

Iran’s Bank Sarmayeh Wins Asian Championship



Iranian professional volleyball team Sarmayeh Bank

TEHRAN (Kayhan Int’l Sports Desk) – Iran’s Bank Sarmayeh overcame Al Arabi of Qatar on Wednesday to clinch the Asian men’s volleyball title.

The Iranian team fought it out 24-26, 25-18, 25-16 and 25-19 on their way to glory.

Four Iranian players also got the titles for best players of the Asian Champions League.

Mehdi Mahdavi, Seyyed Mohammad Mousavi , Shahram Mahmoudi and Milad Ebadipour were picked as the best setter, best defender, best receiver and the most valuable player respectively.

England Set World Record ODI Score in Victory Over Pakistan

LONDON (Independent) - England blasted a world record one-day international total of 444 for three on the way to a series-clinching victory over Pakistan.

The record books took a battering at Trent Bridge, where Alex Hales (171) first delighted his home crowd by

hitting England’s highest individual score and then Jos Buttler (90no) smashed their fastest 50 - from 22 balls.

Stands of 248 for the second wicket between Hales and Joe Root (85) and Buttler and Eoin Morgan’s unbroken 161 were too much for Pakistan.

Their reply never remotely threatened England’s composure, despite Mohammad Amir’s remarkable half-century from number 11 - the equal of Buttler’s, also off 22 balls.

Amir’s 58 contained the last record of a remarkable day, the highest ODI

score by any number 11, as Pakistan nonetheless faltered to 275 all out in 42.4 overs.

Unbeaten in all their nine limited-overs matches so far this summer, England are therefore Royal London Series winners - having taken a 3-0 lead with two to play.

Iran Bags 3 Asian Chess Excellence Awards

TEHRAN (MNA) – The third Annual Asian Chess Excellence Awards were announced with Iran winning three different titles.

The Asian Chess Federation announced awardees of the 3rd Annual Asian Chess Excellence Awards at a press conference on August 30 at the Hilton Hotel in Al-Ain, UAE.

Having past golden days, Iranian representatives at the ceremony received excellent honors at the ceremony as Masoud Mosadeghpour was named Youth Player of the Year for his victories in Asian and World championships.

Furthermore, the Under-16 chess team of Iran received Youth Team of the Year Award while the Iranian Chess Federation was won the title of the most successful federation in the field of youth development.

The ceremony also honored the best Asian chess officials as well as

Mohammad Jafar Kambuzia, former President of Iran Chess Federation and FIDE Vice President, for a lifetime of service to the field.

Iran was selected as the host to the Asian Under-16 Championships in addition that a separate MoU was inked with the World Chess Federation (FIDE) in earlier days for Iran to host Women’s World Chess Championship 2017.

Accordingly, the Iranian Chess Federation has a lot on its agenda in the coming seasons which can mark a turning point in the country’s chess leading to further development of Iranian representatives.

Meetings of the Asian Chess Federation were held over three days in Al-Ain of UAE with attendance of representatives from 40 Asian countries. Lectures and seminars by world chess experts were among other programs of the summit.

Jamali Nominated for Athlete of the Month



Mehdi Jamali

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Mehdi Jamali, member of Iran football 7-a-side, has been shortlisted for the Allianz Athlete of the Month poll for August 2016.

The public is now invited to vote for their winner via www.paralympic.org until September 6.

Jamali scored 12 goals overall at the 2016 International Federation for Cerebral Palsy Football (IFCPF) World Championships Qualification Tournament, helping Iran take the gold medal and secure their place for the 2017 World Championships.

Briton athlete Hannah Cockroft, Turkey’s goalballist Ekrem Gundogdu, and German athlete Heinrich Popow also are favorites to win the monthly award.

playing not because of any lack of unity among us. And if we beat Iran it will be due to Qatar’s qualities. We have a good chance to reach the World Cup finals. We know that Iran is the better ranked team but there are surprises in football. We will be

one of those surprises.” Head To Head Record 15/01/15 Qatar 0 – 1 Iran 05/06/13 Qatar 0 – 1 Iran 13/06/12 Iran 0 – 0 Qatar 29/02/12 Iran 2 – 2 Qatar 07/09/11 Qatar 1 – 1 Iran

Match Against Iran Always Difficult, Qatar Captain Al Haidos Says



Carlos Queiroz

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Qatar football captain Hassan Al Haidos says that it is always very tough against Iran and even more so away from home, in front of their fans.

Speaking to FIFA.com, Al Haidos acknowledged the difficulty of their opening Group A fixture against Iran in the FIFA World Cup qualification at the imposing Azadi Stadium – but spoke confidently of

Qatar’s chances.

Iran v Qatar Preview

Asia’s number one ranked side Iran begin their Road to Russia 2018 by entertaining 2022 FIFA World Cup hosts Qatar, who seek to qualify for the World Cup on their own merit. Iran coach Carlos Queiroz hopes for home comforts and a sell-out crowd at Azadi Stadium.

• Jose Daniel Carreno insists

his Qatar side will be the surprise package in the FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign.

- There are no suspensions or reported injuries for either team.
- Iran won Group D without losing a game, tallying six wins and two draws.

- Qatar was the first nation to qualify for the Russia 2018 Asian Qualifiers Final Round after winning Group C.

Match Details

Date: 1 September 2016 (Thursday)

Kickoff time: 8pm IRST, 4:30pm GMT

Venue: Azadi Stadium, Tehran

Referee: Crishantha Dilan Perera (Sri Lanka)

Coach Quotes

Carlos Queiroz, Iran

“The celebrations for reaching the 2018 FIFA World Cup will begin for us tomorrow. Certainly, it will be a difficult path for each of the teams in the group. We will have difficult matches but I hope that we will secure one of the qualifying spots on this road. Our aim is to reach the

World Cup finals. Last night I had a bad headache and had to take pills since choosing the starting squad is very difficult. The squad has no injuries and we have 25 prepared players who want to play tomorrow. “Qatar is one of the main candidates for qualification and they have invested well in order to qualify. We will have a difficult match against Qatar. The Qataris have been preparing very well and they have good players but I hope the Azadi Stadium will be full of supporters and I hope that we will succeed tomorrow.”

Jose Daniel Carreno, Qatar

“Tomorrow, we will play our first match in the third qualifying round. Our first match is against the highest-ranked team in Asia and we have had plenty of time for analysis of Iran. We are prepared and know that Iran is the favorites to qualify. We will try to achieve a good result in tomorrow’s match.

“We are united; the coaching staff, players, everyone is prepared for success. If Iran beat us tomorrow it will be due to their quality of

Serena, Radwanska Sail Into U.S. Open Second Round

WASHINGTON (Thehindu) - Serena Williams started strong in her latest bid to rewrite the record books, storming past Ekaterina Makarova and into the second round of the U.S. Open on Tuesday.

The U.S. world number one, slowed since her Wimbledon triumph by a right shoulder injury, needed just 63 minutes to dispatch 29th-ranked Makarova 6-3, 6-3.

“I got off to a fast start because I knew she was a tough opponent,” said Williams, who delivered a dozen aces and 27 winners.

Although she appeared untroubled by her shoulder, Williams said the proof of full fitness would come later.

“I’m going to have to wait until tomorrow to see,” she said. “I wasn’t able to play much since Wimbledon. Every day, I’ll just see how it goes.”

A record seventh title on the hard courts of Flushing Meadows, where she first triumphed in 1999, would see Williams break the Open Era record of 22 Grand Slam titles she now shares with German Steffi Graf and close in on Margaret Court’s all-time mark of 24

major titles.

Her victory was the first act in a blockbuster night on Arthur Ashe Stadium, where second-seeded Andy Murray opened his account against Czech Lukas Rosol.

Since capturing his second Wimbledon title in July, Murray has gone on to defend his Olympic gold in Rio.

He is vying to become the fourth man in the Open Era to reach all four major finals in a calendar year.

Before the floodlights came up, Serena’s elder sister Venus claimed a Grand Slam record of her own as her 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 victory over Ukraine’s Kateryna Kozlova marked her 72nd appearance in the main draw of a major.

The 36-year-old Venus, enjoying resurgence in a 2016 season that includes a WTA title in Taiwan, survived 63 unforced errors against the rising 22-year-old, although she was pleased that her aggressive approach also yielded 46 winners.

“The first round is hard,” Venus said. “I haven’t played a single match in, like, three weeks. Just getting out there and trying to play perfectly.

“The good part is I’m playing the game I want to play, I’m playing aggressively and moving forward. It’s just about making a few less errors and it’s a completely different story.”

In other early matches, third-seeded Swiss Stan Wawrinka, a two-time semi-finalist, reached the second round with a 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 6-4 win over Spain’s Fernando Verdasco.

“I’m really happy,” Wawrinka said after evening his career record against Verdasco at three wins apiece.

“Fernando is a tough player to play. He can be really aggressive. He doesn’t give you so much rhythm, so it’s not easy.”

Kei Nishikori, who became Asia’s first men’s Grand Slam finalist in New York in 2014, when he fell to Marin Cilic in the final, also advanced, downing German Benjamin Becker 6-1, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

“It was a great feeling of course,” said Nishikori, whose breakthrough run in 2014 was followed by an abrupt first-round exit last year.

Halep advances

Juan Martin Del Potro, the 2009 U.S. Open champion,

advanced with a 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) victory over fellow Argentine Diego Schwartzman.

The 27-year-old Del Potro, almost pushed into retirement by three wrist surgeries, is back at Flushing Meadows for the first time since 2013, earning a wild card invitation with a stirring run to an Olympic silver medal.

Women’s fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, trying to make it to the quarter-finals in New York for the first time, breezed past U.S. qualifier Jessica Pegula 6-1, 6-1.

Fifth-seeded Romanian Simona Halep also advanced with a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Belgian Kirsten Flipkens. Halep admitted nerves prevented her from closing out the match on her first opportunity at 6-0, 5-0.

The late wobble, in front of a crowd that included compatriot Nadia Comaneci — the first gymnast to be awarded a perfect score of 10 — had Halep rating her own performance “less than nine”.

Polish fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska eased into the U.S. Open second round Tuesday with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Jessica Pegula of the United States.