

Qatari Lekhwiya Coach Stunned by Devastating Defeat in Tehran



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TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Lekhwiya Danish coach Michael Laudrup claimed he didn't expect Iran's Persepolis to hand a heavy defeat to his team, stunned.

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

"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 second half," Laudrup said in the post match news conference.

"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 the Iranian league," he added.

"We have to accept this victory and we have just to keep going. We will try to win our next match," former Swansea coach said.

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 Mahdavi with 14% placed second to fifth in the poll respectively.

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.

Iranian Runner Sets New Record Climbing Milad Tower

TEHRAN (MNA) - Setting a new record, Iranian marathon runner Ahmad Asadi has climbed 1693 stairs of Tehran's Milad Tower in 10 minutes and 41 seconds, improving his own record by eight seconds. Milad Tower is the sixth tallest tower and also the 17th tallest freestanding structure in the world which is a part of The Tehran International Trade and Convention Center.



Setting a new record, Iranian 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 quali-

fied 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.

Debrecen to Host the 2015 FIBA 3x3 U18 World Championships

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 year 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 Mem-

ber 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

Following a recommendation to FIFA'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."