

Sepahan Misses Chance to Go Top of IPL Table

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Sepahan missed the chance to go top of Iran Professional League (IPL) table after being held against Zob Ahan at Isfahan derby.

Sepahan drew with Zob Ahan 1-1 in Isfahan's Fooladshahr Stadium on Friday.

Sepahan striker Mohammad Reza

Khalatbari found the back of the net from penalty spot in the 24th minute and Akbar Imani equalized the match 13 minutes later.

Sepahan goalkeeper Rahman Ahmadi was sent off in the 39th minute after receiving a straight red card and Zob Ahan midfielder Ghasem Dehnavi also was forced to leave

the field in the 87th minute after was shown his second yellow card.

Esteghlal of Tehran also played out a goalless draw against Gostaresh Foolad in its away match.

Struggling Rah Ahan defeated Padideh 1-0 thanks to a goal from Adel Kolahkaj in the 81st minute.

Esteghlal Khuzestan suffered a

3-1 home defeat to Malavan.

Malavan striker Farzad Hatami gave the visiting team a lead just after three minutes into the match and Pejman Noori made it 2-0 seven minutes later. Mehdi SeyedSalehi pulled a goal back in the 45th minute but Hatami scored Malavan's third goal in the 76th minute.

Iran's Hassanzadeh Nominated for AGLA Futsal Awards 2014

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iranian national futsal player Ali Asghar Hassanzadeh has been nominated for the AGLA Futsal Awards 2014 released by Futsalplanet.com.

Iran international player will vie with nine candidates to be named as the best futsal player of the year.

Dabiri Tabriz of Iran has also been named among the best 10 clubs.

Nominees

(in strict alphabetical order!)

Leandro Esteban Cuzzolino (ARG)

Acqua & Sapone Emmegross (ITA) - Argentina N.T.

Alessandro Rosa Vieira "Falcão" (BRA)

Futsal Brasil Kirin Sorocaba (BRA) - Brazil N.T.

Gabriel Mancini Lima De Oliveira (BRA/ITA)

Asti c5 (ITA) - ElPozo Murcia (ESP) - Italy N.T.

Fabricio Bastezini "Gadeia" (BRA)

ADC Intelli/Orlandia (BRA) - Brazil N.T.

Ali Asghar Hassanzadeh (IRN)

Norilsky Nickel (RUS) - Iran N.T.

Miguel Sayago Marti "Miguelin" (ESP)

ElPozo Murcia (ESP) - Spain



Iranian national futsal player Ali Asghar Hassanzadeh

N.T.

Kaoru Morioka (PER/JPN)

Nagoya Oceans (JPN) - Japan N.T.

Ricardo Filipe da Silva Braga "Ricardinho" (POR)

Inter Movistar (ESP) - Portugal N.T.

Rodrigo Hardy Araújo (BRA)

Futsal Brasil Kirin Sorocaba (BRA) - Brazil N.T.

Sergei Sergeev (RUS)

MFK Dinamo Moscow (RUS) - Russia N.T.

Referees Start Preparations for Festival of Football

JEDDAH (AFC) - Refereeing preparations for the upcoming AFC U-14 Festival of Football for the West region have begun in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Twenty-two young referees from 11 Member Associations are taking part in the five-day Preparatory Course for Festival Referees.

The course was opened by Saudi Arabia Football Federation (SAFF) Executive Committee Member Khalid Al Marzouqi, who welcomed the participants and pledged that the SAFF was ready to help them during both the course and the festival.

AFC Festival of Football Manager Dr. Shamil Kamil encouraged the referees to work hard in order to achieve the course's objectives and to cooperate with the AFC Referee Instructors so that they will be ready for the festival.

He also, on behalf of the AFC, thanked SAFF for their support and cooperation to organise the course and the festival.

The course was delivered by AFC Referee Instructors Hassouneh Awni Abdel Karim Said from Jordan and India's Srivinasan Suresh.

The festival will commence on February 23 and conclude five days later.



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Lunar New Year Greetings from Italian Serie A

ROME (China Daily) - Italian Serie A's Roma players wearing jerseys with Chinese greetings saying "wish you a happy Lunar New Year in advance" pose before a match against Parma at the

Olympic stadium in Rome, February 15, 2015. With the Chinese New Year falling on Thursday, the Italian soccer team send their wishes to Chinese soccer fans in a special way.



Italian Serie A's Roma players wearing jerseys with Chinese greetings saying "wish you a happy Lunar New Year"

Miami Heat Sign Dragic Brothers

WASHINGTON (Anadolu Agency) - NBA Eastern Conference team Miami Heat has signed the Dragic brothers, Goran and Zoran, from Phoenix Suns.

Having added the Slovenian brothers to their roster at the deadline, Heat President Pat Riley also announced that they traded their small forward

Danny Granger to the Suns as well as the two future first-round draft picks.

"We are incredibly pleased to take another step in getting the Miami Heat back to real championship prominence with the acquisition of Goran Dragic," said Riley.

"Goran is an All-NBA player, including the most improved player

last season, and we felt that once he became available, we would do all that we could to acquire him. We feel he is the perfect complement to the players we have on the team", Riley added.

"We are also pleased to bring his brother, Zoran, into the Heat family. He had a great summer during inter-

national play and it's great to have a brother-brother duo and someone that can help us in our rotation", Miami Heat boss remarked.

Twenty-eight-year-old guard Goran Dragic boasts 16.2 point, 3.6 rebound and 4.1 assist averages this season while his 25-year-old brother Zoran has only played in six games so far.

Pervis Takes Second Gold on Third Day of Track Championships

PARIS (UCI) - Three more world titles were awarded on Friday at the 2015 UCI Track Cycling World Championships in St-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France. The host nation took their third gold medal to lead the rankings, while Australia, Germany and Russia each have two world titles.

The first title of the day went to French star Francois Pervis in the men's 1000 metre time trial. It was Pervis' second title in as many days, after winning the Keirin title on Thursday. Pervis is the world record holder in the event and the two-time defending champion. With the French crowd roaring, Pervis had the fastest opening lap, and held on to win with a time of 1:00.207. Joachim Eilers (Germany) repeated as the silver medalist, while Matthew Archibald (New Zealand) took bronze.

"Yes, it is amazing," Pervis agreed. "For me it is a beautiful day. I won yesterday, I win to-

day. Three weeks ago I say it is difficult for me to know which objective [was most important], but a win in France ... it is amazing."

"The Kilometre is very difficult, the most difficult sprint in track cycling. I finished and my legs are full of burning, a lot of lactic [acid]. I had a big pain in my head, and I couldn't walk. It was very difficult, but it is the Kilometre and I like it."

The men's Points Race was extremely close, with only two points separating first from third. In the end, it was Russia's Artur Ershov who took the title with 31 points. Ershov was one of five riders who gained 20 points after lapping the field and, combined with scoring points in five intermediate sprints, it was enough to beat Eloy Teruel Rovira (Spain) by one point and Maximilian Beyer (Germany) by two points.

The final gold medal of the day went to Australia's Rebecca Wia-



François Pervis of France clinching his second title of the Track Worlds in the Kilometre

sak in the women's Individual Pursuit. Wiasak is attending her first world championships, and her career is certainly off to a good start. Wiasak beat another first time world championships attendee, Jennifer Valente (USA) by three and a half seconds to take the title. Amy Cure (Australia) took bronze.



Tiger Woods

WASHINGTON (Xinhua) -- Tiger Woods has confirmed that he will not play next week's Honda Classic after he announced an indefinite leave from the PGA Tour.

Woods said last week he would leave the tour indefinitely because his game was not acceptable for tournament golf and that he would not play again until he felt like it was.

Woods has played only two tour-

naments this year. He shot the worst round of his professional career in January, an 11-over-par 82 in the second round of the Phoenix Open.

The following week at Torrey Pines, he withdrew after 11 holes because of tightness in his back.

Woods is No. 66 in the world and will not be eligible for the World Golf Championship at Doral. Woods has 14 major titles in his career.

Platini: UEFA Powerless Against Chelsea Fans

TEHRAN (FNA) - UEFA president Michel Platini said the organisation is powerless to take any action against the group of Chelsea supporters caught in a racism storm, Goal reported.

Blues boss Jose Mourinho and owner Roman Abramovich condemned the actions of a small number of fans who were filmed preventing a black man from entering the Paris metro on Tuesday before singing "we're racist, and that's the way we like it".

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has since added his voice to the growing outrage surrounding the incident, but Platini has stressed UEFA cannot take any direct action given the scene did not occur within the confines of a football event.

A total of five fans have so far been suspended from attending games at Stamford Bridge by Chelsea as they continue to investigate the incident, which occurred prior to the 1-1 Champions League draw with Paris Saint-Germain.