

# Iran Men's Saber Team Advances to Semis in Spain World Cup



TEHRAN – Iran's saber fencing team on Sunday advanced to the semifinal stage of the world cup underway in Spain.

The team competition of the Saber Fencing World Cup was held in Madrid and the Iranian

team advanced to the semifinals. Iran first defeated Chile and then Canada and faced Georgia in the quarter-finals.

The Iranian team won the Georgia team, with a score of 45-44 and advanced to the semi-

finals to face the team of the United States.

According to the website of the International Fencing Federation, the senior men's saber team contests will wrap up later today in Madrid.

# Taftian Ranks 2nd in Jamaica Indoor Athletics Championships



TEHRAN – Iranian sprinter Hasan Taftian came in second place in the Jamaican Indoor Athletics.

Hitting the record of 10.16 seconds in men's 100m, Hasan Taftian, the Iranian sprinter gained the silver medal at the Jamaica Indoor Athletics Championships and stood in second place.

Kadrian Goldson ranked in the first place, while Rodney Brendon gained the bronze medal after Taftian.

Taftian has been training to prepare for the 2023 Asian Championships.

# PSG Edge Closer to Title as Messi Jeered on Return



Habib Diallo (L) is the first Strasbourg player to score 20 goals in a Ligue 1 season for 45 years

PARIS (AFP) - Paris Saint-Germain closed in on a record 11th French league title with a 5-0 home win over Ajaccio on Saturday as Lionel Messi received a mixed reception on his return from suspension.

Fabian Ruiz opened the scoring on 22 minutes at the Parc des Princes and Achraf Hakimi added a second goal before Kylian Mbappe struck twice shortly after half-time.

Mohamed Youssouf compounded a miserable night for the Corsicans with an own goal for PSG's fifth, while Hakimi and Ajaccio midfielder Thomas Mangani were sent off after a late bust-up.

PSG need four points from their final three games -- against Auxerre, Strasbourg and Clermont -- to secure the Ligue 1 title after restoring their six-point lead over second-placed Lens.

"The players were very determined to put in a proper display. They want to be champions and they realise that Lens aren't giving up and a misstep could raise the pressure," said PSG coach Christophe Galtier.

Messi's name elicited a combination of whistles and applause when it was read out before kick-off after he was banned by the club for last weekend's match over an unauthorized trip to Saudi Arabia.

The Argentine again drew jeers with his early touches in what was likely his penultimate appearance in Paris ahead of a reported move to Saudi Arabia for the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner.

"So there are whistles but very quickly a large part of the stadium made sure to drown them out to support Leo," said Galtier.

"He stayed focused with the desire to liven up the game and create chances. He's used to it

because he's been in difficult situations in his career."

Three defeats in their past four home games for PSG had allowed Lens to stay in an unlikely title race, but Ajaccio offered little resistance as their relegation to Ligue 2 was confirmed.

Daniilo's threaded pass was flicked into the path of Ruiz and the Spain midfielder took a couple of smart touches before finishing clinically for his second goal in as many games.

Hakimi then swept in the rebound after Mbappe's effort was parried by Francois-Joseph Sollacaro, with the goal allowed to stand despite the France striker using his arm to control in the build-up.

Mbappe hit the 25-goal mark for the fourth time early in the second half, slotting beyond Sollacaro after a scramble in the box to take over again as the league's top scorer this term.

He then produced a brilliant first-time volley to lash in PSG's fourth minutes later after a long ball forward from Sergio Ramos glanced off the head of a backtracking defender.

An unfortunate Youssouf diverted a shot from Marquinhos into his own net on 73 minutes and both teams finished with 10 players after a challenge on Messi triggered a needless scuffle.

Hakimi, who was sent off against Lorient two weeks ago, received his second red card in as many outings after getting into an altercation with Mangani that also led to his dismissal.

Senegalese forward Habib Diallo scored inside the opening minute of a Ligue 1 game for the third time this year as he got both goals in Strasbourg's 2-0 win over Nice.

Diallo took his goals tally to 20 for the season and secured a fourth victory in five matches for Strasbourg which lifted them six points clear of the relegation zone.

Over two-thirds of his goals have come since January, when Strasbourg were second from bottom having won just once in 18 games.

His first against Nice came after 40 seconds as he controlled Ibrahima Sissoko's floated ball over the defence and steered past Kasper Schmeichel.

Diallo added a second from the penalty spot on the hour after Jean-Ricner Bellegarde was brought down in the area by Jordan Lotomba.

He is the first Strasbourg player to reach 20 goals in a top-flight season since 1977-78.

# Alcaraz Powers to Victory Over Ramos-Vinolas on Rome Debut

ROME (Reuters) - World number two Carlos Alcaraz marked his Italian Open debut by shaking off a sluggish start to emerge with an efficient 6-4 6-1 second-round win over unseeded Spaniard Albert Ramos-Vinolas on a rain-affected Saturday in Rome.

Barcelona and Madrid champion Alcaraz, who is chasing his fifth title of 2023 and fourth on clay ahead of Roland Garros, overcame an early loss of serve amid heavy conditions at the Foro Italico to level up the opening set at 2-2.

The 20-year-old, who had a first-round bye, earned another opportunity to break Ramos-Vinolas with a deft drop shot in an intense 10th game and took the advantage in the match

when his compatriot cracked under pressure and sent a forehand long.

Alcaraz continued to build momentum and raced ahead 3-0 in the second set against a fading Ramos-Vinolas, wrapping up the match on serve to make it 12 wins in a row.

Monte Carlo champion Andrey Rublev earlier overcame Alex Molcan 6-3 6-4 in a twice-interrupted match to book his place in the third round.

Rublev's Russian compatriot Daniil Medvedev will not have that luxury, however, and will seek a first win in Rome when he opens his campaign against Finn Emil Ruusuvuori on Sunday after rain forced play to be suspended late in the evening.



Carlos Alcaraz of Spain returns the ball to Albert Ramos-Vinolas of Spain during their match at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, May 13, 2023.

Alexander Zverev, the 2017 champion, will also be in action against David Goffin, while

fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas will resume his match with Nuno Borges from 6-3 4-3.

# Dortmund Beat Gladbach 5-2 to Keep Alive Title Hopes



GERMANY (Reuters) - Borussia Dortmund scored four goals in a dazzling 32-minute first-half spell to ease

past Borussia Moenchengladbach 5-2 on Saturday and stay in the title hunt with two matches left in the Bundesliga

season.

Dortmund are on 67 points in second place, one behind leaders Bayern Munich, 6-0 winners over Schalke 04 earlier on Saturday. Dortmund travel to Augsburg next weekend while Bayern face Champions League hopefuls RB Leipzig.

The hosts shot out of the blocks and went in front after five minutes when Donyell Malen nodded in from close range after Sebastien Haller's shot from the edge of the box got deflected.

Jude Bellingham slotted in a penalty in the 18th minute before Haller's spectacular backheel flick made it 3-0 just two minutes later.

With Gladbach down for the count,

Haller added another goal with a well-timed volley from Malen's cutback in the 32nd.

Dortmund gradually eased off, allowing Gladbach to pull back a goal with a Ramy Bensebaini spot kick in the 75th minute and further cut the gap with Lars Stindl's low drive five minutes before the end.

But Gio Reyna struck again for the hosts with the last kick of the game to make it 5-2.

Teams from three countries will tour Australia next summer, Cricket Australia said on Sunday, with the men's test fixtures taking place during a truncated window in December and January.

# Real Madrid Lose \$440mn Sponsorship Battle With Abu Dhabi Fund

MADRID (Reuters) - Spanish soccer's Real Madrid have lost a \$440 million court battle with Abu Dhabi sovereign investor Mubadala over the proposed sponsorship of its stadium in Madrid, sources with knowledge of the case told Reuters.

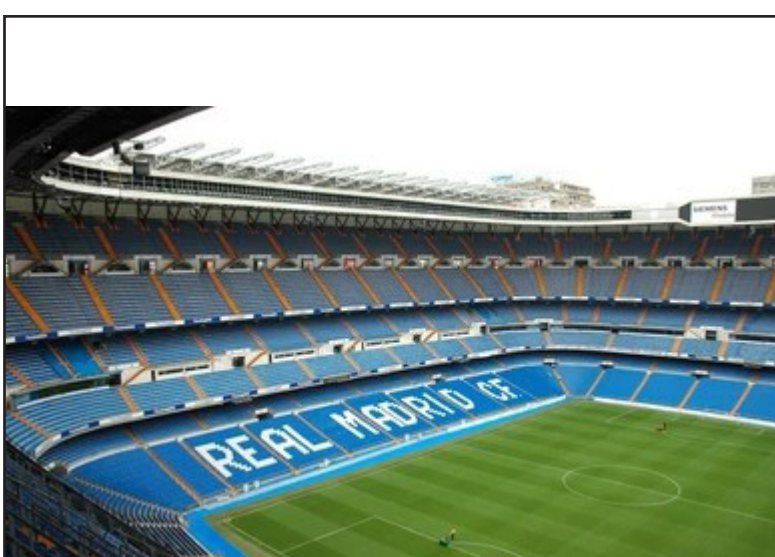
Real Madrid had claimed 400 million euros (\$440 million) from Mubadala because it said the Abu Dhabi sovereign investor failed to honor a sponsorship deal under which it would acquire rights to name

the Santiago Bernabeu stadium for 20 years.

"The arbitral tribunal constituted under the rules of the Court of International Trade in Paris has ruled in favor of (Mubadala)," the source told Reuters.

In 2014, Real agreed a strategic partnership with Abu Dhabi fund International Petroleum Investment Co (IPIC), now Mubadala, to help finance a planned stadium overhaul.

The project was meant to add a striking new roof and exterior



to the current structure and include a hotel and a shopping centre, to help the world's richest club by income boost its revenue.

However, in 2015, a Madrid court halted the original modification of the stadium.

A later plan, approved by Madrid city council in 2017, was different to the one agreed by the soccer club and Mubadala.

The court ruled the sponsorship contract had expired by the time the second expansion was agreed in 2017.