

Iran's Mes to Play Nagoya Oceans of Japan in AFC Futsal Club C'ship Final



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Defending champion Mes Sungun Varzeqan of Iran have advanced to the final of the AFC Futsal Club Championship Thailand 2019 in style. Mes Sungun defeated AGMK FC of Uzbekistan 7-3 in the semi-final on Thursday. Mes Sungun will face three-time

champion Nagoya Oceans of Japan in the final on Saturday, while AGMK will take on Vietnam's Thai Son Nam FC in the third place play-off. Mehdi Javid scored a hat-trick in this match, while Alireza Askari made a brace. Farhad Fakhim and Mohammad Shajari also scored. The final will be a thriller, with Mes Sungun eager to atone for its defeat to the Japanese side in a Group D tie on Monday. The 2019 AFC Futsal Club Championship is the 10th edition of the AFC Futsal Club Championship, an annual international futsal club tournament in Asia organized by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). The competition is being held in Bangkok, Thailand on August 7-17.

Djokovic Motors Into Cincy Quarters as Federer Ousted

CINCINNATI (AFP) - World number one Novak Djokovic has a remarkably clear road to the ATP Cincinnati Masters final after producing an efficient victory Thursday while third seed Roger Federer crashed out of the U.S. Open tuneup event. Djokovic was never in danger in his 6-3, 6-4 triumph over 53rd-ranked Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta, whom he finished off in 90 minutes. Federer fell in a first-time meeting with Russian Andrey Rublev, who posted a 6-3, 6-4



Top-ranked Novak Djokovic defeated Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta to reach the ATP Cincinnati Masters quarter-finals. an impression on Rublev, playing only his second match since losing the Wimbledon final to Djokovic.

Canada Beat Australia 90-70 in FIBA World Cup Warmup Game



Canada's Kevin Pangos (1) breaks for the net against Nigeria's Ben Uzoh (4) during the first half of their exhibition game in Winnipeg. PERTH, Australia (AP) - Canada a 90-70 win over the home side in a FIBA World Cup warmup basketball game Friday.

The Canadians led 51-36 early in the third quarter but Australia rallied to draw level before the visitors dominated the final period for an easy win. The teams meet again on Saturday night at the same stadium in Perth. Australia plays Canada in their first game of the World Cup on Sept. 1 in China. Canada goes into the World Cup without most of their NBA stars. Miami Heat's Kelly Olynyk became the latest big-name player to pull out after sustaining a knee injury. He joined Andrew Wiggins, Jamal Murray, R.J. Barrett, Tristan Thompson, Dwight Powell, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Chris Boucher and Nickeil Alexander-Walker as other top Canadian NBA players to miss the World Cup. Kevin Pangos scored 18 points for Canada, which is being coached by Toronto Raptors coach Nick Nurse, who led the team to the NBA Championship this season. Andrew Nembhard added 12 points and was among five players to hit double figures for Canada. Patty Mills led Australia with 20 points. Australia hosts USA Basketball in Melbourne on Aug. 22 and Aug. 24.

PSG, French Football Braced for Neymar Exit

PARIS (AFP) - The saga of Neymar's seemingly inevitable departure from Paris Saint-Germain is proving a long, drawn out affair bringing the curtain down on what will ultimately feel like a fleeting and failed experiment. Having arrived in France in 2017 hoping a world-record transfer to PSG would help him emerge from the shadow of Lionel Messi at Barcelona and win the Ballon d'Or, two years on he looks set to leave with his reputation having taken a serious hit. There is no doubting the 27-year-old forward is a brilliant player, and there is every chance he will get the success he craves -- collectively and, chiefly, individually -- by returning to Spain, whether with his old club or Real Madrid. However, there is every reason to believe a Kylian Mbappe-led PSG, and football in France in general, will ultimately be better off without him. The French champions' first Ligue 1 game of the campaign last Sunday, a 3-0 win against Nimes, saw supporters unfurl banners insulting the 222 million-euro (\$264 million at the time) man. Neymar himself was not involved in that game, left out amid the uncertainty over his future. He



Could the potential departure of Neymar ultimately prove to be a positive for Paris Saint-Germain and French football? already missed the season-opening Champions Trophy against Rennes in China due to suspension.

UEFA Nominates Messi, Ronaldo, van Dijk for Player of Year



Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (right) shares a light moment with Juventus's Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon (center) and Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi as they wait ahead of the awarding of the title of "Best Men's Player in Europe" at the conclusion of UEFA Champions League group stage draw ceremony in Monaco on Aug 24, 2017.

PARIS (AP) — Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Virgil van Dijk have been shortlisted as three finalists for the 2018-19 UEFA Men's Player of the Year award, the European football's governing body announced on Thursday. Barcelona's Messi, the top goalscorer in the UEFA Champions League and the European Golden Shoe winner, lifted his 10th La Liga title. Ronaldo was the inaugural UEFA Nations League winner and top goalscorer at the finals, also winning his first Serie A title with Juventus. With his undisputable defensive performance in Liverpool's UEFA Champions League victory, Van Dijk joined the two arch-rivals during the past decade in the list. Following the award's inauguration in 2011, Messi and Ronaldo have claimed it five times among eight on offer, with Andres Iniesta, Franck Ribery and Luka Modric as other winners. Alisson Becker, Sadio Mane, Mohamed Salah, Eden Hazard, Matthijs de Ligt, Frenkie de Jong and Raheem Sterling rank 4th to 10th respectively in the vote.

Mori, 15, Becomes Youngest Japanese Medalist in World Climbing Championships



HACHIOJI, Japan (Reuters) - Teenager Ai Mori made history after becoming the youngest Japanese medalist at the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) World Championships, winning the bronze medal in the women's lead competition in Hachioji on Thursday. Mori, aged 15 years and 10 months, broke the previous record held by Akiyo Noguchi who also won the bronze medal in the event aged 16 in 2005. Making her senior debut at the event, Mori finished third behind the Slovenian pair of Janja Garnbret, who swept the Bouldering World Cup this year, and Mia Krampl. "I'm happy I finished on the podium. I was able to climb higher because of all of the support," Mori was quoted as saying by Kyodo news agency. In the men's competition, Czech Republic's Adam Ondra won the gold, narrowly beating Germany's Alex Megos and Austria's Jakob Schubert.

Soccer Federation to Investigate Racist Abuse in Spain

MADRID (AP) Soccer officials in Spain say they will investigate the alleged racist abuse that led English team to abandon a game in protest. The Andalusian soccer federation said Thursday it will look into what happened in the Under-18 friendly game last week between Queens Park Rangers and Spanish club Nervion in Seville. QPR CEO Lee Hoos said Wednesday the team was "forced to abandon" the match because of "abuse from opposition players." The Andalusian federation says it will open the investigation even though it was not involved in the organization of the game. It says it does not tolerate racist abuse and praised QPR players for abandoning the match if they were subject to abuse. The Spanish soccer federation and Nervion did not immediately respond to a request for comment.