

# Iran's Men Table Tennis Team Beats Singapore in South Korea



TEHRAN – Iran's men's national table tennis team defeated Singapore at the ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals underway in Busan, South Korea.

Iran's team, featuring Noshad Alamian, Nima Alamian, and Amir-Hussein Hodaei emerged victorious against their rivals from Singapore 3-0 in the knockout stage to reach the next round.

Iran's national table tennis squad secured their spot in the knockout

stages by defeating Egypt 3-1 in the group stage round.

Previously in the tournament, the Iranian team won Thailand 3-0 but lost 3-1 against Portugal and Romania.

Iran will face Germany in the next round for a chance to qualify for the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.

The ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals is underway in Busan, South Korea from February 16-25, 2024.

## Iranian Snooker Players Into Knockout Stage in Asian Championship



TEHRAN,– Iranian snooker players defeated their rivals in the group stage and cruised into the knockout round of the 2024 Asian Men Snooker Championship underway in Doha, Qatar.

Amir Sarkhosh, Ali Gharagozlou, and Milad Kashani represented Iran's national team in the sporting event.

In the group A, Sarkhosh emerged victorious against his rivals from India (4-1), Afghanistan (4-1), South Korea (4-2), and Qatar (4-0) to advance to the knockout stage in the sporting event.

Another Iranian snooker player Gharagozlou defeated his opponents from Pakistan (4-3), Saudi Arabia (4-0), Jordan (4-0), and Palestine (4-1) in group G to secure its place in the knockout stage.

Also, Kashani advanced to the knockout stage with 2 wins and one loss in group C.

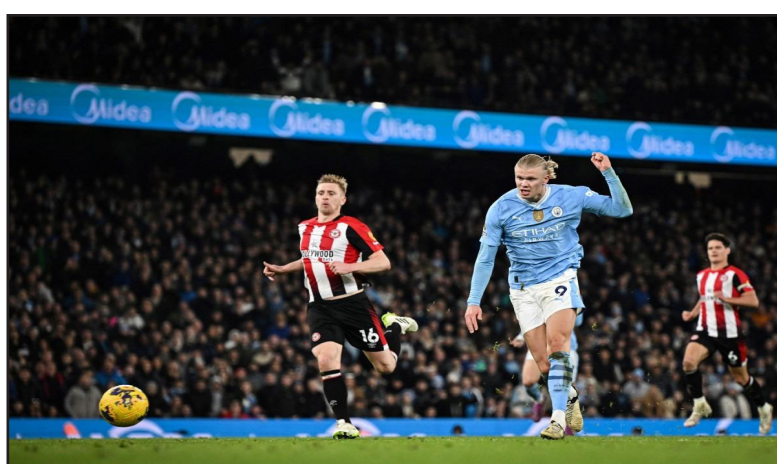
The 2024 Asian Men Snooker Championship, organized by the Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation (QBSF) is underway in Doha, Qatar from February 17-23.

## Haaland Goal Lifts Man City Within a Point of Liverpool

MANCHESTER, England - Erling Haaland erased any questions about his scoring touch on Tuesday, netting Manchester City's only goal in a 1-0 victory over Brentford that lifted them into second place in the Premier League table, just one point behind leaders Liverpool.

Pep Guardiola's team, unbeaten in their last 10 league matches and finally even in games played with title rivals Liverpool and Arsenal, have 56 points, one ahead of Arsenal in a title race that looks destined to go down to the wire. Brentford are five points above the relegation zone in 14th.

Haaland, who three days earlier pushed a camera in frustration after failing to score with nine shots in a 1-1 draw with Chelsea, was back in form, increasing his league tally to 17 goals.



Manchester City's Norwegian striker #09 Erling Haaland shoots and scores his team first goal during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Brentford at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, on Feb 20, 2024.

The Norwegian broke the deadlock in the 71st minute when he sprinted onto a beautiful through ball from Julian Alvarez then stroked it past a slipping Kristoffer Ajer before beating keeper Mark Flekken. Haaland has now scored against every Premier League club he has

faced. He has yet to play Luton Town.

Guardiola issued a warning to Haaland's critics and said the Norwegian had come through a difficult period in his personal life.

Haaland, who had scored just two goals in his previous seven games, had an-

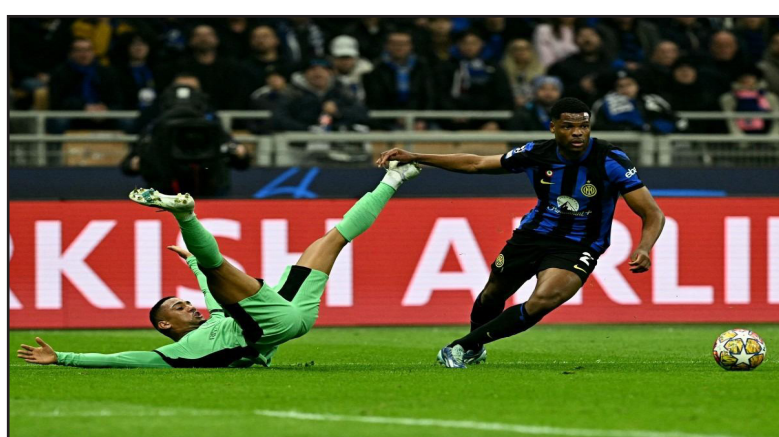
other effort ruled out late in the game because Kyle Walker was offside in the buildup.

Chelsea thoroughly frustrated City on Saturday, and it was more of the same on Tuesday - besides Haaland's goal - with City taking 25 shots, 11 on target to Brentford's two, with Flekken producing an excellent performance.

Oscar Bobb, who made his first Premier League start, had one of City's best chances, deftly cutting around Christian Norgaard before unleashing a shot that defender Ben Mee sprinted back to just clear off the line.

Brentford missed a huge early opportunity when Frank Onyeka ran onto a pass from Yoane Wissa but shot straight at City's keeper Ederson.

## Late Arnautovic Strike Gives Inter 1-0 Win Over Atletico



Atletico Madrid's Brazilian forward #12 Samuel Lino (left) fights for the ball with Inter Milan's Dutch defender #02 Denzel Dumfries

MILAN, Italy (Reuters) - A late goal from substitute Marko

Arnautovic gave Inter Milan a 1-0 home victory after a tough

battle with Atletico Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie on Tuesday.

The Austria striker, who had replaced the injured Marcus Thuram at halftime, redeemed himself following several missed chances by squeezing the ball home after Lautaro Martinez's shot was saved by goalkeeper Jan Oblak in the 79th minute.

It was only the second time the teams had played each other, with Atletico winning 2-0 in the

UEFA Super Cup back in 2010.

"It's very satisfying. The lads were wonderful against a physical, technical side that did not make it at all easy," Inter manager Simone Inzaghi told Sky Sport Italia.

The return fixture is on March 13 in the Spanish capital.

Inter wore black armbands as their fans at San Siro paid tribute to the club's former player Germany World Cup-winner Andreas Brehme who passed away aged 63 earlier on Tuesday.

TEHRAN – Iran national football team forward Sardar Azmoun's goal was shortlisted among the Goal of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup.

The tournament turned out to be a spectacular 18th edition of the prestigious competition, with host Qatar lifting its second successive title after an action-packed month of football.

A total of 132 goals were scored in 51 matches across the country at a ratio of 2.59 per match. The-AFC.com selects eight of the finest strikes from the tournament and asks the fans to vote for their favorite.

Team Melli made an electric start to its semifinal tie against Qatar with Alireza Jahanbakhsh's long throw wreaking havoc inside the penalty box before Azmoun's improvised bicycle kick found the net in just the fourth minute for one of the fastest goals in this year's tournament.

Goals from Keito Nakamura (Japan), Abdulrahman Gharreeb (Saudi Arabia), Hassan Al Haydos (Qatar), Faisal Halim (Malaysia), Supachok Sarachat (Thailand), Mousa Al Tamari (Jordan) and Son Heung-min (Korea Republic) are also among the nominees.

## Coach Thomas Tuchel to Leave Bayern Munich

DUESSELDORF, Germany (AP) — Thomas Tuchel is leaving Bayern Munich and taking the fall for a disappointing season. The players have been warned, too.

Bayern announced Wednesday that Tuchel will leave the club at the end of the season, after a run of three straight losses raised the prospect of the club's first campaign without a trophy in 12 years.

The announcement was accompanied by a pledge from chief executive Jan-Christian Dreesen to "hold the team accountable" for its performances on the field for the rest of the season.

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Bayern said Tuchel's departure

was decided when he spoke with chief executive Jan-Christian Dreesen. Tuchel's contract was due to run through the end of the 2024-25 season.

"In a good, open discussion, we came to the decision to end our working relationship by mutual agreement in the summer," Dreesen said in a club statement. "Our goal is to pursue a new footballing direction with a new head coach for the 2024-25 season. Until then, every individual at the club is expressly called upon to achieve the maximum possible in the Champions League and Bundesliga. I also explicitly hold the team accountable in this regard."

Tuchel has repeatedly said his squad trains well and then fails to perform to the same standard in games.

Tuchel said in the statement that "I will of course continue to do everything I can with my coaching staff to achieve maximum success" until he leaves the club. Bayern's next game is Saturday at home to Leipzig with a squad heavily depleted by injuries.

There was no word from the club on a possible successor. Tuchel's delayed departure could mean Bayern will be competing with Liverpool for the services of Xabi Alonso, as Jürgen Klopp is also leaving at the end of the season after nine years in charge

of the English club.

Alonso is widely considered one of the most in-demand coaches in Europe after leading Leverkusen to first place in the Bundesliga in his first senior head coaching role. He was a player for both Bayern and Liverpool and would likely get a warm welcome from either club's fans, though Alonso himself has declined to speculate on his future.

"I am really happy here. I am enjoying my work here," Alonso said last month when Klopp announced his departure. "What's going to happen in the future I don't know, and I don't really care at the moment."

Other possible candidates could include Sebastian Hoeness, the nephew of Bayern's honorary president Uli Hoeness. His Stuttgart team is a surprising third in the Bundesliga. Hansi Flick won the Champions League with Bayern in 2020 before moving to the German national team. He's available but his national team tenure was largely unsuccessful and featured many of the same players from the Bayern squad.

Tuchel joined Bayern in March as the replacement for Julian Nagelsmann amid frustration from the Bayern hierarchy over the team's lack of consistency, a problem that persists.