

Iran Beach Soccer Beats Oman in Two Friendlies

MUSCAT, Oman (Dispatches) – Iran national beach soccer team has defeated Oman in two friendly matches in Muscat.

Team Melli defeated Oman 2-1 and 6-3 as part of preparation for the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) World Beach Games in Qatar.

Iran has been drawn in Group C along with Ukraine, Senegal and Paraguay.

Abbas Hashempour's team will face Ukraine on October 11 and play Senegal and Paraguay on October 13 and 14, respectively.



The international beach multi-sport event is being organized by the ANOC and hosted by the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC).

More than 1,300 athletes from around 90 countries are expected to participate in the event.

Men's Beach Soccer
Group A: Brazil, Switzerland, UAE and Morocco

Group B: Italy, Spain, Mexico and Solomon Islands

Group C: Iran, Paraguay, Senegal and Ukraine

Group D: Russia, Japan, Uruguay and El Salvador

China Reach Men's Team Final of Gymnastics Worlds

STUTTGART (Xinhua) -- China have qualified for the men's team final at the 2019 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships, finishing runners-up in the qualification round.

With 258.354 points, China qualified behind leaders Russia (259.928), but ahead of Japan (258.026) who finished third. The United States finished seventh out of eight qualifiers with 250.359 points.

Xiao Ruoteng (85.831/3rd)



and Sun Wei (84.899/5th) managed to reach the men's individual all-around final, where Russia's Nikita Nagornyy (87.333) led the way ahead of compatriot Artur Dalaloyan (86.531).

Zou Jingyuan finished fourth (14.958) on the pommel horse, with Britain's Max Whitlock (15.266) finishing first. 2017 all-around gold medal winner Xiao missed the final after an unsuccessful performance in which he dropped off the apparatus.

AC Milan Set to Sack Coach Giampaolo -- Reports



Marco Giampaolo has lost four of his seven games in charge of AC Milan.

MILAN (AFP) - AC Milan are set to sack coach Marco Giampaolo after a dreadful start to the season, according to multiple reports in Italy on Tuesday.

The former European giants are 13th in Serie A -- three points above the relegation zone.

Giampaolo, 52, replaced Gennaro Gattuso during the summer, but the former Sampdoria boss has suffered four defeats in his

first seven games, including a 2-0 loss to city rivals Inter.

Milan went on to lose their next two matches against Torino and Fiorentina before last weekend's 2-1 victory at Genoa.

Former Inter Milan coach Luciano Spalletti is the 18-time Italian champions' first choice to replace Giampaolo, according to Gazzetta Dello Sport and Sky Sport Italia.

Qatar's World Cup Challenge Magnified by Track Worlds Issues

DOHA, Qatar (AP) -- By day, Juma Marzouq approves Qatar's masterplans for the vast stadium infrastructure for the 2022 World Cup. By night, Marzouq goes into fan mode, tackling the challenge of filling soccer arenas in this tiny nation.

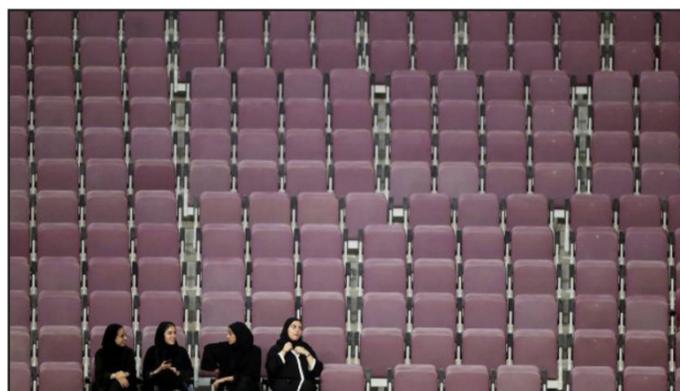
Marzouq has seen encouraging signs since Qatar's breakthrough on the field in February, when it won the Asian Cup for its first major soccer title.

The urban planning expert last week glanced around the near-full stands of Al Sadd's 15,000-seat stadium for the visit of Saudi Arabian side Al Hilal in the semifinals of the Asian Champions League, a small victory for the hosts.

"We have a new generation coming to the stadiums," Marzouq said.

It isn't always like this at soccer - or any other sport in Qatar - despite the ruling family's thirst for bidding for elite events.

Almost 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) from Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium, far less boisterous scenes played out at Khalifa Stadium for most of the 10 days of the world track and field championships that ended Sunday. Organizers were left trying to explain away the thousands of empty seats.



Spectators sit in nearly empty seats the World Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar, Monday, Sept. 30, 2019.

Di Francesco Leaves Sampdoria After Eight Games in Charge



Di Francesco has been dismissed after losing six of seven Serie A games with Sampdoria

ROME (AFP) - Coach Eusebio Di Francesco has left Sampdoria by mutual consent after only eight games in charge, the struggling Serie A club has announced.

The 50-year-old, who was sacked by Roma in March, had seen his Sampdoria outfit slump to the bottom of the Italian top flight after six defeats in their first seven matches this season.

The Genoa club sit three points from safety after Saturday's 2-0 loss at Verona.

Di Francesco led Roma to the 2017-18 Champions League semifinals after a run which included an incredible comeback against Barcelona in the last eight after losing the first leg 4-1.

According to Italian media reports, former Inter Milan and Fiorentina boss Stefano Pioli and the 67-year-old Claudio Ranieri, who took over from Di Francesco as interim coach at Roma last term, are in contention for the vacant Sampdoria job.

Real Madrid Top La Liga as Barca Thrash Sevilla



MADRID (Dispatches) -- Real Madrid go into the international break as leaders of La Liga after a 4-2 win at home to Granada in Spain's Matchday 8.

Zinedine Zidane's side were able to put their midweek Champions League disappointment against Club Brugge behind them against a side who traveled to Madrid second in the table.

Karim Benzema's second minute opener put Madrid on track after a pass from Gareth Bale, and Eden Hazard's first goal for the club on the brink of half-time made it 2-0.

When Luka Modric added a third for the home side in the 61st minute it looked to be game

over, but an error from goalkeeper Alphonse Areola on his full debut gave Granada a lifeline from the penalty spot which Darwin Machis duly converted.

When Domingos de Sousa added a second for the visitors in the 77th minute there were nerves around the Santiago Bernabeu stadium until James Rodriguez assured the home side of the win with a 92nd minute goal.

FC Barcelona continued their improved form with a 4-0 win at home to Sevilla, with goals from Luis Suarez, Arturo Vidal, Ousmane Dembele and Lionel Messi in a game where summer signing Antoine Griezmann didn't play a single minute.

Rublev Upsets Coric in 1st Round of Shanghai Masters



Andrey Rublev, of Russia watches his shot as he plays against Borna Coric of Croatia in their men's singles match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019.

SHANGHAI (AP) - Unseeded Andrey Rublev of Russia upset Borna Coric of Croatia 6-4, 7-6 (4) in the first round of the Shanghai Masters on Tuesday.

The 12th-seeded Coric was runner-up in Shanghai last year, losing to Novak Djokovic in straight sets in the final.

Two Americans - 16th-seeded John Isner and Reilly Opelka - are through to the second round.

Isner ousted Alex De Minaur of Australia 7-6 (1), 6-4, and Opelka defeated Dusan Lajovic of Serbia 6-3, 6-4.

Italy's Matteo Berrettini, who reached his first Grand Slam

semifinal at the U.S. Open last month, posted a 6-2, 6-1 first-round victory over Jan-Lennard Struff of Germany.

It was a 36th win of the season for the 11th-seeded Berrettini. He has won 30 of those matches since defeating Struff on April 22.

Second seed Roger Federer, third seed Daniil Medvedev and wildcard recipient Andy Murray all play their second round matches later.

A number of outside court matches have been suspended by rain. Scheduled stadium matches have proceeded under the roof.