

# Iran's Women's Ice Hockey Beat Saudi Arabia to Reach Final



TEHRAN – Iranian women's ice hockey team qualified for the final match at the Islamic countries tournament underway in Kazan, Tatarstan after defeating Saudi Arabia on penalty shootouts on Monday.

The Iranian national women's ice hockey team defeated Saudi Arabia team on penalty shootouts to be able to take part in the final round at the Islamic countries tournament.

The two teams equalized 0-0 at the end of the match and the penalty shootouts determined which team to go to the final match.

Eventually, Iran defeated Saudi

Arabia 3-1 on penalties.

In their final match, Iran's female players will face Tatarstan on Tuesday.

Prior to this match, the Iranian women's squad lost to Tatarstan but defeated the UAE, Oman, and Bahrain in the tournament.

Over 300 hockey players from 14 Islamic states are participating in the tournament in Tatarstan in the Russian Federation.

From January 14 to 17, Kazan hosts the first ice hockey tournament among teams from Islamic countries.

## PSG Suffer Another Defeat as Ligue 1 Lead Cut to Three Points



Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian defender Marquinhos fights for the ball with Rennes' French forward Arnaud Kalimuendo during the French L1 football match between Stade Rennais FC and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) at the Roazhon Park stadium in Rennes, western France, on Jan 15, 2023.

PARIS (Reuters) - Paris St Germain suffered their second defeat of the season in a 1-0 loss to Stade Rennais on Sunday as their Ligue 1 lead was slashed to three points.

Rennes, who have won a club record ninth consecutive home game in the top flight, prevailed thanks to Hamari Traore's second-half goal as the visitors suffered their second loss in three league outings.

PSG have 47 points from 19 games while second-placed RC Lens are on 44 after their 1-0 win against AJ Auxerre on Saturday, with Olympique de Marseille third two points further adrift following their 3-1 victory against Lorient, also on Saturday.

Despite the win, Rennes slipped down to fifth on 37 points, behind Monaco on goal difference after the principality side destroyed AC Ajaccio 7-1 earlier on Sunday with a Wissam Ben Yedder hat-trick.

Kylian Mbappe, back after returning to training early following the World Cup final, was on the bench with Hugo Ekitike starting up front alongside Lionel Messi and Neymar but it was the injured midfielder Marco Verratti that PSG missed the most.

Midfielder Warren Zaire-Emery,

16, became the youngest player to start a Ligue 1 game for PSG and was nowhere near the Italian's level. Rennes had the first clear chance in the 28th minute when Arnaud Kalimuendo forced Gianluigi Donnarumma to box away his powerful shot from inside the box.

Donnarumma denied Lovro Majer to keep his team afloat five minutes later as PSG struggled to threaten, prompting Christophe Galtier to replace Ekitike with Mbappe 10 minutes into the second half.

Rennes continued to push and were rewarded in the 65th minute when Traore found the back of the net with a low angled shot from Adrien Truffert's pass.

PSG's Juan Bernat had a half-volley tipped over the bar by Steve Mandanda in the 81st before the capital side threw everything at Rennes in vain.

Earlier, Montpellier's home game against Nantes was stopped briefly in the first half after Montpellier supporters threw smoke bombs onto the pitch.

Montpellier fans threw coloured pyrotechnics and the match at their Stade de La Mosson home ground was paused by the referee around the 13th minute.

## Barca Ease to 3-1 Victory Over Real Madrid to Win Super Cup

MADRID (Reuters) - Barcelona were crowned Spanish Super Cup champions after goals from Gavi, Robert Lewandowski and Pedri earned them a 3-1 win over bitter rivals Real Madrid in Saudi Arabia on Sunday.

Barcelona were dominant in every aspect of the game and took advantage of three mistakes by Real Madrid to score.

Manager Xavi Hernandez sprung a surprise as he shifted from his usual 4-3-3 system to play an extra man in midfield with only Lewandowski up front, while centre back Ronald Araujo was deployed at right back in order to try to slow down Real's electrifying winger Vinicius Jr.

Vinicius was largely anonymous, while playing Gavi through the left-channel paid dividends as the youngster scored the opener and delivered two assists.

Barcelona took the lead in the



Barcelona players celebrate with a trophy after they won the final of the Spanish Super Cup between Barcelona and Real Madrid, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Jan 15, 2023.

33rd minute after Real defender Antonio Ruediger gave the ball away to Barca's Sergio Busquets, who began a move that ended with Gavi all alone inside the box to score with a precise left-foot strike.

Lewandowski extended the lead 12 minutes later on the counter when defender Dani Carvajal was caught out of position and left Gavi alone on the left wing. Frenkie de Jong saw his team mate ghost into the empty space

behind Carvajal and delivered a superb ball through.

He sprinted through the left channel before putting it on a plate for the Polish striker, who tapped into the back of the empty net.

Real Madrid, who had no shots on target in the first half, spent most of the second in panic mode, trying to avoid a bigger defeat.

Yet, once again a costly mistake allowed Barcelona to score. Substitute Dani Ceballos lost the ball in midfield and Gavi sprinted forward and crossed for Pedri to fire point-black into the empty net.

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## Arsenal Outgun Spurs to Extend Lead at the Top

LONDON (Reuters) - Leaders Arsenal put on a masterclass to overwhelm shell-shocked north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 away and extend the gap at the top of the Premier League to eight points on Sunday.

The Gunners flew out of the blocks from the opening whistle and built a first-half lead through a clumsy own goal by Spurs keeper Hugo Lloris and a sublime strike from Martin Odegaard.

Tottenham were totally outplayed by a fired-up Arsenal side under Mikel Arteta who were determined to make amends for a loss at Spurs last season that ultimately cost them a top-four place.

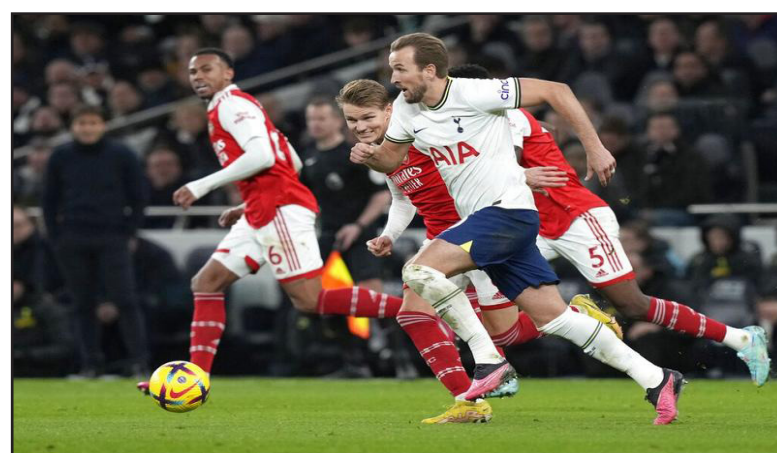
They dominated the first half

and battled gamely in the second, leaving Spurs boss Antonio Conte looking glum on the sidelines as he clapped his hands to rally his sorry side.

Striker Harry Kane, needing one more goal to equal Jimmy Greaves all-time Spurs' scoring record, had chances either side of the break but keeper Aaron Ramsdale was equal to them.

The win puts Arsenal on 47 points from 18 games ahead of Manchester City on 39, with Newcastle United, who have played a game more, and Manchester United a further point back.

Spurs are in fifth place with 33 points from 19 matches.



Tottenham's Harry Kane challenges for the ball with Arsenal's Martin Odegaard during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, England on Jan 15, 2023.

## LeBron Becomes Second Player to Score 38,000 Points

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - LeBron James became only the second player in NBA history to score 38,000 career points on Sunday as he inches closer to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's all-time record.

James, playing in his 20th NBA season, needed 11 points to reach 38,000 points and hit a mid-range jumper in the first quarter of the Los Angeles Lakers' home game against the Philadelphia 76ers to move past the milestone.

James eventually finished with 35 points but it was a bittersweet night as the Lakers lost 113-112.

The 38-year-old forward, who started his career with the Cleveland Cavaliers and also played for the Miami Heat, has averaged 29 points per game this season.

A four-times champion and four-times MVP, James is on course to break former Lakers center Ab-



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James shoots during an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans in Los Angeles on April 1, 2022.

dul-Jabbar's 34-year-old record of 38,387 points in the coming weeks.

When James turned 38 last month, Abdul-Jabbar had wished him happy birthday with the mes-

sage: "38 is the new 38,388."

James is now 363 points behind Abdul-Jabbar and based on his scoring average, NBA statisticians expect him to break the record before the All-Star break next month.

## India Beat Sri Lanka by Record ODI Margin

LONDON (Sky Sports) - India beat Sri Lanka by 317 runs - the biggest-ever winning margin in a one-day international - to seal a 3-0 series win.

Former captain Virat Kohli finished unbeaten on 166 for the hosts, while Shubman Gill hit 116 from 97 balls as India made 390-5 from their 50 overs.

Sri Lanka were then bowled out for 73 after Mohammed Siraj took 4-32.

New Zealand's 290-run victory over Ireland in Aberdeen in 2008 was the previous highest winning margin.

The record victory was built on a stunning innings from Kohli on a slow surface in Thiruvananthapuram.

The 34-year-old, who moved to within three centuries of equal-



India creates new record by beating Sri Lanka with biggest margin in ODI cricket.

ling Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 ODI hundreds, was ably assisted by Gill, with the pair putting on 131 for the second wicket.

It was Kohli's 10th century in one-day internationals against Sri Lanka - the most of any batter

against a single opposition.

Siraj helped to reduce the visitors to 39-6 in the 12th over as Sri Lanka careered towards defeat

Kuldeep Yadav (2-16) took two of the final four wickets to secure the record winning margin.