

Iran Jump to 27th, Remain Asia's Top-Ranked Team



Iran national football team, also known as Team Melli

KUALA LUMPUR (AFC) - Asia's top-ranked team, having Islamic Republic of Iran remain jumped 10 places to 27th in the

latest FIFA World Ranking.

Their remarkable performance recently has placed them on top with Australia (40th) being the second highest ranked, followed by Korea Republic (44th) in third, Uzbekistan (48th) fourth and Japan (51st) fifth in the Asian ranking.

These top five Asian teams are currently competing in the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 Asian Qualifiers, and are in the top three of their respective group. Iran however, has proved to be a formidable force by being at the top of their group with three wins and a draw to their name.

Some of the top movers up the ranks are Syria with an 18-rank jump to 96th, followed by Chinese Taipei who leaped 17 ranks to

161st, and Iraq with a 15-rank increase to 113th.

Despite the conflicts at home, Syria is Asia's biggest movers this month, helped by their performance in the World Cup Asian Qualifiers, which includes beating China 1-0.

ASIA'S TOP 10:

Iran 27th
Australia 40th
Korea Republic 44th
Uzbekistan 48th
Japan 51st
Saudi Arabia 54th
United Arab Emirates 70th
China PR 84th
Qatar 91st
Syria 96th

The next FIFA World Ranking will be released on 24 November.

Pishgaman Club Leads Jelajah Malaysia Cycling Tour

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's professional cycling club Pishgaman Kavir Yazd finished first in the second round of Jelajah Malaysia professional road bicycle racing stage race.

The second round of Jelajah Malaysia was held over a distance of 113 kilometers in the southeast Asian country of Malaysia with Iran's Arvin Gudarzi, Reza Hosseini and Amir Kolahdruz, all from Iran's Pishgaman sports club, won gold, silver and bronze medals, respectively.

In the team section, Iran's cycling club Pishgaman Kavir Yazd firmly stood in top position on the second day of the tournament which is one of the most prestigious bicycle race amongst Asian and International teams.

So far in Jelajah Malaysia, Rahim Emami of the Iranian squad enjoys the highest number of points and received jersey of point leader while

Amir Kolahdruz was awarded jersey of maintain leader. Hosseini and Gudarzi, however, landed second and third in the mountain division.

Overall in the individual section, Arvin Gudarzi finished first and won the golden jersey while Hosseini Kolahdruz and Emami landed second to fourth, respectively.

Pishgaman squad in the international tour comprises Arvin Moazemi, Rahim Emami, Hamid Beik Khurnizi, Hamid Hashemi, Amir Kolahdruz as well as Reza Hosseini.

Petrochimi Tabriz sports clubs is yet another cycling squad representing Iran at Jelajah Malaysia event.

Existing of only a men's competition over five stages and an overall distance of 850 kilometers, the Jelajah Malaysia is an annual professional road bicycle racing stage race held in Malaysia since 1963.

Iran Into AFC U-19 Championship Quarters

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iran booked a place in the AFC U-19 Championship Bahrain 2016 quarter-final.

Amirhossein Peyrovani's boys edged past Yemen 1-0 at the Khalifa Sports City Stadium in Isa Town. Abolfazl Razzaghpour's first-half

free kick in the 45th minute earned Iran a win in the Group C match.

The Iranian football team already tied 1-1 with Qatar and was held to a goalless draw by Japan.

Iran joined the Japanese in the quarter-final with a second place

finish, setting up a meeting with the winners of Group D in the next round.

Japan defeated Qatar 3-0 in another match in the group.

The top four teams of the tournament will qualify for the 2017 FIFA U-20

World Cup in South Korea as the AFC representatives, besides South Korea who qualified automatically as host. If South Korea is among the top four teams, the fifth-placed team will also qualify for the 2017 FIFA U-20 World Cup.

Nadal Opens Tennis Academy With Federer as Guest of Honor



Rafael Nadal Shows Work in Progress in His Tennis Academy

MANACOR (The Hindu) - Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal has opened an academy bearing his name in his hometown on the Mediterranean island of Mallorca, with his friend and long-time rival Roger Federer as the guest of honor. The Rafa Nadal Academy is built across 24,000 square meters (258,000 sq. ft.) and is to combine tennis lessons

with academics, reports Efe.

"It's a dream come true," said Nadal, who along with Federer and President-CEO of Telefonica, Jose Maria Alvarez-Pallete, unveiled the facilities to numerous guests and officials.

Among those present were the president of the Balearic Government Francina Armengol, the presidents of

the International Tennis Federation and the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), David Hagerty and Chris Kermode, respectively, and the chairman of Wimbledon Phillip Brook.

The sports centre consists of a residence, 26 clay courts, a fitness centre, indoor and outdoor swimming pools and a seven-a-side soccer field, among other sports facilities.

The centre will create employment for some 140 people and also includes the Rafael Nadal Foundation and a museum.

Nadal described it as "a project that my team and I have worked toward for years".

"I am grateful from my heart, it is a very special day for me," said Nadal, who also addressed his family and the academy's first students.

Federer, his great rival in the courts and a tennis legend with 17 Grand Slam trophies to his credit, congratulated Nadal.

"It's a great idea, I don't have an academy like this," Federer said.

Nadal said that he expected to resume his on-court rivalry with Federer soon, once the Swiss player recovers from an injury that has troubled him recently.

"Neither Roger nor I have forgotten how to play tennis and we are working to return to compete at the highest level," said the double Olympic champion.

Nadal did not reveal a timetable for his return to the court or if he would play in the Basel Open or the Paris-Bercy Masters.

The Spaniard had suffered a shock defeat by the Serb player Viktor Troicki in Shanghai.

Federer acknowledged that Nadal had pushed him during a sporting rivalry that he described as intense but also respectful.

"I've never seen someone with this much power and top spin and intensity, all in one package, coming into tennis," said Federer.

House of Diego Maradona Turns Into a Museum



Photo shows the view of a house

BUENOS AIRES (Kayhan International Sports Desk) - On Oct 20, 1976, Diego Maradona made his debut in the Argentinean League with Argentinos Juniors.

Two years later, the board gave a house to the player due to his great success. The house is now reopened as a museum for the soccer legend.

Luis Suarez Wins European Golden Shoe Again



Luis Suarez received a second European Golden Shoe

NYON (DAWN) - Luis Suarez received a second European Golden Shoe of his career after becoming the leading scorer in Europe's top domestic leagues last season.

The 29-year-old Barcelona forward scored 40 goals in 35 La Liga starts, helping Barca retain the Spanish title. He ended the 2015-16 campaign with 59 goals in 52 appearances for Barca in all competitions.

"I want to thank Barcelona for

being here, for allowing me to achieve my dream and my aims," said Uruguay international in his acceptance speech on Thursday.

"I have spectacular team mates, who make things easy for me although you have to be there to put the ball in," said Suarez, acknowledging he had had "difficult times" before joining the club.

Those difficult times included a four month ban from FIFA after Suarez bit Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini during the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. A Liverpool player at the time, Suarez signed for Barcelona after the tournament but missed the start of the season because of the suspension.

He ended up winning the La Liga, King's Cup and Champions League treble in his first campaign at Barca and last season, Suarez helped the club retain the league title and the King's Cup.

His other golden shoe award came with Liverpool in the 2013-14 when he scored 31 times to help the Reds finish runners-up in the Premier League. He shared the prize that year with Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo.

Thailand Bans Cheering at World Cup Qualifier

BANGKOK (AFP) - Thailand's football association said Friday it would ban cheering at next month's World Cup qualifier against Australia as the nation mourns the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Thailand initially tried to change

the venue of the November 15 match after the Thai king, the world's longest reigning monarch, died last Thursday, plunging the kingdom into grief.

But Australia refused the request, according to the Football Association of Thailand (FAT).

The committee mulled banning spectators but has decided to allow fans with restrictions on cheering and dress, said FAT spokesman Patit Suphaphongs.

"All cheering and props such as drums, amplifiers and banners will be banned inside the

stadium," he told AFP.

Fans will also be barred from showing which team they support.

"They must wear black, white, grey or other sombre colours," said Patit, adding that donning black ribbons will also be acceptable.

Man United Sink Fenerbahçe in Europa League

LONDON (Hurriyet Daily News) - English football giant Manchester United demolished Istanbul-based Fenerbahçe 4-1 in a UEFA Europa League Group A game late on Oct. 20, as Fenerbahçe's troubled start to the season goes from bad to worse.

The hosts took the lead in the 31st minute when French star Paul Pogba converted a penalty kick.

Manchester United doubled the score three minutes later after another Frenchman, forward Anthony Martial, scored yet another penalty.

A strike by Pogba from 25 meters out during injury time in the first half beat goalkeeper Volkan Demirel and meant Manchester United went in at half time three goals up at Old Trafford.

English midfielder Jesse Lingard made it four with a shot from outside the penalty area in the second half.

Fenerbahçe got a consolation goal in the 83rd minute when former Manchester United forward Robin van Persie put the ball into his old team's net with a close-range finish.

Two-goal Pogba was named

player of the match by UEFA.

Meanwhile, the two other Turkish teams playing in the Europa League on the same night drew against their opponents.

Atiker Konyaspor drew 1-1 against Portugal's Braga in a Group H match in Konya, while Osmanlıspor and Spanish team Villarreal drew 2-2 in a Group L match in Ankara.

Bangladesh Thrash Argentina 67-26

NEW DELHI (Indian Express) - Bangladesh ended their campaign in the Kabaddi World Cup with a

thumping 67-27 win over minnows Argentina at the TransStadia Arena.

Already out of the race for the semi-

finals, a resurgent Bangladesh crushed Argentina in the last match of group A. Raider Tuhin Tarafder and Captain

Arduzzaman Munshi top-scored for the Bangladeshis with 14 and 13 points respectively.