

Iran Remain Unchanged at FIVB World Ranking

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – The Iranian national volleyball team remained in eighth place at the FIVB Men's Senior World Ranking.

Brazil is still the best team in the world with 427 points, followed by Poland (384), USA (365) and Russia (317).

Iran sits in eighth place with 279 points.

The Persians are the best Asian team in the ranking.

And also, the Iranian women team sits 63rd in the ranking.

China remained top of the table, followed by USA, Brazil, Italy and Turkey.

Asian teams Japan and South Korea are seventh and 10th in the world ranking.

Pourrahnama Seals 3rd Ranking in World Para-Taekwondo

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iranian para-taekwondo athlete Mahdi Pourrahnama has maintained his third position in the latest world parataekwondo ranking list.

The world taekwondo federation has released its latest ranking list and Mahdi Pourrahnama stood on the third position of -75kg weight category with 181/84 points, said the Head



of Gilan taekwondo committee Mohsen Setorgi.

Iranian para-taekwondo athletes Mahmoud Jafarzadeh and Alireza Bakht also ranked 14th and 47th in the world, he added.

Pourrahnama has received the 2020 Olympic quota and he was standing at the top of the ranking list in most of 2019.

PSV Set Sights on Alireza Jahanbakhsh



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – PSV Eindhoven has set its sights on signing Alireza Jahanbakhsh this summer.

According to Voetbal International, the Dutch giant has shown interest in signing the ex-AZ Alkmaar winger, who is out of favor at Brighton & Hove Albion.

Since the Premier League resumed, Jahanbakhsh hasn't been

included in Brighton's squad and a summer transfer for the winger seems inevitable.

Ajax was linked with the Iranian last week by De Telegraaf, but VI adds that PSV is also seriously interested in the forward.

PSV tried to sign Jahanbakhsh last summer, but he remained in England to fight for his place.

Benzema Helps Real Madrid Go Clear at Top



Karim Benzema seen here with Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane

BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Real Madrid's Karim Benzema produced an audacious back-heeled assist for Casemiro to score as they beat Espanyol 1-0 away on Sunday to capitalize on Barcelona's slip-up a day earlier and move two points clear at the top of La Liga.

Brazilian midfielder Casemiro slid to the ground to guide the ball home on the stroke of halftime after being played in by a stroke of genius from Benzema, who dragged the ball through the legs of his marker Bernardo Espinosa to find his team mate.

Casemiro ran straight to Frenchman Benzema to thank him for the pass and dedicated the goal to him. "The goal belongs to Karim. We're used to the quality he brings

to his play and I had to celebrate it with him because it was all down to him," Casemiro said.

"We know how good he is and that's why I called for the ball as I knew he would lay the ball off to me."

Coach Zinedine Zidane added: "I'm not surprised by what Karim did at all, he is a player who keeps inventing things on the pitch and his control and backheel was super. It might be the best piece of play of the season."

Real's players embraced each other when the final whistle arrived to signal a fifth consecutive victory which took them top on 71 points after 32 games. Barca, who were held to a 2-2 draw at Celta Vigo on Saturday, are second on 69.

Holders Man City Cruise Past Newcastle Into FA Cup Semis



Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne scores the opening goal from the penalty spot during the FA Cup sixth round soccer match between Newcastle United and Manchester City at St James' Park in Newcastle, England, June 28, 2020.

LONDON (Dispatches) - Kevin de Bruyne's first-half penalty and a superb strike by Raheem Sterling after the break earned holders Manchester City a comfortable 2-0 win away at Newcastle United in the weekend's last FA Cup quarterfinal.

City's domination of the first half was absolute and the only surprise was it took a penalty for them to lead at halftime, De Bruyne slotting home in the 37th minute.

Newcastle did improve marginally after the break and substitute Dwight Gayle somehow missed a gaping goal.

One minute later Sterling curled home a delightful effort to seal City's progress and set up a semi-final against Arsenal.

All four of this year's Cup quarterfinals, all played behind closed doors, were won by the away team — the first time that has happened since 1987.

Manchester United will face Chelsea in the other semifinal.

"We are in the semifinals. It was not easy to attack against a team defending so deep but it was a good performance. I am happy to go back to London, to Wembley," City manager Pep Guardiola told reporters.

Inter Rally to Beat Parma as Atalanta Win Again

MILAN (AFP) - Alessandro Bastoni has completed Inter Milan's late turnaround as they scored twice in the final six minutes to beat Parma 2-1, while Atalanta made it three wins in a row since the Serie A restart.

Gervinho gave Parma a first-half lead at the Stadio Ennio Tardini but Inter, who conceded a last-gasp equaliser at home to Sassuolo in midweek, fought back with headers from Stefan de Vrij and Bastoni to snatch a vital win.

Inter stay eight points adrift of leaders Juventus and four behind Lazio in second with 10 rounds of matches remaining.

"I thought it was a more than deserved victory. Thoroughly deserved," Inter assistant Cristian Stellini told Sky Sport Italia, with coach Antonio Conte forced to watch from the stands as he served a touchline ban.

Atalanta consolidated their grip on fourth place thanks to two stunning goals from Luis Muriel, who came on as a second-half substitute in their 3-2 victory at Udinese.

The Colombia international put his team back ahead with a magnificent 71st-minute free-kick, after Kevin Lasagna had levelled for Udinese in the 31st minute following Duvan Zapata's early



Alessandro Bastoni heads a late winner for Inter Milan away to Parma

opener for away side.

Muriel then put Atalanta two goals ahead with a superb volley that ensured Lasagna's second three minutes from time made

no difference to the result.

Roma are facing another season without Champions League football after losing 2-0 at AC Milan.

enough efforts in reform.

In a letter to James W. Carroll, director of the office of ONDCP, WADA president Witold Banka said it was "with great disappointment" that he read the 19-page ONDCP report.

Banka's letter was attached with an annotated version of the ONDCP Report, outlining "the misleading information and inaccuracies and the report contains; and, what the report omits in terms of factual information."

IOC Supports WADA After U.S. Threatens to Cut Off Funding

LAUSANNE (Xinhua) -- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) expressed its support to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) after the U.S. threatened to cut off its funding for the agency.

The report from the U.S. Of-

fice of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) concluded that the U.S. was not represented enough in WADA proportionate to its contribution - \$2.7 million per year to the core budget of WADA - and that WADA had not made

Mercedes to Race in All-Black Cars for Formula One Season

RACKLEY, England (AP) -- Mercedes announced Monday that it will race in all-black cars for the 2020 Formula One season as it pledges to fight racism and improve the diversity of its team.

Six-time F1 world champion Lewis Hamilton and teammate Valtteri Bottas will also race in black overalls for the season, which started Sunday in Austria after a long delay caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

"The Black Lives Matter movement has shone a searching light on how much we need new measures and actions in the fight against racism and all forms of discrimination," Mercedes announced in its color switch from silver.

Hamilton, who is the only Black world champion in F1, has spoken widely about racism following the killing of George Floyd in Min-

neapolis last month. He plans to create a commission to increase diversity in motorsport.

"It is so important that we seize this moment and use it to educate ourselves whether you are an individual, brand or company to make real meaningful changes when it comes to ensuring equality and inclusivity," Hamilton said in the announcement Monday.

Hamilton said he had spoken to Mercedes F1 team principal Toto Wolff about standing united.

"I have personally experienced racism in my life and seen my family and friends experience racism, and I am speaking from the heart when I appeal for change," Hamilton said.

Mercedes said Monday that just 3% of its workforce identify as belonging to minority ethnic groups, and that only 12% of its employees are women.