

Iran Advance to 2017 FIFA U-20 World Cup



Amir Peiravani paid tribute to the influence of senior national team coach Carlos Queiroz as Islamic Republic of Iran qualified for the finals of the FIFA U-20 World Cup

Isa Town (AFC) - **Reza Jafari's brace booked Islamic Republic of Iran a place in the semi-finals of the AFC U-19 Championship Bahrain 2016 on Monday evening as Amir Peiravani's side handed Uzbekistan a 2-0 defeat to also qualify for the finals of next year's FIFA U-20 World Cup in Korea Republic.**

A goal in each half from Jafari sets up a meeting with Saudi Arabia in the last four, and also sees the Iranians qualify for the finals of the global youth tournament for the first time since 2001.

Jafari's two well-taken goals were backed up by a resolute defensive performance by Iran, who largely limited Uzbekistan to a series of attempts from outside the area that caused goalkeeper Shahab Adeli few problems.

After making a raft of changes for his side's final group match against China, Uzbekistan coach Jasur Abduraimov reverted to his preferred starting line-up as the Central Asian side set their sights on qualifying for the FIFA U-20 World Cup for the third tournament in a row.

It was the Iranians, though, who made the strongest start and, by the 13th minute, Peiravani's team had taken the lead. Abolfazl Razzaghpour's free kick into the box was miss-controlled by Reza Shekari before the ball fell at the feet of Jafari and he thumped his shot beyond Umidjon Khamroev.

Uzbekistan pushed for the equaliser throughout the remainder of the half, but the Iranian defence restricted their opponents to attempts from long range.

Jasurbek Yakhshiboev slalomed his way into the area, only to see his shot

blocked, before a series of attempts by Sharof Mukhitdinov from distance. The first from 30 yards was just over the bar while a free kick from similar distance was collected by Adeli at the second attempt. Meanwhile, Khojiakbar Alijonov's shot hit the side netting 11 minutes before the break.

Less than two minutes after the restart, Iran doubled their lead, this time capitalising on some slack play in midfield by the Uzbeks. Shekari picked up possession just inside his own half and played a quick ball forward into the path of Jafari, who outsprinted Islom Kobilov before slotting the ball past Khamroev.

Another Mukhitdinov attempt flew over before Shekari squandered the chance to put the outcome beyond doubt when he dragged his attempt at goal well wide of the target, while with 18 minutes remaining Husniddin Gofurov missed the opportunity to pull Uzbekistan back into the game when he headed over the bar from less than six yards out.

The Uzbeks continued to press - and Shahab was forced to make a spectacular one-handed save from Yakhshiboev in the dying seconds - but Iran's disciplined backline gave little away as Peiravani's team closed out the game to seal an historic result.

Iran's Rowing Team Reaches ARJC Semifinals



Iran's quad scull team reaches ARJC semifinals

TEHRAN (MNA) - Four-strong rowing team of Iran has secured a place in semifinals of the 2016 Asian Rowing Junior Championships (ARJC) underway in Thailand.

The Asian tournament kicked off today in Pattaya of Thailand where Iranian rowers faced rivals in three divisions.

Iran's team, comprising Ali Shahmohammadnia, Amirhossein Mahmoudpoor, Mohammad Hossein Haghi and Kazhuran Salimi, finished earlier than Japanese and Kazakh outfits cruising to the semifinal round.

Ali shahmohammadnia represented Iran at the Men's Single Sculls event

and finished second and was led to the second chance group after competing with rivals from Malaysia, Pakistan, Myanmar and Hong Kong.

Women's Double Sculls event saw Hanieh Bidad and Asra Javanmardi of Iran who faced South Korean, Malaysian and Taiwanese rivals and landed third to find a place in the second chance group.

Organized by the Rowing and Canoeing Association of Thailand, the 2016 Asian Rowing Junior Championships is being held at the water sport training center at BangPhai reservoir of Pattaya and will run through October 27, 2016.

Argentina, Uruguay Reaffirm Interest in Hosting 2030 World Cup

BUENOS AIRES (China Daily) - **Argentina and Uruguay have reaffirmed their interest in hosting the 2030 FIFA World Cup, which will mark the 100-year anniversary of football's showpiece tournament.**

Argentinian president Mauricio Macri and his Uruguayan counterpart Tabare Vazquez made the announcement after bilateral talks covering a wide-range of subjects in Buenos Aires on Monday.

"We reiterate that we will work

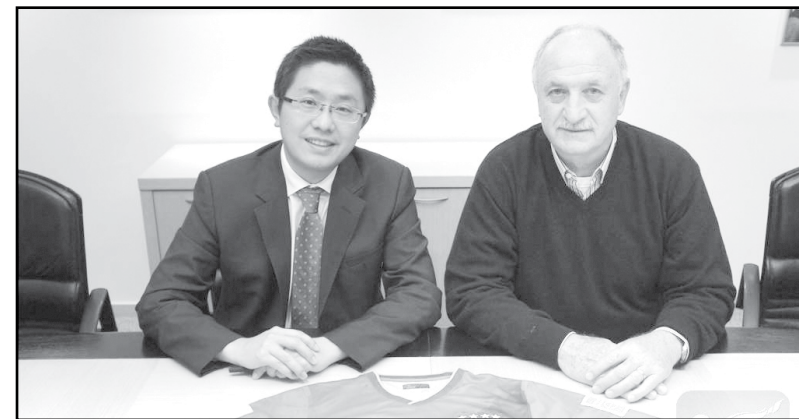
together, aspiring to organize the 2030 World Cup," Macri said.

Vazquez underlined the impact the countries' best players continue to have on world football.

"I am talking about Leo Messi and Luis Suarez," the Uruguayan leader said.

The year 2030 will mark a century since Uruguay won the first World Cup on home soil. FIFA will designate the hosts for the 2026 and 2030 World Cups in 2018.

Scolari Signs New Deal With Guangzhou Evergrande



Brazil coach Luis Felipe Scolari (R) signs with China's soccer team Guangzhou Evergrande

BEIJING (SCMP) - **Guangzhou Evergrande manager Luiz Felipe Scolari signed a new deal with the club after they sealed their sixth consecutive championship, surprising many who expected him to be shown the door.**

Evergrande had agreed a deal for their former manager Marcello Lippi to return, but stood aside to let him take charge of the national team.

But Scolari, 64, agreed a new one-year deal with an option for one more with the club on Monday.

"We firmly believe that with world-class champion coach Scolari as the core of the team's success will help [the club] maintain its leading position and consolidate its championship momentum," said the

club. Evergrande maintained their stranglehold on Chinese football when they went seven points clear with two games to go after Sunday's 1-1 draw with Yanbian Funde.

"I hope Lippi can bring the national team success and if asked I will be happy to help with that," Scolari said after the game.

"But as far my situation is concerned; I want to see out my contract with the club. But right now there has not been any real progress as regards my future here."

Scolari emulated Lippi by winning the AFC Champions League in 2015, but his stock plummeted when their title defence ended at the group stage in this year's competition.

Messi, Modric Nominated for Ballon d'Or

PARIS (Yahoo Sports) - **Five-time winner Lionel Messi is among the latest nominees to be announced by France Football on the shortlist for this year's Ballon d'Or.**

The 29-year-old forward helped Barcelona to a domestic double in Spain this season but missed out on Copa America Centenario glory with Argentina, while rival Cristiano Ronaldo's success in the Champions League with Real Madrid and at Euro 2016 with Portugal has established him as favourite to usurp Messi this time around.

Riyad Mahrez enjoys his first nomination, having inspired Leicester City to a remarkable Premier League title triumph with displays that secured him the PFA Player of the Year award in



Messi, Modric nominated for Ballon d'Or

England.

Tottenham and France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris is included despite a season of near misses at club and

international level last season.

Thomas Muller is shortlisted for the sixth time in seven years after Bayern Munich continued their

dominance of German football and Croatia midfielder Luka Modric is the latest of Real Madrid's Champions League winners to be recognized.

The 30-man shortlist for the Ballon d'Or - which is back under the sole auspice of France Football this year following a split with FIFA - is being revealed in alphabetical five-man groups throughout Monday.

Sergio Aguero, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Gareth Bale, Gianluigi Buffon, Ronaldo, Kevin De Bruyne, Paulo Dybala, Diego Godin, Antoine Griezmann, Gonzalo Higuain, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Andres Iniesta, Koke, Toni Kroos and Robert Lewandowski are the other names in the running.

Russia's Kuznetsova Beats Poland's Radwanska

MOSCOW (TASS) - **Russian tennis player Svetlana Kuznetsova has beaten Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland in three sets (7-5; 1-6; 7-5) in a White Group Round Robin match at**

the 2016 WTA Finals in Singapore.

Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic and Spaniard Garbine Muguruza will meet in another White Group match later on Monday.

Kuznetsova will play her second match against Muguruza on October 26.

The Red Group comprises Angelic Kerber of Germany, Dominika

Cibulkova of Slovakia, Simona Halep of Romania and Maddison Keys of the United States.

The 2016 WTA finals will end in Singapore on October 30.

John John Florence Crowned World Surfing Champion

LISBON (AFP) - **Hawaii's John John Florence became world surfing champion for the first time on Tuesday after South Africa's Jordy Smith was eliminated in the semi-finals in Portugal.**

The 24-year-old had advanced to the finals of the Portugal Pro

event held off the coast of Peniche in central Portugal with a win over California's Kolohe Andino.

He was able to claim the title before the final stage in Hawaii in December after Smith -- the only rival with enough points to beat him -- was defeated by Conner

Coffin of the United States.

"My whole life has gone toward this. I can't believe I'm the World Champion. That was my goal. This is my dream. I'm so stoked," he said.

Florence finished in first place in the classification with 56,400

points, followed by Brazil's Gabriel Medina who had 45,450 points and Smith with 41,700 points.

He is the fourth Hawaiian ever to win a world title after Derek Ho in 1993, Sunny Garcia in 2000 and Andy Irons in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

Iran Land Second at IWF Youth World C'ships

TEHRAN (MNA) - **Iran's junior weightlifters stood on the second podium overall at the 2016 Youth World Weightlifting Championships underway in Malaysia.**

National Iranian junior weightlifting squad bagged a total

of 471 points at the Asian sportive event falling behind Russia who won the title.

Russians scooped the gold medal by earning an aggregate total of 489 points while the Polish outfit stood in the third place with 456 points.

Ali Davoudi (+94kg), Hossein Soltani (69kg), Mohammad Roshani (+94kg), Ahmad Ahmadnejad (77kg), Taghi Aghazadeh (77kg), Alireza Lotfi (94kg), Mohammad Moedi (85kg) and Mahdi Papi (85kg) bagged 84, 73, 67, 67, 63,

61, 46 and 10 points respectively for the Iranian side.

The 2016 Youth World Weightlifting Championships is currently underway in Penang of Malaysia and the action wrapped up October 25.