

Ali Amirian Wins Silver Medal in Asian Athletics Championships



TEHRAN – Ali Amirian of Iran secured a silver medal in the men’s 800m at the 2025 Asian Athletics Championships on Saturday, finishing with a time of 1:44.97 minutes.

The gold medal was claimed by Kuwait’s Ebrahim Al-Zofairi, who completed the race in 1:44.59 minutes, while Qatari runner Abubaker Haydar Abdalla took home the bronze with a time of 1:45.20 minutes.

Amirian’s achievement marked Iran’s third medal in the event, following two gold medals won by Reyhaneh Mobini in the women’s long jump and Muhammadreza Tayebi in the men’s shot put.

The 26th Asian Athletics Championships took place from May 27 to 31 in Gumi, South Korea

WADA President Vows to Keep Calling Out U.S. Anti-Doping System Flaws

WARSAW (Xinhua) - World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) President Witold Banka has vowed to continue speaking out forcefully about what he sees as serious flaws in the American anti-doping system, following his re-election to a third and final term as head of the global watchdog.

Banka, a former Polish sprinter and Minister of Sport and Tourism, along with China’s former Winter Olympic champion Yang Yang, was re-elected during a virtual



Foundation Board meeting on Thursday. The U.S. Anti-Doping Agen-

cy (USADA) later, in a social media post, called it the “ultimate ‘bait and switch,’ first

promising governance reforms following the Russian anti-doping scandal and then quietly changing the rules the second the world looked away.”

On Friday, WADA’s president responded to USADA’s criticism.

Banka and Yang were originally elected as WADA’s president and vice president at the 2019 World Conference on Doping in Sport. Both will begin their new three-year terms on Jan. 1, 2026, and serve until Dec 31, 2028.

Draper Downs Fonseca to Reach French Open Last 16



Jack Draper maintained his 100 percent record against Joao Fonseca.

PARIS (AFP) - Britain’s Jack Draper proved too strong for Brazilian teenage sensation Joao Fon-

seca in the third round at Roland Garros on Saturday as he progressed to the last 16 in straight

sets.

The fifth seed produced a polished performance in seeing off the 18-year-old 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 in front of a Court Suzanne Lenglen which featured an audible core of Brazilian supporters.

Draper, the runner-up at the Madrid Open this season, will next face former world number 17 Alexander Bublik or 200th-ranked Henrique Rocha for a spot in the quarter-finals.

Draper eased ahead of Fonseca with an early break to lead 2-1 in the first set, before the world number five broke again and held service to clinch the opener.

The Briton survived two break-back points while serving for the

second set but managed to see out the tightly-contested frame when Fonseca dumped an attempted forehand winner into the net.

Defeat in the 10th game of the second set seemed to deflate Fonseca as Draper immediately broke him twice to race into a 4-0 lead in the decider before serving out for the win.

Draper now holds a 2-0 record over Fonseca, with their previous meeting ending in a straight-sets victory for the 23-year-old at Indian Wells earlier this year.

That match was the start of Draper’s successful run in the Californian desert, which culminated in his first Masters title.

Cristiano Ronaldo to Remain at Al-Nassr Following Fresh Agreement

RIYADH (AFP) - Cristiano Ronaldo is expected to sign a new two-year contract with Saudi Pro League (SPL) club Al-Nassr, according to Foot Mercato.

There were rumors about Ronaldo joining Saudi rivals Al-Hilal or Al-Ahli, which intensified after he posted a cryptic message on Twitter.

The post raised doubts about whether he would continue with Al-Nassr beyond this season.

However, Ronaldo is set to extend his stay at Al-Nassr until 2027. This new contract would

keep him in Saudi Arabia beyond his 42nd birthday.

The former Real Madrid star had another strong season in front of goal, bagging 35 goals and four assists across all competitions.

Ronaldo finished the league season with 25 goals in 30 matches. He won the Saudi Pro League Golden Boot for the second year running.

Despite his individual success, Al-Nassr endured a disappointing campaign. The club finished third in the league, falling short in their pursuit of the title.



They were also eliminated in the semi-finals of the AFC Champions League by Japanese

side Kawasaki Frontale and missed out on the Saudi Super Cup and the King’s Cup.

Volleyballers Ease Past Uzbekistan in Nations League



TEHRAN – The Iran ‘B’ volleyball team defeated Uzbekistan in straight sets (25-11, 25-12, 25-19) in the 2025 CAVA Men’s Nations League on Saturday.

Team Melli ‘B’ had defeated India 3-1 and Turkmenistan 3-1 in its previous matches in Pool A.

Iran booked its place in the next round as the first team.

Pool B features Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan.

The event began on May 29 and will run until June 4 in Fergana, Uzbekistan.

On Friday, Iran national volleyball team defeated Italy 3-2 (23-25, 25-18, 14-25, 25-21, 15-11) in a friendly match.

Iran will also compete against the U.S., Slovenia, and Ukraine in subsequent matches in Week

1.

These friendlies are part of Iran’s preparations for the 2025 Volleyball Nations League (VNL). Roberto Piazza’s team will kick off the prestigious campaign against Brazil on June 11 in Rio de Janeiro.

Iran men’s national team roster setters: Javad Karimi, Arshia Behnezhad

Opposites: Amin Esmaeil-nezhad, Bardia Saadat, Pouya Ariakhah

Outside hitters: Morteza Sharifi, Amirhossein Esfandiar, Ehsan Daneshdoust, Poriya Hossein Khanzadeh, Ali Haghpourast

Middle blockers: Mohammad Valizadeh, Yousef Kazemi, Eisa Naseri, Matin Ahmadi

Liberos: Mohammadreza Hazratpour, Arman Salehi

Yates Snatches Giro Title on Stunning Penultimate Stage



Britain’s Simon Yates pedals during the stage 20 of the Giro d’Italia from Verres to Sestriere (Via Lattea), Italy, Saturday, May 31, 2025.

ROME (AFP) - British rider Simon Yates produced a stunning performance on the penultimate stage of the Giro d’Italia to snatch the pink jersey from Isaac del Toro and claim his second Grand Tour title.

Del Toro came into the 20th and final competitive stage of the race with a 43-second lead over Richard Carapaz, with Yates trailing by one minute and 21 seconds in third.

Mexico’s Del Toro, 21, would have clinched victory in his maiden Giro by successfully negotiating the Colle delle Finestre, the highest point of this year’s race and where Yates’ hopes of winning evaporated in 2018.

But Yates, 32, exorcised those ghosts as he attacked on the brutal ascent to leave Del Toro and Carapaz in his wake.

He not only wiped out Del Toro’s advantage but was one minute 41 seconds clear of his general classification rivals when he crested.

His Visma-Lease A Bike team

had pulled off a masterstroke as team-mate Wout van Aert was in the breakaway group and allowed Yates to catch him on the descent, helping him build a comprehensive lead over the final 30km.

Jayco’s Australian rider Chris Harper, who was the first over the Colle delle Finestre summit, claimed the second Grand Tour stage win of his career, with Yates crossing one minute 57 seconds later, third on the day.

Yates was in tears as he hugged team staff at the finish, surrounded by media, with Del Toro crossing the line five minutes after him.

It means the Briton leads Del Toro by three minutes 56 seconds, with Carapaz in third, heading in to Sunday’s processional stage in Rome.

Yates lost 30 seconds to Del Toro during Friday’s stage but recovered to become just the third British rider to win the Giro, after Chris Froome (2018) and Tao Geoghegan Hart (2020).