

Iran's Foolad Advance to Asian Club Volleyball Championship Semifinals



TEHRAN – Iran's Foolad Sirjan have defeated Thailand's Diamond Food 3-1 (25-19, 25-23, 23-25, 25-23) in the 2021 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship.

Foolad will play Nakhon Ratchasima QminC on Thursday in the semifinals.

The competition is being held in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand from October 8 to 15.

The 2021 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship is the eleventh edition of the Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, an annual international volleyball club tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with Thailand Volleyball Association (TVA).

The winner of this tournament will be qualified to 2021 FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship.

England Held 1-1 by Hungary in Match Marred by Crowd Violence

LONDON (Dispatches) - England took another, somewhat faltering, step towards 2022 World Cup qualification when they drew 1-1 with Hungary at Wembley on Tuesday and are now three points clear at the top of Group I with two matches remaining.

The game was marred by fighting in the stands between Hungary fans and baton-wielding police just after kickoff, with riot police entering the fray as visiting supporters forced stewards and police back down a tunnel.

On the pitch, the visitors went ahead with a Roland Sallai penalty in the 24th minute after England's Luke Shaw caught a stooping Loci Nego in the head as he attempted a clearance.

England equalized after 37

minutes when a Phil Foden free kick was flicked on by Tyrone Mings and the ball was turned in by John Stones from close range.

The centre back came close to a second when he headed a corner just wide after an hour while Harry Kane miskicked when well placed in front of goal - the captain's last contribution before being replaced by Tammy Abraham for the last 15 minutes.

That, and other changes, failed to swing the game England's way as Gareth Southgate's experiment of playing Foden, Jack Grealish and Mason Mount together in a miniature midfield proved something of a failure.

Hungary were certainly more energetic and looked more mo-



England's John Stones, centre, falls as he attempts a shot on goal during the World Cup 2022 group I qualifying soccer match between England and Hungary at Wembley stadium in London, Oct 12, 2021.

tivated than when they were swept aside 4-0 by England in Budapest last month and South-

gate was quick to praise them, while accepting his own side's shortcomings.

Zverev Sees Off Murray to Reach Indian Wells Fourth Round



Alexander Zverev of Germany hits a backhand return against Andy Murray of Great Britain during their Round 3 match at ATP-WTA Indian Wells tennis tournament on Oct 12, 2021 in Indian Wells, California.

CALIFORNIA (Reuters) - Alexander Zverev notched his first career win against Andy Murray on Tuesday with a 6-4 7-6(4) victory that moved him into the fourth round at Indian Wells.

Former world number one Murray, who got the better of the German in their two previous meetings, jumped out to a 3-0 lead and seemed to unnerve the 24-year-old by standing well inside the court when returning his second serves.

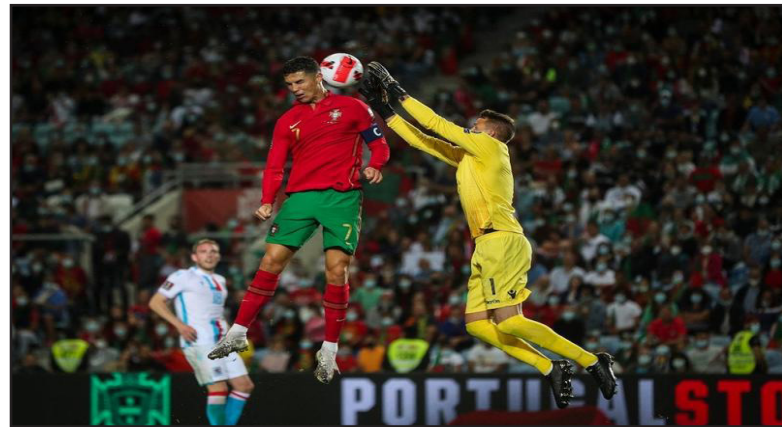
But Zverev, seeded third, regrouped to win six of the next seven games and took the first set when Murray's drop shot failed to get over the net.

Just as in the first set, Murray got an early break in the second but Zverev again battled back despite needing a lengthy break to lace up a pair of shoes after the shoelace on his first pair snapped.

Zverev had the match on his racket serving at 6-5 but missed an overhead, a shot that bedevilled him all day, sending the set to a tiebreak.

Murray's uneven play continued in the tiebreak and after a furious rally of volleys at the net he sent the final one wide on match point, the Scot slamming his racket into the court in frustration.

Ronaldo Grabs Hat-Trick as Portugal Rout Luxembourg



Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo (left) vies with Luxembourg's goalkeeper Anthony Moris during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 qualification Group A football match between Portugal and Luxembourg at the Estadio Algarve in Loule, near Faro, south of Portugal, on Oct 12, 2021.

FARO (Reuters) - A 58th career hat-trick from Cristiano Ronaldo helped Portugal stroll to a 5-0 home win over Luxembourg in Group A of World Cup qualifying.

The treble, which meant Ronaldo became the first man to net 10 international hat-tricks, takes his tally to 115 international goals from 182 caps as he continues to pull away as the top men's international goalscorer of all-time.

Victory ensures Portugal remain

a point behind leaders Serbia, who moved onto 17 points with a 3-1 home win over Azerbaijan, with a game in hand and superior goal difference.

Portugal had the game all but won within the first 18 minutes.

Ronaldo struck twice from the penalty spot before his Manchester United team mate Bruno Fernandes made it three as he fired in following good work from Bernardo Silva.

Albania-Poland Match Halted as Home Fans Throw Missiles at Players

TIRANA (Dispatches) - Poland's World Cup qualifying victory over Albania in Tirana was suspended for over 20 minutes after home fans threw objects at the visiting players.

Karol Swiderski gave the Poles the lead with 13 minutes remaining in their Group I fixture.

But he and his team-mates were then pelted with plastic drinks bottles from the stands, prompting the players to leave the pitch.

Play resumed and Poland leapfrogged Albania into second spot.

Before the incident which



The players left the pitch for more than 20 minutes following the incident at the Air Albania Stadium

prompted the lengthy delay, Poland midfielder Piotr Zielinski was also targeted with an object from the crowd.

A post-match interview

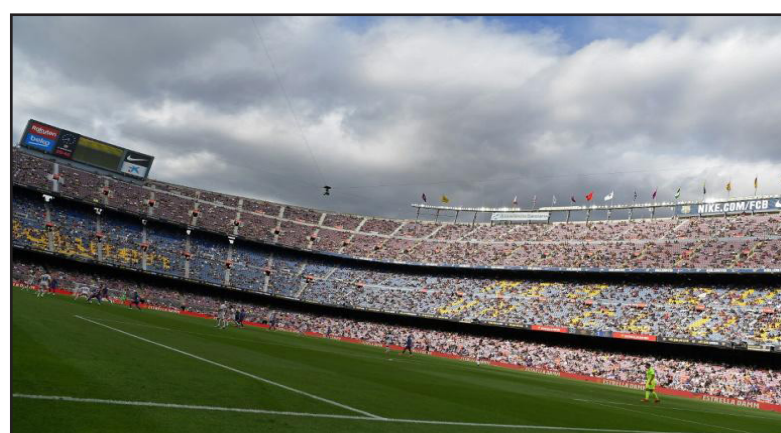
with Swiderski was also cut short as Poland manager Jakub Kwiatkowski encouraged him to leave as bottles were again thrown at him.

"After the goal there were full bottles flying in, so it was a bit dangerous, but we came back and finished the game," said Poland captain Robert Lewandowski.

Albania, bidding to reach a World Cup finals for the first time, travel to Wembley to face England next month, prior to completing their campaign at home to Andorra.

Poland, who are three points adrift of Gareth Southgate's side, travel to Andorra before hosting Hungary in November for their final two qualification matches.

Barcelona Allowed to Fill Camp Nou as Key Games Loom



Capacity at the Camp Nou has been restricted so far this season

BARCELONA (AFP) - Barcelona can fill their Camp Nou stadium to capacity for key Champions League and La Liga matches next week, after Catalonia authorities on Tuesday eased Covid crowd limits.

"As of Friday, the vast majority of capacity limitations will cease," re-

gional president Pere Aragonés told a press conference on Tuesday.

"We will return to 100 percent capacity in cultural spaces, outdoor sports facilities and in bars and restaurants," Aragonés said.

The limit had been 60 percent of capacity.

"Camp Nou back to full capacity," said the Barcelona club website.

"After a year and half with no games, then games in an empty stadium, then games with severe restrictions, the time has finally come when the Barca stadium can fill to capacity once again!" it said.

The decision is timely for struggling Barcelona, who have three games coming up in eight days at the 99,000-capacity Nou Camp.

The first game in a full Nou Camp will be on Sunday against Valencia who are above ninth-place Barcelona on goal difference in La Liga.

Next Wednesday, Barca host Dynamo Kiev in a key Champions League game. Barcelona are bottom of their group without a point after two rounds.

On October 24, Liga leaders Real Madrid visit for the first Clasico of the season.

World Record Holder Agnes Tirop Found Dead in Kenya

NAIROBI (Dispatches) - Kenyan world record holder Agnes Tirop has been found dead at her home in the western town of Iten, a training hub for many athletes.

The two-time World Athletics Championships bronze medallist, who finished fourth in the Olympic 5,000m final two months ago, was 25.

Kenyan police have said they are still investigating the circumstances surrounding her death, with crime scene investigators at her house on Wednesday.

Tirop was found dead with stab wounds to her stomach and neck, sources said.

Last month, Tirop set the world record for a women's only 10km road race in Germany.



Kenya's Agnes Tirop broke the world record for a women's 10km road race in Germany in September

"Athletics Kenya are this afternoon distraught to learn about the untimely death of World 10,000m bronze medallist Agnes Tirop," the country's athletics body said in a statement.

At the 2020 Olympic Games in August, Tirop finished just outside the medal places for the women's 5,000m, trailing Ethiopia's bronze medallist Gudaf Tsegay by 0.75 seconds.