

Maghsoodloo Finishes 6th in Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2023



TEHRAN – Iranian chess grandmaster Parham Maghsoodloo has finished sixth in a prestigious international tournament held last week in the Netherlands.

Maghsoodloo beat Armenian grandmaster Levon Grigori Aronian in the final round of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2023 that wrapped up late on Sunday.

The tournament was held from January 13 to 29 in the Dutch village of Wijk aan Zee.

Chess grandmaster Anish Giri from the Netherlands won the tournament.

The tournament featured notable grandmasters, including Magnus Carlsen from Norway, Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa from India, Ding Liren from China, Nodirbek Abdusattorov from Uzbekistan and Richard Rapport from Romania.

Iranian chess grandmaster Mohammad Amin Tabatabaei also finished fourth in the tournament's Challengers edition.

Dortmund Down Bayer Leverkusen in Bundesliga

BERLIN (AFP) - Borussia Dortmund secured its third consecutive win after taking a 2-0 away victory over Bayer Leverkusen in the final match of the 18th round on Sunday, also ending Bayer Leverkusen's five-game winning run.

The Werkselt assumed control from the kick-off and came close in the early stages, as Nadiem Amiri rattled the side net in the sixth minute before Moussa Diaby forced Dortmund goalkeeper Gregor Kobel



Leverkusen's goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky watches the ball in his net after Leverkusen's Edmond Tapsoba (third from right) scored an own goal during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Bayer Leverkusen and Borussia Dortmund at the BayArena in Leverkusen, Germany, on Jan 29, 2023.

into action ten minutes later.

Dortmund needed some time but opened the scoring with 33 minutes gone as Julian Brandt's cutback pass found Karim Adeyemi, who marked his first-ever Bundesliga goal from the central position of the box.

The "BVB" defended well with their narrow lead behind and kept the offensively minded hosts at bay for the remainder of the first half.

Real Madrid Annoyed at Goalless Draw Against Real Sociedad



Real Sociedad's Japanese forward Takefusa Kubo (left) vies with Real Madrid's Brazilian forward Vinicius Junior during the Spanish league football match between Real Madrid CF and Real Sociedad at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on Jan 29, 2023.

MADRID (AP) - Battling Real Sociedad survived a pounding at Santiago Bernabeu when they held Real Madrid to a goalless draw in a frantic LaLiga match.

Real Madrid recorded 20 goal attempts compared to only seven created by the visitors who held their turf heroically to go home to San Sebastian with a point thanks to a string of saves by goalkeeper Alex Remiro.

Vinicius Jr wasted two chances from close range, one in each half, with Remiro denying both. The keeper also made critical stops of efforts by Karim Benzema, Toni

Kroos and Rodrygo.

"I'm happy with the point earned and with my personal effort," Remiro told Movistar Plus.

Leaders Barcelona moved to 47 points in the standings after their 1-0 win at Girona on Saturday and are now five points ahead of second-placed Real Madrid. Real Sociedad are third on 39 points, having played one more game than the top two.

Desperate to close the gap with Barca, Real Madrid stormed after Real Sociedad from the beginning, roared on by their fans on a chilly evening in the Spanish capital.

Denmark Earn World-First Three-Peat in Men's Handball Worlds



Denmark's team celebrate with the trophy during the victory ceremony of the Men's IHF World Handball Championship final match between France and Denmark in Stockholm on Jan 29, 2023.

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) - Denmark became the first team in history to win the International Handball Federation (IHF) Men's World Championship title three times in a row after beating Olympic champions France 34-29 in the final.

A 10-goal outing from Rasmus Lauge Schmidt and nine goals from Simon Pytlick powered Denmark to a historic victory in the biennial world handball flagship event.

With Pytlick delivering three goals in the first four minutes and goalkeeper Niklas Landin saving two of the first three shots, the

reigning world champions took an early 6-2 lead and jumped to a five-goal lead at 12-7 after 15 minutes.

Denmark had the slightest of leads at 16-15 at the break before bouncing back with a 3-0 unanswered run to take a three-goal lead once again.

Landin saved Melvyn Richardson's penalty with two minutes left, keeping Denmark with a three-goal lead at 32-29, which proved to be unassailable.

Earlier on Sunday, Spain won bronze with a 39-36 victory over co-hosts Sweden.

Liverpool Fall to Brighton in FA Cup



Liverpool's Egyptian striker Mohamed Salah (right) passes the ball during the English FA Cup fourth round football match between Brighton & Hove Albion and Liverpool at the Amex stadium in Brighton, on the south coast of England on Jan 29, 2023.

LONDON (AFP) - An injury-time goal from Brighton forward Kaoru Mitoma ended Liverpool's campaign in this season's FA Cup as they were beaten 2-1 away to the south-coast outfit.

The winger scored after a magnificent control to take Brighton into the last 16 and leave Liverpool's season hanging by a thread.

Although Liverpool improved from their 3-0 defeat in the same ground just 15 days ago and even took the lead through Harvey Elliott's 30th-minute goal, Brighton were level just nine minutes later when Lewis Dunk deflected a shot into the Liverpool goal.

Brighton had more of the ball and more efforts on target than Liverpool, and deserved to win, while Liverpool's UEFA Champions League tie against Real Madrid now takes on an even greater significance.

In the day's most romantic Cup tie, fifth-tier outfit Wrexham drew 3-3 with Championship promotion chasers Sheffield United.

The visitors were reduced to 10 men 13 minutes from time when Daniel Jebbison was sent off, but they netted a 95th-minute equalizer through John Egan after it looked as if Paul Mullin's 86th-minute goal would put Wrexham through.

On Saturday, Kelechi Iheanacho's 68th-minute goal saw Leicester City into the fifth round, although Brendan Rodgers' side failed to impress against a rival from the fourth tier, League Two.

Leeds United were more convincing as goals from Jack Harrison, Junior Firpo and Luis Sinisterra put them on their way to a 3-1 win away to Accrington Stanley from League One.

Two goals from left back Romain Perraud helped Premier League bottom side Southampton beat Championship strugglers Blackpool 2-1.

Fulham were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Championship outfit Sunderland, with the visitors taking the lead thanks to Jack Clarke before a goal from veteran midfielder Tom Cairney earned Fulham a replay.

Son Heung-min scored twice as Tottenham eased past Preston 3-0 in what could have been a difficult visit to the northwest for Antonio Conte's side.

Two goals from Brazilian midfielder Casemiro and another from his international teammate Fred saw Manchester United ease past Reading 3-1 in a match which saw former United legend Paul Ince return as coach of their rivals.

Grizzlies Rally to Beat Pacers 112-100

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Ja Morant had 27 points, 15 assists and 10 rebounds, Jaren Jackson Jr. added 28 points and the Memphis Grizzlies overcame a lackluster first half to defeat the Indiana Pacers 112-100 on Sunday.

Brandon Clarke had 13 points, hitting all five of his shots as Memphis snapped a five-game losing streak and ran its home record to 21-3. It was Morant's fifth triple-double of the season and second in a row.

But the game started as if Memphis was going to continue its losing ways. The Grizzlies were down by 12 at half, but the second-half change,

fueled by defensive adjustments, allowed them to outscore the Pacers 62-38 in the final two quarters.

Benedict Mathurin, the sixth pick in the 2022 draft, led the Pacers with 27 points and eight rebounds. Aaron Nesmith had 16 points and Myles Turner added 15 points. Indiana has lost 10 of its last 11.

The Pacers dominated the first half, leading by as many as 19. Indiana's first-half shooting, which hovered at 60% at the midway point of the second quarter, helped it to a 62-50 lead at the break.

But 14 straight points brought Memphis back into the game early in the third quarter, and



Indiana Pacers forward Isaiah Jackson (22) handles the ball between Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant (12) and Memphis Grizzlies guard Tyus Jones in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023, in Memphis, Tenn.

the Grizzlies outscored Indiana 30-17 in the third to retake the lead.

Memphis' 13-2 run to open the fourth opened the game up.