

Iran Win Title in Paravolley Asia Oceania Championships



The national Iranian men's sitting volleyball team

TEHRAN (Press TV) - The national Iranian men's sitting volleyball team has captured

the title at the 2017 ParaVolley Asia Oceania Sitting Volleyball Championships in China following

an emphatic win over Kazakhstan in the final showdown of the regional tournament.

On Sunday, the Iranian sportsmen swept their Central Asian counterparts 3-0 (25-15, 25-19 and 25-12) at the end of a fixture staged in the southern Chinese city of Hangzhou.

Earlier in the event, Iranian physically-challenged women had defeated the Kazakh squad 3-0 in a third-place play-off.

The 2017 ParaVolley Asia Oceania Sitting Volleyball Championships opened in Hangzhou, China, on June 27, and will wrap up on July 3.

The tournament brought together national men's sitting volleyball teams from China, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka.

National men's sitting volleyball teams from China, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia were in action as well.

U.S. Beat Iran in FIBA U19 World Cup Opener



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran was defeated against USA 108-48 on Saturday in Pool D opener at the FIBA U-19 World Cup in Cairo, Egypt.

Mohammad Reza Bahramzad topscored Iran with seven points, five rebounds and three assists. USA's Hamidou Diallo had 17

points, four rebounds and two assists. The 16 teams in the nine-day event are broken up into four groups of four. Iran is in Pool D with Angola, USA and Italy.

The 2017 FIBA U-19 Basketball World Cup will be held in Cairo, Egypt from 1 to 9 July.

Geraint Thomas Wins Opening Stage of Tour de France



Geraint Thomas won the opening stage of the Tour de France during a rain-drenched individual time trial in Düsseldorf, Germany.

DÜSSELDORF, Germany (Dispatches) — Chris Froome's most loyal support rider finally got some glory of his own.

Geraint Thomas has won the wet and slippery opening stage of the Tour de France and claimed the yellow jersey.

It was the first Grand Tour stage victory for Thomas, who has escorted Froome, his Team Sky teammate and the defending champion, to Paris for Froome's three Tour victories.

"I just can't believe it," Thomas said. "I got into cycling because of the Tour de France."

Thomas said he watched the Tour as a child and harangued his dad to get satellite TV coverage.

Averaging 32 miles per hour, Thomas required little more than 16 minutes to cover the almost entirely flat 8.7-mile individual time trial along the banks of the Rhine River in downtown Düsseldorf.

Murray Fit for Wimbledon Title Defense

LONDON (Dispatches) - Andy Murray insisted he is fit enough to start the defense of his Wimbledon title on Monday despite his recent struggles with a hip injury.

Murray sparked concerns he might have to withdraw from Wimbledon after cancelling two scheduled exhibition matches this week due to his sore hip.

The world number one was seen limping while practicing at Wimbledon over the weekend, but he is convinced he can make it through two weeks of the grass court Grand Slam.

"I'll be fine to play the event and play seven matches," Murray told reporters at Wimbledon on Sunday.

Murray, a two-time Wimbledon champion, will play the first match on Centre Court Monday against Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik.

That will be a huge lift for Murray, who admitted he had been worried the hip pain wouldn't ease off in time for Wimbledon.

"You never know. I haven't been

in that sort of position too often, only a few days before a Slam and not felt good at all," he said.

Facing world number 134 Bublik should be a gentle introduction to the tournament for Murray, who is desperately short of match practice on grass after a shock Queen's Club first-round loss against unheralded Australian Jordan Thompson.

Pacquiao Loses Contentious WBO Title Fight to Jeff Horn

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) - It went all the way and ended in a contentious bitter loss, the opposite of what Manny Pacquiao's handlers predicted for his WBO welterweight world title fight against Jeff Horn.

Pacquiao's long-time trainer Freddie Roach tipped a "short and sweet" knockout win for the 11-time world champion in Sunday's so-called 'Battle of Brisbane,' but Horn got a unanimous points decision in his first world title fight — delighting the 51,052-strong crowd.

The 38-year-old Philippines senator arrived in Brisbane a week ahead of the fight with a chartered plane carrying more than a hundred supporters and as the hot favorite to beat Horn. He leaves without the WBO belt.

All three judges awarded it to Horn, with Waleska Roldan scoring



Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines waves to his supporters after his loss to Jeff Horn of Australia, during their WBO World Welterweight title fight in Brisbane, Australia, Sunday, July 2, 2017.

it 117-111 and both Chris Flores and Ramon Cerdan scoring it 115-113.

Some critics slammed it as a hometown decision, saying the statistics had Pacquiao landing twice the number of power punches as Horn.

"That's the decision of the judges. I respect that," Pacquiao was quoted as saying by broadcaster ESPN. "We have a rematch clause, so no problem."

But Pacquiao's conditioning trainer, the Los Angeles-based former Australian heavyweight Justin Fortune, was critical of the referee and the judging.

"Manny lost the fight, but Jeff Horn looks like a pumpkin. Those scores, that card?" he said, "It should be the other way."

Fortune said Pacquiao should have taken any risk out of the equation.

Amir Johnson Gets 1 Year, \$11mn Deal With 76ers



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PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia 76ers have added a second veteran during the opening day of free agency, agreeing to a one-year, \$11 million contract with forward Amir Johnson.

Johnson's agent, Kevin Bradbury, confirmed the deal that was first reported by ESPN.

That came hours after the 76ers added another veteran to their young core by giving a \$23 million,

one-year contract to guard J.J. Redick.

Johnson spent the last two seasons with Boston, starting 77 games last season for the team that finished with the best record in the Eastern Conference.

The 12-year pro has started at least 72 games in four straight seasons and for his career has averaged 7.5 points and 5.7 rebounds while also playing for Detroit and Toronto.

Chelsea Sign Former Manchester City Goalkeeper



Willy Caballero joined Manchester City in 2014

LONDON (Dispatches) - Premier League champions Chelsea have signed ex-Manchester City goalkeeper Willy Caballero on a free transfer.

The Argentine was released by City when his deal expired at the end of June.

Caballero, 35, arrived in England from Malaga in 2014 and played

26 times in all competitions for Pep Guardiola's side last season.

"I am very happy to join the champions of England," he said. "I am looking forward to meeting the guys and helping the club achieves more success."

Chelsea sold second-choice goalkeeper Asmir Begovic, 30, to Bournemouth in May.