

Iran's Gorgan Down Al Riyadi in WASL-West Group B



TEHRAN— Shahrdiri Gorgan of Iran defeated Lebanese basketball team Al Riyadi 75-62 in Group B of the WASL-West Asia on Wednesday night.

Parrish Petty led Gorgan with 26 points at the Azadi Basketball Hall in Tehran, while Wael Arakji scored 16 points for Al Riyadi.

Gorgan moved top of Group B with seven points, one point above Al Riyadi.

Shahrdiri Gorgan is in Group B along with Al Naft SC of Iraq, Al Karamah SC of Syria, and Al Riyadi Beirut of Lebanon.

Zob Ahan, another Iranian representative, are in Group A along with Ittihad Ahli, Beirut Club and Orthodox Amman.

Real Madrid Beat Villarreal, Advance in Spanish Cup

MADRID (AFP) - Real Madrid came from two goals down to beat Villarreal 3-2 in the Copa del Rey last 16 on Thursday thanks to a brilliant second-half performance by substitute Dani Ceballos.

The 26-year-old midfielder delivered an assist for Real's first goal, created the opening for the second and scored the winner for the visitors who looked to be on the brink of elimination when they trailed 2-0 at halftime.

Villarreal moved quickly into the lead with a brilliant move by Etienne Capoue in the fourth minute, who volleyed into the far post.

They dominated the first half and extended their lead in the 41st minute when Gerard Moreno found Samuel Chukwueze ghosting between two

defenders and delivered a brilliant pass to the Nigerian winger who powered his shot into the top left corner.

Ceballos came off the bench in the 56th minute to play a pivotal role in all of Real Madrid goals.

One minute after coming on, he delivered a superb through ball to Vinicius Jr who scored from point-blank range.

Twelve minutes later he crossed to Karim Benzema whose towering header was denied by Filip Jorgensen but allowed Eder Militao to score from the rebound. In the 86th minute Ceballos slotted a perfect low shot from just inside the box to give Real Madrid the win.

After their 2-1 LaLiga defeat by Villarreal two weeks ago and a 3-1 loss to Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup



Real Madrid's Eder Militao jumps for the ball with Villarreal's Gerard Moreno (right) during the Copa del Rey round of 16 soccer match between Villarreal CF and Real Madrid at La Ceramica stadium in Villarreal, Spain on Jan 19, 2023.

final last Sunday, Real Madrid needed a win to rebuild their confidence as they bid for their first triumph in the competition since 2014.

Djokovic Prevails, Jabeur Knocked Out in Australian Open



Serbia's Novak Djokovic hits a return against France's Enzo Couacaud during their men's singles match on day four of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on Jan 19, 2023.

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - Novak Djokovic overcame persistent hamstring issues, heckling from fans and pesky French qualifier Enzo Couacaud on Thursday to reach the Australian Open third round, but women's second seed Ons Jabeur crashed out.

On a dramatic day four, where several high profile men's players were eliminated, Djokovic defied the obstacles to thwart 190th-ranked Couacaud 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-0 in three hours and four minutes.

"There was a lot happening tonight and Enzo deserves credit, he played some really great tennis, especially in the second set," Djokovic said.

In a fiery match, Djokovic continued his tempestuous relationship with Australian fans after being jeered by a group of colorfully dressed spectators.

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As he has done numerous times in his legendary career, Djokovic lifted in adversity and quickly ended Couacaud's resistance to book a third round clash with Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov.

Djokovic's troublesome hamstring, which he injured ahead of the tournament, was heavily strapped and he required a medical timeout late in the second set.

But 35-year-old Djokovic, who hit 63 winners, marched on as he seeks his 10th Australian Open title and record-equalling 22nd Grand Slam trophy.

Man City Close Gap at Top With Comeback Win Over Spurs



Manchester City's Algerian midfielder Riyad Mahrez (left) scores the team's fourth goal past Tottenham Hotspur's French goalkeeper Hugo Lloris during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, on Jan 19, 2023.

MANCHESTER, England (AFP) - Manchester City got back to winning ways in thrilling style after coming from two goals down to beat Tottenham Hotspur 4-2 on Thursday, a victory that moved the champions to within five points of Premier League leaders Arsenal.

Looking to avoid a third successive defeat in all competitions, City were sluggish from the off and went into the break two goals behind after Dejan Kulusevski and Emerson Royal netted in quick succession at the end of the opening period.

Three goals in 12 second-half minutes, however, quickly turned the match on its head, as strikes from Julian Alvarez, Erling Haaland, the Norwegian's first in four appearances in all competitions, and Riyad Mahrez put City in front.

The goal took Haaland's league haul to 22 for the season - the most by a City player in a single league campaign under Pep Guardiola, with 19 league games still left to play.

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With the visitors chasing an equalizer down the other end, Mahrez added a late fourth to keep City well in the title race, five behind Arsenal having played one game more than the Gunners, while Spurs stay fifth, five points off the top four.

City had lost 2-1 at Manchester United last time out and when they went into the break 2-0 down, it appeared that Guardiola's men were heading for successive league defeats for the first time since December 2018 as well as their third loss in a row to Tottenham.

The hosts were relatively untroubled by Spurs before Ederon's poor pass to Rodri fell to Kulusevski, who slotted home.

Celtics Top Warriors in Finals Rematch 112-118

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Celtics held on for a gritty 121-118 NBA victory over reigning champions Golden State in Boston on Thursday.

Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown came alive late for the Celtics, whose eighth straight win -- this one against the team that bested them in last season's NBA Finals -- pushed their league-leading record to 34-12.

Even as Tatum and Brown struggled to make shots early, the Celtics built a 10-point lead midway through the second quarter.

But the Warriors chipped away, and grabbed a 55-54 lead on Stephen Curry's shot from the half-court logo at the halftime buzzer.

It looked like the Warriors, who dominated Boston in a December victory in San Francisco, had the Celtics' number again as they



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) drives toward the basket past Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown (7) in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023, in Boston.

pulled away to lead by as many as 11 in the third quarter.

They were up by nine early in the fourth, but Tatum's running dunk pulled Boston within two with two

minutes remaining. Al Horford came up with a three-pointer and a big block and Brown's three-pointer tied it at 106-106 with 18.6 seconds left in regulation.

Marcus Smart's opening basket of overtime gave the Celtics their first lead since the first half.

After a three-pointer from Curry put the Warriors up by one, Brown drove for a layup that put the Celtics back on top for good with 2:23 remaining.

They pushed the lead to as many as eight and survived a couple of miscues to seal the win.

Tatum, who scored 34 points with a career-high 19 rebounds, said the contest wasn't about revenge, saying the Celtics didn't buy into the "Finals rematch" hype that had them too tense in the teams' December clash.

Brown, returning from a three-game absence because of groin tightness, finished with 16 points -- including 12 in the fourth quarter and overtime.

Goggia Claims Cortina Downhill, Shiffrin Fourth



VIENNA (AP) - Sofia Goggia charged to victory in Friday's World Cup downhill at Cortina d'Ampezzo to deny record-seeking Mikaela Shiffrin and increase her lead at the top of the discipline standings.

Italian Goggia clocked a time

of one minute and 33.47 seconds, 0.13sec ahead of Slovenia's Ilka Stuhec, enough to take her to 480 points in the downhill ranking and 208 ahead of Stuhec.

The 30-year-old has now won four of the five downhill races contested so far this season de-

spite breaking two fingers when finishing second in Saint Moritz last month.

"What makes the difference is that you go to the gate and what your emotional state is when you get there," said Goggia.

Shiffrin finished 0.50sec behind Goggia in fourth, meaning she will have to wait at least another day for an 83rd World Cup win which would take her past now-retired Lindsey Vonn as the female skier with most wins on the elite alpine skiing circuit.

The American will have two more chances to break compatriot Vonn's record this weekend with another downhill in Cortina on Saturday before Sunday's super-G.

Shiffrin did increase her lead on Petra Vlhova at the top of the overall standings to 449 points as her Slovakian rival did not take

part in Friday's race.

Olympic downhill champion Corinne Suter dropped back to fourth in the downhill standings after flying off the track in what appeared initially to be an awful crash.

However the Swiss was soon back on her feet to the relief of the crowd and her competitors including rival Goggia, who were seen turning away in horror.

Brazil Defender Dani Alves Detained Over Sexual Assault Allegations

MADRID (AFP) - Brazil defender Dani Alves was taken into custody on Friday in Spain over allegations that he sexually assaulted a woman at a Barcelona nightclub in December, police said.

The 39-year-old player was

summoned to a Barcelona police station where he was "taken into custody" and will now be questioned by a judge, said a spokesperson for Catalonia's regional police force, the Mossos d'Esquadra.

Spanish media said Alves ar-

ranged to be interviewed by police regarding the allegations through his lawyers.

Catalan police received a complaint on January 2 from a woman who said Alves had touched her inappropriately, police said.