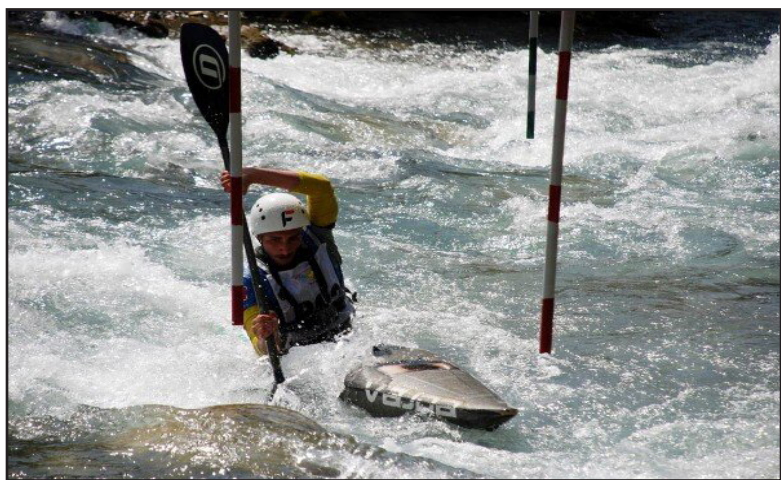


# Fattahpour Wins Bronze at Asian Canoe Slalom Championships



TEHRAN – Iranian athlete Amir MUhammad Fattahpour on Sunday received a bronze medal on the second day of the Asian Youth and U23 Canoe Slalom Championships in Pattaya, Thailand.

Fattahpour ranked third in the men's Canoe Slalom contest by winning the bronze medal.

China and Japan won gold and silver medals respectively.

Some three paddlers including Amir Mohammad Fattahpour, Melika Samaki, and Mohammad Mahdavinia represent the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Asian Youth and U23 Canoe Slalom Championships, which is being held from May 19 to 21.

Asian Sailing Championship is a biennial championship multi-class sailing regatta organized by the Asian Sailing Federation.

# Manchester City Win Premier League Title as Arsenal Lose



Manchester City's Erling Haaland (right) and his teammates celebrate their third goal during the Champions League semifinal second leg soccer match between Manchester City and Real Madrid at Etihad stadium in Manchester, England, May 17, 2023.

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester City was confirmed as Premier League champions for the fifth time in six seasons on Saturday without even having to kick a ball after second-placed Arsenal's challenge ended in defeat away at Nottingham Forest.

City, who hosts Chelsea on Sunday after which the club will be presented with the trophy, has 85 points with three games to play, while Arsenal is on 81 with one game left.

It is City's seventh Premier League title since the club was bought by Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan in 2008 and it is now just two wins away from completing a treble only previously achieved by Manchester United in 1999.

City faces Manchester United in the FA Cup final on June 3 and a week later take on Inter Milan in the Champions League final — starting big favorites in both games.

Manager Pep Guardiola has now won a total of 12 trophies since being hired by City in 2016.

While Arsenal has threatened to knock City off its perch this season, it all proved an illusion in the end as Guardiola's side again proved relentless in the run-in.

Since losing to Tottenham Hotspur on Feb 5 the club has taken 40 points from the next 42 on offer and has 11 successive league games, beating Arsenal comprehensively home and away.

If City wins its last three games the club will reach 94 points, not as many as the totals they achieved in 2017-18 and 2018-19, Guardiola's first two league titles.

But the way they has finished the season suggests the gap between the club and the rest is widening.

City has now joined an elite group of clubs to win three successive English top-flight titles, with Huddersfield Town, Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester United the only others.

The club's website featured animated tickertape fluttering down the screen with a live video showing an enormous banner being unfurled down the side of the Etihad Stadium stating "Three in a Row".

Club captain Ilkay Gundogan described the latest title as something "very special".

While City has once again underlined its dominance in England, there remains a cloud on their sky blue horizon.

City was charged with more than 100 alleged breaches of the Premier League's financial regulations from 2009 to 2018 and could face severe punishments if found guilty.

The club said at the time they welcomed the review and insist they have "irrefutable evidence" to support their position.

Arsenal will have to be content with the runners-up spot and a return to the Champions League after a five-year absence.

But manager Mikel Arteta will have much to ponder as he analyses how the Gunners buckled under City's relentless pressure. Defeat at Forest means Arsenal has won only two of its last eight matches in the league.

# Giroud's Hat-Trick Revives Milan in Serie A

ROME (Reuters) - AC Milan bounced back in Serie A as the club crushed already-relegated Sampdoria 5-1 at San Siro on Saturday, with Olivier Giroud completing a hat-trick.

The Rossoneri was looking for a resounding response following a dismal run as the club headed into Saturday's game with three consecutive defeats on all fronts, including an exit in the Champions League with a frustrating 3-0 loss on aggregate against Inter Milan in the semifinals.

The home side broke the deadlock just nine minutes into the game as Brahim Diaz's looped pass sent Rafael Leao clear who kept his cool to finish with a low strike.

Samp got back on level terms in the 20th minute as Alessandro Zanolini burst down the right to pull back for veteran Fabio Quagliarella to sweep it in.

However, it only proved to be a temporary balm for the Blucerchiati as Milan restored the lead three minutes later when Diaz delivered another assist for Giroud to head in, minutes before the Frenchman added another through a penalty.

Milan extended the lead in the 63rd minute when Leao's pass sliced the defense into pieces, and Sandro Tonali squared for Diaz to tap in from a point-blank range.

Giroud put the icing on the cake five minutes later as the hitman



AC Milan's Olivier Giroud scores on a penalty kick his side's third goal during a Serie A soccer match between AC Milan and Sampdoria, at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, May 20, 2023.

got his third to round out the scoreline.

With the win, Milan kept its top four finish alive as the club ranks fifth with 64 points, one point be-

hind Lazio who visits Udinese on Sunday.

Elsewhere, Bologna humiliated Cremonese 5-1, while Atalanta conquered Hellas Verona 3-1.

# Rybakina Claims Rome Title After Ailing Kalinina Retires



Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina holds the trophy after winning her final match against Ukraine's Anhelina Kalinina at the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome, Italy, May 21, 2023.

ROME (AFP) - World number six Elena Rybakina warmed up for the French Open by capturing the Italian Open title on Saturday after her Ukrainian opponent Anhelina Kalinina was forced to retire with an apparent left leg injury while trailing 6-4 1-0.

Moscow-born Kazakh Rybakina got off to an edgy start in the rain-delayed contest by dropping her opening service game before the Wimbledon champion leveled at 3-3 and then wrapped up the opening set with a late break.

Kalinina, playing in the second singles final of her career, called

the trainer on to the court after losing the opening game of the second set before quitting the match in tears.

Victory ensured Australian Open runner-up Rybakina won her second title of the year following her Indian Wells triumph and fifth overall.

The 23-year-old, who won three of her matches in Rome after her opponents retired, will break into the top five on Monday.

She also reached the final in Miami and heads to Roland Garros as a top contender for the year's second major.

# El Salvador Soccer Stadium Stampede Kills 12

PARIS (AFP) - Twelve people were killed and hundreds injured Saturday in a stampede at an El Salvador soccer stadium, police and emergency services said.

Authorities said initial reports pointed to a crush of fans who tried to enter Cuscatlan Stadium in the Central American country's capital San Salvador to watch a local tournament match between teams Alianza and FAS.

The match was suspended as emergency personnel evacuated people from the stadium, where hundreds of police officers and soldiers gathered as ambulance sirens wailed.

"Salvadoran soccer is in mourning," National Civil Police (PNC) director Mauricio Arriaza told reporters as he confirmed the death



A stampede at a soccer stadium in El Salvador's capital has killed 12 people and injured hundreds.

toll of 12.

In a statement Sunday, FIFA president Gianni Infantino offered his condolences to the families and friends of the victims, calling the stampede "tragic."

The tragedy comes seven months after 135 people, including more than 40 children, were killed in a stampede following a football match in Malang, Indonesia.

# Nuggets on Brink of NBA Finals With 119-108 Win Over Lakers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nikola Jokic was far from his usual dominant self while mired in foul trouble, and Jamal Murray cooled off after his scorching first half. The Denver Nuggets' big early lead disappeared entirely in the fourth quarter of Game 3, and the Lakers' home crowd was in a frenzy.

The Nuggets weathered every setback and calmly, methodically took control with a poise worthy of champions.

With one more victory, they'll finally get the chance to play for their first rings.

Murray scored 37 points, Jokic added 24 points and eight assists and the Nuggets rolled to a 3-0 lead in the Western Conference finals with a 119-108 victory over Los Angeles on Saturday night.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 12 of his 17 points in the second half against his former team for the top-seeded Nuggets, who have never been this close to the NBA Finals in 47 years in the league. Denver is making its fifth straight playoff appearance, and the ultimate stage is now



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) shoots over Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis (3) in the second half of Game 3 of the NBA basketball Western Conference Final series Saturday, May 20, 2023, in Los Angeles.

just one win away.

Denver blew a 14-point lead in Game 3, but made a decisive 13-0 run in the fourth quarter to snap the Lakers' nine-game home winning streak since March 26, including seven straight victories since

the regular season ended. The Nuggets excelled down the stretch with Murray and Jokic repeatedly running a two-man pick-and-roll game suggested by "Coach Jokic," according to coach Michael Malone.