

Esteghlal Khuzestan parts ways with Pourmousavi



● TASNIM

Iranian top flight football club Esteghlal Khuzestan parted company with its head coach Sirous Pourmousavi.

Pourmousavi helped the Ahvaz-based football club avoid relegation from the 2023-2024 Iran Professional League (IPL), reported Tasnim News Agency. Esteghlal Khuzestan defeated Havadar 3-1 in its last match to remain in the IPL.

The win saw Esteghlal Khuzestan end the campaign in 14th place on 28 points in the final standing.

Iran's ShahrDari fourth in 2024 BCL Asia



● TASNIM

ShahrDari Gorgan of Iran lost to Japanese B.LEAGUE champion Hiroshima Dragonflies 81-76 in the 2024 BCL Asia Bronze medal match.

It was revenge for the Dragonflies who had lost to this same team earlier in the Group Phase, 94-81, wrote Tasnim News Agency.

Ryo Yamazaki finished with 18 points on 6 three-pointers to lead the Dragonflies, while Kerry Blackshear (17 points, 9 rebounds, 4 assists) and Dwayne Evans (16 points, 9 rebounds, and 7 assists).

Fourth-placed ShahrDari Gorgan wrapped up its season in FIBA club competitions with its starters all scoring in double-digits. Breakout star Sina Vahedi finished strong with 21 points.

Iran secures Olympic berth with female archer Fallah

Iranian female archer Mobbina Fallah has secured her spot for the 2024 Paris Olympics by ranking among the top eight athletes at the 2024 Final World Quota Tournament in Turkey.

Iran's Fallah triumphed over her Kazakhstan's opponent with a score of 6-2 in the Round of 16, advancing to the tournament's top eight and securing her qualification for the 2024 Paris Olympics, IRNA reported. The Final World Quota Tournament for the 2024 Paris Olympics was held in Antalya, Turkey from June 14 to 17.

Noshad Alamiyan secures Olympic spot in latest world rankings

Iranian table tennis player Noshad Alamiyan secured his spot in the 2024 Olympic Games.

His brother Nima had qualified for the Games a month ago by grabbing the gold medal at the Central Asia Regional Olympic Qualification held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, reported Mehr News Agency.

As the countdown to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games intensifies, ITTF announced significant progress in the qualification process for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

With the Games now under 50 days away, this week's world ranking update has seen eight athletes secure their participation based on the selection of Continental quotas allocated by World Ranking.

With only one more world ranking update scheduled before the final roster for Paris is confirmed, the qualification process reaches its penultimate stage. Next week's world rankings will be crucial, determining the final competitors for the highly anticipated Paris 2024 Games.



● MEHR

England hang on to beat Serbia 1-0 with Bellingham header

A powerful first-half header by Jude Bellingham sent England on the way to a successful launch of their Euro 2024 campaign with a 1-0 win over Serbia on Sunday that began confidently but saw the Three Lions clinging on for the points by the end.

The excellent Bellingham stormed into the box to connect with Bukayo Saka's deflected cross that sailed across the box perfectly for the 20-year-old midfielder to put the Euro 2020 runners-up ahead from close range in the 13th minute, Reuters wrote.

The result put England top of Group C after Denmark and Slovenia drew 1-1 earlier on Sunday.

Bellingham, who began the move for the only goal himself, set the tempo for much of England's attacking play and was cheered to the rafters of the cavernous Arena AufSchalke by the army of Three Lions fans bellowing



England's Jude Bellingham celebrates scoring their first goal.

● REUTERS

his name.

Gareth Southgate's attack-minded team initially found space down the right as Saka linked up with full back Kyle Walker, whose surging runs threatened to help add to England's advantage.

But after the break, Serbia began to threaten and England showed little of their earlier fluency. The tally of 11 shots by the final whistle – six by Serbia, five from England – was the lowest in a European Championship

match since at least 1980, according to Opta data. Bellingham took issue when asked by reporters if England's loss of momentum showed the team remained a work in progress. "I don't agree with that," he

said. "I think the first half shows why we can score goals against any team and the second half shows why we can keep a clean sheet against any team."

Serbia improve

Serbia upped their game at the start of the second half after bringing on Ivan Ilic for defensive midfielder Nemanja Gudelj, and before long striker Dusan Vlahovic swept a cross dangerously across England's box, rousing their fans.

Serbia coach Dragan Stojkovic doubled down on his switch to a more attacking shape as Dusan Tadic and Luka Jovic came off the bench with just over an hour played.

Southgate responded by introducing the hard-running Conor Gallagher – replacing Trent Alexander-Arnold playing in an unfamiliar midfield role. Another substitute, Jarrod Bowen, delivered a pinpoint cross for captain

Harry Kane, whose header was pushed onto the bar by goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic in the 77th minute.

Five minutes later, a fierce Vlahovic shot was tipped over by Jordan Pickford as Serbia kept up the pressure.

But England, with an unfamiliar-looking defence that featured the impressive Marc Guehi, playing in a major tournament for the first time, and right-footed Kieran Trippier standing in as left back, held out for the win.

Kane acknowledged the performance was not a classic by England. "Overall a deserved win. It's just about getting through," said the England captain.

"There was a spell in the second half where we got camped in our box and we found it hard to get out but it was an important win tonight."

England next play Denmark on Thursday after Serbia take on Slovenia.

Mbappe rules out playing at Paris Games after Real Madrid move

Kylian Mbappe confirmed on Sunday he will not play for France's Olympic team at the Paris Games as his new club Real Madrid are against the idea.

The 25-year-old said in March that he was keen on playing at his home Games but since the Olympic soccer tournament is not on

FIFA's calendar clubs are not obliged to release their players, Reuters reported.

Mbappe was not included in a 25-man preliminary squad for the Olympics earlier this month, though head coach Thierry Henry left the door open.

"My club's position was very clear, so from that moment

on, I think I (knew) I won't be taking part in the Games," Mbappe told reporters ahead of Monday's Group D match against Austria at Euro 2024. "That's just the way it is, and I understand that too. I'm joining a new team in September, so it's not the best way to start an adventure. "I'm going to wish this

French team all the best. I'm going to watch every game. I hope they'll win the gold medal."

The men's Olympic football competition begins on July 24, 10 days after the European Championships final, and ends on Aug. 9.



● REUTERS