

WorldBuild comes to Baku

WorldBuild Baku 2017 will be hosted at the Baku Expo Centre from 18–21 October. This is the 23rd Azerbaijan International Construction Exhibition, and will mark the beginning of Caspian Construction Week. This is a highly-anticipated exhibition for many experts from various countries, as WorldBuild Baku is the most important professional event in the fields of architecture and construction, design and maintenance in the region. The Azerbaijani Economy Ministry, the Azerbaijani State Committee for Town Planning and Architecture, the Azerbaijani National Confederation of Entrepreneurs, the Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO) and Azerbaijani Architects' Union support the exhibition.

It is expected that the 2017 edition will feature over 200 exhibitors, including companies from more than 20 countries. Germany, Iran and the UAE will have

national display booths, and Turkey will also host a large stand. As has been the case during the past few years, the organisers anticipate that numerous local participants will demonstrate products under the brand name 'Made in Azerbaijan'. The Registration Sponsor for WorldBuild Baku 2017 is Corella (NB Group).

A full range of building materials will be presented, including ceramics, stone renders, marble, paints, windows and doors, interior materials, roofing and flooring, and construction machinery. It is expected that tens of thousands of professionals will take this opportunity to learn about innovations in the building industry, finalise contracts and become partners with leading manufacturers and distributors, thereby introducing the latest technologies to the rapidly-growing Azerbaijani construction industry. Visit www.worldbuild.az for full details of the event.



WorldBuild Baku provides an invaluable opportunity for construction professionals from across the South Caucasus to become aware of the latest developments

Blind Judokas get gold

Azerbaijan won both the men's and women's team events on the final day of the 2017 International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) European Judo Championships in Walsall, UK, on 6 August. The victories saw Azerbaijan top the overall medals table with four gold, one silver and two bronze medals. Second place went to Russia, with three gold, three silver and six bronze medals, and Ukraine ranked third with three gold, one silver and two bronze medals.

The first bout of the men's team final was a repeat of the up to 66kg final with European champion Davyd Khorava from Ukraine taking on Bayram Mustafayev of Azerbaijan. The battle saw Khorava get the better of Mustafayev in the individual final on 4 August, but the Azerbaijani judoka seized some redemption in the team final, achieving an ippon (highest possible score) with just 42 seconds remaining.

An ippon from Paralympic gold medallist Ramil Gasimov in the second contest of the final saw Azerbaijan move to a ranking just one win away from the European title.

Next to take to the mat was European champion Oleksandr Kosinov of Ukraine, pitted against the Azerbaijani Huseyn Rahimli. As Kosinov had previously known only victory against Rahimli, it was expected that this bout would keep Ukrainian gold medal hopes alive. In a tight contest, which went the four-minute distance, Rahimli outscored Kosinov with one waza-ari (second highest possible score) to secure the gold medal for Azerbaijan. However, the Ukrainian Oleksandr Nazarenko ensured this was not an Azerbaijani clean sweep as he pinned down Rovshan Safarov for an ippon in the penultimate bout.

The final contest of the men's final lasted just 11 seconds, with seven-time European champion Ilham Zakiyev demonstrating his skill and power to throw the Ukrainian Oleksandr Pominov for an ippon, thereby sealing a 4–1 victory. Zakiyev is one of the most revered Azerbaijani paralympians, having been blinded when shot through the head by an Armenian sniper when undertaking his military service near the 'contact line' between Azerbaijan and the Armenian-occupied Azerbaijani region of Fuzuli. He has won

numerous medals, including two Olympic golds.

Zakiyev commented: "Winning the European team event for a fifth time is a huge achievement. We are all very proud to represent our country at an international level and are very happy we can take the gold medal back home with us again."

In the final of the women's team competition, the Azerbaijani pair of Sevda Valiyeva and Khanim Huseynova went head-to-head with the Turkish trio of Ecem Tasin, Gulhan Atasayar and Zeynep Celik.

Azerbaijan needed to win the two bouts they were contesting to win gold. Valiyeva got Azerbaijan off to the perfect start, beating Tasin in the first bout of the final. The second contest went to Turkey, with Atasayar taking an uncontested win to set-up a winner-takes-all decider between Celik and Huseynova.

In the deciding contest, Huseynova went immediately on the attack and threw Celik for an ippon under a minute into the decider to secure the gold medal for Azerbaijan.

This marked a second gold for both Valiyeva and Huseynova after having won their respective individual events. Valiyeva said: "This is my first international event; so I am very happy to have won two gold medals. The event has been a good experience and a great test against competitors from around Europe, so to win two titles is wonderful for me."



Ilham Zakiyev stands tall and proud with his IBSA gold medal, alongside other medallists