

# Wrestlers to Revive Olympics Quota in Mongolia



Iran wrestling federation logo

TEHRAN (MNA)—Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers will take part in Mongolia qualifying tournament to fight for two Olympics quotas.

Missing the quotas in Asian OG Qualifying Tournament of

Kazakhstan on March 2016, Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers will attend the 1st OG World Qualifying Tournament in Ulaanbaatar, which is scheduled to be held on 22-24 April.

Saman Abdevali, Mehrdad Mardani, Bashir Babajanzadeh and Amir Ghasemi Monjazi will depart for the Mongolian capital on April 18.

“If we miss the quotas in

Mongolia, Iran’s athletes will have one more opportunity in Turkey’s 2nd OG World Qualifying Tournament,” said head of national Greco-Roman team Hesameddin Jafari.

## Anadolu Agency to Sponsor Sarajevo Soccer Club

BELGRADE (Anadolu Agency) - Anadolu Agency has become the official media sponsor of Sarajevo FC, one of the biggest and most famous football clubs in the Balkans.

This is the first time Anadolu Agency has become a media sponsor for a professional sports team.

“We are excited to promote the success stories of ‘FK Sarajevo’ to the world during 2016, through our excellent broadcast services in and around the Balkans and the countries in the region,” said a statement from Anadolu Agency’s Corporate Communications Directorate, using the club’s local name.

“FK Sarajevo”, the champions of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Premier League in the 2014-15 seasons, will

play in European Champions League qualifiers this year.

Turkish Airlines is also among the supporters of the football club. Under

a three-and-a-half-year sponsorship agreement, Sarajevo players wear the official Turkish Airlines logo on their jerseys.

Anadolu Agency has offices in 86 countries and publishes news in 11 languages.

The main target in the agency’s centennial vision is becoming one of the “world’s five most important news agencies” by 2020, the 100th anniversary of its foundation.

The agency currently broadcasts in Turkish, English, Arabic, French, Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian, Russian, Kurdish, Albanian and Macedonian, and aims to broadcast in 11 languages as of 2020.

It has daily production of 2,200 news stories, 250 videos, and 900 photos.



The logo of the football club

## AFC Suspends Match Officials for Alleged Match-Fixing



Asian Football Confederation’s (AFC) logo

KUALA LUMPUR (AFC) - The Chairman of the Asian Football Confederation’s (AFC) Disciplinary Committee has provisionally suspended Thai referees Thanom Borikut and Chaiya Mahapab for 60 days for alleged actions related to match-fixing.

The investigation is ongoing and the AFC may extend the ban for further 30 days. The AFC has also written to FIFA to ask for

the suspension to be extended worldwide.

The Football Association of Thailand has been notified of the decisions today.

The AFC has a zero tolerance towards match manipulation. The AFC works to combat match-fixing on the continent through its three-point strategy of prevention, detection and response.

## Basketball Activity in Kiribati at All-Time High



Taotin Trading Basketball Championship in Kiribati

BETIO (FIBA) - The Kiribati Basketball Federation (KBF) is giving basketball a big boost around the country. With the help of the Hoops for Health (H4H) program, the island nation in the central Pacific Ocean is increasing its basketball activity and helping keep its people healthy and happy.

The H4H program is funded by the Australian Government as part of the Pacific Sports Partnerships (PSP) program. H4H supports grassroots basketball development and capacity building of national basketball federations, whilst contributing to identify social devel-

opment outcomes. In Kiribati, the program seeks to use basketball as a means to educate participants on non-communicable diseases (NCD) risk factors and the benefits of living a healthy lifestyle.

The KBF is extremely active in the community. It recently conducted an inclusive community sports day for International Women’s Day (Tuesday 8th March), a referee and scorer’s table training workshop and on 9th of April will run an Inter-Secondary School 3x3 Championship in support of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.

FIBA’s lead on Hoops for Health, Catherine Grawich, commented on the great work KBF were doing.

“It’s fantastic to see them growing basketball participation numbers so successfully whilst also giving back to the communities in Tarawa. Basketball is becoming an all-inclusive and popular option for people of all genders, abilities and ages in Kiribati,” she said.

KBF partnered with the Kiribati Table Tennis Association (KTTA) and the Kiribati Badminton Association (KBA) to run an inclusive event for International Women’s Day. The aim of this event was to bring women and people with mental and physical disabilities together at the Sport Complex in Betio for a fun-filled day of sport. The community sports day sought to encourage women and people with disabilities to remain active and healthy by playing basketball, table tennis or badminton.

KBF are also investing in the capacity of their officials and volunteers. National Basketball Development Officer (NBDO) Iotia Paul - in conjunction with the H4H Coordinator Tekabara Arobati - ran a referee and score bench training

workshop in February this year. The workshop was very successful with theoretical and practical sessions conducted for 20 participants. KBF used this opportunity to train volunteers on how to use the new equipment purchased through the H4H program, which included basketballs, bibs, whistles and an electronic scoreboard. On 9th of April, in support of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, KBF will be running an Inter-School 3x3 Tournament. H4H Coaches have been active in the Secondary Schools of Tarawa teaching basketball skills and the benefits of living healthy lifestyles. At this event, these schools will have the ability to enter teams and compete for the title of Inter-School 3x3 Champion. This competition will also serve as a recruitment tool for the team representing Kiribati at the U18 3x3 Oceania Championship being hosted in August on Surfers Paradise Beach, Australia.

The Kiribati Basketball Federation is doing an amazing job of increasing basketball activity in Kiribati while also positively impacting their community and its people.

## Iran Women Know Rivals at 2016 AVC Cup

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — Iran volleyball team was drawn in Pool A of the 2016 AVC Cup for Women.

Iran has been pitted against host Vietnam, 2012 AVC Cup winner and world No.13 Thailand and world No.32 Chinese Taipei.

World Cup winner China has been drawn in Pool B along with South Korea, Japan and Kazakhstan.

The competition will be held from September 14 to 20 in Vinh Phuc,

Vietnam.

The pool round-robin preliminaries will be held over three days from September 14 to 16.

Iran will play Vietnam in the curtain-raisers, followed by the match between Thailand and Chinese Taipei, Kazakhstan against Japan and the clash of the Titans between China and Korea in the final showdown rematch of the previous edition in Shanzhen, China two years ago.

## Saudi Club Ordered to Play Next Home Match Behind Closed Doors

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - Asia’s football body has ordered Saudi club Al Ittihad to play its next Asian Football Confederation (AFC) home match behind closed doors, without any spectators, as a result of fan misbehavior.

In its latest list of decisions released Friday, the AFC’s Disciplinary Committee said the club’s supporters had thrown bottles at the field on several occasions, with one of them hitting a player from

Uzbekistan’s Lokomotiv club on March 1.

The football body also suspended Amer Sharifi, a player from Jordan’s Al Wehdat club, for six AFC Cup matches “for offensive behavior and insulting gestures at the referee”, during a match against Lebanon’s Ahed FC.

The player was also fined \$10,000 and warned that a repeat violation would result in more severe punishment in the future.

## Bolivia to Apply to Host a Youth World Cup in 2025

LA PAZ (Xinhua) -- In the coming days, Bolivia will formalize its application to organize a youth World Cup in 2025, announced President Evo Morales on Friday.

The Bolivian president said he will send an official letter to before the International Federation of Football Association (FIFA) with solid arguments in favor of organizing a World Cup. The event would serve as commemoration act to be included in the activities planned for the bicentenary of Bolivia’s independence.

“Next week we will send a letter to FIFA. We are going to formalize this request of organizing a world cup in Bolivia to mark the occasion of the bicentenary,” said Morales in Cochabamba during an event where he gave resources for projects as part of the “Bolivia changes, Evo complies” program.

Morales said he took advantage of FIFA president Gianni Infantino’s visit to Bolivia on Thursday to ask for a youth World Cup, for men or women.

Infantino, during his visit to Bolivia, seemed open to the idea of granting the South American coun-

try a youth World Cup when asked informally by Morales.

Morales asked all sectors, including the opposition, to get on board with this project, taking into account that a world tournament is very prestigious and very few countries have been able to organize such an event.

“I am hoping our wish will be granted. For the first time we will have a World Cup. It is historic and unprecedented,” said Morales while ensuring that with an event of this scale, Bolivia will be put into the global spotlight.

Bolivia has shown it can be a “good host and organizer” for important world events such as the G77+China Summit 2014 which took place in the eastern city of Santa Cruz and the two world summits on the environment in the central city of Cochabamba, according to Morales.

The Bolivian president added that he has various projects in mind to improve the country’s sports infrastructure. An international event of this scale merits that visitors are welcomed in the best way, according to Morales.

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