

Iran Earn Second Win at 2019 CAFA U-19 Championship

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran have defeated Turkmenistan in the 2019 CAFA U-19 Championship. Sirous Pourmousavi’s team defeated its rival 4-0 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Arya Barzegar, Hossein Zavvari, Hossein Bijani and Reza Mousaviani scored for Iran. Iran had started the campaign with a 2-0 win over Uzbekistan. The Central Asian tournament is being used as preparations for November’s AFC U-19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers, in which all five teams will feature. The CAFA U-19 Championship will be decided on a round-robin basis, with the final Matchday to be held next Thursday.



Bayern Begin German Cup Defense With 3-1 Win Over Cottbus

BERLIN (AP) - Bayern Munich began their German Cup defense with a 3-1 win at former Bundesliga side Energie Cottbus, which was relegated from Germany’s third division last season. It was a battling performance from the youthful home side, rewarded with Berkan Taz’s consolation from the penalty spot in injury time. Cottbus goalkeeper Lennart Moser was the team’s busiest player, earning the man of the match award. The 19-year-old deflected Robert Lewandowski’s



shot onto the crossbar in the 14th minute but couldn’t prevent the Poland striker from breaking the deadlock on a rebound in the 32nd. “We have to be more precise with the last pass in the final third,” Bayern coach Niko Kovac said. The visitors had to wait until the 65th for the second goal, a fierce strike from distance from Coman after he cut inside from the left. Substitute Leon Goretzka sealed the result in the 85th, with the ball taking a slight deflection from Lewandowski before going in.

Albot Tops Cilic in 1st Round at Cincinnati Masters

CINCINNATI (Dispatdches) - Radu Albot has knocked Marin Cilic out of the Cincinnati Masters after beating the Croatia in the 1st round. The 29-year-old Moldovan, who won his first title on the ATP tour at Delray Beach in Febru-

ary came up with the only break of serve of the match in the 3rd game of the opening set, which he won 6-4. He then saved a total of 6, set-points in the 2nd before taking the last 4 points of the tiebreak to close out the victory in an hour

and 56 minutes. Awaiting the world number 39 in the 2nd round is either Serbia’s Laslo Dere or Diego Schwartzman of Argentina. Elsewhere, Miomir Kecmanovic stunned Canada’s Felix Auger Aliassime 6-3 and 6-3 in the opening round of the Cincinnati Mas-

ters in the United States. Kecmanovic didn’t face a break-point throughout the match but broke on 3 of his 4 opportunities to close out a 65-minute victory. The Serb faces an even tougher task in round 2 and that’s Alexander Zverev.

Roma Beat Real Madrid on Penalties in Friendly

ROME (Dispatches) - Spanish giants Real Madrid have lost their final pre-season friendly match to Italian Club AS Roma 5-4 on penalties after a 2-all draw in regulation. Brazilian defender, Marcelo opened the scoring for Los Blancos with a fine right-footed shot in the 16th minute. Argentine striker Diego Perotti leveled the match for Serie A club from inside the box in the 34th

minute. Just 5 minutes later, Real Madrid took a 2-1 lead as Brazilian defender Casemiro slid the ball home from Marcelo’s delivery. Surprisingly a minute later, Edin Dzeko scored the equalizer with a clinical finish to send the match to penalty shootout at the end of regulation. In the shootout, Marcelo missed his penalty, which ensured the Italian side’s victory.



Real Madrid’s Marcelo, center, is greeted by Roma’s players after he failed to score a penalty kick during a friendly soccer match between Roma and Real Madrid, at the Olympic stadium in Rome, Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019.

Tokyo Paralympics Marathon to Start Earlier Due to Heat Fears



TOKYO (Reuters) - The marathon race at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics will start 30 minutes earlier than originally scheduled, as part of the organizers’ efforts to tackle the heat threat to athletes and fans in the Japanese capital. With less than a year to go until the

start of the Olympics, the Games’ ability to contend with extreme heat is a key talking point, particularly after a worker at a Tokyo 2020 construction site died on Thursday, with heatstroke suspected as the cause. Soaring temperatures have killed at

least 57 people across Japan since late July, highlighting the possible health threat to athletes and fans. While announcing the full schedule of the Paralympics, which runs from Aug. 25-Sept. 6, organizers said changes were being made to accommodate the high temperatures, including starting the marathon at 6.30 a.m. local time (2130GMT). “As it has been discussed a lot, the heat countermeasures are something we must take into consideration. Even though it will be held at the end of August it will still be hot,” said Games director Koji Murofushi. “From the ‘athletes first’ point of view, the start time of marathon has been moved 30 minutes early from 7 a.m. to 6.30. Besides high temperatures, organizers may have to contend with Japan’s notoriously devastating typhoon sea-

son, which usually runs from July to October. Murofushi did not provide details of Tokyo 2020’s measures should a huge typhoon hit during the Paralympics but said a contingency plan was in place. Tickets for the Paralympics will go on sale for Japanese residents in a lottery starting on August 22, with ticket prices for groups and families starting for as little as 500 yen (\$4.75). The low-priced tickets are aimed at under-12 children and those with disabilities in a bid to boost attendance and interest in the Games. The most expensive tickets are for the opening ceremony on Aug. 25. The highest category will cost 150,000 yen (about \$1,427) while the costliest sports are the finals of the swimming and wheelchair basketball.

Al Ittihad Beat Zob Ahan to Advance to 2019 ACL Quarters



TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Al Ittihad of Saudi Arabia football team defeated Iran’s Zob Ahan 4-3 in the second leg of the 2019 AFC Champions League in Doha’s Grand Hamad Stadium Monday night. Having won the first leg 2-1, the two-time continental champion advanced with a 6-4 aggregate score and set up an all-Saudi quarter-final clash with one of its arch-rival Al Hilal or Al Ahli. The two sides face-off in Riyadh on Tuesday. After several half-chances for both sides, it was Al Ittihad who finally opened the scoring just before the end of the opening period. New signing Emiliano Vecchio finished with his left into the bottom corner to put Al Ittihad 3-1 on aggregate. After the restart, the game erupted into life with two goals in quick succession; one in each net. First, it was Zob Ahan who was gifted a goal through Luis Jimenez. Just as an own goal helped revive its hopes, a minute later, it was an own goal that sunk Zob Ahan further. Villanueva supplied a through pass for Romarinho, but the ball was closer to goalkeeper Mohammad Sadeghi who attempted to clear the ball, but completely miscued his kick and the ball

ended in the back of his own net, handing Al Ittihad a 2-1 lead on the night. Left-back Hamdan Al Shamrani embarked on a jinking run that ended with him deep into Zob Ahan’s box. The defender pulled the ball back for Romarinho who calmly controlled and finished for his fourth 2019 AFC Champions League goal in the 64th minute. Six minutes later, Romarinho was on the scoresheet again, this time it was Jimenez on the assist, setting up the Brazilian after collecting a Villanueva pass at the edge of the Zob Ahan box. Al Ittihad was now 4-1 up on the night and 6-2 on aggregate. Zob Ahan responded instantly as Hadi Mohammadi rose highest and powered a header into the roof of the net following Hadadifar’s in-swinging corner. The goal-fest was not over yet. Four minutes to the end of 90, Chrisantus pounced back on the loose ball after Al Qarni punched away Alireza Cheraghali’s powerful shot from inside the box following a quick exchange of passes. The Nigerian striker’s goal reduced the deficit to one, but at 4-3, Zobahan still needed two goals in the remaining time to turn the tie around but Jose Siererra’s men held on for the win to reach the AFC Champions League quarter-final for the first time since 2014.

Barcelona Officials Head to Paris for Neymar Talks - Reports



Neymar, seen training on August 10, has been linked with a return to Barcelona after PSG hinted at potential movement last weekend and Barcelona media now saying talks are in the offing

MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona officials headed to France on Tuesday for talks with Paris Saint-Germain to seal a return to the Spanish club for Brazilian star Neymar, reports said. The club’s director for football, retired French international Eric Abidal, and two other top club officials flew to Paris to meet with their Paris Saint-Germain counterparts, Catalan radio Rac1 and Catalan television TV3 reported. “The breakthrough is significant as PSG had up until now refused to meet with Barcelona emissaries but it does not mean that the deal is close,” Rac1 wrote on its website. The deal which the Barcelona officials will propose could include other players such as Philippe Coutinho or Ivan Rakitic, it added. Paris Saint-Germain revealed on Saturday that Neymar transfer talks are “more advanced than before” after the Brazilian was dropped for the French

champions’ opening Ligue 1 match. Sporting director Leonardo confirmed to reporters that the Brazilian was near the exit door but that PSG were “not yet ready to give their approval” for the transfer. Real Madrid or a return to Barcelona are the most likely destinations for the world’s most expensive footballer, won two La Liga titles and the 2015 Champions League in four years with the Catalan side. Sports newspaper AS has reported that Neymar has been offered to Madrid by PSG, who are open to selling if they can either recoup the 222 million euros (\$249 million) they spent on him in 2017 or receive half that amount with players included in the deal. But Barcelona-based Mundo Deportivo says that he would prefer a move back to Catalonia to play alongside former teammates Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez.