomer's record.

"We've been watching Muto for a long time now because we're certain he suits Mainz 05 and our style of play," Coach

Martin Schmidt told the club's official website.

"He's quick, agile, and a very technical forward for the flanks, who will bring further quality in this position."

The highly regarded Muto won his first cap for Japan last year when he appeared against Uruguay on September 5. He duly scored his first international goal against Venezuela just four days later.

Muto will join forces at Mainz with compatriot Shinji Okazaki.



Yoshinori Muto

Ehsan Hadadi Comes 6th in IAAF Diamond League



Ehsan Hadadi

WASHINGTON (Tasnim) - Iranian discus thrower Ehsan Hadadi finished in sixth place in the International Association of Athletics Federation's Diamond League meeting in Eugene, Oregon.

Poland's Piotr Malachowski

won the discus with a distance of 65.59 meters.

Robert Urbanek also from Poland came second with 65.42m followed by Indian Vikas Gowda with 64.41m.

Iran's Ehsan Hadadi came sixth with a throw of 61.67m.

Happy 10k Run Fuels Up the Running Passion in Beijing

BEIJING (China Daily) - Over 5,000 running enthusiasts gathered for the 2015 Happy 10k, a running event held for amateur runners at Beijing Olympic Forest Park on Sunday.

Runners, including 309 children under 14, were divided into two groups for the 10 kilometer and three kilometer races.

The Beijing event is the third of 10 stops in the 2015 Happy 10k across China - that's twice as many stops than last year's five. Each stop is expected to draw 4,000-5,000 participants.

China has seen a huge growth in running. In 2014, more than 900,000 people took part in different running competitions across China, according to a survey released by the Shanghai Road Running Association. The number of regular runners in Shanghai has surpassed 200,000.

Codoon, a very popular sports community app among amateur runners, gained more than 10 million downloads in an Android market developed by Huawei, one of China's major domestic smart phone brands.