FIBA West Asian Super League:

Tabiat undone by Al Riyadi in dead rubber

Sports Desk

Iranian champion Tabiat Basketball finished its Group A campaign with a 92-78 loss to Lebanese powerhouse Al Riyadi at the FIBA West Asian Super League in Zouk Mikael, Lebanon, on Sunday night.

Having beaten other Lebanese club Sagesse (75-73) on the preceding night to secure a runner-up finish in the group and a place in next month's Final 8, Tabiat started on the front foot at the Stade Nouhad Naufal and won the first quarter 27-23, before Wael Arakji inspired the defending champion to finishing the tilt with a pristine 8-0 record.

The Lebanese point guard contributed with 27 points – including three from behind the arc – with Amir Saoud (16), American Marcus Georges-Hunt (15), Marin Maric (10) also finishing in double figures. Saoud delivered 13 points in the second chapter alone as he powered the turnaround that saw the reigning BCL Asia champion turn a six-point deficit to a 50-41 advantage enter-

ing the break.

Croatian center Ivan Buva continued his impressive run for Tabiat with a game-high 29 points and 10 rebounds, while Sina Vahedi chipped in 14 points.

Tabiat showed some fight late in the game, managing to cut the gap to nine, but Georges-Hunt and Arakji joined hands for a mini-run to restore order, 89-76, with only 1:22 left.

Finishing the group campaign with a 5-3 record, Tabiat will be back in the Iranian league action – starting with a game against Palayesh Naft Abadan on Saturday in the last-four playoffs –before shifting into high gear for WASL's culminating event, the date and venue of which to be announced soon.

Al Riyadi center Ilimane Diop (21) goes up for a basket against Tabiat's Ivan Buva (25) during a FIBA West Asian Super League game in Zouk Mikael, Lebanon, on April 13, 2025.
● *FIBA*

Moroccan fullback Amloud nearing exit door at Persepolis

● *kabarvarzeshi.com*

Sports Desk

Persepolis fans may have already seen the last of Ayoub El Amloud in the Tehran Reds colors as the Moroccan fullback will reportedly leave the Persian Gulf Pro League club once his one-year contract expires in July.

Amloud, whose campaign has been interrupted by several injury spells, was last in action during a 3-2 loss at Shams Azar in the domestic league on March 30, leaving the pitch in the 50th minute with a groin problem.

The Moroccan left for his home country after the game and is not expected to return to Iran ahead of what promises to be a summer of shake-up under Turkish head coach Ismail Kartal.

Having joined from Wydad AC last summer, Amloud got off to flying start to his career in the Iranian league under former Spanish boss Juan Carlos Garrido, bagging a late equalizer in 1-1 draw at Tractor in only his second game for the Capital Reds.

However, his campaign has been interrupted by several injury spells throughout the season, with his contribution limited to one goal and an assist in 24 games across all competitions.

Center-back Farshad Faraji has done a decent job in playing out of position to fill in for the Moroccan right-back, bagging three goals and double assists, while Iranian U20 international Yaqoub Barajeh impressed during Friday's hard-fought 1-0 victory at Nassaji Mazandaran.

Having dominated the Iranian club football with eight top-flight trophies in nine seasons, Persepolis is third in the league table with 51 points with four games remaining – trailing leader Tractor, which has a game in hand, by four points, and two adrift of second-placed Sepahan.

Kartal's men will be looking to boost their slim hopes of third successive title when taking on Sepahan at Tehran's Azadi Stadium on Friday.

Iranian squash girl Eqtedari runner-up at Yokohama Open

Sports Desk

Iranian squash player Fereshteh Eqtedari won a precious runner-up trophy at the Dynam Cup Yokohama Open in Japan.

World No. 263 Eqtedari claimed four victories before suffering a 3-0 (11-2, 11-6, 11-8) loss to Malaysia's Yasshmita Jadishkumar in Sunday's final showpiece at the Yokohama Squash Stadium SQ-Cube.

The 25-year-old Iranian began her campaign with a straight-game win against the host's Ryoko Kadota, and then went on to beat Malaysian Yu Jie Chen (3-0), South Korea's Mingyeong Heo (3-2), and Sze Wing Wai of Hong Kong (3-2) for a place in the final.

This was a second runner-up trophy for Eqtedari, who joined the Professional Squash Association in 2016, at the PSA Tour, following her final defeat against South African Alexa Pienaar Joburg Open

● *squashiran.ir*

2024 in Johannesburg last September. Eqtedari also reached the last four

in last year's HCL Squash Tour and Sunil Verma Memorial Open in India.

Clippers, Timberwolves win to secure NBA play-off spot

● *AFP*

BBC- The LA Clippers and the Minnesota Timberwolves each secured a play-off spot with victories on the final day of the regular NBA season.

The Clippers finished fifth in the Western Conference with a 124-119 overtime win over the Golden State Warriors, who drop into the play-in tournament.

James Harden scored 12 of his game-high 39 points in overtime as the Clippers set up a play-off meeting with the Denver Nuggets, who had already qualified for the play-offs but clinched fourth place by beating the Houston Rockets 126-111.

Anthony Edwards top-scored with 43 points as the Timberwolves beat the Utah Jazz 116-105 to finish sixth and set-up a play-off with the Los Angeles Lakers.

The play-offs begin with the play-in tournament between the four teams finishing seventh to 10th in the regular season.

Seventh play eighth – with the winners going straight into the play-offs to face the second seed.

But the losers get a second

chance, as they then face the winners of the play-in match between the teams in ninth and 10th. The losers of that game are eliminated, while the winners go into the play-offs to face the top seeds.

Play-off rounds are decided by a best-of-seven series, with match-ups decided by seedings.

The first round is followed by the conference semi-finals, then the conference finals, with the winners of each conference meeting in the NBA Finals.

The NBA play-ins take place between Wednesday and Friday. The play-offs are scheduled between 19 April and 2 June.