

Iranian Women Referees to Officiate at FIFA Futsal World Cup Qualifier



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Gelareh Nazemi and Zari Fathi have been chosen to officiate at the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup qualifiers.

Iraq, Thailand, Vietnam and Lebanon will compete for two places in Sharjah, the UAE from May 20 to 25.

The Asian Futsal Championship, which is a qualifier of the World Cup, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result, organizers decided Japan, Iran and Uzbekistan got automatic places in the final based on results in recent tournaments.

Four other teams will compete for the two remaining berths.

Rockets Get 122-115 Win With Clippers Resting Stars



for third place in the Western Conference with one game remaining.

Coach Tyronn Lue said he's thinking about how his rotation will look as the postseason approaches, but that he hasn't nailed everything down yet.

"We've got a lot of decisions to make, but the most important

thing is health," he said.

The Rockets, who have the NBA's worst record at 17-54, won for just the second time in the last 14 games thanks to a balanced scoring effort where seven players scored at least 10 points.

Rookie Jae'Sean Tate added 20 points and Khyri Thomas

and Anthony Lamb added 17 points each for Houston.

Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta visited the team in the locker room after the victory.

"Tilman came in and spoke to the team and told them how proud he was of them and he hadn't done that this season," Silas said. "The players really liked that."

The Rockets trailed by as many as 11 in the first half but used a 43-point second quarter to take an 83-79 lead into halftime.

A 3-pointer by Luke Kennard got the Clippers within four with about eight minutes left in the third quarter. The Rockets then used a 14-5 run, powered by seven points from D.J. Augustin, to extend the lead to 97-84 with about four minutes left in the third.

Persepolis Beat Esteghlal to Move Top of IPL



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Persepolis have claimed the bragging rights of the Tehran derby and moved to the top of the Persian Gulf Pro-league, after beating arch-rivals Esteghlal 1-nil.

Issa Alekasi latched onto a rebound and tapped-in the winner just a few minutes before

Torres Hat-Tricks as Record-Breaking Man City Beat Newcastle



Newcastle's Jonjo Shelvey (left) and Manchester City's Ferran Torres challenge for the ball during the English Premier League.

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Ferran Torres has scored his first Manchester City hat-trick as the Premier League champions beat Newcastle United 4-3 to claim an English record 12th consecutive away league win.

With Pep Guardiola's City having already bagged the title and Newcastle safe, there was nothing riding on the fixture but it served up some rich entertainment with Spaniard Torres especially enjoying himself at St James' Park.

"Incredible numbers and goals in his first season in the Premier League," Guardiola said of the 21-year-old signed from Valencia for 20 million pounds (\$28.20 million) last August.

"He is so young and clinical. He is

a guy brought as a winger but maybe we have to think as a striker."

Twice City had to come from a goal down as they extended the gap at the top of the table to 13 points.

Guardiola rested first-choice goalkeeper Ederson and handed 35-year-old former England player Scott Carson his first appearance for the club.

Carson's first action was to pick the ball out of the back of his net after Emil Kraft found space to head home Jonjo Shelvey's cross in the 25th minute.

Joao Cancelo's deflected drive levelled it up in the 39th minute and Torres put City ahead with a superbly improvised flick to direct Ilkay Guendogan's cross into the net.

F1 Turkish GP Canceled, Replaced by Second Race in Austria

PARIS (Dispatches) -- Formula 1 announced that the Turkish Grand Prix, scheduled for June 13, has been called off due to COVID-19-related travel restrictions.

Turkey was only added to the 2021 calendar at the end of April, replacing the Canadian Grand Prix after that race was also canceled owing to travel restrictions.

However, with rising COVID-19 cases, Turkey was added to the U.K.'s 'red list', meaning travelers returning from Turkey would face mandatory 10-day quarantine. With the majority of F1 personnel being based in the U.K., such restrictions render it impractical to stage the race.

"We were all looking forward to racing in Turkey but the travel restrictions in place have meant we are not able to be there in June," said Stefano Domenicali, F1 president and CEO.

"Formula 1 has shown again that it is able to react quickly to developments and find solutions and we are delighted that we will have a double header in Austria meaning our season remains at 23 races."

Further changes to the calendar will see the French GP move forward by one week to June 20, and Austria's Red Bull Ring will now stage two races on consecutive weekends, with the newly-added Styrian Grand Prix on June 27 followed by the Austrian Grand Prix in its original slot of July 4.

Djokovic Survives Tsitsipas Scare to Advance to Rome Semifinals

ROME (Dispatches) - World number one Novak Djokovic survived a three-set battle with Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas over two days in their rain-delayed quarterfinals to advance to the Italian Open semi-finals on Saturday.

The defending champion won through 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 after 3hr 16min on court in the clash which had been suspended from Friday because of rain in the Italian capital.

The Serb, a five-time Rome winner, had been trailing 6-4, 2-1 when the game was halted overnight.

Djokovic sealed the match on his second match point to set up a meeting with either Russian seventh seed Andrey Rublev or Italian Lorenzo Sonego later in the day for a place in Sunday's final.



Serbia's Novak Djokovic came a set down to reach the Italian Open semifinals.

McIlroy, Spieth Chase History as PGA Returns to Kiawah



Four-time major winner Rory McIlroy, left, and three-time major champion Jordan Spieth will be two of the favorites in next week's 103rd PGA Championship at Kiawah Island

little bit more going into it."

McIlroy will try to snap a seven-year major win drought since his victory at the 2014 PGA. He could

become the first player from outside the United States to win a fifth career major since England's Nick Faldo took his fifth of six in 1992.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Thirty years after the Ryder Cup delivered a "War on the Shore" at Kiawah Island, Rory McIlroy and Jordan Spieth could produce more U.S.-versus-Europe fireworks at the 103rd PGA Championship.

The year's second major tournament begins Thursday on the 7,876-yard, par-72 Ocean course at the South Carolina resort where the Americans edged Europe 14 1/2-13 1/2 in 1991.

That gamesmanship-filled Ryder Cup was decided by a missed six-foot par putt by Germany's Bernhard Langer on the 18th hole of the last match.

Such drama was missing at the 2012 PGA Championship as McIlroy cruised to an eight-stroke victory at Kiawah Island, setting the stage for this year's return to the

Carolina coast.

Four-time major winner McIlroy, a 32-year-old from Northern Ireland, and three-time major champion Spieth, a 27-year-old Texan, are both playing well and chasing history.

Spieth will try to complete a career Grand Slam by adding the PGA to wins at the 2015 Masters and US Open and 2017 British Open.

A victory at Kiawah Island would put Spieth in exclusive company alongside Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Ben Hogan and Gene Sarazen.

"It's the one that, if I could pick one more to win, I'd pick that one," Spieth said. "While I'm playing the tournament, it hasn't really hit me and added any pressure or anything like that. It just kind of excites me a