

Iran's Abbasali Advances to Karate 1-Premier League Paris Final

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Hamideh Abbasali has advanced to the Karate 1-Premier League Paris final.

Abbasali will face Turkish Meltem Hocaoglu Akyol in the Female Kumite +68kg final.

On Friday, Bahman Asgari reached the final of Male Kumite -75kg after beating Joa-

quin Gonzalez Lavin of Chile 2-0 in semi-finals.

Sara Bamanyar will also clash for bronze medal in the Female Kumite -50kg after losing to Turkey's Ozcelik Arapoglu 3-0 in semi-finals.

More than 700 competitors from 92 countries have participated at the event underway in Paris, France.



Esteghlal Sink Kuwait SC at ACL Preliminary Round 2



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Esteghlal of Iran is one win away from AFC Champions League 2020 group stages after defeating Kuwait SC 3-0 in the Preliminary Round 2.

The tie, which was originally scheduled to be held at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran, was moved to neutral venue by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

Esteghlal took the lead in the 27th minute through Mali international striker Cheick Diabate at the Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum Sta-

dium in Dubai before doubling its lead in the second half as 31-year-old Diabate scored his second goal.

Esteghlal captain Voria Ghafouri registered the third for the Iranian giant five minutes later to seal the 3-0 result and book a place in the play-off round of the AFC Champions League 2020.

Esteghlal will now face Qatar Stars League side Al Rayyan SC in the playoff round at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha on Tuesday.

Chinese National Winter Games Postponed Due to Virus Outbreak

HOHHOT (AP) - The 14th Chinese National Winter Games has been postponed due to the pneumonia caused by a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), said the organizing committee on Sunday.

The Games was originally scheduled to open on February 16, and conclude on February 26.

The women's ice hockey and the biathlon competitions, slated to begin on Saturday in Hailar and

Yakeshi in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, was also postponed.

It will be the first time since the winter sports gala was introduced in 1959 that the games would be

held in Inner Mongolia.

Besides Hailar and Yakeshi, the 14th National Winter Games will also be competed in Zhalantun of Hulun Buir, Chifeng and Ulanqab.

Shiffrin Wins Super-G, 2 Days After Downhill Triumph



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin powers past a gate as she speeds down the course during an alpine ski, women's World Cup super-G, in Bansko, Bulgaria, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020.

BANSKO, Bulgaria (AP) — Following three weeks without a win in

her favorite technical events, Mikaela Shiffrin bounced back with two tri-

umphs in speed races in three days.

The three-time overall champion from the United States won a women's World Cup super-G Sunday, two days after she won a downhill on the same hill.

It marked the first time in Shiffrin's career that she won two speed events in the same weekend.

Shiffrin used her outstanding giant slalom skills to navigate the many sharp turns on the Marc Girardelli course and beat another technical specialist, Italy's Marta Bassino, by 0.29 seconds.

Shiffrin was about three tenths ahead of Bassino's time from the first split and the margin hardly changed throughout her run.

"I took a little bit of risk," Shiffrin said. "I had a really crazy run. I was going really aggressive. It's the perfect surface, it's perfect conditions, and I really like the course, obviously."

It was Shiffrin's first win in the discipline since clinching the super-G world title in February, and she went top of the season standings.

Former overall champion Lara Gut-Behrami of Switzerland was 0.70 behind in third for her first podium result of the season.

One of Shiffrin's main rivals for the overall title, Federica Brignone, was leading by 0.08 at the final split time but the Italian lost her balance as she hooked a gate and slid off the course.

Atletico Madrid Held Scoreless by Leganes

MADRID (AFP) - Atletico Madrid's goalscoring troubles resurfaced as they drew 0-0 at home to a struggling Leganes side that finished with a defender in goal after the dismissal of Ivan Cuellar.

Atletico crashed out of the Copa

del Rey in midweek after losing to third-tier Cultural Leonesa, and Sunday's latest setback would appear to rule Diego Simeone's team out of title contention.

They are now winless in four games, their surprise cup exit pre-

ceded by a 2-0 loss at Eibar in La Liga last weekend and defeat by Real Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup.

Atletico could finish the day 10 points behind city rivals Real, who travel to Real Valladolid later, ahead of next week's Madrid derby at the

Santiago Bernabeu.

Someone admitted on Saturday his "life is consumed by Atletico" and while his stock among the club's fans remains largely undiminished, there are concerns about his team's direction of travel.

LeBron James Surpasses Kobe Bryant in NBA's All-Time Scoring List

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - LeBron James surpassed Kobe Bryant to become the NBA's third-highest scorer of all time in the LA Lakers' 108-91 defeat by the Philadelphia 76ers.

James, 35, scored 29 points to move to 33,655 career points, 12 more than former Lakers star Bryant.

Kareem Abdul Jabbar, the ex-Lakers and Milwaukee Bucks centre, is the NBA's all-time top scorer on 38,387 points.

Former Utah Jazz forward Karl Malone, who also briefly played

for the Lakers, is second on 36,928.

"I'm happy just to be in any conversation with Kobe Bryant," said James.

"One of the all-time greatest basketball players to ever play, one of the all-time greatest Lakers.

"The man's got two jerseys hanging up in Staples Center. It's just crazy."

James, in his 17th NBA season, received a standing ovation from the Philadelphia crowd after scoring the basket that saw him pass Bryant's total in the third quarter.



With a driving right-handed layup against the Philadelphia 76ers, LeBron James passed Kobe Bryant for No. 3 on the NBA's All-Time scoring list. James now only has Karl Malone and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar ahead of him on the All-Time scoring list.

Federer Roars Into Record 15th Australian Open Quarterfinal



Roger Federer emphatically bounced back after losing the first set against Marton Fucsovics

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Roger Federer flicked a switch after losing the opening set to crush Marton Fucsovics and book a record 15th Australian Open quarterfinal on Sunday, with unheralded American Tenny's Sandgren his next hurdle.

The Swiss master took time to work out the Hungarian but when he did it was one-way traffic, romping to a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 victory on Rod Laver Arena to edge closer to a seventh Melbourne title and 21st Grand Slam crown.

Awaiting him in the last eight on Tuesday is the 100th-ranked Sandgren, who upset 12th-seeded Italian Fabio Fognini over four intense sets.

"I think it's good for me to know that I can put streaks like this together," said Federer, who won seven games in a row straddling the second and third sets.

"I think in any tournament I played very well, I had those streaks happening at some point," said Federer, who is into a record 15th Melbourne quar-

terfinal, surpassing John Newcombe's 14.

It will be also be his 57th appearance in the last eight at Grand Slams. No one else is close, with Novak Djokovic next in line on 46.

"It was nice especially off the (John) Millman match, after losing the first set (against Fucsovics), that I had that in me, at the end I was able to control things. So that was nice."

The ageless Federer was pushed to a gruelling five sets by Millman in round three, but showed no signs of tiredness against Fucsovics despite being 38.

Sandgren, a devout Christian, achieved his best Grand Slam result at Melbourne Park by reaching the last eight in 2018, but it was overshadowed by a row over his political views and links to right-wing activists.

He has put the controversy behind him and shown battling qualities to make the last eight again, and said he was relishing the chance to play an all-time great.

Porte Loses Willunga Hill Battle, Wins Tour Down Under

ADELAIDE, Australia (AFP) - Richie Porte lost his unofficial King of Willunga crown but won his second Tour Down Under title in a punishing hill climb finish to the final stage of the UCI season-opening event in Australia on Sunday.

The Australian from team Trek Segafredo unleashed his trademark surge up the steep three-kilometre climb in a bid for a seventh win in the demanding Willunga Hill stage, but was overtaken by England's Matthew Holmes in the final stretch.

Porte, the 2017 winner, went into the final stage trailing defending champion and race leader Daryl Impey by two seconds but the South African Mitchelton-Scott lead rider couldn't go the pace on the final climb and lost more than 30 seconds to finish sixth overall.