

Iran Retain Asian Sitting Volleyball Championship Title



TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iran's men's sitting volleyball team has retained its Para-Volley Asia-Oceania title in Thailand.

Iran clinched the title after defeating China 25-21, 25-7, and 28-26. They swept all their matches without dropping a single set.

En route to the final, Iran defeated Japan, Cambodia, Thailand, Kazakhstan, and South Korea.

The Iranians have also booked their spot at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Martinez Cracker Helps Colombia Past Argentina

SALVADOR, Brazil (Reuters) - Roger Martinez has scored an outstanding goal as Colombia beat Argentina 2-0 in a Copa America Group B opener that burst into life after a sluggish start.

Just as Colombia looked like being overwhelmed by a dangerous-looking Argentina side, substitute Martinez controlled a cross-field ball on the left wing before cutting across the area and smashing it into the far top corner.

The stunning strike came in the 71st minute and Martinez's fellow substitute Duvan Zapata made sure Colombia took all the points by pouncing from close range to knock in a cross from Jefferson Lerma 15 minutes later.

Colombia had looked stronger in the first half but Ar-



Soccer Football - Copa America Brazil 2019 - Group B - Argentina v Colombia - Arena Fonte Nova, Salvador, Brazil - June 15, 2019

Colombia's Duvan Zapata in action with Argentina's Nicolas Otamendi

gentina were a different beast when Rodrigo de Paul replaced Angel di Maria immediately after the interval and captain Lionel Messi was able to find space to cause some problems.

Messi wasted the best chance of the game before Martinez's piledriver broke the deadlock when he skewed a rebound wide from close range, and the Barcelona forward also went on a thrilling solo run into the

area but could not get a shot away.

A mass brawl ensued when Messi was cut down by Colombia's Juan Cuadrado in the second half while Argentina midfielder Leandro Paredes fizzed two shots at goal.

A goal from Lionel Scaloni's side looked imminent but Colombia's usual talisman James Rodriguez split their defense with an impressive long pass to Martinez, who came on early in the game after Luis Muriel was forced off injured.

Martinez's stunning strike floored Argentina and although they came back with a couple more attempts, they never looked like scoring.

Colombia top Group B with three points ahead of Qatar's meeting with Paraguay on Sunday.

Report: Salah, Mane Reject Big Offers to Stay at Liverpool



LIVERPOOL (Dispatches) - According to a report by John Richardson of English tabloid The Daily Mirror, Liverpool frontmen Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane have both told the club they are rejecting tempting offers from "lead-

ing continental clubs" to stay at Liverpool at least one more year.

The report says that Salah in particular heard from both Real Madrid and Juventus about the clubs preparing massive \$189 million offers, but told them he would not

entertain contract negotiations that usually precede those type of enormous deals.

Richardson reports that the outside interest was serious enough that Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp had internal discussions about contingency plans should Salah be tempted by the possibility of leaving, but instead he will stay to have another go at ending Liverpool's long domestic title drought. The 27-year-old's contract does not expire until the summer of 2023, having signed an extension just a year ago, so the club still does for the most part control his immediate future.

Salah has scored 71 goals in 104 games across all competitions since joining Liverpool two years ago.

Another prolific goalscorer playing opposite Salah on the left wing, Mane also rejected tempting offers from big clubs, although the report did not name specific teams involved or the price considered. Mane's contract also runs through the summer of 2023, so it would be tough for him to force his way out of the club as well.

For both players, despite winning the Champions League this past season, leaving Anfield now would feel a bit like leaving business unresolved after coming up just inches short of Manchester City in the title race. After earning a record points haul for second-place finishing team, Liverpool fans feel they can get over the hump next season with another stellar campaign.

Sarri Leaves Chelsea to Become Juventus Manager

LONDON (Dispatches) - Maurizio Sarri has left Chelsea to become manager of Serie A champions Juventus on a three-year deal.

Sarri, who joined the Blues from Napoli in July 2018, led them to third in the Premier League and won the Europa League in his one season in charge.

It is understood a compensation fee in excess of £5m has been agreed between the two clubs for the 60-year-old.

Sarri will replace fellow Italian Massimiliano Allegri, who left Juventus at the end of last season.

"In talks we had following the Europa League final, Maurizio made it clear how strongly he desired to return to his native country, explaining that his reasons for wanting to return to work in Italy were significant," said Chelsea director Marina Granovskaia.

"He also believed it important to be nearer his family, and for the well-being of his elderly parents he felt he needed to live closer to them at this point."

Sarri signed a three-year deal last July but now becomes the ninth full-time manager to leave Chelsea under Roman Abramovich, who bought the club in 2003.

Derby boss and former Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard has been linked with taking over from Sarri but the Blues are yet to make contact with the Rams.



Maurizio Sarri had never won a major trophy before, having spent much of his career in Italy's lower leagues

The Championship club are keen to extend Lampard's deal - which has two years left - and have opened talks with the 40-year-old.

The Stamford Bridge club are unable to sign any players after being given a two-window transfer ban by world governing body Fifa - a decision they are appealing against at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Siamand Rahman One to Watch at 2019 World Championships



Iranian powerlifter Siamand Rahman

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - World Para Powerlifting has announced the Ones to Watch ahead of the Nur-Sultan 2019 World Championships, set to take place between 12 and 20 July.

There are athletes who have the potential to make headlines, especially with the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games fast approaching.

Iranian powerlifter Sia-

mand Rahman is among the Ones to Watch.

"All eyes will be on the strongest Paralympian on the planet as he tries to set another stunning world record at Nur-Sultan 2019," Paralympic.org reported.

Rahman, who has won two Paralympic gold medals so far, is going to win his third successive gold at the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

Marquez Wins, Lorenzo Triggers Pile-Up



Andrea Dovizioso led after a quick start but Marquez (93) claimed the win

BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Lorenzo, who had charged from 10th on the grid to join the lead battle, fell at the sharp Turn 10 left-hander while trying to pass Maverick Vinales, taking down his compatriot, as well as Dovizioso and Valentino Rossi in the process.

Marquez overtook pole-sitter Fabio Quartararo off the line, but yielded to a fast-starting Dovizioso at Turn 1, and was soon also briefly overtaken by Vinales.

Having regained second place, the championship leader pressured Dovizioso, and snuck past the Ducati man on the second lap at Turn 10.

At that same corner, Lorenzo committed down the inside of Vinales for third place but hit the deck on corner entry.

His bike clattered into Dovizioso's rear, and the resulting crash removed both Vinales and Rossi - who had gone wide to avoid the pile-up - from the race.

The crash left Marquez on his own up front, and promoted Ducati's Petrucci to second place, the Italian unable to

keep pace with the Honda man but managing to fend off both Suzuki's Alex Rins and Quartararo, who had been as low as ninth after the opening lap.

On the 10th lap, Rins launched his bike down the inside of Petrucci at Turn 1, briefly getting ahead but running wide on exit, allowing Petrucci to sweep around the outside of Turn 2.

The same sequence of events was repeated two laps later, and it was another two laps before before Petrucci opened the door at the sweeping Turn 4 right-hander and allowed Rins to barge past.

But Petrucci then slipstreamed back ahead of Rins at Turn 1 on lap 17, and when the Spaniard tried another Turn 1 move next time by, he came in too hot, just avoided collecting Petrucci and nearly high-sided off his GSX-RR, tumbling down the order.

Thus had unsettled Petrucci enough to allow Quartararo to get past just a few corners later with a move at Turn 4, but by that point Marquez was already more than five seconds clear.