

Persepolis ties with Foulad in Ahvaz

Tehran Times Sports Desk
AHVAZ — Persepolis finished in a tie against Foulad of Khuzestan in the 11th week of the Iran Professional League (IPL) on Sunday. In the match played at the Takhti Stadium in Ahvaz, Persepolis was

held to a goalless draw. Majid Jalali's outfit missed a penalty in the 4th minute. Persepolis keeper Misagh Memarzadeh saved the penalty kick by Saeid Ramezani. The Tehran-based team kept control the ball afterward but their strikers



failed to take advantage of their chances. Persepolis lies in seventh place with 16 points while Foulad is rock-bottom with six points. Pacesetter Esteghlal is scheduled to play Esteghlal of Ahvaz on

Monday at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran. Paykan of Qazvin plays Pas of Hamedan, Malavan of Bandar Anzali faces Abu Moslem of Khorasan and Saipa of Karaj plays Steel Azin. 11th week results: * Sepahan of Isfahan 3 – 1 Trak-

torsazi of Tabriz * Rah Ahan of Shahre Rey 1 – 3 Saba of Qom * Moghavemat of Shiraz 1 – 1 Mes of Kerman * Shahin of Bushehr 1 – 1 Zob Ahan of Isfahan

NEWS IN BRIEF



Rhinos seal historic treble



Leeds made Super League history at Old Trafford by clinching a hat-trick of titles with an 18-10 victory over St Helens in a dramatic Grand Final.

Rugby union-bound Lee Smith ended his Rhinos career with a brace of tries, his second sealing victory towards the end of a pulsating clash between the competition's top two sides.

However it was Kevin Sinfield - the first man to captain a side to four Grand Final triumphs - who was named winner of the Harry Sutherland Trophy after producing a try-saving tackle on Kyle Eastmond, who scored all of St Helens' points, when the game was in the melting pot.

(Source: Skysports)

Capello unhappy with referee



Robert Green eventually became the first England goalkeeper to be dismissed for bringing down Artem Milevskiy, but only after a protracted debate which started when Skomina showed a red card to Rio Ferdinand.

It took the intervention of the fourth official to get the verdict right. However, the mere fact it happened raised doubt in Capello's mind that Skomina could have seen it clearly.

"It was a big mistake," said Capello. "Normally I don't speak about referees. This time I am changing my mind. Rio was running, the goalkeeper is diving. I need someone to explain to me how he can get that wrong."

(Source: Soccernet)

Cristiano Ronaldo Injured



Portugal may have beaten Hungary 3-0, but it was not all good news, with Cristiano Ronaldo limping off after half an hour.

Real Madrid and Portugal fans will be anxiously awaiting further news after Ronaldo was forced to withdraw

from the game against Hungary.

The Portuguese captain lasted just 30 minutes in Lisbon, asking to be replaced after his ankle injury worsened. He had already made an impact, providing an assist for Simao's opening goal.

Ronaldo is unlikely to be fit for Portugal's midweek fixture against Malta, and it now remains to be seen whether he will be able to take part in Madrid's match against Real Valladolid next weekend.

(Source: Goal)

Hiroshima, Nagasaki hope to host 2020 Olympics



Japanese city of Hiroshima said it and Nagasaki, the only cities that suffered nuclear attacks, are considering a joint bid to host the 2020 Olympic Games, to give momentum to moves to abolish nuclear weapons.

The agreement came after Tokyo failed in its bid for the 2016 Olympics and the surprise award of the Nobel Peace Prize to U.S. President Barack Obama for giving the world "hope for a better future" and striving for nuclear disarmament.

"It would be great if we could host the Olympic Games, the festival of peace, in that year of 2020," Koji Utsunomiya, a Hiroshima City official in charge of sporting activities, told Reuters.

(Source: Reuters)

Iran edges Lebanon in AFC U-16 Championships

Tehran Times Sports Desk



KATHMANDU — Iran crushed Lebanon and went to the top of Group B of the AFC U-16 Championships on Sunday.

Mehdi Mehdipour gave the Iranians a lead two minutes after the interval. A hat trick from Amir Abbas Aeinechi in the 57, 83 and 89 minutes sealed a 4-0 victory over Lebanon for Iran. Iran is to play Bahrain on Tuesday.

Iran had been held to a goalless draw by Tajikistan in its opener. The defending champion defeated Nepal 3-0 in its second match.

The AFC U-16 Championship is a football competition organized by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) held once every two years for Asian under-16 teams.

A total of 23 teams have been divided in four groups. The top four teams qualify for the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

Iran on brink of Futsal Confederations Cup championship

Tehran Times Sports Desk



TRIPOLI — Iran will finish first in the Futsal Confederations Cup with just a draw against Libya on Monday.

Pacesetter Iran will face the host at the Tripoli Grand Hall. The Asian champion has already defeated Guatemala, Uruguay and Solomon Islands in the tournament.

A total of five teams namely, Libya, Iran, Guatemala, Uruguay and the Solomon Islands have participated in the tournament.

The winner of the tournament will receive \$50,000 while the bottom placed team will walk away with \$10,000.

The tournament has been approved by FIFA.

Massa's eye now healed

Tests have confirmed that Felipe Massa's left eye has fully healed after his horror crash at the Hungarian Grand Prix.

The Brazilian suffered a fractured skull and a brain concussion after a spring which worked loose from Rubens Barrichello's car hit his helmet just above his left eye in qualifying at the Hungaroring.

It was also feared that Massa's vision would be permanently damaged but as he steps up his recovery programme at Ferrari's headquarters in Italy, medical tests have finally ended such concerns.

"Felipe Massa started a series of neurological and ophthalmological exams by the FIA at the Pitié Salpêtrière hospital in



Paris, part of the Brazilian driver's recovery programme after the accident in Budapest on 25 July," Ferrari said in a statement.

"The first outcomes are positive: especially the ophthalmological exam confirmed that Felipe, who arrived with his personal doctor Dino Altmann, has recovered the functions of his left eye by 100 per cent."

Earlier in the week, Massa indicated he was focusing on returning to Formula One action next season, having at one stage hoped to make his comeback in the season-ending race in Abu Dhabi.

(Source: Skysports)

Gunners chief warns Wenger

Arsene Wenger has been informed that the Arsenal hierarchy expect him to deliver a long-awaited trophy this season.

The Gunners have failed to land a piece of silverware since tasting FA Cup glory in 2005.

There have been numerous near misses over the course of the past four years, but there is a growing sense of frustration around Emirates Stadium at the lack of success.

Wenger has been able to mould a squad which is among the most entertaining in European football, with youthful exuberance at the heart of his plans.

His youngsters initially needed time to grow accustomed to life at the highest level, but the feeling is that they must start to deliver sooner rather than later.

That is the view of Arsenal chief executive Ivan Gazidis, who has warned that the club can no longer accept second best.

"It's absolutely our ambition to win a trophy this year. I couldn't be more clear on that," he said in the Daily Star



Sunday.

"Second, third or fourth isn't good enough. We want to win something this season and we believe we have the squad to do that."

The South African, who was brought on board by the Gunners in November 2008, admits that Wenger has done a fine job in building an exciting side, but admits that potential needs to start being fulfilled.

"We have created and developed a team playing fantastic football," he added. "It's wonderful to watch and very exciting at times."

"We've spoken about the group's potential. Now, and by now I mean this season, it's very important for us to focus strongly on winning something for the fans. They deserve it."

"We can talk about football as a business but, fundamentally, this club exists for the fans and they don't care about financial reports, they care about what happens on the pitch."

(Source: Skysports)

Glock to miss Brazil Grand Prix

Toyota's Timo Glock will miss the Brazil Grand Prix after suffering a cracked vertebra during qualifying for the race in Japan.

The 27-year-old German did not compete in Suzuka, but it was thought his injuries were limited to a leg wound.

However, tests revealed he also suffered a back injury in a high-speed crash in the second qualifying session.

Japanese reserve driver Kamui Kobayashi will make his F1 debut as Glock's replacement in Sunday's race.

The 23-year-old stood in for Glock during Friday practice for the Japanese Grand Prix, as the German was suffering from a heavy cold.

Glock was back in the car for qualifying the following day, but he lost control at the final corner of the Suzuka circuit and hit a tyre wall.

He was stretchered into an ambulance and had stitches in a five-centimeter cut in his left leg.

"Based on the initial diagnosis, we fully expected Timo to return in Brazil," said Toyota president John Howett.

"But unfortunately a different injury has been revealed which prevents that."

"He will remain in Germany to recover and we hope he can recuperate in time for Abu Dhabi, although at this stage the situation is not clear."

Kobayashi competes in the GP2 Series, and joined Toyota as their test driver in 2007.

He will be the fourth youngest driver on the grid at Interlagos, behind Sebastien Buemi, Jaime Alguersuari and Sebastian Vettel.

(Source: BBC)

Palermo's last-gasp strike saves Maradona and Argentina

Substitute Martin Palermo's close-range finish deep into injury time earned Argentina an unbelievable last-gasp win over Peru in Buenos Aires just minutes after Diego Maradona's men looked to have suffered yet another World Cup qualifying setback.

Palermo, whom Maradona has recalled to the national team after a 10-year absence, tapped home at the far post in driving rain to send his coach diving across the sodden turf in celebration.



Hernan Rengifo had headed an equalizer for Peru in the 90th minute to cancel out debutant Gonzalo Higuain's opener early in the second half. Rengifo's goal looked to be the death knell for Argentina and quite possibly for Maradona who would have struggled to survive as manager had they failed to win against South America's bottom side.

Palermo's strike earned Argentina three points, but even his 93rd minute strike was nearly cancelled out as Rainer Torres hit a shot straight from the kick-off which crashed against Argentina's crossbar.

The win moves Argentina up to fourth place in the South American qualifying table, a point ahead of Uruguay, whom they play on Wednesday, and two clear of Ecuador.

Maradona sprung a surprise with his team selection, leaving big-name strikers Carlos Tevez and Sergio Aguero on the bench and instead handing Higuain his first cap, but it was a frustrating first period as the home side missed a host of chances that would have settled their nerves.

Maradona turned to Palermo rather than Tevez or Aguero at half-time, but his side almost found themselves behind scarcely a minute into the second period.

Former Newcastle player Nolberto Solano's corner picked out Juan Vargas who crashed a first-time left-foot volley off the top of the crossbar from well outside the area.

It was Argentina who took the lead moments later when Pablo Aimar stabbed a pass through into the right of the area, which Higuain ran on to and slotted into the far corner.

Argentina grew more nervous as the second half wore on, their chances drying up as torrential rain started to pour down. Moments after keeper Sergio Romero had made a superb point-blank save, Rengifo nodded home a cross from the left from barely two yards bring Peru level.

But just as Argentina's World Cup dreams looked to be slipping away, Palermo came up trumps for his under-fire boss.

With no fewer than eight Argentinian players in a packed Peru penalty area, the Boca Juniors striker found himself in the right place at the right time to convert the easiest of chances after a low ball across the box came all the way through to him.

(Source: Guardian)