

Iran Rout Kyrgyzstan to Secure Place at Futsal Asian Cup Semis



TEHRAN — Iran booked a place in the semi-finals of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Thailand 2024 after defeating Kyrgyzstan 6-1 in its last eight tie at the Bang-

kok Arena on Wednesday.

The win meant the 12-time champion also punched its ticket to the FIFA Futsal World Cup Uzbekistan 2024, with a meet-

ing against Uzbekistan or Vietnam in Friday's semi-finals.

Kyrgyzstan, meanwhile, will need to wait for the outcome of the day's last quarter-final be-

tween Uzbekistan and Vietnam to learn whether its campaign has concluded, or it will return to action in Friday's playoffs.

Behrooz Azimi opened the scoring for Iran in the seventh minute but Amanbaev Donierbek equalized the match a minute later.

Salar Aghapour scored Iran's second goal with a free-kick in the first half.

Saeid Ahmad Abbasi scored Iran's third goal three minutes into the second half.

Mahdi Karimi scored the fourth in the 25th minute and doubled his tally in the 35th minute after collecting the ball off Aghapour's cutback from the left flank to slot home on turn from the top of the box before Ali Asghar Hassanzadeh made it 6-1 from the penalty spot.

U.S. Reaches \$138.7mn Civil Settlement With Victims of Larry Nassar

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The U.S. Justice Department has reached a \$138.7 million civil settlement with hundreds of victims of former USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar, who is serving time in prison for sexually abusing athletes under his care, the agency said on Tuesday.

The settlement resolves claims the FBI botched the initial investigation into Nassar, the Justice Department said.

"These allegations should have been taken seriously from the outset," Benjamin Mizer, the acting U.S. associate attorney general, said in a statement. "While these settlements won't undo the harm Nassar inflicted, our hope is that they will help give the victims of his crimes some of the critical support they need to continue healing."

Nassar, the main doctor



FILE PHOTO: Larry Nassar, a former team USA Gymnastics doctor who pleaded guilty in November 2017 to sexual assault charges, stands in court during his sentencing hearing in the Eaton County Court in Charlotte

for Olympic gymnasts for 18 years, was sentenced in federal court in 2017 to 60 years in prison on charges of possessing child sex abuse material. The following year, Nassar was sentenced to up to 175 years and up to 125 years, respectively, in two separate Michigan courts for molesting female gymnasts

under his care.

U.S. Olympic gold medalists Simone Biles and McKayla Maroney were among the victims who publicly criticized the FBI over its handling of the probe.

The settlement resolves 139 separate claims, the department said. The women accused the FBI of failing to

act on evidence it received in 2015, allowing Nassar to continue sexually abusing young women and girls until he was charged in 2016.

"We are proud to have achieved a monumental settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice, that not only secures the recovery the survivors deserve but also holds the DOJ and FBI accountable for their failures," four lawyers who represented 77 of the victims said in a statement

A report by the Justice Department's internal watchdog in 2021 uncovered widespread errors by the FBI, including failing to promptly interview potential victims and document interviews.

The Justice Department opted not to bring criminal charges against agents involved in the probe in 2022, standing by an earlier decision.

Mavs Cruise Past Clippers 96-93

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Led by Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving, the Dallas Mavericks bounced back to take away home-court advantage from the Los Angeles Clippers and newly returned and rusty Kawhi Leonard.

Doncic scored 32 points, Irving added 23 and the Mavs won 96-93 on Tuesday night to tie their Western Conference first-round playoff series at a game apiece.

"Obviously it was a must-win and everybody was locked in," said P.J. Washington Jr., who had a big fourth quarter and finished with 18 points. "They punched us in the mouth in Game 1 and we just wanted to respond."

Game 3 is Friday in Dallas. Leonard had 15 points and seven rebounds in 35 minutes of his first game since March 31. He hadn't played or had

any contact practices during that stretch because of inflammation in his surgically repaired right knee.

"I felt good," Leonard said. "We still got more games to play and more time to get better. Just keep trying to get a rhythm back."

The Mavs led most of the game two days after they trailed by 29 points and eventually lost 109-97.

Paul George and James Harden led the Clippers with 22 points each. Ivica Zubac had 13 points and 12 rebounds. The team shot 37% from the floor and made just 8 of 30 3-pointers.

Leonard appeared to pick up steam after halftime and was more active defensively.

"Kawhi is one of the best in the world," George said. "He's going to find his rhythm



Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic, center, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers forward Paul George, right, and guard James Harden defend during the first half in Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Tuesday, April 23, 2024, in Los Angeles.

and we're going to find our rhythm around him."

Plagued by poor shooting and behind for much of the game, the Clippers began rallying in the third. Trailing by seven, they outscored the

Mavs 19-10 down the stretch to take a 66-65 lead into the fourth. Doncic tied the game at 65-all before getting called for a technical. Harden's free throw provided the narrow lead.

Arsenal Hammer Chelsea to Move Three Points Clear at Top



LONDON (Reuters) — Ruthless Arsenal threw down the gauntlet in the Premier League title race with a 5-0 thrashing of London rivals Chelsea to roar three points clear at the top of the table.

Any remaining doubts about Arsenal's staying power were answered emphatically as Leandro Trossard gave them an early lead before Ben White and Kai Havertz scored two each in a dazzling spell after the break to sweep aside a dazed Chelsea.

It was a powerful statement by Arsenal who have recovered impressively from a home defeat by Aston Villa and bowing out of the Champions League and with four games remaining they are piling the pressure on Liverpool and Manchester City.

Arsenal have 77 points from 34 games with Liverpool, who face Everton on Wednesday, on 74 from 33. Reigning champions Manchester City have 73 points but have two games in hand starting with a trip to Brighton and Hove Albion on Thursday.

It was the sixth time Arsenal have scored five or more in a Premier League game this season and in such a tight race they have a huge goal difference advantage which could prove crucial.

For ninth-placed Chelsea it was their heaviest ever defeat by Arsenal and a hammer blow in their bid to creep into a European place just days after their narrow FA Cup semi-final defeat by Manchester City.

Late Milik Strike sends Juventus Into Coppa Italia Final



Juventus' Bremer makes an attempt to score during the Italian Cup semi-final soccer match between Lazio and Juventus at Rome's Olympic Stadium, Italy, on April 23, 2024.

ROME (Reuters) — A late goal by striker Arkadiusz Milik sent Juventus into the final of Coppa Italia with a 3-2 aggregate win over Lazio despite a 2-1 defeat in the second leg of their semi-final on Tuesday.

Juventus beat Lazio 2-0 at home in the first leg but forward Valentin Castellanos levelled the tie when he scored twice by the 48th minute, before substitute Milik netted the decider from close range seven minutes from time.

Record 14-times winners Juventus, who lifted their last trophy when they won the Italian Cup in 2020-21, have reached their 22nd Coppa Italia final.

"Lazio had to turn the game around, it was normal to expect aggression," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri told a press conference.

"After the 2-0 at the start of the second half we improved and we got the result against an excellent Lazio. (But) we should have scored first."

"Today was an important match, our elimination would have led to a dangerous psychological repercussion given that we are not yet mathematically (qualified for) the Champions League."

Lazio were quick to revive the

fans' hopes for a turnaround from the first leg's deficit when Castellanos outjumped the Juve defence to give the hosts the lead on the night with a towering header in the 12th minute, nodding home a Luis Alberto corner.

He could have scored the second just before halftime, when he broke into the area after latching on to another neat pass by Alberto, but Juve keeper Mattia Perin kept his low shot out.

However, Castellanos made no mistake after the break when Alberto tied him up just outside the box and the Argentine sent the ball low past Perin and into the net to level the tie.

That shook Juventus up and Dusan Vlahovic had two close chances soon after, before Milik struck from point-blank range to book the spot in the final.

Filip Kostic sent a long cross from the left and across the face of the goal for Timothy Weah, who squared the ball to Milik and the Poland striker finished with a tap-in two minutes after entering the pitch.

Atalanta host Fiorentina in the other semi-final on Wednesday after the Viola earned a 1-0 advantage in the first leg.