

Iranian Duo Nominated for AFC International Player of Week



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iranian forwards Karim Ansarifard and Shahab Zahedi have been nominated for the AFC International Player of the Week.

Ansarifard continues to make the most of his opportunities, this time scoring a peach of a winning goal in AEK's clash against Asteras Tripolis, securing the Athenian club's fourth successive Greek Super League win.

And a long overdue nomination for Olimpik Donetsk's Iranian striker Zahedi, who has never played for Team Melli, but is currently the top goal scorer in an Ukrainian Premier League featuring the likes of Shakhtar Donetsk and Dynamo Kyiv.

The AFC International Player of the Week will be chosen by fans's votes.

FIA Probes Grosjean's Crash as Track Changes Made

MANAMA (Dispatches) – The International Automobile Federation (FIA) also made changes for this weekend's race at Sakhir, adding two rows of tyres and a conveyor belt at the turn three scene of Grosjean's accident.

A kerb between turns eight and nine was removed to reduce the risk of a car becoming airborne and the depth of the barrier on the right side of turn nine was increased to four rows of tyres.

Grosjean suffered burns to his hands after his Haas car split in two, penetrating a metal barrier and erupting in flames, in Sunday's race.

The Frenchman left hospital on Wednesday and in an Instagram post accompanying video footage pointed to "the mo-

ment I realized I was going to live".

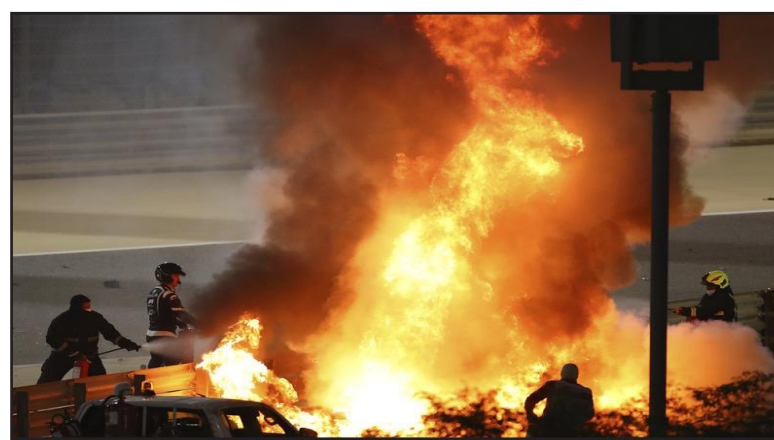
He highlighted the professionalism of the marshal with the extinguisher and FIA doctor Ian Roberts.

"I told him he was a hero, he went into the fire as much as he could to save me," he said of Roberts.

"I felt Ian's hands pulling me over the barrier and knew I was safe. I remember every second of it and life will never be the same again, but I'm sure for the best," added the driver.

"I met with death and that is the worst feeling I ever had. But I'm alive and will enjoy every second of life and every small win in a much better way from now on."

The FIA expected its investigation to take six to eight



Staff extinguish flames from Haas driver Romain Grosjean of France's car after a crash during the Formula One race in Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, Bahrain, Nov 29, 2020.

weeks. It will look at all safety devices, how the safety barrier performed and the role of track marshals and medical intervention team.

The body said it would work

with Formula One, Haas and the Grand Prix Drivers' Association (GPDA), who had already been contacted for input. Grosjean is one of the three GPDA directors.



Enrique Lopez

Spanish Tennis Player Banned 8 Years For Match-Fixing

LONDON (AP) -- Spanish tennis player Enrique Lopez was banned for eight years for fixing matches at tournaments in 2017.

The Tennis Integrity Unit said Lopez cannot play in or attend any officially recognized tournament while banned. He was fined \$25,000.

The 29-year-old Lopez reached a

career high singles ranking of No. 154 in 2018, though never qualified for the main draw at a Grand Slam event. His best doubles ranking was No. 135.

The TIU said three charges of match fixing were proven and two charges were not proven. The tournaments Lopez tried to corrupt were not identified.

Neymar Strikes Twice as PSG Win at Old Trafford

MANCHESTER (Reuters) – Brazilian Neymar scored twice and his compatriot Fred was sent off as Paris St Germain beat 10-man Manchester United 3-1 at Old Trafford to throw Champions League Group H wide open.

United, PSG and RB Leipzig all on nine points heading into next week's final round of games in which the English side go to the German club and the French champions host Istanbul Basaksehir.

United knew a point would be enough to secure a place in the last 16 and they really should have wrapped the game up well before Marquinhos put PSG 2-1 up in the 69th minute and Fred received his marching orders a minute later.

It was surprising Fred was still on the field by that stage having received only a yellow card following a VAR review of an off-the-ball head-to-head clash with Argentine Leandro Paredes. The pair were involved in a

strong challenge later in the first half for which the Argentine was booked but despite having plenty of options on the bench, United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer decided against substituting Fred, a costly mistake.

Neymar fired PSG into a sixth-minute lead after a Kylian Mbappe shot was deflected and fell kindly to the former Barcelona forward who drilled the ball into the bottom corner.

United drew level in the 32nd minute through a Marcus Rashford shot which deflected off the outstretched leg of Danilo to beat PSG keeper Keylor Navas.

United created several good chances after the break but failed to go ahead.

After good work from Edinson Cavani and Rashford down the right, Anthony Martial fired over the bar from a promising position.

Cavani was sent through and launched an audacious chip over the advancing Navas but the ball



Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian forward Neymar (right) scores his team's third goal during the UEFA Champions League group H football match between Manchester United and Paris Saint Germain at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, on Dec 2, 2020.

struck the crossbar -- Martial's follow up shot was brilliantly blocked by Marquinhos.

The Brazilian defender struck the bar himself with a looping header over David De Gea and the Spanish keeper pulled off a great save to keep out a low shot from substitute Mitchel Bakker.

Then came the minute that changed the game - a half-cleared corner rattled around the box before it was poked in by Marquinhos.

Fred was dismissed after a foul on ex-United midfielder Ander Herrera as things fell to pieces for the home side.

Haddadi Helps Sichuan Edge Shanghai 102-96 in CBA

ZHUJI, China (Xinhua) -- Sichuan veteran center Hamed Haddadi got 27 points and 23 boards, helping the Sichuan Blue Whales beat the Shanghai Sharks 102-96 in the second phase of the 2020-21 Chinese Basketball Association league on Thursday.

Shanghai got off to a slow start in the very beginning of the game, giving Sichuan a chance to lead 27-10 in the first quarter, and keep the win with 55-42 at the half-time break.

Both Sichuan and Shanghai played aggressively for the rest of the match and Shanghai momentarily got a two-point lead in the middle of the last quarter. However, Shanghai guard Jimmer Fredette missed a crucial 3-pointer. And Han Shuo of Sichuan got three free throws to secure the victory.

Jimmer Fredette of Shanghai pocketed 24 points, and Ou Junxuan added seven points and nine rebounds. For Sichuan, Jing Hanyi scored 19 points, four re-



Hamed Haddadi

bounds and four assists, and Su Ruoyu added 13 points, plus 10 rebounds.

"It was a satisfying game. Good to see that we survived their short comeback," Sichuan head coach Zhou Jinli said.

"Except the first few minutes, the rest of the game we played pretty solid," said Shanghai head coach Neven Spahija. "Unfortunately, at the end of the game, we missed some open shots and let the game go on their side."

Tokyo Olympics Delay Costs May Reach \$2.8 Billion



The Tokyo Olympics were delayed for a year

TOKYO (AFP) – The coronavirus-delayed Tokyo Olympics will cost at least an extra \$2.4 billion, organizers said Friday, with the unprecedented postponement and a raft of pandemic health measures ballooning an already outsized budget. Tokyo 2020 said an additional \$1.5 billion would be needed for operational costs related to the delay, with another \$900 million in spending on coronavirus countermeasures for the Games next year.

The dollar figure is calculated at an exchange rate of 107 yen, and is closer to \$2.56 billion when calculated at today's rate.

The costs could rise further, with Tokyo 2020 saying it will release an additional

\$250 million in "contingency" funds to help cover the expenses.

The extra costs come as organizers and Olympic officials work to build enthusiasm and momentum for the first Games postponed in peacetime, insisting that the massive international event can go ahead next year even if the pandemic is not under control.

But more spending could further harden public opinion in Japan, where polls earlier this year showed a majority of people think the Games should be postponed again or cancelled together.

The additional costs will be split between the national government, the city of Tokyo and the organizers.