

# Iran Futsal Defeat Serbia in Two Friendly Matches



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The Iranian national futsal team has defeated Serbia in two friendly matches in Belgrade, Serbia.

Team Melli beat the host 4-3 on Tuesday courtesy of goals from Hossein Tayyebi (three goals) and a goal from Al Asghar Hassanzadeh.

Iran had also defeated Serbia 6-3 in its first match on Monday.

Iran prepares for 2020 AFC Futsal Championship Qualifiers and also 2020 FIFA Futsal World Cup.

Team Melli is also communicating with its Brazilian counterpart to make sure it can arrange a friendly on April 8.

# Pacers Thump Lakers 136-94 in NBA



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James is guarded by Indiana Pacers center Myles Turner and guard Darren Collison during the third quarter at Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - LeBron James joined a select group of NBA players to score 32,000 career points but nevertheless endured the most lopsided defeat of his career Tuesday as the Indiana Pacers routed the Los Angeles Lakers 136-94.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 24 points for the Pacers, who tied a franchise record with 19 three-pointers.

James, playing his second game since suffering a groin injury in a Christmas Day win over Golden State, led the Lakers with 18 points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

On a night of few Lakers highlights, head coach Luke Walton was pleased to see a driving dunk from the four-time NBA Most Valuable Player.

"It was good to see LeBron take off and go dunk one and kind of trust his body," Walton said, although otherwise there was little positive to find in a game that saw 19 Lakers turnovers lead

to 33 Pacers points.

"Bottom line, we have to be better," said Walton, who said he didn't know if some of the Lakers players had been adversely affected by trade talk swirling around the team.

Reports this week indicated the Lakers had offered as many as six players in a bid to land New Orleans Pelicans star Anthony Davis by the Thursday transfer deadline.

Fans in Indianapolis rubbed in the rumors, yelling "LeBron's going to trade you" at Lakers guard Brandon Ingram as he went to the free throw line.

However, he admitted that the trade talk could be tough on younger players.

James, still working his way back after a 17-game absence, said he felt "alright" if not 100 percent.

That milestone notwithstanding, James endured the most lopsided defeat of his career, having twice before lost by 36 points.

## Italy's Paris Rocks to World Super-G Gold

ÅRE, Sweden (AFP) - In-form Italian speed skier Dominik Paris beat a host of high-class rivals including Norwegian Aksel Lund Svindal to claim super-G gold at the World Ski Championships on Wednesday.

Paris, whose only previous world medal was a downhill silver in Schladming in 2013, timed 1min 24.20sec down the 2.2km-long Olympia course in bitterly cold conditions as the race lived up to its billing as one of the most unpredictable at these championships.

The 29-year-old, a massive heavy metal fan whose inspiration is American band Pantera, had arrived in Are, Sweden, in prime form having notched up three



World Cup victories this season - the Bormio speed double and the famed Kitzbuehel downhill for a

third time - along with three other podium finishes. France's Johan Clarey, 38, tied

for silver with Austrian Vincent Kriechmayr, just 0.09sec off Paris' winning time.

The men's super-G was touted as one of most open disciplines in Sweden, with five different winners on the World Cup circuit this season and a host of podium finishers capable of pushing for a medal.

The now-injured Austrian Max Franz won in Beaver Creek, Norwegian Kjetil Jansrud in Lake Louise, Svindal in Val Gardena, Paris in Bormio and Germany's Josef Ferstl in Kitzbuehel.

But Kriechmayr heads the World Cup standings ahead of teammate Matthias Mayer, with Norwegian Aleksander Aamodt Kilde in fourth.

## FIFA President Infantino Only Candidate for Election



FIFA President Gianni Infantino smiles prior the AFC Asian Cup final match between Japan and Qatar in Zayed Sport City in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Friday, Feb. 1, 2019.

ZURICH (AP) - FIFA President Gianni Infantino is set to serve four more years as the leader of soccer's governing body as the only candidate for election.

Infantino had the required nomination letters from five of the 211 member federations when the deadline passed at midnight Tuesday in Zurich, FIFA said Wednesday.

Infantino must now pass the formality

of eligibility and integrity checks for the election on June 5 in Paris.

The 48-year-old Swiss lawyer has been widely expected to win unopposed with support already pledged by most FIFA members, including through their continental governing bodies such as North America's CONCACAF and South America's CONMEBOL.

## Osaka Pulls Out of Qatar Open With Injury

TOKYO (Reuters) - World number one Naomi Osaka has pulled out of next week's Qatar Open with an unspecified back injury, tournament organizers said.

Osaka, who was set play for the first time since her Australian Open triumph, has suffered with back problems in the past.

"I am sorry to have withdraw from Doha this year as I was

looking forward to playing and seeing my fans there," the 21-year-old said in a statement.

"I wish everyone a great week and hope to see everyone next year."

Simona Halep, the Romanian who Osaka replaced as world number one, Karolina Pliskova and Angelique Kerber head up the field in Doha from Feb. 11.

## Lazio, Atalanta Win to Be a Point Behind 4th-Place Milan

MILAN (AP) - Lazio and Atalanta have kept themselves firmly in the race for a Champions League place with narrow wins in Serie A.

They are both level with Roma, one point behind fourth-place AC Milan, after Lazio won at relegation-threatened Frosinone 1-0 and Atalanta triumphed at Cagliari by the same scoreline.

The top four in Serie A qualify for the Champions League.

Lazio's victory was far from convincing. It took the lead in the

first half when Luis Alberto threaded the ball through to Felipe Caicedo and he took one touch before striking it powerfully into the back of the net.

There had been controversy 10 minutes earlier when referee Michael Fabbri awarded a penalty to Frosinone for a presumed tug from Bastos on Camillo Ciano but he revoked his decision on video review.

Frosinone remained second-to-last, five points from safety.

## Bruins Beat Islanders 3-1 in NHL



New York Islanders goaltender Robin Lehner (40) eyes the puck as Boston Bruins right wing David Backes (42) prepares to shoot during second period of an NHL hockey game in Boston, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019.

BOSTON (AP) - Patrice Bergeron told his Boston teammates that all he wanted in his 1,000th career game was for the Bruins to come out of it with two points.

The Bruins did, as did Bergeron, who scored twice in Boston's 3-1 victory over the New York Islanders on Tuesday night.

"It's been a fun ride. It was a special game that way," said Bergeron, only the fifth player in Bruins' history to play 1,000 games for the club.

Bergeron scored early in the second period and added an empty-netter in the final minute to cap off the night.

Marchand made sure Bergeron got a keepsake from the night when he skated out to the blue line and retrieved the puck after Bergeron's first goal put Boston up 1-0 at 2:32 in the first period.

David Pastrnak also assisted on both goals for Bergeron, passing up an empty-net opportunity and leaving the puck for Bergeron to tap in with 55 seconds left.

## Qatar, FIFA Set Up Joint Venture to Deliver 2022 World Cup

ZURICH (Reuters) - Global soccer body FIFA has set up a joint venture with 2022 World Cup hosts Qatar as part of its effort to streamline organization of the tournament, it said.

The global soccer body said in a

statement that it would hold a 51 percent share of the venture while the Qatar organizing committee would hold 49 percent.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said in 2016 that the federation would take more

control over ticketing and organization at the World Cup, adding that the decision was driven by efficiency and not a lack of trust in local organizers.

Until now, local World Cup organizing committees have been left to work

largely independently, with FIFA making periodic inspections of their progress, in a pattern that has sometimes led to tension.

In the run-up to the 2014 World Cup, FIFA's then secretary general Jerome Valcke infuriated hosts Brazil by saying

the country needed a "kick up the backside" to speed up its preparations.

FIFA Secretary General Fatma Samoura said in the statement that the new setup was a "major step" forward in the organization of the tournament.