

Iranian Athletes Take Gold at Fazza Dubai World Cup



TEHRAN – Iranian powerlifter Mohsen Bakhtiar and Ahmad Aminzadeh won gold medals in the 13th Fazza Dubai 2024 ParaPowerlifting World Cup.

Bakhtiar set a new Asian record and won a gold medal in the men's up to 59kg with a 196kg lift. Brazil's Joao France Junior and Algerian Aymen Khodja won the silver and bronze medals, respectively. Ahmad Aminzadeh also claimed a gold medal with a record-breaking lift in the event. Aminzadeh triumphed in the +107 kg category, securing a gold medal with a record-breaking of 267kg lift. This victory not only places Aminzadeh at the forefront of

his category but also solidifies his qualification for the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris. His teammate, Mehdi Sayadi, despite a strong performance, narrowly missed the podium, finishing fourth with 231kg. Fazza 13th Para Powerlifting 2024 World Cup, which serves as qualification for the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, has brought 183 powerlifters from 32 countries together in Dubai, the UAE from February 28 to March 6. The medal winners are automatically eligible for the 2024 Paralympic Games.

Hadi Choopan Wins Arnold Classic 2024



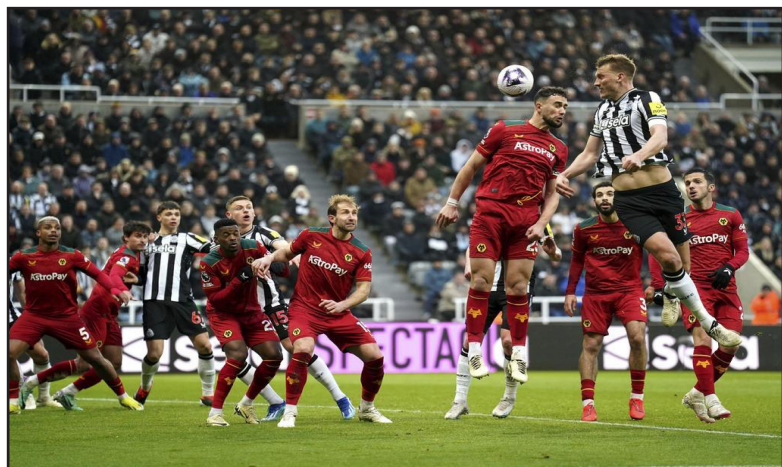
TEHRAN – Iranian bodybuilder Hadi Choopan won the Arnold Classic 2024 Saturday night.

The event saw some tough competitors on stage bring their best packaging that night. However, there was one winner to rule them all, and it was the popular choice among both judges and the audience, Choopan. The competition witnessed a lot of ups and downs between the pre-judging and finals, with many of the bodybuilders presenting improved conditioning later. The battle between Choopan and Samson Dauda divided fans based on their preferences. In the end, even bodybuilding icon James Hollingshead received praise despite getting fifth place. For the additional achievements, Dauda won the Best Poser award for his spectacular routine, while Choopan won the Most Muscular award apart from the main title. Throughout

the show, many rooted for the Iranian bodybuilder, expressing their wonder at his epic comeback. The Persian Wolf wasn't playing around this time. With his increased conditioning and size, many commented on how he looked better than he did at the Olympia last year. Since he had already put in a lot of work, it seems to have paid off. Incidentally, this was Choopan's debut at the Arnold Classic. Not only did he win the title during his first-ever appearance at the event, but he also dethroned reigning champion Dauda on his debut. Choopan won \$300,000 and was presented the trophy by Arnold Schwarzenegger. The champion will return at the Mr. Olympia in Las Vegas, NV, on October 10-13, 2024. He will be considered the top contender to reigning Mr. Olympia champion Derek Lunsford.

Newcastle Beat Wolves 3-0 for First Home Win of the Year

NEWCASTLE (Reuters) - Newcastle United returned to winning ways with a 3-0 win over Wolverhampton Wanderers in the Premier League on Saturday after goals from Alexander Isak, Anthony Gordon and Tino Livramento gave Eddie Howe's side their first home win of 2024.



Newcastle United's Dan Burn (top right) heads the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Newcastle United and Wolverhampton Wanderers at the St James' Park, in Newcastle, England, on March 2, 2024.

Newcastle had gone four games without a win at St James' Park and victory moved them up to eighth place with 40 points while Gary O'Neil's Wolves are two points behind in 10th. It was Eddie Howe's 100th win in the Premier League as a manager while Newcastle kept their first clean sheet in 10 games as they look to move up the standings and secure qualification for European competition for a second straight

season. "A big win for us. We hadn't won at home here in 2024 and our home form has been so good since I've been here," Howe said.

"Our home form has been the bedrock of our success, so to come back from our first wobble is great." Wolves started the contest the better of the two teams and

even dominated possession in the first half, but Newcastle's defense stood firm while the home side capitalized on counter-attacks to get on the board. Newcastle took the lead against the run of play when Gordon initiated a counter and his pass found Bruno Guimaraes bursting into the box. The Brazilian's shot was blocked by Maximilian Kilman but as the ball looped up in the air, Isak was on hand to head it in for his 15th goal in all competitions this season. As the rain came lashing down, Gordon doubled their lead when he capitalized on a mix-up after Wolves keeper Jose Sa's effort to block a low cross saw the ball fall to the winger, who scored with aplomb.

Adel Gholami Named Iran's U-18 Volleyball Coach



TEHRAN – Former Iran middle blocker Adel Gholami was named the new head coach of the country's U-18 volleyball team. The technical committee of Iran volleyball federation, lead by the federation's caretaker Vahid Moradi, selected Gholami for the position. Gholami was a member of Iran senior volleyball team

and announced his retirement last year. As a player, he won two gold medals at the 2013 Asian Men's Volleyball Championship in Dubai and 2014 Asian Games in Incheon. The 15th Asian Men's U-18 Volleyball Championship will be held in Bahrain from July 28 to August 4.

Iran Remain Unchanged in FIBA Ranking



TEHRAN – Iran's national basketball team remained unchanged in the FIBA ranking. Team Melli barely escaped against Qatar at home and took its time getting India out of the way.

It went undefeated through the window drop 3 spots. Next up is the also undefeated Kazakhstan, who Iran lost to twice in the previous Qualifiers. This should be interesting. Iran sits 27th in the standing.

Kipruto, Kebede Win Tokyo Marathon in Course Record Times

TOKYO (Reuters) - Kenyan Benson Kipruto won the men's Tokyo Marathon in two hours, two minutes and 16 seconds on Sunday, breaking former world record holder Eliud Kipchoge's course mark in perfect racing conditions on the streets of the Japanese capital. Ethiopia's Sotome Asefa Kebede won the women's race ahead of Kenya's defending champion Rosemary Wanjiru in 2:15:55, also bettering the best previous women's time over the course from Shinjuku to the Imperial Palace. Kipruto pulled clear of Timothy Kiplagat over the last few kilometers and finished 39 seconds ahead of his compatriot to add the Tokyo title to those he won in Boston in 2021 and Chicago in 2022. The 32-year-old's time was almost two minutes better than his previous personal best and made him the fifth-fastest marathon runner



Benson Kipruto of Kenya wins first place in the men's marathon during the Tokyo Marathon 2024 in Tokyo on March 3, 2024.

of all time in events approved by World Athletics. Kiplagat had to be convinced not to pull out of the race by his coach after the death of his training partner, marathon world record holder Kelvin Kiptum, in a road accident last month. Vincent Kipkemoi Ngetich finished third in 2:04:18 to give Kenya a podium sweep, with Ethiopians Hailemariam Kiros and Tsegaye Getachew in fourth and fifth places.

De Minaur Sinks Ruud to Retain Mexican Open Crown

ACAPULCO (Reuters) – Third seed Alex de Minaur successfully defended his Mexican Open crown on Saturday, romping to a 6-4 6-4 victory over Casper Ruud in the Acapulco title clash. The result helped the 25-year-old Australian snap a four-match losing run in finals and bag his eighth ATP Tour title - his seventh on hard courts - to secure his place in the top 10 of the world rankings that will be updated on Monday. The world number nine drew first blood for a 2-1 lead in the opening set as sixth-seeded Norwegian Ruud, who battled through tough three-setters against Ben Shelton and Holger Rune in the prior two rounds, appeared slightly off the pace. But like he did in those matches, Ruud responded strongly to



Australia's Alex de Minaur celebrates with the trophy after winning the Mexican Open

grab an early break in the second set, only for De Minaur to pull level at 2-2 before getting his nose in front in the seventh game with a stinging forehand winner. With the momentum swinging his way, De Minaur wrapped up the match with a solid service game and celebrated being the first man to man retain the Acapulco title in 12 years.