

# Javadi Wins Gold at World Weightlifting Championships



Mirmostafa Javadi from Iran has been crowned champion at the 2023 World Weightlifting Championships in men's 89kg category in Saudi Arabia.

TEHRAN – Iran's Mir Mostafa Javadi gained a gold medal in the Men's 89KG division at 2023 World Weightlifting Championships on Monday.

In a move no one had expected, Iranian weightlifter Mir Mostafa Javadi won the highly-competitive Men's 89-Kilogram Group A

division on Sep. 11 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Bar bend website reported.

It was the first time the 23-year-old made it to the 89-kilogram podium at Worlds in the snatch, clean & jerk, or Total.

Javadi walked away with gold in the clean & jerk at 215 kilograms, or 473.9 pounds, and gold in the Total, despite finishing sixth in the snatch. He also advanced from ninth to fourth position in the International Weightlifting Federation's (IWF) official Olympics qualification leader boards.

Leading up to the 2023 WWC in Riyadh, which runs from Sep. 4 to 17, the 89-kilogram division was widely predicted to be the most intense session of men's weightlifting.

The roster of Group A contained multiple former and current World Champions, as well as several current world record holders. But nothing played out as it was supposed to.

The Iranian weightlifter set a record of 384kg in total and topped the list. He is now hoped to gain an Olympics quota.

The 2023 World Weightlifting Championships are held in Riyadh from September 4 until 17.

## Hussein Vafaei Downs Gong Chenzhi at Shanghai Snooker Masters



TEHRAN – Iran's Hussein Vafaei has defeated his Chinese opponent at the 2023 Shanghai Snooker Masters.

Iranian athlete emerged victorious over Gong Chenzhi 6-1.

In his next match, Vafaei

is to meet his English rival Mark Selby on Tuesday.

The 2023 Shanghai Masters is being held in China from September 11-17.

Some 16 stars from various countries are competing at the prestigious event.

## Putin Says IOC Distorting Olympic Ideal



MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the International Olympic Committee on Tuesday of politicizing sport, as it weighs a decision on Russian athletes' participation in next year's Games in Paris.

Russians are facing the likelihood of having to compete under a neutral flag in Paris because of Russia, Ukraine crisis. The IOC has taken no final decision but said athletes should not be punished for the acts of their governments.

French President Emmanuel Macron said last week that no Russian flag should fly at the Games.

Putin was asked about the issue at a forum in Russia's Far East, and responded by referencing the ideals of the Frenchman who founded the modern Olympics.

"As for the Olympic movement itself, I would say this. I think that today's leadership of international federations, the International Olympic Committee itself, they distort the original idea of Pierre de Coubertin - sport should be outside of politics," he said.

"It should not divide, but unite people."

Putin said there had been an "unacceptable commercialization" of sport in past decades, and the Olympics had fallen into the trap of financial interests.

He said the Olympic movement was "degrading" - in the sense of "deteriorating" - and not fulfilling its key functions. "After all, the point is not only about setting records, but about uniting people."

IOC President Thomas Bach has explicitly stated that the Olympics should stay out of politics in order not to lose its ability to bring people together.

Russia, like the Soviet Union before it, has always attached high importance to the Olympics as an opportunity to show itself as a world leader. But in the past decade its athletes have been forced to take part in successive Games without their national flag and anthem in the wake of doping scandals.

Ukraine has threatened to boycott the Paris Games if Russia and its ally Belarus take part, but its sports minister indicated in an interview with Reuters in July that it could drop that threat if athletes from those countries competed as neutrals.

## Portugal Chalk Up Record Win, Thrash Luxembourg 9-0

LISBON (Reuters) - Portugal enjoyed their biggest-ever win as they thumped Luxembourg 9-0 at Estadio Algarve on Monday to preserve their perfect record in Euro 2024 qualifying.

Substitute Joao Felix secured the record victory with a goal two minutes from time after Goncalo Inacio, Goncalo Ramos, and Diogo Jota all scored twice. Ricardo Horta and Bruno Fernandes, who had three assists, were also on the scoresheet.

Portugal's previous record



Portugal's forward #21 Diogo Jota kicks the ball and scores his team's fifth goal during the EURO 2024 first round group J qualifying football match between Portugal and Luxembourg at the Algarve stadium in Almancil, Faro district, on Sept 11, 2023.

was 8-0, which they achieved three times - twice against Liechtenstein (1994 and 1999) and once versus Kuwait (2003).

Portugal have won all six of their Group J matches under Roberto Martinez, who took over in January, scoring 24 goals with none conceded. They are five points clear of Slovakia.

The result matched the biggest-ever loss for Luxembourg, who have 10 points and are third, three points behind Slovakia.

## Rubiales Summoned to Appear in Spanish Court Over Forced Kiss



MADRID (AFP) - Former Spanish football federation president Luis Rubiales must appear in court on Friday in connection with the investigation into his forcible kiss on Jenni Hermoso's lips after the Women's World Cup final. Rubiales has been summoned to

appear at 1200 local time (1000 GMT) before an examining magistrate "to be heard as an accused" and to respond to accusations of "sexual assault", a Madrid court said in a statement Tuesday.

The 46-year-old kissed Hermoso following Spain's triumph in Syd-

ney on August 20, which she says was not consensual, while Rubiales insists it was.

Judge Francisco de Jorge of the National Court admitted a complaint against Rubiales on Monday filed by Spanish prosecutors last week regarding alleged "crimes of sexual assault and "coercion".

Under a recent reform of the Spanish penal code, a non-consensual kiss can be considered sexual assault, a criminal category that groups together all types of sexual violence.

The penalties for a forced kiss can range from a fine to four years in prison, according to sources from the public prosecutors' office.

Rubiales stepped down as the

Spanish football federation's president on Sunday but continued to defend himself over the kiss.

"I have faith in the truth and I will do everything in my power so that it prevails," Rubiales wrote in an open letter.

Hermoso, 33, who plays for Mexican club Pachuca, has said the unwanted kiss left her feeling "vulnerable and like the victim of an assault", with a statement on social media describing it as "an impulsive, macho act, out of place and with no type of consent on my part".

She also accused Rubiales of pressuring her to speak out in his defence immediately after the furor over the kiss erupted, which prosecutors said could be considered a crime of coercion.

## Juve's Pogba Provisionally Suspended Over Doping

TURIN (Reuters) - Juventus's France midfielder Paul Pogba has been provisionally suspended after testing positive for a banned substance, Italy's national anti-doping (NADO Italia) tribunal said on Monday.

The test, performed after Juve's 3-0 Serie A season-opening victory at Udi-

nese on Aug 20, detected testosterone, a hormone that increases athletes' endurance.

"In acceptance of the instance proposed by the National Anti-doping Prosecutor, it has provided for the provisional suspension of the athlete Paul Labile Pogba," NADO Italia said in a statement.

The tribunal said Pogba had violated anti-doping rules when they found the prohibited substance "non-endogenous testosterone metabolites", adding that the results were "consistent with the exogenous origin of the target compounds".

The 30-year-old Pogba was an unused substitute

in the win at Udinese. Juventus said they had been informed of the provisional suspension and were evaluating the next steps.

If found guilty of doping, Pogba could be suspended for between two and four years. He will now await the results of the B Sample test.



Juventus' French midfielder Paul Pogba challenges Lecce's Italian defender Simone Romagnoli (right) during the Italian Serie A football match between Juventus and Lecce on May 3, 2023 at the Juventus stadium in Turin.