

Asian Athletics Association:

Iran to Host Asian Athletics Indoor Championships 2024



TEHRAN – President of the Asian Athletics Association Dahlan Al Hamad has declared Iran as the host of the Asian Athletics Indoor Championships 2024.

Dahlan Al Hamad handed over the flag of the Asian Athletics Association to Iran's professional athlete Farzaneh Fasihi.

He submitted the flag to the Iranian female athlete in the closing ceremony of the tenth edition of the Asian Indoor Athletics Championship held in Kazakhstan.

Fasihi claimed a gold medal in the women's 60m race at the Asian Athletics Indoor Championships 2023 in Astana.

Iran previously hosted the Asian event three times in 2010, 2002, and 2018.

Wasteful Inter Held to Goalless Draw at Sampdoria

GENOA (Reuters) - Second-placed Inter Milan were held to a 0-0 draw at lowly Sampdoria in Serie A as Simone Inzaghi's side were left to rue a flurry of missed chances on a foggy Genoa night.

Inter have 44 points and trail leaders Napoli by 15 after 22 games, with Atalanta, AS Roma and AC Milan all on 41 points.

"I keep saying we need to focus only on ourselves.

Inter striker Romelu Lukaku set the tone for the match with a shot after two minutes but Sampdoria goalkeeper Emil Audero managed to tip the ball over the bar.

Lautaro Martinez then came close to scoring after 20 minutes but the Argentine international miskicked

the ball inside the box, with Matteo Darmian sending his following attempt over the bar from an acute angle.

Inter dominated the first half but Sampdoria managed to survive wave after wave of attacks thanks to smart defensive work and a reasonable amount of luck.

The visitors started to look visibly frustrated as the clock ticked towards 90 minutes but were sloppy in their build-up, giving Sampdoria opportunities to break up the play.

Hakan Calhanoglu tried a shot from the edge of the box but Audero got down fast to stop the attempt.

Francesco Acerbi then came close to a winner two minutes into stoppage time but Aude-



Inter Milan's Armenian midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan controls the ball ahead of Sampdoria's British midfielder Harry Winks (left) during the Italian Serie A football match between Sampdoria and Inter on Feb 13, 2023 at the Luigi-Ferraris stadium in Genoa.

ro again denied Inter.

Boos greeted the final whistle as the away fans vented their feelings on a frustrating night for the visitors.

The draw left second-bottom Sampdoria on 11 points, eight adrift of the safety

zone.

Inter host mid-table Udinese in Serie A on Saturday before Portuguese side Porto come to San Siro for the first leg of their Champions League lat-16 tie on Feb. 22.

Blazers Hit 23 3-Pointers, Beat LeBron-Less Lakers 127-115



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, center, drives to the basket against Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis, left, and guard Dennis Schroder, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Monday, Feb. 13, 2023.

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Damian Lillard had 40 points, including eight 3-pointers, to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to a 127-115 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Monday night.

LeBron James, the NBA's all-time leading scorer, missed his third straight

game for the Lakers with a sore left ankle. He hasn't played since breaking Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's scoring record last Tuesday in a loss to Oklahoma City.

The Blazers led by as many as 27 and made a season-best 23 3-pointers, including a franchise-record 17 in the

first half.

When Lillard went to the bench for good with seven minutes left, he got a standing ovation from many in the crowd.

Anthony Davis had 19 points and 20 rebounds for the Lakers, who have lost four of five.

Lakers coach Darvin Ham said his team had no answer for Lillard, who has 11 games this season with 40 or more points.

Both teams continued to integrate players acquired at the trade deadline last week. Matisse Thybulle, obtained from Philadelphia in a four-team deal, made his debut for the Blazers and started. He had 14 points and four 3-pointers.

D'Angelo Russell, who the Lakers got as part of the trade that sent Russell West-

brook to Utah, started for the second straight game and finished with 16 points. Malik Beasley, who came over from the Jazz, had 22 points off the bench.

Mo Bamba, traded to the Lakers from the Orlando Magic at the deadline, continues to serve a four-game suspension for an on-court fight with Minnesota guard Austin Rivers during a game on Feb. 3.

The Blazers went on a 20-2 run in the opening quarter that ended with Nassir Little's 3-pointer that made it 25-16. Portland made 10 3-pointers in the quarter, including Lillard's 3 from distance at the buzzer that stretched the lead to 34-19.

Lillard had 30 points and eight 3s to lead all scorers at halftime, and the Blazers led 65-46.

UEFA Blamed for Champions League 2022 Final Chaos



In this file photo taken on May 28, 2022, Liverpool fans stand outside unable to get in time leading to the match being delayed prior to the UEFA Champions League final football match between Liverpool and Real Madrid at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, north of Paris.

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) - A review into the chaos before the 2022 Champions League final between Liverpool and Real Madrid has said organizers UEFA were responsible for the events which unfolded including a "large number of near misses that nearly led to disaster".

European soccer governing body UEFA apologized to Liverpool for initially blaming the Merseyside club's fans for the mayhem following the release of an independent review on Monday.

The final was delayed by 36 minutes after thousands of Liverpool supporters were unable to get into the Stade de France for the match on May 28, which Real won 1-0, while French police were filmed using tear gas on fans including women and children.

UEFA and French authorities at the time blamed the chaos on ticket fraud, although the review said there was no evidence to support such claims.

The final "will be remembered as a moment of suffering for many fans but should also be a reminder of a situation we certainly do not want to witness again in the future at any sporting event in Europe or anywhere in the world," said Tiago Brandao Rodrigues, a member of Portugal's parliament, who chaired the investigation.

"Avoiding future disasters and improving the service provided at football events was the aim of the Panel's work during this process," he added in the 220-page review, which had a panel including legal, policing and event-management consultants as well as representatives from fan groups.

UEFA General Secretary Theodore Theodoridis said the soccer body "would like to apologize most sincerely once again to all those who were affected by the events that unfolded on what should have been a celebration at the pinnacle of the club season."

Ferrari Unveils New F1 Car With Red Bull in Their Sights



BERLIN (AFP) - Ferrari unveiled their new SF-23 car for the upcoming Formula One season at their Maranello headquarters on Tuesday, the Scuderia gunning for Red Bull and world champion Max Verstappen.

The Scuderia finished second in the drivers and constructors championships last time out after an error-strewn campaign, way behind Red Bull whose top driver Verstappen comfortably retained his title.

"The goal is to win, clearly," said driver Charles Leclerc, who took the SF-23 for a spin around the Maranello track in front of some of the team's passionate supporters.

The coming season is the first for team principal Frederic Vasseur, who took charge in De-

cember following the resignation of Mattia Binotto the month before.

Binotto was considered culpable for last season's frequent missteps, including pitlane errors and reliability issues which damaged Leclerc's attempt to keep up with Verstappen.

Ferrari began with two wins in the opening three Grands Prix but were then swept aside by Red Bull and Verstappen, who won the drivers title with three races remaining and eventually finished 146 points ahead of Leclerc.

The new car is designed with the aim of improving aerodynamics and the reliability of the engine, the latter being one of the key problems last time out.

Belgian Goalkeeper Dies After Saving Penalty

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Belgian goalkeeper Arne Espeel died aged 25 after he collapsed on the pitch moments after saving a penalty for an amateur team.

Winkel Sport B, who play in the

second provincial division of West Brabant in Belgium, were 2-1 up against Westrozebeke when their opponents were awarded a penalty in the second half.

According to reports in Belgian

media, Espeel saved the spot kick but dropped to the ground immediately afterwards. Emergency services rushed to help Espeel and tried to revive him with a defibrillator but he was pronounced

dead shortly after he was taken to a hospital.

The game was played at the club's home ground in Sint-Eloois-Winkel in the West Flanders Province.