

Iranian Athletes Claim More Medals at Fazza Dubai World Cup



TEHRAN – Ali Akbar Gharibshahi and Hamed Solhipour claimed a gold medal and a silver medal respectively in the 13th Fazza Dubai 2024 ParaPowerlifting World Cup on Monday.

Gharibshahi came first in the men's up to 107kg, lifting 250kg, followed by Mongolia's Sodnompiljee Enkhbayar with 240kg and Uzbekistan's Ilkhom Khalimov with 221kg.

Hamed Solhipour also won a silver medal at the event.

Solhipour finished in second place with a lift of 221 in the men's up to 97kg.

Chinese powerlifter Jixiong Ye

seized the gold, lifting 241kg and the bronze medal went to Uzbekistan's Farhod Umirzakov with 217kg.

Iranian powerlifters Mohsen Bakhtiar in up to 59kg and Ahmad Aminzadeh in over 107kg had earlier won two gold medals as well as a silver medal which was won by Hamed Solhipour in up to 97kg.

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.

Maryam Toosi Finishes Runner-Up at Beach Opener 200 Meters



TEHRAN – Iranian sprinter Maryam Toosi has won a silver medal at the Beach Opener competition in Long Beach, California, USA.

After American rival Christine M. Mallard, Toosi finished runner-up with 23.21 seconds

in the sporting event.

M. Mallard won the women's 200m race with a wind-aided time of 23.06 seconds.

The bronze medal went to American Takiya Cenci who clocked 24.08 seconds.

Late Raspadori Strike Earns Napoli 2-1 Home Win Over Juve

NAPLES (Reuters) - Substitute Giacomo Raspadori scored an 88th-minute winner as champions Napoli beat visitors Juventus 2-1 in Serie A on Sunday to secure their first back-to-back wins in five months and boost their slim hopes of a late charge into the top four.

Napoli moved up to seventh in the standings on 43 points, three points behind sixth-placed Atalanta, four adrift of AS Roma in fifth and eight behind fourth-placed Bologna.

Juventus remained second with 57 points after 27 games as their cushion over third-placed AC Milan narrowed to a point. They are 12 points off leaders Inter Milan who host Genoa on Monday.

Napoli, who on Wednesday demolished Sassuolo 6-1 to celebrate their first win under new coach Francesco Calzona, won consecutive league



Juventus' Italian midfielder #5 Manuel Locatelli (left) controls the ball next to Napoli's Brazilian defender #5 Juan Jesus (right) and Napoli's Norwegian defender #55 Leo Skiri Ostigard during the Italian Serie A football matches.

games for the first time since they beat Udinese and Lecce in September.

"By winning this match the team

gave a signal that it wants to reach important positions," Calzona told a press conference.

Dusan Vlahovic should have given

Juventus an early lead from Federico Chiesa's lofted pass across the face of the goal but the Serb's header went narrowly wide.

The hosts, who had more than 70 percent possession throughout the game, responded with a golden chance in the 24th minute but Giovanni Di Lorenzo struck over the bar.

Vlahovic then hit the far post after chipping Napoli keeper Alex Meret from a tight angle and Juve's Wojciech Szczesny denied winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia following a solo run.

Kvaratskhelia eventually put Napoli in front three minutes before halftime with a powerful volley that beat Szczesny at his near post before Chiesa levelled for Juventus in the 81st minute, driving the ball low into the far corner from the edge of the box.

Atletico Return to Winning Ways With 2-1 Victory Over Betis



Atletico Madrid's Spanish forward #19 Alvaro Morata vies with Real Betis' Spanish defender #02 Hector Bellerin.

MADRID (Reuters) - Atletico Madrid secured a hard-fought 2-1 home victory over Real Betis in LaLiga on

Sunday thanks to an own-goal by Rui Silva and a header by Alvaro Morata as Diego Simeone's side ended

a three-game winless run in all competitions.

The hosts came into the match licking their wounds after a humbling 3-0 defeat in the Copa del Rey semis at Athletic Bilbao in midweek, and in desperate need of a win to strengthen their grip on a top-four spot in LaLiga.

Atletico moved to 55 points in fourth place in the standings. They are two points behind third-placed Barcelona and six ahead of Athletic Bilbao in fifth, who face each other in Bilbao later on Sunday. Real Madrid are top on 66 points.

They started well and pressured Betis early on, with Rodrigo de Paul hit-

ting the post with a close-range strike in the third minute.

Atletico's relentless pressure led to the opening goal when a series of catastrophic mistakes by the Betis defense ended with a miscommunication between three players while trying to clear a Memphis Depay cross.

That caused a pinball effect with the ball ricocheting between them before bouncing off goalkeeper Silva straight into his own net in the eighth minute.

Morata, who had missed a penalty kick earlier in the game, extended the hosts' lead with a header from a rebound off the goalkeeper in the 44th minute.

Youth Water Polo Team Downs Malaysia at Asian Age Group Championship



TEHRAN – Iran's water polo team pummeled Malaysia 34-3 at the 11th Asian Age Group Championship on Monday.

Iran will play Sri Lanka in Group B on Tuesday.

Group A consists of Japan, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, China and Thailand.

The 11th Asian Age Group Championships include four aquatic disciplines, namely

swimming, diving, water polo, and artistic swimming.

The competition started on February 26 at the New Clark City Aquatics Center in Capas, Tarlac, the Philippines and will continue until March 9.

The Asian Age Group Championship has brought about 1,000 athletes from 25 countries together.

Former German FA Bosses Go on Trial Over 2006 World Cup Payment

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - Former German Football Association (DFB) presidents Theo Zwanziger and Wolfgang Niersbach went on trial along with a former secretary general on Monday, accused of tax evasion in connection with the 2006 World Cup hosted by Germany.

At the heart of this case that has dragged on through the legal system for years and has also included several other separate investigations, including a DFB-commissioned one, is a payment of 6.7 million euros (\$7.27 million) linked to a 2006 World Cup-related event that never took place.

Niersbach, who resigned as DFB president in 2015 as a result of the affair, his predecessor Zwanziger and former secretary general Horst Schmidt are accused of arranging for incorrect tax returns submitted for 2006 to enable the DFB to avoid paying millions of taxes.

Niersbach, Zwanziger and Schmidt deny any wrongdoing.

The tax return included a 6.7 million euro payment from the DFB to world



Former DFB German soccer federation presidents Theo Zwanziger and Wolfgang Niersbach face a trial for tax fraud amounting to 13.7 million euros for the benefit of the DFB in connection with the 2006 World Cup hosted by Germany, in Frankfurt, Germany, March 4, 2024.

soccer's governing body FIFA for the 2006 event, although the funds were in fact used for another purpose and should not have been offset against tax, prosecutors have said.

The payment had triggered several investigations in the past years over allegations it had been used as a slush fund to buy votes in favor of Germany's bid to host the 2006 tournament.

Lyles Helps U.S. to World Indoor 4x400 Podium in Possible Paris Preview

LASGOW (Reuters) - Noah Lyles helped the U.S. team to a silver medal in the 4x400 metres relay -- a distance he rarely runs -- at the world indoor athletics championships on Sunday, a preview perhaps of his Paris Olympic intentions.

Running the third leg, the 100 and 200m specialist received the baton in first place and handed off without giving up any ground in a 45.68-second split, the third fastest of his team.

Alexander Doom, the gold medalist in the 400 a night earlier, piped American anchor Christopher Bailey at the finish line to give Belgium gold in three minutes 2.54 seconds. The U.S. crossed in 3:02.60.

Lyles, who led the U.S. team out during introductions with a loud "Woo!", raced to silver in the 60m on Friday in his world indoor debut.



Christian Coleman of the U.S. wins the men's 60m final ahead of second placed Noah Lyles of the U.S. and third placed Jamaica's Ackeem

Lyles won the 100m, 200m and 4x100m at last year's world championships in Budapest, becoming the first man since Usain Bolt in 2015 to complete the sprint treble.

He hinted recently he is considering going for four golds at this

year's Paris Olympics, adding the 4x400 to his schedule.

Lyles' relay run prompted some trash talk on social media, with American sprinter Fred Kerley suggesting USA Track and Field was showing favoritism by putting Lyles in the relay.