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Gold medals in male sparring competitions went to the representatives of DPR KOREA, RUSSIA, BULGARIA AND TAJIKISTAN

On the second day of the XVI ITF Taekwon-Do World Championships in Saint Petersburg competitions in male sparring event were held in four weight categories. Alexey Evdokimov (Russia-2) managed to defeat Mahmud Akramov (Uzbekistan) in the weight category up to 64 kg only during additional time. Gold medals were also taken by Kim Un Hok (DPR Korea) in up to 50 kg weight category, Daler Sayfiddinov (Tajikistan) in weight category up to 78 kg and Nikolay Kehajov (Bulgaria) in over 85 kg weight category.

Alexey Evdokimov, World Champion (up to 64): I was sure about my victory in the finals but I did not expect that it would require additional time. I knew that my actions were successful and I managed good kicks. And the fight in the semi-finals against Alexey Mineev (Russia-2) was the most difficult for me. The attitude at the city competitions were I know all the participants is completely different. While here each fight was for me like the last one.

Nikolay Kehajov, World Champion (up to 85): I have been practicing taekwon-do since I was 9 years old and I can say that this martial art is very popular in Bulgaria. Apart from taekwon-do I also do swimming and skiing. I am very pleased with my performance at the World Championships in Saint Petersburg. As for my future plans, I am going to continue my career. Notably, there is going to be a very interesting event in December – "Russia against the rest World".

Alexander Skripnik (silver medalist, up to 50 kg weight category): I am still disappointed with my defeat in the final. My desire to win was great though before the competitions I did not even think about winning. Second place is always very hurtful for a sportsman and my task for the future is hopefully to become a world champion.

Sparring, male:

Up to 50 kg:

1. Kim Un Hyok (DPR Korea). 2. Skripnik (Russia-2). 3. Ishmakov (Russia-1), Samoshkin (Kazakhstan).

Up to 64 kg:

1. Evdokimov (Russia-2). 2. Akramov (Uzbekistan). 3. Mineev (Russia-1), Oyunbold (Mongolia).

Up to 78 kg:

1. Sayfiddinov (Tajikistan). 2. Mracek (Czech Republic). 3. Verner (Russia-1), Popa (Moldavia).

Over 85 kg:

1. Kehajov (Bulgaria). 2. Bolotov (Moldavia). 3. Roukema (Netherlands), Chae Tok Song (DPR Korea)

WORLD TAEKWON-DO (ITF) CHAMPIONSHIPS

