

Iran Beat Germany at 2020 Kabaddi World Cup



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran has defeated Germany 55-34 at the 2020 Kabaddi World Cup (Circle style).

Team Melli had already defeated Sierra Leone 60-19 and England 57-26 in Group B in its previous matches.

Iran will play India in its last group match.

Group A consists of Pakistan, Australia, Kenya, Azerbaijan and Canada.

The seventh edition of the 2020 Kabaddi World Cup is being held in Punjab, Pakistan, from February 9 to 16.

Celtics Hold Off Clippers 141-133 in 2OT

BOSTON (AP) —Celtics were trailing 124-123 in the final minute of overtime in their back-and-forth slugfest with the Clippers and Tatum found himself defended by Landry Shamet and Montrezl Harrell. Tatum hesitated, sidestepped Shamet, then spun around Harrell for a layup. As the crowd cheered around him, Tatum led out a loud yell, flexing his arms.

The play didn't win the game and gave Tatum just two of the 39 points he scored in Boston's thrilling 141-133 double-overtime win on Thursday night. But it's the latest sign that the first-time All-Star is getting more comfortable as a go-to player.

Marcus Smart added 31 points and Gordon Hayward finished with 21 points and 13 rebounds. Kemba Walker had 19 points and nine rebounds. Tatum and Smart combined for 16 of Boston's 27 points in the overtime periods.

The Celtics have won seven straight at home and eight of their last nine overall.

The Clippers played most of the game without Paul George, who left in the second quarter with a left hamstring strain. Lou Wil-



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) goes up to shoot against Los Angeles Clippers', from left to right, Lou Williams, Rodney McGruder and Kawhi Leonard in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020, in Boston.

liams led Los Angeles with 35 points. Kawhi Leonard had 28 points and 11 rebounds, and Harrell finished with 24 points and 13 rebounds.

George played 15 minutes, scoring four points on 2-of-7 shooting before heading to the locker room.

The first meeting between the teams on Nov. 20 was also decided in overtime. The Clippers held on for a 107-104 win.

The Celtics took a 134-130 lead

in the second OT on a driving layup by Smart and another by Tatum.

"He's more assertive," Leonard said of Tatum. "They are trusting him and he is trusting himself."

Harrell got a dunk on the Clippers' next trip up the floor. But Hayward responded with a 3 to increase Boston's lead to 137-132.

Tatum was called for an offensive foul, but Hayward blocked a

runner by Williams off his body to force the turnover with 55 seconds left.

Hayward hit four free throws in the final minute to help close it out.

Tatum said he left the court feeling relief.

The All-Star break comes at a perfect time for both teams as they try to get healthy.

Clippers guard Patrick Beverley missed his fourth straight game with a sore right groin. The Celtics played without Jaylen Brown, who has a left calf contusion.

Smart started in place of Brown and scored the Celtics' first 10 points, digging them out of an early 7-0 deficit. Smart and Tatum combined for 24 of Boston's 30 first-quarter points. It helped offset a 15-point opening period by Leonard.

Boston limited Leonard to two points in the second quarter but had no answers on the inside for Harrell, who had 16 points in the first half on 5-of-5 shooting from the field.

Clippers coach Doc Rivers said he likes his team's position heading into the break.

AC Milan, Juventus Draw 1-1 in 1st Leg of Coppa Italia Semifinal



AC Milan's Zlatan Ibrahimovic, jumps for the ball by Juventus players during an Italian Cup soccer match between AC Milan and Juventus at the San Siro stadium, in Milan, Italy, Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020.

ROME (AP) - AC Milan and Juventus FC drew 1-1 in the first leg of the Coppa Italia semi-finals at Giuseppe Meazza Stadium, commonly known as San Siro, in Milan on Thursday night.

Ante Rebic scored a goal for the Rossoneri in the 61st minute and Cristiano Ronaldo evened the score on a penalty kick for Juventus in extra time just after the 90th minute.

"This was an important goal because it's a double challenge when playing away but (it's no good) for a team like ours to come here and concede too

much against Milan. We need to shift gears," Juventus center-back Leonardo Bonucci told RAI public broadcaster, which aired the match live.

Before tonight, the last clash between Juventus and Milan at San Siro dates back to February 2012, with a 2-1 success for the Bianconeri thanks to a brace by Martin Caceres.

The two teams face off in the second leg at Allianz Stadium in Turin on March 4, while Napoli takes on Inter at San Paolo Stadium in Naples on March 5.

The Coppa Italia final is slated for May 13.

Bedene Stuns Tsitsipas in Rotterdam



Tsitsipas is the second highest seed to lose in Rotterdam following top seed Daniil Medvedev's exit

ROTTERDAM, (AFP) - Stefanos Tsitsipas' slow start to the year continued as the Greek star suffered a second-round defeat by Slovenia's Aljaz Bedene in Rotterdam on Thursday.

The world number six, who was knocked out of the Australian Open last month by Milos Raonic in the third round, slumped to a 7-5, 6-4 loss in the Netherlands.

Bedene saved five break points before snatching the opening set courtesy of a break in the 11th game, before easing through the second to set up a quarter-final against Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime.

"He was probably the better player in most of the first set, he was serving really well," Bedene, the world number 52, told atptour.com after beating second-seeded Tsitsipas.

"I stayed focused and it was good towards the end."

Tsitsipas, who won the season-ending ATP Finals last year, now has a 3-4 losing record in 2020.

In-form Russian Andrey Rublev and Gael Monfils, who plays fellow Frenchman Gilles Simon later on Thursday, are the only top-eight seeds remaining in the draw.

Top seed Daniil Medvedev lost to Vasek Pospisil in the opening round, while Italian teenager Jan-nik Sinner saw off Belgian fourth seed David Goffin 7-6 (9/7), 7-5.

Sinner, who won last year's Next-Gen Finals in Milan, claimed his first victory over a player ranked in the world's top 10.

"I feel great, especially now in this moment," said Sinner.

The 18-year-old will take on Spain's Pablo Carreno-Busta for a place in the semi-finals.

Pele Says He's 'Fine,' After Son Spoke of Depression



Pele, pictured in April 2019, says he has good days and bad days

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Brazilian football legend Pele sought to reassure fans on Thursday that he was doing fine, after his son alluded to depression and said the ageing star now barely leaves home.

"Thanks for your prayers and your worry. I am doing fine. I will be 80 this year," Pele, considered by many to be the greatest footballer of all time, said in a statement.

"I have good days and bad days, which is normal for people my age."

Pele has been in and out of hospital in recent years for various health issues. He never fully recovered from one of his hip operations, leaving him dependent on a walker, his son Edinho said in an interview published Monday.

"I am not missing my (advertising) commitments on my busy schedule," said Pele, the only player to win three World Cups -- in 1958, 1962 and 1970.

"I continue to accept my physical limitations in the best way possible, but I try to keep the ball rolling."

Molano Claims Second Straight Tour Colombia Stage

SOGAMOSO, Colombia (AFP) - Sprinter Juan Sebastian Molano won his second successive stage at the Tour Colombia on Thursday as Tour de France champion Egan Bernal finished safely in the peloton.

UAE Team Emirates' Molano beat compatriots Edwin Avila and Alvaro Hodeg into second and third at the end of the 178km stage from Paipa to Sogamoso at an average altitude of 2,600m.

Ecuador's Jonathan Caicedo retained the lead-

er's orange jersey after finishing in the pack.

It was a ninth victory already this year for UAE. Molano also won Wednesday's 152km stage two in another sprint finish.

Caicedo remains atop the overall standings with three team-mates level with him on time -- Colombians Sergio Higuita and Daniel Martinez, who are expected to challenge for the final victory, and American Tejay van Garderen.

Their American EF Pro Cycling squad won

Tuesday's opening team time-trial.

But having lost 46sec on the opening stage, Bernal's Team Ineos tried to spring a surprise on Thursday, sending Sebastian Henao into the day's break.

That was caught 16km from the finish but then Ecuadoran Giro d'Italia champion Richard Carapaz tried to steal a march on the sprinters by launching a solo attack one kilometer from the finish.