

# Iran Women Edge Lebanon at AFC U20 Qualifiers



TEHRAN – Iran have defeated Lebanon 2-1 at the AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2024 Qualifiers Round 2 Group A on.

Hasti Forouzandeh made a brace in the second half of this match.

Iran had lost to Vietnam 3-2 and Australia 3-0 in its previous matches and failed to advance to the next stage.

The Round 2 Groups A and B winners and runners-up will join the three highest-seeded teams from the AFC U-19 Women's Championship Thailand 2019 - Japan, DPR Korea and Korea Republic – as well as host nation Uzbekistan at the Finals next year.

# Fatemeh Eydian Wins Silver at Asia Junior Athletics Championships



TEHRAN – Female Iranian sprinter Nazanin Fatemeh Eydian won a silver medal at the 2023 Asian Junior Athletics Championships in South Korea earlier this week.

Eydian finished second in the women's 400-meter hurdle clocking with a time of 1:00.01, according to a Monday report by the

IRNA. She trailed a Japanese sprinter who won gold while a Kazakh athlete grabbed the bronze medal in the category.

The 20th Asian Junior Athletics Championships started in Yecheon, South Korea, on June 4 and will last for four days.

# Jokic, Murray Make History as Denver Regains Control

MIAMI (Reuters) —Nikola Jokic and Jamal Murray made history on Wednesday night — and have the Denver Nuggets two wins away from making some more history as well.

Jokic and Murray became the first teammates to both record triple-doubles in the NBA Finals, and the Nuggets reclaimed the lead in the series by beating the Miami Heat 109-94 in Game 3.

“By far, their greatest performance as a duo in their seven years together,” Nuggets coach Michael Malone said, after his team moved two wins away from Denver's first title.

Jokic finished with 32 points, 21 rebounds and 10 assists — the first such game in NBA Finals history, or at least the first since assists were tracked. Murray had 34 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, getting the rebound he needed with 9 seconds remaining.

The Nuggets out-rebounded



Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (22) drives to the basket as Denver Nuggets guard Jamal Murray (27) defends during the first half of Game 3 of the NBA Finals basketball game, on June 7, 2023, in Miami.

the Heat 58-33, and took a 2-1 lead. Game 4 is on Friday in Miami.

“I'm just glad that we won the game,” Jokic said. “It was a big one for us because they won in our arena. We just didn't want to go down 2-1.”

Jimmy Butler scored 28 points for Miami, and Bam Adebayo

finished with 22 points and 17 rebounds. Caleb Martin added 10 points.

“We've got to come out with more energy and effort and that's correctable,” Butler said. “That's on us as a group.”

Jokic and Murray combined for 24 field goals; Miami had 34. Jokic and Murray combined

for 31 rebounds; Miami had 33. Jokic and Murray combined for 20 assists; Miami had exactly that many.

Somehow, some way, the Heat know they need to find an answer before Friday.

“It's not an easy task to do,” Butler said. “But if we want to win, we're going to have to figure it out.”

Miami has been the comeback kings of these playoffs — seven rallies in games after trailing by at least 12 points. The Heat were down by 14 going into the fourth, and Malone reminded his club of Miami's penchant for comebacks.

The lead eventually reached 21, the outcome never seriously in doubt, and Jokic looking very much like he's back in cruise control. The Heat got within nine on a 3-pointer by Duncan Robinson with 1:22 left, but there was no epic finish for Miami. Murray and Jokic had the Nuggets too far ahead to get caught.

# Volleyballers Lose to Poland in VNL Second Match



TEHRAN – Poland came behind from two sets deficit to beat Iran 3-2 (23-25, 23-25, 25-21, 25-15, 15-13) in the 2023 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) Week 1 on Thursday.

Kamil Semeniuk and Dawid Dulski earned 16 points each for Poland and Iran's Amin Esmaeilnezhad and Pouria Khanzadeh scored 17 and 15 points, respectively in Nagoya, Japan.

Iran, who had lost to Japan 3-0 in

its opening match, is scheduled to meet China and Slovenia on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

The Preliminary Phase campaign started on June 6 and includes matches in Nagoya (Japan), Rotterdam (the Netherlands) and Anaheim (USA).

If Iran qualifies for the VNL Finals as one of top eight teams, it will travel to Gdansk, Poland for the event from July 19 through 23.

# EFL Bans Use of Towels to Dry Balls Before Throw-Ins

LONODN (Reuters) - The sight of players meticulously drying the ball before launching it into their opponents' penalty area is set to become a thing of the past in English football's lower leagues after clubs voted to ban the use of towels before throw-ins.

In a blow to those who have made the long throw-in their weapon of choice, English Football League (EFL) clubs voted to approve the rule amendment at their annual meeting on Thursday.

The rule will also prevent players from using items of clothing generously offered up by fans, a situation that arose in November, when a Rotherham United supporter gave defender Wes Harding his jumper to wipe the ball before a throw-in.

While not one of football's finer arts, the long throw can be incredibly effective in the right hands and the rule change could have an impact on League Two newcomers Wrexham, owned by Hollywood stars Ryan



Reynolds and Rob McElhenney.

Defender Ben Tozer's long throw-ins were a constant threat for the Welsh club last season as they won promotion and gained legions of new fans thanks to their popular documentaries “Welcome to Wrexham”.

The EFL will follow the Premier League's example of multi-ball system to speed up play in its competitions from the 2023-24 season.

“Match balls will be placed on cones in designated areas at pitch side to help increase the time of the ball being in play,” the EFL said.

Clubs also voted to approve regulation changes to toughen its owners' and directors' test, which include banning individuals who are subject to sanctions. The league will also prohibit state-owned enterprises from sanctioned countries.

# Barcelona Wish Messi Good Luck in ‘League With Fewer Demands’

BARCELONA (Reuters) - Barcelona wished Lionel Messi good luck after the Argentina great expressed his desire to join Major League Soccer's Inter Miami, despite receiving a “proposal” to return to his former club.

Barcelona said in a statement that Messi's father and agent had informed the club on Monday of his decision to move to America instead of returning to Spain.

“Barcelona president (Joan) Laporta understood and respected Messi's decision to want to compete in a league with fewer demands, further away from the spotlight and the pressure he has been subject to in recent years,” the LaLiga side said.

The club added that Laporta and Jorge Messi, Messi's father, agreed to work together to promote a proper tribute from fans to honor the 35-year-old. Messi was linked with a move to Saudi Arabia as well as with a return



Paris Saint-Germain's Argentine forward Lionel Messi runs with the ball during the French L1 football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Clermont Foot 63 at the Parc des Princes Stadium in Paris on June 3, 2023.

to Barcelona after playing his final game for Paris St Germain over the weekend.

However, the Spanish champions had their hands tied due to LaLiga's financial fair play rules.

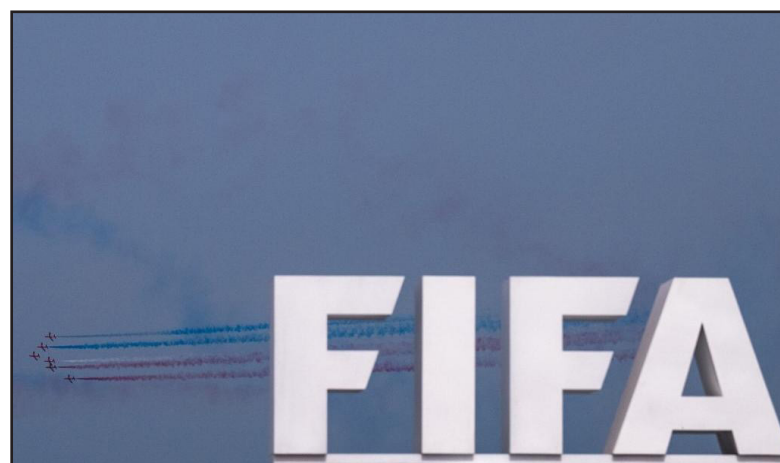
“If Barcelona didn't work out, I

“The momentum is building in the host countries and across the globe, and I look forward to seeing you there to witness the stars of women's football shine on the world stage.”

FIFA had already announced that Australia's opening match against Ireland will change venue to the 83,500-capacity Stadium Australia, the tournament's largest stadium, due to high public demand for tickets.

This will allow up to 100,000 fans to attend the World Cup's opening games, with the match between co-hosts New Zealand and Norway taking place hours before in Auckland.

# FIFA: Over 1 Million Tickets Sold for Women's World Cup



In this file photo dated Nov 5, 2022, planes fly past a FIFA sign during an air show at the Corniche in Doha, ahead of the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup football tournament.

PARIS (AFP) -This year's Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand is on track to become the most attended standalone women's sporting event ever with over one million tickets sold, FIFA said on Thursday.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said the ninth edition of the Women's World Cup, which starts on July 20, has sold 1,032,884 tickets, surpassing the previous tournament in France in 2019.

“The future is women, thanks to the fans for supporting what will be the greatest FIFA Women's World Cup ever!,” Infantino said in a statement.