

Sareh Javanmardi Wins Gold Medal at 2019 Shooting Para Sport World Cup

Liverpool, Bayern Draw 0-0 in Champions League First Leg



Iran's Sareh Javanmardi

AL AIN, UAE (Dispatches) - Iran's Sareh Javanmardi has won the gold medal at the 4th day of 2019 Shooting Para Sport World Cup.

The competitions, hosted by Al Ain, UAE, began on Feb 16 and will continue until Feb 23. Javanmardi registered 232.6 points to bag the first gold medal

of the Iranian team.

Earlier on Tuesday, Roqiyeh Shojaei won a bronze medal for the Iranian squad.

LIVERPOOL (AP) - Bayern Munich still can't find a way to score, let alone win at Liverpool.

In their fourth visit to Anfield, the German champions drew 0-0 in the Champions League to go a fourth game at the stadium without finding the net.

"It's not a dream result but it's a good one and we can work with that," Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp said. "It's not a game we will remember in 20 years but it's a result we have."

On a quiet night in the competition, the other game between Lyon and Barcelona was also scoreless.

By denying Bayern an away goal, Liverpool has a slight edge heading into the second leg of the round of 16 knowing it would advance with a scoring draw.

In a meeting of teams who have each lifted the European Cup five times and are second in their domestic leagues, there was little quality in front of goal.

Liverpool, with Virgil Van Dijk suspended and Dejan Lovren



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah, left and Bayern Munich's David Alaba battle for the ball, during the Champions League round of 16 first leg soccer match between Liverpool and Bayern Munich, at Anfield, in Liverpool, England, Feb 19, 2019.

and Joe Gomez both injured, started with its fourth-choice center back in Joel Matip and midfielder Fabinho playing alongside him.

Liverpool had a scare in the 13th minute when Joe Matip unwittingly diverted Serge Gnabry's cross goalward from close-range and the ball bounced off goalkeeper Alisson Becker to safety. Bayern winger Kingsley Coman then sent a shot into the side-netting three minutes later.

Liverpool squandered chances

when Mohamed Salah headed wide from Trent Alexander-Arnold's delivery and Sadio Mane shot wide on the turn.

Mane also miscued an attempted overhead kick in front of the Bayern goal and Matip sent the ball wide from Roberto Firmino's cutback before halftime.

"We had enough chances," Liverpool midfielder Jordan Henderson said. "I feel, especially in the first half, to score one or two."

Under-Fire Sarri Insists He Can Avoid Chelsea Axe

LONDON (AFP) - Maurizio Sarri insists he expects to avoid being sacked as Chelsea manager if his troubled side can put together a sustained winning run.

Reports on Wednesday claimed Sarri will be axed if Chelsea are beaten in any of their next three matches after losing the backing of the club's hierarchy.

Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich is not renowned for his patience and Monday's limp FA Cup fifth round defeat against Manchester United increased speculation that Sarri is on the brink of being dismissed.

Sarri faces a crucial seven days as



Maurizio Sarri insists he can still save his job at Chelsea

Chelsea take a slender 2-1 advantage

into Thursday's Europa League last 32 second-leg against Malmo before facing Manchester City in the League Cup final at Wembley on Sunday.

Those games are followed by a crucial London derby against Tottenham in the Premier League next Wednesday, a match Chelsea can't afford to lose as they sit outside the top four.

Acknowledging his perilous

position can only be improved by a rapid reversal of fortunes, Sarri told reporters: "We need to win three, four matches in a row. It's the only solution.

"I can understand very well the frustration of our fans. Because they are used to winning. Now we are in trouble, so I can understand very well.

"There isn't another way. We can only have good performances and results."

With Chelsea in the midst of a bad run, Sarri is fighting to save his job less than a season after arriving from Napoli.

The United loss followed hot on the heels of a humiliating 6-0 thrashing at Manchester City, which ranked as Chelsea's heaviest defeat for 28 years, and an equally miserable 4-0 defeat at Bournemouth.

Angry Blues fans have taunted Sarri with chants demanding the 60-year-old's sacking and calling for former Chelsea star Frank Lampard, now in charge of second tier Derby, to be hired as his replacement.

Raikkonen Pushes Ferrari Off Top of Test Timesheets



Formula One F1 - Pre Season Testing - Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain - February 20, 2019 Alfa Romeo's Kimi Raikkonen in action during testing.

BARCELONA (Reuters) - Alfa Romeo driver Kimi Raikkonen produced the fastest lap so far in Formula One's pre-season testing to push his previous team, Ferrari, off the top of the lunchtime leader board on Wednesday.

It was the first time since testing started on Monday at the Circuit de Catalunya that Ferrari had not led at the end of a session.

The Finn, returning to the Swiss-based team previously known as Sauber, lapped with a best time of one minute 17.762 seconds on the softest, and fastest, C5 tyre compound.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, his team mate last season, was second fastest in 1:18.350.

Raikkonen's lap was also the first time a team had gone faster in 2019 than they managed in last year's pre-season testing.

Champions Mercedes continued to keep their powder dry, with Finland's Valtteri

Bottas the slowest of the nine cars on track but doing more laps than anyone else -- 88 to Vettel's 80, both on the same medium C3 tyre.

Renault's Nico Hulkenberg was third fastest in 1:18.800.

McLaren, whose performance has been encouraging over the first two days, missed the first two hours after what they described as "some overnight changes" to the car but managed to get Spaniard Carlos Sainz out for 27 laps before lunch.

Williams continued to be absent from the track but were expected to appear in the afternoon after their much-delayed car reached the track in the early hours after problems finishing building it on time.

British rookie George Russell was scheduled to drive the opening laps for the former champions who finished bottom of the constructors' table in 2018.

Thiem Knocked Out of Rio Open in First Round



FILE PHOTO - Tennis - Australian Open - Second Round - Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia, January 17, 2019. Austria's Dominic Thiem in action during the match against Australia's Alexei Popyrin.

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) - Top seed Dominic Thiem has been knocked out of the Rio Open in the first round, going down 6-3, 6-3 to Laslo Djere, a result that gave the unheralded Serbian his first victory over a top 10 player in his career.

The world ranked No. 90 broke Thiem's serve five times in what was a surprisingly lackluster display from a man who has won eight ATP titles on clay.

Thiem served five double faults in a tournament he won in 2017.

"He played a bit worse than normally I think, to be honest," Djere said. "But I had a great day. I felt the ball really well, hitting well from the baseline and then attacking well when it was time for that."

"The biggest win in my career so I'm really happy right now."

In another upset, third seed Marco Cecchinato was beaten 7-5, 7-6(1) by Slovenian Aljaz Bedene.

ICC Expects India-Pakistan Game to Go Through Despite Tensions

LONDON (AP) - The International Cricket Council is confident the June 16 World Cup match between Indian and Pakistan will go ahead despite last week's attack claimed by Pakistan-based militants on Indian forces in disputed Kashmir, chief executive David Richardson has said.

A suicide bomber on Thursday attacked a paramilitary police convoy in Indian-controlled Kashmir, killing at least 40 in the deadliest single assault

on Indian forces in 30 years of insurgency in the Muslim-majority region.

Angry Indian fans have demanded boycotting the marquee match in England though neither of the cricket boards has publicly expressed any such desire.

Bitter rivals India and Pakistan are scheduled to clash at Old Trafford in Manchester in what would be one of the most eagerly-anticipated matches at the May 30-July 14 tournament.