

Iran Representatives in Japan AFC Coaching Program

TEHRAN (MNA) – Representatives from Iranian football family will be present in Japan's Asian Football Confederation (AFC) coaching program.

Mohammad Ehsani, the head of training committee, and Fereidoon Moini, the caretaker of Football Federation's Youth Com-

mittee are Iran's representatives in the AFC program, according to the Iranian Football Federation.

In order to brief the Asian member countries about the new coaching methods, the AFC is sponsoring the 2015 International Coaching Program from July 13 to 18 in Osaka's National Sakai

Practice Center.

The objectives of the program include basic rules in modern football, exchange of opinion among AFC member states, establishment of interactions among the participating representatives, and acquiring the coaching methods science.

Eamon Zayed Hopeful of Persepolis Return



Eamon Zayed

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Former Persepolis striker Eamon Zayed has shown interest in returning to the Iranian club.

Eamon Zayed was given the "Mr. hat trick" nickname when he scored three goals against Persepolis arch-rival Esteghlal in February 2012.

He is a member of Sabah football team in the Malaysian Premier League at the moment.

The 31-year-old striker has said he is ready to return to his favorite club.

"Persepolis needs a striker who can score more than 15 goals during a season. They have signed many

strikers since I left but not one of them could score more than 10 goals in one season," Zayed told Iranian sports daily Khabar Varzeshi.

"I am not the best player but I know how to score goals. Anyway, I will still always support Persepolis because they are now forever in my heart," he added.

Victory Captain Milligan Heads to UAE's Baniyas



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ABU-DHABI (FIFA) - Melbourne Victory captain Mark Milligan has ended weeks of speculation around his future by announcing a move to Abu Dhabi-based club Baniyas.

The A-League champions said the Socceroo would move to the Arabian Gulf League club in the UAE next month on a two-year deal. "Mark has been a wonderful servant for Melbourne Victory who has led by example at every opportunity," Victory coach Kevin Muscat said.

"The offer from Baniyas presents a significant opportunity for Mark and his family that he would like to pursue. We wish Mark all the very best for the future and thank him for his service to the club."

Defensive midfielder Milligan, 29, made 73 A-League and five AFC Champions League appearances for Victory following his arrival in January 2012 from J-League club JEF United Chiba.

First Intl' Maneuver for Cave Rescue, Relief

TEHRAN (IRNA) – A maneuver for relief and rescue operation in cave is underway in Bornik Cave in Firouzkoh by participation of 30 Iranian and Turkish cave explorers.

An official from Mountain Climbing Federation responsible for Expedition Department Hos-

sein Boeini said that the training course is carried out for the first time by Iranian coaches and by participation of cave explorers from Turkey.

He added that the course lasts six days, four days of which would be indoor and two days in a cave.

Explaining details of the maneuver, Boeini added that the same method of France Rescue and Relief Organization is being used.

He also introduced Bornik Cave's geographical situation and location, which is located 135 kilometers east of Tehran.

Charlotte Hornets to Host All-Star Game in 2017

WASHINGTON (Xinhua) -- The NBA announced Tuesday that Charlotte has been selected to host NBA All-Star 2017.

Last time the Charlotte Hornets hosted an All-Star Game was in 1991 and the game is scheduled for Feb. 19, 2017.

The Hornets are owned by Michael Jordan, the six-time NBA champion, who has sought to bring the game to Charlotte since he became the team's majority owner in 2010. Meanwhile the city agreed to pay about 30 million US dollars for renovations to the arena when the Hornets submitted their All-Star bid.

"As a thriving city with a proud basketball tradition and a deep passion for the game, the city of Charlotte is a terrific All-Star destination," said NBA commissioner

Adam Silver.

"We thank Michael Jordan, the Hornets organization and the Charlotte community for their support and congratulate them on bringing our All-Star festivities back to North Carolina."

Jordan, a 14-time All-Star, played in the last All-Star Game in Charlotte 24 years ago.

"It is an honor to bring NBA All-Star back to Charlotte," Jordan said. "I remember the excitement of playing in the 1991 All-Star Game, the first one held in my home state, and I take pride in being able to host NBA All-Star 2017 as the owner of the Hornets. This is a great moment for our fans, our city, and our franchise. We are excited to welcome the world to Charlotte and Time Warner Cable Arena in 2017."

NBA China to Pledge RMB 10 Million to Build and Refurbish Public Basketball Courts in China

BEIJING (Chinadaily) - The pledge is part of the expanded partnership between NBA China and Chinese Ministry of Education to grow basketball in China. NBA China announced on Wednesday a RMB 10 million (US\$ 1.6 million) pledge in a joint effort with the Chinese Ministry of Education to build and refurbish public basketball courts across China.

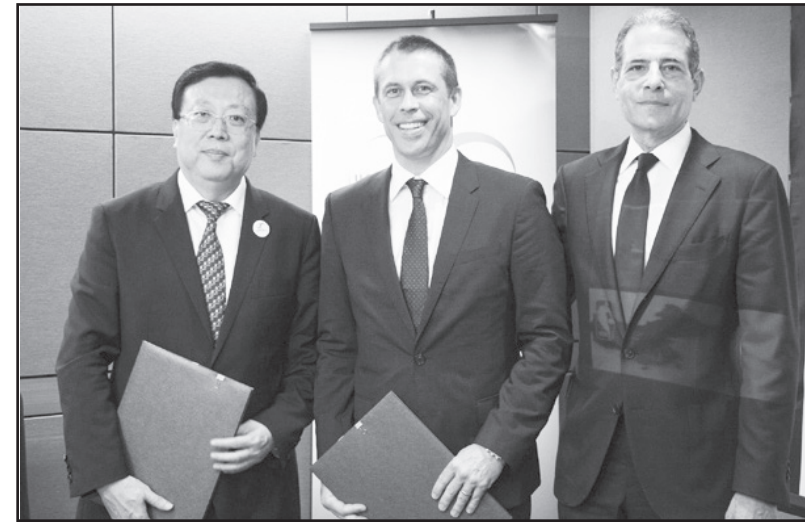
The pledge expands the existing partnership between NBA China and the Ministry of Education to promote basketball education and youth development in elementary, middle, high schools and universities in China.

The pledge was formalized at a signing ceremony yesterday by NBA China CEO David Shoemaker and Chinese vice Minister of Education Hao Ping at the US-China High-Level Consultation on People-to-People Exchange (CPE) in Washington, D.C.

As part of the initial rollout of the expanded partnership, the NBA recently announced the creation of three public basketball courts with ground-breaking ceremonies at the Oriental Pearl Tower in Shanghai, the Longgang Universiade Center in Shenzhen, and the High-Tech Sports Center in Chongqing.

"The NBA is delighted to be part of the sixth Consultation on People-to-People Exchange, and we are ready to take our youth development efforts to the next level with this RMB 10 million investment to build basketball courts throughout China," said Shoemaker. "We thank the Chinese Ministry of Education for its partnership, which demonstrates our mutual commitment to growing the sport of basketball in China."

Representing Chinese student basketball talent, the Tsinghua High School Varsity team was



From left to right: Vice Minister of Education Hao Ping, NBA China CEO David Shoemaker and Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Rick Stengel pose at the signing ceremony of the NBA-Ministry of Education expanded partnership during the US-China High-Level Consultation on People-to-People Exchange (CPE) in Washington, D.C.

in Houston June 16-21 attending six days of basketball clinics conducted by Houston Rockets Player Development Coach Kevin Burleson. The students also participated in scrimmages and various community visits.

Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong and Shoemaker, along with NBA Legends Yao Ming and Robert Horry, attended and observed the basketball exchange between the Tsinghua High School Varsity team and Houston Select U18 Boys team on June 21 at the Toyota Center in Houston.

NBA's basketball development efforts in China

In October 2014, the NBA and Chinese Ministry of Education established a groundbreaking partnership that aims to provide enhanced basketball training to at least three million students by 2017. This unprecedented partnership is the NBA's first collaboration with China's education authority and the Ministry of Education's first partnership with an American professional sports league. Since 2014, NBA

China has hosted a series of coaching seminars and basketball clinics in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Wuhan and Zhengzhou featuring NBA Legends Richard Hamilton and Muggsy Bogues and NBA coaches Jim O'Brien, Ralph Willard, Jim Eyan, Bill Peterson and Richard Smith.

The partnership with the Ministry of Education builds on the NBA's basketball and youth development efforts in China. In February 2014, NBA China and Yao Ming launched the NBA Yao Basketball Club, providing basketball training and fitness programs for boys and girls at all skill levels, while also teaching the importance of teamwork, leadership and communication in a fun basketball environment. In September 2011, the CBA Dongguan Basketball School, an NBA Training Center, was launched for elite players ages 12-17. Together the CBA Dongguan Basketball School and CBA/NBA joint coaching program have trained more than 2,000 youth and coaches.