

# Iran Thrash Iraq 3-0 in 2022 World Cup Qualifier



Mehdi Taremi, Alireza Jahanbakhsh and Ali Gholizadeh scored 3 goals for Iran

reza Jahanbakhsh opened the game to disrupt Iraq's defensive strategy for the rest of the match. The first half ended with this goal as Iraq could not create threats in Iran's box and Iran preferred keeping the ball possession. 24 minutes into the second half, Porto striker Mehdi Taremi doubled the scoring for Iran by slotting the ball between the goalkeeper's legs after a good run with Sardar Azmoun's long pass. And in the 90th minute, Ali

Gholizadeh scored the third goal for Team Melli. The win added three points to Dragan Skocic's team who now sit top of Group A table with six. Iran had defeated Syria in the first match of this stage of qualifiers. In a press conference after the match, Skocic said he was "very satisfied" with the result. Emotions and excitement are too high in such matches but Iran could perform like a powerful team, said the coach, adding, "I think everyone agrees that we deserved the victory."

## Griezmann Double Fires France to Victory Over Finland



France's forward Antoine Griezmann

LYON, France (Reuters) - Antoine Griezmann played chief tormentor as France sprung back into life to end a five-game winless streak by beating visitors Finland 2-0 in a World Cup Group D qualifier on Tuesday. Griezmann struck in each half after his partnership with Karim Benzema bore fruit in satisfying fashion to put the world champions on 12 points from six

matches at the top of the group. Finland, who had a decent opening half, are third on five points but have two games in hand of the French. Bosnia are fourth on three points from four games after a 2-2 draw with bottom side Kazakhstan, who also have three points. Ukraine are second on five points from as many matches.

## Australia, South Korea, Japan Secure World Cup Qualifier Wins

SEOUL, South Korea (Dispatches) - Australia edged Vietnam 1-0 in Hanoi on Tuesday to make it two wins out of two in Group B of Asia In Group A, South Korea defeated Lebanon 1-0 at Suwon World Cup Stadium to pick up its first win of the stage, after 0-0 against Iraq five days earlier. Rhyan Grant ran to the far post to steer in a header after 43 minutes in an empty My Dinh Stadium. His first international goal kept the Socceroos on track for a fifth successive World Cup appearance. Vietnam is making its first appearance at this stage of qualifying but had chances, including a VAR review for a possible penalty against Grant's handball before the visitors took the lead. World Cup qualifying, but China's campaign was teetering after a second consecutive de-



Japan's midfielder Wataru Endo (center) attempts a shot during the 2022 Qatar football World Cup Asian Qualifiers match between China and Japan, at the Khalifa International stadium in Doha, on Sept 7, 2021.

feat. In humid conditions and on a difficult playing surface, Vietnam pushed for a point but couldn't find a way past Mat Ryan in the Australia goal. Mitchell Duke looked to have sealed the win with a low shot four minutes from the end but the goal was

mark of nine with Uzbekistan and South Korea, both countries while qualifying for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Yuya Osako's first-half goal helped Japan beat China 1-0 in the final round of the FIFA World Cup Asian Zone qualifiers. China came into the game on the back of a 3-0 defeat to Australia, while Japan was stunned by Oman 1-0 in its opener of the final qualifying round. Both teams were eager to get their qualification campaign back on track. Facing Japan, the highest FIFA ranked team in Asia, Chinese head coach Li Tie fielded five defenders in the starting line-up. But they suffered an early setback as veteran center back Zhang Linpeng had to be stretched out just five minutes into play due to a waist injury and Zhu Chenjie filled his place.

## Medvedev Reaches Third Straight U.S. Open Semifinal



Russia's Daniil Medvedev hits a return to Netherlands' Botic van de Zandschulp during their 2021 US Open Tennis tournament men's quarter-finals match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York, on Sept 7, 2021.

NEW YORK (Reuters) - World number two Daniil Medvedev dropped his first set at this year's U.S. Open but eventually overcame Dutchman Botic van de Zandschulp 6-3 6-0 4-6 7-5 to reach his third straight semi-final at Flushing Meadows on Tuesday. Van de Zandschulp had enjoyed a remarkable run, taking down 11th seed Diego Schwartzman to reach his first Grand Slam quarter-final, where he fired off 20 forehand winners and was the first player here to take Medvedev past

the two-hour mark. The Dutch qualifier outlasted the Russian in a 20-shot rally and then converted on break point in the fifth game of the third set before taking it on Arthur Ashe Stadium, the first sign of weakness Medvedev had shown since arriving in New York. But the 2019 runner-up, who fired down 13 aces in the match, came roaring back in the fourth set, winning all but two of his first-serve points and never facing a break point.

## Sweden Withdraw From Qatar Training Camp Over Workers' Rights

STOCKHOLM (Dispatches) - Sweden Football Association (SVFF) said on Wednesday they had pulled of January's training camp in Qatar due to concerns over migrant workers rights involved in the preparations for the 2022 World Cup. The decision to withdraw came after discussions between the SVFF and Swedish domestic outfits late on Tuesday. "It is clear there is a consensus among the clubs against organising this camp in Qatar," SVFF president Hakan Sjostrand said in a statement. "The January camp is sportingly important to us and we will work to ensure that it can take place elsewhere next year." Sweden and their fellow Nordic countries have been at the forefront of a campaign to pressure FIFA into obtaining better conditions for migrant workers in Qatar. Robert Falck, president of

Swedish giants AIK Stockholm, had labelled the proposed trip as "idiotic" when asked about it on Swedish TV channel TV4. As next year's global football showpiece approaches, Qatar has repeatedly come under the spotlight over worker welfare issues, including the death rate, prompting protests from European sides including Germany. In late August, Amnesty International called on Qatar to do more to investigate worker deaths, alleging a string of laborer fatalities had gone unexplained. It was this report that sparked Sjostrand and his fellow heads of the Nordic country federations to send a letter to FIFA on September 1 to "bring pressure to bear on the Qatari leaders." Norway had even threatened to boycott the finals but at an extraordinary congress in June they threw out that option by a large majority.



## 2021 Asian Youth Games Postponed Until December 2022 Due to COVID-19

UANGZHOU (Dispatches) - The 2021 Asian Youth Games will be postponed until December 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC) said in an announcement on Wednesday. The 3rd Asian Youth Games was originally scheduled to be held in Shantou, south China's Guangdong province from November 20-28, 2021. The new schedule will be December 20-28, 2022, according to the COC statement.

"The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), the COC and the local organizing committee had an in-depth discussion and made the decision together, in order to protect the interests of every national/regional Olympic committee and ensure the safety and health of all athletes," the statement said. Shantou won the right to host the 3rd Asian Youth Games in 2019. The Asian Youth Games are among the top five multisport events in Asia.

