

CAS Overturns Iran Judo Suspension



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Monday announced that it has issued a ruling in favor of Iran regarding the case of

Iran judo suspension. After more than a year of having Iran suspended from all competitions, administrative and social activities organized

or authorized by the International Judo Federation and its Unions, the CAS in a letter to the Iranian Judo Federation announced the removal of the

suspension. Following what happened during the World Judo Championships Tokyo 2019, the IJF suspended Iran Judo Federation from all competitions in September 2019.

The IJF claimed that the August 28th, 2019, during the last 2019 World Championships in Tokyo, a judoka from Iran Saeid Mollaei (-81kg) lost to his Belgian rival to avoid a potential contest against an Israeli athlete.

During this time, the Iran Judo Federation submitted three appeals to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against the decision taken by IJF.

Eventually, on February 1, 2021, the international body removed the suspension.

James Earns Win for Lakers in Landmark Game



LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - **LeBron James** marked his 1,300th NBA regular-season game by helping the Los Angeles Lakers to a 117-91 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

James, who has won championships with three franchises, had 19 points plus six rebounds, four assists, two steals and two blocked shots in 24 minutes.

He sat out all of the fourth quarter along with the rest of the starters from both teams as the Lakers closed out a dominant victory.

It avenged a narrow loss in January.

The Lakers are still without star forward Anthony Davis but have now won two in a row after a run of five defeats in six games.

He added that the Lakers were becoming more comfortable in the roles they have had to adopt with Davis sidelined, an absence that Lakers coach Frank Vogel said called on them to develop a "little bit of a new identity".

Stephen Curry was limited to 16 points for the Warriors and they also suffered the loss of Draymond Green with a sprained left ankle in the second quarter.

Atletico Move Five Points Clear in La Liga

MADRID (Dispatches) - Atletico Madrid opened up a six-point lead over Real Madrid at the top of La Liga after a 2-0 win away to Villarreal on Sunday night.

Recent results implied the game could be another potential banana skin for Atletico, who have seen their lead at the top of the table cut from 10 to three points over the past three weeks, but Diego Simeone's side got through their visit to the east coast with three vital points.

They had a touch of fortune in their opening goal when Ste-



fan Savic's 24th-minute header was saved by Sergio Asenjo only to bounce back over the line off Antonio Pedraza, but an assured second-half display

saw Joao Felix double their lead in the 69th minute after a poor clearance from Pau Torres.

On Saturday FC Barcelona produced one of their best dis-

plays of the season to win 2-0 away to Sevilla.

Ousmane Dembele and Leo Messi scored the goals as Barca gave their rivals very few options in attack less than three weeks after losing 2-0 on the same ground in the Copa del Rey.

Dembele put Barca ahead after a pass from Messi in the 29th minute and Messi doubled the lead with five minutes remaining.

Barca will worry about losing key players after Pedri went off injured and Ronald Araujo lasted just minutes in his return from an ankle injury.

AC Milan Beat Roma to Maintain Pressure on Inter



Franck Kessie's penalty was his ninth goal of the season in all competitions for AC Milan

MILAN (Dispatches) - **AC Milan** have moved four points behind Serie A leaders Inter Milan by beating Roma.

Franck Kessie put Milan ahead from the penalty spot after Roma's Federico Fazio fouled Davide Calabria.

But Roma's Jordan Veretout equalized with a fine finish from 18 yards out after five minutes of the second half.

However, after striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic went off to protect a groin injury, Milan scored the winner through Ante Rebic's shot on the turn following Alexis Saelemaekers' pass.

Milan will play Manchester United in the Europa League last 16 over two legs on 11 and 18 March in matches that would see Ibrahimovic, who spent a season and a half at Old Trafford, potentially feature against his former side.

The Swedish striker appeared to suffer a groin injury midway through the first half, but was still able to play until the 58th minute and was heavily involved.

Ibrahimovic, 39, has scored 14 Serie A goals this season and had numerous chances to add to that total but had a strike tipped over, another effort cleared off the line, a goal disallowed, he backheeled a chance wide and also headed over.

Milan's Simon Kjær headed against the crossbar and Rebic and Saelemaekers had shots saved as the visitors dominated, before Kessie converted a penalty.

The referee had originally not given a spot-kick, but changed his mind after watching the incident on a pitchside monitor following a video assistant referee check.

Djokovic Equals Roger Federer's World Number One Record



Djokovic defeated Daniil Medvedev in straight sets in the Australian Open final

LONDON (Dispatches) - **Novak Djokovic** has equalled Roger Federer's record of 310 weeks ranked as world number one.

The 33-year-old Serbian is guaranteed to break the mark next week. Djokovic won his 18th Grand

Slam title and his ninth Australian Open crown in Melbourne last month.

His victory in Melbourne takes him to two wins behind the joint holders of the men's Grand Slam record, Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic has been helped by temporary changes to the ranking system because of the coronavirus pandemic which means players can currently count tournaments from two years instead of one.

However, he is still the in-form player on the men's tour, beginning 2021 by winning nine consecutive matches while last year he did not lose a completed match until the French Open final in October.

Djokovic's fifth spell at the top of the rankings began on 3 February last and he has been number one for all but 32 weeks since Federer hit 310 weeks in June 2018.

His longest stint as number one was 122 weeks between July 2014 and November 2016.

Djokovic sits on 12,030 points - more than 2,000 clear of Rafael Nadal, with Daniil Medvedev and Dominic Thiem the only other players with more than 7,000 points.

However, he still trails the women's number one record holder Steffi Graf who held top spot for 377 weeks, while Martina Navratilova (332) and Serena Williams (319) have also had longer spells at number one than Djokovic.

Former Barca President Arrested in Anti-Corruption Operation

MADRID (Reuters) - **Former FC Barcelona President, Josep Maria Bartomeu** was arrested on Monday morning along with the club's General Manager, Oscar Gray and the former director to the Presidency, Jayme Masferrer.

The arrests happened as Catalan regional police (Mossos d'Esquadra) searched the offices at the Camp Nou Stadium as part of an investigation into an affair known as "Barcagate".

This scandal involves the possible illegal use of club funds which were diverted to pay for online campaigns aimed at damaging the image of opponents to Bartomeu, including players.

This operation happens less than a week before Barca are due to hold elections to choose a new president to succeed Bartomeu on March 7.



In this Aug 19, 2020 photo, Barcelona's president Josep Maria Bartomeu removes his facemask during his official presentation at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona.