

Ali Meskini Wins Bronze Medal in Karate 1-Premier League



TEHRAN – Ali Meskini of Iran claimed a bronze medal in the 2025 Karate 1-Premier League on Saturday.

Hiromu Hashimoto of Japan won the gold medal after defeating Ziad Aly of Egypt in the Male Kumite -60Kg.

Meskini and Florian Haas jointly won bronze medals.

The Cairo 2025 has brought 376 athletes from 65 countries together in Egypt’s capital.

The Karate1 Premier League Cairo 2025 is being held in Cairo, Egypt from April 18 to 20.

Azmoun Scores as Shabab Al-Ahli Lose to Al-Jazira



TEHRAN – In a thrilling encounter at Hazza Bin Zayed Stadium, Al-Jazira clinched the Emirati League Cup by defeating Shabab Al-Ahli 2-1 on Saturday.

The match, marked by intense competition and high stakes, saw Al-Jazira secure its second title in the tournament’s history, with Egyptian star Mohamed Elneny playing a pivotal role in the victory.

Abdullah Ramadan put Al-Jazira ahead with a powerful strike in the 18th minute.

However, Shabab Al-Ahli was quick to respond. Just five minutes into the second half, Sardar Azmoun leveled the score at 1-1, sending a wave of tension through the stadium. The equalizer was a testament to Shabab Al-Ahli’s resilience and determination to claim its sixth title in the competition.

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But Al-Jazira wasn’t to be outdone. In the 55th minute, Nixon Kibano struck back, regaining the lead for Al-Jazira with a well-placed shot that found the back of the net. This goal not only restored Al-Jazira’s advantage but also underscored its intent to secure the championship.

Bayern Crush Heidenheim to Tighten Grip on Top Place

BERLIN (Reuters) - Bayern Munich moved nine points clear at the top of the Bundesliga with a 4-0 win away to Heidenheim on Saturday, taking another confident step towards the title.

The visitors broke the deadlock in the 13th minute when Harry Kane collected Michael Olise’s through ball, turned sharply and unleashed a shot from outside the area that left goalkeeper Kevin Muller helpless.

Bayern doubled their lead just six minutes later. Serge Gnabry’s incisive pass split the Heidenheim defense and Konrad Laimer slotted home. Bayern’s aggressive pressing and clinical finishing proved too much for the hosts, who rarely threatened Jonas Urbig’s goal.



Heidenheim’s Patrick Mainka guards Bayern’s Harry Kane during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Heidenheim and Bayern Munich in Heidenheim, Germany, Saturday, April 19, 2025.

Kingsley Coman extended the lead in the 36th minute. After Muller had initially denied Raphael Guerreiro, the ball fell to Coman, who made no mistake from a tight angle.

Joshua Kimmich sealed the victory in the 56th minute. After a neat move involving Aleksandar Pavlovic and Guerreiro, the Bayern captain curled a low shot into the bottom corner.

Heidenheim’s best chance came in the 65th minute when Sirlord Conteh broke free, but Urbig was on his toes to keep a clean sheet, his first in the Bundesliga.

With four rounds to play, Bayern remains firmly in the driver’s seat, while Heidenheim’s relegation battle continues.

Late Penalty Sees Barcelona Complete Fightback Win Over Celta Vigo



Barcelona’s Raphinha (right) challenges for the ball with Celta’s Willyot Swedberg during a Spanish La Liga soccer match.

MADRID (Reuters) - Raphinha scored a 98th-minute penalty as FC Barcelona came back from 3-1 down to win 4-3 at home to Celta Vigo and move seven points clear of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga.

Celta Vigo striker Borja Iglesias hit a magnificent hat-trick that had threatened to derail Barca’s title challenge, before two goals in four minutes and the late penalty saw Barca turn the game around.

Barcelona made a formal complaint over kick-off times giving them little time to recover between matches. After Ferran Torres gave the home side an early lead, it was easy to see why Barca needed a rest as they gave another flat performance - at least before halftime.

A rare error from goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny gifted Iglesias an easy finish to equalize, and Celta enjoyed the better of the first half, with Szczesny pulling off a couple of vital saves.

Timberwolves Rout Lakers 117-95



Los Angeles Lakers guard Luka Doncic during the first half in Game 1 of an NBA first-round playoff series Saturday, April 19, 2025, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — surprised when the Minnesota Anthony Edwards was not at all Timberwolves showed enough talent and togetherness to turn Luka Doncic’s playoff debut with the Lakers into a rout for the visitors.

Jaden McDaniels scored 25 points, Naz Reid added 23 with six 3-pointers, and the Timberwolves overcame Doncic’s 37-point effort for a 117-95 victory Saturday night.

Edwards had 22 points, nine assists and eight rebounds in the first-round series opener for the sixth-seeded Wolves, who have won 18 of their last 22 games.

The Timberwolves weathered Doncic’s 16-point first quarter in front of a roaring LA crowd before taking control with a 38-20 second quarter.

They poured it on after halftime, too. Julius Randle and Edwards hit four 3-pointers apiece as the Timberwolves made a franchise playoff-record 21 3-pointers on 42 attempts — with many of those shots taken without a defender in sight.

LeBron James had 19 points to begin his 18th NBA postseason, but the third-seeded Lakers were overwhelmed by the Wolves’ shot-making and playoff poise.

Alexander Zverev Downs Ben Shelton to Win Third Munich Title

MUNICH (AP) — Top-seeded Alexander Zverev beat second-seeded Ben Shelton 6-2, 6-4 to win his third Munich title on Sunday.

It was the big-serving German player’s first title of the year and 24th overall on the ATP tour. He previously won the clay-court tournament in 2017 and ’18.

Shelton was playing in his fourth career final and second on clay after winning in Houston last year.

In sunny conditions at the BMW Open, Zverev served for the match and set up match point with a sliced backhand at the net that Shelton could not get back in.

He clinched the win with a sharp backhand volley at the net following a brief rally. It was a dominant performance on serve from the 27-year-old, who did not face a break point.

He has a shot at moving back into second place in the ATP rankings.

Four-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz — who beat him in last year’s French Open final — had to win the Barcelona Open final later Sunday against Holger Rune to stay at No. 2 behind Jannik Sinner.

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Germany’s Alexander Zverev returns the ball to Ben Shelton of the U.S. during the men’s final tennis match at the ATP Tour in Munich, Germany, Sunday, April 20, 2025.