

Iran Beat Uzbekistan 1-0 in First Post-World Cup Match



TASHKEND (Dispatches) - Iran have defeated Uzbekistan 1-0 in their first post-World Cup match at the Bunyodkor Stadium in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan. Both teams had scoring opportunities in the first-half, but missed all their chances.

The 2 teams kicked off the 2nd half with several changes and it was the Iranians who broke the deadlock. In the 68th minute Mehdi Torabi found the net from close range to seal the victory for the visitors.

Iran have been drawn in Group D of the AFC Asian Cup along with Iraq, Yemen and Vietnam. Hector Cuper's Uzbekistan are in Group F with Japan, Oman and Turkmenistan.

The Iranian team will also play a friendly against Bolivia in Tehran's Azadi Stadium ahead of the AFC Asian Cup.

Spain Humiliate Croatia With Thumping Nations League Win



Croatia suffered the biggest defeat in their history as Spain thrashed them 6-0 in Tuesday's Nations League match at Estadio Manuel Martinez Valero.

ELCHE (Reuters) - Spain have showed their remarkable potential under new coach Luis Enrique by destroying World Cup runners-up Croatia 6-0 to hand the visitors their biggest ever defeat and take control of their Nations League group.

Midfielder Saul Niguez scored in his home city of Elche by heading home midway through the first half, giving Spain the lead against the run of play after Croatia had made a bright start and missed two good chances.

The hosts soon increased their lead with two thumping strikes from Marco Asensio, the second of which was given as an own goal to Croatia goalkeeper Lovre Kalinic as it bounced off him after crashing against the crossbar.

Rodrigo Moreno completed a fine team move after the interval before captain Sergio Ramos headed the fifth while a strike from Isco saw Spain become the first team to score six against Croatia as they charged top of League A, Group 4 on six points.

It was also the second time this year that Spain have scored six goals against World Cup runners-up, following their 6-1 win over 2014 finalists Argentina in March.

Spain were in a confident mood after winning their first game under Luis Enrique 2-1 away to England in their Nations League opener on Saturday and once they scored the floodgates opened and Croatia were left chasing shadows.

Minister:

South Korea to Propose Joint Olympics With North at Summit

SEOUL (AFP) - South Korea plans to propose a joint hosting of the 2032 Summer Olympics with North Korea at next week's summit in Pyongyang, sports minister Do Jong-hwan said Wednesday, according to a Yonhap report.

Do will make the proposal when he accompanies President Moon Jae-in to the North Korean capital for a third summit with Kim Jong Un from Tuesday, South Korea's Yonhap news agency said.

"I plan to make this proposal to the North for the settlement of peace" on the Korean peninsula, he was quoted as telling journalists in Tokyo.

"Seoul and Pyongyang would co-host the games", he said.

The two Koreas discussed the co-hosting of the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics but negotiations fell



apart over differences on how to share the events.

North and South Korea formed their first-ever unified Olympic team -- a joint women's ice hockey squad -- for February's winter games in the

South Korean resort of Pyeongchang, leading to a diplomatic thaw.

Olympics chief Thomas Bach said this month he was open to talks with the two Koreas about marching and competing together at the 2020

Tokyo Games.

Bach was speaking at the Asian Games in Indonesia, where the two Koreas paraded together at the opening ceremony and formed unified teams for the second time this year.

The two Koreas formed joint teams in rowing, canoeing and women's basketball at the regional Olympics, winning one gold, one silver and two bronze medals.

For the 2030 FIFA World Cup, Do said South Korea also plans to propose a co-hosted tournament involving China, Japan and the two Koreas.

"In this way, we could maintain the current momentum for peace and expand peace on the Korean peninsula to the whole region", he said.

British Team to Have Twin Challenge for Cycling Worlds



Simon Yates leads the Vuelta and won three stages at the Giro d'Italia in May

LONDON (AFP) - Twins Simon and Adam Yates will spearhead

Britain's challenge at the Cycling Road World Championships in

Innsbruck, Austria, later this month, British Cycling announced on Wednesday.

Simon, who is leading the Tour of Spain, and Adam have assumed the leadership roles with both four-time Tour de France winner Chris Froome and this year's Tour de France champion Geraint Thomas having opted not to compete.

Both the 26-year-old brothers have targeted the championships -- which get underway on September 26 -- believing the mountainous terrain is suited to their talents.

"We've selected a strong team to take on this year's world championships, and there's a lot

of talent within the squad," said performance director Stephen Park.

"Chris Froome and Geraint Thomas are obvious omissions from the men's team, and this was a decision we made mutually.

"Given the challenging nature of the course, we want every rider selected to be able to give their 100% to the team, and on the back of what has been an incredible season for both G (Geraint Thomas) and Froomey, it's understandable they are unable to commit to this."

Simon Yates leads in Spain going into the closing stages and he will be hoping for a happier outcome than this year's Giro where he led at one point before fading to finish 21st,

SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Lewis Hamilton may have tightened his grip on a fifth world title after extending his championship lead with a surprise victory in Monza two weeks ago, yet Mercedes are playing down the Briton's chances of adding to that triumph in Singapore.

In the last three of his four Formula One title wins, Hamilton has returned from the annual summer break in brilliant form, reeling off a succession of victories in his dominant Mercedes to close the door on his title rivals.

However, while the Briton has finished second in Belgium and first in Italy since the season resumed in August, his car is seen as inferior to Sebastian Vettel's Ferrari and Sunday's Singapore Grand Prix should once again favor the German.

Second-placed Vettel slipped 30 points behind Hamilton after coming off the worst in a first-lap collision

with the Briton in Monza and the 31-year-old knows he has little room for further mishaps with only seven rounds remaining.

The pair arrived in Singapore in a similar position a year ago, but the pole-sitting Vettel crashed into Red Bull's Max Verstappen and team mate Kimi Raikkonen soon after the start as Hamilton cruised to victory and never looked back.

Vettel and Hamilton are the most successful drivers on the floodlit Marina Bay Street Circuit with seven wins between them but Mercedes chief Toto Wolff says the odds are stacked against the Briton matching the German's four Singapore victories.

"Singapore has features that we've struggled with in the past. The short straights, the slow, tight corners and the bumpy surface all make (it) one of the trickiest tracks of the season for us," the Austrian said in a team statement.

Paralyzed Olympic Champion Vogel Wants to Keep Cycling Link

BERLIN (AP) - Two-time Olympic champion Kristina Vogel says she wants to keep her job as a rider representative to the International Cycling Union despite a training crash that has left her paralyzed.

Vogel suffered a severe spinal injury after crashing on a concrete track following a high-speed collision while training in Germany in June. She says she will take time "to get to know step by step what I can and can't do" in the future.

Vogel says she wants to remain involved with cycling and noted that she remains an athletes' representative to the UCI. Vogel says she would "like to keep that,



Gold medalist Germany's Kristina Vogel

independently of whether I ... do something at the Paralympics or

want to withdraw completely from sport."

Newspaper Reprints Controversial Cartoon of Serena Williams

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - A cartoon of Serena Williams that has been widely condemned as a racist depiction of the tennis great has been partially reprinted on the front page of the Melbourne-based newspaper that initially published it.

The Herald Sun newspaper printed an edited portion of the cartoon - featuring 23-time Grand Slam winner Williams jumping on a broken racket during her dispute with a chair umpire in the U.S. Open final - among caricatures of other famous people Wednesday under the headline "Welcome to the PC World."

The newspaper, which has Australia's largest circulation, has defended its cartoonist Mark Knight's depiction of Williams and is asserting that the condemnation, which has come from all parts of the world, is driven by political correctness.

This Mark Knight's cartoon published by the Herald Sun depicts Serena Williams as an irate, hulking, big-mouthed



black woman jumping up and down on a broken racket. The umpire was shown telling a blond, slender woman meant to be Naomi Osaka, who is actually Japanese and Haitian "Can you just let her win?"