

# U-20 Basketballers Learn Fate in Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers



TEHRAN – The 33 hopefuls learned their AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers 2026 opponents following the official draw at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Monday.

The teams were divided into seven groups of four teams and one group of five with the Qualifiers to be played on August 2-10.

The teams will be vying for 11 tickets to the Finals, to be hosted

by Thailand on April 1-18 next year. The eight group winners and three best runners-up will advance.

Group A will see defending champions DPR Korea, Nepal, hosts Bhutan, Mongolia and Saudi Arabia battling for qualification while host Vietnam, Kyrgyzstan, Hong Kong, China and Singapore are the teams drawn in Group B.

Australia, Chinese Taipei, Palestine and host Tajikistan will face off in Group C with host Myanmar, India, Indonesia and Turkmenistan being the Group D hopefuls.

Group E will see a showdown between host and former champion China, Lebanon, Cambodia

and Syria with six-time champion Japan, Iran, host Malaysia and Guam drawn in Group F.

Group G action will feature host Uzbekistan, Jordan, Northern Mariana Islands and Bahrain while the race for the sole automatic ticket from Group H will be between former champion Korea Republic, Bangladesh, host Laos and Timor-Leste.

Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, Lebanon, Mongolia, Northern Mariana Islands, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Timor Leste and Turkmenistan will be seeking to make their maiden appearance in the finals.

## Azmoun, Ezatolahi Score for Shabab Al Ahli Against Al Wahda



TEHRAN – Shabab Al Ahli's Iranian players Saeid Ezatolahi and Sardar Azmoun scored against Al Wahda in the UAE Pro League Sunday night.

Al Wahda FC and visiting Shabab Al Ahli shared the points in a 2-2 thriller, the rescheduled Matchweek 16 clash of the Pro

League.

Kevin Agudelo and Sasa Ivkovic scored for the host in the 11th and 40th minutes, respectively.

Ezatolahi pulled a goal back just before the break, and Azmoun leveled the score in the 50th minute.

## Liverpool Thrash Tottenham to Secure Premier League Title



**Liverpool's Egyptian striker #11 Mohamed Salah takes a selfie with the fans**

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) - Liverpool roared back from a goal behind to thrash Tottenham Hotspur 5-1 and wrap up the Premier League title in style on a momentous day at a sun-drenched Anfield.

Needing only a point to ensure a record-equaling 20th English title with four games remaining, Liverpool were rocked in the 12th minute as Dominic Solanke headed Tottenham in front.

But the title party was only temporarily silenced as Liverpool struck back with a Luis Diaz tap-in, an Alexis Mac Allister thunderbolt and a Cody Gakpo shot before halftime.

A one-sided second half saw Mohamed Salah end a six-match scoring drought by firing a low shot past Guglielmo Vicario in the 63rd minute - celebrating his 28th league goal of an outstanding season by snapping a selfie with a fan.

Tottenham's Destiny Udogie then bundled in an own goal to complete a miserable afternoon for the visitors who have lost 19 Premier League games this season.

Liverpool, who have now matched arch-rivals Manchester United's English titles record, have 82 points from 34 games played with Arsenal a distant second on 67.

A rendition of You'll Never Walk Alone - the club's be-

loved anthem - boomed out after the final whistle with the likes of club greats Kenny Dalglish and Ian Rush joining in.

Slot is only the fifth manager to win the Premier League title in his debut season in English soccer and while it was a formality before kickoff, there was still the small matter of Liverpool ensuring the cake was iced in front of their fans.

Five years ago, when Klopp's Liverpool ended a 30-year wait for a 19th title, the COVID pandemic meant a rather anticlimactic finale inside an empty Anfield.

Sunday more than made up for that as the fans went through their choir book of club anthems long before kickoff.

Sixteenth-placed Tottenham, who made eight changes to their starting line-up with one eye on Thursday's Europa League semifinal, arrived as sacrificial lambs, but momentarily gate-crashed the party as former Liverpool player Solanke headed in James Maddison's corner.

Liverpool were only behind for four minutes though.

Diaz, appearing in his 100th Premier League game for the club, tapped in Dominik Szoboszlai's low cross and while it was initially disallowed for offside, the decision was overturned after a VAR check to sighs of relief all round.

## National Power Outage Stops Play at Madrid Open

MADRID (AFP) - A national power outage stopped play at the Madrid Open, with Britain's Jacob Fearnley among those forced off court.

Fearnley had saved a match point in his third-round encounter against Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov and was about to serve to stay in the match at 6-4 5-4 down when play was suspended on the main court.

The power cut meant the electronic line-calling system - which has replaced line judges - and scoreboards stopped working.

After a brief delay the umpire announced play would restart, with him making line calls



in place of the system.

However, the spider camera which hangs low over the court had become stuck in place and

was in the player's eyelines.

After further discussion the umpire led the players back to the locker room.

Spain's electricity grid operator Red Electrica confirmed power outages across the country and said it was working to restore electricity.

There have been reports traffic lights not working and the underground railway system being evacuated in Madrid, and a similar power outage in Portugal.

Scotland's Fearnley is one of three British men due to play in the third round in Madrid on Monday.

Cameron Norrie is set to face Canada's Gabriel Diallo before British number one Jack Draper plays Matteo Berrettini of Italy.

## Celtics Hold Off Magic to Take 3-1 Series Lead



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum, center, drives between Orlando Magic forward Paolo Banchero (5) and center Wendell Carter Jr. (34).

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Jayson Tatum had 37 points and 14 rebounds, Jaylen Brown added 21 points and 11 rebounds and the Boston Celtics took a 3-1 lead in their NBA playoff series with a 107-98 win

over the Orlando Magic on Sunday night.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 19 points, including a dunk of his own missed layup that put Boston ahead for keeps with 3:58 left.

Paolo Banchero led Orlando with 31 points.

Game 5 of the best-of-7 first-round series will be played Tuesday night in Boston.

"This was a big win on the road in a tough, physical environment against a team that's been eager to take us out," Brown said. "It's not over. We've got to close it out because we don't want to come back here."

Derrick White finished with 18 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for the Celtics. Al Horford blocked five shots.

Franz Wagner had 24 points and seven assists for Orlando. Corey Joseph added 12 points, the highest scoring output for a Magic guard in the series.

The 7-foot-3 Porzingis, who played only 22 minutes due to foul

trouble, helped Boston overcome shooting 9 for 31 from 3-point range with dominant inside play in the first half.

The Magic shot 8 for 29 from behind the arc.

A dunk by Porzingis started an 18-3 run midway through the first half. A 3-pointer by Porzingis gave the Celtics a nine-point lead, matching the largest lead of the game, with 7:45 left in the second quarter.

The Magic never led after that, although a dunk by Wendell Carter Jr. tied the game at 91 with 4:18 remaining. The Celtics took over from there, winning for the first time in Orlando since October 2022. Tatum hit a 10-footer, three straight free throws and a layup to quickly restore a seven-point Boston lead.

## London Marathon Breaks World Record for Most Finishers

LONDON (Sky Sports) - The 2025 London Marathon set a new world record for the number of finishers despite hot conditions on Sunday for its 45th edition.

A total of 56,640 runners crossed the finish line at the end of the 26.2-mile route, Guinness World Records has confirmed.

The number surpassed the previous record of 55,646 set by the New York Marathon in November.

Hugh Brasher, chief executive of London Marathon Events, said he hoped the high number of finishers inspired people to

apply for the 2026 race ballot.

"The London Marathon was already the most popular in terms of ballot entries, with 840,318 people applying for the 2025 race," he said.

"It is also the world's largest annual one-day fundraising event with more than £1.3bn raised for charity since 1981."

The number of people applying for the ballot to enter this year's race broke the world record of 578,304 for the 2024 edition.

Of UK applicants 49% were female, while there was a 105% increase in applications from people aged between 20-29.



Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa surged to victory in the elite women's race in a world record for a

women's only field, while Kenya's Sebastian Sawe triumphed in the men's event.