

# Iranian Weightlifters Receive Gold Medal in World Cup



BANGKOK, Thailand (Dispatches) – Iran’s Rouhollah Rostami, Saman Razi in the weight category of 107 kg and Hamed Solhipour in the weight category of 97 kg won gold medal at the 2021 World Para Powerlifting World Cup in Bangkok, Thailand.

The reigning world champion managed an effort of 241 kilograms in winning the men’s under-80kg title in the final competition of the day.

Silver went to Georgia’s Ahmad Razm Azar and bronze to home lifter Chinnaphop Khamdan.

Iran’s Amir Jafari Arangeh had won a gold medal in the men’s under-65kg class on the opening day.

A total of the 54 powerlifters from nine countries across Africa, Asia and Europe have participated in the event.

The event was held in the presence of 60 athletes from nine countries in Thailand.

## Daei, Parvin on 20th Century Asian Team



TEHRAN (Dispatches) – The International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS) has put names of two Iranian legends Ali Daei and Ali Parvin on the Asia Men Team of the XXth Century.

The team included the best soccer players of Asia between 1901 and 2000.

Iran has two players and Japan, Korea, and Saudi Arabia each have three players on the team.

## Real, Barca, Juventus Defend Super League in Face of UEFA ‘Threats’



Manchester United fans protested against the club’s American owners last week as the fallout from the aborted Super League project continued

PARIS (AFP) - Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus on Saturday defended the aborted Super League project in the face of “threats” from UEFA.

The three clubs are the only ones from the original 12 yet to renounce the proposed competition that would guarantee its founding members involvement every season, instead of having to qualify.

The nine clubs who have dropped out -- Tottenham, Arsenal, Manchester City, Manchester United, Chelsea, Liverpool, Atletico Madrid, Inter Milan and AC Milan -- were on Friday given a financial penalty by UEFA for their involvement.

UEFA also said it would take “appropriate action” against the three clubs who still support the Super League project.

In response, Real, Barca and Juventus said in a joint statement “the founding clubs have suffered, and continue to suffer, unacceptable third-party pressures (and) threats.”

“This is intolerable under the rule of law,” they added in a joint statement.

They said the Super League had been launched “with the

aim of providing solutions to the current unsustainable situation in the football industry”.

The Super League was announced on April 18 but two days later it collapsed as the six Premier League clubs withdrew after angry protests from supporters pressure from the British government.

Real, Barca and Juventus argued that they and the nine clubs who withdrew “shared the same concerns... that structural reforms are indispensable to ensure our sport stays appealing and survives in the long term”.

They said they were “fully aware of the diversity of reactions to Super League” and were “ready to consider the proposed approach, as necessary”.

But they added: “We would be highly irresponsible if, being aware of the needs and systemic crisis in the football sector, which led us to announce the Super League, we abandoned such a mission to provide effective and sustainable answers to the existential questions that threaten the football industry.”

## Nadal Defeated by Zverev in Madrid Open Quarters

MADRID (Reuters) - Rafael Nadal has been knocked out of the Madrid Open quarterfinals stage 6-4 6-4 by German Alex Zverev.

Nadal, a five-time winner in the Spanish capital, was the favorite and top seed having lifted the Barcelona Open trophy last month but played below par on a sweltering spring day.

Zverev struggled in the opening exchanges, finding himself 4-2 down before breaking Nadal twice to turn the



Spain’s Rafael Nadal during a tennis match against Germany’s Alexander Zverev at the Mutua Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain, Friday, May 7, 2021.

match on its head and take the first set.

The fifth-seeded German then powered ahead in the second, breaking Nadal’s serve again and holding out to seal a career-first win on clay against the Spaniard.

Later on Friday, Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan plays fellow qualifier Casper Ruud from Norway while eighth seed Matteo Berrettini of Italy faces Chilean 16th seed Cristian Garin.

## Stuttgart Edge Resilient Augsburg 2-1 in Bundesliga

BERLIN (Xinhua) -- Newly promoted Stuttgart ended its four-game losing run and returned to winning ways after overpowering Augsburg 2-1 at the curtain raiser of the 32nd round in Germany’s top-flight on Friday.

The visitors caught a bright start on the road as Ruben Vargas headed just wide following a corner, but yet it was Stuttgart who opened the scoring with 11 minutes gone as Sasa Kaladjdzic teed up for Philipp Forster, whose deflected shot found the bottom

right corner.

Augsburg responded well and created chances but Marco Richter’s weak shot from 12 meters was no big deal for Stuttgart goalkeeper Fabian Bredlow while Vargas rattled only the woodwork from a tight angle before the break. Hence, Stuttgart rescued its narrow lead into half time.

After the restart, Augsburg came out with its guns blazing and got rewarded for its efforts in the 59th minute after Richter’s pinpoint cross allowed Florian Niederlechner to restore parity from close range.

The “Fuggerstaedter” gained momentum and should have turned the tides six minutes later but for all that Bredlow was on target to neutralize Richter’s dangerous shot.

While Augsburg worked on its comeback Stuttgart took the lead out of the blue after Kaladjdzic had all time and space to head home the 2-1 at the near post with 74 minutes gone.

Augsburg pressed frenetically

for a share of spoils, but Stuttgart’s well-positioned defense stood firm and wrapped up all three points on home soil.

With the result, Stuttgart move on the 9th spot meanwhile 13th positioned Augsburg remain in touching distance to the relegation play-off spot.

“It was definitely a hard-earned win for us. Augsburg was the more active team, but we gladly take all three points today,” said Stuttgart head coach Pellegrino Matarazzo.

## Spurs Hold Off Kings 113-104

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - Dejounte Murray scored 10 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter and the San Antonio Spurs beat the Sacramento Kings 113-104 on Friday night to end a five-game losing streak and strengthen their hold on the final playoff spot in the West.

DeMar DeRozan had 25 points, Murray added seven assists and six rebounds, and Keldon Johnson scored 16 for San Antonio.

The Spurs (32-34) were coming off back-to-back losses to Utah in a skid that knocked coach Gregg Popovich’s team down to 10th place in the West - the final spot for the play-in tournament - before holding off a pesky Kings team that had won its last four.

San Antonio has some breathing room now. New Orleans (30-37) lost to Philadelphia earlier Friday, while Sacramento (29-38) fell 3 1/2 back of the Spurs.

“Guys are disappointed,” Kings coach Luke Walton said. “We wanted it. All losses hurt. That was a big one tonight.”

DeRozan had 18 in the first half to pace San Antonio early but the Spurs trailed 81-78 going into the fourth.

Murray had six points as part of an 18-6 run to start the final quarter and put the Spurs ahead for good. Walker scored eight points in the final 3 1/2 minutes to help San Antonio close it out after the Kings pulled within 100-99.

Popovich moved within 27 games of breaking Don Nelson’s record for career coaching victories in the NBA.



Sacramento Kings guard Terence Davis shoots as San Antonio Spurs guard Patty Mills (8) and forward Drew Eubanks (14) defend during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Friday, May 7, 2021. (AP Photo/Hector Amezcua)

Terence Davis scored 24 points for the Kings. Sacramento missed a chance to move into a tie with the Pelicans for 11th place in the West.