

Iran Finish 8th at 2019 FIVB World Cup

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran national volleyball team finished in eighth place at the 2019 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Cup.

Team Melli is placed in the 8th position with 12 points.

Iran national volleyball team lost to Russia, Egypt, Brazil, USA, Japan, Italy and Poland in the competition held in three Japanese cities Nagano, Fukuoka and Hiroshima from October.

Igor Kolakovic's men defeated Australia, Canada, Argentina and Tunisia in the competition.

Brazil remained unbeaten and won the title with 11 wins and 32 points,



followed by Poland and USA.

Tunisia came last with one win and four points.

Final standing

1. Brazil
2. Poland
3. United States
4. Japan
5. Argentina
6. Russia
7. Italy
8. Iran
9. Canada
10. Egypt
11. Australia
12. Tunisia

France Held by Turkey in Paris Qualifier

PARIS (Dispatches) - World champions France were held to a 1-1 draw by Turkey in Paris to delay their qualification for Euro 2020.

Chelsea striker Olivier Giroud headed home an Antoine Griezmann corner four minutes after coming on as a second-half substitute.

Kaan Ayhan pulled Turkey leveled five minutes later as he glanced a free-kick from the right past Steve Mandanda.

The result means Turkey remain above France at the top of Group H because of their 2-0 win in the reverse fixture.

Iceland's 2-0 win over Andorra meant neither France nor Turkey could qualify on Monday.

France dominated the game, having 64% of possession and 23 shots but were unable to really threaten a well-organized and stubborn Turkey defense which has conceded just three goals in eight qualifying games.

Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante was on the bench for France despite reportedly picking up a muscle injury during the warm-up for Friday's 1-0 win over Iceland.

But fellow Premier League players Paul Pogba, Anthony Martial, Hugo Lloris and Aymeric Laporte were all missing through injury.

Turkey face Iceland and Andorra in November requiring a point to secure qualification, while



Turkey's Hakan Calhanoglu in action with France's Clement Lenglet Benoît Tessier, at Euro 2020 Qualifier - Group H.

France host Moldova before going to Andorra needing a maxi-

mum of three points to reach the finals.

Ukraine Stun Portugal in Qualifier as Ronaldo Scores Landmark 700th Career Goal



Ukraine's players celebrate after the Euro 2020 football qualification match between Ukraine and Portugal at the NSK Olimpiyskiy stadium in Kiev on Oct 14, 2019.

KIEV (Dispatches) - Cristiano Ronaldo reached a career landmark on Monday by scoring his 700th career goal in Portugal's Euro 2020 qualifier at Ukraine.

The 34-year-old scored a penalty as Portugal lost 2-1.

His 700 goals so far have come from 973 matches - and he has scored at least once in 458 of those.

His goal in the 2-1 loss to Ukraine was also his 95th for Portugal, leaving only Iranian Ali Daei in front in the international charts on 109 goals.

The win for Ukraine, meanwhile,

means they have qualified for Euro 2020.

Ronaldo's goal means he joins an elite group of players to have hit at least 700 goals in their career.

Juventus forward Ronaldo is still some way behind the most prolific player of all time, with Czech-Austrian Josef Bican scoring 805 career goals.

Next on the list is Brazil legend Romario, who bagged 772, while his compatriot Pele is third on 767.

Hungary legend Ferenc Puskas hit 746 goals, while former Germany striker Gerd Muller rounds out the top five with 735 goals.

Farah Eighth as Cherono Wins Chicago Marathon

Kenyan Lawrence Cherono won the Chicago Marathon as Britain's Mo Farah failed to keep pace and finished eighth.

Cherono, 31, who also won the Boston Marathon, outsprinted Ethiopians Dejene Debelu and Asefa Mengstu who were second and third.

Farah, 36, who won this race last year, finished more than four minutes adrift in two hours, nine minutes, 58 seconds.

Fellow Briton David Weir was second in the men's wheelchair race, behind defending champion Daniel Romanchuk.

It was Farah's slowest marathon run, by more than one minute, in six attempts and came following a challenging week after former coach Alberto Salazar was banned for four years for doping violations.

Farah, a four-time Olympic champion over 5,000m and 10,000m on the track, has never failed a drugs test and told journalists before the race there is an "agenda" against him.

Winner Cherono said: "It was a very competitive race even right from the beginning.



Lawrence Cherono also won the Boston marathon in April.

Epic Mountain Slog Unveiled for 2020 Tour de France

PARIS (AFP) - The 2020 Tour de France promises to be one for the climbers after organizers revealed a route on Tuesday which includes 29 high altitude ascents and five summit finishes including the individual time trial.

The race, which starts a week earlier than usual on June 27 to accommodate the Tokyo Olympics, has eight mountain stages and three hilly stages and should suit the 2019 champion Egan Bernal and his Ineos teammate Chris Froome as well as the French duo of Thibaut Pinot and Romain Bardet.

The 3,470km race rarely strays from the mountains even though there are nine flat stages.

"There are 29 climbs, it will be physically challenging throughout," said Tour chief Christian Prudhomme.

"Even the so called flat stages will be very tough for the pure sprinters. There are traps everywhere along the route."

Team Ineos principal Dave Brailsford, the mastermind of six Tour de France victories, told AFP on the sidelines of the unveiling that he felt undaunted by the route.

England Thrash Bulgaria in Qualifier Overshadowed by Racism



There were two halts in play in the first half due to incidents of racist abuse

SOFIA (Dispatches) - England's Euro 2020 qualifying victory over Bulgaria in Sofia was overshadowed by shameful scenes of racism that saw the game stopped twice and officials threaten to abandon the match.

Gareth Southgate's side strolled to a 6-0 victory in an atmosphere that was toxic in the first half and eerie in the second, with a large section of the Vasil Levski Stadium already closed after racist incidents in June.

England debutant Tyrone Mings was an early victim, turning towards the home fans when chants were aimed in his direction and referee Ivan Bebek stopped the game in the 28th minute after Raheem Sterling was a target for further abuse.

After lengthy discussions, and

in accordance with UEFA's protocol for dealing with racism, the crowd were warned of the consequences if there were further problems - and there was a further stoppage just before half-time.

On the pitch, England moved closer to Euro 2020 qualification as they romped to victory with the recalled Marcus Rashford opening the scoring early on with a superb rising drive.

Ross Barkley added a tap-in and a head from Kieran Trippier's cross before Sterling got on the scoresheet with another simple finish just before half-time.

And Sterling provided an even more emphatic answer to those who directed the shameful chants at England's players when he strode through for the fifth goal after 68 minutes.

North Korea Hold South Korea to 0-0 in World Cup Qualifier

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea held South Korea to a 0-0 draw Tuesday in a World Cup qualifying soccer match.

South Korean soccer officials were unable to watch a telecast of the historic game and believe it was played in an empty Kim Il Sung Stadium.

Specific details of the game weren't immediately available. Four players received yellow cards, two from each team.

North Korea kept out South Korean media and spectators and refused to air a live broadcast from the stadium, casting the game into media darkness in the South.

Seppi Beats Garin at Kremlin Cup, Mannarino Wins



MOSCOW (AP) - Italian veteran Andreas Seppi saved two match points before beating Christian Garin 3-6, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (4) Monday to reach the second round of the Kremlin Cup.

The 35-year-old Seppi faced the match points when trailing 6-5 in the second set against the fifth-seeded Chilean. In the decider, Seppi needed six match points to close out the win.

Seppi will play either Roberto Carballes Baena or Ricardas Berankis in the second round.

Seventh-seeded Adrian Mannarino beat Damir Dzumhur 7-6 (2), 6-0, and qualifier Lukas Rosol upset Juan Ignacio Londero 6-7 (4) 7-6 (7), 6-3 after saving a match point in the second-set tiebreaker.

In the women's draw, sixth-seeded Anastasija Sevastova won her first-round match 6-1, 7-5 against Aliaksandra Sasnovich, while Svetlana Kuznetsova lost 6-2, 6-3 to Karolina Muchova.