

Iran's Shahr Bank wins world wrestling club title



Sports Desk

Iranian freestyle team Shahr Bank was crowned World Wrestling Clubs Cup champion in Tehran, thanks to victory over Poddubny of Russia in the final.

On Saturday, Shahr Bank's 10-man team, with a group of high-profile Iranian wrestlers in the ranks, came out on top 6-4 against the Russian opposition.

Ahmad Mohammadnejad-Javan (57kg), Magomedrasul Gazimagomedov (70kg), Younes Emami (74kg), Hassan Yazdani (86kg), Kamran Qasempour (92kg), and Amirhossein Zare' (125kg) were the winners for the Iranian club in the final showpiece. India, meanwhile, beat Kazakhstan 7-3 to finish on the third podium.

Members of Iran's Shahr Bank celebrate lifting the World Wrestling Clubs Cup trophy in Tehran, Iran, on Feb. 18, 2023. [iwf.ir](#)

Ghana winger Atsu's body found under rubble in Turkey



SCOTT HEPPPELL/REUTERS

Ghana winger Christian Atsu was found dead under the building where he lived in southern Turkey after the huge earthquake, his Turkish agent said on Saturday.

Atsu had been missing since the Feb. 6 earthquake following the collapse of an apartment building in Hatay. He was 31, Reuters reported.

"Atsu's lifeless body was found under the rubble," Murat Uzunmehmet told reporters in Hatay. "Currently, more items are still being taken out. His phone was also found."

Atsu had been scheduled to fly out of southern Turkey hours before the quake but Hatayspor's manager said on Friday the Ghanaian had opted to stay with the club after scoring the winning goal in a Feb. 5 Super Lig match.

The Ghanaian foreign ministry said Atsu's elder brother and twin sister were at the site when his body was recovered. The embassy is arranging for the body to be transported to Ghana for burial.

The "government extends to the widow and family of Christian Atsu our deepest condolences," the ministry said in a statement.

Atsu joined Hatayspor in September last year after spells with English Premier League clubs Everton, Chelsea and Newcastle United.

"We will not forget you, Atsu. Peace be upon you, beautiful person. There are no words to describe our sadness," Hatayspor said on Twitter.

Newcastle also paid tribute, saying: "A talented player and a special person, he will always be fondly remembered by our players, staff and supporters."

Former Newcastle manager Rafa Benitez described Atsu as a 'special person'.

"He was a nice lad and always had a smile, I'm really sad for him and everyone who knew him," he told Sky Sports.

Atsu won 65 caps for Ghana and helped them to reach the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations final, where they lost to Ivory Coast on penalties. He was last selected to play for Ghana in 2019.

He joined Chelsea from Porto in 2013 and had several loan spells at clubs including Vitesse and Bournemouth.

"Chelsea sends our heartfelt condolences to Christian's family and friends and to all those affected by the earthquake tragedy," the London club said.

Foolad looking for change of fortunes on ACL return

Sports Desk

Foolad Khuzestan hopes to end an under-par run when the Iranian club is back in AFC Champions League (ACL) action today. The Persian Gulf Pro League outfit will take on Saudi club Al Faisaly in the first round of the knockout phase at the Asian elite clubs' competition in Doha's Al Thumama Stadium, chasing a first-ever spot in the quarterfinals.

Having won Group C, Foolad is the only Iranian club left in the competition, as Sepahan finished third in Group D, while Tehran-based giants Persepolis and Esteghlal were prevented from entering the group stage due to licensing issues.

However, Javad Nekounam's side steps into the single-legged tie on the back of three successive defeats in the Iranian top-flight, which have left the club lagging in ninth place of the 16-team table.

No Foolad player has found

the back of the net since winter signing Roberto Torres bagged the winner in the 1-0 win against Persepolis on January 27 – the only victory for the southern Iranian side in the past five league outings.

Al Faisaly, meanwhile, is fifth in the Saudi first division, and has left the pitch empty-handed in its previous two games.

Greek manager Marinus Ouzinidis delivered the greatest achievement in Al Faisaly history, helping the club reach the ACL knockouts on its debut by finishing at top Group G.

Al Faisaly's historic feat was soon followed by a mass exodus after the relegation to the Saudi second tier, as all the club's scorers in the group stage; Hicham Faik, Martin Boyle and Julio Tavares left the squad.

Relegation meant the Greek coach was dismissed from his post, but with the club back in continental action, Ouzinidis' services were recalled in January.



AFC

American Crouser breaks own shot put world record

Double Olympic champion Ryan Crouser broke his own shot put world record with a throw of 23.38 meters while competing during a domestic indoor event in Pocatello, Idaho, according to World Athletics. The 30-year-old American's effort in the first round of competition at the Simplot Games on Saturday beat both the outdoor record of 23.37m, he set in 2021 at the US Olympic tri-

als in Eugene, and the indoor mark of 22.82m he achieved earlier that year, The Associated Press reported.

The reigning world champion has now surpassed the 23m mark in seven competitions during his career, a barrier that only three other athletes have ever bettered, according to a report on the World Athletics website.



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