

Carlos Queiroz to Stay as Iran Coach



Carlos Queiroz

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Carlos Queiroz finally reached an agreement with Iran Football Federation (IFF) on Saturday to work until the 2018 World Cup.

"I had a good session with the football federation and Iran's sports minister officials today. We are looking forward to the future," Queiroz told reporters.

The Portuguese coach had announced his resignation following a 3-1 friendly defeat to Sweden on March 31, claiming he had the support of neither the government nor the federation.

Former Real Madrid coach took Team Melli (the Iranian national football team) charge in April 2011 and led the team to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Iran also made the quarterfinals of the Asian Cup in Australia earlier this year, where it was defeated on penalties by Iraq.

2 Iranian Referees to Judge 2015 World Taekwondo Championships

TEHRAN (MNA) - The World Taekwondo Federation has selected two International Iranian referees to preside over the 2015 WTF World Taekwondo Championships in Russia.

Sirous Rezaei and Hafez Mahdavi are the two Iranian top ranking referees that have been selected

by the World Taekwondo Federation to preside over the 22nd WTF World Taekwondo Championships in Russia.

The 2015 WTF World Taekwondo Championships will take place from May 12-18, 2015 in the Russian city of Cheboksary.

AFC Disciplinary Committee Decisions

KUALA LUMPUR (AFC) - The AFC Disciplinary Committee convened on April 21 and 22 to deliberate on disciplinary cases in AFC club competitions. The decisions are listed below.

AFC Cup

Yadanarbon (MYA) player Zaw Lynn Tun (MYA) received a red card in the AFC Cup group stage match Global FC (PHI) vs. Yadanarbon on April 15, 2015. In addition to the automatic suspension for the sending off, he will be suspended for one further AFC Cup match. Thus, Zaw Lynn Tun will not be eligible to play in Yadanarbon's next two matches: Pahang FA (MAS) vs. Yadanarbon on April 29, 2015 and Yadanarbon vs. South China (HKG) on 13 May 2015.

AFC Champions League

Tractorsazi Tabriz (IRN) player Farshad Ahmadzadeh Borouki (IRN) was sent off in the Tractorsazi Tabriz vs. Al Ahli (KSA) AFC

Champions League group stage match on April 7, 2015. The AFC Disciplinary Committee decided to suspend Farshad Ahmadzadeh Borouki for one match in addition to the automatic one-match suspension, which was served in the Tractorsazi Tabriz vs. Nasaf (UZB) match on April 21, 2015. The player will also not be eligible to play in the Al Ahli (UAE) vs. Tractorsazi Tabriz ACL match on May 5, 2015.

Beijing Guoan (CHN) player Lang Zheng (CHN) received a red card in the ACL group stage match Urawa Red Diamonds (JPN) vs. Beijing Guoan on April 8, 2015. He was suspended for one match in addition to the automatic one-match suspension, which was served in the Beijing Guoan vs. Brisbane Roar (AUS) match on April 21, 2015. The second suspension is valid for the Suwon Samsung FC (KOR) vs. Beijing Guoan match on May 5, 2015.

Iran Learns Opponents in FINA World Water Polo Development Trophy

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iran has been drawn in Group B of the 5th FINA World Men's Water Polo Development Trophy.

Group A consists of Morocco, Malta, Trinidad & Tobago, Ecuador, Kuwait and Azerbaijan.

Iran has been drawn in Group B along with Austria, Tunisia, Uruguay, Guatemala, and Indonesia.

The competition will be held in Tehran's Shahid Shiroudi Stadium from May 24 to 29 with the partici-

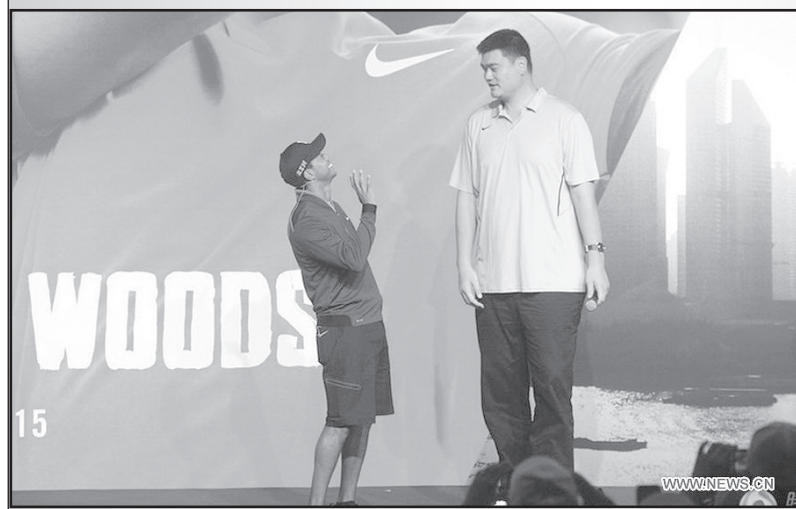
pation of 12 teams.

Launched in 2007, the FINA Water Polo Development Trophy gathers teams from nations in Africa, the Americas and Asia where it is still not a major sport, seeking to develop water polo on a global level.

Twelve teams that do not usually participate in FINA water polo events are selected and invited to compete in this event, organized every two years.

Fina	
Men's Water Polo Development Trophy	
May 24-29	
Competition Groups	
Group A	Group B
A1 MAR - Morocco	B1 TUN - Tunisia
A2 MLT - Malta	B2 AUT - Austria
A3 TRI - Trinidad & Tobago	B3 URU - Uruguay
A4 ECU - Ecuador	B4 GUA - Guatemala
A5 KUW - Kuwait	B5 IRI - Iran
A6 AZE - Azerbaijan	B6 INA - Indonesia

Woods Plays Golf With Yao Ming in Shanghai Visit



Tiger Woods talks to Yao Ming in his commercial visit to Shanghai on April 24, 2015.

SHANGHAI (Xinhua) -- American golfer Tiger Woods, 14-time major champion, met former NBA Rockets center Yao Ming on his commercial visit in Shanghai Friday and the two stars exchanged skills on their respective specialized sport.

This is the ninth time for the golf icon coming to China since 2001, playing tournaments and attending commercial activities as well. Woods accumulatively earned at least 33 million US dollars from China in those China visits.

Woods demonstrated how to tee off to Yao Ming and the crowd of

golf fans before he gave hand-to-hand instructions to Yao, who is also a golf lover. Woods then attempted basketball shootings under Yao's direction.

In his 2006 visit to Shanghai for HSBC Champions, Woods showed skill on table tennis. In 2009 edition of HSBC Champions, Woods played Chinese chess with Phil Mickelson on the bank of Huangpu River in Shanghai. Coming in 2010, Woods posed like a sword master.

The former world No. 1, who came back from a two-month lay-off to finish equal 17th at the Masters in Augusta this month.

Soccer Faces Ping-Pong Challenge

BEIJING (China Daily) - Chinese soccer could struggle to attract youngsters away from table tennis and badminton and needs a home-grown star playing in Europe before it really takes off, ex-England boss Sven-Goran Eriksson said.

President Xi Jinping has high ambitions for soccer's sleeping giant, including a rumored bid to hold the World Cup - a tournament which 82nd-ranked China has only reached once.

Eriksson, the coach of Shanghai SIPG, backed China's new plans to raise standards, including training players from an early age and introducing the sport to more schools.

But speaking to AFP in Shanghai, the well-traveled Swede warned it will take "some

years" before any evidence of improvement is apparent.

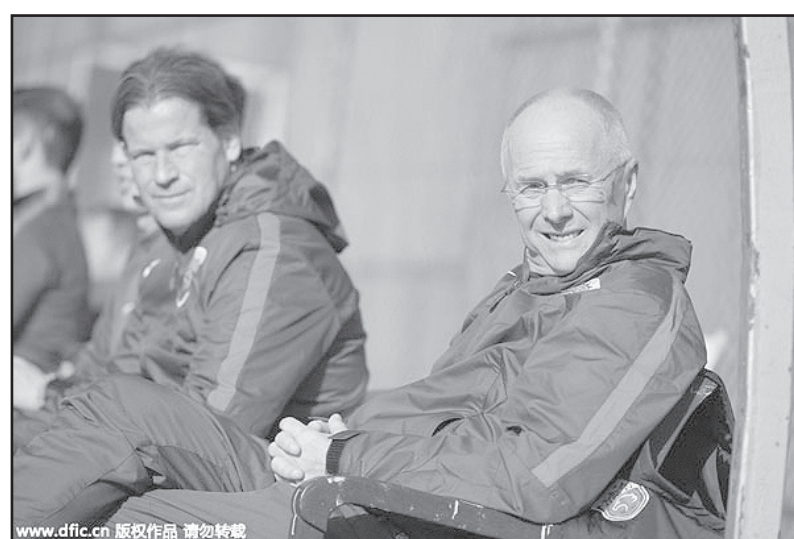
"The reason for that is that the grassroots soccer is almost non-existent," Eriksson said.

"That is a pity because young people - boys, girls - they play badminton, they play ping-pong, they play basketball. Soccer ... almost nothing."

China dominates Olympic table tennis and badminton, and basketball has a long tradition in the country highlighted by the NBA exploits of Yao Ming.

But Eriksson said Chinese youngsters did not have the access to spaces to play soccer that children in Europe enjoy, putting them at a disadvantage.

"If you go to the parks it is always written in Chinese 'Don't walk on the grass,'" he said, be-



Sven-Goran Eriksson, right, head coach of Shanghai SIPG Football Club smiles during a friendly match against FC Universitatea Craiova in Antalya, Turkey.

fore drawing a comparison to London's green spaces.

"Hyde Park, Regent's Park.

Saturdays, Sundays. What are people doing there? Playing soccer.

De Gea Offered a Lot of Money

LONDON (FIFA) - Louis van Gaal says Manchester United have offered David de Gea "a lot of money" in a bid to keep the goalkeeper at Old Trafford. De Gea is in the running to win the PFA Player of the Year award following a string of fine performances for United.

In January Van Gaal said he expected the 24-year-old to extend his contract, which expires in June 2016, but three months on, there are no signs of progress. That is not due to a lack of willing on United's part. They have offered the Spaniard a bumper new deal as they are desperate for him to stay, Van Gaal has revealed.

"It takes a long time now," the United boss said when asked how negotiations are progressing. "It can always happen. I am not the boss. I want him to stay. The player is the boss he can say yes or no. You will have to ask David de Gea (if he is staying), not me. He has to sign. We have offered him a lot of money."

Although Van Gaal wants the former Atletico Madrid man to stay, he at least knows he already has a tailor-made replacement in three-time UEFA Champions League winner Victor Valdes, who has not played for United since signing on a free transfer in January. The club have been scouring the planet for players in other positions, most notably in midfield and in the wide positions.

Van Gaal would neither confirm nor deny reports he had met with PSV Eindhoven forward Memphis Depay.

"I don't discuss it with the media," Van Gaal said of the Eredivisie top scorer, who was a regular for Holland under the United manager. "I have a lot of relationships with players. I cannot buy all the players I've coached already."

Van Gaal had to wait until towards the end of the transfer window last summer before completing all his signings and he concedes that may be the case this summer too.

"Of course it's an advantage (to start early) but it's also dependable on the market, which players are free, which players want the clubs in the world to sell. It's not so easy and I don't want to buy every player," he said.

Van Gaal's men will look to strengthen their grip on third place when they travel to Everton on Sunday. Two days after United's defeat at Goodison Park last year David Moyes was sacked and Ryan Giggs took charge on a temporary basis. The former United winger presided over four matches before accepting an offer to become Van Gaal's assistant. On Friday, the Dutchman said he expected Giggs to succeed him as manager.

"I expect that he (Giggs) will be the next manager after I am gone," said Van Gaal, whose contract expires in 2017. "Now I have the responsibility. He has tasks that he has to perform like the players. What he has to do, for me, he does it very well."