

By Lifting the Sanctions, FIFA Releases Iran's Blocked Money



Logo of FIFA

ZURICH (Persian League) - By congratulating Iranian nuclear team, Mehdi Taj, the head of the league organization, announced that, "we should congratulate the Iranian nuclear team on their great achievement, especially Dr. Zarif."

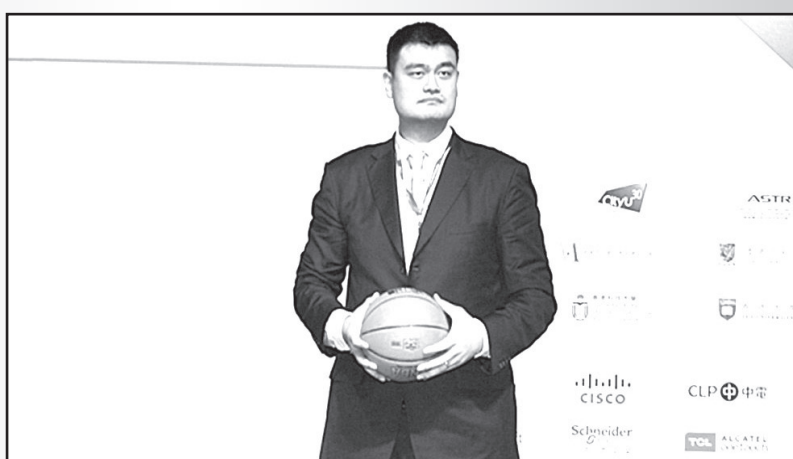
In response to the issue of Iran's money blocked by FIFA, he said, "Iran's money will be released soon."

The blocked money is about 8 million dollars.

NBA icon Yao Ming to Meet Hong Kong Students

HONG KONG, (Xinhua) -- Retired basketball superstar Yao Ming will meet some 1,400 secondary school students and teachers in Hong Kong on Thursday to share the experiences of his career, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HK-SAR) government news website said on Tuesday.

The event, entitled Yao Ming and You: Close Encounter with the Living Legend, aims at promoting positive attitudes and values among students.



Yao Ming

Yao will encourage the students to set worthy goals and work hard, inspiring them to think about life planning from different angles. He will also coach student basketball players in front of the audience.

The activity is organized jointly by the "Passing on the Torch" National Education Activities Platform, the Hong Kong-Shanghai Economic Development Association and the Education Bureau of the HKSAR government.

Keita Signs New Roma Deal

ROME (FIFA) - Roma have rewarded Seydou Keita following his

joined Roma as a free agent last summer and scored two

domestic campaign. The Mali international's previous deal had expired on 30 June.

A statement from Roma read: "AS Roma announces that it has signed a new contract with Seydou Keita to keep the player at the club for the 2015/16 season."

Keita, who began his professional career at Ligue 1 side Marseille and won La Liga three times and the Champions League twice with Barcelona from 2008 until 2012, is delighted to continue at the club.

"I rejected some huge offers because this club and the fans here have always shown me so much love and respect," he said on the club's official website. "I'm at a very important stage of my career and I'm happy to sign on with

Roma.

"It's true that money is important but at my age love and respect are important too. We're starting out on a season and I hope it's better than last year, both on a personal level and for the club."

Keita believes that Roma have enough quality to challenge Juventus for the Scudetto in the 2015/16 campaign.

"(Last season) we finished second but the club always wants to win and we players have to go one better if we want to improve on last year," he said.

"We have to get up on a par with Juventus while competing with the other big teams like AC Milan, Inter and Napoli. Roma want to be right up there in the mix. It won't be easy but we have to do better than last season."



Keita signs new Roma deal

strong first season at the club with a new one-year deal, the Serie A club announced.

The 35-year-old midfielder

goals in 26 league appearances to help the Giallorossi finish runners-up to Italian champions Juventus in the 2014/15

Turkey to Build Stadium in Gaza

GAZA, Palestine (Anadolu Agency) - Turkey will build a 20,000-seat stadium according to international standard in the Gaza Strip to support sports in Palestine, officials revealed on Tuesday.

A member of the Higher Council of Youth and Sports in the Gaza Strip, Abd al-Salam Haniyeh, said the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) would build the stadium.

"The approval for the stadium's construction by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is one of the best contributions Turkey has provided to Palestinian sports," he said. Haniyeh added the stadium would be named Erdogan Stadium.

Haniyeh said, earlier on Sunday, that TIKA held an iftar (breaking



Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) plans to build 20,000-seat stadium in Gaza Strip

of fast) program for 700 Palestinian athletes and donated \$225,000 to the Palestinian sports institutes.

According to the data provided by the Palestinian Ministry of Sports, a total of 30 sports facilities were destroyed and 32 athletes were killed in the Israeli offensive in Gaza last summer.

Over 2,160 Palestinians were killed and thousands injured in the onslaught - mostly civilians - while hundreds of homes and broad swathes of infrastructure were reduced to rubble across the territory, according to the UN.

At least 73 Israelis - 68 soldiers and five civilians - were also killed during the 51-day conflict.

Iran Backs Russia's Hosting of World Cup 2018



Russian envoy calls for Iran support in 2018 World Cup

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Sports and Youth Mahmoud Goudarzi said Monday that following signing an MoU with Russia on sports cooperation, Iran will officially announce its support for Russia's hosting of World Cup 2018.

Goudarzi made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran with Russian ambassador to Iran Levan Jagarian.

Describing Tehran-Moscow relations as broad, positive and long-standing, Goudarzi said that Iran is willing to further promote relations

with Russia.

Referring to a recent meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization on the sidelines of which President Hassan Rouhani met with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, Goudarzi said that the two-hour discussion of the two presidents was constructive and positive.

He said that under the MoU signed between the two countries, Iran expects Russia to cooperate with Iran on sports areas, including exchange of coaches and holding camps.

Reaching Final A Secret Between Us: Iran's Coach Marco Octavio

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iranian national beach soccer's coach Marco Octavio said to reach the 2015 Beach Soccer World Cup final remains a secret between him and his men.

Iran advanced from Group C after beating favorite Spain and Mexico. Team Melli lost to Brazil 4-3 but qualified for the quarter-final and has been Scheduled to face Tahiti on Thursday.

"This a big event for us, advancing to the Final Eight and I

am proud of my players," Octavio said.

"We were drawn in a tough group and succeeded to qualify for the next stage but it's not enough for us. We have a bigger goal in the competition," the Brazilian coach added.

Asked him to reach to the final match is a dream could come true, Octavio said, "It's a secret between us. Right now, we just think about our Thursday match against Tahiti."

Iran's Opponents in 2015 AFC Women's Futsal Championship Announced

KUALALUMPUR (Press TV) - The Islamic Republic of Iran has been pitted against Hong Kong, Malaysia and Uzbekistan in Group A of the preliminary round of the 2015 Asian

Thailand and Vietnam.

The 2015 AFC Women's Futsal Championship will be held in Malaysia from September 21 to 26, 2015.

Iran qualified for the forthcoming



The 2015 AFC Women's Futsal Championship will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,

Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Futsal Championship scheduled to be staged in late September.

The draw event was held at the AFC headquarters in the Malaysian capital city of Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

Group B consists of China, Japan,

ing sports event after it finished runner-up in Women's Futsal at the 2013 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Incheon, South Korea.

Futsal matches took place from June 26 to July 6, 2013 at the Songdo Global Campus and the Dongbu Students Gymnasium.