

Iran Futsal Remains Best Asian Team



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Iranian national futsal team remained unchanged in the world futsal ranking.

In the latest Futsal World Ranking released, Team Melli is sixth in the world with 1603 points.

Iran still is the best Asian team in the ranking.

Brazil and Spain are first and second with 1810 and 1801 points, respectively.

Argentina remains third with 1694 points.

Russia and Portugal are fourth and fifth with 1642 and 1639 points, respectively.

Japan is 16th in the ranking and the second best Asian team with 1368 points.

Iran national futsal team prepares for the 2020 AFC Futsal Championship in November, where it has been drawn along with South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Thailand in Group D.

Tabatabaei 2nd at Speed Chess Championship Grand Prix



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran's GM Amin Tabatabaei finished in second place at the sixth Speed Chess Championship Grand Prix.

The Iranian chess player lost to American GM Hikaru Nakamura in the knockout final.

The sixth Speed Chess Grand Prix tournament was held with 879 participants.

It was GM Fabiano Caruana who won the Swiss part with a 9.0/10 score as he edged out Tabatabaei on tiebreak.

Sourian Candidate for United World Wrestling Bureau

TEHRAN (Dsipatges) – Hamid Sourian from Iran is a candidate for the 2020 United World Wrestling Bureau elections.

There are seven positions up for re-election in 2020, including six seats on the Bureau and the position of UWW President. Five incumbents have submitted their candidacy for re-election while nine new candidacies have been received for Bureau positions. Successful candidates serve a six-year term on the Bureau.

Incumbent President Nenad LALOVIC (SRB) will be running un-opposed for re-election. The election will be his second six-year term as President.

Elections were scheduled to be held on 6 September 2020 during the Ordinary Congress planned on the eve of the 2020 Junior World Wrestling Championships in Bel-



grade. Due the pandemic, different options are examined for this year's congress. An an-

nouncement will be made later when the calendar is consolidated.

Present incumbent:

DI BUSSOLO PELLICONE, Marina (Ms) (ITA)

GAMA FILHO, Pedro (BRA)

MAMIASHVILI, Mikhail (RUS)

MESKOUT, Fouad (MAR)

RUZIEV, Akhroldjan (UZB)

New candidates:

CANEVA, Lucio (ITA)

IGALI, Daniel (NGR)

KARSNACK, Jan (SVK)

KHARENKO, Dina (Ms) (UKR)

KORPELA, Marko (FIN)

MACHAIDZE, Edisher (GEO)

RYAN, Don (CAN)

SOURIAN, Hamid (IRI)

ZAMBRANO, Johnny (ECU)

FIFA Wants Uniform Global Use of VAR, Says Refs Chief Collina



In this June 26, 2019 photo, FIFA's Referees Committee Italian chairman Pierluigi Collina gestures as he gives a press conference during the France 2019 Women's football World Cup in Paris.

MANCHESTER, England (Dispatches) - FIFA wants VAR video reviews to be applied in the same way across all competitions, as they take over direct responsibility for the system.

Issues concerning VAR have been handled primarily by IFAB, the game's law-making body, during the system's two-year experimental phase and its introduction as part of the laws of the game.

Soccer's global governing body FIFA, however, took over the role of supporting competition organizers with the implementation of VAR from July 1.

Pierluigi Collina, the Italian

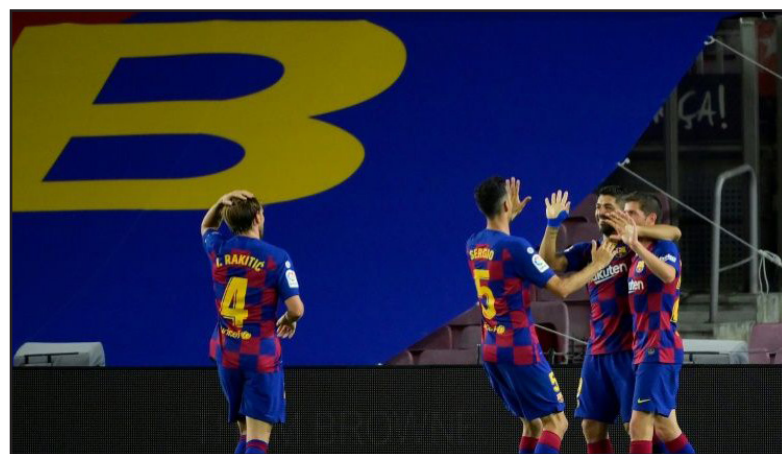
former World Cup referee and chairman of FIFA's Referees' Committee, told Reuters the move was a "natural transition".

"IFAB as an organization has the duty to govern the laws of football, including VAR and the protocol and regulations. Once the laws of the game are set, IFAB's job is over," he said.

"It is then FIFA that deals with referees' education around the world supporting all the member associations."

There have been some variations in the use of VAR in different competitions and national leagues, but Collina said there should be a uniform approach.

Barcelona Stay in Touch With Real Madrid



Luis Suarez celebrates scoring against Espanyol on Wednesday as Barcelona kept the pressure on Real Madrid.

MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona have kept their faint title hopes alive and doomed Espanyol to relegation as Luis Suarez's goal proved the winner in a pivotal Catalan derby at the top and bottom of La Liga.

A cagey contest at Camp Nou exploded into life for six frantic minutes at the start of the second half as Ansu Fati and Pol Lozano were sent off, leaving each side with 10 men before Suarez struck.

Suarez profited after another superb contribution from a rein-

vigorated Antoine Griezmann, his backheel setting up Lionel Messi to shoot, with Suarez turning in the rebound.

This 1-0 victory was a far cry from the sparkling 4-1 win over Villarreal on Sunday but it moves Barca to within a point of Real Madrid, who play their game in hand at home to Alaves on Friday.

Espanyol, rooted to the bottom of the table, will be relegated. They sit 11 points adrift of safety with only three games left to play.

Inter Held by Verona 2-2 in Serie A



Inter Milan's Romelu Lukaku shoots during the Serie A soccer match between Hellas Verona and Inter Milan, at the Marcantonio Bentegodi Stadium in Verona, Italy, July 9, 2020.

ROME (Dispatches) - Inter Milan have slipped to the fourth place in the Serie A after playing out a 2-2 draw against Hellas Verona in a topsy-turvy thriller.

Antonio Candreva took center stage, scoring one goal and setting up another, but it was not enough as Miguel Veloso came up with the equalizer before the whistle.

Inter's coach Antonio Conte surprisingly dropped playmaker Christian Eriksen and hitman Lau-

taro Martinez, as Borja Valero and Alexis Sanchez stepped in.

It took Verona just two minutes to break the deadlock as Darko Lazovic dribbled past Milan Skriniar near the by-line, bursting into the box and drilling home from a tight angle.

Inter got back on level terms straight after the restart when Romelu Lukaku smacked the woodwork, and Candreva turned in the rebound.

IOC: Climate-Positive Olympic Games to Be Staged in Paris 2024

PARIS (Reuters) - International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach has said in a meeting with French president Emmanuel Macron that the post-COVID-19 Paris Olympic Games in 2024 could be staged in a "climate positive" way.

Bach, accompanied by the head of the organizing committee for

the Paris Games, Tony Estanguet, was received by Macron at the Palais de L'Elysee in Paris on Wednesday.

"Sustainability is one of the pillars of the reform programs of the IOC, which is also a carbon neutral organization," Bach said.

President Macron praised the

power of the Olympic Games to unite the whole world, especially during and after the current health crisis.

The two men also discussed the project to adapt the Olympic Games to the post-coronavirus world by taking a simplified approach while respecting the

planned budget and preserving the message and values conveyed by the Olympic Games.

French news agency AFP reported that the organizing committee will review the risk of extra expenditure for the Games due to the COVID-19 pandemic by the end of this year.

Djokovic Claims He's Target of a 'Witch Hunt'

BELGRADE (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic, the world's No. 1 ranked men's tennis player, believes he's the subject of a "witch hunt" after players tested positive for COVID-19 at the Adria Tour tournament he hosted last month.

The event ended up being canceled and both Djokovic and his wife, Jelena, tested positive after the tour. Djokovic took heavy criticism for putting players in that position and holding a tournament at all.

Tennis stars slammed the event in Croatia with Nick Kyrgios calling it a "boneheaded decision" to play the exhibi-



Novak Djokovic says he's the subject of an 'agenda' and 'witch hunt' after the Adria Tour he organized during the pandemic.

attempts to halt its spread.

"I can only see criticism lately and much of it is malicious,"

Djokovic told Serbia's Sportski Zurnal on Wednesday, via CBS Sports. "It's obviously more than just criticism, it's like an agenda and a witch hunt are on. Someone has to take the fall, a big name."

There were no social distancing protocols and players traveled from all over the world. Videos showed tennis stars at a nightclub days before the first positive test.

The event was canceled after world No. 19 Grigor Dimitrov, No. 33 Borna Coric and ATP pro Viktor Troicki all announced they had tested positive.