

Taremi will be nice Inter Milan surprise: Agent



● TASNIM

Agent Federico Pastorello said that Iran international Mehdi Taremi will surprise fans at Inter Milan. The Iranian forward will arrive as a Bosman transfer (the ruling allows a player to leave a club on a free transfer as soon as his contract expired) from Porto next month. Pastorello told TMW: "He is very eager to start, he made a choice many months ago and he will be a wonderful surprise. "I was the intermediary in the negotiations, he is not my client, but I found an extraordinary boy. "He will certainly adapt very well, it will be a nice surprise for the fans too."

Iran, HK share spoils in 2024 Junior AHF Cup



● IRNA

Iran's U-21 hockey team was held to a goalless draw against Hong Kong in the Men's Junior AHF Cup 2024 on Monday. Iran had lost to Chinese Taipei 8-0 and Oman 2-1 in its first two matches in Pool B. Bangladesh, reigning champion in men's Junior AHF Cup, has been placed in Pool A along with Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Singapore. The four semifinalists will advance to the next edition of the Junior Asia Cup.

Iran looking for good finish in 2024 VNL

Iran, who has not yet won a single match in the 2024 Volleyball Nations League (VNL), is looking to register its first win in Week 3. Eight of the world's strongest men's volleyball national teams - Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Iran, Japan, the Netherlands and the US - have arrived in Manila to delight the Filipino fans with their matches in competition week three of the men's 2024 Volleyball Nations League Preliminary Phase, at the end of which all the participants in next week's VNL Finals in Lodz, Poland will be known, wrote Tasnim News Agency.

With six of these teams already booked for the Paris 2024 Olympics and one running a distant shot at qualifying, the spotlights in Manila will fall mainly on the heated race for the berths in the VNL quarterfinals.

Iran will open its week three campaign on Wednesday at 14:30 (Tehran time) against the US, before facing tough games against Netherlands on Thursday, against France on Friday and against Germany on Saturday.

Iran is the clear underdogs in the pool. It is the only winless team in



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VNL 2024, trailing in the table on 0-8 and 2, but still holding a mathematical shot at the Finals in Lodz.

The VNL Preliminary Phase features three competition weeks per gender, with each of the 16

teams playing 12 matches. The seven best-ranked national teams in the Preliminary Phase will join

hosts Poland for the Finals, which will be held in Lodz from June 27 to 30.

Celtics rout Mavericks to win record 18th NBA championship

Jayson Tatum produced a dazzling 31-point display as the Boston Celtics dominated the Dallas Mavericks 106-88 to clinch a record-breaking 18th NBA championship crown on Monday.

Humbled by Dallas in a 38-point game four drubbing on Friday, Boston slammed the door on any chance of a Mavericks fightback to seal a 4-1 series victory at an electric TD Garden, AFP reported.

Tatum spearheaded a superb performance at both ends of the floor as Boston pulled clear of their arch-rival Los Angeles Lakers to stand alone with 18 NBA titles.

The emphatic win came 16 years to the day after Boston's last NBA Finals win - over the Lakers - in 2008.

"Oh my God. It's a surreal feeling. We did it," a jubilant Tatum exclaimed after the triumph. "We did it - oh my God, we did it!"

"This is an incredible feeling. I'm lost for words. I'm sorry."

Jaylen Brown, who was named Finals Most valuable Player, gave

Tatum scoring support with 21 points, while Jrue Holiday added 15 and Derrick White 14.

The defeat marked a miserable end to the finals for Dallas duo Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving, who had led the Western Conference fifth seeds on an improbable giant-killing journey to the NBA Finals.

Doncic, sensational during the Mavs' game four rout of the

Celtics, finished with 28 points.

"I'm proud of every guy that stepped on the floor, all the coaches, all the people behind," defeated Doncic said afterwards. "Obviously, we didn't win the Finals, but we did have a hell of a season and I'm proud of every one of them."

Asked what was going through his mind, Doncic replied: "Nothing. Sad we lost."



● REUTERS

Irving meanwhile scored a meagre 15 points while being taunted with chants of "Kyrie sucks!" by Celtics fans still rankled by his departure from the team in 2019.

Top-seeded Boston meanwhile reasserted their superiority in convincing fashion after their game four blowout, leading by double digits from late in the second quarter until the final buzzer.

The Celtics laid the foundations for victory with a controlled first-half performance that saw them open up a 67-46 lead at the break.

Payton Pritchard put the seal on a superb first two quarters for Boston, launching a mammoth buzzer-beating three-pointer from near half-court that gave the Celtics a 21-point advantage. Boston had been swiftly into their groove early on, building a 9-2 advantage in the first quarter with their swarming defense never allowing Dallas to build any kind of rhythm.

After Boston took a 13-5 advantage the Mavs rallied to narrow the gap to two points

at 17-15, but Boston's defense reclaimed the initiative soon afterwards.

Two quick steals from Tatum and Sam Hauser allowed the Celtics to pull away to 28-18 at the end of the first quarter.

Boston's defense gave no respite to Irving and Doncic, restricting Dallas's stars to just 14 points between them in the first quarter.

By contrast, Tatum and Brown threatened to over-run the Mavs defense.

There was no let-up from Boston after the restart, with Holiday's cutting layup putting Boston 26-points clear at 78-52 early in the third quarter.

There were flickers of a Dallas recovery in the latter stages of the third quarter, but Boston remained in control to lead by 19 heading into the final period. With the TD Garden roaring them on, there was never any chance the Celtics would be denied and Boston continued to find mismatches to score freely and retain a comfortable double-digit advantage to close out the win.

France edge Austria in Euro 2024 opener as Mbappe gets broken nose

Maximilian Woeber's own goal was enough to give France a winning start to their Euro 2024 campaign on Monday as they edged Austria 1-0 in their opening game but Kylian Mbappe came off late on with a broken nose.

Woeber diverted Mbappe's cutback into his own net seven minutes before half-time in Dueseldorf to allow the French, one of the leading contenders to win the tournament, to come through a stiff test, AFP reported.

Austria have been much-improved under Ralf Rangnick and they often made life uncomfortable for the 2022 World Cup runners-up, who saw Mbappe leave the field near the end after being hurt in a collision. He had earlier failed to convert a

glorious chance that would have allowed France to win by a wider margin, and sources close to the player confirmed he had broken his nose in the accidental clash with Kevin Danso.

"He is in a bad way. He is not well. His nose is a mess, that's for sure. That is the black mark of the evening for us," France coach Didier Deschamps said, without confirming the extent of the injury.

"We had the chance to put the game to bed and it is true that we could have been more precise in attack, but it's very good to start with a victory," Deschamps said of the result.

Despite Mbappe's injury, France will be relieved to have emerged victorious after a build-up overshadowed by talk of politics rather than football.

Mbappe and other French players had spent much of their time before the media in recent days answering questions about upcoming elections in the country which could see the far-right National Rally become the biggest party. Any slip-up here would have led to suggestions their minds had not been fully focused on the competition.

Instead, the result leaves France level on three points in Group D with the Netherlands, who defeated Poland 2-1 on Sunday.

France and the Netherlands meet next in Leipzig on Friday, while Austria face Poland the same day in Berlin.

"We are obviously disappointed with the result. No France player scored against us in 100 minutes, just a very unfortunate own goal,"

said Rangnick.

"I think Didier Deschamps was really happy when the final whistle came which shows how well my team played."

Austria had enjoyed some impressive results coming into the tournament and their team is on familiar ground during these Euros - Rangnick is from Germany and eight of their starting line-up played in the German Bundesliga last season.

The French, however, are arguably the most talented team at the tournament, led by their captain Mbappe.

He endured a miserable time at his only previous Euros in 2021, failing to score and missing the decisive penalty in a shoot-out defeat by Switzerland in the last 16.

The new Real Madrid signing will wonder how he did not score in this game, with his first big opportunity arriving inside eight minutes.

Antoine Griezmann and Theo Hernandez combined to release Mbappe, who cut in from the left and shaped to curl a shot into the far corner before instead aiming for the near post.

However, Austria goalkeeper Patrick Pentz managed make the save.

The Austrians settled into the contest and passed up a wonderful chance of their own to go ahead on 36 minutes.

Skipper Marcel Sabitzer touched down a Michael Gregoritsch cross from the left for Christoph Baumgartner, but he was foiled by goalkeeper Mike Maignan.

That proved crucial as France took the lead two minutes later. Ousmane Dembele gave the ball to Mbappe on the right, and he produced a stepover to get to the byline before his cutback was nodded into the far corner of his own net by the unfortunate Woeber.

Mbappe was then thwarted by Pentz as he tried to go around the goalkeeper in first-half stoppage time, but that was nothing compared to the chance he squandered 10 minutes after the restart.

Adrien Rabiot sent Mbappe away, bounding in behind the Austrian defence, but he somehow put his shot wide with just the goalkeeper to beat.

That left the game in the balance, and Austria continued to push for a leveller, without success.