

# Iran FIFA World Ranking Unchanged



TEHRAN – Iran football team remained unchanged in the FIFA ranking released on Thursday.

Team Melli is the best Asian team in the ranking, sitting in the 22nd place.

Belgium still leads the ranking.

Brazil and France remained second and third in the ranking.

Italy leapfrogged England into fourth place in the FIFA World Rankings this month after securing the Nations League bronze medal.

The next FIFA World Ranking will be published on November 25.

## U-23 Football Team to Take on Nepal at Asian Cup Qualifiers

TEHRAN – Iran arrived in Dushanbe Friday morning to take part at the AFC U-23 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2022 Qualifiers.

Mehdi Mahdavia's team will commence the campaign with a match against Nepal on Sunday.

Iran has been drawn in Group B along with host Tajikistan, Nepal and Lebanon.

With the excitement building up, 39 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Member Associations (MAs) will



be vying for 15 available spots to join host Uzbekistan at the keenly anticipated AFC U-23 Asian Cup in

2022, which will be staged in the Central Zone for the first time in Asian football history.

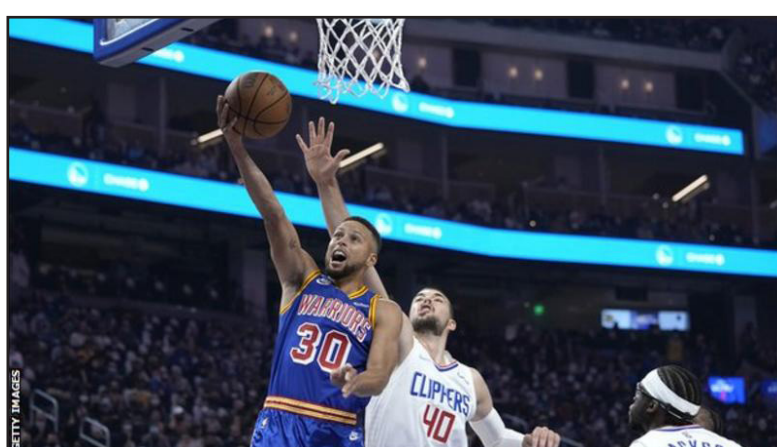
## Curry Scores 45 as Golden State Warriors Beat Los Angeles Clippers

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Stephen Curry's 45 points, including two late three-pointers, helped the Golden State Warriors continue their winning start to the season as they beat the Los Angeles Clippers 115-113.

Curry's long-range shot gave the Warriors a one-point lead with less than two minutes to go.

The 33-year-old scored another before Draymond Green sealed victory.

Defending champions the Milwaukee Bucks lost to the Miami Heat and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Dallas Mavericks.



Stephen Curry has played for Golden State Warriors since 2009

Curry scored 25 points in the first quarter and his team-high

10 rebounds meant he completed a double-double in San

Francisco.

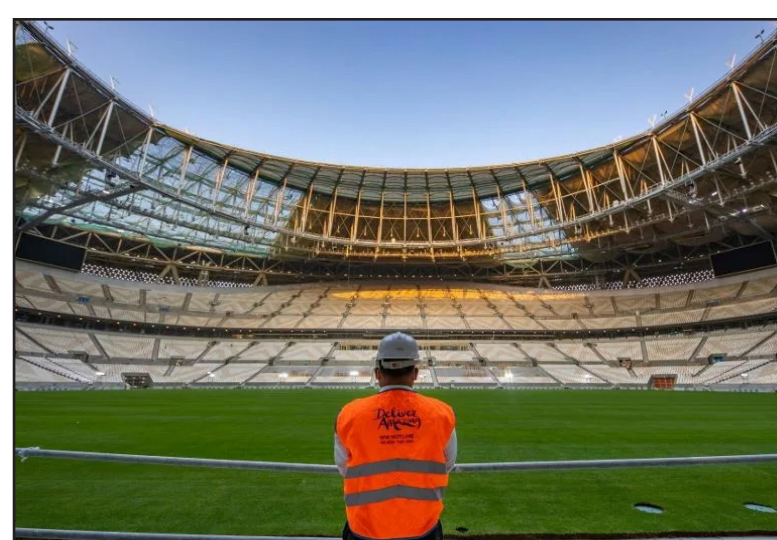
In Miami, the Heat set a franchise record for most points in a season-opening game as they beat an injury-hit Bucks 137-95.

Tyler Herro had 27 points off the bench, while Jimmy Butler contributed 20 points and Bam Adebayo 13 rebounds.

Starters Brook Lopez and Jrue Holiday were both missing for the Bucks with back spasms and a bruised heel respectively.

The Hawks beat the Mavericks 113-87, with Trae Young's 19 points and 14 assists souring the debut of Dallas coach Jason Kidd.

## Official: Qatar World Cup Final Venue 98.5 Percent Complete



Lusail Stadium the 80,000-capacity venue that will host the World Cup final in December 2022

DOHA (AFP) - Work on Qatar's Lusail Stadium, which will host the 2022 World Cup final, is nearly complete, an official said on Thursday, with only systems checks and commissions left to tackle.

"We are at approximately 98.5 percent completion," Tamim El Abed, project manager for the stadium, told AFP in an interview.

"The structural works, the civil works, the steel works, the roof works are all 100 percent complete.

"The remaining 1.5 percent is the testing and commissioning of the multiple systems needed for the

operation of the building."

El Abed said that the stadium can host 85,000 or 86,000 spectators.

"Eighty thousand of those would have a totally unobstructed view of the field of play," he said.

The Lusail Stadium is about 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the capital Doha and will host a number of matches during the tournament, including the final.

It is one of eight stadiums that Qatar has designated for the World Cup, which will be the first ever in the Middle East.

Lusail was designed to mimick the glow of a lantern, with openings in its curved steel exterior facade.

It has 3,354 rooms and 40 gate entrances, according to El Abed.

"The stands and the terraces were designed in a permanent fashion, but there is a plan possibly for reuse of the interior spaces post-World Cup," he added.

"We are proud of the fact that the stadium of this capacity has been designed from scratch and built from scratch with FIFA technical requirements in hand and in consideration right from the beginning," he added, referring to the world football's governing body.

Qatar has faced criticism for its treatment of migrant workers, many of whom are involved in preparations for the World Cup, with campaigners accusing employers of exploitation and forcing laborers to work in dangerous conditions.

However, Qatari authorities insist they have done more than any country in the region to improve worker welfare and say they have "always been transparent about the health and safety of workers".

## Sakkari, Halep Advance in Moscow; Rublev Ousted



MOSCOW (AP) — Maria Sakkari clinched a spot at the WTA Finals for the first time by reaching the quarterfinals at the

Kremlin Cup when Anna Kalinskaya retired with an illness in the second set.

The third-seeded Sakkari, who

was leading 6-2, 1-0 when Kalinskaya retired, became the first Greek woman to qualify for the season-ending event for the top eight players.

"It's achieving one of my biggest goals this year, it's very satisfying," Sakkari said.

Former champion Simona Halep also advanced by beating home favorite Veronika Kudermetova 6-1, 7-6 (4) and Anett Kontaveit ousted Andrea Petkovic 6-1, 6-4.

In the men's tournament, Adrian Mannarino saved a match point before beating defending champion Andrey Rublev of Russia 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals.

Mannarino faced the match point when trailing 6-5 in the second set but saved it when Rublev netted a backhand.

It was a rematch of the 2019 final, which Rublev won.

"Two years later, it is completely different," Mannarino said. "We have both improved. Andrey has improved a lot more than me. Even if a player is better than you, anything can happen. I got a little bit lucky today and I am really happy with my performance."

Second-seeded Aslan Karatsev advanced by beating Egor Gerasimov 6-4, 6-3 to set up a quarterfinal against Gilles Simon, who beat American Mackenzie McDonald 6-3, 6-2.

## Frankfurt See Off Olympiacos in UEFA Europa League

BERLIN (Xinhua) - Eintracht Frankfurt went top of UEFA Europa League Group D after overpowering Olympiacos with goals from Rafael Santos Borré, Almamy Toure and Daichi Kamada on Thursday.

Both sides were eyeing top spot and staged a lively opening period as Olympiacos' Youssef El-Arabi missed the goal from a promising position in the 12th minute, before Kamada headed narrowly wide at the other end moments later.

Frankfurt gained momentum and created another opportunity in the 20th minute when Borré nodded over from close range. Borré remained in the thick of things as he

forced goalkeeper Tomas Vaclík to make a save on the goal line in the 23rd minute.

Olympiacos simply couldn't stop Borré, who earned a penalty after being fouled by Pape Abdou Cissé in the 25th minute. Borré himself stepped up and made no mistake to break the deadlock from the spot.

The visitors from Greece shocked Frankfurt out of the blue two minutes later when defender Kristijan Jakic handled the ball inside the box. El-Arabi kept his cool from the spot and leveled the scores to silence the home supporters at the half-hour mark.

Frankfurt continued on the front foot but Toure



couldn't direct his volley goalwards after Filip Kostić's good build-up work with 37 minutes played.

The Eagles' efforts paid off before half-time, as Olympiacos couldn't clear the ball from the area when Martin Hinteregger's header hit the woodwork, allowing Toure to

tap home Djibril Sow's square pass in first-half added time.

After the break, Frankfurt sat back and let Olympiacos do the work. The visitors, however, lacked in penetration and ideas to overcome Frankfurt's well-positioned defense.

Frankfurt then estab-

lished a two-goal lead at the hour mark after Vaclík parried Goncalo Paciência's long-range effort into the path of Kamada, who clinically rounded the goalkeeper before poking home into a empty net.

Olympiacos' resistance was broken while Frankfurt relentlessly pushed forward without doing much damage in the closing stages.

"We showed a reaction after our poor performance in the Bundesliga. We played powerfully from the kick-off and wrapped up a deserved victory after 90 minutes. If we continue to play like today, we can win the group," said Frankfurt goalkeeper Kevin Trapp.