

Amir Sarkhosh Wins Silver at 2025 Asian Snooker Championship



TEHRAN – Amir Sarkhosh of Iran has claimed a silver medal at the 2025 Asian Snooker Championship.

He lost to Indian cueist Pankaj Advani at the final. Advani won the gold for the third time in his career.

Pankaj won the match 4-1. ACBS Asian Men Snooker Championship 2025 held in Doha, Qatar.

Canada Beat U.S. to Win 4 Nations Filled With Political Tension



BOSTON (Reuters) - Canada beat fierce rivals the United States 3-2 in overtime to win a riveting 4 Nations Face-Off final in Boston on Thursday and close out an ice hockey tournament high on political tension.

Connor McDavid scored the winner after much-maligned Canadian goalie Jordan Binnington had delivered some clutch saves.

The taut action on the ice mirrored the geopolitical tensions bubbling in North America since U.S. President Donald Trump took office last month.

Trump, who has spoken openly about his desire to absorb America's northern neighbor as its "51st state" and has threatened huge tariffs on Canadian imports, called the U.S. team to offer his support ahead of the contest.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau bit back after the game. "You can't take our country - and you can't take our game," he posted on social media.

Despite the public address announcer requesting respect for both team's national anthems, many U.S. fans booed during the pre-game rendition of "O Canada" at TD Garden.

Canadian fans had jeered the U.S. national anthem at last week's game in Montreal, which the Americans won 3-1.

While Saturday's emotionally charged match-up saw three fights break out in the opening

nine seconds, there were fewer skirmishes on Thursday but no shortage of pressure.

"Just to see the reaction, to know what it means to us," McDavid said on the ice when asked what the most gratifying thing about the win was.

"I know it's just a quick tournament and it's not an Olympic gold medal or anything like that, but it means the world to our group as you can see. Everybody battled so hard all week.

The inaugural edition of the tournament also featured Finland and Sweden.

Canada drew first blood when Nathan MacKinnon scored through traffic before Auston Matthews wrapped around goal and Brady Tkachuk jammed home the puck to make it 1-1.

The U.S. took the lead in the second period through Jake Sanderson before Canada's Sam Bennett leveled and a scoreless third period set up a furious five-on-five overtime, where McDavid emerged the hero for Canada.

The tournament, which the NHL presented in lieu of its traditional All-Star game, has been hugely successful with Saturday's game between the U.S. and Canada drawing 10.1 million viewers, according to the NHL.

Thursday's numbers are expected to be even higher, both in terms of viewership and sports betting.

Real Madrid Draw Atletico in Champions League Last 16

MADRID (Reuters) - The Champions League last-16 draw threw up some mouth-watering ties with holders Real Madrid playing local rivals Atletico Madrid.

Real thrashed Premier League champions Manchester City 6-3 on aggregate in the play-offs and the 15-times winners will now make the trip across town to face Atletico, the side they beat in the 2014 and 2016 finals.

Bayern, having last won the trophy in 2020, take on Xabi Alonso's Leverkusen, who pipped them to the Bundes-



The Champions League trophy is displayed before the start of the draw

liga title last season. Bayern lead Leverkusen by eight points this term after they drew 0-0 last weekend.

Liverpool, who like Bayern have been European champions six times and topped the group stage table, travel to inform Paris St Germain for the first leg after the French side humiliated Brest with a 10-0 aggregate win in the playoffs.

Liverpool boss Arne Slot will have one eye on his side's League Cup final against Newcastle United, which will be played on the Sunday after the second leg against PSG.

Andreeva Ousts Swiatek to Set Up Dubai Semis Against Rybakina

DUBAI (AFP) - An inspired Mirra Andreeva beat world number two Iga Swiatek for the first time in her career with a dominant 6-3 6-3 victory on Thursday at the Dubai Duty Free Championships where the Russian 17-year-old set up a semifinal clash with Elena Rybakina.

With her victory, 12th seed Andreeva moved into the first

WTA 1000 semifinal of her career while Swiatek became another top seed to exit the tournament after world number one Aryna Sabalenka was knocked out on Wednesday.

Andreeva is also the youngest semifinalist in Dubai since the tournament was first held in 2001 - a significant improvement from her last visit when

she was knocked out in the first round last year.

"Honestly, I was really nervous before the match and we played in Cincinnati last year (where Swiatek won their quarterfinal match) and it was pretty intense," Andreeva said.

"So I just told myself that I played great and I just need to continue to play aggressive and

go for my shots. It was also not easy with all the fans (supporting her) but I think we were even. I had a lot of people supporting me.

Andreeva found herself on the ropes early as she struggled to hold serve in her first service game of the opening set but eventually held on to make it 1-1.

Shiffrin Finishes 2.89 Seconds Behind Robinson in First GS Race

SESTRIERE, Italy (AP) — Mikaela Shiffrin finished 2.89 seconds off the lead in the opening run of a World Cup giant slalom on Friday, her first race in the discipline in nearly 12 weeks.

The American holder of a record 99 World Cup wins hadn't raced in giant slalom since suffering severe trauma to her oblique muscles and a deep puncture wound during a GS crash in Killington, Vermont in November.

"I do not yet feel entirely myself... but I do feel enough of myself to be here... and for now, that is enough," Shiffrin posted on Instagram on the eve of Friday's race.

Racing in perfect, sunny conditions, Alice Robinson of New Zealand posted the fastest time and led Federica Brignone by 0.19 seconds.



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin speeds down the course during an alpine ski, women's World Cup giant slalom in Sestriere, Italy, Friday, Feb. 21, 2025.

The Italian beat Robinson to GS gold at the world championships last week but was ill over the past few days.

American Paula Moltzan, who took bronze at the worlds, stood third and had 0.83 to make up in the second run.

Defending overall champion Lara Gut-Behrami skied out off the course near the

end of her run.

It is the first race after the worlds, where Shiffrin paired with downhill world champion Breezy Johnson to win the team combined and finished fifth in the slalom, but sat out the giant slalom because of "PTSD-esque" fears.

Because of her injury absence, Shiffrin has dropped to 11th on the ranking list

that determines the start order for World Cup GS races, losing her place among the top seven skiers who get the most favorable start numbers.

Shiffrin got bib No. 8 for Friday's race, which was only her third giant slalom start in 13 months.

After hurting her left knee in a downhill crash in January 2024, she reduced her schedule to only racing in slaloms for the remainder of her 2023-24 campaign. This season, she finished fifth in the season-opening GS in Austria in October before the crash in Killington happened.

Shiffrin has won a women's record 22 giant slaloms in her career and took the season discipline title in 2019 and 2023.

LeBron James Scores 40 Points to Lead Lakers Past Trail Blazers 110-102



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, center during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025.

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — LeBron James scored 40 points, including eight straight in a fourth-quarter surge, and Austin Reaves had 32 as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Portland Trail Blazers 110-102 on Thursday night.

The Lakers were without guard Luka Doncic, who missed the game as he continues to recover from a strained calf.

Deni Avdija led Portland with 28 points.

After Portland tied it at 81 in the fourth quarter, Reaves gave the Lakers the lead again with a scoop

shot. James then kicked things into a higher gear.

After an empty possession for Portland, James made a 3-pointer to give the Lakers an 86-81 lead. He hit another 3 moments later to make it 89-81. James then made a fadeaway jumper to cap a run of eight straight points — part of a 10-3 Lakers stretch that forced the Blazers to call a timeout.

After Portland's timeout, James hit another jumper to make it 95-86. Reaves made three free throws to push the lead back to double-digits at 99-89.