

UWW Selects Rahman Amuzad as 2022 World Wrestling Star



TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestling star Rahman Amuzad is elected by United World Wrestling (UWW) as its 2022 top world wrestler.

According to the UWW report, Amuzad is the best and youngest freestyle wrestler of the year 2022.

In Greco-Roman field, too, Edmond Nazarian gained the same UWW title.

Amuzad currently competes at 65 kilograms. One year after winning his second straight Cadet World Championship (U17), Amuzad claimed a bronze medal from the senior level 2020 Individual World Cup. In 2021, he became the Junior World Champion. In 2022, he won a gold medal at the World Wrestling Championships.

Report: Messi Extends Contract With PSG

PARIS (Reuters) - World Cup winner Lionel Messi has reached a deal with Paris St Germain to stay with the club for at least the 2023-24 season, French daily Le Parisien reported.

The 35-year-old forward, seven-times winner of

the Ballon D'Or, helped Argentina lift the World Cup trophy by beating France on penalties in the final on Sunday.

"In early December, in the midst of the World Cup, an agreement was reached (for Messi) to stay on for at least

one more season," the paper said, citing no sources.

PSG were not immediately available for comment.

Paris St Germain President Nasser Al-Khelaifi said this month that Messi was happy at the Ligue 1 champions, adding that discussions

about a contract extension would be held after the World Cup.

Messi, who has 12 goals and 14 assists for PSG in all competitions this season, moved to the French capital from Barcelona in 2021 on a two-year contract.

Man City Edge Out Liverpool in League Cup Thriller

MANCHESTER, England (Reuters) - Manchester City beat League Cup holders Liverpool 3-2 in a cracking game on Thursday, taking the lead three times before holding on to reach the quarter-finals.

Defender Nathan Ake headed in what proved to be the winning goal in the 58th minute after Mohamed Salah had equalized one minute after Riyad Mahrez restored City's advantage early in the second half.

Erling Haaland scored his 24th goal of the season in all competitions to put City ahead in the 10th minute at the Etihad Stadium but Liverpool responded in the 20th, when Fabio Carvalho knocked in a James Milner pass to complete a flowing move.

It was another fast and furious game between the two



Manchester City's goalkeeper Stefan Ortega dives but fails to save the goal from Liverpool's Fabio Carvalho (second right) during the English League Cup soccer match between Manchester City and Liverpool at Etihad stadium in Manchester, England on Dec 22, 2022.

rivals who took the Premier League title race to a dramatic conclusion last season and, as then, it was City who finished on top.

They will travel to Southampton in the quarter-finals.

Liverpool coach Juergen Klopp thought Haaland's

goal was offside and lamented the fact VAR technology is not used in the League Cup until the semi-final stage.

"We have VAR, the referees are used to VAR. The technology is here, why shouldn't we use it?," said the German coach.

"We worked hard, we did good stuff. It was not good enough for tonight but it's City at their home ground, it will always be an incredibly difficult game."

City coach Pep Guardiola, who enjoyed a first win over Liverpool in six matches in all competitions, was pleased with his side's performance.

"We cannot say it was not a good game," he said. "It's not easy to keep the ball against Liverpool because they have a defensive structure that is the most difficult I ever faced in my career."

Haaland looked refreshed from his extended break due to Norway's failure to qualify for the World Cup and heavily contributed to his team's build-up play, setting up a great chance for Cole Palmer but the youngster sliced his shot wide.

APC Lauds Iranian Heavyweight Powerlifters



TEHRAN – Iranian powerlifters dominated in heavyweight at the Fazza 12th Dubai 2022 Para Powerlifting World Cup.

Aliakbar Gharibshahi managed to set a new world record en route winning the gold medal in men's up to 107 kg event.

Gharibshahi lifted 254kg in his final lift to better his own record by one kg. In the effort, he also shocked Tokyo 2020 Paralympic champion Sodnompiljee Enkhbayar from Mongolia who managed 250kg, asianparalympic.org reported.

Gharibshahi's fellow lifters Ahmad Aminzadeh (265 kg) and Mahdi Sayadi (238 kg) claimed the one-two position in the men's

over 107 kg.

Earlier, Tokyo 2020 champion Roothallah Rostami clinched the men's up to 80 kg title with his final lift of 218 kg, which was one kg more than his teammate Rasool Mohsin. Other winners for Iran were – Mohsen Bakhtiar (men's -59 kg) and Amir Jafari Arangeh (men's -65 kg).

"We are satisfied with our men lifters' performance here. The Dubai 2022 World Cup was a good opportunity for our players to be familiar with their opponents and shine on the international stage. We hope we can break more records when we return here for the World Championships," said Iran coach Ahmad Mollahosseini.

Taremi Scores as Porto Advance to Portuguese League Cup Semis



TEHRAN – Porto football team advanced to the semi-finals of the Portuguese League Cup by beating Gil Vicente 2-0 Wednesday night.

In a match played at Estádio do Dragão, Galeno found the back of the net just three minutes into the game.

Iranian forward Taremi made it 2-0 in the 68th minute.

Sérgio Conceição's team, which has never won this competition, will face Académico de Viseu in the first game of the "final four" to be played in Leiria.

2024 Tour de France to Start in Italy

PARIS (AFP) - The Tour de France will start in Italy for the first time in 2024 and the opening three stages will be held there, race organizers said.

Italy gets the honor of hosting the Grand Depart 100 years after Ottavio Bottecchia became the first Italian to win cycling's most prestigious event.

The Tour will start on June 29, with the opening stage from Florence to Rimini on the Adriatic coast. The second stage will be from Cesenatico to Bologna and the third will start in Piacenza and end in Turin.

The final stage of the Tour, traditionally held on the Champs Elysees in Paris, will be moved to the



Netherland's Marianne Vos, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, rides in the pack in Rosheim, eastern France on July 29, 2022, during the 6th stage of the Tour de France women's cycling race over 128,6 kilometers with start Saint-Die-des-Vosges and a finish in Rosheim.

southern city of Nice in 2024 when the French capital is hosting the Olympic Games.

The Tour is due to end on July 21, five days before the start of the Olympics.

Pelicans Beat Spurs to Get Back to Winning Ways

NEW YORK (AP) - Thanks to CJ McCollum's season-high 40 points, the New Orleans Pelicans beat the San Antonio Spurs 126-117 on Thursday to end a four-game losing streak in the NBA.

The Pelicans, third in the Western Conference, led 94-75 at the end of the third quarter. Although they conceded 42 points to San Antonio in the fourth quarter, McCollum's shooting, including seven of 14 3-point attempts, proved to be the difference.

Lithuanian center Jonas Valanciunas contributed 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Pelicans, which missed key men Zion Williamson, Brandon Ingram and Larry Nance Jr.

"It was great to see CJ have a night like he did, 40 points and the nine assists he had were impressive, we needed that kind of production from him with the guys who were out," said Pelicans coach Willie Green.



New Orleans Pelicans' Zion Williamson (1) and San Antonio Spurs' Jeremy Sochan chase the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Nov 23, 2022, in San Antonio.

"It is beautiful to watch when he is on the floor and scoring like he does and getting his team-mates involved. That is what we need from him every night," Green added.

Jeremy Sochan scored a team-

high 23 points and grabbed nine rebounds for the Spurs.

Elsewhere, the Utah Jazz upset the Washington Wizards 120-112, with Malik Beasley scoring 25 points and Jordan Clarkson adding 23.