

Iran Defeat Kyrgyzstan at CAFA U-16 Championship

TEHRAN (Diospatches) – Iran have defeated Kyrgyzstan 5-0 in the final day of the 2019 CAFA U-16 Championship.

Yadegar Rostami (two goals), Akbar Ranjbar, Khaled Rohani and Sobhan Kamalvand scored for Hossein Abdi's team on Thursday.

Iran had defeated Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and lost to Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the tournament.



The CAFA Youth Championship is an international football competition in Central Asia for the member nations of the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA).

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The competition was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Top Seed Tsitsipas Reaches ATP Washington Quarterfinals



Greek top seed Stefanos Tsitsipas defeated Australia's Jordan Thompson to reach the ATP Washington Open quarterfinals.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - World number six Stefanos Tsitsipas struggled late but advanced to the ATP Washington Open quarter-finals on Thursday by defeating Australia's Jordan Thompson 6-3, 7-6 (7/4).

The 20-year-old Greek top seed took the only break of the match to claim the first set and after some tense moments won the tie-breaker when Thompson netted a forehand after 99 minutes at the U.S. Open hardcourt tune-up event.

"It was kind of tricky at the end," Tsitsipas said. "I kept doing silly mistakes in the tie-breaker. I was not happy about it. I made a lot of unforced errors."

"I played great to get break points, and then I started thinking about it. I didn't identify the right occasion to come to the net. Just a little lost."

"I believe I can handle those situations more mature in my next matches."

In the quarterfinals, Tsitsipas will meet French 10th seed Benoit Paire, who ousted U.S. fifth seed John Isner 7-6 (7/3), 6-3.

Tsitsipas, who beat Roger Federer in January on his way to the Australian Open semifinals, seeks his fourth career ATP title after crowns last October in Stockholm, last February at Marseille and in May at Estoril.

Tsitsipas reached the 2018 Washington semifinals and a week later became the youngest player to ever beat four top-10 ATP players in the same week before losing to Rafael Nadal in the Canada Masters final.

Croatian sixth seed Marin Cilic, the 2014 U.S. Open champion, beat Canadian ninth seed Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3, 6-4.

World number 17 Cilic booked a last-eight date with Russia's 10th-ranked Daniil Medvedev, who eliminated hometown hero Frances Tiafoe 6-2, 7-5.

Hamilton First, Bottas Last in Hungarian GP Practice

BUDAPEST (Reuters) – Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton set the pace in first Hungarian Grand Prix practice on Friday while a power unit problem forced Mercedes team mate Valtteri Bottas to sit out the session.

Hamilton had said he could not wait to be back in the car after recovering from a bug that laid him low in Germany last weekend and he wasted no time in getting back up to speed.

The Briton, who has won in Hungary a record six times and has a 41-point lead over Bottas in the standings, lapped the Hungaroring with a best time of one minute 17.233 seconds under cloudy skies.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen was second on the timesheets, 0.165 slower, with Ferrari's



Formula One F1 - Hungarian Grand Prix - Hungaroring, Budapest, Hungary - August 2, 2019 Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton during practice

Sebastian Vettel occupying the third place and only a thousandth of a second behind the 21-year-old Dutchman.

Verstappen, who spun twice in the session, has won two of the last three races, including the chaotic wet thriller at Hocken-

heim.

Hamilton is eager to put that race behind him after starting on pole, hitting the barriers, spinning and collecting a time penalty before finishing 11th and then being promoted back to ninth.

The five-times world cham-

pion won from pole in Hungary last year.

Verstappen's French team mate Pierre Gasly was fourth fastest, with Kevin Magnussen fifth for Haas and Charles Leclerc sixth for Ferrari.

Bottas was sidelined after two incomplete laps, Mercedes having detected an untraceable problem with his power unit and deciding to swap it out of the car for another in the pool of engines.

The lost track time was another setback for the Finn, who crashed out in Hockenheim just when he looked likely to make inroads into his team mate's championship lead.

Hungary is the last race before Formula One's August break and the 12th of 21 rounds.

Brazil Captain Alves Heads Home to Sao Paulo



Brazil captain Dani Alves, pictured playing in the Copa America in June, has signed a three-year contract with Sao Paulo

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BRASÍLIA (AFP) - After 17 years playing for the top clubs in

Europe, Brazil captain Dani Alves has decided to return home, signing a three-year deal with Sao Paulo.

A free agent after his contract with French champions Paris Saint-Germain expired in June, Alves explained his decision on a Twitter video posted on the club website.

"I could have picked any team to play for but I chose to return to Brazil, to my country, my people, to the club that I love," said the 36-year-old who has been in Europe since he signed for Sevilla in 2002.

The right back went on to play for Barcelona, Juventus and PSG, collecting nine national league titles along the way -- six in Spain, one in Italy and two in France.

He has collected 40 trophies in all with club and country including three Champions League titles with Barcelona and two UEFA Cups with Sevilla

He has also won two Copa Americas with Brazil, most recently in July when he was named player of the tournament as he captained them to victory over Peru in the final at the Maracana in Rio de Janeiro.



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Atletico Madrid have continued their fine play in their pre-season friendly matches, after comfortably beating the MLS All-Star 3-0.

Atletico broke the deadlock when Marcos Llorente netted with a low shot in the 43rd minute.

The match was about to finish with

the single goal, but newly joined Portuguese striker, Joao Felix, doubled the lead for the Spanish club, with a spectacular shot from long distance.

But that was not the end, as Diego Costa made it 3-0 for Atletico, on an individual effort, in the dying moments.

Canelo Loses IBF Belt After Title Defense Deal Collapses

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Middleweight world champion Canelo Alvarez has been stripped of his International Boxing Federation belt after failing to agree terms on a mandatory title defense, his promoter Oscar De La Hoya revealed on Friday.

Alvarez, who also holds the World Boxing Association and World Boxing Council titles, has been forced to relinquish his IBF crown after negotiations for a fight with Ukraine's Sergiy Derevyanchenko fell through.

"We are extremely disappointed at the IBF for forcing the world's best fighter to relinquish his world title," said a furious De La Hoya, a multiple world champion belt holder himself before becoming a promoter.

"We offered his (Derevyanchenko's)

team an unprecedented amount of money for a fighter of his limited stature and limited popularity, but the truth is that I'm now certain they never had any intention of making a deal," he said.

"But instead they wanted to force us to relinquish Canelo's belt. This is an insult to boxing and more importantly an insult to the boxing fans of the world."

Alvarez, who won the IBF belt in May after beating Daniel Jacobs in 12 rounds, had been expected to fight Derevyanchenko in October after recently electing to skip his traditional September fight date.

The Athletic reported Friday that Derevyanchenko is now set to enter negotiations with former champion Genadiy Golovkin for a potential fight for the now-vacant IBF belt.



Four Players Banned for Life by Asian Football Confederation

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - The Asian Football Confederation has banned four players for life for attempting to fix matches in the AFC Cup in 2017 and 2018.

The AFC said Friday that defender Kursanbek Sheratov, striker Vladimir Verevkin and defender Iliaz Alimov of Kyrgyzstan and goalkeeper Abduaziz Mahkamov of Tajikistan had been banned from taking part in any football-related activities for life.

It said Sheratov was found guilty of being involved in a conspiracy to manipulate a match involving

his club Dordoi FC in the 2017 season of the AFC Cup. He was also found guilty of supporting betting activity in connection with the match.

Verevkin and Alimov were found guilty of being involved in a conspiracy to manipulate matches involving their club FC Alay in the 2017 and/or 2018 season of the AFC Cup.

Mahkamov was found guilty of being involved in a conspiracy to manipulate matches involving the same club, FC Alay, in the 2017 and 2018 seasons of the AFC Cup.