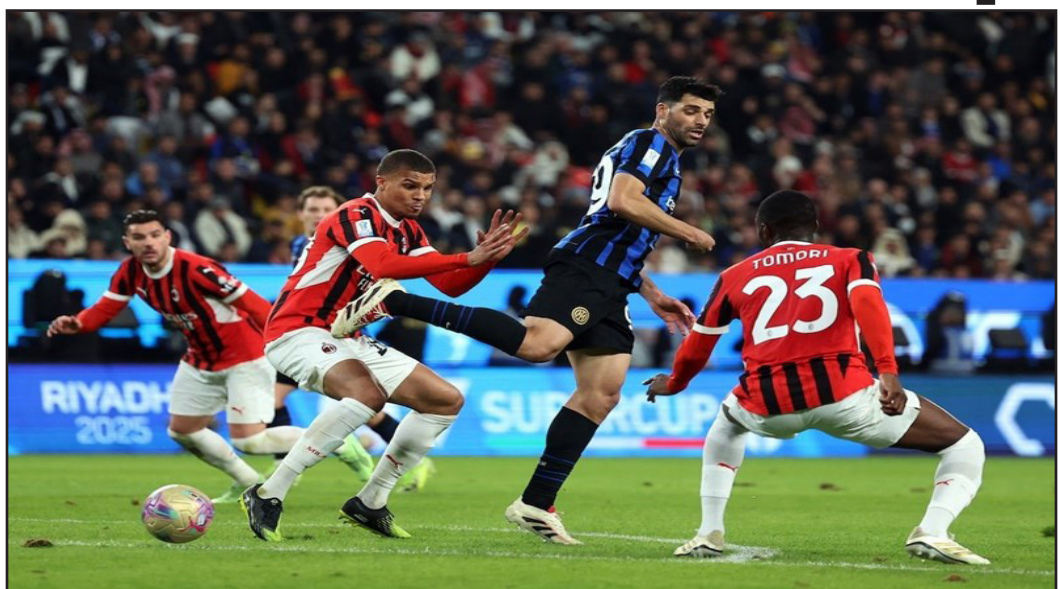


Taremi Assists, Scores Against AC Milan in Super Cup



TEHRAN – Inter Milan forward Mehdi Taremi teed up Lautaro Martinez with a pass across the box in the first half and scored a goal in the second half against AC Milan in the Italian Super Cup.

A goal in added time from Tammy Abraham completed a stunning comeback for AC Milan who won a dramatic 3-2 victory

over city rival Inter in Monday's final in Riyadh after going two goals down early in the game.

The win denied Inter what would have been an unprecedented fourth consecutive Super Cup trophy, and allowed Milan to equal Inter's haul of eight wins in the competition, with new manager Serge Concei-

cao lifting a trophy in his second game in charge.

Two minutes after the interval Stefan de Vrij played a long ball over the top which Taremi controlled beautifully and he drilled his shot into the bottom corner to double their advantage.

Milan responded by sending on Rafael Leao, who immediately won a free kick just outside the area which Hernandez curled low around the wall and the ball crept just inside the post to re-open the tie.

Christian Pulisic, surrounded by three Inter players, controlled a cross from Hernandez and steered his shot into the far corner and it looked like the tie would be decided by a shootout, with no extra time to be played.

Milan, however, continued to press and it was rewarded when Leao pulled the ball back across the goal and Abraham, another substitute, was there for the simplest of tap-ins to break Inter hearts.

Conceicao, who replaced the sacked Paulo Fonseca last week, celebrated wildly with his players, while the Inter team slumped to the floor in disbelief.

Al Bataeh Linked With Iranian Coach Farhad Majidi



TEHRAN – Local media reports suggest that Emirati football side Al Bataeh is going to hire Iranian coach Farhad Majidi.

Majidi has most recently worked as head coach at Al-Ittihad Kalba.

The 48-year-old coach is a

candidate to take charge of Al Bataeh.

Goran Tomic's Al Bataeh lost to Al Jazira 3-0 on Sunday and remained in the 13th place in the UAE Pro League 14-team table.

Al Bataeh has accumulated five points in 11 matches.

Roberto Piazza to Come to Iran on January 20



TEHRAN – Iran national volleyball team head coach Roberto Piazza will come to Tehran on January 20.

The Italian coach was named Team Melli coach in early September but has not traveled to Iran yet.

Piazza will finalize his deal with

the Iran volleyball federation and also hold a meeting with the head of the federation Milad Taghavi.

Piazza has replaced Brazilian coach Mauricio Motta Paes.

Iran assistant coach Tomaso Totolo will also attend the meeting.

Real Madrid Cruise Into Last-16 of Copa del Rey

MADRID (Reuters) - Real Madrid booked their place in the last 16 of the Copa del Rey with an emphatic 5-0 win over fourth-tier Club Deportivo Minera on Monday, with striker Arda Guler scoring a superb double.

Madrid took an early lead when Federico Valverde volleyed home in impressive style within five minutes. Eduardo Camavinga doubled the lead just eight minutes later with a bullet header, while Guler added a third goal before the half-hour mark.

"I'm happy to contribute goals to the team but my task is different, to help in the best possible way, defending and helping out," said Valverde after the match.

"I'm glad that the coach keeps taking me into account in every game, that he has confidence in me and even if I'm tired I'm always happy," the Uruguayan



Real Madrid's Croatian midfielder #10 Luka Modric (right) shoots to score a goal during the Spanish league football match.

striker added.

The hosts came closest to scoring when striker Omar Perdomo unleashed a long-range effort that flew just wide of Madrid goalkeeper Andriy Lunin's far right post.

Luka Modric's brilliant finish

into the far corner 10 minutes after the break, following a clever combination with Brahim Diaz, brought the crowd in the Cartagonova stadium to their feet in a festive atmosphere even though the home side were trailing.

"(Luka) is a gift for football

and even more for those who can enjoy it up close," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "The fans, the players, the coach... for me it's a great gift. The way he prepares for this kind of match, as if it was a final. It's a very important example for our youngsters.

"The atmosphere was really good for the players. They stayed with the fans to sign shirts and that made it a fantastic match," the manager added.

Guler sealed the win with his second goal of the night two minutes from time.

Despite conceding five goals, Minera goalkeeper Fran Martinez saved several good shots including efforts from Valverde and Kylian Mbappe.

Cartagena's Deportiva Minera are currently top of Group 13 of the Segunda Federacion. Madrid lead LaLiga on 43 points, two clear of Atletico Madrid.

Antetokounmpo Stars as Bucks Beat Raptors



Giannis Antetokounmpo's triple double - double figures in points, rebounds and assists - was his fourth of the season and 49th of his career

WASHINGTON (AP) - Giannis Antetokounmpo registered 11 points, 12 rebounds and a season-high 13 assists as the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Toronto Raptors 128-104 in the NBA.

Damian Lillard added 25 points in Toronto for the Bucks, who had lost four of their previous five games, all to teams with losing records.

Antetokounmpo suffered a cut finger in the first half that re-

quired stitches, but was able to continue before being rested in the fourth quarter as the Bucks secured a comfortable win.

"He set the whole tone to our team," Bucks coach Doc Rivers said of Antetokounmpo's performance.

"When your best player does that it becomes contagious and the ball just moved."

Zach LaVine notched up 35 points, 10 rebounds and eight

assists as the Chicago Bulls fought back from 19 points down in the third quarter to beat the San Antonio Spurs 114-110.

Victor Wembanyama starred in a losing cause for the Spurs, with 23 points, 14 rebounds, four assists and eight blocked shots.

The Dallas Mavericks, who were without Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving, suffered a fifth successive defeat, losing 119-104 to the Memphis Grizzlies.

After winning nine matches in a row, the New York Knicks have now lost their past three after slipping to a 103-94 defeat by the Orlando Magic.

Bradley Beal came off the bench to score 25 points as the Phoenix Suns beat the Philadelphia 76ers 109-99 to end a run of four straight defeats.

The Sacramento Kings needed double overtime to edge the Miami Heat 123-118, while the Detroit Pistons beat the Portland Trail Blazers 118-115.

Loeb Rolls as Variawa Becomes Youngest Dakar Stage Winner

RIYADH (Reuters) - Nine-times world rally champion Sebastien Loeb rolled his Dacia in the Saudi desert on Tuesday as the Dakar Rally continued to take a toll of the big names after the exit of 2024 winner Carlos Sainz. Sainz turned his Ford upside down on Sunday, dealing too much damage to the car's roll cage to continue after just two stages.

Loeb, who had started the day sixth, and co-driver Fabian Lurquin were unhurt in the incident 12km into the third 327km stage from Bisha to Al-Henakiyah and resumed after making repairs.

They stopped again at the 63km mark, however, and finished the stage trailing South Africa's overall leader Henk Lategan by an hour and 14 minutes and dropping out of the top 15 in a big blow to their hopes of a first Dakar win.

South African Saood Variawa won the day for the Toyota Gazoo factory team, at 19 the youngest Dakar stage winner in the top car category, ahead of Mini's Guerlain Chicherit and Toyota's Seth Quintero.



General view of camels as IMT Evo Toyota Gazoo Racing's Saood Variawa and Francois Cazalet are seen in action.

"Towards the end, in the last five kilometres, we hit a big rock and got a puncture, but nonetheless it was a really good drive on our side," said Variawa.

Lategan, only 12th fastest on the stage, leads Qatar's five-times winner Nasser Al-Attiyah, Loeb's teammate, in the category by seven minutes and 17 seconds with Ford's Mattias Ekstroem third.

Saudi Arabia's Yazeed Al-Rajhi dropped from second to fourth overall while double Dakar motorcycle champions Toby Price of Australia and Sam Sunderland of

Britain slid from fourth to sixth in their first Dakar on four wheels.

In the motorcycle category, Spanish Sherco rider Lorenzo Santolino took his first stage win but Australian Daniel Sanders retained the overall lead, a minute and 57 seconds clear of American Skyler Howes.

Wednesday's fourth stage is a 415km special from Al-Henakiyah to Al Ula.

The two-week rally, regarded as the world's toughest endurance event and now held entirely in Saudi Arabia, ends on Jan. 17.