

Iran U-15 Football Team Wins CAFA Championship



TEHRAN – Iran have claimed the title of the 2021 CAFA U-15 Championship.

Seyed Vahid Amiri's team defeated Kyrgyzstan 8-0 in its Matchday 3. Iran started the campaign with a 3-2 win over Uzbekistan in its opening match and drew 1-1 with Tajikistan in its next match.

Iran and Tajikistan finished the tournament with seven points but Iran won the title thanks to the superior goal difference.

The tournament was held in Dushanbe from November 19 to 23 in a round-robin format.

Iran had also claimed the 2nd edition, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in 2018.

'Shameless' Juventus Under Fire After Worst Defeat in 17 Years

ROME (Dispatches) - Juventus have come in for fierce criticism after being outclassed in a 4-0 defeat by Chelsea on Tuesday, their heaviest loss in 17 years and worst in the Champions League.

Chelsea claimed the victory thanks to goals from home-grown trio Trevoh Chalobah, Reece James and Callum Hudson-Odoi and a fourth by Timo Werner to top Champions League Group H and cruise into the knockout stage.

European champions Chelsea took control from the outset and never relaxed as they booked their place in the last 16.

Defender Chalobah, 22, smacked the ball into the net past the flailing arms of Wojciech Szczesny in the 25th minute after center back Toni Rudiger set him up from a Hakim Ziyech corner.

A VAR check dismissed calls for handball against Rudiger when replays showed the ball



Soccer Football - Champions League - Group H - Chelsea v Juventus - Stamford Bridge, London, Britain - November 23, 2021 Chelsea's Callum Hudson-Odoi celebrates scoring their third goal

hit his hand in front of his chest.

James, 21, showed superb technique to angle a shot into the left hand corner of the goal in the 55th and barely three minutes later 21-year-old Hudson-Odoi scored from a layoff by another Academy graduate Ruben Lof-

tus-Cheek.

Juventus had already qualified for the knockout stage but the result dropped them to second place in the group, level with Chelsea on 12 points, with one round of fixtures to play.

Chelsea coach Thomas Tuchel

was full of praise for his young scorers.

"It's their biggest dream to perform at Stamford Bridge, to perform in blue, to be part of a strong Chelsea team," the German said. "I strongly believe this is a huge part of the success that we have this mix."

Werner put the icing on the cake before the final whistle by sending the ball home from a Ziyech cross.

Chelsea, beaten 1-0 in Turin in September, made the Italians look ordinary, running them ragged with intricate passing movements and producing 20 shots on goal to Juve's eight.

Former Chelsea striker Alvaro Morata had the visitors' best chance when he chipped the ball over advancing Chelsea keeper Edouard Mendy in the 28th minute, but 37-year-old defender Thiago Silva raced back to superbly hook the ball off the line.

Barca Facing Champions League Exit After Draw at Home to Benfica



Barcelona's players wave to supporters at the end of the UEFA Champions League Group E football match between FC Barcelona and SL Benfica, at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Nov 23, 2021.

MADRID (AFP) - FC Barcelona are facing elimination from the Champions League after they were held to a 0-0 draw at home to Benfica in a rain-swept Camp Nou stadium on Tuesday night.

The result means that anything less than a win for Barca away to Bayern Munich in the last group game would see them eliminated from the competition if Benfica win at home to Dynamo Kiev,

who are assured of finishing last in the group.

With several players out through injury or not being included in the squad for the Champions League, Xavi played a side with three central defenders and two wing-backs to try and use the full width of the pitch.

Once again Barca started brightly and played some of their best football in the past few months, but they had a big let-off in the 35th minute when Nicolas Otamendi scored a spectacular shot for Benfica following a corner, only for the goal to be ruled out as the ball had curled out of play before his strike.

At the other end Yusuf Demir fired against the bar after a ball from the left.

As the game continued without a breakthrough Ousmane Dem-

bele came on as a substitute for Barca. The Frenchman made his first appearance of the season after suffering a serious muscle injury during the European Championships and quickly got into the game, causing problems with his pace.

Ronald Araujo had the ball in the net for Barca, but it was ruled out for offside and to add injury to disappointment Araujo had to leave the game moments afterwards with a muscle injury.

Gerard Pique had half a chance in the 92nd minute, but Barca's Champions League hopes would have been all but over if Benfica substitute Haris Seferovic had done better than shoot wide when put clean through on goal by Darwin Nunez. The striker had only Ter Stegen to beat but put his shot wide of the post.

Knicks Hold Off Lakers 106-100

NEW YORK (AP) — Evan Fournier scored 26 points, Immanuel Quickley had 12 of his 14 in the fourth quarter after New York had blown a 25-point lead, and the Knicks beat a Los Angeles Lakers team missing suspended star LeBron James 106-100 on Tuesday night.

Julius Randle added 20 points, 16 rebounds and five assists for the Knicks, but sat for eight minutes of the fourth quarter after picking up his fifth foul. Quickley made sure that didn't matter, hitting four 3-pointers in the period.

Russell Westbrook had 31 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists, with 18 points in a sensational third quarter that helped the Lakers tie the game. But with James not in the arena,



New York Knicks guard Alec Burks (18) drives to the basket against Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021, in New York.

Anthony Davis struggling through an illness and Carmelo Anthony's shot off in his old home, the Lakers never could take the lead.

They beat Detroit on Sunday after overcoming a 17-point deficit in the game James was ejected from for striking Pistons center Isaiah Stewart in the face and drawing blood. The NBA suspended the superstar forward for one game.

But the best Los Angeles could do in this one was tie it twice after New York dominated most of the first two quarters.

Davis, who woke up with a fever, had 20 points on 7-for-17 shooting. Anthony was just 3 of 14 for 12 points, and the Lakers lost for the fourth time in five games.

Iraq, Iran Stress Broadening Bilateral Sports Cooperation



TEHRAN – Chairman of Iran's Olympics Committee Seyed-Reza Salehi Amiri has met with Iraqi Fencing Federation President Ziyad Hasan Jassim to stress the expansion of Tehran-Baghdad cooperation in the field of sports.

In the meeting, Seyed-Reza Salehi Amiri said that Iran and Iraq share many similarities and voiced the readiness of Iran to expand bilateral cooperation in sports, especially in the field of fencing.

Kaikavous Saeedi, the Secretary-General of Iran's National Olympic Committee, who was also present in the meeting pointed to the Iranian capabilities in the field of fencing sport, saying, "Had it not been for our bad luck at Tokyo Olympics, we would have won medals."

Saeedi further expressed hope that the fencing cooperation between Tehran and Baghdad will expand after signing a memorandum of understanding.

Also, Fazlullah Bagherzadeh, President of Iran's Fencing Fed-

eration and Vice President of the National Olympic Committee pointed to the holding of a joint training camp between national fencing teams of Iran and Iraq at the National Olympic Academy in Tehran and added, "With the cooperation and support of the National Olympic Committee, the training joint session was held today, which was its last day. Today, with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, a new chapter of bilateral cooperation in fencing will begin, which will bring good results for both countries."

The President of the Iraqi Fencing Federation expressed his gratitude to the National Olympic Committee and the Iranian Fencing Federation, saying, "The camp we held in Tehran was very helpful and we are trying to have wider cooperation in other sports, considering the technical and sports capabilities and capacities in the friendly and neighboring country of Iran by signing a memorandum of understanding."

Bayern Munich Fans Put Pressure on Club to End Qatari Deal



Qatar Airways' sponsorship deal with Bayern Munich is worth around 20 million euros per year

BERLIN (Dispatches) - A group of Bayern Munich fans are putting pressure on the club to end their controversial Qatari sponsorship deal amid claims of human rights abuses.

Bayern signed a five-year sponsorship deal with state-owned Qatar Airways in 2018 which the German media claim is worth around 20 million euros (\$22.5 million) per year to the Bundesliga leaders.

The airline's logo is on the sleeve of Bayern's famous red shirts.

However a group of fans wants club president Herbert Hainer and CEO Oliver Kahn to cut ties when the Qatari deal expires in 2023.

"We'll wash anything clean for money," was the slogan on a banner which appeared during a recent Bayern home game alongside a cartoon of Hainer and Kahn feeding money into a washing machine.

In the run-up to the club's annual general meeting on Thursday, disgruntled fans have tried to impose a motion demanding the non-renewal of the deal.

Attempts to get an interim injunction were rejected by a Munich regional court, but the group say

their fight goes on.

"We want to obtain preventive measures to avoid a renewal of the contract," said Michael Ott, a spokesman for the group of fans.

"Qatar is guilty of massive human rights violations and there are heavy suspicions of corruption in sport.

The protestors point to human rights groups, who accuse Qatar of exploiting foreign workers, particularly in the construction of stadiums for the next World Cup, which kicks off in November 2022.

Officials in Qatar reject the claims.

Last week, Nasser al-Khater, the chief executive of the Qatar World Cup hit back, insisting not enough credit has been given for its labour reforms aimed at improving conditions for migrant workers, mostly from South Asia.

"Qatar has been unfairly treated and scrutinized for a number of years," Khater told media just over a year before the tournament starts on November 21, 2022.

"There is criticism, yes, there is work that needs to be done. There is however a lot of progress."