

Iran Seal Top Spot in Group D, to Face Oman in Knockout Stage

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Iran national football team has sealed top spot in Group D of the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019 after playing to a 0-0 draw with Iraq at a packed Maktoum Stadium in Dubai.

As group winner, Iran will play Oman in Abu Dhabi's Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium on Sunday, while runner-up Iraq will face Qatar - in Al Nahyan Stadium on Tuesday.

Oman finished third with three points after beating Turkmenistan 3-1 to secure a spot in the knockout stage for the first time.

Iran national football team head coach Carlos Queiroz says the 2019 AFC Asian Cup will start for Team Melli from now on.

The three-time champion sealed top spot in Group D following a 0-0 draw with Iraq on Wednesday, edging the West Asian on goal difference after both team finished on seven points.

Queiroz said he has to get his players ready for the business end of the competition.

"From now on, it's a game which is everything for the winner and nothing to the loser. All the profile of the games have changed, so we can say that the Asian Cup starts for us in



the next game," Queiroz.

"Now we need to rest. After these three games, it's important to have a good rest, and start to be mentally fresh for the (next) games."

After having defeated Yemen and Vietnam with relative ease, Iran faced more formidable opponent in Iraq and Queiroz commended the 2007 champion.

Qatar, Japan Advance in Asian Cup With Perfect Record

Qatar finished the group stage of the Asian Cup with a third straight win, beating three-time champion Saudi Arabia 2-0 on Thursday in a highly charged game amid the political tensions between the two nations.

Saudi Arabia engineered the regional boycott of Qatar along with the host United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt.

Forward Almoez Ali scored both goals, netting the opener at the Zayed Sports City Stadium with a

low shot in first-half injury time and heading home the second 10 minutes from time to help his country beat Saudi Arabia at the Asian Cup for the first time and win Group E with nine points.

Just minutes before the first goal, Hasan Al Haydos missed a penalty for Qatar.

Ali, 22, is the top scorer at the tournament with seven goals and will look to extend his tally in the round of 16 against Iraq on Tuesday.

Japan Defeat Uzbekistan 2-1

Earlier in Al Ain, four-time champion Japan rallied from a goal down to also finish the group stage with a perfect record after a 2-1 victory over Uzbekistan.

With both teams already qualified, Japan topped Group F with nine points after winning all three games to set up a knockout-stage meeting with Saudi Arabia on Monday.

Uzbekistan finished second with six points and will open the round of 16 against defending champion Australia.

In Group E in Sharjah, Lebanon got its first win, 4-0 against North Korea and both teams are eliminated.

Juventus Beat Milan to Win Italian Super Cup in Jeddah



Juventus' Paulo Dybala, center left, and Juventus' Miralem Pjanic raise the trophy at the end of the Italian Super Cup final soccer match between AC Milan and Juventus at King Abdullah stadium in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Jan 16, 2019. (AP PHOTO)

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) - Amid a background of protests and political outrage, Juventus have beaten 10-man AC Milan 1-0 in Saudi Arabia to win the Italian Super Cup for a record eighth time.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored the only goal of the match to win his first trophy with the Italian team.

"I'm very happy, it was what I wanted, I'm very happy to have won my first title with Juventus,"

Ronaldo said.

It was Ronaldo's fourth goal in his past four matches as he shows little sign of being affected - on the pitch at least - by a case of alleged rape involving an American woman.

Juventus, which has won the league the past seven seasons, leads Serie A by nine points and is in the quarterfinal of the Italian Cup as well as the last 16 of the Champions League.

Lakers Take Down Thunder in OT

OKLAHOMA (Dispatches) - Kyle Kuzma has scored 32 points to help the Los Angeles Lakers earn a 138-128 overtime win over the host Oklahoma City Thunder.

Kuzma hit seven 3-pointers, and Los Angeles' Ivica Zubac scored a career-high 26 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Lonzo Ball added 18 points, including five in overtime as the Lakers outscored Oklahoma City 16-6, and dished out 10 assists.

The Thunder lost for the



Los Angeles Lakers forward Kyle Kuzma (0) drives to the basket against Oklahoma City Thunder forward Paul George (13) during the second half at Chesapeake Energy Arena. Los Angeles won 138-128.

fifth time in six games. The Lakers won their second in a row and improved to 5-7 without LeBron James (groin) and Rajon Rondo (hand).

The Thunder faltered from behind the arc in overtime, going 2-for-12 from 3-point range. Oklahoma City attempted just one field goal inside the arc in the extra session. Paul George led the Thunder with 27 points. Russell Westbrook had 26 points and 13 assists but shot just 7 of 30 from the field.

Siebenhofer Wins Downhill, Vonn Finishes 10th



Austrian skier Ramona Siebenhofer claimed her first World Cup victory in a downhill

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy (AP) - Austrian skier Ramona Siebenhofer claimed her first World Cup victory in a downhill Friday, with Lindsey Vonn finishing outside the top 10 in her return from injury.

Siebenhofer finished 0.40 seconds ahead of reigning world champion Ilka Stuhec of Slovenia.

Stephanie Venier of Austria was third, 0.46 behind.

Vonn, who was 1.19 behind struggled on the upper portion of the sun-drenched Olympia delle Tofane course, getting bounced off her line.

"I just struggled with that one icy gate," Vonn said.

Federer, Nadal Stay on Track as Sharapova Sets Up Wozniacki Showdown



Switzerland's Roger Federer might be 37 but he's not showing his age, as he works towards a third successive Australian crown and 21st major victory.

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Roger Federer ground out a tough three-set win to make the Australian Open third round for an incredible 20th straight year, with long-time rival Rafael Nadal also safely through in his drive towards an 18th Grand Slam title.

Women's defending champion Caroline Wozniacki also progressed to set up a mouth-watering clash next with in-form former world number one Maria Sharapova.

But it was curtains for South African Kevin Anderson, who slumped out to young American

Frances Tiafoe and became the highest seed, at five, to be sent packing so far.

On an overcast day at Melbourne Park, second seed Angelique Kerber, the 2016 winner, and former U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens joined the big guns in round three, but the women's side also saw a top 10 player crash.

Ninth seed Kiki Bertens, who raced through the rankings last year after winning three titles, was whipped in three sets by Russia's Anastasia

Pavlyuchenkova.

Federer might be 37 but he's not showing his age, with British qualifier Dan Evans the latest to fall under his spell as he works towards a third successive Australian crown and 21st major victory.

He defeated Evans at Wimbledon last year with the loss of just eight games, but it was a much harder assignment this time, winning 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/3), 6-3 on Rod Laver Arena.

The Swiss star's Australian achievements so far put him on a par with other six-time winners Novak Djokovic and Roy Emerson -- although the Australian great's victories all came before the Open era.

He next plays American Taylor Fritz.

If he goes on to win the tournament, he will become the first man ever to claim seven or more titles at two Grand Slams, having already won eight Wimbledons.

Nadal had an easier route to round three, outclassing local hope Matthew Ebden 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

The Spaniard is bidding for his own slice of history by becoming the first man in the Open era, and

only the third in history along with Emerson and Rod Laver, to win each Grand Slam on two or more occasions.

Anderson, beaten by Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon final last year, was sent home by Tiafoe 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5.

India Beat Australia by 7 Wickets in 3rd ODI, Win Series



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - Legspinner Yuzvendra Chahal took a record 6-42 to propel India to a seven-wicket win over Australia in the third one-day cricket international and a

2-1 series win on Friday.

Chahal's return was not only a career-best, beating his 5-22 against South Africa, but matched the best figures in an ODI in Australia,

a record held since 2004 by his compatriot, India fast bowler Ajit Aragkar.

Chahal, who missed the first two ODIs, helped India to bowl out Australia for only 230 after captain Virat Kohli won the toss on a rainy afternoon in Melbourne.

After fast bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar removed both Australia openers, Chahal ran through the middle and lower order to end the innings with eight balls left in their 50 overs.

Peter Handscomb's 58 from 63 balls was the only substantial contribution from an Australia batting order struggling to find consistency.