

Hassan Taftian Finishes First in French Tournament



TEHRAN – Hassan Taftian, an Iranian sprinter has ranked first at an international tournament held in France.

Taftian ran Men's 100m with a time of 10.12 seconds at the sporting event.

He finished first at the Meeting International de Forbach 2023 in the category of the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze.

Previously, the athlete won a race in Jamaica as part of his training camp.

In July 2017, Taftian became the first Iranian ever to win the gold medal in 100 meters with a time of 10.25 seconds at the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships in India.

Iran Runners-Up at 2023 CAFA U-20 Championship



TEHRAN – Iran have defeated Tajikistan 2-1 in its last match in the CAFA U-20 Championship 2023.

On Saturday, Uzbekistan defeated Afghanistan 4-0 and won the championship with 10 points.

Iran came second with nine points.

Iran lost to Uzbekistan and de-

feated Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan in the competition, which was held in Tajikistan.

The tournament brought Tajikistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan together.

The Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) is one of five regional bodies of governance in association football in Asia.

Mbappe Named Best Ligue 1 Player for Fourth Consecutive Time

PARIS (Reuters) - Paris St Germain's Kylian Mbappe was named Ligue 1 player of the season for the fourth time in a row after helping the capital club win a record 11th French title.

The France forward is the only player to win the award four times, beating the record he shared with Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

"I want to thank the players, the staff, all the people working in the shadows," said 24-year-old Mbappe.

"I've always wanted to leave a mark. I did not expect to win so much so early but I'm happy to make history in my country."

Mbappe has a contract with PSG until 2024 with an option to extend it by a further



Mbappe named best Ligue 1 player for 4th consecutive time

year.

"I'm happy and I'll be here next season," he said, not giving a clue on whether he would stay at the club until 2025.

PSG wrapped up the title

with one game to spare after a 1-1 draw at Racing Strasbourg on Saturday.

Franck Haise was named best coach of the season after leading RC Lens to second place,

which will see the northern club play in the Champions League for the first time in 21 years.

"It's the story of three seasons ... those who are not in this adventure anymore, I don't forget you," said Haise, who took over the first team when they were in Ligue 2 in 2020.

"What we've been through is unforgettable."

Lens also had four players in the team of the season - Brice Samba, defender Kevin Danso, midfielder Seko Fofana and striker Lois Openda - with Samba being named best goalkeeper.

PSG also had four players selected - forwards Mbappe and Lionel Messi plus fullbacks Nuno Mendes and Achraf Hakimi.

Verstappen Wins in Monaco as Perez Draws a Blank



Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen celebrates on the podium after winning the Formula One Monaco Grand Prix at the Monaco street circuit in Monaco, on May 28, 2023.

MONACO (Reuters) - Double world champion Max Verstappen won a soggy and slippery Monaco Grand Prix from pole position to stretch his Formula One lead to 39 points and earn Red Bull a sixth win in as many races this season.

In a race livened up by a downpour after a processional 51 laps in dry conditions, Spaniard Fernando Alonso finished second for Aston Martin but a massive 27.9 seconds behind at the chequered flag.

Frenchman Esteban Ocon completed the podium in third place for Renault-owned Alpine, their first top three finish of the season.

Mercedes' seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton was fourth and collected a bonus point

for fastest lap.

Last year's winner Sergio Perez, Verstappen's closest rival and team mate, was twice lapped on his way to 16th place after starting last. The Mexican also made five pitstops on a nightmare afternoon.

"That was a real Monaco," Verstappen said after a 78-lap race that lasted an hour and 48 minutes on a tricky street circuit where overtaking is a rare occurrence.

"It was incredibly slippery and when you are that far in the lead you don't want to push too hard but also you don't want to lose too much time so it's quite difficult in that scenario."

"I clipped the wall a few times and it was super difficult out there. But that's Monaco."

Djokovic Battles Into French Open Second Round



Novak Djokovic

PARIS (AFP) - Novak Djokovic started his bid for a men's record 23rd Grand Slam singles title with a straight-sets vic-

tory over Aleksandar Kovacevic in the French Open first round on Monday, as Carlos Alcaraz waited to open his tourna-

ment.

Two-time Roland Garros champion Djokovic held off a late rally from his American opponent on Court Philippe Chatrier to clinch a 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (7/1) victory.

He has still not lost in his opening match of a major since the 2006 Australian Open.

"I'm very motivated to stay in this tournament for a long time, it's just the start now," said Djokovic after kicking off his 19th consecutive French Open campaign.

"I'm happy. I've started well and hope I can improve further for the next match."

The 36-year-old will face Hungarian Marton Fucsovics, who he has beaten four times in as many meetings, in the

second round.

Djokovic is only seeded third at Roland Garros this year despite the absence of his great rival and 14-time winner Rafael Nadal through injury, behind world number one Alcaraz and Daniil Medvedev.

He is tied with Nadal for most men's Slam singles trophies and just one behind the 23 of Serena Williams. Margaret Court holds the all-time record of 24.

Kovacevic, the world number 114 playing in his first Grand Slam match, battled hard but could not put Djokovic under sustained pressure until it was too late.

One break in the sixth game was enough for the Serbian star to take the opening set, before he raced through the second.

Leicester Relegated Despite 2-1 Win Over West Ham

LEICESTER (Reuters) - Leicester City were relegated from the Premier League despite a 2-1 victory over West Ham United as Everton beat Bournemouth 1-0 to stay up on the final day of the season.

Leicester, who were promoted to the top flight in 2014 and won the title against all the odds in 2016, finished in 18th position on 34 points, two behind Everton, and were relegated along with already doomed Southampton and Leeds United.

"Hard to take. We knew it would be a tough ask, we knew we had to win our game and hope something went for us. It didn't," Leicester captain Jonny Evans, who missed a long period of the season through injury, told Sky Sports.

Harvey Barnes had fired the Foxes ahead in the 34th minute after a superb exchange of passes with Kelechi Iheanacho, slotting the ball past goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski to lift Leicester above Everton on goal difference.

West Ham looked very much like a side with one eye on their Europa Conference League final with Fiorentina on June 7,



West Ham United's Czech defender Vladimir Coufal (left) fights for the ball with Leicester City's English midfielder Harvey Barnes during the English Premier League football match between Leicester City and West Ham United at King Power Stadium in Leicester, central England on May 28, 2023.

but they still threatened on the break, leaving Leicester's fans on the edge of their seats.

Central defender Wout Faes netted Leicester's second in the 62nd minute,

connecting with a Youri Tielemans free kick to head past Fabianski but by then the crowd was aware that Everton had taken the lead and the celebrations were subdued.

Real Sociedad Secure Champions League Spot, Espanyol Relegated

MADRID (Reuters) - Real Sociedad suffered a 2-1 defeat at Atletico Madrid in LaLiga, but secured a top-four finish and Champions League qualification after Villarreal also lost 2-1 at Rayo Vallecano.

With one round remaining, Real Sociedad are fourth with 68 points, five ahead of fifth-placed Villarreal.

Real Sociedad will join Atletico Madrid, Real Madrid, and LaLiga champions Barcelona in Europe's elite club competition next season.

Atletico Madrid showed no mercy to Sociedad, with Antoine Griezmann scoring eight minutes before the break and Nahuel Mo-



lina doubling their lead after 73 minutes.

Alexander Sorloth pulled one back for Sociedad in the 88th minute, but they could not find a leveller.

Espanyol will join the already-relegated Elche in the second tier

after a 2-2 draw against Valencia earlier on Sunday.

The Barcelona-based club needed to win to maintain any chance of avoiding relegation, but their hopes were dashed when Valencia's Samuel Lino equalized three minutes into stoppage time.