

## Iranian athlete claims gold medal at World Corporate Games

An Iranian athlete has claimed the gold medal at the 1st World Corporate Games held in Russia. Ribvar Moradpour climbed to the top of the podium in the athletics - Men's 1500m competitions of the Games, IRNA reported. The 1st World Corporate Games gathered 2,500 athletes from 20 countries, including Russia, Belarus, Senegal, the United Arab Emirates, Haiti, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vietnam, Venezuela, Serbia, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh and others, who competed in 24 sports.

## Olympic medalist Salimi says inspired by Cristiano Ronaldo

Iranian taekwondo champion Arian Salimi says that Cristiano Ronaldo's hard-working spirit inspired him to win the Olympics gold medal.

"Being an Olympic champion is really an indescribable feeling," Salimi said in an interview, reported Mehr News Agency. Salimi cited that he had been interested in football since he was a child and he is a fan of Ronaldo.

I would like to be able to see Ronaldo in person and tell him that I was able to win the gold medal by being motivated by his success, he added.

Salimi defeated his British rival at the +80 kg in the Paris Olympics and snatched the gold medal. The young Iranian taekwondoka had struggled with a strange disease as a child, but he was able to win a gold medal in the world's biggest sports tournament.

At the age of two, Salimi was suffering from Rheumatoid arthritis, with physicians believing that there was no hope for him.

## 11 countries ready to attend Tehran tennis event

A total 11 countries have expressed readiness to participate in the World Tennis Championships in Tehran. The Tehran World Tennis Championships will take place in Iran's capital at the Engelab Sports Complex from September 8 to 22, wrote Mehr NewsAgency. Currently, 28 players and coaches from Australia, the Czech Republic, India, Russia, Belarus, Slovakia, Spain, Romania, France, Germany, and Italy have confirmed their participation in the tournament. Due to the time remaining until the tournament, more participants may join, and it appears that the number of foreign participants is on the rise.



# Iran beat Chile at FIVB Volleyball Boys' U17 World C'ship

Iran defeated Chile in straight sets (25-14, 25-16, 25-12) at the 2024 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U17 World Championship in Bulgaria. Iran is set to face Italy on Thursday in the next step of the tournament with hopes of advancing to the quarterfinals, wrote Mehr News Agency.

Arash Sadeqiani is leading the Iranian team in the tournament. Previously in the tournament, Iran secured victories against Libya and Tunisia but suffered a loss to Egypt. The 2024 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U17 World Championship is the inaugural edition of the FIVB Volleyball Boys' U17 World Championship, the biennial international youth volleyball championship contested by the men's national teams under the age of 17 of the members associations of the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), the sport's global governing body. The tournament took place in Sofia, Bulgaria from August 24-31, 2024.

The FIVB U17 World Championship for both genders was proposed by the FIVB Volleyball Council and unanimously approved by the FIVB Board of Administration during its meeting held in March 2022. The qualification process was announced on March 28, 2023 with a total of 16 national teams to qualify for the final tournament. In addition to Bulgaria who qualified automatically as the host, 15 other teams qualified through five separate continental championships which were required to be held by December 31, 2023 at the latest.

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## Mehrزدad stands tall for Iran's sitting volleyball team

Iran's sitting volleyball star, Morteza Mehrzad, has battled countless challenges due to his towering height, but now he's ready to help propel his team to another victory at the Paris Paralympics. At an imposing 2.46 metres (8 ft 0.85 in), Mehrzad is the second tallest living man in the world and the tallest athlete ever to compete

in the Paralympics, according to the International Paralympic Committee website. In 2015, the 36-year-old joined Iran's national sitting volleyball team after the coach spotted him on a reality TV show about people grappling with life difficulties, AFP wrote. His life has since taken a turn for the better. "I have always been

called the 'tall boy' even before joining the national team or the Paralympic Games," he told AFP after a training session at Iran's Sports Federation for the Disabled in Tehran. "Playing sitting volleyball helped me a lot," he said. "The physique that I once considered as very bad has helped me in this game, and I could make good use of it." Along with his team, he is preparing for the 2024 Paris Paralympics.

Mehrزدad was diagnosed at a young age with acromegaly, a rare condition due to excessive growth hormone. During his teenage years, he had a bicycle accident, injuring his pelvis and stunting the growth in his right leg which is now around six inches shorter than his left leg. "I turned limitations into opportunities," said Mehrzad.

"I cannot say those limitations totally went away, but they lessened

over time since joining the team." He still recalls how "challenging" it was to attend his first international championship in China in 2016 and his first Paralympic Games in Rio that same year, where his team won gold.

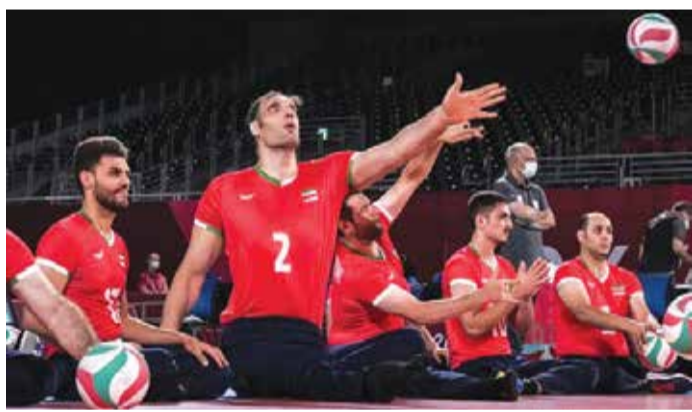
"It was both difficult and interesting for me," he said. "The atmosphere there and the expectation from us to win gold were very difficult for me."

Mehrزدad's towering height has been a crucial asset for Iran's sitting volleyball team for years, compelling rival teams to reconsider their strategies. He owns gold medals in the 2016 and 2020 Summer Paralympics and earned the Gold Ball for the world's best player in 2019, 2021 and 2022. Iranian media has over the years hailed him as a "fatal weapon" and "the kind giant".

"I appreciate being called the best in the game, but I'm not," he said.

"Each of our guys is the best... and we make the best team in the world." Mehrzad says joining Iran's national sitting volleyball team has helped him through some personal crises including the death of his mother in 2019. The experience, he says, "was and still is painful... but volleyball helped me a lot, not to forget, but to move past it."

Iran has participated in the sitting volleyball Paralympic Games since 1988 in Seoul, emerging as champions seven out of nine times, a remarkable record. Now, the team is putting the final touches to its Paralympics preparations before they face off against Ukraine, Brazil and Germany. "Our main rival is Bosnia... although we should not underestimate Brazil, Germany, and Egypt," said Mehrzad. In the 2022 world championship in Sarajevo, Iran beat Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-0.



AFP

## Evans earns stunning win in US Open's longest-ever match

Britain's Dan Evans produced an astonishing comeback to win the longest match in US Open history as he beat Russia's Karen Khachanov in five hours and 35 minutes.

Evans, 34, was 4-0 down in the decider but somehow found the mental and physical strength to win 6-7 (6-8) 7-6 (7-2) 7-6 (7-4) 4-6 6-4, BBC reported.

In a tense finale, Russian 23rd seed Khachanov saved two match points before hitting the third into the net.

Evans broke into a beaming smile before slumping exhausted into his chair.

Both players deservedly received standing ovations from an engrossed and entertained crowd at Flushing Meadows.

"I just tried to keep fighting - at 4-0 I thought I was out," Evans told Sky Sports.

"I've got a bad headache now. It was a hell of a match. I just want to go to bed."

Earlier, British number one Katie Boulter and Jack Draper

moved into the second round after contrasting styles of victories.

Boulter, seeded 31st, fought back from an edgy start to win 5-7 6-2 6-1 against Belarusian qualifier Aliaksandra Sasnovich. A short time later in New York, 25th seed Draper cruised through when Chinese number one Zhang Zhizhen retired with a knee injury as the Briton led 6-3 6-0 4-0.

But fellow Briton Emma Raducanu, champion here in 2021, lost her first-round match to Sofia Kenin.

Out of form this season, and trying to avoid dropping out of the world's top 200, Evans battled valiantly in sweltering conditions.

He appeared to be running out of steam as Khachanov threatened to move 5-0 ahead in the decider, but held off three break points and reduced the deficit to 4-3.

Evans fed off the support of a raucous crowd to earn a victory which will live long in the

memory.

"I felt a little sorry for myself, but got myself going because I didn't want to go out of another Slam without a fight and with a whimper," said Evans after the victory, which was his first at a major this year.

"I could see he was struggling a bit and tried to grab a game at a time."

Each set was a battle of attrition with lengthy games and multiple break opportunities, all lasting over an hour:

Set 1 - 68 minutes  
Set 2 - 67 minutes  
Set 3 - 72 minutes  
Set 4 - 67 minutes  
Set 5 - 61 minutes

With both players gasping for breath, Evans secured victory in a match which surpassed the previous US Open record - set by Stefan Edberg and Michael Chang in the 1992 semi-finals - by nine minutes.

Evans has endured a chastening year, having won just four ATP

Tour matches going into the final Grand Slam of the season. That dire form, combined with the decision not to defend the title - and ranking points - he won in Washington last year in order to play doubles with the retiring Andy Murray at the Olympics, caused Evans to

plummet out of the world's top 175.

Beating Khachanov is a reward for his perseverance - and his generosity to Murray.

"I've had a horrible year. I knew I had put the work in but not enough because I was a bit hurt," Evans added.

"I like to think I got a bit of luck at the end [against Khachanov]. I nearly blew it but I'm really happy."

"It was amazing at 4-2, it really started to get going. I don't know how many Brits were there, but it seemed like the whole place wanted me to win."

Evans has around 48 hours to recover before playing Argentina's Mariano Navone in the second round on Thursday.



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