

Iranian Boxers Win Medals in Yerevan Mayor's Cup



TEHRAN – Iranian boxers Hussein Kordlou and Sam Esteki claimed two bronze medals in the Yerevan Mayor's Cup.

Kordlou lost to Russian boxer Dzhambulat Bizhamov in the 80kg semi-finals and won a bronze medal.

Sam Esteki also fell to Armenian boxer Rafael Hovhannisyan in the 86kg semifinals.

Iran, Iraq and Kazakhstan sent boxers to the busy Yerevan Mayor's Cup among the Asian National Federations to increase the experience of their talents.

The number of the boxers is 106 in the Yerevan Mayor's Cup in Armenia where the light welterweight (63.5kg), the welterweight (67kg) and the light middleweight (71kg) are the busiest divisions.

Muhammad Saleh Kamareh Wins Gold Medal in Asian U-18 Athletics Championship



TEHRAN – Muhammad Saleh Kamareh of Iran claimed a gold medal in the 6th Asian U-18 Athletics Championships on Friday.

He finished in first place in the Men U-18 3000m with a time of 08:40.00 minutes.

Yemen's Mohammed Mabrook Mohammed A. came second with 08:56.00 minutes.

The bronze medal went to Uzbekistan's Timur Nasimov

with 08:57.12 minutes.

Earlier, Samia Shahpari had won a bronze medal in the Girls' 3000m event and Ah-anin Maram had won a silver in the Men's U-18 Hammer Throw.

The 2025 Asian U-18 Athletics Championships were held at the Prince Nayef Sports City in Qatif, Saudi Arabia from April 15 to 18.

Alexander Zverev Rallies to Reach Munich Semis

MUNICH (Reuters) - Home favorite Alexander Zverev rallied for a 6-7 (6), 7-6 (3), 6-4 quarterfinal win Friday against Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor at the BMW Open in Munich, Germany.

Griekspoor served for the match at 5-4 in the second set before the top-seeded Zverev dug deep to finish in 3 hours and 14 minutes. Closing in on his third Munich title, Zverev's opponent in Saturday's semifinal will be unseeded Hungarian Fabian Marozsan, a 6-3, 7-6 (4) winner over Belgium's Zizou Bergs.

The other semifinal pits No. 2 seed Ben Shelton against No. 5 Francisco Cerundolo



Alexander Zverev

of Argentina. Shelton struck seven aces and never faced a break point in a 6-4, 6-3 defeat of Italy's Luciano Darderi. Cerundolo moved on with a 6-2,

6-4 victory against Belgium's David Goffin.

Top-seeded Carlos Alcaraz moved closer to his third Barcelona title with a 7-5, 6-3

quarterfinal win against No. 5 seed Alex de Minaur of Australia in Spain.

Alcaraz fell behind 3-1 in the opening set before finding his form and advancing to the semifinals against seventh-seeded Frenchman Arthur Fils, who had a 2-0 lead over Stefanos Tsitsipas when the third-seeded Greek retired due to an injury.

No. 6 seed Holger Rune of Denmark and unseeded Russian Karen Khachanov meet in the other semifinal. Rune took down No. 2 Casper Ruud of Norway 6-4, 6-2 and Khachanov advanced with a 6-4, 7-5 victory against Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina.

Norris Leads McLaren Practice One-Two as Tsunoda Crashes



McLaren driver Lando Norris of Britain steers his car at the Jeddah Corniche Circuit in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, April 18, 2025.

JEDDAH (AFP) - Formula One leader Lando Norris led Oscar Piastri in the expected McLaren one-two in Saudi Arabian Grand Prix practice on Friday

while Yuki Tsunoda crashed his Red Bull.

Norris and his teammate, separated by three points at the top of the cham-

pionship, resumed normal service in the second session after Alpine's Pierre Gasly was surprise pace-setter in the first.

The Briton lapped the super-fast floodlit Corniche circuit with a best time of one minute 28.267 seconds, 0.163 quicker than Australian Piastri.

"I think at the minute we feel confident but the others are not far behind," said Norris.

"I was probably hoping for a bigger gap than what we had today. We know we're fast, we know we have a great car but certainly not as comfortable as what we would like."

Red Bull's four-times world champion Max Verstappen lapped third fastest, 0.280 off the pace, before teammate Tsunoda brought red flags out with nine minutes remaining.

The Japanese, drafted in from Rac-

ing Bulls in a straight swap with Liam Lawson, clipped the kerb at the final corner and put his car in the wall. He was able to step out and walk away.

Gasly led the first session in 1:29.239 seconds, 0.007 quicker than Norris.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was third in that opener with Piastri, winner in Bahrain last weekend and hoping to become the first Australian to lead the championship since Mark Webber in 2010, fourth.

That session, run in the late afternoon sunshine on the shores of the Red Sea, was largely unrepresentative of the conditions for Saturday's qualifying and Sunday's race, which is held at night.

It still served as a useful measure of driver confidence on a daunting track that rewards the gradual building up of pace.

Heat Past Hawks 123-114 in OT

ATLANTA (AP) — After making NBA Play-In Tournament history by winning two road games, the Miami Heat won't be afraid of facing No. 1 seed Cleveland in the playoffs.

Tyler Herro scored 30 points while sinking two 3-pointers in overtime and the Heat regrouped after losing an early lead to beat the Atlanta Hawks 123-114 on Friday night.

Miami will play at Cleveland on Sunday night in the opening game of the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs.

"I know how badly our group wanted to get into this thing," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "I could see it in their eyes and feel it in their heart."

Davion Mitchell scored only seven points in regulation before adding three 3-pointers in overtime for Miami.

The Heat became the first No. 10 seed in either conference to make the playoffs since the current play-in format was launched in the 2020-21 season. Miami also became the first



Miami Heat forward Duncan Robinson (55) attempts to block the ball on Friday, April 18, 2025, in Atlanta.

play-in team to advance with two road wins.

Asked about the challenge of facing Cleveland, Spoelstra said, "I'm so grateful we're in the playoffs. We're the first team to do it, and why not, to take on two road games."

Added Highsmith: "We fought to get into the playoffs. Now what we're in, we're not going to go out soft."

Trae Young's lay-in with 1.3 seconds remaining in regulation tied the game at 106, forcing the overtime. Young scored 29 points with 11 assists. Onyeka Okongwu had 28 points with 12 rebounds.

"Not making the playoffs is a failure to me," Young said.

Miami started strong, scoring the game's first 10 points and leading by

17 points at 45-28 in the second period.

The Hawks tied the game for the first time at 88 on a layup by Terance Mann. Young's 3-pointer gave Atlanta its first lead at 91-88 with 7:36 remaining.

Atlanta led 93-92 before Okongwu hit a 3-pointer. Following a steal by Dyson Daniels, Okongwu's jam extended the lead to 98-92.

Heat forward Nikola Jovic, who had been out since Feb. 23 with a broken right hand, was available but did not play. Guard Pelle Larsson (ankle) also was available for the first time since April 7.

After setting season lows with four 3-pointers made and 21 attempted against Orlando in the first play-in game, coach Quin Snyder said his players "have got to be more willing to take contested 3s."

The Hawks responded by attempting 21 3s in just the first half against Miami, while making five. For the game, Atlanta made 16 of 47 3s.

Russia Futsal Team to Play Iran in Friendlies



TEHRAN – The Russian national futsal team will travel to Tehran to play two friendly matches against Iran.

The matches are scheduled for October 16 and October 18. Iran recently faced Russia,

losing 2-1 in the SAT Futsal Championship in Thailand for 2025.

These upcoming friendlies will serve as preparation for the AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers.

China Pits Humanoid Robots Against Humans in Half-Marathon

BEIJING (Xinhua) - Twenty-one humanoid robots joined thousands of runners at the Yizhuang half-marathon in Beijing on Saturday, the first time these machines have raced alongside humans over a 21-km (13-mile) course.

The robots from Chinese manufacturers such as DroidVP and Noetix Robotics came in all shapes and sizes, some shorter than 120 cm (3.9 ft), others as tall as 1.8 m (5.9 ft). One company boasted that its robot looked almost human, with feminine features and the ability to wink and smile.

Some firms tested their robots for weeks before the race. Beijing officials have described the event as more akin to a race car competition, given the need for engineering and navigation teams.