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Qatari Lekhwiya Coach Stunned by Devastating Defeat in Tehran TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Lekhwiya



Lekhwiya Danish coach Michael Laudrup claimed he didn't expect Iran's Persepolis to hand a heavy defeat to his team.

Iranian Runner Sets New Record Climbing Milad Tower

stairs of Tehran's Milad Tower in 10 and also the 17th tallest freestand-

TEHRAN (MNA) - Setting a minutes and 41 seconds, improving ing structure in the world which is new record, Iranian marathon run- his own record by eight seconds. Miner Ahmad Asadi has climbed 1693 lad Tower is the sixth tallest tower Trade and Convention Center.

a part of The Tehran International



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The Qatari outfit lost to Persepolis 3-0 in Tehran's Azadi Stadium in the AFC Champions League Group

"I didn't expect this result, it was unexpected. I am satisfied with the way we played in the first half but we played disappointing in the sec-

ond half," Laudrup said in the post

"I predicted Persepolis would play

well against us. As I said they will

play good in the AFC Champions

League despite their poor results in

"We have to accept this victory

and we have just to keep going. We

will try to win our next match," for-

the Iranian league," he added.

mer Swansea coach said.

match news conference.

team. stunned

A on Tuesday.

marathon runner Ahmad Asadi

Brazil to Welcome Men's Club World Championship

LAUSANNE (FIVB) - The FIVB is pleased to confirm that the FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship 2015 will take place from October 27 to November 1, with Brazilian club Sada Cruzeiro hosting the annual tournament for the third year in a row in Belo Horizonte.

The 11th edition of the Men's Club World Championship will see eight of the world's top clubs travel to one of volleyball's heartlands.

Belogorie Belgorod won last year's tournament, marking the first time a Russian team had won gold in the competition.

UPCN San Juan of Argentina are the only team to have qualified for the tournament so far. They booked their berth after beating none other than Sada Cruzeiro to the 2015 South American Men's Club Championship in five sets on February 15. UPCN also beat Sada Cruzeiro to the bronze medal at last year's edition of the Men's Club World Championship so will be hoping history repeats itself in 2015 as they strive for a top three place.

Sada Cruzeiro will be eager to return to the podium of the Men's Club World Championship for the first time since 2013, when they won the tournament. They currently lead the Brazilian Superliga by 10 points and will be aiming to take their domestic

form to the world stage in October. Both teams will likely face stiff competition from at least one of Europe's top sides, with the eventual winners of the CEV DenizBank Volleyball Men's Champions League also qualifying for the Men's Club World Championship. There are currently six teams battling it out for a place in the Final Four of the tournament, set to be hosted by Berlin Recycling in Germany, with the eventual champions crowned on March 29. The winner of the 2015 African Men's Club Championship, which takes place from March 5-17, will also earn a berth to the tournament. Last year it was Esperance of Tunisia who represented the continent, but they struggled to make an impact, failing to win a set throughout the competition.

NORCECA and Asia will both also have representatives at the tournament, with three wildcards to be decided later in the year completing the line-up.

The FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship was first held in 1989 and ran until 1992. The tournament was resurrected in 2009 with Italian club Trentino winning the first four editions. Sada Cruzeiro broke their grasp on the trophy in 2013 before Belogorie Belgorod added their name to the honors list last year.

Ali Karimi, the Most **Popular Persepolis Player** in the Last Two Decades



Ali Karimi

TEHRAN (Persian League) - -Former Iranian international Ali Karimi is the most popular Persepolis player in the last two decades according to the latest poll in Navad TV show.

Almost 26% of the fans said Karimi was their favorite Persepolis player in the last 20 years. Former Bayern Munich midfielder was not playing for the Reds in his latest years before retirement due to disagreement with coach Ali Daei despite saying many times that he wants to bid farewell

with Persepolis jersey. After Karimi, goalkeeper AhmadReza Abedzadeh with 21%, Ali Daei with 21%, Karim Bagheri with 18% and Mehdi Mahdavikia with 14% placed second to fifth in the poll repectively.

Kayhan

Karimi, who was known for his amazing dribbling skills, was arguably one of Iran's all-time best players. He was often referred to as the Asian Maradona and was regarded as one of Asia's greatest footballers.

First Qatar 2022 Local **Organizing Committee Meeting Held in Doha**

Local Organizing Committee (LOC) held their first board meeting with representatives from FIFA in Doha On Wednesday, marking another major milestone in the preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup QatarTM.

LOC CEO Hassan Al Thawadi, Deputy CEO Nasser Al Khater and COO Sakis Batsilas outlined Qatar's vision for the 22nd edition of football's flagship event, to be staged in the Middle East for the first time. The main focus of the meeting was to present the Tournament Operation Master Plan (TOMP) to FIFA, which proposes Qatar's unique hosting concept based on the compact World Cup.

The TOMP also included a presentation from the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) on stadium development, while highlighting progress on extensive transportation network links which will connect stadiums and other venues across the country. Hassan Al Thawadi, LOC CEO, said: "Today's meeting was a significant milestone as we continue to make progress towards hosting an outstanding FIFA World Cup which will leave a lasting legacy for future generations in the Middle East. This was an opportunity to demonstrate our operational preparations and ensure we are ready to deliver the tournament as early as possible. "The first LOC board meeting is a symbol that this World Cup is not simply a concept for a tournament that will be held in the distant future. It is evidence that we are working every single day to deliver a unique tournament that will bring people in the Middle East together and build bridges between East and West." Jerome Valcke, FIFA Secretary General, added: "We had a very constructive first LOC Board meeting and are pleased with the work accomplished to date by the LOC especially in delivering a first customized operational plan to the specifications of the host country

DOHA (FIFA) - The Qatar 2022 As we have done with previous host ing partners, we will help find solutions that work best locally including considerations for beyond the event itself. The next important step will be for the LOC to provide FIFA with feasibility studies to identify the best number of venues to ensure perfect playing conditions for the teams. We aim to have a confirmation of dates, length of tournament and final number of stadia to be used by end of this year.

> "Talking about sustainability, it was very encouraging to see yesterday the Al-Wakrah stadium construction site as well as the respective workers' living facilities. I am no expert on these issues but I can see that progress is being made particularly with the standards introduced by the Supreme Committee related to 2022 infrastructure. At the same time, recognizing this is a complex issue, it is vital for the Qatari authorities to continue to work on with labor experts to ensure that the initiated measures on welfare standards are sustainably implemented for all workers in Qatar and not limited to 2022 projects' The Qatar 2022 LOC, which started to assume its responsibilities in 2010 immediately after Qatar won the rights to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup, will focus on operational planning, tournament preparedness and coordinating with FIFA on all competition related matters. The SC, meanwhile, will continue to deliver all tournament-related infrastructures and coordinate with various government bodies to ensure all related projects are delivered to leave a lasting legacy beyond the tournament. The LOC, SC and FIFA will work closely together in delivering on the all the requirements to host a historic World Cup in the Middle East for the very first time. Following a recommendation to FI-FA's Executive Committee by the International Match Calendar Task Force to switch the tournament to November and December, LOC CEO Al Thawadi added: "We are ready to host at any time depending on the wishes of the global football community."

FIRA 3v3 1118 World Championship

Debrecen to Host the 2015

DEBRECEN (FIBA) - The 2015 FIBA 3x3 U18 World Championships will take place in Debrecen, Hungary, it was announced on Tuesday by FIBA, the Hungarian Basketball Federation and the host city at a press conference to mark 100 days before the start of the event.

It will not be the first time the second largest city in the country hosts a major basketball event - Debrecen will also be one of the venues of EuroBasket Women 2015 - but never before has it organized an event of this magnitude.

"It's the first time that Hungary has been awarded the right to organize a World Championships in basketball. It is fantastic," Hungarian Basketball Federation President Ferenc Szalay rejoiced.

The event will be held from 4-7 June in the heart of Debrecen on Kossuth Square, facing the iconic Reformed Great Church, in accordance with 3x3's philosophy to bring basketball to the people with no entrance fee in high-traffic and inspiring locations.

"This event is of outstanding pro-

motional value for our city and I'm convinced that it will popularize this discipline among the youth," Debrecen mayor Laszlo Papp said. Former Hungarian basketball star Timea Beres was revealed as a first ambassador for the event.

The competition will bring together 48 teams (24 men and 24 women) from 36 countries.

Men: Andorra, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland,

Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Spain, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Vietnam.

Women: Andorra, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, Guam, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, United States, Venezuela.

The automatic seeding based on the 3x3 Federation Ranking will be revealed on 4 May.

Nominations Open for AFC Dream Asia 2014 Awards

KUALA LUMPUR (AFC) - AFC Member Associations have been invited to submit their nominations for the AFC Dream Asia Awards for the vear 2014.

The awards, available in three categories -- Corporate, Non-Governmental Organization and Individual

-- are presented annually to recognize and honor those who have shown exemplary commitment towards social development using football as an agent of change.

The AFC Social Responsibility Department made the official invitation on February 18 and Member Associations can make their nominations by downloading and completing the Awards Application Form below.

The closing date to submit the nomination form together with the activity report and all relevant material is March 16, 1700hrs Malaysian time.

Timeline:

February 18: Official notification to Member Associations

March 16: Close of nominations March 18: Screening process April 6: Official notification to recipients via respective Member Associations